



**Statement by H.E. Mr. Ikram Mohammad Ibrahim
Permanent Representative of Malaysia in Vienna
Agenda Item 3: General Debate
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Mr. Chairman,

As the world continues to address the unprecedented health and socio-economic challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, Malaysia notes with serious concern the high increase of illicit drug use cases. Consequently, the circumstances over the past two years have demanded our authorities to introduce robust anti-illicit drug-related measures. As we are moving towards the endemic phase, Malaysia remains resolute in executing measures to counter the supply of and demand for illicit drugs.

I am pleased to share with this session regarding Malaysia's anti-illicit drug achievements and challenges in 2021, as follows:

- Our authorities have successfully seized almost 400 tonnes of illegal drugs and psychotropic substances, including kratoum, meth, cannabis, heroine and ecstasy.
- Our illegal drug seizures last year had risen by 29% as compared to 2020, despite the heightened border controls due to the Covid-19 pandemic.
- There was an upward trend in seizures of methamphetamine, which increased by 44.2 % compared to 2020, while drugs such as marijuana and ecstasy increased by more than 100%.
- Our authorities had successfully dismantled 71 illicit drug labs last year with the total amount of confiscation worth USD2.02 million.

Malaysia has increased our efforts in improving the quality and accessibility of treatment, rehabilitation, care, and reintegration programs for drug dependents. Our approach for treatment and

rehabilitation is based on a bio-psycho-spiritual balanced programme comprising of various evidence-based modules and best practices.

Currently, there are three scopes of services provided, namely institutional-based, community-based and aftercare programs.

In this regard, Malaysia has 30 dedicated government rehabilitation centres, 16 clients integrated centres, 49 local community houses and 55 private drug rehabilitation centres - to support this cause. In addition, Malaysia has formulated a balanced prevention strategy, which targets 155 high-risk drug addiction areas in the country, with a view to transforming them into safe zones within 5 years.

Malaysia reiterates the importance of a collective, balanced and evidence-based approach in countering the world drug problem. Malaysia notes with serious concern the increasing links between drug trafficking and other transnational organised crime during the pandemic. The maritime route has increasingly become the preferred path for drug traffickers to further their nefarious activities. Hence, Malaysia believes that strategic partnerships must continue to be forged among Member States – at the bilateral, regional and international levels. In this regard, Malaysia highly appreciates the cooperation extended by our fellow ASEAN Member States, as well as Australia, Republic of Korea and Saudi Arabia.

Malaysia stands ready to further strengthen such collaborations toward addressing the world drug problem and in achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman.