

## **DELEGATION OF ARMENIA**

### **Statement**

#### **65th Session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND)**

*Vienna, 14 March 2022*

#### **Agenda item 3: General Debate**

Mr. Chair,

At the outset allow me to congratulate you and other members of the Bureau on your election and wish you every success in conducting the 65<sup>th</sup> Session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs.

Armenia remains committed to ensuring effective drug control regime in line with the three international Conventions, as well as the outcomes of UN General Assembly Special Sessions on the World Drug Problem.

It is our common and shared responsibility to ensure effective national and international responses to illicit drug trafficking and its links to corruption and organized crime, including trafficking in persons, trafficking in firearms, cybercrime, money laundering, and in some cases, terrorism, including money laundering in connection with the financing of terrorism, especially when it comes to the large scale, premediated and organized engagement of foreign terrorist fighters in the armed conflicts.

Unfortunately, some unfolding developments and circumstances have the potential to hinder our efforts in this field. Among them the COVID-19 pandemic continues to affect countries and regions. At the same time, the developments in our wider region related to the illicit flow of narcotic drugs and especially opiates create additional ramifications for our national efforts.

Those developments and challenges require the states and the international community to redouble their efforts in order to adapt to new

realities and modus operandi of criminals and to deliver responses in most effective and resolute manner.

Mr. Chair,

Armenian authorities have been quick in reacting to the new challenges especially when it comes to the extensive use of internet for drug trafficking. Thanks to such efforts, in 2021 the Police and Investigative Committee of Armenia have revealed and effectively disrupted many sophisticated cases of drug trafficking via internet and social media networks.

Another challenge connected to the pandemic, has been the major increase in drug trafficking by abusing the international postal delivery services, even though the overall international deliveries to the country have decreased due to the COVID-19 restrictions.

Therefore, the State Revenue Committee of Armenia has reinforced its control operations over postal deliveries by introducing more checks with special equipment, detection dogs and engagement of the intelligence and analytical unit.

Mr. Chair,

To be able to overcome the challenges arising from the regional developments related to illicit trafficking of opiates, it is important to foster necessary partnerships between states and relevant organizations.

A major step in this direction has been the Memorandum of Understanding signed in 2021 between the relevant authorities of Armenia, the UNODC and the World Container Organization on the Container Control Program. Armenia looks forward to ensuring more harmonized efforts against drug trafficking through the implementation of the Program (CCP).

Moreover, thanks to effective international partnerships, Armenian authorities in cooperation with foreign counterparts have successfully carried out a control delivery operation in 2021, which was unprecedented for our region. As a result of the operation, 368 kg of heroin amounting to 45 million USD have been confiscated and an international organized criminal network has been revealed and disrupted with the culprits of different nationalities being arrested.

In conclusion, Mr. Chair, we would like to once again underline Armenia's readiness to continue its efforts to address the world drug problem in cooperation with fellow states as well as the UNODC and other relevant international bodies.

Thank you Mr. Chair