

**Statement by
H.E. Mr. Muhammad Abdul Muhith,
Ambassador & Permanent Representative of Bangladesh,
at the 64th Session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND)
(Vienna, 12-16 April 2021)**

Under Agenda Item 3: General Debate

Good Afternoon/Evening.

Let me first congratulate Ambassador Dominika Krois of Poland on her election as the Chair of this Session, and also the other elected members of the Bureau.

Madam Chair,

We fully align with the statements delivered on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, and the Asia-Pacific Group. In my national capacity, I would like to add the following:

As a State Party, Bangladesh reaffirms its full commitment to the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961, as amended by the 1972 Protocol, the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971, the UN Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988, which constitute the cornerstone of the international drug control system.

Bangladesh is also fully committed to the effective implementation of the 2009 Political Declaration and its Plan of Action, the general challenges and priorities for action identified in the Joint Ministerial Statement of 2014, the UNGASS 2016 outcome document and the 2019 Ministerial Declaration.

Madam Chair,

Addressing the drug problem is high on the agenda of the present government of Bangladesh under the leadership of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and a zero-tolerance policy has been undertaken against illicit drugs.

Nationally, Bangladesh has aligned its long-term policies and programmes with its commitment to the Agenda 2030 and SDGs. We have updated our

legal provisions and adopted a new Narcotics Control Act in 2018, including, inter alia, the Money Laundering (ML) prevention issues, measures against any primer of new narcotics drugs including New Psychoactive Substances (NPS) and revision of penal provisions.

Madam Chair,

We increasingly need effective, concrete and increased cooperation at international, regional and sub-regional levels to address the world drug problem - more so during difficult times such as the current pandemic, which constraints us in terms of resource mobilization and regular oversight. I would like to express here our deep concern at the fact that while Bangladesh is currently hosting 1.1 million forcibly displaced Rohingyas from Myanmar, the situation has substantially increased the challenges for law enforcement agencies to tackle the inflow of 'Yaba' - a methamphetamine-based narcotic drug.

We would like to see continued and effective role of CND to counter the world drug problem. At the same time, we urge all states, through this Commission, to ensure sustainable and sufficient resources for the UNODC to increase its capacity-building initiatives, programmes and activities particularly for developing countries, including Countries in Transition.

Thank you.