

Delegation of the Republic of Armenia

Statement at the 64th Session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs

Vienna, 13 April 2021

Agenda item 3: General debate

Madam Chair,

Excellencies, distinguished delegates,

At the outset, allow me to congratulate Your Excellency, on your election as the Chair of the 64th Session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs. I would also like to join the previous speakers and thank you, Madame Chair, and the Secretariat for your tireless efforts to convene the 64th session of the Commission under the challenging circumstances of the COVID-19 pandemic.

While the long-term impact of the pandemic on the world drug problem is yet to be fully assessed and analysed, the efforts of the specialised international bodies, in particular the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the International Narcotics Control Board to help member states understand the possible trends and developments in the field of drug abuse and drug trafficking in light of the pandemic are commendable.

Madame Chair,

Regardless of challenges posed by COVID-19, Armenia is fully committed to effective implementation of the three international drug control conventions as a cornerstones of the international drug control system.

Based on the three main conventions, other relevant international treaties as well as the UNGASS outcome document, the Government of Armenia has been implementing a comprehensive National Strategy for Combating Drug Addiction and Trafficking in Narcotic Drugs.

The strategy has been implemented through annual Action Plans, which identify multiple goals to address the problem of drug addiction and effectively combat the trafficking in narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and their precursors.

The main objectives of the current Action Plan are aimed at

- improving the legislative framework and ensuring its compliance with the three main international drug control conventions;
- raising the effectiveness of cooperation among the government agencies for prevention of drug addiction and fight against drug trafficking;
- efficient organization of medical treatment of persons addicted to narcotic drugs,
- as well as awareness raising campaigns especially within younger generation.

Armenia believes that in addition to national efforts concerted international action is required to effectively tackle the cross-border drug trafficking and associated crimes.

Given the rising tendency of using our region as an alternative route of Illicit trafficking in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances by

organized criminal groups, Armenia underscores the importance of shared responsibility in curbing this crimes and will continue to take necessary measures in this regard in cooperation with our international partners.

Thank you, Madame Chair