

**STATEMENT OF THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA  
DURING THE 66<sup>TH</sup> CND MEETING HELD FROM  
13<sup>TH</sup> TO 17<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2023  
VIENNA- AUSTRIA**

Thank you Chairperson for giving my delegation the floor. At the outset, allow me to extend my delegation's warm congratulations to you, upon your election as the Chair of the 66<sup>th</sup> Session and further commend the Secretariat for organizing this important meeting.

**Chairperson,**

The United Republic of Tanzania is the largest country in East Africa, bordered with 8 countries and the Indian Ocean to the East. As per the 2022 National Census, our country has a population of 61,741,120 people and thus making it the 5<sup>th</sup> country in Africa with the highest population. As one of the most preferred tourist destinations in Africa, our country offers diverse and realistic experiences to the visitors especially in the areas of wild life, beautiful coastal regions and islands. However, with the longest coast on the eastern side along the Indian Ocean as well as being surrounded by a number of land locked countries, our country is more vulnerable to illicit drug trafficking via the Indian Ocean.

**Chairperson,**

Statistics show us that the most consumed illicit drug in Tanzania is cannabis followed by khat, heroin and cocaine. There is a sharp rise of using non-prescribed hospital medications with narcotic and psychotropic effects \*\*particularly tramadol and benzodiazepines\*\* in the country. Also, the trend of recent seizures, revealed influx of Methamphetamine, New Psychoactive Substances (NPS) and the diversion of precursor chemicals in the country. Thus, illicit drug trade poses significant threat to public health, environmental and social-economic wellbeing as well as safety and security of our country.

**Chairperson,**

My country has continued to adopt her drug control policies and strategies through integrated and balanced approach in response to emerging and evolving realities on the world drug problem including the links between drug trafficking and other forms of trans organized crimes. Due to the sensitivity of the problem, my country adopted practical and pragmatic measures including implementing all the three UN Conventions, the 2009

Political Declaration and Plan of Action, the 2016 UNGA SS Outcome Document as well as the 2019 Ministerial Declaration. We believe that these documents are the core pillars in offering the guidance in the fight against the world drug problem.

### **Chairperson,**

Our strategic plan in addressing and countering drug problem is anchored on the Drug Control and Enforcement Act of 2015 that has led to the formation of Drug Control and Enforcement Authority (DCEA). Therefore, my country has continued to implement various measures as follows:

**Firstly**, we have renewed attacks upon the drug supply chain that brings drugs across the world into and out of Tanzania by cutting the supply chain logistics and focusing on apprehending the criminals. Between June 2018 to December 2022, we experienced a surge on drug trafficking in which a total of 176.05 tons of cannabis, 130.21 tons of khat, 3,311.97 kgs of heroin and 38.186 kgs of cocaine were seized in the country. We also managed to object the importation of 122,066.9 kgs and 85 liters of precursor chemicals due to irregularities in complying with the requirements of national and international laws. From 2021 onwards, the country has started to notice new trends of trafficking methamphetamines through the Heroin Southern Route from South East Asia in which a total of 430.77 kgs of methamphetamines were seized in the country.

**Secondly**, we are also focusing on drug demand reduction measures by putting more emphasis in turning people's lives around and diminishing them from indulging in drug use and illicit drug trade. The country has been doing numerous efforts in implementing these strategies by conducting mass awareness campaigns to communities in order to prevent individuals from indulging into drug trafficking and use. There are special programs from low to high education levels through establishment of anti-drug clubs and mass media campaigns.

**Thirdly**, we are focusing on scaling up of harm reduction interventions to people with drug use disorders and work around them in rebuilding their abilities and turn around their lives away from drug dependence. Harm reduction interventions are extensively conducted in our country through provision of psycho-education, Medically Assisted Therapy (MAT), detoxification services, establishment of drop-in centers, needle and syringe programs, recovery homes and rehabilitation programs. In 2021, a total of 169,269 individuals with various drug use disorders received health services in mental health and substance use units. There are 15 operable Medically Assisted Therapy in which more than 12,800 people with opioid use disorder attend services on daily bases including one operable pilot site in prison setting. There are 45 recovery homes in the country in which the Government

provides effective supervision of such services by competent domestic authorities with user-friendly guidelines to ensure adequate quality of services.

**Fourthly**, our country has strengthened regional and international cooperation based on the principle of common and shared responsibility in addressing and countering world drug problem. Our country therefore calls for all relevant UN bodies and specialized agencies to continue supporting Member States in the fight against world drug problem.

**Chairperson,**

The United Republic of Tanzania believes that it is important to have a comprehensive, integrated and balanced policy, which combines law enforcement and the promotion of public health, education, justice and law enforcement sectors while employing inter-agency collaboration and global cooperation at all levels in addressing and countering the world drug problem. We call for robust regional and international cooperation including in addressing and countering the links between drug trafficking and terrorism, illicit financial flows, smuggling of migrants and other forms of organized crimes including the need to set regional forums and platforms for Heads of National Law Enforcement Agencies.

**Chairperson,**

In conclusion, we highly believe that we will beat this problem by standing together. We underscore the importance of technical assistance provided by UNODC, which has greatly assisted practitioners in the field and positively impacted global efforts to counter and address the world drug problem, and therefore urge for more support.

**I THANK YOU.**