

ANGOLA 2020

Mr President,

Excellencies,

Distinguished Delegates,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

First of all, I would like to congratulate H.E. Mr. Mansoor Ahmed KHAN, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Pakistan for being elected to conduct the work of the 63rd session of the United Nations Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND).

I would also like to extend my welcomes to the new Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime-UNODC and Director General of the United Nations Office in Vienna-UNOV, H.E. Madam Ghada Waly.

On behalf of the government of Angola, I have the honor to speak before this important assembly, in order for, together with other delegations, to participate in discussions on the world drugs problem with the aim of seeking better guidance in the fight against this scourge at a global level.

Mr President,

We need to walk together and share experiences and ideas and succeed in this meaningful struggle to preserve the common good.

Angola makes use of three international drug control conventions in its policy making related to the reduction of demand and supply of drugs that affect young people, which hinder the realization of their aspirations, that is, which hinder their participation in the national reconstruction and sustainable development as citizens aware of their role.

The struggle that is being carried out has the ultimate aim of reducing poverty, consolidating democracy and protecting human rights.

Prevention has been the key to our activities, which, according to UNODC, is a cornerstone for reducing the demand and supply of illicit drugs. In this chapter, Angola has succeeded in implementing public policies that in the near future, we believe, may bring a significant reduction in drug abuse. The UNODC initiative to increase or support the prevention for the use of drug "listening first" has contributed to good results.

Likewise, the participation of NGOs and civil society has shown that it is an important factor for the dissemination of correct and privileged information on the matter. For this to happen it is necessary to train trainers, because they contribute to changing habits and acquiring knowledge that communities need to raise their levels of awareness.

Mr President,

The work is hard, we have no doubts, the challenges are enormous, but the effort is at a national level and with regional and international cooperation, we are certain that we can defeat drug traffickers, mules and everyone involved in this chain of evil.

Angola as a member of the CND, looks at the program to combat drugs in two dimensions as mentioned above: a) work frankly, collecting correct information and cooperating with other institutions; b) privilege the training of technicians capable of working with drug addicts and their families.

Mr President,

We think that treatment and social reintegration is an aspect that cannot be overlooked. As it is a public health problem, it should be administered without prejudice, to prevent stigma. In my country, it is available, regardless of skin color, religion or gender.

According to the WHO motto, treating without leaving anyone behind means working on social inclusion. Gradually, it is up to the government to improve infrastructure, work more on social determinants to improve responses in terms of service delivery. A reintegration like this is a very difficult exercise for developing countries, but as we move forward, we are solving some problems related to the lack of schools, jobs, missing families, etc.

Finally, I would like to inform this assembly that, from a legal point of view, Angola is making progress. As I speak to you, the bills on access to alcoholic beverages and the fight against drug trafficking are being discussed in the national parliament. The money laundering law has already been passed.

Thank you very much, Mr. President