Mr Chairman,

This year the Commission meets to assess progress in the implementation of the 2009 Political Declaration and Plan of Action. At the same time, we launch preparations for the Special Session of the General Assembly in 2016, which will be an occasion for a broader assessment of the current international drugs control regime. Liechtenstein welcomes both these opportunities for policy evaluation and adjustment and looks forward to constructive discussions ahead. The mid-term review of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action acknowledges important achievements, including increased health care coverage and the successful implementation of alternative development programmes. But progress in addressing the world drug problem has been scattered and uneven, while new trends and challenges have emerged. Drug fuelled transnational organized crime has had devastating effects, threatening human security across the globe and sometimes even the security of nations. It continues to cause grave human rights violations and destroys hard won development gains. The international community has a responsibility to address this problem more vigorously in full compliance with international human rights law. Liechtenstein is fully committed to this effort and has continuously enhanced its international cooperation to combat transnational organized crime. Liechtenstein’s anti-money laundering legislation has been recognized to meet all relevant international standards by the competent international monitoring bodies. We have extensive experience in the practical implementation of this legislation, including with respect to mutual legal assistance in the confiscation of assets stemming from drug related activities.
Mr. Chairman,

The world drug problem needs a more balanced, comprehensive, and evidence-based response in order to be sustainable. Let us remind ourselves that the international drug control framework was created to address a common concern about the health and welfare of humankind. This concern is now as valid as ever and should continue to guide us when we devise drug policies at the national and international level. Such policies must be fully coherent with international human rights law. In line with international human rights law, Liechtenstein reiterates its call for the universal abolishment of the death penalty, in particular where it is still applied for drug related offences, in violation of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

Mr. Chairman,

Liechtenstein has made positive experience with its comprehensive demand reduction policy, consisting inter alia of targeted prevention campaigns and programmes, harm reduction, medical and psychological treatment as well as support for social reintegration. Access to treatment is crucial for demand reduction and can be seriously restricted by an overly punitive approach to drug consumption. The perspective of social stigmatization or even exclusion from normal life, in particular exclusion from education, workplace, and medical and psychosocial care, effectively prevents problem drug users from claiming their right to health. Liechtenstein therefore continues to consider integration as a best practice in drug policy that also allows to train or educate problem drug users to achieve a low risk consumption.

In closing, Mr. Chairman, Liechtenstein invites the Commission to pay more consistent attention to the gender dimension of national and international drug policy, in particular to the empowerment of women and girls. We look forward to seeing more substantive discussions on this issue in the future. Lastly, let me thank representatives of civil society for the important contribution to the work of the United Nations on drug related issues and express my hope that they can participate more actively in the future work of the Commission.