

**Statement to be Delivered by H.E. Ms. Teodolinda Rodrigues
Coelho, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Angola in
Vienna, during the 65th Session of Commission on Narcotics and
Drugs, Vienna, 14-18 of March 2022.**

Mr. Chair,

Distinguished delegates,

On behalf of the Angolan government, we would like to especially congratulate the election of the Chair, as well as, the work of the Secretariat of Governing Bodies that enabled to hold this meeting in current difficult times that we are facing.

Angola takes this opportunity to align its statement with those delivered by the G77 and China and the African Group.

Angola aims to work with other regional groups and Member States to jointly discuss and update strategies on the world drug problem, strongly affected by the covid19 pandemic.

In the context of the covid19 pandemic, finding multi stakeholder or inclusive solutions has not been easy for governments. For this reason, we expect that the 65th session of CND brings satisfactory solutions, taking into account the socio-cultural realities of the member states.

There are a series of unfortunate events such as the significant increase of infected cases amongst families where both young and mature adults are suffering from depression, leading them to the heightened consumption of psychotropic substances, as a result of confinement. This makes us think that we should be tackling the problem with effective measures.

Compliance with the law is of vital importance with regard to the growing of cannabis for medicinal purposes. The Angolan government reiterates its commitment to the 2009 political declaration and action plan for international cooperation, towards an integrated and balanced strategy to tackle the drug abuse and therefore promote a drug-free society to ensure that peoples can live healthy, with dignity, peace, security and prosperity.

The contradiction among countries in relation to the cultivation of cannabis-Sativa for medicinal purposes continues, despite all efforts of international community to find a common ground.

Angola aligns its national policy to those countries and territories that prohibit the cultivation, sale and consumption of this psychotropic substance because of the harm it has proven to cause to the human central nervous system.

In this regard, the government looks at gender and age in drug-related policies and the programs which are appropriate. Emphasis should be placed on individuals, families, communities and society, promoting and protecting health, including access to treatment, safety, and well-being.

These actions carried out by Angola are oriented by the single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961 as amended by the 1972 Protocol, the convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971 and the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988, in which States parties express concern for the health and welfare of the humanity.

Mr. Chair,

Traditionally the CND Sessions take place in March, the international month dedicated to women, for this reason, the Angolan delegation recall the importance to find comprehensive solutions to prevent and treat girls and women against the drug abuse and other related crimes.

Finally, I would like to focus on prevention, which, as we know, is the fundamental aspect of this struggle that many countries daily tackle, reinforcing this vision with effective means, would allow more communities to be aware of the harmful effects caused by the drugs abuse.

Thus, Angola invites Governments to provide conditions for the inclusion of young people towards a multidisciplinary dimension focused on the world drug problem within their communities and consequently participate in the policy making process.

I thank you.