

General Statement Pakistan

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Respected Chair, Distinguished delegates, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen – Assalam-o-Alaikum (Greetings of Peace) and Good Morning.

I would like to express my appreciation to the UNODC for organizing highest-level annual event dealing with the issue of illicit drugs and related matters. It is also my honor to congratulate you on your election as Chair of this important body.

This event demands due deliberations, consensus building and formulation of drug related policies of far reaching consequences. I, therefore, hope that our collective wisdom would enable joint understanding and action towards a “Drug Free World.”

Mr. Chair,

Let me highlight that despite limited resources and technological and research gaps, Pakistan has been doing its best to fight the menace of illicit drugs. We realize our role as one of the first lines of defense against opiates and its derivatives originating in our immediate neighborhood. We would continue this struggle with the same resilience to protect our society as well as rest of the world from the devastating effects of illicit drugs.

Pakistan is a “Poppy Free State” since 2001 by adopting an inclusive approach and executing concrete and well-coordinated measures for poppy eradication. Unfortunately, due to huge opiates production in our region, Pakistan has become the major victim and transit country. Illicit poppy cultivation in the region is translating into multiplied and multifarious challenges not only for us but for all our partners.

Mr. Chair,

In addition to huge inflow of opiates, we are also facing the challenge of growing use of methamphetamine, cocaine and synthetic drugs. According to the UNODC’s Drug Use Survey of Pakistan, 6% of our population (6.7 million people) has used drugs in 2012. This has posed enormous challenges to our society and is a great drain on our law enforcement resources as well as our socio-economic well-being. Nonetheless, Pakistan is leaving no stone unturned in curbing this menace to defend our society and others from harmful effects of illicit drugs.

Supported by international partners, Pakistan has a strong political will to work towards a “Drug Free World”. Passing of dedicated legislation, establishment of a separate Federal Ministry, formulation of National Anti-Narcotics Policy,

oversight mechanisms at parliamentary and judicial level, establishment of an Inter-Agency Task Force (IATF) on Counter Narcotics and implementation of a robust and stringent Precursor Control Regime are some of the measures manifesting our strong resolve against illicit drugs.

These proactive counter narcotics initiatives are yielding gradually and have resulted into:

- A substantial contribution to international counter narcotics efforts by seizing 412 tons of drugs and precursor chemicals in 2017, 289 tons in 2018 and 287 tons in 2019;
- Successful dismantling of 46 Drug Trafficking Organizations which also include 9 x international DTOs in last 3 years;
- More than 90% rate of conviction in narcotics related cases;
- Freezing of assets worth USD 76.58 Million;
- Bilateral treaties and MoUs for counter narcotics cooperation with 34 x countries;
- Hosting 39 x Drug Liaison Officers (DLOs) of 35 countries;
- Responding to 299 x international requests for assistance in last two years;
- Since 2017, conducted 59 x international controlled deliveries and intelligence led coordinated operations with 20 x countries leading to arrest of 109 x drug traffickers along with seizure of 21 tons of illicit drugs and precursor chemicals;
- Fruitful and effective contribution in bilateral, regional and international counter narcotics initiatives and forums;
- Comprehensive drug control programme for educational institutions
- Scientific and evidence-based treatment and rehabilitation for drug addicts;
- 1578 x focused drug abuse awareness campaigns in last three years (2017-19).

Pakistan is doing consistently well in the law enforcement domain and international cooperation. However, we feel that areas like demand reduction, controlling illicit financial flows and technical capacity building through provision of advance technology require further cooperation of international community under shared responsibility.

Taking opportunity of the occasion, I would also like to apprise this Commission that Pakistan is successfully implementing its multipronged strategy through various concrete measures for effectively implementing the Pakistan sponsored UN resolution 61/2 “Strengthening efforts to prevent drug use in educational settings”, adopted by the 61st Session of the Commission. The initiative has significantly enhanced our experience in effectively preventing the spread of drug abuse in educational institutions.

Promoting counter narcotics cooperation with international community is the cornerstone of our National Anti-Narcotics Policy. We acknowledge and

appreciate the consistent support of UNODC, INCB and other international institutions in our efforts to address the drug problem.

However, we feel that still a lot more is needed to effectively counter the walloping threat. Enhancing technical capacity of Member States and focus of international efforts to the source, transit, victim and most affected countries would definitely improve the worsening situation. Promoting international, trans-regional and regional cooperation as enshrined in the UN Charter would lead us closer to our goals. Pakistan is doing its best to fulfill its obligations related to the “2019 Ministerial Declaration”. I also assure the Commission that Pakistan is ready to cooperate with any country in any counter narcotics related field.

Mr. Chair,

In the end, I would re-affirm the political will of the Government of Pakistan to stem out the menace of drugs from our country. We would continue to pursue the same resolve in our endeavors to bequeath a world free of illicit drugs to our coming generations.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.