

STATEMENT OF NIGERIA AT THE 64TH SESSION OF THE COMMISSION ON NARCOTIC DRUGS HOLDING IN VIENNA, AUSTRIA FROM 12 TO 16 APRIL, 2021

Madam Chair, Distinguished delegates

Nigeria has continued to adopt her drug control policies and strategies to respond to emerging and evolving realities. Our policy is anchored on the National Drug Control Master Plan (NDCMP), first introduced in 1999. The revised fourth plan, 2021 – 2025, is an integrated and balanced policy, which combines law enforcement and the promotion of public health, while employing inter-agency collaboration and global cooperation in countering the world drug problem.

2. The NDCMP rests on four (4) major strategic pillars namely Drug Supply Reduction, Drug Demand Reduction, Improved Access Control, as well as

Governance and Coordination of drug control activities. The policy is consistent with our obligations under the three Drug Control Conventions, and the three Political documents adopted by Member States since 2009 to address and counter the world drug problem as well as the 2019 Ministerial declaration.

Madam Chair

3. Despite the implementation of our framework and strategic action plan, trafficking and abuse of controlled substances persist. First, the cultivation and high traffic of Cannabis and its abuse has been on the increase. Our National Drug Use Survey, 2019 revealed that over 10 million persons abused cannabis in one year. In similar pattern, the 2019 and 2020 World Drug Reports identified cannabis as the most abused substance with its threat to security, health and wellbeing of the global population. Second, the

trafficking and non-medical use of synthetic and pharmaceuticals opioids, especially Tramadol, remains a challenge. This is in spite of our domestic control efforts as well as two tripartite meetings, facilitated by UNODC, involving Nigeria, Ghana and India held in New Delhi and Lagos in 2019, to address the Tramadol crisis. Nigeria, therefore, reiterates that legalisation of the illicit use of cannabis is a violation of the Drug Control Treaties while highlighting the urgent need for change in the control measures for Tramadol and other pharmaceuticals.

Madam Chair

4. Nigeria has decentralized the storage of finished narcotics drugs to ensure their access, availability and affordability for medical and scientific use. We are now able to optimize data collection and improve statutory submission of annual requirement to the

INCB with the launch, in 2020, of our national quantification/estimation survey, conducted in 2017 and 2019 respectively. We are also on course to start local manufacturing of narcotic medicines from two WHO-prequalified Pharmaceutical manufacturers to ensure availability and meet national needs.

5. In conclusion, Nigeria calls for robust international cooperation to address the links between drug trafficking and terrorism, illicit financial flows smuggling of migrants and other forms of organised crime. In addition, we underscore the importance of technical assistance by UNODC, which has greatly assisted practitioners of beneficiary countries and positively impacted global efforts to counter and address the world drug problem, and urge for their continuation.

6. Thank you.