Distinguished delegates and ministers,

Distinguished representatives of UNODC and government and nongovernment institutions,

Ladies and gentleman,

It is my great honour and pleasure to address you on behalf of Commission of suppression of the narcotic drugs in Bosnia and Herzegovina, and in my personal name, on this exceptionally significant gathering.

By this occasion I would like to emphasize that Bosnia and Herzegovina devotes attention to implementation of activities to combat drugs in cooperation with the UN Office for Drugs and Crime (UNODC), International Narcotics Control Board (INCB), European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addicts (EMCDDA) and other organizations.

Bosnia and Herzegovina is transition country at the international market, through which illegal narcotic drugs are transported further to users into the countries of Western Europe.

Organized criminal groups mutually cooperate within Bosnia and Herzegovina, but outside of the country borders as well, especially with criminal groups that work in the other countries of Ex-Yugoslavia.

Illicit drug trade is still most common form of illegal activities among criminal groups in Bosnia and Herzegovina since it brings greatest and fastest earning. Regardless on frequent police actions in Bosnia and Herzegovina and regional countries, decrease of these activities is not noticeable.

Bosnia and Herzegovina, as well as other countries in transition, still doesn’t have sufficient resources for development and implementation of adequate control over production, diversion and abuse of stimulants, in accordance with obligations contained in Political Declaration and Action Plan for adoption of integrated Strategy for overcoming problems which drugs pose for the world today.

Ladies and gentleman,

Allow me to note that Bosnia and Herzegovina has been actively cooperating with UN agencies for several years in programs and activities focused on drugs harm reduction. In this regards I need to stress support which was provided for injection
drug users by the Global Fund in Bosnia and Herzegovina, within the frame of HIV project, with aim of negative consequences reduction. However, it’s necessary to emphasize that this is the problem which countries will need to face after the termination of this project and in that sense support is needed for development of sustainability mechanisms of harm reduction program and financing methadone programs.

Bosnia and Herzegovina is provided with great support, along with other Western Balkan countries, by European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Users in development of evidence-based approach, introduction of the standards in the area of systematic data collection, statistics from the Centres for drug addicts, and introduction of standards in the prevention and treatment area.

Given the rapid increase of the psychoactive substances, so called “new designer drugs” pose great danger and increase our concern, especially due to hindered detection mechanism and trade of the same via social networks which created new route of the supply and drug use.

Enforcement of cooperation and introduction improved mechanisms in the area of information exchange, related to detection of “new drugs”, as well as inclusion in the networks of early alert I consider as high priority.

In this context, exchange of intelligence information in realistic time among origin countries, transits and destinations is from exceptional significance. Additionally, support in experience exchange and development of procedure for safe handling and disposal of confiscated narcotic drugs is very important.

Bosnia and Herzegovina wants to be part of the network of knowledge and information which will contribute to progress of our country and Western Balkan region in the area of demand and supply reduction.

While countries in transition have certain obstacles and conditions waiting for membership in European Union and United Nations, crime unconditionally binds regardless on borders.

In accordance with stated, I consider this gathering as expression of responsibility and dedication, bearing in mind that this place is just the one we can initiate relevant and proper interventions from.

Thank you for attention!