

**Japan's statement**  
**Special Event of 63rd session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs,**  
**United Nations International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking**  
**Launch of the World Drug Report 2020**  
**Friday, 26 June 2020**

H.E. Ms. Ghada Fathi Waly, Executive Director of UNODC,

H.E. Mr. Mansoor Ahmad Khan, Chair of the CND,

Excellencies, Dear colleagues and friends,

It is a great pleasure for me to celebrate the publication of the World Drug Report 2020 with you today. On behalf of the Government of Japan, let me commend UNODC, particularly Ms. Angela Me and her dedicated team. Despite the numerous challenges you must have faced, you have managed to publish a comprehensive and valuable dataset to address the world drug problem.

The COVID-19 pandemic is seriously affecting the world drug situation including the entire supply chain and trafficking of drugs. Organized criminals have found novel ways to adapt to new market conditions and to exploit the vulnerable.

In this moment of crisis, we are required to re-evaluate and reformulate our strategies, and to adapt to our new reality both during and after the pandemic. We have before us a great opportunity to strengthen our international cooperation towards an integrated strategy to counter the world drug problem.

In this regard, I would like to applaud UNODC once again for their diligent work in shedding light on the impacts of COVID-19. I believe this research will serve as a foundation for tackling old, persistent and new challenges in a comprehensive manner and with a sense of urgency.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Japan is committed to increasing our efforts to strengthen our information and monitoring systems, to improve methodologies and data collection, and to further strengthen our support of Alternative Development and demand and supply reduction measures, which align with the commitments we made in the Ministerial Declaration of 2019. The report launched today will certainly give us solid scientific evidence to facilitate these efforts.

Thank you very much.