

CHECK AGAINST
DELIVERY

**STATEMENT BY NIGERIA AT THE SPECIAL SEGMENT OF
THE 59TH SESSION OF THE COMMISSION ON NARCOTIC
DRUGS (CND) , VIENNA, AUSTRIA FROM 14- 22 MARCH 2016**

Mr. Chairman,

Abu Madinir
Pres. rep. CND

On behalf of Nigerian delegation I congratulate you on your election as the chairman of the 59th Session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs. I have no doubt that under your able leadership the work of the Commission will progress to a successful conclusion. I also like to congratulate other members of The Bureau. I assure you and the Bureau, the support and cooperation of my delegation.

2. Furthermore, I must seize this opportunity to thank the Secretariat for providing the necessary documentation to facilitate our meeting.

3. Nigeria associates itself with the statement delivered on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, and that of the African Group.

4. My delegation would like to use this opportunity to appreciate the preparatory work towards UNGASS being led by His Excellency Ambassador Khaled Shamaa of Egypt, I assure you of the continued support of ^{the Nigerian} my delegation.

Mr. Chairman,

5. Nigeria welcomes the General Assembly resolution of 67/193 ^{largely} as it offers an opportunity to take stock and review the progress in the implementation of the Political Declaration and Plan of action on International Cooperation ^{jointly} towards an integrated and balanced strategy to counter the World Drug Problem, ^{to assess} as well as ^{opportunity to} assess its achievements and challenges in countering the World Drug Problem, within the frame work of the Three International Drug Control Conventions and other United Nations Instruments.

6. Despite the efforts of the International community, the global drug problem persists and the struggle to deal with its multi-faceted challenges remains unresolved. We believe that Member

States need to collaborate and act more on the basis of the existing three International Drug Control Conventions, which constitute the cornerstone of the international drug control system ^{become they} and underline the importance of achieving target goals set out in the 2009 Political Declaration and its Plan of Action ^{it's a plan} on international Cooperation towards an integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the world Drug Problem. Any attempt to deviate from the recognition of Three International Drug Control Conventions in our own opinion would not only be Counterproductive but will also not yield the anticipated result as 2019 is around the corner.

Mr. Chairman,

7. Nigeria remains committed to tackling the global scourge of drug trafficking, ^{illicit production} illicit cultivation and abuse. In this regard, Nigeria has published the 3rd edition of her National Drug Control Master Plan. The Nigerian blue print facilitates inter-Agency collaboration ^{co-operation} that re-enforces an integrated multi-disciplinary, as well as a

comprehensive and balanced approach to tackling the drug ~~concern~~ phenomenon.

Mr. Chairman,

8. While recognizing the consequences of illicit cultivation, trade, abuse of illicit drugs and its connections with other transnational organized crime, we cannot but be concerned about the call for the global decriminalization of *Cannabis*. Nigeria as a nation will continue to emphasise that a call for decriminalisation will undermine the current efforts by member states aimed at reducing the cultivation and abuse of this illicit crop which will provide a window ^{of opportunity} for emerging Transnational Organised Crime to flourish.

9. Nigeria recognises that, *Cannabis* is the major drug of abuse in the West African sub -region and it accounts for most of those in treatment facilities within the region in particular Nigeria. In view of this, we re-emphasis the call to intensify Harm Reduction programmes that will effectively address *Cannabis* abuse as well

as encourage research to find a *Cannabis* substitution drug that will further reduce harm and dependency on *Cannabis*. The primary concern of the Nigerian Government remains efforts to reduce negative consequences of drug abuse and promote the right to good health for all Nigerians especially those in vulnerable groups like the youths.

10. Nigeria recognises ^{the efficacy of} the Sustainable Alternative Development Programme as one of the key strategies for addressing Cannabis cultivation ^{for} effective implementation of the UN guiding principles on Alternative Development. We call on ^{Sustainable} all Member States with success stories on Alternative Development ^{to share} their experiences with other Member States.

11. ^{aluded} As aluded earlier, there exist linkages between illicit drug trade and other transnational organized crime. Consequently, our national legal framework on drug supply activities are based on a structured legal instrument which has enhanced our law enforcement activities to include prosecution of offenders and the

targeting of criminal wealth and the proceeds of drug crime. Nigeria will continue to invest in these drug control measures in order to build on the significant progress made so far.

12. Similarly, Nigeria will continue to sustain the implementation of measures to promote judicial cooperation as contained in the 2009 Political Declaration including extradition, mutual legal assistance (MLA), transfer of proceedings, controlled delivery, cooperation in law enforcement, targeting trafficking in drug by sea, in addition to supporting judicial processes and other forms of international cooperation.

Mr. Chairman,

13. We recognise the importance of Pre-Export Notification Online (PEN Online) in monitoring international movement of precursors. We have sustained the use of the Pen Online system to confirm the legitimacy of transactions in precursors and the documentation of imported precursors for monitoring of domestic trade and utilization. This becomes more pertinent with the new

trend of using precursor^s to precursors to avoid detection by both monitoring and Law Enforcement Agencies.

14. Nigeria in line with Commission^s resolution 58/11 takes note of the report of the 37th Expert Committee on Drug Dependence, convened at WHO headquarters in Geneva from the 16 to 20 November 2015. The report states that levels of ketamine use appear to be declining in many countries worldwide as new therapeutic anaesthetics have been identified. Ketamine remains the anaesthetic agent widely used in low income countries and for emergency situations where there are limitations in facilities. We are of the opinion that States where the abuses of ketamine pose a serious threat to human health should be supported to develop instruments for national or domestic control.

Mr. Chairman,

15. In the area of Drug Demand Reduction, we have taken cognisance of the new emerging drugs and other psychotropic substances especially those not under International control that

are increasingly being abused. We have noted the increased use of the internet by criminal networks to perpetrate drug dependence and recruitment of mules. We look forward to more deliberations on these issues and the need to proffer appropriate forms of international control.

16. Nigeria will continue to take effective and practical measures to protect its citizens, in particular children and young people from the harm of the use of illicit narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances by creating awareness on the dangers associated with their use, as well as encouraging drug dependant persons to access treatment in facilities across the country.

17. The ever-diversifying global drug challenges cannot be contained without international cooperation. We will all need to work and collaborate in line with the principles of common and shared responsibility taking cognisance and in spite of multi-cultural realities in the implementation of effective measures for tackling the drug problem.

18. Nigeria reiterates its deep concern regarding the increasing use of some ~~part~~ of Africa Countries as trans-shipment locations for illicitly trafficked drugs and psychotropic substances. This creates additional security challenges ^{in these} along existing transit ^{ways} routes.

Mr. Chairman,

19. Finally, we call on Member States to respond to the serious challenges posed by the increasing links between drug trafficking, corruption and other forms of transnational organized crime. This includes terrorism, trafficking in persons, trafficking in firearms, cybercrime and money-laundering to finance terrorism. This could be achieved by using a multidisciplinary, multifaceted approach. This is achievable by promoting and supporting research, reliable data collection, intelligence and analysis and sharing of same to ensure effective policy-making and interventions.

I thank you.

