



STATEMENT

BY ZAMBIA AT THE OCCASION OF THE 64TH SESSION OF THE COMMISSION ON NARCOTIC DRUGS HELD IN VIENNA AUSTRIA FROM 12TH TO 16TH APRIL 2021

Agenda Item 3: General Debate

Chairperson,

Excellences,

Distinguished delegates,

Let me begin by congratulating the Chairperson, Her Excellency Ambassador Dominika Krois, on her election as the Chair of the 64th Session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND), and the other elected members of the Bureau. Allow me also to commend the UNODC and all the delegates for their commitment in the preparation of the 64th Session of the CND amidst taunting challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Chairperson;

Zambia aligns itself with the statements by the Group of 77 and China, and that of the African Group, and further reiterates that addressing the world drug problem is a common and shared responsibility that requires multilateral efforts and commitments. Further, the Country stresses that

the three International Drug Control Conventions; the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961, as amended by the 1972 Protocol, the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971, the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988, remain the cornerstone of the international drug control system and policy.

Chairperson;

The COVID-19 pandemic has changed the way we do things. This crisis has even made it difficult to counter the world drug problem as our health, economic and social systems have been stretched to the limit. The pandemic has also impacted negatively on our joint commitments as espoused in the 2019 Ministerial Declaration on strengthening our actions at National, Regional and International levels to accelerate our efforts to address the world drug problem. With the coming of COVID-19 on the global scene, drug traffickers and other transnational criminal elements have devised new methods of eluding the law, especially through darknet and new shipment methods.

Therefore, there is need for all governments to promote innovation, show greater solidarity and support to tackling illicit drug trafficking and offer evidence-based services for drug use disorders and related diseases, in order to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, promote justice without leaving anyone behind.

More than ever before, there is need to strengthen international cooperation and support, including the provision of technical assistance,

especially to developing nations, in order to enhance their capacities to effectively address and counter the world drug problem.

Chairperson;

Zambia remains committed to implementing the 2019 Ministerial Declaration and other international instruments on combatting the world drug problem and related vices through strengthening international, regional and local efforts and cooperation.

I thank you.