



**STATEMENT BY REPUBLIC OF KENYA DURING THE GENERAL
DEBATE OF THE 65TH SESSION OF THE COMMISSION ON
NARCOTIC DRUGS**

**Delivered by Chief Administrative Secretary
Ministry of Interior and Coordination of National Government
H.E Winifred Waceke Guchu
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**Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Thank you, **Chair** for giving me the floor

It is my pleasure to speak on behalf of the Kenya Delegation at the Sixty-Fifth Session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs. This is an important forum as it provides a platform for global action in countering the world drug problem and we are pleased to actively participate.

I also take this opportunity to congratulate you H.E. Mr. Ghislain D'HOOP, Permanent Representative of Belgium on your election as the Chair of this and wish you the very best as you lead us in all deliberations.

I would like to express my delegations appreciation to the Secretariat for the diligent work in preparation for this Session amidst many challenges including the havoc caused by the Coronavirus pandemic and to ensure the Sessions success.

Chair,

The challenge of drug abuse, illicit production and trafficking continues to be a major threat to the health, security and general wellbeing of the people. The effects of substance use disorders are unforgiving, disrupting communities and families with many paying the ultimate price of losing their lives through drug-related crime and illnesses.

Tragically, these effects have been worsened by the Covid-19 pandemic that has seen many people progress from drug use to addiction and many others initiated to drug use because of the pressure and stress associated with closed down of most economies and the Pandemic restrictions. The emergence of new psychoactive substances and synthetic drugs including amphetamine-type stimulants (ATS) have further complicated the drug problem. For us, the geographical proximity of ATS from Southern Africa and MENA region leave us vulnerable to trafficking and eventual misuse of these drugs.

These effects have undermined the global commitment to attain the Sustainable Development Goals whose objective is to end poverty, protecting the planet and ensuring healthy lives and wellbeing of all people including those who use drugs.

Chair,

In Kenya, we have experienced increased levels of illicit drug trafficking and abuse with numerous outcomes including security challenges, substance use disorders, growing mental illnesses, HIV infections, drug overdose as well as cases of premature deaths.

To address this challenge, Kenya has adopted a multi-pronged approach that focus on both demand and supply reduction. This response is guided by our national policies and legislations that are aligned to the three international conventions on drug control, the Political Declaration and Plan of Action and other relevant international recommendations.

Some of the strategies employed in demand reduction include targeted mass media campaigns, lifeskills, strong families and workplace prevention programmes alongside treatment and rehabilitation for persons with substance use disorders. On supply reduction, coordination amongst security Agencies and the criminal justice system has enhanced control measures thus, facilitating effective surveillance, enforcement, investigations and prosecution of drug related offenses.

Chair,

The ever-changing challenges of illicit drug trafficking and abuse require vibrant and modern approaches that are responsive to the evolving and

ever changing trafficking trends. The evidence of well-resourced and sophisticated trafficking networks coupled with the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic calls for continuous review of supply suppression strategies.

These strategies should be sufficient in addressing money laundering, identification of illicit financial flows, illicit cultivation and use of the dark net as well postal deliveries. We must also go beyond rescheduling of substances to addressing the supply of precursor chemicals that are used in such illicit manufacture.

To address the plight of persons affected by drug abuse and the pressure they put on communities and families, we must strengthen and expand treatment, rehabilitation and social-reintegration programmes. These measures will ensure that persons with substance use disorders receive the much desired care and support and most importantly, that they recover in dignity with family and community support.

Chair,

Our experience has demonstrated that a strong national coordination framework and a multi- agency response to the drug problem is the most effective way to counter today's challenges of drug trafficking and abuse. Such frameworks should be all-inclusive providing for the participation of all stakeholders both in the public and private sector.

In addition, these frameworks should be aligned to the three international conventions on drug control as they provide the foundation for the global response to the world drug problem.

Chair,

The magnitude of the world drug problem is complex and dynamic specially to developing countries as it requires heavy investment in building technical and infrastructural capacities that support effective investigations, prosecution and other criminal justice processes.

It is against this background that both the Political Declaration and Plan of Action and the UNGASS Outcome Document among others urges developed countries and the international community to provide both financial and technical support to developing countries. We therefore call on the international community to provide the much desired support to

developing countries, upon request, for a unified response against the world drug problem.

Chair,

Being a shared problem, the world drug problem requires cooperation and collaboration at all levels. Indeed, no state can claim to be self-sufficient in dealing with the complexity of drug trafficking. We therefore appreciate forums provided by the Secretariat as there is always something we can learn from each other.

In appreciation of the importance of regional collaboration, and in support of the work of subsidiary bodies, Kenya offered to host the Heads of National Law Enforcement Agencies (HONLEA) in September 2020 but this was not possible due to the Covid-19 pandemic and related restrictions. Considering that Covid-19 situation has improved, Kenya wishes to extend the offer to host the meeting this year and hereby welcome all member states of the African group and other relevant Agencies to take part in the meeting and benefit from witnessing Kenya's diverse and unique culture.

Thank you Chair for giving me the floor.

Thank you.