

BULGARIA

Statement.

Thank you Madam Chair,

Distinguished Colleagues, Excellencies,

I am honoured to participate in this important forum which, I believe, could foster forward our concerted efforts towards achieving more effective results in addressing the world drug problem.

I would like to congratulate Your Excellency for chairing the High Level segment of the 52-nd session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and to express the support of our delegation to you and to the successful outcome of this meeting.

We do congratulate to all our colleagues for reaching the consensus on the texts of the Political declaration and the Action Plan to be adopted at the High Level Segment.

Bulgaria fully associates itself with the statement on behalf of the European Union.

We

would like to express our readiness and political will to further implement a balanced and comprehensive approach to tackle the drug problem in its vast complexity.

We are amongst the countries that consider strengthening both drug demand and drug supply measures equally important for achieving the goals and principles set out in the UNGASS documents. Maintaining further this balanced approach is also important for the successful facing of the new challenges.

We are also one of these 80 UN Member States around the world that have introduced in their National Drug Strategies the broad range of measures to reduce the negative health and social consequences of drug use, known as "Harm Reduction Measures". We consider them as an integral and important element of the comprehensive drug demand reduction policies and as an indispensable part of the response to the HIV/AIDS. We also believe that the implementation of these measures in compliance with the International Drug Treaties and evidence-based approach should not be disregarded nor overestimated but certainly could bring a positive results to the society as a whole.

Our country appreciates the need for close international cooperation between Member States, all relevant UN Organizations and the civil society in order to achieve a measurable progress in the area of drug demand and supply reduction.

Thank you Madam Chairperson.