



**STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF MALAYSIA AT
THE 66TH SESSION OF THE COMMISSION ON NARCOTIC
DRUGS OF THE UNITED NATIONS
VIENNA, 14 MARCH 2023**

Mr. Chair,

1. My delegation joins other delegations in congratulating you, Ambassador Miguel Camilo Ruiz Blanco on your election as Chair of the 66th Session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs.
2. Malaysia associates itself with the statement of the Group of 77 and China, delivered by Pakistan, and the statement of the Asia-Pacific Group, delivered by Japan.

Mr. Chair,

3. Malaysia recognizes that the Commission remains an important platform to foster international dialogue and coordinate joint actions to address the world drug problem. In this regard, we commend the Secretariat for its excellent work all these years as we continue our efforts.

4. The COVID-19 pandemic has had a significant impact on the drug supply and demand globally. In the Malaysian context, the trend of drug use has changed from opiate-based to Amphetamine Type Stimulants (ATS) with the highest number of drug dependents detected using Methamphetamine (crystalline).
5. To address this issue, the Malaysian authorities have initiated three important national measures in the past year.
6. Firstly, Malaysia has launched the Mobile Recovery Treatment (MRT) to increase access to drug treatment and rehabilitation services to previously inaccessible individuals, including in prisons and social welfare facilities. The flexible MRT services have benefited 3,444 drug dependents nationwide, surpassing the national set target.
7. Secondly, Malaysia has implemented evidence-based drug prevention and demand reduction intervention program for the general population that focuses on family, educational institution, community, and workplace to raise awareness about the risks and harms of drug use. Following this, the National Drug and Substance Abuse Data Collection Taskforce was established to collect and monitor drug dependent database to ensure a comprehensive, integrated, and balanced approach. In 2022, a total of 137,176 drug and

substance abusers were identified as compared to 123,139 in 2021.

8. Thirdly, Malaysia continues to strengthen law enforcement cooperation with regional and international partners, as well as improving law enforcement's ability to detect, investigate, and prosecute drug trafficking cases. The number of drug seizures continues to increase, with marijuana leading the charts by 7.2 tonnes in 2022 compared to 3.7 tonnes in 2021. Malaysia's law enforcement agencies were successful to track down and dismantle 15 clandestine drug labs, with 50 individuals involved in running the labs were arrested. Moreover, properties that were successfully forfeited in the year 2022 showed an increase of about 43%, amounted to USD27.66 million (RM125 million) compared to USD15.93 (RM72 million) in 2021.

Mr. Chair,

9. Malaysia remains committed to enhance coordination and cooperation at all levels to counter the world drug problem, based on the common and shared responsibility principle, and in accordance with the relevant international conventions, the 2019 Ministerial Declaration and, in the regional context, the 2016-2025 ASEAN Work Plan on Steering Communities Against Illicit Drugs.

10. Malaysia is optimistic that, through the implementation of the policies, programs, and measures that I have highlighted, Malaysia's 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development goals in ensuring healthy lives and promoting well-being for all would be achieved.

11. Step by step and with continuous efforts, we are heading towards a better future.

I thank you, Mr. Chair.