

STATEMENT of the REPUBLIC of TÜRKİYE
66th Session of the CND
(13-17 March 2023)

Mr. Chairman,
Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Let me at the outset, congratulate you, Excellency, for assuming the Chairmanship of this meeting, and in the beginning of my statement underscore our full commitment to the three international drug control conventions. Their full and universal implementation continues to be crucial for the effectiveness of the system.

The CND as the primary policy making body and the UNODC as the leading entity for international drug policies, should continue to steer our endeavors. We attach utmost importance to UNODC's independent and impartial role in this task. The INCB should continue to play its vital role as well.

Mr. Chairman,

Turkish law enforcement authorities continue to successfully seize a significant portion of illicit drugs trafficking through our territory. Last year, around 8 tons of heroin, 72 tons of cannabis, 2,3 tons of cocaine, 16,2 tons of methamphetamine, 1 ton synthetic cannabinoid, 13.000 liters of acetic anhydride, 24 million amphetamine tablet with Captagon logo and 5 million ecstasy tablets have been seized.

Türkiye, furthermore, as one of the legal and reliable opiate raw material suppliers for medical and scientific purposes, applies strict controls that prevent any diversion.

Türkiye also contributes to the international efforts and offers assistance to many countries in their capacity building efforts.

In order to ensure a new vision and understanding of law enforcement training, Counter Narcotics Training Academy (NEA) was established within the Turkish National Police. NEA aims at contributing not only to the training of Turkish staff but also to other national and international law enforcement agencies.

Mr. Chairman,

Criminal organizations and terrorist groups are involved in illegal manufacturing or trafficking of drugs, along with other forms of transnational crime, in order to fund their heinous activities.

PKK/PYD/YPG terrorist organization is directly involved in drug trafficking through their widespread connections in Europe. They use the benefits to finance their activities. In many recent operations conducted against PKK cells in Türkiye, large amounts of illegal drugs have also been seized along with weapons. An increase in the cultivation and production of drugs, especially cannabis, will have a negative effect on the struggle against financing of terrorism.

Also, Türkiye believes that the biggest challenge in implementation of the conventions today is the legalization of drugs, especially cannabis, in some countries. As mentioned in the World Drug Report and the INCB report, cannabis is the world's most widely used illicit drug from which criminal organizations are benefiting. The legalization of cannabis also contradicts with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, particularly in terms of SDG 3 on "Health and Well-being", which put public health at the center through an integrated approach.

Mr. Chairman,

Türkiye is also seriously concerned about the increasing use of new psychoactive substances, along with other traditional types of narcotic drugs. We are compelled to fully and effectively implement the relevant conventions. Our discussions and actions or attempts to interpret them should not amount to practices undermining them and their ultimate goals. Otherwise, the international cooperation will be severely damaged.

I would like to reaffirm Türkiye's strong commitment to our common efforts and international cooperation.

Thank you.