

65th session of Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND)

14th-18th March, 2022

Statement by Mr. Vivek Aggarwal, Additional Secretary Revenue, Government of India

Chair, His Excellency Ambassador D'hoop,

Her Excellency Ghada Waly, Executive Director of the UNODC,

Ms Jagjit Pavadia, President INCB,

Excellencies,

Distinguished delegates,

Ladies and Gentlemen;

MrChair,

On behalf of the Government of India, I congratulate you on your election as the Chair of the 65th Session of the Commission, as well as other members of the Bureau. We pledge our full support for the success of this session.

2. We appreciate the work of the Secretariat in putting forth the latest trends in drug problem in the World Drug Report, 2021. The Report highlights the new challenges due to impact of COVID-19, be it in the area of drug trafficking or in treatment of drug use disorder.

Mr Chair

3. In pursuant to the commitments made in the policy documents, it is imperative that we keep ourselves updated with the ramification of the new situation and proactively take steps for ensuring the availability of controlled substances for medical purposes. To this end, we have amended our regulations paving way to uninterrupted supply to facilitate domestic as well as international trade.

4. We have taken concrete measures for Drug Demand Reduction as well. Targeted and focused interventions on primary prevention, early intervention and social

integration, have been effectively implemented. Easily accessible counseling, treatment and Rehabilitation facilities have been strengthened and expanded to ensure reach to the vulnerable. 'Drug Free India Campaign' has been instrumental in creating mass awareness and reaching out to identified stakeholders with vibrant participation of youth & women.

Mr Chair

5. The seizure of 3000 kgs of heroin from a containerized cargo in September 2021 along with other seizures on the western coast of our country are suggesting the expanded usage of maritime route, particularly Arabian Sea, for drug trafficking. We emphasize that bilateral and multilateral co-operation in capacity building and sharing of best practices will strengthen law enforcement agencies and make them better equipped to deal with maritime trafficking and also through courier, darknet among others.

6. In conclusion, we reiterate India's strong commitment and active participation in countering the world drug problem. We believe that this session will give a new impetus and momentum towards realizing our shared objectives in dealing with World drug Problem in order to achieve comprehensive development.

Thank You Chair