



**Statement of the Delegation of the Kingdom of Morocco
Delivered by H.E. Azzeddine FARHANE
Ambassador, Permanent Representative**

Mr. Chair,

1. The vote conducted today by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs on the recommendations issued by the World Health Organization on the rescheduling of Cannabis and cannabis related substances concludes a long process which has been going on for some two years now.
2. Throughout this process, we have had the opportunity to debate in length on various aspects relevant to this issue. In this regard, we thank WHO and INCB for the valuable clarification they have presented us with. We also heard a wide range of views and positions. These clarifications enabled us to understand fully and properly this issue and decide in full and deep knowledge of the facts.
3. Today, the Commission has acted upon the WHO recommendations. These are, it must be underlined, recommendations that are based on sound scientific evidence and are intended to take advantage of the therapeutic virtues of certain substances derived from cannabis.
4. The deletion of cannabis and cannabis resin from Schedule IV is therefore motivated, first and foremost, by scientific knowledge which was not available in 1961. It is also motivated by the will to serve the right to health and access to medication for some categories of patients, on the basis of duly established scientific data.
5. Morocco has elaborated its national position after having duly examined all the facts and data available. The National Commission on Narcotics has properly debated the issue, taking into due consideration national public health and the domestic anti-drug strategy.
6. Morocco wishes therefore to highlight that the adoption of Recommendation 5.1 vote can by no means be construed as a vote in favour of a decriminalization of cannabis which continues to be prohibited under Moroccan domestic Law.
7. Morocco reaffirms the importance of upholding the integrity of the three Conventions pertaining to the international control of drugs and supports the scientifically guided updating of the international control system, as recommended by the World Health Organization.
8. In this regard, it must be underscored that the deletion of cannabis and related substances from Schedule IV does not place them outside the scope of the international control regime.
9. **Accordingly, cannabis and derived substances remain under the international control system.**
10. In closing, my delegation would like to congratulate you and to commend your laudable efforts, your strong commitment and your efficient guidance that enabled you to lead us through this process with a lot of wisdom and mastery.