

cheek against delivery



PAKISTAN

COUNTRY STATEMENT - 58th CND

Special Segment - 9-12 March 2015-Vienna

Honorable Chairman

President of the UNGASS Board

Executive Director, UNODC

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a great privilege for me to represent Pakistan at this Special Segment of the CND and share our ideas within the context of preparations for the UN General Assembly Special Session on the World drug Problem (UNGASS) scheduled to be held in 2016.

We attach great importance to the efforts of UNODC and Commission on Narcotic Drugs. Being the central and primary preparatory body for the 2016 UNGASS, we look forward to tangible and result oriented recommendations of the Commission to form the basis of discussions at the UNGASS 2016.

Mr. Chairman,

The world drug problem continues to affect many a country far and wide. The scale and expanse of this menace range from serious crimes to health hazards that affect all segments of our societies. The world drug problem jeopardizes good governance and the rule of law. It encourages crime and corruption. All these multifarious challenges necessitate a balanced, collaborative, wholesome and a multifaceted approach from eradication to effective law enforcement measures to prevention and treatment under mutually agreed mechanism and framework. Concerted efforts to eradicate

the poppy at its source would reduce the challenges at the subsequent stages of drug production, trafficking, enforcement, prosecution, treatment and rehabilitation. This requires continuous cooperation at the international level.

The recent trends and indicators suggest that over the past few years, new variants of the world drug problem have emerged and call for our immediate attention. These include increase in the use of opiates, expanding market for Amphetamine-type stimulants, increased cultivation and legalization of cannabis and the emergence of New Psychoactive Substances (NPS). All these developments call for enhanced cooperation at the national, regional and international level.

The recently emerging trend of legalization of illicit drugs remains a matter of deep concern. Legalizing illicit drugs would neither ensure the cessation of underground drug markets nor counter the daunting challenge of increasing drug demand. This trend also undermines the true spirit of the three International Drug Control Conventions. There are also emerging challenges posed by such controversial concepts and approaches as 'Harm Reduction' that require our focused attention. Any and all initiatives and measures that aggravate Drug Dependence are not helpful.

We would like to take this opportunity to state in unequivocal terms that any attempt to review the three International Drug Control Conventions is neither useful nor productive. Furthermore, the respect for the principles of territorial integrity of States and non-intervention in the internal affairs of States should remain the cornerstone of our cooperation to counter the world drug problem.

Drug demand reduction

Excellencies,

We consider it imprudent to ignore or downplay the drug demand-factor. Increase in demand for drugs, and illegal-transfer of money in the developed world leads to increased supply from the developing world. In fact DSR and DDR are not mutually exclusive. Only a wholesome and collaborative approach can multiply chances of our success. We, therefore, urge the consumer countries that create the strongest demand-pull to particularly strengthen their own efforts to reduce illicit drug use within their territories.

Drug supply reduction

Excellencies,

Pakistan has been in the vanguard of the anti-drug campaign and remains committed to it. We are a party to all UN Drug Control Conventions. We have taken effective legislative and legal measures to fully and effectively implement these Conventions. Our relentless efforts in countering the drug challenge and our continued commitment in this regard is manifested by the fact that Pakistan has retained its poppy free status over the past many years. Despite resource constraints, Government of Pakistan has shown a strong political will to ensure eradicating the menace of drugs. Despite numerous issues of immediate and higher priority with serious socio-politico-economic and security implications, Counter Narcotics has always been under prime focus.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Drug Trafficking
in Pakistan

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Despite daunting challenges I feel honoured to inform this august gathering that in the year 2014 Pakistan made record seizure of 396 ton illicit drugs, dismantled 106 x DTOs including 13 x international, 56 x domestic and 37 x partially busted during last year. Let me proudly announce that in 2015 so far our achievements are even higher. We also attach great importance to deterrence through effective prosecution as well as rehabilitation of the patients. In fact, we treat them as victim and ensure their rehabilitation in physical, psychological, social and economic spheres.

Excellencies,

The efforts at the national level, even though very positive and encouraging cannot be fully productive without cooperation at the regional and International level. Pakistan is an active partner of the Paris Pact Initiative as also of the Triangular Initiative and the Regional Programme for Afghanistan and the Neighbouring Countries. Our experience with these mechanisms has strengthened our conviction that national efforts are made successful when pursued in sync with a regional or international campaign.

Excellencies,

In conclusion, the drug problem remains a challenge necessitating consistent and concerted efforts. In this regard, our commitment to the 2009 Political Declaration and Plan of Action as well as the three International Drug Control Conventions remains unwavering. World Drug Problem requires a united response. Together, we can overcome this menace and save our future. I am confident that our deliberations at this session would take us closer to our goal.

I thank you all.



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