

Madam Chair, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I welcome you with great respect. We are confident that with Your guidance we will get closer to achieving our common goals.

First of all, Hungary fully aligns with the statement of BULGARIA on behalf of the European Union.

We are convinced that in recent times, significant progress has been made in several specific areas, but the global drug problem remains a serious challenge for the health, security and welfare of humankind. Global issues such as the rapidly emerging demand and supply of new psychoactive substances and the new, somewhat unfamiliar challenges that come with technological development, such as the distribution of illegal drugs through the so-called Dark web, will not allow us to lower our guard and be content with our achievements.

It is important to emphasize that Hungary is fully committed to the goals and objectives of the three United Nations Drug Conventions. We think that the UNGASS outcome document of 2016 sets a clear and adequate way forward in the global drug policy of the future, and can be regarded as a pivotal reference document. We wholeheartedly support the implementation of the operational recommendations laid out in the outcome document, with special emphasis on the protection of children and youth as well as promotion of public health considerations.

Please allow me to present shortly the most important pillars of Hungarian drug policy. The central principles, objectives and interventions are laid down in the Hungarian National Drug Strategy for the period 2013-2020 and in the associated two-year policy programmes. We are currently in the process of implementing the policy programme for 2017-2018. These documents are based on the United Nations Drug Conventions and are fully in line with the Drug Strategy and Action Plans of the European Union.

The conceptual basis for the Strategy and the policy programmes is a community-based approach that communicates healthy and drug-free lifestyle. In respect of treatment and care the Hungarian strategy emphasises the importance of recovery-centred approach and social reintegration.

Regarding the implementation, our Strategy focuses mainly on drug use prevention, designating a substantial role to families and local communities. In terms of supply reduction, the Strategy continues to support the enhancement of crime prevention and law enforcement interventions as well as improved international cooperation with a view of an even more effective response to the ever-changing challenges and trends in the illegal drug market and supply networks.

According to the aims laid down in our Drug Strategy, our legislation also allows authorities to respond in a quick and effective manner to the new trends and challenges posed by new psychoactive substances. Since 2013, our Penal Code has incorporated measures regarding the abuse of new

psychoactive substances and Hungary was one of the first countries in Europe to establish control measures based on generic formula, allowing the authorities to better address the newly emerging synthetic opioids, among other substances.

I would also like to mention last year's great achievement, the adoption of the new legislation on new psychoactive substances in the European Union. We hope that it will significantly help us prevent the abuse of these substances and decrease the health and social risks associated with them. We are of the opinion that the new European law effectively and appropriately supplements and supports our national legislation and allows us to take even more decisive action against the abuse of new psychoactive substances.

While acknowledging the significant achievements at national and international level, we would like to further emphasise the importance of international cooperation at all levels. Tackling the issues arising from the global drug problem is our common and shared responsibility, and that means national, regional and global commitment as well as action is vital to reach our common goals. We believe that success can be reached through strengthened, more effective international cooperation.

Thank you for your attention!