



control is no longer a priority for Member States and that the conventions, the very heart of international cooperation in this field, should be nullified.

The significance of the ministerial segment

You have a special responsibility assessing the action of Governments in implementing the strategy adopted at the special session, which the Commission will submit to the General Assembly this year. Your assessment should be candid, objective, focused and forward looking with clear recommendations for the future. In particular, you should review the difficulties Member States are encountering and identify additional measures and action to enable the international community to move towards meeting all the objectives by 2008. You already have a starting point in the assessment contained in the reports which the Executive Director of UNDCP, at your request, has presented to the Commission.

We have a difficult task. We have a global challenge which we can only meet if we work collectively in a spirit of shared responsibility. We have the political responsibility to strive for a world free of illicit drugs. We owe this to the next generation.