

**GENERAL STATEMENT of the REPUBLIC of TURKEY**  
**to the 58<sup>th</sup> SESSION of the COMMISSION ON NARCOTIC DRUGS (CND)**  
**(9 March 2015)**

Mr. Chairman,

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

At the outset, Mr.Chairman, we would like to congratulate you on your election as the Chair of the 58th session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND). We assure you the full support of Turkish Delegation.

Mr. Chairman,

Since the adoption of the 2009 Political Declaration and Plan of Action, despite all global efforts, many challenges of the world drug problem have persisted and new ones have emerged in different parts of the world. No country or region is immune to these problems. In order to find global solutions to these global challenges, the preparation process of the 2016 United Nations General Assembly Special Session should be duly evaluated. In this regard, we support an inclusive open debate on the way to 2016 UNGASS.

Mr. Chairman,

As a transit country on the way to Europe, Turkey is highly affected from international drug trafficking. Its geographical position enforces Turkey to attach particular importance to the supply reduction aspect of the drug problem. However, based on its national experience, Turkey believes that addressing world drug problem requires a balanced, integrated and comprehensive approach.

To this end, Turkey has been implementing demand reduction policies within a public health approach to the drug problem. The prevention activities, support for the medical treatment of drug addiction and the prioritization of social reintegration activities are the components of our national drug policy. In this regard, The Second National Policy and Strategy Document on Drugs (2013-2018), as well as The Third National Action Plan Against Drugs (2013-2018) were prepared with the contribution and agreement of all relevant institutions. Our National Strategy and Action Plan cover the activities of various ministries, public institutions and organizations

regarding supply reduction, demand reduction, international cooperation, data collection, research, evaluation and coordination at the national level.

Mr. Chairman,

While implementing balanced policies to address drug problem, we should also increase international cooperation between states under the shared responsibility principle. Functioning as a natural bridge between Asia and Europe, Turkey devotes special attention to international cooperation in the fight against drugs. Besides, its cooperation with regional and international organizations such as UNODC, SELECC and CARICC, Turkey takes concrete steps with its partners at the operational field. Turkey is also one of the leading countries in the Heart of Asia-Istanbul Process which also provides a new agenda for regional cooperation in counter-narcotics.

Within the framework of international cooperation, it is also worth highlighting the worrisome links between terrorist organizations and the criminal organizations involved in production, trafficking or trade of illicit drugs and the threat posed by them to international peace and stability. This is a serious concern which is also pointed out in the United Nations Security Council Resolutions. We invite member states for further cooperation in this regard, to close off connections between international terrorism and drug trafficking to undermine the economic basis of the world drug problem.

Mr. Chairman,

Using this opportunity, we would like to underline the growing threat of New Psycho-active Substances (NPS) for all regions. Turkey, through its National Early Warning System (EWS), has figured out 246 New Psycho-active Substances in 2014. Thus, the total number of substances to have been included into the scope of national control law reached 340.

We believe that states should take immediate action against NPS. In this regard, the Global Smart Programme of UNODC provides important guidance to the states. To cope with this threat, we invite states to increase their forensic laboratory capacities to determine new substances. Since the number and kind of substances vary in a wide spectrum, only after evidence-based prioritization, we will be able to develop joint mechanisms to confront this treat.

Mr. Chairman,

Turkey is one of the world's two traditional suppliers of opiate raw materials for medical and scientific purposes. Since 1974, turkey has adopted the world's safest yet most burdensome method of producing opium poppy. To date, there has been no diversion from our licit production and our practice is referred as an exemplary way of producing opiate raw materials by INCB. The Turkish Grain Board strictly controls licit opium poppy cultivation and pharmaceutical morphine production, with no apparent diversion into the illicit market.

Mr. Chairman,

States may have specific conditions and policy priorities with regard to the drug problem. However, putting aside all the discussions from national perspectives and priorities, the old challenges and the new ones that emerged after 2009 Political Declaration and Plan of Action, require shared responsibility and should be addressed in a comprehensive, integrated and balanced manner.

Turkish Government will continue its efforts in fulfilling its political commitments based on the three Drug Control Conventions.

Thank you.