

63rd CND – General Statement

Thank you, Mr Chair.

We associate ourselves with the statement made by Malaysia on behalf of the G-77 (check).

Let me start by commending you for the splendid work you have been doing. Your tireless efforts during the pre-sessional period made it possible to keep the membership together so we could arrive today with a consensus solution to some of the important matters to be discussed during this session.

Chair,

We have, only last year, approved our Ministerial Declaration through which we renew our global commitment to address and counter the world drug problem. We are particularly satisfied with the recognition of the need for strengthened international efforts to respond to the growth of drug-related organized crime and money laundering.

Much still remains to be done to guarantee that criminals do not benefit from the proceeds of crime.

But from this rostrum, I take this opportunity to inform fellow Member States, that the Brazilian government has not been idle. In the past 5 years, the Brazilian law enforcement has apprehended more than 2 billion dollars of assets from drug-trafficking criminal organizations. In our effort to improve the management and disposal of seized and confiscated assets, in 2019, 20 million dollars derived from the sale of seized assets were fully allocated to public policies to curb de demand and supply of illicit drugs.

We have worked closely with our neighbor countries in combatting transnational organized crime in our region. Intelligence sharing and joint operations have enabled record apprehension of illicit drugs as well they have made possible that many leaders of criminal organizations face justice for their crimes.

We have already set the framework to do more. The Brazilian Government has, this past December, approved a new Anti-Crime bill. It establishes enhanced measures against organized crime and violent crimes, which we expect will greatly contribute to curb drug trafficking.

The efforts of the Brazilian government have already produced concrete results in public security, with a reduction of 21% in the numbers of intentional homicides in the country.

Mr Chair,

Brazil is unequivocally committed to address the world drug problem by means of an integrated, balanced and multidisciplinary approach, respecting human rights and emphasizing health and social perspectives.

It is fundamental to recognize the use of drugs as a public-health issue, which requires improving health services, qualifying health professionals, as well as avoiding concepts that stigmatize people who use drugs. We also underline the importance of addressing the vulnerabilities to HIV and viral hepatitis associated to drug use.

As I conclude this statement, Chair, I would like to highlight a fundamental aspect of the mandate of the CND, the scheduling of substances under international control. We have agreed to an important process during the intersessional period to discuss and clarify the impacts and underlying issues on WHO's recommendations on the review of cannabis and related substances. As we look forward to further discussing these issues within the Commission, I can assure you that Brazil will participate actively in this exercise.

These recommendations are only a small part of our task regarding the scheduling system. The Brazilian authorities are committed and have been promoting constant updates of its regulatory framework on substances control, with an evidence-based approach, and aligned with the requirements of the drug conventions and INCB's recommendations.

But I wish to make my Government's position very clear. Brazil continues completely committed to addressing all challenges in conformity with the United Nations Conventions on Drug Control, which provide a clear legal framework for its Members States. Brazil will remain very vigilant that the letter and spirit of these Conventions remain intact.

Thank you, Mr Chair.