



Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe

62nd Session of the UN Commission on Narcotic Drugs

Remarks by Secretary General Thomas Greminger

Vienna, 15 March 2018

Mr Chairman/Madame Chair,
Executive Director Fedotov, dear Yury,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

According to the 2018 World Drug Report, drug markets are expanding and diversifying. Production of opium and cocaine are at all-time highs and the manufacture of new psychotropic substances is increasing at an alarming rate. New substances appear almost every week.

These are worrisome trends, especially since drug trafficking has close links to other forms of organized crime.

Drug trafficking has also become a major source of income for terrorist groups around the world – either through direct involvement, or in return for protection. The OSCE will be looking for ways to tackle these problems at high-level conferences in Ashgabat and Dushanbe this spring.

The OSCE continues to actively support its participating States and Partners for Co-operation in implementing the ambitious goals set out in the outcome document of the 2016 UN General Assembly Special Session (UNGASS).

As the largest regional security arrangement under Chapter VIII of the UN Charter, the OSCE is committed to strengthening border security, delivering law enforcement training and promoting co-operation. The OSCE's cross-dimensional approach to security, our specific regional expertise, and our network of field operations (to the Western Balkans, Eastern Europe and Central Asia) are key assets in this effort.

And our commitment to partnerships is as strong as ever. OSCE interaction with UNODC is particularly close. Successive Joint Action Plans since 2011 have given strong impetus to effective co-operation through the exchange of best practices, the organization of joint workshops and the sharing of resources.

The OSCE is expanding capacity-building activities to counter drug-related crime facilitated by the Internet and the anonymity afforded by the Darknet. In 2017, we held a pilot training in Minsk for East European law enforcement officials. As a result, last year, some elements of our training modules were used in national training programmes in Belarus. And this year, we look forward to co-operating with UNODC and CARICC on a similar training for Central Asia. [*CARICC: Central Asian Regional Information and Coordination Centre for Combating Illicit Drug Trafficking*].

Last year, field presences in Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan partnered with UNODC on drug prevention awareness-raising campaigns targeting young people. This is another example of effective inter-agency co-operation, and we are currently exploring options for follow-up.

The OSCE also remains committed to providing assistance to Afghanistan to strengthen the anti-drug capacities of its law enforcement and border management services. We are grateful for the support of the Russian Ministry of Interior training centre in Domodedovo, near Moscow, for hosting these trainings.

Mr. Chairman/Madame Chair,

In June, the Slovak OSCE Chairmanship will convene our flagship OSCE-wide anti-drug conference. This year's event will focus on the evolving threat of synthetic drugs – from addiction to rehabilitation and reintegration. I am confident that the conference will make a significant contribution towards tackling this menace. I look forward to welcoming many of you back to Vienna on this occasion.

We look forward to continued fruitful co-operation with all interested stakeholders in the years to come.

Thank you.