

Bangladesh Statement
by
Mr. Rahat Bin Zaman,
Charge d'Affaires, a.i.
at the 66th Session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND)
(Vienna, 13-17 March 2023)

Under Agenda Item 3: General Debate

H.E. Ambassador Ruiz Blanco, Chair of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs at its 66th Session,

H.E. Ghada Fathi Waly, Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime,

Excellencies, Distinguished delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good Afternoon.

Mr. Chair,

We fully align with the statements delivered on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, and the Asia-Pacific Group. In my national capacity, I would like to add the following:

As a member of the Commission, Bangladesh reaffirms its full commitment to the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961, as amended by the 1972 Protocol, the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971, the UN Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988, all of which constitute the cornerstone of the international drug control system.

Bangladesh is also fully committed to the effective implementation of the 2009 Political Declaration and its Plan of Action, the general challenges and priorities for action identified in the Joint Ministerial Statement of 2014, the UNGASS 2016 outcome document and the 2019 Ministerial Declaration. We believe our work at this session is very important for the mid-term review at the High Level Segment of the upcoming 67th session of the CND in 2024 to take stock of the implementation of all international drug policy commitments and for the way forward to 2029.

Mr. Chair,

Addressing the drug problem is high on the agenda of the present government of Bangladesh under the leadership of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and a zero tolerance policy has been undertaken against illicit drugs. Inclusive awareness campaign has been undertaken to sensitize about the harmful effects of narcotic

drugs with the help of different ministries, departments and institutions in Bangladesh.

Nationally, Bangladesh has aligned its long-term policies and programmes with its commitment to the Agenda 2030 and SDGs. In this context, we are also working towards long-term comprehensive, sustainable development-oriented, and balanced drug control policies and programmes. We are now setting up treatment and rehabilitation centres in all sixty-four districts of the country. We updated our legal provisions and adopted a new Narcotics Control Act in 2018, including, *inter alia*, the Money Laundering (ML) prevention issues, measures against any primer of new narcotics drugs including New Psychoactive Substances (NPS) and revision of penal provisions.

Mr. Chair,

We increasingly need effective, concrete and increased cooperation at international, regional and sub-regional levels to address the world drug problem - more so during difficult times such as the post-pandemic situation, which constraints us in terms of resource mobilization and regular oversight. I would like to express here our deep concern at the fact that while Bangladesh is currently hosting 1.2 million forcibly displaced Rohingyas from Myanmar, the situation has substantially increased the challenges for law enforcement agencies to tackle the inflow of 'Yaba' - a methamphetamine-based narcotic drug - coming from Myanmar.

Mr. Chair,

We would like to see continued and effective role of CND to counter the world drug problem. At the same time, we urge all states, through this Commission, to ensure sustainable and sufficient resources for the UNODC to increase its capacity-building initiatives, programmes and activities particularly for developing countries, including Countries in Transition.

Mr. Chair,

I would like to conclude by reiterating my delegation's full support and cooperation to make this important Session successful.

Thank you.