

## **REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA**



**STATEMENT BY HONOURABLE KALUMBI SHANGULA,  
MINISTER OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES AT THE  
64<sup>TH</sup> SESSION OF THE COMMISSION ON NARCOTIC DRUGS  
12 – 16 APRIL 2021, VIENNA, AUSTRIA**

**Your Excellency, Ambassador Dominika Krois, Chair of the 64<sup>th</sup> Session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs,**

**Your Excellency, Madam Ghada Waly, Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime,**

**Your Excellencies,**

**Distinguished delegates,**

1. At the outset, let me congratulate you on your election as Chair of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs at its sixty-fourth session, as well as to the other elected members of the Bureau. I assure you of Namibia's full support. I also wish to commend the UNODC Secretariat for all the preparations of the Session during these unprecedented times of the COVID-19 pandemic.
2. My delegation aligns itself with the statements delivered on behalf of the African Group and G 77 and China.
3. Like many countries, Namibia is negatively affected by the Covid-19 pandemic.

**Madam Chair,**

4. No country can fight the proliferation of illicit drugs and associated crimes alone. It is a shared responsibility which requires an integrated and balanced approach, therefore, my delegation underscores the importance of upholding the values of multilateralism, in addressing the World Drug Problem. Namibia maintains that the International Drug Control Conventions constitute the cornerstone of the international drug control system, and underlines the importance of achieving targets, provisions and goals set out in the 2009 Political Declaration and Plan of Action.

5. Namibia has seen an increase in the usage of illicit drugs, in recent years, with cannabis being the most commonly used, while incidents of cocaine and synthetic stimulants are also reported. This has resulted in Namibia becoming a haven for drug smugglers and trafficking, slowly turning it into a transit and consumer country.
6. Several strategies have been put in place to deal with the phenomena, and law enforcement agencies are making headways in arresting drug traffickers. Outreach programmes and projects involving national stakeholders are also carried out in an effort to raise awareness, particularly among students at learning institutions and the youth, on the negative and destructive effects of illicit drug consumption, smuggling and trafficking. The successful interception of two reported drug cartels in Namibia, is one of the success stories derived from the collaborations of national law enforcement authorities, and international and regional organisations in conducting joint operations to combat cross and trans-border crimes. Last year (2020) Namibia confiscated 843,892 kg of cannabis; 4,930 tablets of mandrax; 1,072g of cocaine powder; 650 units of crack cocaine and 2,922 g of crystal meth “tik”. All of these illicit substances have a street value of approximately N\$ 11 Million, Namibia dollars.
7. In conclusion, Namibia reaffirms its commitment to ensuring that all aspects of demand reduction and related measures, supply reduction and related measures and international cooperation are addressed in full conformity with the sovereignty and territorial integrity of States, the principle of non-intervention in the international affairs of States, the inherent dignity of all individuals and the principles of equal rights and mutual respect among States.

**I thank you Chair**