



Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe

Transnational Threats Department

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Statement at the
Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly
on the World Drug Problem

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Mr. Chairperson (*tbc*),
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

At the outset, let me commend the United Nations General Assembly for having convened this inclusive Special Session.

The issue we have been discussing here is of great importance for the OSCE and within a few minutes, I would like to draw your attention on **how we can contribute** to tackling this issue.

- **30 billion dollars per year**, the combined value of the Northern and Balkan heroin trafficking routes from Afghanistan towards the Russian Federation and Europe.
- **14 million**, the estimated number of young Europeans who used cannabis in 2014.
- **640**, the amount of new psychoactive substances monitored by the UNODC at the end of 2015.

These impressive figures tell us what our challenge is.

The world drug problem impacts upon all aspects of development, including environmental, economic and social issues.

It also poses a significant threat to peace and security in a number of OSCE participating States and our Partners for Cooperation countries.

It predominantly affects the young generation with long-standing consequences, which permeate through years and social groups.

Countering the transnational threats posed by illicit drugs is our common and shared responsibility.

The OSCE is the world's largest regional arrangement under Chapter VIII of the United Nations Charter. It unites 57 participating States from Vancouver to Vladivostok and 11 Partners for Co-operation countries in the Mediterranean and Asia.

The OSCE

- recognizes the leading role of the UN in combating illicit drugs and the diversion of precursors;
- emphasizes a constructive co-operation with UNODC;
- and supports further strengthening our existing relationship with, among others, the International Narcotics Control Board, the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction, the Council of Europe Pompidou Group and INTERPOL for more effective assistance to the OSCE region.

Based on our **inherent strengths**,

- a comprehensive approach to security;
- consensus-based decision-making;
- and inclusive membership,

the OSCE submitted specific recommendations to the UN Commission on Narcotic Drugs on the issues to be addressed at this Special Session. These recommendations were adopted by the 2015 OSCE Belgrade Ministerial Council in the Declaration on the OSCE Activities in Support of Global Efforts in Tackling the World Drug Problem¹.

Wherein Ministers recommended participating States

- to comply with the three United Nations drug control conventions;
- to pursue a balanced, integrated approach, encompassing reduction of supply and demand as well as international co-operation;
- and to facilitate partnership with the private sector and co-operation among public health, education sectors and law enforcement.

Ministers underlined that countering drug trafficking needs to be accompanied by efforts to fight corruption, money laundering and other forms of organised crime.

Using the OSCE's **comparative advantages**, a network of cross-dimensional institutions and 17 Field Operations, we will continue to provide tailored support to the requesting participating States in tackling the world drug problem.

¹ [MC.DOC/2/15, 4 December 2015](#)

The OSCE's commitments, such as our

- Strategic Framework for Police-Related Activities²;
- Concept for Combating the Threat of Illicit Drugs and the Diversion of Chemical Precursors³;
- and Border Security and Management Concept⁴

lay a solid ground for the OSCE's actions against illicit drugs.

OSCE pertinent activities provide a significant contribution to the implementation of the 2009 Political Declaration and Plan of Action; and are carried out with full respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, and the rule of law.

In conclusion, the OSCE is a force multiplier.

- We support our participating States and Partners for Co-operation countries through cross-cutting Field Operations and institutions in mitigating the world drug problem.
- We enhance mutual co-operation with different international, regional and national stakeholders in countering the world drug problem.
- We contain regional expertise on building conditions in which individual persons can live free without any threat to their security from the world drug problem.

The world's future is today!

Let me wish this Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly ample success and thank you for your attention.

² [PC.DEC/1049, 26 July 2012](#)

³ [PC.DEC/1048, 26 July 2012](#)

⁴ [MC.DOC/2/05, 6 December 2005](#)