

Mr. Chairperson,
Excellencies ,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Republic of Poland fully supports the priorities of drug policies that have been declared in an official position expressed by a representative of the European Union. The significance of the results of the UN General Assembly held in April 2016 (UNGASS-2016) for shaping global drug policy is incontestable and is primarily associated with activities in the field of public health.

Thinking about the effective implementation of the recommendations indicated in the UNGASS Outcome Document, we should strive to promote those values that connect us all and decide why we attach so much attention and importance to anti-drug policy in its national and international dimension. In this document, Member States confirmed that drug policy should be implemented in full compliance with human rights obligations, which also means an integrated approach in the health care system, rehabilitation and socialization of drug addicts.

In the constantly changing drug market, combating both the demand and the supply of these substances, particularly sold online, requires firstly an appropriate, coordinated and effective response at international level. The international community must really intensify its activities, strengthen cooperation and accelerate the implementation of our joint commitments to solve the global drug problem.

Illicit drug trafficking, on an unprecedented scale, is one of the pillars of international organized crime groups, which through corruption, money

laundering, terrorist financing or human exploitation, harms the vital interests of the international community.

Therefore, drug policies should become part of the broadly understood issues of addiction and involve institutions dealing with both health and social policy, as well as the security of citizens, and not just agencies narrowly specialized in anti-drug activities.

The Republic of Poland, particularly affected by the problem of New Psychoactive Substances, is an example of constant improvement of the system to counteract the negative effects of the use of illicit psychoactive substances. This system, focused around the Minister of Health, consists of revealing new, dangerous substances, assessing the risk of their use for health or life and causing social damage, monitoring the illicit drug and drug precursors market, monitoring the epidemiological situation in intoxications and drug-related deaths area.

They meet both current needs and predicting the direction of the drug market development, the Republic of Poland in 2018 introduced new, more restrictive regulations aimed at illicit drug producers and traffickers. This is a reaction to the massive expansion of increasingly dangerous NPS, in particular opioids, causing acute and fatal intoxications.

New regulations, in which special attention is paid to risk assessment, are aimed at reducing public health threats posed by illicit drugs, improving activities in the rehabilitation of drug addicts, but also more effective use of methods of combating organized crime.

In order to improve coordination of anti-drug activities of various State services in the field of early warning against threats and rapid response, new legislative

solutions were additionally supported by an agreement on cooperation of all services responsible for public health and public safety. Its intention is to oblige all the parties to cooperate effectively in reducing illicit drugs market. The agreement enables efficient coordination of tasks, including the exchange of information on activities carried out by all services.

Therefore, the Republic of Poland fully shares the view that the principles of anti-drug policy should be based on solutions that go beyond the narrowly understood subject of scheduled substances. The development of appropriate responses to drug problem should be considered from the point of view of public health, in the context of human rights, with the participation of representatives of science and civil society.

Thank you.