



دولت جمهوری اسلامی افغانستان  
وزارت مبارزه علیه مواد مخدر

د افغانستان اسلامي جمهوریت  
د نیشه نې توکو پر خلاف د مبارزې وزارت

**Speech**

**58<sup>th</sup> Session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs  
Vienna, March 09, 2015**

**PLEASE CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY**

نحمده و نصلي على رسوله الكريم أما بعد

فأعوذ بالله من الشيطان الرجيم ، بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم

Mr. Chairman, Distinguished Heads of Delegations,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a great pleasure for me and my delegation to attend this Special Segment of the 58th Session of the CND which provides a great opportunity to discuss the preparations for as well as the priority areas that need to be addressed during the UN General Assembly Special Session on the World Drug Problem in 2016. I would like to congratulate you, Mr. Chairman, for your election as the chair of the 58th CND Session and to thank you as well as the Secretariat for the efforts to convene this important session and for the excellent preparations. I would also like to thank the Board tasked with

UNGASS preparations for facilitating the preparatory process. We are glad to see that Afghanistan will have the opportunity to represent the Asian Group as the First-Vice chair of the Board. I hope that the interactive discussions under the five panels in the next few days will help us assess where we are now and what should be our priorities in addressing the world drug problem in run up to UNGASS 2016 and beyond.

Mr. Chairman,

My delegation would like to associate itself with the statements made by the G-77 and China as well as the Asian Group this morning.

Mr. Chairman

I request you to give me extra minutes to share with you not only the new initiatives of the Government of Afghanistan, but also ponder upon some of the important issues and challenges.

Mr. Chairman!

I would like to start with the **NEW EFFORTS** the Ministry of Counter Narcotics has initiated recently under the new vision of the National Unity Government of Afghanistan.

The **Amendment** process of the **Counter Narcotics Law** has been started.

with the new challenges and the establishment of the **NEW NATIONAL UNITY GOVERNMENT** with its unique vision, we have recently **revised** our **National Drug Control Strategy**.

For the first time, we have aligned the **counter narcotics planning** with the **anti-insurgency military operations**. In the short term, our focus will be on poppy eradication and for the longer term, the focus will be to prevent the cultivation of poppy and to maximize the drug seizure rate. It is to announce the poppy eradication is ongoing in the most insecure areas of Hilmand and Kandahar with the mentioned planning process.

For the first time, we have designed the **mainstreaming** of **drug demand reduction** into the two **public health**

**packages:** Essential Public Health System (EPHS) and Basic Public Health System (BPHS). There are more than 2000 hospitals and clinics with 40000 health employees supported by the international community at the provincial, district and village level, but drug treatment services were not included in the past 12 years. For the first time, Drug Demand Reduction will be **academically institutionalized** in the Higher Education System in Afghanistan. We are working on the curriculum to be translated in national languages and soon will be submitted to the President for approval.

Regarding **the Integrated Model for Eliminating Opium Economy**, the Ministry of Counter Narcotics has initiated the development of Counter Narcotics District-Based National Program for the coming ten-years. We have addressed our approach based on the broader agenda of our government to target the drivers of opium economy with different approaches customized to the subsistence farmers and narco-entrepreneurs differently. Alternative Development, Security, Good Governance, and Community Mobilization will be the main components. However, the successful implementation of the Program without the regional and international strategic

involvement and collaboration will become nothing but hallow words and rhetoric.

Poppy cultivation prevention does not need a miracle in Afghanistan. 132 districts in Afghanistan, that constitutes only 35% of all the districts, cultivate 224000ha of poppy. It means, we have successfully controlled poppy cultivation in 65% of the districts. Among the poppy cultivation districts, 41 districts cultivate 92% of poppy ~~cultivation~~ in which 10 districts are responsible for 56% of poppy cultivation. The focus should have been on these districts ~~for the past one decade~~. Yet, for a problem that can be solved in a very remote village in Afghanistan, preventive measures are designed and implemented in other countries. With this new National Program, our target is to reduce more than 90% of poppy cultivation in coming 10 years.

A new **Drug Seizure Strategy** has been drafted to control the drug supply from Afghanistan.

The draft of the **Counter Narcotics Regional Strategy** is prepared in Afghanistan and is under process to be shared with the regional countries through diplomatic mechanisms. *channels*

Mr. Chairman!

## **Let me highlight some of THE ISSUES AND CHALLENGES**

Today is the day to divert our thoughts from the traditional political dialogue toward new, practical and genuine ways of addressing the problem and finding common and sustainable solutions based on the unique ground realities. The FACT is, regardless of our various achievements, we can face a failure in eliminating the opium economy if we do not change the current approaches.

*The growing links between narcotics, terrorism, money laundering and other forms of transnational organized crimes requires comprehensive and integrated response*

The criminal networks are strengthening their connections, *at all levels* from Afghani organized crime groups to Pakistani, African, South Asian, South East Asian, Tajik, Uzbek, Turkmen, Kazak, Russian, Iranian, Ethnic Turkish, Caucasus, Balkans, North-West and Central Europeans and others in the region.

Our forums and meetings have produced plethora of documents, but the outcomes are the booming opium economy. COUNTER NARCOTICS has been transformed into POLITICAL BLAME GAME undermining the confidence building measures among the members <sup>States</sup> ~~of the counter narcotics family~~. Short-term tactical interventions have generated temporarily success, but sustainable achievements in counter narcotics are still a challenge for us. Local, national, regional and global interventions are not interlinked for sustainable outcomes.

Mr. Chairman!

Opium economy is not a problem, but yes, the assumptions and the approaches for materializing the elimination of opium economy are the real problems. We are thinking differently based on our assumptions for counter narcotics. Each country proposes solutions based on their own experiences and observations without understanding the existing political, security, economic, social, cultural, religious and capacity-

related realities in Afghanistan. We do know our own problems, and we do know the solutions. Now, it depends on the international community how to align <sup>their own</sup> our local knowledge and understandings with their resources available.

Mr. Chairman!

The regional interventions are currently heavily dominated by the law enforcement approaches. We have proposed a holistic approach to regional collaboration including, but not limited to, law enforcement and criminal justice cooperation, alternative development within overall economic development agenda, drug demand reduction and strategic communication. The issues of narcotics and the drug economy are multifaceted in nature; their impacts have also permeated various sectors in <sup>different</sup> society. Afghanistan cannot alone bear the burden of eliminating the opium economy.

We need to interlink our efforts at national, regional and global level for counter illicit narcotics. I propose a milestone in the SPECIAL SESSION of UN General Assembly on the WORLD

DRUG PROBLEM in 2016 to announce A COUNTER NARCOTICS DECADE for the elimination of opium economy. It will pave the way for interlinking the development of an INTEGRATED GLOBAL STRATEGY, as well as, REGIONAL and NATIONAL STRATEGIES on Counter Narcotics based on the unique ground realities.

Mr. Chairman

The Political Commitment for comprehensive counter narcotics interventions at the national level is interlinked with the Political Commitment at the global level. ~~I have not heard the nations' leaders, the Presidents and Prime Ministers, get together solely for the elimination of opium economy.~~ Global addiction rate, drug-related death rate, money laundering, incentives for organized crime networks, terrorist and separatist groups, all can breach the government and political spheres easily which in turn can jeopardizes the vision of democracy and good governance, as well as security and stability throughout the world, particularly in the region.

We need to sensitize the nations' leaders through an extraordinary session ~~within the CND forums~~ on annual basis for joint and shared commitment for the elimination of opium economy. The political commitment at the national level will be easily inspired within the scope of such forums *(gatherings)*

Mr. Chairman and Respected Delegation,

At the end, the National Unity Government in Afghanistan is committed for the elimination of opium economy with its strategic and parallel approaches of all the identified pillars. I would also like to request all the participants to stand for the acceptance of, and action on, the genuine shared responsibility to combat the illicit drug trade in Afghanistan, its neighboring countries, at the region and beyond the region. We need visible outcomes both in supply and demand areas through an integrated strategic approach to ensure regional security, stability, and sustainable development.

*We dream*

With the dream comes true to see nations holding hands of those nations that are also victims of this destructive phenomenon.

*our hands, we extend  
we extend our hands  
Respected our hands  
together we fight  
together we fight*

*you hold, you accept  
together we are  
joined in full*

*together we are  
our patience*

Thank you for your patience