



**STATEMENT BY KENYA DURING THE 63RD SESSION OF THE COMMISSION ON NARCOTIC
DRUGS
March, 2nd – 6th 2020
Vienna, Austria**

**Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

On behalf of the delegation of Kenya, I congratulate you Mr. Chairman and the entire bureau for your election to preside over this session. My delegation assures you of full support and cooperation to steer the conference to a successful conclusion.

(My delegation aligns itself with the statement delivered by the Permanent Representative of South Africa on behalf of the African Group)-if agreed.

Kenya welcomes the appointment of Her Excellency **Ghada Fathi Waly** as the new Director-General of the United Nations Office at Vienna and Executive Director of UNODC. We assure her of our full support.

Mr. Chairman,

Allow me from the onset to reaffirm Kenya's commitment towards countering world drug problem that continually threatens the general wellbeing of the people and prosperity of future generations. The persistent illicit drug cultivation, manufacture, trafficking and abuse of drugs undermines the global commitment to attain the Sustainable Development Goals aimed at ending poverty, protecting the planet and ensuring that all people – including people who abuse drugs enjoy peace, and prosperity by 2030.

Mr. Chairman

In addressing the world drug problem, Kenya has adopted a multi-pronged approach that addresses both demand and supply of drugs. This response is guided by national statutes and policy documents that are aligned with the three International Conventions on Drug Control, the Political Declaration and Plan of Action of 2009, the UNGASS Outcome Document of 2016 and other International Resolutions and Commitments.

Mr. Chairman

Kenya has put in place **vibrant/strong** prevention and rehabilitation programmes aimed at reducing the demand for drugs in the general population and amongst vulnerable groups including children, youth and women. Among others, we have adopted the international drug use prevention standards and initiated prevention programmes in schools, families, communities and the workplace. The life skills

programme which has been piloted in several schools has created positive impact amongst primary school pupils who are engaged in discussions on drug abuse and its effects on their psychosocial development. The challenge however is on upscaling the programme to cover the over thirty thousand tertiary schools across the country.

For the addicts, we have set a policy framework that facilitates implementation of a comprehensive and balanced treatment, and rehabilitation strategy offering a wide range of services including medically-assisted therapy, harm reduction programmes, antiretroviral therapy and other relevant interventions that prevent the transmission of diseases associated with drug use such as HIV, viral hepatitis and other blood-borne. This is in line with the International Standards on Treatment and the UNGASS Outcome Document with efforts geared towards ensuring that persons affected by drug abuse receive utmost care without discrimination or prejudice.

Mr. Chairman,

Kenya's National Authority for the Campaign Against Alcohol and Drug Abuse continues to work with partners and other stakeholders to expand treatment and rehabilitation facilities to enhance accessibility. We are currently setting up a Drug Rehabilitation Centre a project that presents a unique setting as a one-stop facility providing wholistic approach to treatment and rehabilitation to hundreds of youths in the Coast Region where injecting drug use is a big challenge.

Mr. Chairman,

To ensure that interventions are anchored on empirical evidence, Kenya conducts regular surveys to monitor trends on drug abuse in order to inform programming. Further, the national organ mandated to coordinate the country's drug control response ensures that legislations, policies and guidelines are developed to guide control efforts.

Due to her geographical positioning, and as a transit country most recently confronted with growing consumption, Kenya is tackling the enormous challenge of illicit drug cultivation and trafficking across its borders. Alongside illicit drug trafficking, Kenya is also battling other related crimes including trafficking of illicit small arms, human trafficking, terrorism and money laundering. To this end, we have put in place enforcement and compliance initiatives and enhanced capacity building of key enforcement officers and set up control systems and units to monitor the vast coast line and entry points such as the Coast Guard Unit and the Container Control Programme.

These efforts are facilitated by the formation of key institutions such as the Financial Reporting Centre to monitor illicit flows, the Money Laundering Unit to address issues of laundering and money cleansing, the Pharmacy and Poisons Board to ensure effective control and use of controlled substances and the Anti-Narcotics Police Unit for intelligence and investigation of drug-related crimes. Towards eliminating the diversion of controlled substances, Kenya is currently engaging with relevant Agencies in developing the National Guidelines for Pharmacies within Medically Assisted therapy clinics and piloting of the International Import and Export System. However, inadequate resources and specialized expertise is a major impediment to the war against illicit drug trafficking and abuse. We therefore call on the international community for increased technical and financial assistance in order to build national capacity and implementation strategies to effectively address the world drug problem in all its forms and manifestations.

Mr. Chairman,

As I close, allow me to reiterate Kenya's commitment to the overall objective of the international drug control strategy which is to eliminate the availability and use of illicit narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances that pose obvious health and security risks.

It is our belief that the Conventions provide sufficient safeguards that allow access to such drugs and substances for medical and scientific purposes. We once again echo our strongest opposition to any attempt to push for the legalization of Cannabis and other controlled substances for any reason other than medical and scientific purposes. It is important to note that majority of developing countries are yet to establish effective and enforcement drug control mechanisms and legalizing these substances for recreational purposes will strain the already weak control mechanisms.

Mr. Chairman,

My delegation is pleased to be part of this session's deliberations and we are open to learn from the experiences of others. We are also keen on establishing strategic partnerships with various institutions and agencies to further strengthen efforts in addressing the world drug problem. In the spirit of enhanced collaboration with regional and international partners, Kenya has offered to host in Nairobi the 29th Meeting of the Heads of National Law Enforcement Agencies (HoNLEA), in October this year.

I therefore welcome all member States of the African group and other relevant Agencies to take part in the meeting and among others, sample Kenya's hospitality.

I wish the 63rd Session of the CND fruitful deliberations.

Thank you.