The Asian Group Statement

Your Excellency Mr. Chairman, The Asian Group congratulates your heading of the high level Segment, and supports your efforts toward the success of the high level review and other relevant issues.

The Asian Group would also like to thank the secretariat of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs for its efforts in organizing this event which comes as a high priority for the international diplomatic agenda.

The Asian Group Member States are sharing other International Regional Groups the awareness that the world drug problem remains a common responsibility that demands an effective and increased global cooperation through comprehensive strategies.

The Asian Group takes notes with serious concern that methamphetamine use remains the top illicit drug threat in East and Southeast Asia and that methamphetamine seizures in both pill and crystalline forms reached record highs there in 2012 as shown in the report "patterns and Trends of Amphetamine Type Stimulants (ATS) and Other Drugs Challenges for Asia and the Pacific 2013". The Asian Group furthermore acknowledges that synthetic drugs including methamphetamine have recently become a global threat requiring consolidated world wide action.

The Asian Group expresses its concern over the spread of synthetic drugs, inter alia NPS, and recognizes the necessity of continued efforts to curb its manufacture, trafficking, and abuse. Hence, the Asian Group welcomes the development of the UNODC Global SMART program in the Asia-Pacific region to counter the threat of NPS.
The Asian Group notes with great concern the ongoing trend towards the legalization of cannabis in some parts of the world.

The Asian Group recognizes that the drug problem continues to pose a serious threat to the health, safety, and well-being of all humanity, in particular youth, the world's most precious asset. Furthermore, the world drug problem undermines sustainable development, political stability, and democratic institutions, including efforts to eradicate poverty, and threatens national security and the rule of law and that drug trafficking and abuse pose a major threat to the health, dignity, and hopes of millions of people and their families and lead to the loss of human lives.

The Asian Group pays special tribute to the law enforcement and judicial personnel who have sacrificed their lives and to civil society personnel who have dedicated themselves to addressing the world drug problem.

The Asian Group underscores the need to take into account the challenge of new trends that have emerged in some parts of the world, in the implementation of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action.

The Asian Group shares the International Community in welcoming the decision of the General Assembly to convene, early in 2016, a Special Session on the Drug problem, looking forward for more success in the efforts of the international community in addressing the world drug problem.

The Asian Group will continue its efforts, inter alia, the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, the Eurasian Group on Combating Money-Laundering and Financing of Terrorism and other relevant subregional and regional organizations and initiatives, and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations Senior Officials on Drug Matters workplan to combat illicit drug production, trafficking and use (2009-2015) with the aim of achieving a drug-free South-East Asia by 2015, bearing in mind
the support for all regional and international efforts that go, and aim to the same targets.

The Asian Group Are fully aware and underscoring that both the persistent and new challenges in countering the world drug problem related to drug demand and supply reduction as well as to countering money-laundering and promoting judicial cooperation remain a common and shared responsibility and should continue to be addressed in a comprehensive, integrated and balanced manner, in full conformity with the three international drug control conventions and full consistency with applicable international human rights obligations, both on the drug demand and supply reduction sides. The Asian Group will continue its efforts in order to achieve the goals and targets set out in the 2009 Political Declaration and its Plan of Action.

The Asian Group reaffirms that addressing these challenges should be achieved by international cooperation as a shared responsibility, with full respect to sovereignty, territorial integrity of states and principle of non-intervention in the internal affairs of states as well as to all human rights, fundamental freedoms and the inherent dignity of all individuals.

Asian Group will continue its close cooperation with CND, UNODC, INCB, WHO, and other relevant International Organization and global and regional cooperation frameworks in order to counter the world drug problem.

Finally, the Asian Group put a high confidence that with the leadership of your Excellency Mr. Chairman, the CND secretariat efforts, and the cooperation of the distinguished delegations of all the Member states, this high level review will be successful in achieving its targets and goals.

Iraq on behalf of Asian Group