

**STATEMENT OF BULGARIA TO THE MINISTERIAL SEGMENT OF
THE 62 CND, 14 -15 MARCH 2019**

**MISTER CHAIRPERSON,
YOUR EXCELLENCIES,
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,**

I would like to express gratitude to the Chairperson of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs for this event and the invitation to take part in this summit. It is a valuable opportunity for us to take stock of what has been achieved so far in the area of drugs and at the same time - an occasion to identify the difficulties and challenges worldwide. The Ministerial Declaration adopted today is an expression of our decisiveness to improve the situation and to build on the achievements.

Bulgaria joins the position of the European Union and its Member States, but I would like to make some additional points from a national perspective.

The situation of drugs is a matter of national and international importance. The drugs are threat that directly or indirectly affects the lives of millions of people around the world. Constantly evolving criminal markets, on the one hand, and the pursuit of demand and supply decrease, on the other, require an adequate and effective response at international level. It is of crucial importance that states join their efforts and strengthen their cooperation on the basis of the principle of common and shared responsibility.

EU drug policy is based on an integrated, balanced and evidence-based approach, with full respect of the human rights. The development of evidence-based policies and good practices, backed by objective monitoring and evaluation systems, is at the heart of the EU's drugs action.

Bulgaria would like to emphasize that these principles are fully covered by the UNGASS Special Session Outcome Document as of 2016. For us, it is an important step forward on the way of our efforts to tackle effectively the global drug problem, including reducing the demand and supply, and developing the international cooperation. It takes into account the dynamic development and emerging threats following the adoption of the 2009 Political Declaration and its Action Plan 10 years ago. We believe that the UNGASS Outcome document

provides the main policy framework for the post-2019 period and stimulates the demand for progress beyond the consensus achieved in certain key areas.

Bulgaria's anti-drugs policy is based on the application of a balanced, comprehensive, integrated and evidence-based approach, respecting the core European values - respect for human rights, focusing on the needs of those affected and the people in vulnerable position.

The actions at national level are directed to public health protection, prevention, treatment and reducing the risk and harms to the vulnerable members of the society, human rights protection, decrease in the supply, effective law enforcement and international cooperation.

Bulgaria supports the political commitment and a call for the use of alternative measures for compulsory sanctions for those using drugs in breach of the law, and we believe that this is the right course to go through aiming to achieve positive results in order to reduce harms connected to health, crime prevention and the preservation of human rights.

Dear Mister Chairperson,

Being a Member State of the EU, we consider EU as a factor at the international arena in the field of drugs and we state our commitment to assert the contemporary and progressive drugs policies.

Taking into account the worldwide situation in regard with drugs, we are convinced that having this high-level forum today is a key moment for identifying the direction in which we should focus global drug policy.

That is why we call for continued work and build on the guidelines of the UNGASS 2016 Outcome document. We have to make sure that we continue to address the global drug problem in a balanced, integrated, evidence-based and above all effective way.