

check against delivery

GHANA UPDATED

**DRAFT STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR KWESI QUARTEY,
HON. DEPUTY MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND
REGIONAL INTEGRATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF GHANA
AND LEADER OF GHANA'S DELEGATION TO THE 58TH
SESSION OF THE COMMISSION ON NARCOTIC DRUGS.**

Mr. Chairman,

The Executive Director of the UNODC,

Your Excellencies, Distinguished Guests

Chairman and members of the Commission on Narcotic
Drugs,

Colleagues, ladies and Gentlemen.

1. I wish to congratulate you, Mr Chairman on your election to the plenary session. The Bureau can count on our support for successful outcome of its deliberations.
2. It is my pleasure to address the 58th session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs on behalf of the Government of Ghana.
3. Drug abuse and illicit trafficking in narcotic drugs and precursors remain a major threat to the socio-political and

economic development of every country. Ghana is certainly no exception.

4. Ghana continues to make progress in its drug demand reduction activities. Education programmes in schools and faith based organizations have been intensified. The Narcotics Control Board (NACOB) of Ghana, the lead agency expanded its multimedia programmes with radio and television programmes on drug demand reduction across the country.
5. Drug-trafficking is the critical link between supply and demand and the traffickers are forming transnational networks, sourcing drugs in one continent, trafficking them across another, and marketing them in a third.
6. The struggle against illicit drug trafficking is an ever expanding frontier. Drug traffickers are using increasingly sophisticated techniques that require not only commitment and integrity on the part of law enforcement agencies, but also state-of-the-art drug detection equipment, to counter the activities of these traffickers.

7. The 2014 report of the International Narcotics Control Board noted that "Parts of Africa continue to face significant challenges related to tackling the increased abuse and production of major drugs of concern. Sub-regions of the continent have witnessed an increase both in seizures of cannabis resin and in trafficking in amphetamine-type stimulants".
8. The war on illicit trafficking in narcotic drugs has assumed a sophisticated dimension through technological advancement. In this regard, drug law enforcement officers also need to be properly trained and equipped to enable them to be at least ahead of the curve.
9. The Government of Ghana is aware that the fight against drug trafficking must also take into account the long-term effects of potential destabilisation of States and of society as a whole and is seriously putting in place measures to curb the situation. A new Bill to Make the Narcotics Control Board a Commission with expanded autonomous powers in the performance of its duties has just received cabinet approval.
10. The fight against drug trafficking and its abuse in Ghana has not been without challenges. Some of these

are lack of state-of-the-art equipment to counter the activities of drug lords.

11. Notwithstanding these challenges, the Government of Ghana through its Agencies has made a lot of progress to stem the drug menace in Ghana;
12. Mr. Chairman, Ghana has made progress in monitoring the importation and re-exportation of precursors to and from Ghana. This is being done by actively using the PEN-ON- LINE registration, registration of all companies dealing in precursors in Ghana, issuance of permits-for-a-fee to these companies as well as monitoring their activities through unannounced site inspections.
13. APAAN – A new precursor chemical for the illicit production of amphetamine has already been added to the schedule to the new bill that has recently received Cabinet approval to convert the Narcotics Control Board into a Commission. It will be recalled that the 57th Session of the Commission of Narcotics Drugs approved and added APAAN to the listed chemicals under table I and II of the 1988 **United Nations** Convention against Illicit, traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances.
14. Ghana has always believed in international collaboration. The assistance from our international

partners has led to several projects, training programmes and other forms of assistance for NACOB. This is very much appreciated.

15. Our responses must rely on evidenced based intelligence and understanding of the nature of the fight against illicit drug trafficking. It must also be subtle, comprehensive and nuanced.

16. Mr. Chairman, with Ghana as a signatory to the United Nations Conventions and Protocols on Drugs, the 1961 Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, the 1971 Convention on Psychotropic Substances, the 1972 Protocol Amending the 1961 Single Convention and the 1988 Convention Against Illicit Trafficking of Narcotic Drugs And Psychotropic Substances, I will like to reiterate that Government is committed to fighting the drug menace.

17. I wish to thank you for your kind attention

