

Speech

**Director of the Drug Control Agency under the President of the Republic of Tajikistan – Mr. Khabibullo Vohidzoda, Major General of Justice, at the regular session of the United Nations Commission on Drugs and Crime
(online, on April 12-16, 2021)**

**Dear Chairman,
Dear colleagues,
Dear delegates of the session,**

The Republic of Tajikistan is at the forefront of the combat against illicit trafficking in drugs along the Northern Route since we have more than 1 344 (*one thousand three hundred and forty four*) kilometers of the border with Afghanistan.

As the President of the Republic of Tajikistan, Leader of the Nation, His Excellency Emomali Rahmon noted in his Address to the Parliament this year: "Tajikistan is a natural partner of states, international and regional organizations in the arena of the fight against terrorism and extremism, smuggling of arms and drugs, cybercrime and other organized transnational crimes."

Given the difficult situation in the region, the Government of Tajikistan attaches high priority to the continuous strengthening of border control and is taking the necessary measures to prevent illicit trafficking in narcotic drugs and other transnational crimes.

So, implementation of the National Counter-Narcotics Strategy and state programs in this area allowed us to achieve certain positive results in the fight against illicit trafficking in drugs, including,

- according to our data, only up to 10 percent of drugs from Afghanistan are exported via **the Northern Route**.
- bulk of the drugs (50-60 percent) are seized at the border line;

- over the past five years, the number of drug addicts in Tajikistan has dropped to 5 099 (*five thousand ninety-nine*) people, or by 28 percent.

We also highlight the efforts of UNODC and donor countries in the combat against illicit trafficking in drugs and drug abuse prevention, which provide ongoing support to the country's law enforcement agencies.

Dear participants of the session,

One of the alarming problems of our country, which also affects the world community, is the spread of new synthetic drugs and psychotropic substances amongst the population, especially young people. New ways of selling these types of drugs, including through social networks of the Internet, greatly complicate our work.

This requires the concerted actions of the international community and we call on the UNODC and all countries taking part in this session.

In the end, I want to assure all of you that we will continue the line aimed at strengthening interaction in the fight against drug smuggling, accordingly, making our contribution to the protection of humanity from this negative phenomenon.

We are convinced that our well-coordinated joint work on the practical advancement of the entire range of tasks facing us will become a factor in giving additional impetus to countering the drug threat.

Taking this opportunity, I express my sincere gratitude to the partner states and the UN Office on Drugs and Crime for their continued support in the combat against illicit trafficking in narcotic drugs in Tajikistan.

We thank you for your attention.