

**Distinguished Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

--It is my honor to share a few remarks on the sixty-fourth session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs,
and I avail myself of this opportunity
to express sincere appreciation to the organizers
for coordinating and making possible this important event
regardless of the unusually difficult circumstances.

---The world drug problem poses a serious threat to our countries and societies,
as it inflicts an excruciating effect on social and economic conditions,
while putting a strain on the rule of law, safety
and all related institutions and law enforcement agencies.

--The Government of Albania continues to pursue an unwavering and holistic approach to this complex phenomenon.

The National Strategy against Organized and Serious Crime
intertwines national measures with bilateral, regional and international instruments and tools,
as the most overarching, viable and effective approach to pursuing criminals,
protecting communities, institutions and the economy,
as well as preventing the growth of illicit drug-related activities.

--Upholding the rule of law and assuring a safe environment for the development of our country and society
being our national top priorities,
as well as fulfilling our citizens' aspirations for joining the European Union family,
we remain constantly committed to intensify international police cooperation,

especially with neighboring and EU Member States,
which as duly noted by the European Commission
has led to a number of successful large-scale law enforcement operations
in the course of 2019 and 2020.

-- Intensified police and prosecution cooperation has contributed to a further
progress in dismantling drug trafficking networks.

--Combined with the above-mentioned repressive measures,
preventative tools aimed at raising awareness about risks and consequences of
the drug problem,
including alternative development programs
are currently being applied at community level.

--To conclude, it is worth emphasizing that
in the face of a profoundly transnational phenomenon,
successful efforts and initiatives are bound and must be driven by a shared sense
of responsibility and determination
for increased security and human prosperity.

In this spirit, I would like to wish the United Nations Commission on Drugs
and all member states, a very fruitful session and productive discussions.

Faleminderit!