



64th session of the

Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND)

INTERPOL's statement

Madam Chairperson,
Your excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

The world supply of illicit drugs is more abundant, more sophisticated and more diverse than it has ever been and the Covid crisis has not hindered it in any significant way.

Yes, air traffic limitations have impacted traffickers in their abuse of mules to carry drugs across borders, but they soon adapted and further abused other existing vectors to prosper. As such, from the information collected through INTERPOL's channels, trafficking of illicit drugs by postal mail and express couriers has exploded and freight forwarding services have also been increasingly targeted to transport bigger quantities of illicit drugs at once, as we have recently seen with a cocaine seizure in a European port of over 16 tons in one shipment. The recent interceptions and seizures by law enforcement agencies in various regions of semi-submersibles, with high energetic autonomy, capable of transporting considerable amounts of illicit drugs across continents without detection are of course another high concern.

Through these difficult times however, INTERPOL's support to its 194 member countries was kept to its highest level. Despite COVID, we deployed several investigation support teams in three different regions following massive seizures of drugs. The operational and analytical support provided by INTERPOL enabled the further development of case coordination meetings, analytical products and alerts, such as Notices, to assist with transnational investigations. The Organization also provided training and access to capabilities such as the INTERPOL Relief database enabling the tracing of the origin of drugs seized.

Moreover INTERPOL shared COVID-related Drug threat assessment reports with its member countries to assist them in responding to drug trafficking threats. And we coordinated two regional operations against drug trafficking in the regions of Africa and the Middle East gathering over 40 countries.

What COVID has taught us, is that international organized crime has gone through a learning process to adapt to the new reality. This means that now more than ever we need to join forces and stand as one against drug traffickers. It is only through intense international cooperation but also through the fostering of public private partnerships and the development of synergies among us that we will be efficient in tackling illicit drug trafficking.

Thank you.