

## **Intervention – UNGASS 2009**

### **Political Declaration**

#### **Item 14d- Narcotic drugs**

Thank you Mr President.

The United Kingdom fully aligns itself with the statement made by the distinguished delegate of Sweden on behalf of the European Union, but would like to make a few additional remarks concerning the Political Declaration of the High Level Segment of the 52<sup>nd</sup> session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs.

This political declaration marked the end of the 10 year review of the international community's efforts in Drug Control.

The negotiations to agree this declaration were long and complex. Many areas of agreement existed, and equally there were a significant number of differences in approach and understanding that in the end were not wholly resolved.

Many of these differences centre around how best to ensure that the International Drug Conventions are applied most effectively whilst maintaining respect for and diligence towards other international obligations such as attaining the millennium development goals, particularly regarding HIV prevention and human rights obligations.

The UK does not believe that these differences are insurmountable. It is possible and desirable to have clear and strong policies that aim to prevent drug trafficking and misuse; that address the damage caused to individuals, communities and society; and that incorporate law enforcement and criminal justice agencies as well as humane, health centred strategies to do this. To our view this is needed for a balanced approach.

Drug trafficking and misuse is a complex phenomenon with many different aspects and effects. Various arms of the United Nations have parts to play in

addressing them. It is therefore our strong belief that we must continue to strive towards attaining coherence across the UN system.

The different bodies within the UN system, such as UNAIDS, WHO, INCB and others, must increasingly work together, so that policies and decisions made in one body are transferred to others, and that efforts neither duplicate nor contradict one another.

We hope that the Political Declaration will serve as a basis for ongoing dialogue in this area. It is critical that we share where possible best practices, be they in law enforcement, criminal justice or drug demand reduction. We look forward to working with our partners from all regional groups to address inconsistencies and resolve remaining differences.

Thank you Mr President.