



National statement delivered by Mr. Salman Khalid Chaudhary, Second Secretary, during Working Group on Arbitrary Detention on its Study on Drug Policies at the 47th session of Human Rights Council

02 July 2021

Madam President,

Global counter-narcotics framework covers multiple streams ranging from growers, manufacturers, traffickers, supply chains to end-users. By its excessive focus on end-users as the sole victims of human rights implications of drugs, the report seems to have adopted a tunnel approach. In doing so, it has disregarded the complex and multi-dimensional nature of the drug problem and ignored vital aspects of rule of law, social cohesion and economic progress.

Attempts to mainstream issues that lack intergovernmental consensus are ill-advised. In its over-zealous advocacy for such controversial notions, the report has conveniently sidestepped the widely established deterrence value of law enforcement actions, which are usually part and parcel of a comprehensive and well-integrated counter-narcotics approach, adopted by many countries.

Such a myopic approach revalidates views of many delegations, expressed during negotiations on resolution 42/22 that the HRC should not encroach upon the purview of the UNODC. At best, UNODC may be commissioned to mandate a study on the subject.

As part of our balanced and comprehensive policy approach, Pakistan recognizes the need to protect and promote basic human rights of victims and offenders alike.

We have put in place legal and administrative measures, aimed at safeguarding due process and fair trial rights during processing of drug-related cases. We have also taken affirmative steps to rehabilitate and reintegrate victims by providing free of cost treatment facilities, and vocational training programmes.

Pakistan's designation as a poppy-free country by UNODC since 2001 attests to the success and effective of our balanced domestic counter-narcotics policy.

Pakistan remains fully committed to working closely with all global partners in making the world 'drug free'. Thank you.