

Statement by Brunei Darussalam
His Excellency Dato Paduka Zalani Ismail
Director of Narcotics Control Bureau of Brunei Darussalam
at the 66th Session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs
Vienna, 13 to 17 March 2023

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

**Your Excellency Mr. Chairman of the 66th CND,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen**

السلام عليكم ورحمة الله وبركاته

A very good afternoon and *Guten Tag*

1. Let me begin by congratulating Your Excellency Mr Chairman, Miguel Camilo Ruiz Blanco on your election as Chair of this Meeting. I would also like to commend on the hard work by the UNODC for the preparation of this meeting.
2. Brunei Darussalam reaffirms the principal role of the CND as the main policymaking body responsible for drug control matters. We reiterate that the three (03) international drug conventions constitute the cornerstone of the drug control system.

Your Excellency, Ladies and Gentlemen,

3. Brunei Darussalam adopts a holistic and whole-of-nation approach in addressing drug issues. This includes the engagement of key stakeholders alongside the vigorous enforcement of drug laws, advocating preventive drug education and the continuous enhancement of treatment and rehabilitation programme as well as emphasis on the reintegration of drug offenders into society.

4. However, the transnational nature of drug crimes continues to be a threat to our nation and in particular, our children and the youth who are the determiner of the nation's future and characterizes as the catalyst of the nation's development.

5. Therefore, the normalisation of drugs infused in food marketed as edibles is a worrying concern for us because of its easy accessibility and the various reports of hospitalisation following the misuse and overdose of cannabis.

Your Excellency, Ladies and Gentlemen,

6. In addressing the drug problems to protect our people, we adopt a zero-tolerance approach to prevent and reduce the consequential harm it would have on our societies. Our aspirational goal for a drug-free nation has helped preserve peace and security.

7. Brunei Darussalam's approach is in line with ASEAN's collective vision and aspiration of a Drug-Free ASEAN. ASEAN recognize that there is no one-size-fits-all approach in addressing the drug issue and it is important for us to respect the sovereign rights of each state to consider and implement policies based on the unique cultural, historical and social challenges.

8. As it is a common and shared responsibility in tackling the drug problems, allow us to reiterate our commitment towards working closely with our regional and international counterparts, in ensuring that the people especially our younger generation is safe from the drug menace.

Thank you.

وبالله التوفيق والهداية والسلام عليكم ورحمة الله وبركاته