

**Statement by H.E. Bharat Kumar Regmi, Permanent Representative of Nepal
at the Sixty-Sixth Session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs**

Vienna, March 13-17, 2023

Mr. Chair,

I would like to begin by expressing my sincere congratulations on your election as Chair of the 66th Session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, as well as to the other members of the Bureau for their respective elections. I am confident that under your able leadership, this Session will conclude successfully, and I assure you of my delegation's full support.

We would also like to thank UNODC for publishing the World Drug Report 2022, which probes deeply into the analysis of global drug markets and explores the interconnections between drugs and the environment in the broader context of climate change, environmental sustainability, and the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Mr. Chair,

Nepal aligns itself with the statements delivered by G-77 and China and the Asia-Pacific Group and wishes to add the following points in its national capacity:

Nepal believes that it is crucial to intensify our efforts, collectively and globally, to combat this complex world drug problem. This includes ensuring adequate access to controlled substances for medical and scientific purposes while preventing their diversion into illicit channels.

Nepal reiterates its commitment to all three international drug control conventions and has enacted several domestic legislations to combat illicit narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances, and precursor chemicals. Nepal is also committed to implementing the goals set by the 2019 Ministerial Declaration, the UNGASS 2016 Outcome Document, and the 2009 Political Declaration and its Plan of Action. Our commitment to reducing drug abuse and implementing a comprehensive and balanced national drug control strategy is aligned with our developmental aspirations, including the SDGs.

Nepal remains committed to addressing and combating the world drug problem together with the international community. We must work collectively to achieve adequate access, availability, and affordability of controlled substances for medical and scientific purposes while preventing their diversion into illicit channels.

In this challenging time, we request UNODC, other relevant UN entities, and the international community to provide appropriate technical cooperation to developing countries, including the LDCs, to tackle drug issues while ensuring the implementation of SDGs.

Nepal emphasizes the significance of our efforts for the 2024 mid-term evaluation of the 2019 Ministerial Declaration. We affirm our unwavering dedication to the evaluation procedure as an opportunity to assess the advancements made, recognize the continuing obstacles, and develop a practical plan for the future.

In conclusion, I would like to reiterate that Nepal is fully committed to supporting the efforts of this Commission in achieving a world free of drugs.

Thank you, Chair.