

**2022 CND Thematic Discussions
21-22 September 2022**

Responses not in conformity with the international drug control conventions

Mr. Chair,

Thank you very much for giving me the floor.

Mr. Chair, Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates,

In my statement, I will underline the fine line between the unconformable actions that may violate the drug control conventions and the actions which are taken as drug control policies.

Regardless of the result of the CND voting on cannabis and related substances, there is an obvious social misperception caused by the continuous discussions on cannabis. Also, there are direct reflections on the illegal drug markets with similar mottos such as “*recreational use is legalized*”, “*cannabis products are miracle*” or “*cannabis is legal*”.

Today it has been almost 3 years since the endorsement of the WHO recommendation resulted by *deleting cannabis and cannabis resin from Schedule IV of the 1961 Single Convention* to ensure and allow the scientific and medical researches. On the other hand, when we look at the actual results and reflections;

- Cannabis is still the mostly abused, mostly seized and mostly encountered illegal drug at the global context, and it is still the biggest challenge in the world drug problem.
- There are responses that allow so-called low THC products and variety of CBD products.
- There are serious cases led to deaths and non-fatal intoxications of adulterated cannabis products, including food and beverages with dangerous NPS's, especially synthetic cannabinoids in several countries.
- There were limited therapeutic use and licensed pharmaceuticals with cannabis API (active psychoactive ingredient) and the questions is how many new evidence-based cannabis API exist or will there be any in the near future?
- For us, there is no doubt on the legal status of CBD at national level. However, there are responses and allegations on the unclarity of CBD at

international drug control conventions context. The question is “are these responses on CBD are in conformity with the three international drug control conventions or not? The same question is valid for the issue of so-called low THC products?

- Last but not least, the impact of cannabis cultivation areas, both for legal and illegal purposes, is not clearly assessed at the global level.

As a law enforcement officer, as a father of 4 youngsters and as a citizen of the world community, I can fully understand the logic of neither induction nor deduction approach on the issue of cannabis and cannabis related substances in the presence of so many unclarities and different responses.

I kindly request from all relevant parties to put efforts on this subject to ensure a clear view and streamlined response in full conformity with the three international drug control conventions.

Mr. Chair,

Distinguished Delegates,

While concluding my remarks, I would like to reiterate once again the support of the Republic of Türkiye to the international drug control system and our commitment to all the efforts to encounter the world drug problem. International cooperation must be in the first place in our understanding. And once again, I would like to remind that it is our common and shared responsibility to stand with a strong international drug control system.

Thank you.