



ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN

PERMANENT MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS
AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS
JAURÈSGASSE 3, 1030 VIENNA

Statement

By

**H.E. Kazem Gharibabadi, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of
the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations
and other International Organizations
in Vienna**

Before

**The 63rd session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs on the WHO/ECDD
recommendations on cannabis and related substances**

Vienna, 2 December 2020

In the Name of Allah, the Most Compassionate, the Most Merciful

Mr. Chairperson,

Dear Colleagues,

At the outset, I would like to seize this opportunity to thank you, Ambassador Mansoor Ahmad Khan, the Chair of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs for your efforts in leading the several CND sessions including regarding WHO/ECDD recommendations on cannabis and related substances.

My delegation associates itself with the statement delivered by the Ambassador of the Russian Federation on behalf of the Like Minded Group on the WHO/ECDD recommendations on cannabis and cannabis-related substances and would like to put on record the following comments in its national capacity.

Mr. Chairperson,

Since Cannabis is the most widely abused drug in the world with approximately 192 million users worldwide, although CND's decision to rescheduling cannabis and cannabis resin has not been approved by consensus and half of the Commission's Members voted against it, we are concerned that this decision, may send a false message as if these substances are not dangerous enough for the health and therefore lead to a significant increase in cannabis production and abuse.

Against this backdrop, cannabis is properly subjected to the full scope of international controls under Schedule I of the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, 1961, as amended by the 1972 Protocol. This was especially due to the fact that cannabis and cannabis resin being particularly prone to abuse and to

produce ill-effects and do not have therapeutic advantages that offset these effects.

Hence, to be cautious about the possible negative consequences of rescheduling of these substances, UNODC, INCB and WHO should constantly monitor and provide Member States with their assessment on the effects and consequences of the implementation of the adopted recommendation on public health throughout the world.

This decision should not be considered as a confirmation of non-scientific and non-medical use of cannabis or a justification for the legalization of its recreational use. It is our firm conviction that any legislative measure aimed at legalizing or regulating the use of substances under international control including cannabis and cannabis related substances for non-medical and non-scientific purposes, is incompatible with the international legal obligations of the State Parties under the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, 1961, as well as the 1988 Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances.

Finally, In accordance with its domestic law and in conformity with Article 39 of the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, 1961, as amended by the 1972 Protocol, the Islamic Republic of Iran continues its strict national control measures on the illicit use and production of cannabis and its related substances as it is necessary or desirable for the protection of the public health or welfare.

I Thank you Mr. Chairperson.