

**Statement to be Delivered by H.E. Teodolinda Rodrigues Coelho,  
Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Angola in Vienna,  
during the 64<sup>TH</sup> Session of Commission on Narcotics and Drugs,  
Vienna, 12-17 of April 2021.**

Excellencies,

Distinguished delegates,

On behalf of the Angolan government, we would like to especially congratulate the election of the Chair, as well as, the work of the Secretariat of Governing Bodies to permit held this meeting in current difficult times that we are facing.

The pandemic of Covid19 has shown us a lot of uncertainty, in a period which is affecting us all beyond physical measures but also mentally and economically.

There are a series of unfortunate events such as the significant increase in infected cases amongst families where both young and mature adults are suffering from depression, leading them to the heightened consumption of psychotropic substances, as a result of confinement. This makes us think that we should be tackling the issue with a zero-tolerance attitude. Services should be more stringent such as the supervision of ports, airports, and even by road. Through a more dynamic and practical approach to supervision, we will make sure to reduce risk, demand, and supply.

Compliance with the law is of vital importance with regard to the growing of cannabis for medicinal purposes. The Angolan government reiterates its commitment to the 2009 political declaration and action plan for international cooperation, towards an integrated and balanced strategy to tackle the war on drug abuse.

The problem which Angola has encountered is in data collection, in order to ensure access to drug treatment that is sustainable, culturally appropriate and that drug addiction care services are included in health systems, whether public or private, with the involvement of primary and/or specialized health care services, in accordance with the local law.

Angola reaffirms its determination to tackle and counter global drug abuse problems and actively promote a drug-free society to ensure that peoples can live healthy, with dignity, peace, security and prosperity.

In this regard, the government looks at gender and age in drug-related policies and the programs which are appropriate. Emphasis should be placed on individuals, families, communities, and society, primarily on women, children, and young people, promoting and protecting health, including access to treatment, safety, and well-being.

The work being carried out in Angola is firmly rooted in the single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961 as amended by the 1972 Protocol, the convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971 and the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988, in which States parties express concern for the health and welfare of the humanity. Angola is always motivated and available to create policies and implement them holistically to serve all of our nations.

I thank you.