

Peace be upon you,

Greetings,

Your Excellency, Mr. Pravind Kumar Jugnauth, Prime Minister, Minister of Defense, Home Affairs and External Communications and Minister for Rodrigues, Outer Islands and Territorial Integrity

Your Excellences,

I have the honor to convey to you the greetings of His Royal Highness, Minister of Interior, Prince Abdulaziz bin Saud bin Nayef bin Abdulaziz, and his wishes for the work of this conference to be successful.

The delegation of my country, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, participating in the First Ministerial Conference on Drug Trafficking and Substance Abuse in the Western Indian Ocean, held in the Republic of Mauritius, would also like to extend its sincere thanks to those in charge for their efforts in arranging and preparing, wishing the work of this conference good luck and success in a way that enhances the efforts and means of effective international cooperation in confronting the scourge of drugs.

Following up and assessing the extent of the drug problem in the world in cooperation with countries through the reports and statistics submitted annually leads to knowledge of developments in the production lines and smuggling of narcotic substances, in addition to revealing transnational criminal methods and ways of concealing narcotic substances. This has an impact on our keeping up with criminal plans and then taking action on the necessary measures to address them at the local and international levels.

In recent years, a significant increase has been observed in the smuggling of Methamphetamine, as well as the smuggling of medical drugs subject to medical control. As this criminal activity has become a serious threat to the world's states and requires assessing the extent of the problem and then taking urgent security measures and solutions to address it, the situation requires all of us to make more efforts and enhance international cooperation among us so that we can monitor the security situation in our countries and the world in a way that serves our measures in combating drug crimes.

Your Excellencies,

Everyone knows that strengthening international cooperation procedures and exchanging information are important and effective ways to confront organized crime activities in general and drug crime in particular. In addition, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has witnessed in the past period many visits and meetings between specialists in the field of drug control in Saudi Arabia and their counterparts in many countries aiming to enhance the procedures for exchanging information about international smuggling networks, and one of the most prominent experiences, expertise and actual practices to

confront the drug problem in Saudi Arabia is Vision 2030, which concerned the issue of drugs out of belief in the dangers and threat they pose to the security and stability of society. So, it sets among its goals “strengthening society’s immunity to drugs” and “Enabling a safe and healthy life” and created a commitment at all national levels to carry out the various roles and responsibilities in combating drugs in its comprehensive sense (reducing supply, reducing demand, reducing harm). Saudi Arabia also considers that dealing with the drug problem requires an integrated national system that includes security, regulatory, health authorities, education and media institutions, and Saudi Arabia is fully prepared to cooperate and exchange information with international partners in the field of combating trafficking and smuggling of narcotic substances. In that context, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is enforcing a comprehensive security campaign in implementation of the directives of the leadership to combat drugs through the implementation of plans in which the efforts of all relevant parties are combined and have been crowned with standing and ongoing successes in confronting this scourge and the crimes associated with it.

In conclusion, I reiterate my thanks to those organizing this conference, wishing everyone success and prosperity.

Peace be upon you,

Dr. Nasser A. Al-Daood

Deputy Minister of Interior

Kingdom of Saudi Arabia