

STATEMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA DURING THE 66TH MEETING OF COMMISSION ON NARCOTIC DRUGS, 13TH -17TH MARCH 2023, VIENNA, AUSTRIA BY MS. MARY CHIRWA –DIRECTOR GENERAL DRUG ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION

Chairperson,

In my preamble, I wish to congratulate the Chairperson of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and UNODC Secretariat for convening this Sixty-Sixth Session of CND. Further, allow me on behalf of Government of the Republic of Zambia, to express our deepest appreciation and gratitude to UNODC for convening this important session of the CND amidst many global challenges such as the Russia –Ukraine war which is impacting negatively on the cost of living of people in many countries globally, continued threat of the COVID-19 pandemic and unprecedented increase in illicit drug trafficking and substance abuse.

Chairperson,

The Republic of Zambia has continued to improve on her drug control policies, legal framework and strategies that promote international best practices in response to emerging and evolving global drug challenges.

Key among them is the pilot diversion programme for juveniles that come into conflict with the law, Enactment of the Children’s Code Act of 2022 to protect the rights of Children, presidential pardon of some prisoners with minor drug offences to decongest correctional facilities and regional sub-regional and inter agency cooperation.

Chairperson,

Apart from the perennial problem of cannabis trafficking and abuse, heroin is today the second commonly abused illicit drug in Zambia. The two drugs are also combined to make a dangerous concoction known as ‘volo’. Abuse of medicinal drugs such as Benyline with codeine has also continue to pose a real threat to the lives of young people across the country. We are

witnessing mushrooming armies of young children as young as 9 years on substance abuse, engaging in anti-social behaviour such as theft and mugging of unsuspecting persons around the country. We are also concerned that the increase in heroin abuse, may further compound and worsen the problem of HIV/AIDS among the youth.

As a result of growing concerns of this drug abuse problem, my country is taking strides to make drug rehabilitation services accessible to the needy. The country has also scaled up drug use epidemiology across the country and sharpening of interdiction skills to limit illicit drug supply.

Chairperson,

Zambia has faith in the collaborative effort of the global community to fight the drug scourge. However, there is need to address key drivers of the world drug problem which include harnessing the demographic dividend potential of our youthful population around the world.

We call for strengthened international cooperation to address the links between drug trafficking and, illicit financial flows especially through tax evasion , smuggling of migrants within the continent of Africa and all other forms of organised crime. Further, we stress the importance of increased technical assistance by UNODC in capacity building and exchange programs among Law Enforcement Agencies around the world to curb the global surge especially in illicit heroin trafficking, methamphetamine and tramadol.

My country remains committed to the implementation of the international drug Control Treaties and other related protocols.

I THANK YOU.

THE DIRECTOR GENERAL,

**RE: DRAFT STATEMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA
DURING THE 66TH MEETING OF THE COMMISSION ON
NARCOTIC DRUGS, 13TH -17TH MARCH 2023, VIENNA, AUSTRIA**

Find on file cover, draft statement for General Debate during 66th meeting of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs to be held from the 13th -17th March 2023 in , Vienna, Austria.

The statement is required to be forwarded in good time to the UNODC Secretariat so that it is scheduled for your presentation during the meeting.

Submitted for your attention and necessary guidance.

Rosten Chulu

Assistant Director

RESEARCH INFORMATION AND PLANNING UNIT

COD/DEC/S/6/7/8

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Follow-up to the implementation at the national , regional and international; levels of all commitments , as reflected in the ministerial Declaration of 2019 , address and counter the world drug problem.