

**Intervention
on behalf of the German Delegation
for the Round Table (d) at the High Level Segment of the 52nd CND**

***Countering illicit drug traffic and supply,
and alternative development***

Mr. Chairman,

I would like to address the issue of Alternative Development .

First of all I would like to point out that Germany has worked for more than 25 years in the field of Alternative Development in South East Asia, Latin America and during the last years as well in Afghanistan. In some countries we have seen that former drug producing areas and peasants have been successfully and sustainably integrated into national mainstream development. But in other countries, we are still facing huge challenges mainly linked with insecure and violent conflict and postconflict environments.

We tried to introduce these experiences into the Political Declaration and the Action Plan which are to be adopted today. But we regret, that this Political Declaration does neither reflect sufficiently our evidence based conclusions from the past ten years nor does it propose new approaches that are able to face new challenges.

We would have welcomed if the draft political declaration had mentioned the guiding principles of “proper sequencing” and “non conditionality” which are an integral part and key for successful German and European drugs policy.. Let me shortly explain the reason for both principles.

- **Principle of Proper Sequencing:**

Evidence has shown that inadequate sequencing of Alternative Development assistance and eradication measures can undermine development efforts and seriously damage the building of trust. Often, eradication has happened too early,

when viable alternative crops were not yet procured and thus could not generate an adequate income. Serious food shortages and hunger have been a consequence as for example in some parts of South East Asia after the opium ban. Of course, the sequencing between Alternative Development measures and eradication has to be adapted to the specific circumstances of each region, based on previous analysis of ground conditions.

- **Principle of Non Conditionality:**

The provision of development assistance should not be made conditional on prior elimination of illicit drug crop production. This kind of explicit conditionality can appear as a disguised form of forced eradication. As long as alternative livelihoods are not available, forced eradication is not sustainable, because it tends to generate social and political violence and very often it displaces cultivation to more inaccessible spots with negative environmental impact (loss of diversity, negative climate impact).

Mr. Chairman,

Alternative development requires long term strategies, based on a comprehensive approach to rural and sustainable economic development. The objective of those programmes is to reduce gradually the dependence from illicit drug cultivation and to strengthen licit income sources in the long term. Therefore, successful Alternative Development programmes require long term investments for productive and social infrastructure. The provision of secured land use rights are the basis for the peasants' engagement for medium and long term investment in their land. Alternative Development programmes need to be coordinated with other national policies in the area of agriculture, environment and economy.

Mr. Chairman,

We are facing increasingly the challenge of insecurity. High levels of post conflict and criminal violence exist in many regions where drug crops are illicitly cultivated in remote areas and where the State and its authorities are weak or absent. We need an open and constructive debate in order to find adequate

responses to these challenges on the basis of the overarching principles of human rights and human security.

Mr. Chairman,

Last but not least, we regret that success within drug reduction policies is still measured only with the reduction of drug crop cultivation. We are confident that in the future qualitative and quantitative indicators of human development will be included as success indicators, which are not only reflecting the reduction of illicit crop cultivation and production, but are first of all of all reflecting human development.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman