

Islamic Republic of Afghanistan

Ministry of Interior Affairs

Regional & Trans Regional Cooperation Directorate

Afghanistan's delegations speech on 63th CND session 2-4 December 2020

Mr. chairman, honorable representatives and distinguished participants, Aslam-u-Alikum Wa Rahmatullahe WA Barakato!

On behalf of people and government of Islamic republic of Afghanistan, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to you all.

I hope this forum will provide bases for fruitful discussions and tangible outcome to tackle the problem of narcotics down.

Ladies and Gentlemen!

Understanding the concerns of international communities, about poppy cultivation in Afghanistan; and recognizing the principle of shared responsibilities, I would like to call upon the countries of the region and globe to tackle this phenomenon in a partnership approach and balanced responsibilities. On behalf of the Afghan government I would like to reassure you of Afghanistan full commitments to fight and overcome this challenge.

Struggling against drugs requires the political will of the governments, and all countries must fight honestly to eradicate this sinister phenomenon.

In 2019, the Deputy Minister of Counter Narcotics of the Ministry of Interior had good achievements in different field such as: operations, arrest of suspects, confiscation of various drugs and equipment carrying drug trafficking, destruction of processing laboratories, warehouses of various drugs, fight against money laundering, control delivery, seizures at airports, the eradication of narcotics farms; had good achievements.

Operations conducted in 2019 show a three percent increase over the previous year, while a 4 percent increase in suspect arrests compared to the previous year; 13 percent increase in the seizure of various drugs compared to the previous year.

Poppy cultivation and drugs production in Afghanistan has been related to several factors. Specially, internal war and lack of sovereignty of state caused that drug laboratories, drug storages and all other people worked with mafia, are in farther points of our country and have activities in these fields.

Factors of poppy cultivation in Afghanistan:

Drug production in Afghanistan depends on several factors, the most important of which is the lack of the government in some parts of the country. Since the cultivation, production and processing of narcotics is legally a crime, drug depots, laboratories and drug dealers are usually located in remote areas, out of sight of the government and ruled by the opposition. They are engaged in the production and processing of drugs.

On the other hand, the high quality of narcotics in Afghanistan is another reason that has kept the supply and demand chain of narcotics alive, which is supplied based on the demand of narcotics markets in Europe, Russia, Turkey and other Central Asian countries.

Poverty, unemployment, illiteracy, lack of knowledge of the law ... are among the factors that lead people to trade and produce drugs illegally.

Trafficking routes:

It should be mentioned that only 5% is used for domestic consumption and smuggling by airports. And 19% drug trafficked through Iran, 32% through middle Asia and 44% through Pakistan to International markets.

Importing precursors:

What important is here, the role of precursors in converting opium to heroin and morphine; Some calculations show that to convert Afghan opium to heroin and morphine, along with precursors such as acetone, ammonium chloride, potassium permanganate, alcohol, etc., a large amount of acetic anhydride, which is one of the most widely used precursors in drug production. It should be noted that Afghanistan and even neighboring countries are not allowed to produce this chemical and generally enter our country from abroad.

Hundreds of tons of this chemical are smuggled to Afghanistan from neighboring countries and from the western and southwestern borders in a situation where the Afghan government has officially informed INCB that our country does not need this chemical at all in the current situation.

Achievements:

In 2019, the importance of the fight against drugs was 3661 operations with the arrest of 4235 suspects, including 12 major smugglers, and the seizure of 1169 tons of drugs that successfully carried out. In the operations carried out, 95 narcotics processing laboratories and 33 narcotics warehouses and laboratories for the production of narcotics were destroyed, 455 weapons of various types, 604 vehicles and 140030 Ammunition fire was seized.

In the field of destruction of narcotics farms in 2019, the CNPA during 46 operations has eradicated 436 hectares of land from poppy seeds; there have also been achievements in the areas of drug money laundering, seizure, control delivery. In two deliveries to India and Dubai, three

Indians, three Afghans and a Pakistani were arrested and seven kilograms of heroin, 18 liters of liquid amphetamine and 1.5 kilograms of solid amphetamine were seized.

By carrying out the mentioned operations along with the achievements of 2019, the number of casualties of the anti-narcotics police will reach 20 and the number of wounded will reach 60 by the end of 2019.

Based on article 7th of Afghan constitution law, each type of terrorist act, cultivate, traffic, produce and use of drug is avoided. And deputy ministry of counter narcotics according and the counter narcotics law and the strategy of ministry of interior, we prepared the road map of countering narcotics. Its objective is to destroy drug durability.

Though, Insecurities and lack of rule of law in area of under cultivations, we have 20% decreasing of drug, in 2017, 328000 hectares cultivated, while in 2018, we have 263000 hectares. In 2019, we have 163000 hectares that shows a decreasing amount those two last years.

The producing of poppy in 2017 was 9000 metric ton, while in 2018 it was 6400 metric ton that shows tangible decrease of producing of poppy. At the end of 2019 the producing of poppy was also about 6400 metric ton.

Programs have taken for counter narcotics and law enforcement section:

- Intensify operations to eradicate poppy fields
- Intensify operations to destroy laboratories and warehouses of various drugs
- Arrest of traffickers and their supporters
- Establishment of a training dog training center
- Establish a free telephone hotline to inform people about drug cases

Challenges:

- The formation of the counter narcotics police is not commensurate with the major problem that narcotics has created for Afghanistan.
- Lack of commitment and non-adherence of some countries to their counter-narcotics commitments
- Opposition support for cultivation; manufacturing; Drug processing and trafficking
- Transfer the geography of poppy cultivation to insecure areas and under the influence of the opposition
- Involvement of some opposition countries in the region; in the direction of Afghanistan's insecurity, which itself increases and widens the drug problem in Afghanistan.

Solution:

- Convincing the international community to accept the drug problem as the second global threat after the threat of terrorism
- Strengthen regional and international cooperation in the field of counter-narcotics

- Prevent preachers from entering Afghanistan from neighboring countries and the region.
- Reducing global demand, with the imposition of restrictions in foreign countries by governments can reduce the level of demand, and as the level of drug demand decreases, the supply graph will be limited and reduced.
- Provide facilities for farmers, including creating markets for farmers' products and increasing cold storage for their products.
- Exchanging bilateral information on drug shipments and precursors and conducting simultaneous and joint operations along borders.
- Tracking drug shipments to get their route, origin, destination and reserves to drug traffickers.
- Prevent money laundering and money laundering.
- Activate and strengthen the relationship between BLOs and DLOs.
- Completion of standard check and control equipment in airports and ports
- Provide medium- and long-term training for counter-narcotics police

Honorable Audience:

In my opinion, success in this difficult struggle depends on understanding the challenges and working more closely together to address them.

In conclusion, I once again thank the international community for its efforts to support the fight against narcotics, especially the generous assistance of the United States, the United Kingdom, the European Union, and UNODC technical support, and emphasize that drug trafficking, addiction, and organized crime Related to them, they have crossed the national borders of countries and become global threats. It is not possible to fight them sporadically, and it needs a strong political will, proper planning, coordination and mobilization of all countries.

Thank you