MESSAGE FROM

Mr. Cesar Guedes
Representative
UNODC Country Office in Pakistan

UNODC Pakistan is pleased to have supported the participation of a senior member delegation to the Commission of Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ) in Vienna from 14-18 May 2018, under the framework of Pakistan’s Action to Counter Terrorism (PACT) Project, supported by the European Union.

It provided us with an opportunity to present the progress and achievements of our Project to the delegations from Member States and also facilitated meetings of the delegation with the Executive Director of UNODC, Mr. Yury Fedotov, and Chiefs of sections from the Terrorism Prevention Branch, the Global Programme against Anti-Money Laundering, and Counter Terrorism Financing, based in Vienna.

I take this opportunity to thank the delegation from Pakistan, especially the National Coordinator of NACTA, Mr. Ihsan Ghani, Home Secretary Khyber Pakthunkhwa, Mr. Ikram Ullah Khan, and Officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Defense, for their active participation and contributions throughout the 27th session of the Commission.

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To showcase Pakistan’s contribution to international peace and security, the Government of Pakistan organized a side event with the support of UNODC Country Office on "Pakistan’s Action to Counter Terrorism". During the opening session, Her Excellency Ms. Ayesha Riyaz, Ambassador of Pakistan in Vienna, highlighted and appreciated the close working relationship between UNODC and Pakistan, while the National Coordinator of NACTA and head of delegation, Mr. Ihsan Ghani, briefed the participants on recent initiatives undertaken by NACTA and applauded the support being rendered by the UNODC Country Office under the framework of a European Union supported project entitled "PACT". He also informed the participants that NACTA is in consultative stages with UNODC for developing a comprehensive five-year project that would pave the way for greater cooperation between the two organizations.

Mr. Mauro Miedico, from the Terrorism Prevention Branch of UNODC, in his brief remarks, appreciated the contributions of Pakistan in combating terrorism while assuring continued support in meeting the common challenges posed by terrorism.

UNODC Country Representative for Pakistan, Mr. Cesar Guedes, thanked the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and NACTA for their participation and informed the delegates of the five-day exhibition booth which the Government of Pakistan and UNODC jointly organized at the margins of the 27th Commission, to highlight achievement and progress made so far under Pakistan’s Action to Counter Terrorism (PACT) Project. The exhibition booth consisted of information products recently developed by the Government of Pakistan, in addition to research studies and assessment carried out by the UNODC office in the country.

Ms. Humaira Mufti, the Director General Legal of NACTA, along with Brig. Inayat Hussain, Director of Operations from the Military Operation Directorate of the Pakistan Army, delivered a detailed presentation on Pakistan’s response to counter terrorism, while highlighting the success achieved under the National Action Plan and various other national initiatives aimed at eliminating terrorism from the country and beyond.
Meeting with Terrorism Prevention Branch (TPB)

Mr. Mauro Miedico, Chief of Section, Terrorism Prevention Branch (TPB), in Vienna, briefed the delegation on the ongoing tailored technical assistance that the TPB is providing in Asia, Africa, and the Middle East to Member States upon request, to build their capacity to strengthen the criminal justice response to terrorism. Mr. Cesar Guedes, UNODC Representative, informed the delegation that TPB regularly supports the PACT team by reviewing documents and providing advisory services to ensure international best practices remain an integral part of PACT activities throughout the projects implementation. Mr. Ihsan Ghani highlighted the recently developed Countering Violent Extremism Guidelines and Charity Model Laws, and mentioned that Pakistan could benefit from the knowledge and experience of TPB experts, especially with regards to the approaches adopted for criminal justice reforms in countries suffering from terrorism with similar conditions.

At the margins of the 27th Commission, the delegation, headed by the National Coordinator of NACTA, Mr. Ihsan Ghani, met with the Executive Director of UNODC, Mr. Yury Fedotov, to appreciate the assistance being delivered to law enforcement and criminal justice agencies in Pakistan under the framework of the Country Programme and PACT Project. Mr. Ghani mentioned that as part of NACTA’s commitment for international cooperation, the organization values the relationship with the UNODC through the ongoing interventions for strengthening the overall response to effectively counter terrorism, while upholding the rights of individuals and extending all possible support to victims. He also conveyed that NACTA aims to further enhance its relationship with UNODC by developing a long-term project consisting of technical support in areas of rule of law related capacity-building, victim protection and support, youth and community engagement, countering financing of terrorism, and promoting international cooperation. The Executive Director of UNODC, Mr. Fedotov, appreciated the work of NACTA, including the recently held Islamabad International Counter Terrorism Forum (IICTF), and assured full assistance to Pakistan in areas related to UNODC’s mandate.

Meeting with Mr. Yury Fedotov

Executive Director of UNODC
The delegation held a meeting with the Global Programme against Money Laundering (GPML) during which UNODC’s section briefed them on their role and mandate in delivering assistance to Member States. As expounded by Ms. Mellisa Tullis, UNODC has an observer’s status with the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) and Asian Pacific Group (APG), and works closely with countries to develop Action Plans for overcoming the challenges posed by money laundering and terrorism financing. She also informed the delegation that UNODC is not an assessor body nor does it carry out mutual assessments for compliance purposes of any kind related to FATF or APG.

The National Coordinator of NACTA, Mr. Ihsan Ghani, informed that NACTA has formed, and is leading, a National Action Task Force against terrorism financing, consisting of 27 law enforcement and intelligence agencies, to enable a coordinated response at federal and provincial levels. Challenges remain in identification, investigation, and prosecution of terrorism financing related cases, for which stakeholders must work together to strengthen the capacity of recently established Counter Financing Units at provincial levels, and to sensitize judges.

UNODC Country Representative, Mr. Cesar Guedes, mentioned the recent contribution of Japan in working closely with NACTA to build the capacity of provincial law enforcement officials in counter terrorism financing. As a result of these efforts, the officials improved their understanding of the Suspicious Transaction Reports (STRs) and Cash Transaction Reports (CTRs), and acquired better investigative skills in consultation with the Financial Monitoring Unit of Pakistan.

On behalf of the Government of Pakistan, Mr. Ihsan Ghani thanked UNODC and said that Pakistan faced many terrorism related challenges in the last 40 years, but we have responded to the challenges. We have enacted laws and legislation, and also rendered great sacrifices both in terms of human life and economic losses. We are doing a lot to counter terrorism and we are extremely grateful to UNODC for its interventions under PACT.

At the end Ms. Sergai thanked the UNODC Country Representative and head of Pakistan delegation.