

Media Update

15 April 2016

UNITED NATIONS

Media Advisory

In the run up to United Nations General Assembly Special Session on the World Drug Problem, planned in New York 19-21 April, we are organizing a special briefing for journalists to discuss the aims of the Special Session and the role of Pakistan in combating the international drug trafficking networks and reducing drug related demand and harms

When: *Wednesday, 20 April 2016, 11:30 – 13:00 hrs* (Refreshments to follow)

Where: UNIC, ILO Building, G-5/2, Islamabad

Who:

- **Mr Cesar Guedes**, Country Representative, UNODC
- **Mr Muhammad Hafeez**, Joint Secretary (Coord), Narcotics Control Division, Ministry of Interior and Narcotics Control
- **Dr Parveen Azam Khan**, President, Dost Welfare Foundation

Registration: send your name and designation to info.islamabad@unic.org by **Tuesday 19 April, 2016**. Please note that for security reasons only registered participants will have access to the event.

Background

The UN General Assembly Special Session (UNGASS) on the World Drug Problem, planned in New York, will be an important milestone in achieving the goals set in the policy document of 2009 "**Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem**", to be achieved by 2019. It has the potential to be a ground-breaking moment that could change the course of the international drug control system. The special Session will consist of a general debate and five interactive, multi-stakeholder round tables. It is immensely important for Pakistan to show-case its resolve in combating the international drug trafficking networks through record seizures during the last 3 years.

The UNODC Country Office Pakistan, based in Islamabad, is responsible, in close cooperation with the Government of Pakistan, on drug related matters, both domestic and transnational, that affect Pakistan. UNODC has been working in Pakistan for over 35 years. During this period both domestic and regional conflicts, as well as social, political, and economic troubles have exacerbated drug and crime related challenges in Afghanistan, with its fallout on the neighbouring countries including Pakistan.

