

Statement by Hungary

at the High Level Segment of the 52nd session of the Commission on Narcotic
Drugs
(11 - 12 March 2009)

Thank you, Madam Chairperson,

Let me begin by congratulating you, Excellency, for chairing the High Level Segment of the 52nd session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs. On behalf of the Hungarian delegation I would also like to express our appreciation for your devoted work done during the preparatory period leading to the coming session of the CND. Having had the chair of the 49th Session of the CND in 2006 we are aware of your accomplishments. Let me assure you of our full support.

I would like to stress that the Hungarian delegation fully associates itself with the European Union's statement delivered by the Czech Republic earlier.

In line with the EU Drug strategy and action plans, the Hungarian drug policy's main guiding principle is the balanced approach, i.e.: a balance between demand and supply- reduction interventions. This approach is reflected in the resolution of the Hungarian Parliament adopted this year unanimously on the renewal of the drug strategy of Hungary. We believe that an integrated, balanced and multidisciplinary approach is the only effective way of tackling the drugs problem.

As an important part of an overall demand reduction policy, we emphasize the importance of addressing the health and social consequences of drug use. We share the view that the harm reduction interventions as they are used within the European Union are effective tools for preventing the spread of HIV/AIDS and other blood-borne diseases among drug users and also at the level of the society and can contribute to significantly decrease the number of drug-related deaths. Although the Political Declaration refers to “related support services” and does not explicitly include the terminology “harm reduction”, scientific evidence is widely available that harm reduction measures are effective in reducing diverse harms related to drug use.

We strongly believe that the international community should ensure the dignity of drug users.

Providing universal access to health is a basic human right of all drug users, therefore, we call for assuring tailor-made and accessible treatment, rehabilitation, harm reduction and reintegration services. We are convinced, that these goals can be reached most effectively if we ensure the mainstreaming of health and social services targeted at drug users and especially problem drug users.

We believe that the role of the civil society is extremely important in providing different type services within the context of a comprehensive demand reduction policy, including prevention, treatment, rehabilitation and harm reduction. Their engaged activities ensure the availability of many important services. We have

contributed financially to the Beyond 2008 process, and welcome the outcome documents of the Global NGO Forum. We call for the support of the international community to involve the representatives of the civil society into the drug policy formulation process as well.

The UNGASS review and the period of reflection have clearly shown the utmost importance of the evaluation of drug policy. We would like to encourage the international society to address the issue of regular and reliable monitoring and evaluation of the world drug problem and the results of the interventions stemming from the goals and objectives set in previous policy documents as we share the wise words of Winston Churchill who said once: ‘However beautiful the strategy, you should occasionally look at the results’.

Thank you, Madame Chairperson