

65th SESSION OF Commission on narcotic Drugs (CND)**(14-18 March 2022)****Vienna, Austria***********NATIONAL STATEMENT PAKISTAN****Agenda Item 3: GENERAL DEBATE****Respected Chair,**

Distinguished Heads of Delegations,

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentleman,

Assalam-oAlaikum and Good Morning (Evening)!

On behalf of Government of Islamic Republic of Pakistan, let me congratulate you, Excellency, on your election as Chair of the 65th Session of Commission. I also felicitate other members of the Bureau.

Mr. Chairman,

The World Drug Problem remains a serious and complex challenge. It continues to impact the health, security and well-being of millions of individuals and their families, and undermine sustainable socioeconomic development. The world drug problem leads to other transnational organized crimes and corruption, undermines good governance, rule of law and human rights of drug addicts, their families and society as a whole. It also provides succor to the multi-billion-dollar illicit economy and illicit financial flows. And yet, the complexity of this

challenge continues to grow as is evident from emerging trends and challenges. The Covid-19 has further compounded this challenge.

Mr. Chairman,

COVID-19 pandemic continues to adversely affect all spheres of our lives, posing unprecedented challenges to the developing and under-developed countries, particularly affecting their economies, healthcare and education system. The COVID-19 pandemic is a crisis of humanity. We believe that recovery from it requires global solidarity and commitment from everyone. While striving for 'Building Back Better', we must focus on inclusive, sustainable, and resilient recovery. We need to holistically reorient our development strategies to address systemic challenges in our global system.

Mr. Chairman,

The 2030 sustainable development agenda establishes a clear link between security, rule of law and sustainable socioeconomic development. We believe that implementation of this agenda would also complement our efforts to counter the World Drug Problem. I am pleased to state that Pakistan is making headway in this endeavor despite negative impact of COVID-19 pandemic on our progress. Through tailored policies and programmes, Pakistan has achieved significant progress on the SDGs.

Mr. Chairman,

Pakistan has put in place a robust and comprehensive framework to counter the menace of illicit drugs through balanced attention to supply and demand reduction and to deepening regional and international cooperation. Our policy is people-centered and based on respect for human rights with special emphasize to the needs of women and children.

Mr. Chairman,

We have serious concerns over the emerging trends in some parts of the world to legalize recreational use of narcotic drugs. Such trends are contrary to the letter and spirit of the three drug control conventions. Non-medical and non-scientific use would only increase demand for and spur supply of illicit drugs, which in turn would result in increase in illicit drug trafficking at the peril of transit States and society at large.

It is also alarming that proliferation of new psychoactive substances and amphetamine type stimulants including Methamphetamine is on the rise in different regions. Dealing with this evolving threat requires concerted efforts including criminal justice and health response, and robust international and national controls.

To break the vicious cycle of the World Drug Problem, we should scale up our collective efforts to eliminate illicit crop cultivation, /including through Alternative Development, eradication and law enforcement. Similarly, we should enhance practical measures aimed at prevention of drug use, and promotion of treatment, rehabilitation, recovery and reintegration of drug users, giving special attention to the needs of women and children. Focus on the demand side has to be prioritize in order to stem the supply side.

Pakistan believes that the key to success lies in sustained political will and sufficient resources to close the gap between our promises and their delivery

Mr. Chairman,

Pakistan acknowledges the assistance provided by the international community, including UNODC, to affected countries. However, a lot more is needed to be done. Moreover, the assistance provided should be need oriented, duly considering the peculiar environment of respective regions and countries. It should not be donor driven.

Thank you, ladies and gentlemen.
