Opening Statement by Ambassador Bilal Ahmad, Permanent Representative at COP 11 of the WHO FCTC
(Geneva, 17 November 2025)

Chair,

Pakistan aligns itself with the statement delivered by the Eastern Mediterranean Region and wishes to thank the Secretariat of the FCTC (Framework Convention on Tobacco Control), the WHO, and the host country, Switzerland, for convening COP 11 here in Geneva.

Guided by this year's theme, Pakistan continues to make progress towards implementing the objectives of the Convention.

Pakistan has adopted and disseminated Article 5.3 guidelines across relevant departments of the Ministry of Health and continues working to reinforce safeguards against interference by the tobacco industry. We remain concerned by the rapid expansion of novel and emerging nicotine products, particularly among young people. Pakistan is working towards strengthening national regulation, including in relation to manufacturing, import, distribution, presentation and sale of ENDs, nicotine pouches and other emerging nicotine products. In doing so, we are taking into consideration global best practices and the experiences of Parties that have acted effectively to protect their young populations.

Pakistan also intends to advance implementation of Articles 9 and 10. We value the technical expertise provided through WHO mechanisms such as (TobReg) and the introduction of the WHO Tobacco Laboratory Network in the drug testing laboratories of the Drug Regulatory Authority of Pakistan. We look forward to continued cooperation with the Secretariat to strengthen national capacity for product testing, surveillance and regulation.

As a climate vulnerable country, we attach importance to addressing the environmental harms associated with tobacco. We are exploring possible regulatory options to reduce single use plastics in tobacco products, including considering the phase out of filtered cigarettes and other plastic containing accessories.

Pakistan takes note of the efforts of the Secretariat to raise awareness and strengthen implementation accordance with Article 19. We will continue to review options for

enhancing liability-related measures by drawing on international experience and best practices where appropriate.

Pakistan considers that comprehensive tobacco control measures remain the most effective way for tobacco harm reduction. We are focusing on reducing both demand and supply, in pursuit of this objective of these Convention.

Chair,

As we work to advance the objectives of Convention, Pakistan underscores that policy development under this Convention should remain driven by Parties. Parties should cooperate in developing proposed measures, procedures and guidelines. In this context, Working Groups provide a useful platform for deliberation, consensus building and ensuring that the perspectives of all Parties guide the implementation of the Convention objectives.

Looking ahead, Pakistan emphasizes the importance of strengthening national capacity through improved technology transfer, stronger laboratory and regulatory infrastructure, and sustained support for legislation, surveillance, research, and enforcement. We also encourage a development-oriented approach across the Convention, including practical support for alternative livelihoods under Articles 17 and 18, so that all Parties, particularly developing countries, are better equipped to implement their obligations and protect public health.

Chair,

Pakistan stands ready to engage constructively with all Parties to support balanced, equitable and forward-looking outcomes at COP 11. We remain committed to working towards a healthier and tobacco free future for the next generation.

Thank you.

Time limit: 3 minutes

Word count: 569