

Statement by Ambassador YOON Yeonjean
Deputy Permanent Representative of the Republic of Korea
at the 64th Session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs

Vienna, 14–18 March 2022

Mr. Chair,

Let me first join other delegations in congratulating you on assuming the chairmanship for the 65th Session of the CND. I have every confidence that our deliberations will bear fruitful results under your able leadership. I also thank the Secretariat for preparing this meaningful meeting.

The UNODC is the leading entity to tackle the daunting challenge of the spread of the illicit use of drugs. The organization, under the leadership of Her Excellency Madam Ghada Waly, has so far effectively coordinated global efforts to curb illegal transnational activities, strengthen national capacities, and promote information and knowledge sharing to achieve a common goal of making the world safer from drugs.

However, the outlook on today's global drug markets and distribution networks is unfortunately not so bright. The ominous complexity of the world drug problem has evolved particularly in the past two years under Covid-19. Accordingly, the Republic of Korea was not an exception in witnessing a worsening situation in drug uses and trafficking.

Mr. Chair,

I take this opportunity to share with you the dire statistics we are facing today. Last year, the amount of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances seized at the border by our national authorities dramatically surged by more than 700%, from 148kg to 1,272kg.

In addition, these drugs and substances became increasingly "mobile." As the number of international flights decreased due to Covid-19, drug traffickers

resorted more to delivery means such as the EMS, shipping, and international courier services. What is particularly alarming for us is that among these, the number of cases tripled where the amount of drugs seized was under mere 10g. This means that there is a growing number of individuals who obtain prohibited drugs through international mailing services for his or her use at home.

To cope with the growing threat from the uses, transactions, and trafficking of drugs and substances, the Republic of Korea has adopted “2022 Comprehensive Measures on Controlling Drugs and Substances” in November last year. The measures include a prompt takedown of dark-web marketplaces that promotes drug distribution, and an early classification into provisional/temporary controls to prevent import or distribution of new or similar substances. Our law enforcement will also take a deeper look into transactions using cryptocurrencies in online drug trades.

Mr. Chair,

As a responsible member of the CND for the period 2022-2025, the Republic of Korea assures that it stands ready to strengthen our contribution to countering the increasingly evolving, multi-faceted challenge of illegal drugs and substances. The Republic of Korea is also determined, in partnership with the UNODC, to play a constructive role in facilitating regional and international cooperation in combating the world drug problem.

I thank you, Mr. Chair.

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