Thank you for giving me the floor, Chairman. The Bulgarian delegation would like to align itself with the statements made on behalf of the European Union in the framework of the Special Segment. In a national capacity, we would like to make the following remarks:

We welcome the inclusion of civil society in the overall process and the recognition that this is an important voice that must be heard. In the same line of thought, we would like to point out that scientific research must be a core element of all decisions and steps in the overall process of tackling the world drug problem. Knowledge is a strong weapon. Therefore, we should endeavour to create an environment, in which decisions taken in the process of overcoming the world drug problem will be well-informed and evidence-based.

We consider that governmental policies tackling drug demand should be comprehensive and multi-faceted. They should focus on prevention, early detection and intervention, risk and harm reduction, treatment, rehabilitation, social reintegration and recovery. We would like to mention families, schools, and vulnerable and marginalized groups as specific vital elements of the policies. As stated by the representatives of the Youth Forum yesterday, a circle of trust should be created for youths affected by drug abuse.

The spread of new psychoactive substances and blood-borne diseases must be addressed also in the context of this topic.

On another note, the Bulgarian delegation would like to add its voice to the colleagues that have condemned the death penalty in all circumstances, including for drug-related crimes. In the context of the rule of law doctrine, we strictly adhere to the principle of implementation of relevant international legal instruments in the human rights area, as well as the drug conventions.

In conclusion, we would like to reiterate our strong commitment to combating the world drug problem and to voice our support for an UNGASS 2016 that will actually make a change.