

STATEMENT of the REPUBLIC of TURKEY
64th CND
12-16 March 2021

Madame President,
Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

At the outset, I would like to congratulate you, Excellency, for your Chairmanship. You will have Turkey's full support and cooperation.

I would also like to express our appreciation to the UNODC Secretariat for the preparation of this important session under difficult circumstances.

Madame President,

Turkey is fully committed to the three international drug conventions, which are the cornerstones of the international drug control system. Their full and universal implementation is crucial for the effectiveness of the system.

The CND as the primary policy making body and the UNODC as the leading entity for international drug policies should continue to steer our endeavors. The INCB will also continue to play a very important role as well.

Madame President,

Criminal organizations and terrorist groups are involved in illegal manufacturing or trafficking of drugs, along with other forms of transnational crime, in order to fund their heinous activities.

PKK/PYD/YPG terrorist organization is directly involved in drug trafficking through its widespread connections in Europe and uses the benefits to finance its activities. In many recent operations conducted against PKK cells in Turkey, large amounts of illegal drugs have also been seized along with weapons. We want to highlight once again that an increase in the cultivation and production of drugs, especially cannabis and cannabis related substances, will have a negative effect on the struggle against financing of terrorism.

Turkish law enforcement authorities continue to successfully seize a significant portion of illicit drugs trafficking through our territory. Within 2020, around 14 tons of heroin, 93.8 tons of cannabis, 1,96 tons of cocaine, 4,2 tons of methamphetamine, 1.7 tons of synthetic cannabinoid, 12.136 liters of acetic anhydride, 2.9 millions of amphetamine tablet with captagon logo and 11.1 millions of ecstasy tablets have been seized. New technological equipment and surveillance systems are also developed and employed by the relevant authorities to combat more effectively against the illegal drug related activities.

On the other hand, Turkey, as one of the legal and reliable opiate raw material suppliers for medical and scientific purposes, not only takes all

necessary measures to increase the quality of the crops, but also applies strict controls that prevent any diversion.

Madame President,

Turkey is seriously concerned about the increasing use of new psychoactive substances, especially among the youth. We believe that misuse of internet for drug related crimes is also a growing threat that we should jointly fight against.

We believe that the drug problem with its multifaceted nature could only be tackled through a multisectoral approach and strong international cooperation. In this sense, we developed effective and successful government-civil society partnerships. The Turkish Green Crescent Society and other NGOs have assumed important roles in this field.

Turkey also contributes to the international efforts and offers assistance to many countries in their capacity building efforts. Training programs conducted by the Turkish International Academy Against Drugs and Organized Crime (TADOC) and the Counter Narcotics Training Academy (NEA) in various fields have so far constituted a major pillar of our assistance programs. They are focusing mainly on counter-narcotic trainings for hundreds of participants from different countries.

Madame President,

2020 was a difficult year for all of us and the challenges of the global pandemic are continuing also in 2021, with its effects on the world drug problem. We witnessed that the pandemic and the lockdowns and restrictions all around the world have influenced the substance abuse and also the trafficking routes and methods. Today, people with drug use disorders are under an increased risk. We must altogether address and encounter the world drug problem, with its new forms and trends arisen during the pandemic.

Madame President,

To conclude, I would like to reaffirm my country's strong commitment to our common efforts and international cooperation.

Thank you.