Romania

Statement on the occasion of the 57th Session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs
High-Level Segment
Vienna, 13-14 March 2014

Mr. Chairman,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

1. Let me wish you first, Ambassador, as Chair of the 57th session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, a successful outcome of this important high-level meeting. Romania fully associated itself with the statement of the European Union from the beginning of this high-level segment.

2. This high level review represents the opportunity to look back in 2009 when the Political Declaration and Plan of Action were adopted and analyses the achievements, challenges and priorities so that the targets to be accomplished until 2019, having in mind also the General Assembly’s Special Session on Drugs of 2016 as a political input for the entire process.

3. After 5 years we cannot be satisfied with the progress made in the implementation of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action. The challenges included in the Joint Ministerial Statement are a clear proof in this respect. In our view, the Special Session of the General Assembly in 2016 represents a further political opportunity for identifying appropriate solutions to counter world drug problem with a focus also at the regional and national levels.

4. A successful evaluation should take into account the respect for human rights, acknowledgment of a balanced and comprehensive approach and the role of civil society in countering the world drug problem.

Mr. Chairman,

5. An essential principle for Romania is the respect for fundamental rights, for human dignity, liberty, democracy, equality, solidarity, the rule of law and human rights. Romania is opposed to the use of measures of any kind that are not respectful of the human being. Romania recognizes the repugnant impact on drugs-related crime.

6. In order to raise public awareness of the risks and the threats posed to all societies by the different aspects of the world drug problem, the drug prevention polices continue to represent a coordinated and uniform response, based on the assessment of the phenomenon’s dynamics, directed towards the strengthening of the prevention measures accommodated for the local needs, and developing of local partnerships between the public institutions and representatives of civil society,
measures taken in close relation with the evolution of the drug phenomenon at the regional and international level.

7. We have been experiencing that drug demand reduction is characterized by the progressive escalation of the phenomenon of new psychoactive substances' trafficking and use, but also by an increased pressure by the civil society, including non-governmental organization, medical specialists, psychologists, media corporations etc., in relation to an efficient management of the phenomenon and a properly response to blood-borne diseases among people who inject drugs.

8. We underline our efforts to combating HIV/AIDS among people who use drugs, in particular those who inject drugs, working closely with civil society organizations in order to address the gap regarding the access to services for people living or affected by HIV and other blood-borne diseases. Based on our national experience, the increase number of HIV/AIDS cases is closely related to the phenomena generated by using new psychoactive substances.

9. Romania continues to strengthen the national system for prevention, treatment and rehabilitation, including measures designed to reduce the public health and social consequences of drug abuse, as part of a comprehensive and balanced approach to demand reduction based on scientific evidence.

10. Romania continues its efforts in countering the drug problem at national and regional level, focused mainly on illicit opium and heroin trafficking, illicit cannabis production and trafficking, strongly support the mechanism on monitoring of the precursors, in accordance with the principle of common and shared responsibility.

Mr. Chairman,

11. We are strongly committed to reinforcing international cooperation and we support coordinated measures and capacity building initiatives in order to improve judicial cooperation and to combat money laundering originated from drug trafficking at regional and international levels, in compliance with national legislation and other relevant international conventions.

12. Romania believes that the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC) as well as the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) constitute complementary valuable international legal tools for tackle the phenomenon of World Drug Problem considering that, in most of the cases, an organized crime group is involved. States Parties should, therefore, better implement and use the international cooperation provisions of these instruments with a view to improve judicial cooperation in drugs-related cases and to reduce drug trafficking.

13. Once again, Mr. Chairman, Romania considers this high-level review a necessity during the ten years process of the evaluation of the implementation of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action and a basis for further debates during the United Nations General Assembly Special Session in 2016.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.