

**COUNTRY STATEMENT PAKISTAN****64<sup>TH</sup> SESSION OF CND****Vienna, Austria –12-16 Apr 2021**

**Respected Chair**, Distinguished Heads of Delegations, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen – Assalam-o-Alaikum and Good Morning.

On behalf of Government of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, I would like to express my deepest appreciation and gratitude to UNODC for conduct of this august event. In this difficult time of COVID-19 pandemic, convening this regular session is a huge accomplishment in itself and worthy Chair of the Commission and UNODC Secretariat deserve special applause for their efforts. I hope that our collective wisdom would accrue maximum benefits by jointly reaffirming our commitment to contribute towards a “Drug Free World.”

COVID-19 has largely affected all aspects of life, be it economy, public health or human well-being. Drug control efforts were no exception to this pandemic and its various dimensions, particularly demand reduction, availability of drugs for scientific and medicinal purposes, treatment of drug addicts and capacity building programmes suffered a lot. Nevertheless, I must appreciate the efforts of UNODC and international

community which took appropriate mitigating measures and tailored their activities accordingly. I would also like to convey Pakistan's best wishes and prayers for saving the mankind from the severities of this pandemic.

**Worthy Chair,** I would reiterate that Government of Pakistan has a very strong resolve and unwavering political will to act upon everything to eliminate the menace of illicit drugs and to participate in all the regional and international counter narcotics initiatives. From Pakistan's point of view, international cooperation remains the cornerstone in our global efforts to fight against illicit drugs. I feel pride in highlighting that today Pakistan is considered amongst countries which are making very effective contributions in the global fight against illicit drugs. Pakistan's counter narcotics initiatives are not only yielding desired results at the domestic front but are also duly acknowledged and appreciated by all relevant international organizations and partner countries. With the support of international community, Pakistan is determined to continue these endeavours with the same resilience to protect our own society as well as shield the international community from the devastating effects of illicit drugs.

Pakistan successfully transformed itself from a poppy producing country in 1990s to a poppy free country in 2001 and

maintaining this status till today. We succeeded in this endeavour by following a focused, determined and unflinching approach through inclusive and concrete policy, legal and strategic measures. Unfortunately, Pakistan has become a **major victim** and **transit** country for opiates produced in our region. A significant share of these opiates is trafficked to Pakistan through our porous borders. This phenomenon is causing an increase in drug use by our masses and posing enormous challenges to our society. The number of drug users is increasing every day in Pakistan due to large influx of opiates and this enormous threat is also translating into multiplied and multifarious challenges not only for us but for all our partners. Nonetheless, Pakistan is leaving no stone unturned in curbing this menace to protect our society as well as the rest of the world.

**Worthy Chair**, despite resource constraints, Pakistan has taken all appropriate measures to work towards a “Drug Free World”. These measures include, but are not limited to, **dedicated legislation, 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 etc.** These sustained endeavours against the menace of drugs,

undertaken in collaboration with our regional and international partners, have paid very encouraging results. Some of the significant achievements by Pakistan in this regard includes:-

- Huge and unprecedented domestic seizures of narcotic drugs and precursor chemicals: 310 metric tons in 2019 and despite COVID-19 pandemic, 495 metric tons in 2020;
- Enhanced operational cooperation in terms of information exchange, conduct of Intelligence Based Operations and International Controlled Delivery Operations with our partner countries;
- More than 90% rate of conviction;
- Rigorous measures against illicit financial flows including freezing and forfeiture of proceeds of drugs;
- Development of a stringent Precursor Management System;
- Focused drug demand reduction measures, with particular focus on addressing spread of illicit drugs in educational institutions;
- Effective engagement with international community.

Pakistan appreciates the efforts being put in by the UNODC, other counter narcotics forums and our partner countries in this common endeavour. However, given the complexity and magnitude of the challenge, more needs to be

done in the form of meaningful international, trans-regional and regional cooperation with tangible results. Enhancing technical capacity building of the most affected source and transit countries, particularly in the wake of recent rescheduling of cannabis, would definitely improve the worsening drug situation.

**Worthy Chair,** I would leave you with reiteration of Pakistan's firm resolve to counter the threat of narcotics in all its forms and manifestations and to continue engaging with the international community to eliminate the menace of drugs from our societies.

Thank you ladies and gentlemen.