

MISSÃO PERMANENTE DA  
REPÚBLICA DE MOÇAMBIQUE  
JUNTO DAS NAÇÕES UNIDAS



GENÈBRA

PERMANENT MISSION OF THE  
REPUBLIC OF MOZAMBIQUE

TO THE UNITED NATIONS

GENÈVA

**Statement by H.E. Ambassador Pedro Comissário,**  
**Permanent Representative of the Republic of Mozambique to**  
**the United Nations Offices in Geneva and Vienna**  
**at the 59<sup>th</sup> session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs**  
**Vienna, 14<sup>th</sup> March 2016**

Mr. President,

Excellencies,

Distinguished Delegates,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the Mozambican delegation, I warmly congratulate you, Mr. President upon your election as Chair of the 59th session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs.

I take this opportunity to express our appreciation for the efforts put in place for controlling the consumption and traffic of illicit drugs, worldwide.

Mozambique considers important the work on prevention to toxic-dependency, control and drug combat. To that effect, we would like to share with this august body our national experience. In that context, a Central Office on the Prevention and Drug Combat was created in our country. This is a central body that operates under the Council of Ministers' supervision. Its main responsibility is the general coordination and centralization of the information on illicit traffic and consumption of drugs. At the lower level, there are Provincial Offices for Prevention and Drug Combat.

At both Central and Provincial levels there are institutions directly responsible for implementing, in a cross-cutting manner, the National Strategy on Illicit Drugs and Other Psychoactive Substances from 2014/2023. Among these are Ministries and institutions in charge of issues related to Health, Education, Youth and Sports, Industry and Trade, Transports and Communications, Justice, Police and the Attorney General's Office.

Our national efforts are concentrated on primary prevention, providing education and information, sensitizing and raising awareness on the social and health consequences of drug consumption. The main purpose is to decrease its impact on the individuals' life, as well as on the lives of families and communities.

Last year, there was an increase in the number of prevention programs aimed particularly at young people and prison inmates. Health unit users were also targeted. In that connection, it is worth mentioning that, in 2015, the health units assisted a total of 7.038 patients with

psychiatric disorders from drug consumption, 50% of them in Maputo alone, the capital city.

Among illicit drugs, the consumption of multiple substances and cannabis sativa is the most current. Consumption of heroin and cocaine constitutes a small percentage. The age range most affected is the population group between 26 to 30 years which accounts for 23% of the total. However, 10% of consumers with less than 20 years old have been registered.

The programs on tertiary prevention are mainly carried out through home visits and integration of patients in the families and communities. It is our conviction that these programs need to be strengthened and carried out carefully and persistently in order to prevent their relapses.

Mr. President,

I would like to state that, in the prevailing situation in our country, Ketamine is an accessible and affordable life-saving anesthetic. Without it, the already weak surgical care provided in provincial and rural hospitals could be severely affected.

In Mozambique, under the law and policy on traffic and consumption of illicit drugs, as well as under the National Strategy already referred to, we consider the toxic-dependent as a sick person. For this reason, his or her treatment is of great concern to the Government and of paramount importance to the entire society

Mr. President,

As far as the traffic combat of narcotic-drugs is concerned, in 2015, around 5 tons of cannabis sativa were seized, against 11 tons in 2014. Equally, in 2015, around 10 kilos of cocaine, against 24 kilos in 2014 were apprehended.

We consider that international cooperation is of crucial importance in the combat against drug-trafficking. It is essential that the International Community pulls together its efforts if we want this combat to succeed.

Mr. President,

In concluding our remarks, we wish to reiterate the importance of this meeting being held in preparation of the UNGASS 2016. For this purpose, Mozambique is fully aligned with the Common African Position and with the statement made on behalf of the African Group. In that connection, we reaffirm our strong engagement in the preparatory session that will lead up to that important gathering. We hope that the UNGASS will adopt a strong document that will unite us in our common resolve and vision to combat the drug addiction and trafficking.

I thank you, Mr. President!