

STATEMENT of the REPUBLIC of TÜRKİYE
65th CND
14-18 March 2022

Mr. Chairman,
Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

At the outset, I would like to congratulate you, Excellency, for your Chairmanship.

I would also like to express our appreciation to the UNODC Secretariat for the preparation of this important session.

Mr. Chairman,

I reiterate one more time that Türkiye is fully committed to the three international drug control conventions. Their full and universal implementation continues to be crucial for the effectiveness of the system.

The CND as the primary policy making body and the UNODC as the leading entity for international drug policies should continue to steer our endeavors. We attach utmost importance that UNODC should continue to play its independent and impartial role in these endeavors. The INCB should also continue to play its vital role as well.

Mr. Chairman,

Turkish law enforcement authorities continue to successfully seize a significant portion of illicit drugs trafficking through our territory. Within 2021, around 22,2 tons of heroin, 64,1 tons of cannabis, 2,8 tons of cocaine, 5,5 tons of methamphetamine, 2,1 tons of synthetic cannabinoid, 36,2 liters of acetic anhydride, 13,8 millions of amphetamine tablet with captagon logo and 7,6 millions of ecstasy tablets have been seized.

On the other hand, Türkiye, as one of the legal and reliable opiate raw material suppliers for medical and scientific purposes, applies strict controls that prevent any diversion.

Türkiye also contributes to the international efforts and offers assistance to many countries in their capacity building efforts. Training programs conducted

by the Turkish International Academy Against Drugs and Organized Crime (TADOC) and the Counter Narcotics Training Academy (NEA) are focusing mainly on counter-narcotic trainings for hundreds of participants from different countries.

We believe that the drug problem could only be tackled through a multisectoral approach and strong international cooperation. In this sense, we developed effective and successful government-civil society partnerships, particularly with the Turkish Green Crescent Society.

Mr. Chairman,

Criminal organizations and terrorist groups are involved in illegal manufacturing or trafficking of drugs, along with other forms of transnational crime, in order to fund their heinous activities.

PKK/PYD/YPG and FETÖ terrorist organizations are directly involved in drug trafficking through their widespread connections in Europe. They use the benefits to finance their activities. In many recent operations conducted against PKK cells in Türkiye, large amounts of illegal drugs have also been seized along with weapons. An increase in the cultivation and production of drugs, especially cannabis, will have a negative effect on the struggle against financing of terrorism.

Türkiye is also seriously concerned about the increasing use of new psychoactive substances and the use and legalization of cannabis in some countries, especially among the youth. Production, use and trading of the substances under control are strictly limited with medical and scientific purposes. Cannabis is not an exception to this rule.

Mr. Chairman,

It is not the right time to discuss interpretation of the conventions. We are compelled to fully and effectively implement them. Our discussions and actions should not create practices that undermine the conventions and their ultimate goals. Otherwise, the international cooperation will be severely damaged.

I would like to reaffirm my country's strong commitment to our common efforts and international cooperation.

Mr. Chairman,

Before I conclude, with respect to the situation in Ukraine, as we underlined through our official statements, including at the highest level, we are against military aggression and our strong support for the sovereignty, political unity and territorial integrity of Ukraine will continue. Ukraine and Russian Federation are close neighbours of Türkiye. And, first and foremost, we expect that a ceasefire will be declared and implemented. Following the meeting between Russian and Ukrainian Foreign Ministers and my Minister in Antalya, we will continue to deploy all possible efforts to this end.

Thank you.