



**Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe**

**Remarks of Ambassador Alena Kupchyna**

**Co-ordinator of OSCE's Activities to address Transnational Threats**

**Transnational Threats Department**

**63<sup>d</sup> session of the UN Commission on Narcotic Drugs**

**Vienna, 3 March 2020**

Chairperson,

Executive Director Waly,

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am pleased to address this 63<sup>d</sup> session of the UN Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND). I thank UNODC for the invitation.

The threat of illicit drugs continues to challenge international community, and undermine security and development in many regions of the world. It generates, directly or indirectly, serious crimes, including terrorism and violence.

Illicit drugs trade is a major source of revenues for organized crime, which exploit new technologies, such as the Darkweb and cryptocurrencies. New delivery

methods of illicit drugs challenge law enforcement capacities to effectively address this menace.

The world drug problem causes serious health risks and affects the most vulnerable population – including young people. This highlights the importance of prevention – science- and human rights based prevention programmes and plans, as indicated at the 2016 UN General Assembly Special Session (UNGASS) outcome document.

As the largest regional security arrangement under Chapter VIII of the UN Charter, the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) continues actively supporting national governments in tackling the world drug problem and implementing the 2016 UNGASS outcome document, as there is a need for capacity-building and technical assistance. Further resources are needed to help OSCE's participating States and Partners for Co-operation to fully implement the 2016 UNGASS recommendations and achieve related targets under the Sustainable Development Goals.

In providing tailored technical assistance and support, we draw upon a number of comparative advantages – including our cross-dimensional approach to security, specialized units offering specific expertise, and a network of 16 Field Operations across the OSCE area. Our annual OSCE-wide counter-narcotics conferences provide an effective platform for dialogue and sharing our recommendations for policy-makers, experts and practitioners highlighting the importance of internationally co-ordinated drug control strategies based on scientific evidence.

Allow me to mention a few OSCE activities that illustrate our efforts in more concrete terms:

- **New Psychoactive Substances** – NPS – continue posing a growing threat. To assist our participating States tackle it we jointly with the Central Asian Regional Information and Coordination Centre (CARICC) have conducted

a training last month in Central Asia on countering illicit drugs, including NPS, facilitated by the use of Darknet and cryptocurrencies. More than 20 participants developed techniques in identifying websites with malicious content, improved their understanding anonymity, encryption and the Darkweb, as well as clarified role of cryptocurrencies in various types of crimes.

- Since the flow of **illicit opiates from Afghanistan** has been affecting the OSCE participating States for decades, we continue providing assistance to strengthen Afghanistan's law enforcement and border management capacities. We support the UNODC's **Paris Pact** activities focused on promoting regional law enforcement co-operation and tackling financial flows linked to the illicit traffic in Afghan opiates along the so-called "Balkan route" for smuggling of drugs into Europe.
- The OSCE Field Operations in the **South Eastern Europe** promote **integrated border management and trans-border co-operation**, facilitate adaptation of national legislations to meet current challenges related to trafficking in drugs and other illicit goods and services.
- The OSCE Field Operations in **Central Asia** supported the **high-level conference** on "International and regional cooperation on **countering terrorism and its financing through illicit drug trafficking** and organized crime" with participation of UNOCT, UNCTED and the Financial Action Task Force. This meeting has **launched "the Dushanbe Process"** on countering terrorism and its financing in Central Asia, including through the proceeds of trafficking in illicit drugs.
- In June, the Albanian OSCE Chairmanship will convene our flagship OSCE-wide anti-drug conference. The conference will address the **spread of illicit drugs by means of the Darkweb and cryptocurrencies**.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The world drug problem remains to be one of the most serious security challenges. To effectively tackle them, as well as related crimes, we need to redouble our efforts in promoting national, regional and international collective responses. We need to intensify our anti-drug efforts in facilitating strategic partnerships and strengthening operational capacities. I am sure that this session will adopt pertinent decisions contributing to these goals. Thank you.