



*Permanent Mission of the Republic of Kenya to the United Nations*  
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STATEMENT

BY

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GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF KENYA  
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DURING

THE

**13<sup>TH</sup> SPECIAL SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
ON THE WORLD DRUG PROBLEM**

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**Your Excellency, Chair of the Thirteenth Special Session of the General Assembly,  
Your Excellency Ambassador Khaled Shamaa, Chair of the UNGASS Board,  
Your Excellency Mr. Yury Fedotov, Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime  
Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,**

**Mr. Chairman,**

Allow me on behalf of the delegation of the Republic of Kenya to express my warm congratulations to you on your election as Chair of the Thirteenth Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly.

The Government of Kenya welcomes the convening of the Special Session of the General Assembly of the United Nations on the World Drug Problem and commends the work of the UNGASS Board, Commission on Narcotics Drugs and the UN Secretariat in preparation for this Special Session.

**Mr. Chairman,**

My delegation observes that illicit drug cultivation, trafficking and abuse continue to present adverse health and socio-economic effects on the people and thereby undermining the security and development of nations. As a result, the Government of Kenya reaffirms her commitment to implement the provisions of the three international drug control conventions that form the basis of the world drug control strategy and in doing so, have enacted national policies and legislation to incorporate and implement the provisions of these treaties at the national level.

**Mr. Chairman,**

My delegation is convinced that the overall objective of drug control should be to eliminate the availability and use of illicit narcotic and psychotropic substances through evidence-based interventions on drug demand reduction, supply reduction, countering money-laundering and promoting international judicial cooperation among states and to address other cross-cutting issues including drugs and human rights, alternative development and protection of vulnerable populations.

**Mr. Chairman,**

Kenya has made strides in the control and mitigation of drug abuse and has ratified the international conventions on drug control. Kenya revised its Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act in 2015 which sets the legal framework for drug control. In countering money laundering, Kenya has set up a Financial Reporting Centre that identifies the proceeds of crime, money laundering and the financing of terrorism. In addition, Kenya has set up a national agency to coordinate the country's drug control strategy which continues to integrate the efforts of all stakeholders through implementation of the country's national drug policy.

Further, the war on drugs has received political support with His Excellency the President leading from the front. In 2015, the President ordered the destruction of ships laden with illicit drugs that were captured on the Kenyan Coast. This has not only deterred illicit drug trafficking in the country but also sends a strong message to the world that Kenya, is determined to be a drugs free nation.

**Mr. Chairman**

The war on drugs comes at a great cost and Kenya faces serious challenges due to its porous borders which are used for the flow of illicit small arms, human trafficking as well as drug trafficking. These crimes go hand in hand with money laundering that is suspected to be used to finance terrorist groups such as Al Shabaab and Al Qaeda. In the recent past, Kenya has suffered major terrorist attacks making curtailing of drug trafficking and money laundering a priority concern for Kenya.

We call on the United Nations, its agencies and programmes to enhance assistance for developing countries such as Kenya with capacity building and training. We also call on developed countries and donor agencies to enhance funding especially for transit countries so that we can close the drug routes. We can achieve this if we do it together through regional and international cooperation is key.

**Mr. Chairman,**

My delegation is convinced that this Special Session is a critical step to the global drug control strategy as it presents an opportunity to address successes, challenges as well as opportunities in the endeavor for a world free of drug abuse.

It is, therefore, our desire that this Session will bring out the commitment of Member States in addressing the world drug problem, strengthen international cooperation and support to developing countries, and most importantly provide hope to the thousands of people across the globe that are victims of drug abuse, illicit cultivation, illicit drug trafficking and money laundering.

**Mr. Chairman,**

As I conclude, let me once again thank you for the opportunity to address this meeting and assure you of the support and participation of the delegation of the Republic of Kenya during this session.

**Thank you!**