

**STATEMENT of the REPUBLIC of TURKEY
TO THE HIGH LEVEL SEGMENT of the 57th CND
14 March 2014**

Mr. Chairman,

Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

At the outset, Mr.Chairman, I would like to extend to you my sincere congratulations on your assumption of the Chairmanship for the 57th CND. We would like to assure you of the full cooperation of Turkey in carrying out your work.

The High Level Segment of the 57th CND is a prominent platform for the mid-term review of progress made by Member States in the implementation of the 2009 Political Declaration and Plan of Action. We hope that the conclusions of the High Level Segment will also provide valuable inputs for the 2016 United Nations General Assembly Special Session.

Since the adoption of 2009 Political Declaration and Plan of Action, despite all global efforts, many challenges of the world drug problem have persisted and new ones have emerged in some parts of the world, such as the New Psychoactive Substances (NPS) coming to the markets every day.

Mr. Chairman,

In the implementation of the 2009 Political Declaration and Plan of Action, Turkey has developed relevant drug control strategies and working mechanisms within a balanced approach consisting both supply and demand aspects of the drug problem, as well as international cooperation. We are committed to our obligations under the Drug Control Conventions. Turkey coordinates all its endeavors for the fight against drugs under the umbrella of “National Drug Policy and Strategy Document 2013-2018.”

As a transit country in the traditional Balkan Route, Turkey is highly affected from international drug trafficking. Its geographical position enforces Turkey to attach particular importance to the supply reduction aspect of the drug problem. Therefore, counter-narcotics has become a national security imperative for the Turkish Government over the past decade. With 13,3 tons of heroin seized in 2012, Turkey is now in a leading position in terms of

heroin seizures in the world. This commitment of Turkey in supply reduction endeavors is visible in all types of narcotic substances.

It is observed by international authorities that Northern and Southern Routes have gained significance due to some factors including the seizures carried out by Turkish Law Enforcement Forces at the edge of the Balkan Route.

Mr. Chairman,

Drug production, trafficking and drug use continue to be one of the most serious threats against security and economies of all societies in the world. Despite the efforts and decisive struggle of international community, problems caused by illicit drug production and trafficking still continue their existence.

It is also worth highlighting the worrisome links between terrorist organizations and the criminal organizations involved in production, trafficking or trade of illicit drugs and the threat posed by them to international peace and stability. This is a serious concern which is also pointed out in the United Nations Security Council Resolutions. The investigations carried out by Turkish law enforcement forces prove that the PKK, separatist terrorist organization, is involved in drug trafficking to finance its terrorist activities. The PKK collects money from drug traffickers crossing the Turkish border and takes share of profits from the shipments to and from Turkey.

It is quite obvious that the individual efforts of countries will not be enough to deal with the drug problem which is characterized with its transnational features. Departing from the source country and passing through many transit countries on its way to the target country, drugs are matters of concern not only for target countries but also all the countries along the smuggling route.

Functioning as a natural bridge between Asia and Europe, Turkey devotes special attention to international cooperation in the fight against drugs. Turkey conducts information exchange and operational cooperation with agencies from foreign countries via a network consisting of 70 liaison officers. More than 40 Turkish security counselors and liaison officers in 27 countries carry out similar tasks as well. Besides, in cooperation with regional and international organizations such as UNODC, SELECC and CARICC, Turkey takes concrete

steps with its partners at the operational field. Turkey is also one of the leading countries in the Heart of Asia-Istanbul Process which also provides a new agenda for regional cooperation in counter-narcotics.

Putting up a multi-directional fight against drugs, Turkey shares its experiences in Turkish International Academy Against Drug and Organized Crime (TADOC) where theoretical and practical training come together. Aiming to increase training capacities of Turkish law enforcement officers, TADOC also provides training to law enforcement officers from all over the world on various branches via international training programs.

Since its founding date, which is 2000, TADOC has conducted 721 national and 387 international training programs. Approximately 8000 law enforcement personnel from 86 countries attended to these international training programs.

Mr. Chairman,

Turkey is one of the world's two traditional suppliers of opiate raw materials for medical and scientific purposes. Since 1974, turkey has adopted the world's safest yet most burdensome method of producing opium poppy. To date, there has been no diversion from our licit production and our practice is referred as an exemplary way of producing opiate raw materials by INCB. The Turkish Grain Board strictly controls licit opium poppy cultivation and pharmaceutical morphine production, with no apparent diversion into the illicit market.

Mr. Chairman,

States may have specific conditions and policy priorities with regard to the drug problem. However, putting aside all the discussions from national perspectives and priorities, the old and new challenges that emerged after 2009 Political Declaration and Plan of Action, require common and shared responsibility and should be addressed in a comprehensive, integrated and balanced manner.

Turkish Government will continue its efforts in fulfilling its political commitments based on Drug Control Conventions. Turkey will also join to the international community in pursuit of the "shared responsibilities" principle in the fight against drugs.

We can only succeed in giving our children and youth such a future if we are prepared to unite our efforts, willing to share the burden and live up to our commitments.

Thank you.