



**Explanation of Vote, delivered by Mr. Danyal Hasnain, During the  
Adoption of 'Contribution of the Human Rights Council on the Human  
Rights Implications of Drug Policy ' A/HRC/52/L.22**

**52<sup>nd</sup> Session  
4<sup>th</sup> April 2023**

Mr. President,

Pakistan reaffirms its commitment in making efforts toward a drugs free world, in accordance with its obligations under international law.

Given our geographic location, we face several challenges, as a transit country, arising from illicit drug cultivation, production and trafficking. These challenges are compounded by the presence of protracted conflict in the region and its ensuing social, economic and governance impacts.

Despite these difficulties, Pakistan has made significant progress in tackling the narcotics drug problem through a multidisciplinary policy approach, which inter alia strengthens rule of law, builds capacity of law enforcement agencies and reinforces human rights of affected people.

**Mr. President,**

We acknowledge the constructive approach and appreciate the core-group for taking on board some of our proposals.

However, we note that L.22 still lacks balance and shies away from:

- (i) Reflecting the issue of world drug problem in the title
- (ii) Incorporating aspects on the need for adopting a comprehensive, balanced and integrated approach to deal with both the supply and demand sides of the world drug problem; and
- (iii) Weaving in the societal and economic damage and impact of narcotics problem, affecting the rights of numerous individuals.

The text sought to oversimplify the drug related issues by applying a very narrow lens and ignoring positive human rights impacts of law enforcement actions.



Such an approach is neither pragmatic nor realistic. A holistic approach instead is required which deals with all dimensions of the world drug problem.

Moreover, L.22 incorporates references to reports that have overstepped mandates of UNODC.

With regard to Operational paras 9 and 10, we hold our reservations on the following basis:

- (i) It will be burdensome for the OHCHR to start developing technical expertise in an area which is not its core work. Spending resources to develop unwarranted skills undermines the principle of judicious expenditure of resources.
- (ii) There is unnecessary duplication of efforts given that a specialized UN body is already mandated to deal with the world drug problem.

**Mr. President,**

We reaffirm the principal role of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs as the policymaking body of the United Nations with prime responsibility for drug control matters and the UNODC as the leading entity of the United Nations system for addressing and countering the world drug problem.

Pakistan believes that the key to success in dealing with world drug problem lies in sustained political will and sufficient resources to close the gap between commitments and delivery.

However, considering the importance of the resolution in addressing the world drug problem, we will join consensus.

I thank you!