



**Statement of the Group of 77 and China
during the 66th session
of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, Vienna, 13-17 March 2023,
delivered by H.E. Aftab Ahmad Khokher,
Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Pakistan**

Mr. Chair,

1. The Group of 77 and China congratulates H.E. Ambassador Miguel Camilo RUIZ BLANCO on his election as the Chair of the 66th session of the Commission, as well as to the other elected members of the Bureau. The Group pledges to the Chair its full cooperation to make the present session a success.
2. The Group reiterates its full support to H.E. Madam Ghada Waly, the Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and Director General of the United Nations Office in Vienna, and reinforces its commitment to continue working with you to achieve more progress toward better policies and programs to effectively address and counter the world drug problem.
3. The Group would like to express its appreciation for the commendable efforts of the Chairperson and the Secretariat for the preparation and organization of this session.

Mr. Chair,

4. The Group reiterates that addressing and countering the world drug problem is a common and shared responsibility that should be undertaken in a multilateral setting through effective, concrete and increased regional, sub regional and international cooperation, based on an integrated, multidisciplinary, mutually reinforcing, balanced, scientific evidence-based and comprehensive approach with a view to promoting and protecting the health, safety and wellbeing of all humanity.
5. The Group is concerned that, regardless of its evolving nature, the World Drug Problem persists and stresses the need for the global community to redouble efforts to effectively address and counter it based on the principle of common and shared responsibility.
6. The Group stresses the importance of international cooperation, enhanced capacity building initiatives, programs and activities, provision of equipment and technology and technical assistance, particularly for developing countries, in an open, transparent and equitable way, to allow them to have sufficient resources to address and counter the world drug problem.
7. The Group remains strongly convinced that upholding multilateralism, including supporting an effective United Nations development system and to avoid promulgating and imposing any measures and actions on developing countries not in accordance with international law and the Charter of the United Nations, is essential to improve solidarity, international cooperation framework and reinforce States' capabilities to address and counter the world drug problem.
8. The Group recognizes the efforts undertaken by our relevant national authorities, including among others, law enforcement, criminal justice, customs services, health and education, in addressing and countering the world drug problem.



9. The Group reiterates that the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961, as amended by the 1972 Protocol, the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971, the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988, and other relevant international instruments constitute the cornerstone of the international drug control system.

10. The Group reaffirms its unwavering commitment to ensuring that all aspects of demand reduction and related measures, supply reduction and related measures, and international cooperation are addressed in full conformity with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, international law and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, with full respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of States, the principle of non-intervention in internal affairs of States, all human rights, fundamental freedoms, the inherent dignity of all individuals and the principles of equal rights and mutual respect among States.

Mr. Chair,

11. The Group reaffirms our commitments to prevent, significantly and measurably reduce or eliminate illicit cultivation, production, manufacturing, trafficking, of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances as well as the diversion of and illicit trafficking in precursors and money-laundering and illicit financial flows related to illicit drugs; as well as the illicit demand and abuse of drugs by promoting effective and comprehensive scientific evidence-based initiatives as well as initiatives and measures aimed at minimizing the adverse public health and social consequences of drug abuse.

12. The Group reiterates the importance of strengthening international cooperation, and affirms the need to address drug-related socio-economic issues related to the illicit cultivation, manufacture and production of, and trafficking in drugs through the implementation of long-term comprehensive and sustainable development oriented and balanced drug control policies and programs.

13. Transit States and other Member States continue to face multifaceted challenges, and the Group reaffirms the continuing need for cooperation and support, including the provision of technical assistance specially modern technologies and equipment to, inter alia, enhance their capacities to effectively address and counter the world drug problem, in conformity with the 1988 Convention, and, as appropriate, the other drug control conventions.

14. The Group remains fully committed to implementing the 2009 Political Declaration and its Plan of Action, to addressing the general challenges and priorities for action identified in the Joint Ministerial Statement adopted at the High Level Review in March 2014, as well as implementing the UNGASS 2016 outcome document and the 2019 Ministerial Declaration, and further looks forward to a meaningful Midterm Review at the High Level Segment of the upcoming 67th session of the CND to take stock of the implementation of all international drug policy commitments and to outline the way forward to 2029.

15. The Group emphasizes the need for sustainable and sufficient resources for the UNODC to enhance its capacity-building initiatives, programs and activities particularly for developing countries upon their request, including for the provision of the equipment, technology and technical assistance.



16. The Group emphasizes the need for continuous support from UNODC to Member States upon their request to enhance their national efforts to establish a balanced, integrated, comprehensive, multidisciplinary and scientific evidence-based approach to address and counter the world drug problem, especially on the implementation of the three international drug control conventions, and of all our international drug policy commitments.

17. The Group recognizes that there are persistent, new and evolving challenges that should be addressed in conformity with the three international drug control conventions, which allow for sufficient flexibility for States parties to design and implement national drug policies according to their priorities and needs, consistent with the principle of common and shared responsibility and applicable international law.

Mr. Chair,

18. The Group reaffirms its determination to address and counter the world drug problem and to actively promote a society free of drug abuse in order to help to ensure that all people can live in health, dignity and peace, with security and prosperity, and reaffirm our determination to address public health, safety and social problems resulting from drug abuse.

19. In this regard, the Group recognizes the importance of appropriately mainstreaming a gender and age perspective into drug-related policies and programmes and that appropriate emphasis should be placed on individuals, families, communities and society as a whole, with a particular focus on women, children and youth, with a view to promoting and protecting health, including access to treatment, safety and the well-being of all humanity.

20. The Group of 77 and China emphasizes the need for the international community, in particular developed countries by providing means of implementation, to accelerate the ongoing efforts to address and counter the world drug problem.

Thank you for your attention.