Mr. Chairperson (tbi)
Executive Director (Fedotov),
Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a great pleasure and honour for me to address this high-level segment of the fifty-seventh session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs.

In today’s rapidly evolving security environment, the international community continues to face traditional political-military threats to peace, but we are also being confronted with new kinds of global challenges that are transnational and increasingly complex. Trafficking in illicit drugs is one of the most pressing threats of our times, undermining international stability, regional and national security and the rule of law, not only in the OSCE region but all over the world.

The OSCE recognizes that the security of our neighbours is inextricably linked with security in our region. There is no need to stress that unstable regions are prime targets for drug traffickers and other organized criminals, who take advantage of the breakdown in the political, economic and social order. As challenges grow in the OSCE area and on its perimeters, we are developing a more strategic approach to our larger neighbourhood
and strengthening relationships with our Partners for Co-operation in Asia and the Mediterranean.

Partnerships are critical in the fight against illicit drugs. Drug trafficking is one of the most transnational forms of organized crime. In tackling this global hydra, individual states or organizations cannot go it alone. Countering the threat of illicit drugs is a common and shared responsibility that requires a balanced and integrated approach, effective and enhanced international co-operation. We must join forces if we want to close gaps in our common efforts. Ultimately what really matters is the practical impact that partnerships have on the ground. Our objectives can be more easily achieved with shared goals, and by mobilizing our tools in targeted, joint projects that counter illicit trafficking of drugs at the grass-roots level.

Earlier today we were privileged to hear Afghan Minister for Counter Narcotics Rashidi address the OSCE Permanent Council. Mr. Rashidi shared his vision of the situation on the ground and prospects for after the ISAF withdrawal later this year. As the international community devises the strategic vision for Afghanistan after 2014, the OSCE remains a good platform for practical, forward-looking regional co-operation and dialogue among all stakeholders, providing targeted support in key areas to promote regional security, stability and economic development. In confronting the challenge of drug trafficking, the Organization focuses on building the capacity of both OSCE participating States and Afghanistan to stop the flow of illicit drugs by strengthening border management and regional cooperation. Our field presences, the OSCE Academy in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, and the Border Management Staff College in Dushanbe, Tajikistan, are building local capacities and expert networks linking Afghanistan and the Central Asian states.

As the largest regional security organization under Chapter VIII of the United Nations Charter, the OSCE contributes to the implementation of UN counter-narcotic policies and decisions in our region, which stretches from Vancouver to Vladivostok. We approach these challenges on the basis of the OSCE’s comparative advantages – our inclusive membership, our flexibility, our network of 15 Field Operations, and above all our
common, comprehensive, co-operative and indivisible concept of security. The Organization recognizes that while the political-military security dimension is important, so too are the economic and environmental and the human dimensions, and that all three dimensions are interlinked.

Let me point out some of the key ways that the OSCE contributes to the implementation of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem, adopted by this Commission five years ago. Our pertinent tool-box includes a number of strategic documents agreed recently by the OSCE participating States.

In 2012 the OSCE adopted the Concept for Combating the Threat of Illicit Drugs and the Diversion of Chemical Precursors. This document provides a solid platform and political framework for closer co-operation of all the interested stakeholders. It makes addressing the challenge of illicit drugs one of the top priorities for the 57 OSCE participating States.

The OSCE Strategic Framework for Police-Related Activities, also adopted in 2012, provides further guidance in developing effective and comprehensive national anti-drug strategies with an emphasis on stemming drug supply. The Framework offers a useful platform for developing training plans and programmes that address drug-related issues for relevant law enforcement agencies, while encouraging their active co-operation.

One of the goals of the OSCE Border Security and Management Concept, adopted in 2005, is to increase the capacity of our 57 participating States and 11 Partners for Cooperation to detect and interdict trafficking of illicit drugs across our borders. Allow me to draw your attention to the OSCE Border Management Staff College. Since it was established in 2009, the College has provided advanced training to more than 600 Afghan and Central Asian border, customs and other law enforcement officials. Promoting cross-border co-operation contributes to an integrated and balanced strategy to counter the world drug problem.
On the ground, OSCE Field Operations are an important partner for host countries, helping to build stability and security in our region. Most of our 15 field presences provide tailored assistance to their host countries in developing national anti-drug strategies and holding training courses for policy makers, border and customs officials, police and judicial authorities.

**Preventing illicit drug trade on the Internet** is another priority area for OSCE. Last year an OSCE-wide Conference developed a considerable number of practical recommendations to strengthen barriers between illicit drugs and society. These recommendations touched upon: strengthening information exchange on illegal payments made via digital systems and postal services; the possibility of establishing an International Cybercrime Board to develop recommendations on combating illicit drug trade via the Internet; improving control of mail and express courier deliveries; and enforcing prevention of online illicit drug purchases. Closer co-operation and coordination among law enforcement, the private sector, postal services and Internet service providers would strengthen the impact and sustainability of any supply reduction intervention.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

While important progress has been made over the years in international co-operation to address the world drug problem, much more needs to be done. To tackle the threats and challenges of illicit drugs effectively, we must continue strengthening our efforts under the leading role of the United Nations and its Office on Drugs and Crime, as well as the International Narcotics Control Board. We must foster international co-operation against drug abuse on the basis of the three universal drug control Conventions. The OSCE actively co-operates and coordinates its activities with UNODC at both the planning and the implementation level. Our two organizations draw upon their respective comparative advantages, which are duly reflected in the bi-annual OSCE-UNODC Joint Action Plan. The OSCE also enjoys close co-operation with CSTO, Interpol, Europol, the Paris Pact Initiative, CARICC, SELEC and other relevant initiatives.
In conclusion, let me stress that the OSCE will continue contributing to the implementation of the *Political Declaration and Plan of Action*, in close co-operation with the United Nations and other interested international and regional organizations, institutions and mechanisms.

Thank you for your attention.