

**REMARKS OF THE AG. DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF THE NARCOTICS CONTROL
COMMISSION AT THE 64TH SESSION OF CND**

Madam Chair, permit me to congratulate you on your appointment as the Chairperson of the 64th CND and also assure you of Ghana's support in your endeavours. Let me also congratulate the Secretariat for organizing the 64th CND in a hybrid form as we battle the covid-19 pandemic, bringing together over 200 participants from Member States and organizations to share, among others, the state of drug use and trafficking in our various countries.

2. Madam Chair, Ghana would like to share her observations on the drug trafficking trend since the onset of the covid-19 pandemic in the year 2020, especially from the second (2nd) quarter of 2020 till date.
3. Ghana has since observed an increasing trend in the exploitation of the maritime industry for illicit drug trafficking, due to reduced risk of interception and ability to smuggle larger quantities than by air and land. For example, activities in the Gulf of Guinea, with the latest interception of about 7tonnes of cocaine at about 300NM from Cote d'Ivoire buttresses this assertion.
4. The Narcotics Control Commission, under the Ministry of the Interior of Ghana, has also observed an increased interest in online darknet markets, the use of social media platforms, as well as parcel and home delivery services for narcotic drugs trafficking. During the period under review, the Narcotics Control Commission of Ghana has effected a total of 26 seizures through courier services. Over seven (7) tonnes of cannabis being exported by sea were also intercepted in a joint operation by the Commission and its sister-security agencies.
5. Moreover, intelligence gathered by the Commission and interceptions made so far have revealed an increasing trade in cannabis resin and herb containing an average twice as much THC than previously known. There is also emerging forms of cannabis trending under trade names such as Amnesia Haze, Banana kush, Berry white, Blissful wizard, Bruce banner, Candy land, Cinderella 99, Choclope, Critical kush, and Death star. The Commission submit this development for attention.
6. The increasing exploitation of the maritime trade domain for illicit drug trafficking, with the recent drug interdictions reinforce the prediction of UNODC in the 2020 World Drug Report.
7. To address these evolving trends in drug trafficking and drug use, Members States are encouraged to increase collaboration and share intelligence in our shared responsibility in the fight against substance abuse and illicit drug trafficking.
8. Madam Chair, thank you for the opportunity.