Challenge 3: Increasing links between drug trafficking, corruption and other forms of organized crime, including trafficking in persons, trafficking in firearms, cybercrime and money-laundering and, in some cases, terrorism, including money-laundering in connection with the financing of terrorism,

1. First of all, I would like, on behalf of the delegation of the Kingdom of Morocco, to congratulate you again for your leadership in chairing our meeting. I also would like to thank the panelists for their relevant presentations and for the useful and relevant information and analysis provided.

Mr, chair

2. As you may know, all the documents that we negotiated and adopted during last decade within CND aiming at addressing the world drug problem since 2009 (i.e. The political Declaration and Plan of Action of 2009, the Joint Ministerial Statement of the 2014 High-Level Review by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs of the Implementation by Member States of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem, the UNGASS Outcome Document of 2016 and the Ministerial Declaration of 2019) stressed the urgent need to address the serious challenges posed by the increasing links between drug trafficking, corruption and other forms of organized crime, including trafficking in persons, trafficking in firearms, cybercrime terrorism and money-laundering, including money-laundering in connection with the financing of terrorism;

3. It is interesting to recall that the CND thematic discussions held in October 2021 focused on this important issue, within the framework of the multi-year Plan devoted to address challenges identified in the “stock taking”- part of the Declaration, through the implementation of the provisions and recommendations contained in the three policy documents (2016, 2014, 2009) as committed to in the “way forward”- part of the 2019 Ministerial Declaration.

4. In this regard, the delegation of Morocco would like to commend all the global efforts made by States parties, the UNODC, Regional Organizations and NGOs in pointing out the threats and dangers of the increasing links between drug trafficking and other forms of organized crime, including trafficking in persons, trafficking in firearms, cybercrime terrorism and money-laundering and their negative impact on development, stability and security.

5. we consider that addressing this evolving challenge should be further considered within CND, CCPCJ and other relevant international organizations, and we propose, in this regard, the organization of high level joint expert meetings between CND and CCPCJ to address the nexus between drug and TOC (transnational organized crime) within the context of the preparation of the UN Congress on prevention of crime and the political declaration and plan of action in 2026 and 2029, respectively, with the aim to shed light on synergy, complementarity and dynamic between CND and CCPCJ on this critical issue, keeping in mind that many aspects and manifestations of the links between drug trafficking and other forms of crime are still under-explored.

6. Morocco further encourages all member States to effectively implement the operational measures aiming at addressing this challenge, by adopting integrated and multidisciplinary approaches, such as through promoting and supporting
reliable data collection, research, intelligence and analysis-sharing, and to take advantage of existing subregional, regional and international cooperation mechanisms to combat all forms of drug-related crime and dismantle organized criminal groups.

7. I would like to seize this opportunity to underscore the evident links between instability and the drug trafficking related to organized crime. In this regard, the continuing scourge of drug trafficking in the Sahel region, which is experiencing a volatile security situation, is an issue of great concerns for all of us. According to UNODC reports, this region is becoming among the main transit routes for narcotics in the world. Moreover, many studies and research have revealed that separatists, terrorist networks and rebel groups derive significant economic benefit from criminal activities, including drug and arms trafficking, enabling them to develop and extend their criminal and terrorist activities.

8. The alarming situation challenges us more than ever and requires from us to seriously consider the challenges related to the phenomenon of drug trafficking and their impact on development, security, and peace.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.