



**STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR MIROSLAVA BEHAM,
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF SERBIA,
UNDER ANY OTHER BUSINESS
AT THE 757th MEETING OF THE OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL,
ON THE UNODC CONFERENCE ON PROMOTING THE RULE OF
LAW AND HUMAN SECURITY IN SOUTH EASTERN EUROPE,
BELGRADE, 30.-31. MARCH 2009**

2 April 2009

Madame Chair,

It is my honour to inform the distinguished Permanent Council of the Regional High Level Conference for Promoting the Rule of Law and Human Security in South Eastern Europe, which was held in Belgrade on 30-31 March 2009. The conference was jointly organized by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and Serbian authorities. It was opened by Serbian Prime Minister Mirko Cvetković, co-chaired by the Serbian Minister of the Interior Ivica Dačić and UNODC Executive Director Mr. Antonio Maria Costa and attended by ministers and other high level representatives of the Western Balkan States participating in the Programme. Representatives of other interested States and more than a dozen international organizations, including the OSCE, and various UN specialized agencies were also present.

The States participating in the conference signed a Joint Statement in which they confirmed their commitment to strengthen their partnership and mutual coordination with the aim of contributing to stability, justice and security for the citizens of the region.

The participating States expressed their resolve to coordinate their respective national and regional responses to transnational threats such as organized crime, drug and human trafficking, smuggling of migrants and firearms, money-laundering, and financing of terrorism, as well as to interlinked challenges such as corruption, drug abuse and the spread of HIV/AIDS, and to strengthen the effectiveness of the criminal justice systems so that they are fair, humane and

consistent with United Nations and European Union conventions, protocols and relevant standards and norms.

The participants also endorsed the Programme on Promoting the Rule of Law and Human Security in South-Eastern Europe, which is based on three inter-linked pillars: serious crime and trafficking; integrity and criminal justice systems; and drug prevention and treatment, including HIV treatment and care. They underlined the need for technical assistance in these areas, for regional cooperation and for a monitoring mechanism for implementing the Programme.

Let me use this opportunity, Madame Chair, to underline that the realization of this important Programme will not only depend on the efforts undertaken by the States participating in it, but also on the financial and other support they receive from all the key stakeholders, including regional and international partners.

Thank you, Madame Chair