Mr Chairman
Excellencies, Heads of Delegations, Ladies and Gentlemen:

The Philippine Delegation congratulates you on your Chairmanship of this special session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs. We assure you and the other officials of the Bureau of our full support.

The Philippines associates itself with the statement of the Group of 77 and China.

Mr. Chairman,

The Philippines welcomes the progress achieved since the adoption in 2009 of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action. However, gaps remain in a number of target areas. We must sustain our efforts and build on our gains.

Our country's five pillar approach of drug supply reduction; drug demand reduction; alternative development; civic awareness and response; and regional and international cooperation, has proven to be effective in addressing the drug menace.

The Philippines Dangerous Drugs Board, as the lead agency, continues to coordinate government and non-government organizations in the country on the anti-drug advocacy.
Efforts led by the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency resulted to significant seizures of controlled substances and arrests of drug syndicates. In 2013, over 800 kilograms of shabu (methamphetamine hydrochloride) with a street value of P4.6 billion were confiscated. We destroyed marijuana plants worth P471 million after swooping down on plantations in various parts of the country.

Our mulit-sectoral programs on Preventive Education, Treatment and Rehabilitation and Research involve communities and build individual capacities, involving youth, parents, employers, educators, health professionals, transport and religious groups.

At the 9th Asian Youth Congress in 2012, organized by the Colombo Plan drug advisory Programme, the Philippine delegation was awarded for its project proposal entitled: The Project Ring: A call to promote healthy and drug-free lifestyle among Business Process Outsourcing (BPO) workers in the Philippines."

The Philippines puts individuals at the heart of the anti-drug abuse campaign. Interventions to address emerging psychoactive substances and trends of injecting drug use are designed to balance individuals' health needs, access to medication, and control of substances prone to abuse.

Mr Chairman,

We utilize technology to enhance public awareness and improve data collection and analysis. Our Geographical Information System is designed to help us analyze data for the enhancement of our anti-drug programs and advocacies.

Results of our studies have been encouraging. A decline in the estimated number of drug users in the country was noted in the 2012 Household Survey on the Nature and Extent of Drug Abuse in the
Philippines. From 1.7 million estimated drug users in 2008, the number went down to 1.3 million in 2012 (Among age group 10-69 years old).

Mr Chairman,

We call for international cooperation measures to address the use of drug couriers, in view of the large number of Filipino migrant workers, especially women, who are increasingly being victimized by such *modus operandi*.

We created an inter-agency Task Force Drug Couriers to deter, prevent and protect Filipinos from being victimized as drug couriers. The Task Force coordinates with counterpart agencies of other countries to address this challenge.

Across the globe, not a few innocent migrants have been arrested, prosecuted, and penalized, even harshly and undeservingly, for having been unwitting couriers. We urge Member States to take into account mitigating circumstances, to uphold their human rights, and to adhere to UN standards and norms relating to the treatment of offenders and prisoners, especially in the case of women migrant workers.

In closing, Mr Chairman, the Philippine Delegation lauds all Member States for their own efforts to counter the world drug problem. We are confident that we continue to be united in this crusade.

Thank you.