



Oral statement for UN Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND) 69th regular session, agenda item no.6 – Follow-up to the implementation at the national, regional and international level of all commitments, as reflected in the Ministerial Declaration of 2019, to address and counter the world drug problem.

I deliver this statement on behalf of Amnesty International, Harm Reduction International and Justice Project Pakistan.

Our organizations have independently and consistently recorded that in recent years over 40% of all known global executions have been carried out for drug-related offences.

This means that hundreds of people, including many from disadvantaged socio-economic backgrounds, continue to be put to death every year in the name of drug control – often after unfair proceedings that render the use of this punishment arbitrary.

The death penalty, and especially when used for drug-related offences, is not in conformity with the three international drug control conventions, nor with applicable international human rights obligations. As such, it poses a challenge to the implementation of all joint commitments based on the principle of common and shared responsibility, as outlined in the 2019 Ministerial Declaration.

The CND reaffirmed in that Declaration its commitment to human rights and to put people at the centre of drug policies.

While acknowledging the statements that several delegations made on this issue during this session, the deafening silence of the CND on the continued use of the death penalty for drug-related offences needs to end now.

It is an egregious human rights violation that leaves this body's commitment to human rights empty of meaning.

We call on all states that retain the death penalty to fully abolish it as a matter of urgency; and we urge UNODC to ensure that its work with these countries does not risk contributing to the use of the death penalty.

It is also time for UNODC to fully document the human rights impact of drug control policies in its yearly World Drug Report, including in relation to the death penalty; and to ensure that drug-related executions and death sentences are explicitly condemned.

This matter must also be featured prominently in the new UNODC strategy.

We request delegations at the CND to establish a regular agenda item to consistently reflect on the challenge identified in the 2019 Ministerial Declaration in relation to human rights, including the death penalty; and to request UNODC to report on its findings on this matter as part of this agenda item.

Putting human rights concretely on the agenda of the CND would be a first critical step to deliver on its human rights commitments. Thank you.

Delivered in Vienna on 12 March 2026