

58th Session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, 2015 Vienna
Statement by Hungary

Thank you, Madam/Mister Chairperson,
Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Let me start by welcoming you, Your Excellency, into the Chair of this High Level Session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, we are convinced that under your wise leadership we will be able to reach our common goals, let me assure you of our full support. Hungary fully associates itself with the European Union's statement delivered earlier by Latvia.

I would also like to express our appreciation for the devoted work of the Commission and the Secretariat, and we also welcome the preparations for the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem to be held in 2016.

I would like to provide you with some information about the recently adopted Hungarian Drugs Strategy for the period 2013-2020, as well as the first achievements of the national control of new psychoactive substances.

As Hungary is highly committed to the objectives and drug policy of the United Nations, the Hungarian Drugs Strategy is evidently based on the United Nations Drug Conventions and is in line with the Drug Strategy and Action Plans of the European Union. The policy document follows the principle of the balanced and multidisciplinary approach, and is centred on the health of the individual and the community. .

The last decade saw the rapid emergence of new psychoactive substances in Hungary and in the Central-European region. These substances are new psychoactive drugs which may pose a real threat to public health comparable to illicit drugs. Their rapid emergence, rising popularity and the lack of knowledge of possible health risks together made the growing use of new psychoactive substances a complex challenge not only for national authorities but for the whole society. The effects of substance abuse can be felt on many levels: on individuals, on friends and family and at workplaces as well. We can especially consider these substances as key risk factors among young people.

In order to allow an effective and swift response to the challenges posed by these substances, an all-new control system was created in 2012. It is based on the generic formula of substances while applying also individual scheduling. Hungary defines new psychoactive substances as, a compound or chemical compound group that currently appeared on the market; has no therapeutic value; affects the central nervous system so it has the ability to change mental state, behaviour or perception; therefore it can pose a serious threat to public health just like the substances listed on drug schedules. In parallel a new statutory paragraph had been inserted into the Criminal Code on the misuse of new psychoactive substances. This new criminal provision provides the basis for the law enforcement agencies to act effectively against the supply of new psychoactive substances.

In 2014 60% of the seized drugs were new psychoactive substances, this data underlines that the illicit drugs market moved swiftly away from the "classic drugs" towards the new psychoactive substances. The new control regulations allowed the law enforcement authorities to seize these harmful substances, and step up against their illicit trafficking.

Hungary welcomes CND Resolutions 56/4; 57/9 on the international cooperation in the identification and reporting of New Psychoactive Substances. The proposal to schedule several New Psychoactive substances, among them the particularly harmful mephedrone, under the existing United Nations drug control system is a cornerstone of the global response.

I would like to conclude by emphasizing the importance of international cooperation in addressing the drug problem, we are convinced, that regional and even global, CND wide cooperation is vital for reaching our goals.