

59th Session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, 2016 Vienna

Statement of Hungary

Thank you, Mister Chairperson,

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Let me start by welcoming you, Your Excellency, into the Chair of this special session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, I would like to thank both the Bureau and the Secretariat for the preparations. Hungary fully aligns itself with the EU statement. In our national capacity we would like to highlight some additional points:

The UNGASS 2016 is an important opportunity to take stock of the world drug problem on the road to the global drug policy review of 2019. Ahead of the UNGASS meeting, Hungary advocates for the following main subjects to be included in the outcome document: integrity of the 3 drugs conventions, notion of risk and harm reduction as part of comprehensive treatment efforts; recovery orientation and a public health approach to improve the wellbeing of people; abolishment of the death penalty related to drugs offences and linking the process to the Sustainable Development Goals.

We are aware of the fact that global thinking and approaches to the problem largely differ. The drug problem continues to pose a global threat to public health, safety, and in some parts of the world even to the rule of law. The drug problem continues to be treated as a law enforcement question in many countries, while many others prioritize drug-prevention, treatment, rehabilitation programmes and even decriminalization. The drug market continues to change rapidly, the consumption levels of both heroin and cocaine stabilized, but simultaneously the use of New Psychoactive Substances (NPS) and the abuse of prescription drugs rose significantly in our region.

Mister Chairman, allow me to underline, that Hungary was among the first EU Member States, to introduce regulation regarding NPS. We welcome the inclusion of a separate section on NPS in the outcome document. The rapid spread of these substances as well as the public health risks linked to their use undoubtedly pose new challenges to professionals being involved in treatment and law enforcement. These substances pose a real threat to public health which

is comparable to or even higher than illicit drugs., The quick emergence and rising consumption of NPS, and the lack of knowledge of their possible health risks is a complex challenge not only for national authorities but for the whole society as the illicit drugs market moved swiftly away from the “classic drugs” towards the NPS, the majority of seized substances being NPS already in 2013.

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 in Hungary and recent control regulations allowed the law enforcement authorities to seize these potentially harmful substances, and step up against their illicit trafficking. The Hungarian system is based on the generic formula of substances while applying individual scheduling as well where an individual substance cannot be attributed to any of the generic formula.

Mr. Chairman

We are committed to strengthening the role of the three UN Conventions and enhancing the public health aspects by applying a balanced approach. We believe that by enhanced international cooperation we can be successful in the achievement of our common goals.

To conclude, I would like to emphasise that the Hungarian delegation supports the 2016 UNGASS process, and is looking forward to finalize the outcome document during our current session. In this regard the UNGASS Board is working to find consensus among Member States.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.