

Online Ministerial : Global Coalition to Address Synthetic Drug Threats
Video message by Mr. Yoshimasa HAYASHI, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan

7 July 2023

Secretary Blinken and Distinguished Ministers, Excellencies and Partners,
Greetings from Tokyo.

Firstly, I would like to thank and applaud the leadership demonstrated by Secretary Blinken and the United States in hosting this Online Ministerial for the establishment of the Global Coalition to Address Synthetic Drug Threats.

It gives me great pleasure to express my support for and commitment to this important initiative on this occasion.

In recent years, we have witnessed a rise in unlawful production, distribution, and non-prescribed use of synthetic drugs, which poses a significant threat to public health and global security. Recognizing the gravity of this problem, and sharing the concern that we all need to stay ahead of the rapidly evolving landscape of the world drug problem, I am pleased to work together to draw up a multi-faceted strategy for drug supply and demand reduction.

Having established three international drug control conventions to hold sway over dangerous psychoactive substances, and having adopted the “Joint Commitment to Effectively Addressing and Countering the World Drug Problem” at the UN General Assembly Special Session on Drugs in 2016, the global community has been working hard on our common challenge to combat the drug problem

Japan, in close coordination with international organizations such as the UNODC, has also actively supported countries that play key roles in the area of drug control through capacity building and facilitating networking among law enforcement authorities.

In the meantime, given that the anticipated rise in international travel will increase the risk of a surge in unlawful trade of controlled substances and illicit synthetic drugs across borders, that the drug trafficking market is rapidly expanding in cyberspace, and that drug supply channels are becoming more and more sophisticated, it is now more important than ever to further intensify our efforts in countering those newly emerging threats.

In order to swiftly respond to challenges caused by the continuous development of new synthetic drugs, we need to provide adequate resources and training for law enforcement agencies, enhance their surveillance capabilities, facilitate cooperation between the police, customs, coast guard, as well as with narcotics control agency and research communities, and

share and operationalize necessary tools including ICTs.

Recognizing the unpredictable nature and harmful effects of unlawful trade of new psychoactive substances and their precursor chemicals, the international community needs to work together to fulfill our commitments under the three international drug control conventions, including the strengthening of the international scheduling mechanism.

Excellencies,

To combat this pressing issue, we have a shared responsibility to strengthen our collaboration towards practical and concrete action, which, I believe, also serves to protect the health of communities and the safety of individuals.

Thank you very much.