



United Nations

Commission on Narcotic Drugs

**Report on the sixty-sixth session
(9 December 2022 and 13–17 March 2023)**

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Commission on Narcotic Drugs

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Note

Symbols of United Nations documents are composed of letters combined with figures. Mention of such a symbol indicates a reference to a United Nations document.

The report of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs on its reconvened sixty-sixth session, to be held on 7 and 8 December 2023, will be issued as *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2023, Supplement No. 8A* ([E/2023/28/Add.1](#)).

[29 March 2023]

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Executive summary

The present summary has been prepared pursuant to the annex to General Assembly resolution 68/1, entitled “Review of the implementation of General Assembly resolution 61/16 on the strengthening of the Economic and Social Council”, in which it is stated that the subsidiary bodies of the Council should, in *inter alia*, include in their reports an executive summary.

The present document contains the report on the sixty-sixth session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, which was held from 13 to 17 March 2023. Chapter I contains the text of the resolutions and decisions adopted by the Commission or recommended by the Commission for adoption by the Economic and Social Council.

During its session, the Commission considered strategic management, budgetary and administrative questions; the implementation of the international drug control treaties; the follow-up to the implementation at the national, regional and international levels of all commitments, as reflected in the Ministerial Declaration of 2019, to address and counter the world drug problem; inter-agency cooperation and coordination of efforts in addressing and countering the world drug problem; recommendations of the subsidiary bodies of the Commission; matters relating to the Economic and Social Council, including the follow-up to and the review and implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development; and preparations for the midterm review, to be held in 2024, of progress made in implementing all international drug policy commitments, as reflected in the Ministerial Declaration of 2019, to address and counter the world drug problem.

The Commission decided to include 2-methyl-AP-237, etazene, etonitazepyne and protonitazene in Schedule I of the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961 as amended by the 1972 Protocol. The Commission also decided to include ADB-BUTINACA, *alpha*-PiHP and 3-methylmethcathinone in Schedule II of the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971.

The Commission recommended the following draft decisions for adoption by the Economic and Social Council: “Report of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs on its sixty-sixth session and provisional agenda for its sixty-seventh session” and “Report of the International Narcotics Control Board”.

The Commission adopted resolution 66/1, entitled “Preparations for the midterm review to be held during the sixty-seventh session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, in 2024”; resolution 66/2, entitled “Safe handling and disposal of synthetic drugs, their precursors and other chemicals used in the illicit manufacture of drugs”; resolution 66/3, entitled “Strengthening information-sharing to increase scientific evidence-based support for international scheduling and the effective implementation of international scheduling decisions”; and resolution 66/4, entitled “Promoting alternative development as a development-oriented drug control strategy that is sustainable and inclusive”.

Chapter I

Matters calling for action by the Economic and Social Council or brought to its attention

A. Draft decisions for adoption by the Economic and Social Council

1. The Commission recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft decisions:

Draft decision I

Report of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs on its sixty-sixth session and provisional agenda for its sixty-seventh session

The Economic and Social Council:

- (a) Takes note of the report of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs on its sixty-sixth session;
- (b) Also takes note of Commission decision 55/1;
- (c) Approves the provisional agenda for the sixty-seventh session set out below.

Provisional agenda for the sixty-seventh session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.

High-level segment

3. High-level segment:
 - (a) Opening of the high-level segment;
 - (b) General debate of the high-level segment;
 - (c) Interactive, multi-stakeholder round tables of the high-level segment:
 - (i) Taking stock: work undertaken since 2019;
 - (ii) The way forward: the road to 2029;
 - (d) Closure of the high-level segment.

Operational segment

4. Strategic management, budgetary and administrative questions:
 - (a) Work of the standing open-ended intergovernmental working group on improving the governance and financial situation of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime;
 - (b) Directives on policy and budgetary issues for the drug programme of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime;
 - (c) Working methods of the Commission;
 - (d) Staff composition of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and other related matters.

Normative segment

5. Implementation of the international drug control treaties:
 - (a) Changes in the scope of control of substances;
 - (b) Challenges and future work of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, the World Health Organization and the International Narcotics Control Board in the review of substances for possible scheduling recommendations;
 - (c) International Narcotics Control Board;
 - (d) International cooperation to ensure the availability of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances for medical and scientific purposes while preventing their diversion;
 - (e) Other matters arising from the international drug control treaties.
 6. Follow-up to the implementation at the national, regional and international levels of all commitments, as reflected in the Ministerial Declaration of 2019, to address and counter the world drug problem.
 7. Inter-agency cooperation and coordination of efforts in addressing and countering the world drug problem.
 8. Recommendations of the subsidiary bodies of the Commission.
 9. Contributions by the Commission to the work of the Economic and Social Council, in line with General Assembly resolutions [75/290 A](#) and [75/290 B](#), including follow-up to and review and implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
- ***
10. Provisional agenda for the sixty-eighth session of the Commission.
 11. Other business.
 12. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its sixty-seventh session.

Draft decision II

Report of the International Narcotics Control Board

The Economic and Social Council takes note of the report of the International Narcotics Control Board for 2022.¹

B. Matters brought to the attention of the Economic and Social Council

2. The following resolutions and decisions adopted by the Commission are brought to the attention of the Economic and Social Council:

Resolution 66/1

Preparations for the midterm review to be held during the sixty-seventh session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, in 2024

The Commission on Narcotic Drugs,

Recalling the Ministerial Declaration on Strengthening Our Actions at the National, Regional and International Levels to Accelerate the Implementation of Our

¹ E/INCB/2022/1.

Joint Commitments to Address and Counter the World Drug Problem,² adopted during the ministerial segment of its sixty-second session, in 2019, in which Member States resolved to review in the Commission on Narcotic Drugs in 2029 progress in implementing all international drug policy commitments, with a midterm review in the Commission in 2024,

Recalling also that, in the Ministerial Declaration of 2019, Member States reaffirmed their shared commitment to effectively addressing and countering the world drug problem through concerted and sustained action at the national, regional and international levels, based on the principle of common and shared responsibility, including accelerating the implementation of existing drug policy commitments contained in the outcome document of the thirtieth special session of the General Assembly, held in 2016, entitled “Our joint commitment to effectively addressing and countering the world drug problem”,³ in the Joint Ministerial Statement of the 2014 high-level review by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs of the implementation by Member States of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem⁴ and in the Political Declaration and Plan of Action of 2009,⁵ and that Member States have recognized those documents as complementary and mutually reinforcing,

Underscoring that the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961 as amended by the 1972 Protocol,⁶ the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971,⁷ the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988⁸ and other relevant international instruments constitute the cornerstone of the international drug control system,

Reaffirming its unwavering commitment to ensuring that all aspects of demand reduction and related measures, supply reduction and related measures, and international cooperation are addressed in full conformity with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, international law and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,⁹ with full respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of States, the principle of non-intervention in the internal affairs of States, all human rights and fundamental freedoms, the inherent dignity of all individuals and the principles of equal rights and mutual respect among States,

Recalling all commitments related to the availability of and access to controlled substances for medical and scientific purposes while preventing their diversion,

Conscious of its role as the policymaking body of the United Nations with prime responsibility for drug control; and other drug-related matters,

Reaffirming the crucial role of Member States in developing an effective and comprehensive approach to addressing and countering all aspects of the world drug problem,

Encouraging further contributions of relevant United Nations entities, international financial institutions and relevant regional and international organizations, within their respective mandates, to the work of the Commission and the efforts of Member States to address and counter the world drug problem, upon their request, and to strengthen international and inter-agency cooperation, and encouraging them to make available relevant information to the Commission in order

² See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2019, Supplement No. 8 (E/2019/28)*, chap. I, sect. B.

³ General Assembly resolution S-30/1, annex.

⁴ See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2014, Supplement No. 8 (E/2014/28)*, chap. I, sect. C.

⁵ *Ibid.*, 2009, Supplement No. 8 (E/2009/28), chap. I, sect. C.

⁶ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 976, No. 14152.

⁷ *Ibid.*, vol. 1019, No. 14956.

⁸ *Ibid.*, vol. 1582, No. 27627.

⁹ General Assembly resolution 217 A (III).

to facilitate its work and to enhance coherence within the United Nations system at all levels with regard to the world drug problem,

Underscoring the important role played by all relevant stakeholders, including law enforcement, judicial and health-care personnel, civil society, the scientific community and academia, as well as the private sector, supporting our efforts to implement our joint commitments at all levels, and also underscoring the importance of promoting relevant partnerships,

Reiterating that efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development¹⁰ and to accelerate the implementation of the existing drug policy commitments are complementary and mutually reinforcing,

Taking note, in the light of the preparations for the midterm review in 2024, of the biennial reports of the Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime on progress made in the implementation of all international drug policy commitments to address and counter the world drug problem, submitted since the adoption of the Ministerial Declaration of 2019 and structured according to the challenges identified in the Ministerial Declaration, and of the documentation considered by the Commission since 2019, including during the intersessional periods,¹¹

1. *Reaffirms* its commitment to accelerating the implementation of existing drug policy commitments contained in the outcome document of the thirtieth special session of the General Assembly, held in 2016, entitled “Our joint commitment to effectively addressing and countering the world drug problem”, in the Joint Ministerial Statement of the 2014 high-level review by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs of the implementation by Member States of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem and in the Political Declaration and Plan of Action of 2009, in line with the commitments made in the Ministerial Declaration on Strengthening Our Actions at the National, Regional and International Levels to Accelerate the Implementation of Our Joint Commitments to Address and Counter the World Drug Problem, adopted in 2019;

2. *Decides* to convene a high-level segment to take stock of the implementation of all international drug policy commitments and outline the way forward to 2029, in line with the Ministerial Declaration of 2019, which is to be held during its sixty-seventh session, in Vienna in 2024, for a period of two days, in addition to the five days usually scheduled for the regular part of the session of the Commission, held in the first half of the year;

3. *Also decides* that the organizational arrangements for the high-level segment to be held during the sixty-seventh session of the Commission shall be as follows:

(a) The high-level segment will consist of a general debate and multi-stakeholder round-table discussions conducted in parallel with the general debate and will be organized in accordance with the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council;

(b) The general debate is to be conducted as follows:

(i) Following the format of the general debates conducted during the high-level segments held in 2009, 2014 and 2019, the meetings of the general debate will be open to all States Members of the United Nations, and the seating arrangements will follow the protocol used by the General Assembly;

(ii) After the introductory statements by the Secretary-General, the Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the President of the

¹⁰ General Assembly resolution 70/1.

¹¹ Available at www.unodc.org/unodc/en/commissions/CND/session/sessions.html and www.unodc.org/unodc/en/commissions/CND/Mandate_Functions/thematic-discussions.html.

International Narcotics Control Board and the Director General of the World Health Organization, the floor will be given to the high-level representatives of the Member States chairing the regional groups, followed by statements by high-level representatives of Member States speaking in their national capacity;

(iii) Heads of entities of the United Nations, including programmes, funds, specialized agencies and regional commissions, or their representatives, may make statements in the general debate;

(iv) Representatives of intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council may participate, in accordance with rules 74 to 76 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council;

(c) Two interactive, multi-stakeholder round tables, in parallel with the plenary meetings, on the topics “Taking stock: work undertaken since 2019” and “The way forward: the road to 2029”, are to be conducted as follows:

(i) All States Members of the United Nations, observer States and observers, including relevant international organizations with observer status and entities of the United Nations system, as well as representatives of non-governmental organizations, in accordance with rules 74 to 76 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council, participating in the high-level segment are to be invited to participate in the interactive multi-stakeholder round tables; their representatives may include representatives from civil society, the scientific community, academia, youth groups and other relevant stakeholders;

(ii) The interactive, multi-stakeholder round tables will each be co-chaired by two representatives, of two different regional groups, each to be nominated by the respective regional group, and the final chairing arrangements are to be drawn up by the Chair of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs in consultation with the extended Bureau of the Commission;

(iii) Each round table will start with introductory remarks by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and will consist of a panel that is composed of five panellists to be nominated by the regional groups and one panellist to be nominated by civil society organizations through the Vienna Non-Governmental Organization Committee on Drugs, in accordance with paragraph 3 (a) of the present resolution, and that may also include up to two speakers representing entities of the United Nations system; the final list of panellists is to be drawn up by the Chair of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs in consultation with the extended Bureau of the Commission;

(iv) The interventions by the panellists will be followed by an interactive discussion, and, in order to accommodate as many speakers as possible, interventions by the panellists will be limited to a maximum of five minutes and interventions from the floor will be limited to a maximum of three minutes;

(d) In line with the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council, in particular rule 35, a co-chairs’ summary of the salient points raised during the round tables is to be prepared by the co-chairs of each round table and will be presented to the plenary; a co-chairs’ summary does not have any status and it should not be implied in any way as agreed;

4. *Encourages* all Member States, observer States, entities of the United Nations system and other observers to consider being represented at the highest possible level at the high-level segment;

5. *Decides* to work in good faith towards adopting a concise, action-oriented document at the opening of the high-level segment of its sixty-seventh session, which will be negotiated during the intersessional period preceding the regular sixty-seventh session of the Commission, focused exclusively on taking stock of the implementation of all existing international drug policy commitments between 2019

and 2023, and indicating the work to be done to accelerate the implementation in the period from 2024 until 2029 of all those existing commitments;

6. *Encourages* all Member States and relevant entities of the United Nations system, relevant international and regional organizations, as well as relevant non-governmental organizations, in line with the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council, to participate actively in the discussions of the Commission in preparation for the high-level segment in 2024, in order to foster an in-depth exchange of information and expertise on efforts, achievements, challenges and good practices to address and counter the world drug problem, and to make available relevant information to the Commission in order to facilitate its work;

7. *Requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to continue providing technical and substantive support to the Commission on Narcotic Drugs in preparing for, conducting and providing follow-up to the midterm review.

Resolution 66/2

Safe handling and disposal of synthetic drugs, their precursors and other chemicals used in the illicit manufacture of drugs

The Commission on Narcotic Drugs,

Recognizing that the world drug problem continues to constitute a serious threat to public health and safety and to the well-being of humanity, and in particular the significant dangers posed by the illicit manufacture of and trafficking in synthetic drugs,

Recalling article 14, paragraph 5, of the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988,¹² in which it is provided that the parties to the Convention may also take necessary measures for early destruction or lawful disposal of the narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and substances in Table I and Table II which have been seized or confiscated and for the admissibility as evidence of duly certified necessary quantities of such substances,

Recalling also the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem¹³ of 2009, in which Member States recognized that scientific and forensic support in the identification and safe disposal of precursors was still inadequate in many countries, and in which it is stated that Member States should develop practical procedures for the safe handling and disposal of seized precursors in cooperation with competent international and regional bodies and share experiences in that area, as well as training and related activities,

Reaffirming its resolution 62/2 of 22 March 2019, in which it encouraged Member States, within their national contexts, to, inter alia, develop frameworks to ensure that persons on the front line of drug control efforts were adequately trained and equipped to safely handle synthetic drugs, including measures for the disposal of those drugs as described in the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime *Guidelines for the Safe Handling and Disposal of Chemicals Used in the Illicit Manufacture of Drugs*,¹⁴

Recalling its resolution 58/9 of 17 March 2015 on promoting the role of drug analysis laboratories worldwide and reaffirming the importance of the quality of the analysis and results of such laboratories, and noting that the accurate identification of

¹² United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1582, No. 27627.

¹³ See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2009, Supplement No. 8 (E/2009/28)*, chap. I, sect. C.

¹⁴ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.11.XI.14.

substances contributes to their safe handling and the selection of appropriate disposal methods,

Reiterating that efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and to effectively address the world drug problem are complementary and mutually reinforcing, and more specifically that efforts to enhance capacity to safely handle and dispose of synthetic drugs, their precursors and other chemicals used in the illicit manufacture of drugs, including those that have been seized or confiscated, among others, contribute to the environmentally sound management of chemicals and all wastes throughout their life cycle, in accordance with agreed international frameworks, and to significantly reducing their release into air, water and soil in order to minimize their adverse impacts on human health and the environment,

Bearing in mind that the improper disposal of synthetic drugs, their precursors and other chemicals used in the illicit manufacture of drugs, including those encountered in drug control efforts, in particular through waste management and wastewater systems, may have detrimental and long-lasting effects on the environment,

Noting with concern the risk of exposure of persons working on the front line of drug control, which may include, among others, police and other law enforcement personnel, customs and border control officers, counter-narcotics officers and other relevant personnel, who may come into contact with synthetic drugs, precursors and other chemicals used in their illicit manufacture, especially during and after seizure or confiscation,

Noting with concern also the risk of exposure of relevant personnel providing related public services, including health service providers and emergency response personnel, as well as other relevant personnel, who may come into contact with synthetic drugs, their precursors and other chemicals used in their illicit manufacture,

Noting the importance of having appropriate and adequate scientific evidence-based practical procedures that support good health and safety practices among persons handling and disposing of synthetic drugs, their precursors and other chemicals used in their illicit manufacture in their work,

Emphasizing the need to encourage the sharing of best practices and information on the safe handling and disposal of synthetic drugs, their precursors and other chemicals used in the illicit manufacture of drugs among Member States, including in cases of seizure or confiscation, as well as with industry and the private sector, on a voluntary basis,

Recalling the commitments contained in the Joint Ministerial Statement of the 2014 high-level review by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs of the implementation by Member States of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem,¹⁵ in which Governments are encouraged to work more closely with the International Narcotics Control Board and industry,

Emphasizing the need to promote the provision of technical assistance to States, upon request, including, where necessary, the provision of appropriate and adequate equipment and technology, according to their needs and priorities, along with the necessary training and maintenance support to assist with the safe handling and disposal of synthetic drugs, their precursors and other chemicals used in the illicit manufacture of drugs,

Recognizing the need to ensure that technical guidance and other resources on the safe handling and disposal of synthetic drugs, their precursors and other chemicals used in the illicit manufacture of drugs are developed, implemented and updated

¹⁵ See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2014, Supplement No. 8 (E/2014/28)*, chap. I, sect. C.

regularly and are responsive to new and emerging trends related to such drugs, including changes in the methods used in their illicit manufacture and trafficking,

Taking note with appreciation of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime Synthetic Drug Strategy 2021–2025,

Recognizing that the safe handling and disposal of plant-based drugs and chemicals used in the illicit production and manufacture of such drugs, including during and after seizure or confiscation, pose significant risks and challenges, and thus also require the provision of technical assistance and capacity-building to requesting Member States and the sharing of best practices and lessons learned in this regard,

Mindful, for the purposes of the present resolution, of the relevant experience and practices of United Nations entities, such as the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, in waste management in relation to chemicals,

1. *Encourages* Member States to establish and implement, in accordance with their domestic law, adequate practical procedures for the safe handling and disposal of synthetic drugs, their precursors and other chemicals used in the illicit manufacture of drugs, including those encountered in drug control efforts, that are informed and guided by scientific evidence, are environmentally responsible and ensure the health and safety of persons, especially those on the front line of drug control and response, as well as other relevant personnel, bearing in mind the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime Synthetic Drug Strategy 2021–2025;

2. *Recommends* that Member States consider, where relevant, including in such practical procedures for the safe handling and disposal of synthetic drugs, their precursors and other chemicals used in the illicit manufacture of drugs, measures for monitoring and the safe storage of such material pending its disposal;

3. *Encourages* Member States, where appropriate and in accordance with domestic law, to ensure sufficient capacity of persons on the front line of drug control, including law enforcement, customs and border control officers and other relevant personnel, to safely handle and dispose of synthetic drugs, their precursors and other chemicals used in their illicit manufacture, especially during and after seizure or confiscation, in a manner consistent with their respective national practical procedures, including by providing the necessary technical support and making use of United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime scientific and technical assistance, expertise and training programmes;

4. *Also encourages* Member States, where appropriate and in accordance with domestic law, to ensure sufficient capacity of relevant personnel providing related public services, including health service providers and emergency response personnel, as well as other relevant personnel, who may come into contact with synthetic drugs, precursors and other chemicals used in their illicit manufacture to safely handle and dispose of these substances, including by providing the necessary technical support and making use of United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime scientific and technical assistance, expertise and training programmes;

5. *Further encourages* Member States, where appropriate and in accordance with domestic law, to ensure sufficient capacity of relevant national agencies, including laboratories, to identify and characterize substances in order to support the appropriate selection of disposal methods and personal protective equipment and the assessment, elimination or mitigation of risks in handling, storage, transportation and disposal, with the support of relevant national agencies responsible for synthetic drugs and their precursors, and requests the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime Laboratory and Scientific Services to continue to provide support in this regard;

6. *Recommends* that Member States make use of available training tools on the safe handling and disposal of drugs, their precursors and other chemicals used in the illicit manufacture of drugs, in particular the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime e-learning modules available in the United Nations Toolkit on Synthetic Drugs

and the International Narcotics Control Board E-learning Individual Training Environment modules;

7. *Requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to continue to assist Member States in enhancing capacity for the safe handling and disposal of synthetic drugs, their precursors and other chemicals used in the illicit manufacture of drugs, including during and after seizure or confiscation;

8. *Encourages* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to continue to provide, upon request, scientific and technical assistance and expertise, training programmes and capacity-building related to the safe handling and disposal of plant-based drugs and chemicals used in their illicit production and manufacture, including during and after seizure or confiscation;

9. *Invites* the International Narcotics Control Board, within its treaty-based mandate, to continue to provide guidance to Member States, including, as appropriate, on enhancing their capacity for the safe handling of synthetic drugs, their precursors and other chemicals used in the illicit manufacture of drugs, in particular those which have been seized or confiscated;

10. *Invites* Member States to continue to make use of training, guidance and expertise from the International Criminal Police Organization to enhance their capacity for the safe handling and disposal of synthetic drugs, their precursors and other chemicals used in the illicit manufacture of drugs;

11. *Invites* Member States, as appropriate, and other relevant stakeholders, including the private sector, to share, on a voluntary basis, according to their domestic legislation, including through the Commission, their best practices, challenges, lessons learned and relevant scientific advances on the safe handling and disposal of synthetic drugs, their precursors and other chemicals used in the illicit manufacture of drugs, and requests the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to support efforts of Member States in this regard;

12. *Encourages* Member States, industry, academia and other relevant stakeholders, as appropriate, to continue their research and development to improve the methods available for the safe handling and disposal of synthetic drugs, their precursors and other chemicals used in the illicit manufacture of drugs;

13. *Encourages* Member States to consider voluntarily establishing and strengthening partnerships or cooperation with private sector entities, where relevant and in accordance with domestic law, in support of the safe handling and disposal of synthetic drugs, their precursors and other chemicals used in the illicit manufacture of drugs, in particular those which have been seized or confiscated, including in situations where relevant private sector entities are engaged to undertake disposal operations, or where disposal involves repurposing and reuse by legitimate industries;

14. *Encourages* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, in close cooperation with Member States and in consultation with other relevant stakeholders, to regularly review and, as appropriate, update its *Guidelines for the Safe Handling and Disposal of Chemicals Used in the Illicit Manufacture of Drugs* and to make that publication and other relevant tools available, including through the United Nations Toolkit on Synthetic Drugs;

15. *Also encourages* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to continue to engage with relevant entities, including those intergovernmental organizations that participate in the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals, for the purposes of inter-agency cooperation and coordination, information-sharing and obtaining feedback on new and ongoing activities, to ensure that the work of the Office on the safe handling and disposal of synthetic drugs, their precursors and other chemicals used in the illicit manufacture of drugs, in particular those which have been seized or confiscated, is well informed and to keep Member States informed about those activities;

16. *Invites* Member States and other donors to consider providing extrabudgetary resources for the purposes described above, in accordance with the rules and procedures of the United Nations.

Resolution 66/3

Strengthening information-sharing to increase scientific evidence-based support for international scheduling and the effective implementation of international scheduling decisions

The Commission on Narcotic Drugs,

Reaffirming the commitment of States parties to achieving the goals and objectives of and the obligations contained in the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961 as amended by the 1972 Protocol,¹⁶ the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971¹⁷ and the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988,¹⁸ in which States parties expressed concern for the health and welfare of humankind,

Recognizing that there are persistent, new and evolving challenges that should be addressed in conformity with the three international drug control conventions, which allow for sufficient flexibility for States parties to design and implement national drug policies according to their priorities and needs, consistent with the principle of common and shared responsibility and applicable international law,

Recognizing also that a key objective of the international drug control system is to ensure the availability of and access to internationally controlled narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances for medical and scientific purposes while preventing their abuse and diversion into illicit channels,

Deeply concerned that synthetic drugs and the non-medical use of prescription drugs pose increasing risks to health and safety, as well as scientific, legal and regulatory challenges, including with regard to the scheduling of substances,

Underscoring that in order to address the international challenges posed by the non-medical use of synthetic drugs, intensified action at the national level, as appropriate and within domestic law, may be required, including national efforts to implement international scheduling decisions, as well as domestic efforts to raise public awareness such as carrying out national campaigns that, in particular, as appropriate, address their negative public health consequences, prevention, treatment and recovery options, and stressing that capacity-building at the national level is required for the international community to effectively respond to those multifaceted challenges and that such action should promote scientific evidence-based, balanced, comprehensive and multidisciplinary approaches that incorporate both supply and demand reduction responses in line with the international drug control conventions and the international drug policy commitments,

Reaffirming its resolve to accelerate, based on the principle of common and shared responsibility, the full implementation of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem¹⁹ of 2009, the Joint Ministerial Statement of the 2014 high-level review by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs of the implementation by Member States of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action²⁰ and the outcome document of the thirtieth special session of the General Assembly, on the world drug problem,²¹ held

¹⁶ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 976, No. 14152.

¹⁷ *Ibid.*, vol. 1019, No. 14956.

¹⁸ *Ibid.*, vol. 1582, No. 27627.

¹⁹ See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2009, Supplement No. 8 (E/2009/28)*, chap. I, sect. C.

²⁰ *Ibid.*, 2014, *Supplement No. 8 (E/2014/28)*, chap. I, sect. C.

²¹ General Assembly resolution S-30/1, annex.

in 2016, aimed at achieving all commitments, operational recommendations and aspirational goals set out therein, in particular those commitments relevant to the purposes of the present resolution,

Recognizing the important role of drug analysis laboratories as part of national drug control systems, and the value of laboratory results and data to criminal justice systems, law enforcement and health authorities and policymakers,

Acknowledging that drug analysis laboratories have an important role in the detection and identification of new precursor chemicals and the importance of sharing results, including by Member States through the Precursors Incident Communication System,

Recognizing the importance of detecting, identifying and monitoring emerging trends, the potential adverse impacts and risks to health and safety and the prevalence, availability, composition, production, manufacture, distribution and seizure of new psychoactive substances and new precursor chemicals, and acknowledging the challenges associated with, as well as the value of, sharing such information and data among domestic laboratories, as appropriate,

Acknowledging that there is still a growing need for laboratories to be supported in their analytical work, services and the training of experts,

Recalling its resolution 58/9 of 17 March 2015 on promoting the role of drug analysis laboratories worldwide, and reaffirming the importance of the quality of the analysis and results of such laboratories,

Recognizing the value of having a sustainable international network of laboratories and scientific support services allowing the transfer of specialized technical and forensic expertise from States with adequate resources to those in need of assistance in order to promote equality and reduce gaps between Member States,

Recalling its resolution 57/9 of 21 March 2014, in which it urged Member States to collect information on new psychoactive substances, as requested by the Commission in its resolution 55/1 of 16 March 2012, and to share, through bilateral and multilateral channels, as appropriate, while avoiding duplication of efforts, such information, particularly on current domestic legislation through existing mechanisms such as the global Synthetics Monitoring: Analysis, Reporting and Trends programme early warning advisory,

Recalling also its resolution 63/1 of 6 March 2020, in which it recognized the important contribution of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime early warning advisory on new psychoactive substances in identifying new dangerous substances appearing on illicit markets and encouraged Member States to contribute to and benefit from the advisories emanating from that early warning system,

Recognizing the challenges that may exist when domestic drug analysis laboratories share with policymakers and relevant national authorities information on new psychoactive substances and new precursor chemicals in the context of scheduling considerations,

Underscoring the importance of the treaty-facilitated process for States parties to provide information relating to substances which are not yet under international control and which Member States believe may warrant an amendment to the schedules or tables of the conventions to the Secretary-General of the United Nations for consideration by the World Health Organization or the International Narcotics Control Board, as applicable, for scheduling recommendations made to the Commission on Narcotic Drugs,

Recognizing the important role played by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, together with the treaty-mandated roles of the International Narcotics Control Board and the World Health Organization, in collecting data to inform Member States about the latest trends relating to new psychoactive substances and new precursor chemicals,

Recalling its resolution 61/3 of 16 March 2018 on laboratory support for the implementation of the scheduling decisions of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, in which it called upon Member States to strengthen national drug analysis laboratories and to make efforts towards the effective exchange of forensic laboratory information on scheduled substances, including research and trend analysis, where possible,

Taking note with appreciation of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime Synthetic Drug Strategy 2021–2025,

Acknowledging with appreciation the efforts of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to organize, in collaboration with regional networks of forensic science institutions and other relevant scientific institutions, the international forensic science symposium,

1. *Encourages* Member States, with a view to detecting and identifying new psychoactive substances and new precursor chemicals, to establish and strengthen, as appropriate and within their means, drug analysis laboratories and provide resources to them;

2. *Also encourages* Member States to integrate scientific support, including from drug analysis laboratories, into their drug-related policies and programmes;

3. *Further encourages* Member States to strengthen the exchange of information among domestic drug analysis laboratories with a view to detecting, analysing and identifying new psychoactive substances and new precursor chemicals through a comprehensive, multidisciplinary, coordinated and integrated approach that incorporates, as appropriate and in accordance with domestic legislation, other government departments and relevant agencies and stakeholders;

4. *Encourages* Member States to continue to collect information on the adverse impacts and risks to public health and safety posed by new psychoactive substances, using chemical and toxicological data, data from hospitals and treatment and toxicology centres and data reported by individuals;

5. *Also encourages* Member States to take a proactive approach to the detection, forensic identification and toxicological testing of new psychoactive substances, including through interregional and intraregional collaboration, at points of entry and through postal systems or points of sale, including over the Internet, and to monitor emerging trends in the potential adverse impacts and risks to health and safety, prevalence, availability, composition, production, manufacture, distribution and seizure of new psychoactive substances;

6. *Invites* Member States to enhance the capacity and effectiveness of national laboratories and promote national and regional cooperation among them, as appropriate, for the detection and identification of new psychoactive substances, including through the use of existing United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime reference standards and assistance activities;

7. *Encourages* Member States to actively participate in early warning networks and promote the use of relevant surveillance lists and voluntary controls and the sharing of information through the International Narcotics Control Board, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the World Health Organization, within their respective mandates, and to enhance bilateral, subregional, regional and international cooperation in the identification and reporting of new psychoactive substances and incidents involving such substances and, to that end, strengthen the use of established national, regional and international reporting and information exchange systems, such as, where appropriate, the early warning advisory on new psychoactive substances and the global Synthetics Monitoring: Analysis, Reporting and Trends programme of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and Project Ion of the International Narcotics Control Board;

8. *Calls upon* Member States to strengthen the national, regional and international monitoring of chemicals used in the illicit manufacture of drugs and new psychoactive substances, with a view to more effectively preventing the diversion of

and trafficking in those chemicals, while ensuring that legitimate trade in and use of those chemicals are not adversely affected, including by using national, subregional and international reporting systems and International Narcotics Control Board tools such as Project Prism, the Precursors Incident Communication System and the Pre-Export Notification Online system;

9. *Encourages* Member States to develop and strengthen information-sharing processes between domestic drug analysis laboratories and national competent authorities, as appropriate, in order to facilitate the provision of information by Member States to the World Health Organization and the International Narcotics Control Board as part of the treaty-mandated scheduling process;

10. *Also encourages* Member States to make use of existing international, regional and subregional multidisciplinary networks to enable real-time information exchange among practitioners and technical experts on new psychoactive substances and new precursor chemicals;

11. *Calls upon* Member States to provide their best available data, including data from national drug analysis laboratories and other designated laboratories, as appropriate within national frameworks, to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the World Health Organization and other relevant organizations in order to support the review of the most prevalent, persistent and harmful new psychoactive substances by the Expert Committee on Drug Dependence of the World Health Organization and facilitate informed scheduling decisions by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs;

12. *Encourages* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, in the light of new analytical technologies and emerging challenges, to continue to support the analytical work of laboratories and ensure high quality standards by providing reference materials, identifying best practices, developing and updating relevant guidelines and research and facilitating the exchange of laboratory information and data so that Member States can ensure their preparedness for the implementation of scheduling decisions;

13. *Encourages* Member States to enhance their scientific capacity in support of the implementation of international scheduling decisions taken by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, to detect and identify substances and share best practices and challenges, and to provide reference samples of controlled substances and substances recommended to be kept under surveillance to relevant national institutions and/or drug analysis laboratories, including through the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime Laboratory and Scientific Services, in order to facilitate laboratory analysis;

14. *Requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to continue applying its expertise and engaging with national drug analysis laboratories, as appropriate, to conduct in-depth analyses in order to identify training needs, capacity-building opportunities and other areas where technical assistance interventions could support Member States in strengthening the identification and detection of synthetic drugs and precursor chemicals, upon request;

15. *Encourages* Member States to support their drug analysis laboratories, and other designated laboratories, as appropriate within national frameworks, in making use of accreditation programmes and international collaborative exercises, including the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime international collaborative exercises programme, to evaluate their own performance and take appropriate action;

16. *Requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, in accordance with its resolution 52/7 of 20 March 2009, to continue to evaluate, upon request, the performance of drug analysis laboratories through the international collaborative exercises programme and to provide assistance to develop and enhance their services, where appropriate;

17. *Encourages* Member States to support their forensic science institutions in actively participating in regional networks in order to advance international

cooperation among forensic services worldwide, to provide expertise, where appropriate, for the development and maintenance of cooperative networks among forensic science service providers and scientists and to endeavour to ensure the scientific independence of national forensic laboratories and promote their internal development and modernization, including through education and training, in order to strengthen technical and data analytics competencies;

18. *Requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to strengthen and expand its global network of drug analysis laboratories, and other designated laboratories, as appropriate within national frameworks, taking into consideration regional needs, by effectively utilizing its annual international forensic science symposium to advance international cooperation in the forensic field;

19. *Invites* Member States and other donors to provide extrabudgetary resources for the purposes described above, in accordance with the rules and procedures of the United Nations.

Resolution 66/4

Promoting alternative development as a development-oriented drug control strategy that is sustainable and inclusive

The Commission on Narcotic Drugs,

Recognizing that the world drug problem continues to present challenges to the health, safety and well-being of all humanity, and resolving to tackle such challenges in order to help ensure that all people can live in health, dignity and peace, with security and prosperity,

Underscoring that the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961 as amended by the 1972 Protocol,²² the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971²³ and the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988,²⁴ together with other relevant international instruments, constitute the cornerstone of the international drug control system,

Underscoring also that in accordance with the 1988 Convention, each party shall take appropriate measures to prevent illicit cultivation of and to eradicate plants containing narcotic or psychotropic substances, such as opium poppy, coca bush and cannabis plants, cultivated illicitly in its territory, and that the measures adopted shall respect fundamental human rights and shall take due account of traditional licit uses, where there is historic evidence of such use, as well as the protection of the environment,

Expressing concern that the illicit cultivation of crops and illicit manufacture, distribution and trafficking remain serious challenges in addressing and countering the world drug problem, and recognizing the need to strengthen sustainable crop control strategies that may include, inter alia, alternative development, eradication and law enforcement measures, for the purpose of preventing and significantly and measurably reducing the illicit cultivation of crops, and the need to intensify joint efforts at the national, regional and international levels in a more comprehensive manner, in accordance with the principle of common and shared responsibility, including by means of appropriate preventive tools and measures, enhanced and better-coordinated financial and technical assistance and action-oriented programmes, in order to tackle those challenges in a timely and efficient manner,

Reaffirming that drug policies and programmes, including in the field of development, should be undertaken in accordance with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, international law and the Universal Declaration of

²² United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 976, No. 14152.

²³ *Ibid.*, vol. 1019, No. 14956.

²⁴ *Ibid.*, vol. 1582, No. 27627.

Human Rights²⁵ and, in particular, with full respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of States, the principle of non-intervention in the internal affairs of States, all human rights, fundamental freedoms, the inherent dignity of all individuals and the principles of equal rights and mutual respect among States, as well as the principle of common and shared responsibility, recalling the Sustainable Development Goals, and taking into account the specific situations of countries and regions,

Recalling the political declaration adopted by the General Assembly at its twentieth special session, in 1998, devoted to countering the world drug problem,²⁶ as well as the commitments related to alternative development contained in the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem²⁷ of 2009 and the Joint Ministerial Statement of the 2014 high-level review by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs of the implementation by Member States of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action,²⁸ as well as the outcome document of the thirtieth special session of the General Assembly, held in 2016, entitled “Our joint commitment to effectively addressing and countering the world drug problem”,²⁹ in which Member States reiterated their commitment to addressing drug-related socioeconomic issues related to the illicit cultivation of narcotic plants and the illicit manufacture and production of and trafficking in drugs through the implementation of long-term, comprehensive and sustainable development-oriented and balanced drug control policies and programmes, including alternative development and, as appropriate, preventive alternative development programmes, which are part of sustainable crop control strategies,

Recalling also the Ministerial Declaration on Strengthening Our Actions at the National, Regional and International Levels to Accelerate the Implementation of Our Joint Commitments to Address and Counter the World Drug Problem,³⁰ adopted at the ministerial segment of the sixty-second session of the Commission, in 2019, in which Member States reiterated their resolve, in the framework of existing policy documents, inter alia, to address drug-related socioeconomic issues related to illicit crop cultivation and the production and manufacture of and trafficking in drugs, including through the implementation of long-term, comprehensive and sustainable development-oriented and balanced drug control policies and programmes,

Emphasizing that the implementation of alternative development programmes should also be considered in the framework of sustainable crop control strategies, which may include, inter alia, eradication and law enforcement, in accordance with the national context, in the light of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action of 2009 and the outcome document of the thirtieth special session of the General Assembly, and taking into consideration the United Nations Guiding Principles on Alternative Development,³¹

Recalling the United Nations Guiding Principles on Alternative Development, adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 68/196 of 18 December 2013,

Reaffirming that alternative development is an important, lawful, viable and sustainable alternative to the illicit cultivation of drug crops and an effective measure to counter the world drug problem and other drug-related crime challenges, as well as a choice in favour of promoting a society free of drug abuse, that it is one of the key components of policies and programmes for reducing illicit drug production, and that it is an integral part of efforts made by Governments to achieve sustainable development within their societies,

²⁵ General Assembly resolution 217 A (III).

²⁶ General Assembly resolution S-20/2, annex.

²⁷ See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2009, Supplement No. 8 (E/2009/28)*, chap. I, sect. C.

²⁸ *Ibid.*, 2014, *Supplement No. 8 (E/2014/28)*, chap. I, sect. C.

²⁹ General Assembly resolution S-30/1, annex.

³⁰ See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2019, Supplement No. 8 (E/2019/28)*, chap. I, sect. B.

³¹ General Assembly resolution 68/196, annex.

Reiterating its commitment to strengthen regional and international cooperation to support sustainable alternative development programmes, including, as appropriate, preventive alternative development, in close collaboration with all relevant stakeholders at the local, national and international levels, and to develop and share best practices towards implementing the United Nations Guiding Principles on Alternative Development, taking into account all the lessons learned and good practices, in particular by countries with extensive expertise in alternative development,

Recognizing that alternative development programmes can contribute to the efforts of Member States to address human vulnerabilities, including poverty, unemployment, a lack of opportunities, discrimination and social marginalization, as well as mutually reinforce endeavours to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, in accordance with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,³²

Reiterating its commitment to respecting, protecting and promoting all human rights, fundamental freedoms and the inherent dignity of all individuals and the rule of law in the development and implementation of drug policies,

Recalling the 2030 Agenda, and stressing that the implementation of the United Nations Guiding Principles on Alternative Development should be aligned with the efforts to achieve those relevant objectives within the Sustainable Development Goals that are related to the issue of alternative development, which falls within the mandate of the Commission, and that the efforts to achieve the Goals and to effectively address the world drug problem are complementary and mutually reinforcing,

Recalling also the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples,³³ and recognizing the importance of promoting sustainable and viable livelihoods for the Indigenous Peoples and local communities affected by or vulnerable to the illicit cultivation of crops used for the illicit production and manufacture of and trafficking in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances,

Recognizing the importance of the engagement of Indigenous Peoples and local communities in alternative development programmes, taking into consideration the United Nations Guiding Principles on Alternative Development, while also taking into account their traditions, knowledge and culture,

Recalling its resolution 59/5 of 22 March 2016, entitled “Mainstreaming a gender perspective in drug-related policies and programmes”,

Noting the findings of booklet 5, on drugs and the environment, of the *World Drug Report 2022*,³⁴ aimed at providing a comprehensive overview of the current state of research on the direct and indirect impact of drug crop cultivation, drug manufacture and drug policy responses on the environment,

Expressing concern that aspects of the world drug problem associated with illicit drug production can cause serious harm to the environment, including deforestation, soil erosion and degradation, the loss of endemic species, contamination of the soil, groundwater and waterways, and the release of greenhouse gases,

Aware of the work of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the work conducted under the Convention on Biological Diversity³⁵ and the work conducted under the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa,³⁶

Recalling that alternative development programmes should include measures to protect the environment at the local level, according to national and international law

³² General Assembly resolution 70/1.

³³ General Assembly resolution 61/295, annex.

³⁴ *World Drug Report 2022*, booklet 5, *Drugs and the Environment* (United Nations publication, 2022).

³⁵ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1760, No. 30619.

³⁶ *Ibid.*, vol. 1954, No. 33480.

and policies, through the provision of incentives for conservation, proper education and awareness programmes, so that local communities can improve and preserve their livelihoods and mitigate negative environmental impacts,

Noting the holding of the expert group meeting on alternative development, on the theme “Towards more inclusive alternative development”, from 28 November to 1 December 2022 and its contributions with regard to alternative development,

1. *Encourages* Member States to increase efforts in promoting alternative development programmes, and, as appropriate, preventive alternative development programmes, to support populations affected by or vulnerable to the illicit cultivation of drug crops, including through a market-driven approach, which may contribute to efforts to build back better from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, utilizing best practices and lessons learned from the United Nations Guiding Principles on Alternative Development, and reiterates in that regard that efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and to effectively address the world drug problem are complementary and mutually reinforcing;

2. *Recognizes* the need for increasing national, regional and international efforts to promote viable economic alternatives, in particular for communities affected by or at risk of the illicit cultivation of crops used for the production of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances and the illicit manufacture and production of and trafficking in drugs, as well as other illicit drug-related activities in urban and rural areas, including through comprehensive alternative development programmes, and to this end encourages Member States to consider development-oriented interventions, while ensuring that all people benefit equally from them;

3. *Encourages* Member States to develop policies and programmes that take into account an evidence- and science-based assessment of the potential impact of alternative development on the illicit cultivation of crops used for the illicit production and manufacture of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, and on sustainable rural and socioeconomic development, that empower women and girls and that include measures to protect the environment;

4. *Recognizes* the fundamental role of effective international cooperation in preventing and combating drug-related crime, in particular through alternative development programmes, and to this end underlines the importance of addressing, tackling and effectively responding to international challenges and barriers, in particular measures, that hinder such cooperation, and which are not consistent with the Charter of the United Nations and obligations under international law, and in this regard urges States, consistent with their international obligations, to refrain from applying such measures;

5. *Encourages* Member States to also consider the development of viable economic alternatives, particularly for communities affected by or at risk of illicit cultivation of drug crops and other illicit drug-related activities in urban and rural areas, including through comprehensive alternative development programmes, and to this end to consider development-oriented interventions, while ensuring that both men and women benefit equally from them, including through job opportunities, improved infrastructure and basic public services and, as appropriate, access and legal titles to land for farmers and local communities, which will also contribute to preventing, reducing or eliminating illicit cultivation and other drug-related activities;

6. *Also encourages* Member States to mainstream a gender perspective into and ensure the involvement of women in all stages of the development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of alternative development programmes, and to develop and disseminate gender-sensitive and age-appropriate measures that take into account the specific needs of and circumstances faced by women and girls with regard to the illicit cultivation of drug crops and other illicit drug-related activities in urban and rural areas;

7. *Further encourages* Member States, within their efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and within their alternative development policies and

programmes, to undertake reforms to give women equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to ownership and control over land and other forms of property, financial services, inheritance and natural resources, in accordance with national laws;

8. *Invites* Member States, in implementing alternative development programmes, to consider the importance of community-based agreements that enable communities to sustain their development;

9. *Encourages* Member States to support the empowerment and participation of local communities, including youth, in the design and implementation of alternative development programmes, including, as appropriate, preventive alternative development programmes, to contribute to the sustainability of communities;

10. *Also encourages* Member States to examine and address, within the efforts of alternative development, the harmful impact of the illicit cultivation of crops used for the production of narcotic drugs on the environment, which may lead to deforestation and the pollution of soil and water, and to seize the opportunities offered by alternative development with regard to the conservation and sustainable use of the environment and the protection of biodiversity;

11. *Further encourages* Member States to take into account and strengthen climate change mitigation and adaptation, biodiversity conservation and other policies and measures to protect the environment when implementing alternative development programmes in a properly sequenced manner and, as appropriate, preventive alternative development programmes in the context of long-term, comprehensive and sustainable development-oriented and balanced drug control policies;

12. *Encourages* Member States to design and implement alternative development programmes and, as appropriate, preventive alternative development programmes, in ways that also reduce negative impacts on the environment and contribute to conservation efforts and to take note of opportunities for communities affected by or at risk of illicit cultivation of crops used for the illicit production and manufacture of narcotic drugs, as appropriate, to access public and private investment, climate finance, as well as carbon credit schemes and payments for ecosystem services, in accordance with domestic legislation;

13. *Also encourages* Member States, within the framework of their alternative development programmes, to implement measures, within their means, to prevent, control and mitigate the environmental damage caused by illicit crop cultivation and other drug-related illicit activities, to continue providing assistance to developing countries, upon request, and to make efforts to prevent, through sustainable development strategies, illicit cultivation and the expansion of illicit crops into protected and conserved areas and the lands and territories of Indigenous Peoples and local communities, in accordance with their domestic legislation;

14. *Further encourages* Member States, as appropriate, to engage Indigenous Peoples and local communities affected by illicit drug crop cultivation in the development and implementation of policies and actions aimed at promoting sustainable alternative development, taking into account their culture, knowledge and traditions;

15. *Encourages* Member States to take into account land rights and other related land management resources when designing, implementing, monitoring and evaluating alternative development programmes and, as appropriate, preventive alternative development programmes, including the land rights and other related land management resources of Indigenous Peoples and local communities, in accordance with domestic law;

16. *Also encourages* Member States to ensure that measures to prevent the illicit cultivation of and to eradicate plants containing narcotic and psychotropic

substances respect fundamental human rights, take due account of traditional licit uses, where there is historical evidence of such use, and of the protection of the environment, in accordance with the three international drug control conventions, and also take into account, as appropriate, and in accordance with national legislation, the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples;

17. *Encourages* the development of strategies consistent with domestic legal frameworks, with the participation of the beneficiary communities and the utilization of local expertise, capacity-building and entrepreneurship, to develop products through alternative development programmes identified on the basis of market demand and value added production chains, as well as secure and stable markets with fair prices for producers, in accordance with international trade rules, including the required infrastructure and a conducive environment, including roads, the establishment of farmer associations and the use of special marketing regimes, for example, those based on fair trade principles and commercialization of organic products;

18. *Encourages* Member States, in accordance with their domestic legislation and consistent with applicable multilateral trade rules and treaties, to consider developing voluntary marketing tools, such as an alternative development certification, for products stemming from alternative development, including, as appropriate, preventive alternative development, to support the sustainability of alternative development projects;

19. *Invites* relevant international financial institutions, United Nations entities, regional and international organizations, non-governmental organizations and the private sector, as appropriate, to increase their support for sustainable alternative development programmes, including through fair and transparent long-term and flexible funding, for the implementation of comprehensive and balanced development-oriented drug control programmes and viable economic alternatives, in particular alternative development, including, as appropriate, preventive alternative development programmes, based on identified needs and national priorities, for areas and populations affected by or vulnerable to the illicit cultivation of crops used for the illicit production and manufacture of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, with a view to its prevention, reduction and elimination, and encourages States to stay strongly committed, to the extent possible, to financing such programmes;

20. *Requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to increase its cooperation with relevant United Nations entities and other relevant international organizations working in the field of development, within their respective mandates, in implementing alternative development programmes, in particular with the United Nations Development Programme, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the International Fund for Agricultural Development, bearing in mind, among others, the commitment of Member States contained in the outcome document of the thirtieth special session of the General Assembly, held in 2016, to consider elaborating and implementing comprehensive and sustainable alternative development programmes, including preventive alternative development, as appropriate, that support sustainable crop control strategies to prevent and significantly, durably and measurably reduce illicit crop cultivation and other illicit drug-related activities, ensuring the empowerment, ownership and responsibility of affected local communities, including farmers and their cooperatives;

21. *Encourages* Member States to strengthen subregional, regional and international cooperation to support comprehensive and sustainable alternative development programmes, including, as appropriate, preventive alternative development, as an essential part of successful prevention and crop control strategies to increase the positive outcome of such programmes, especially in the areas affected by and at risk of illicit cultivation of crops used for the production of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, taking into account the United Nations Guiding Principles on Alternative Development;

22. *Also encourages* Member States to engage in and promote partnerships with each other, as well as with all relevant stakeholders, including regional and international organizations, the private sector, civil society, communities affected by illicit drug crop cultivation, and financial institutions, for the implementation of alternative development projects and programmes;

23. *Calls upon* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to commemorate adequately the tenth anniversary of the adoption of the United Nations Guiding Principles on Alternative Development by organizing a special meeting during 2023;

24. *Requests* the Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to report to the Commission at its sixty-seventh session on the implementation of the present resolution;

25. *Invites* Member States and other donors to provide extrabudgetary resources for the purposes described above in accordance with the rules and procedures of the United Nations.

Decision 66/1

Inclusion of 2-methyl-AP-237 in Schedule I of the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961 as amended by the 1972 Protocol

At its 5th meeting, on 15 March 2023, the Commission on Narcotic Drugs decided by 47 votes to none, with no abstentions, to include 2-methyl-AP-237 in Schedule I of the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961 as amended by the 1972 Protocol.

Decision 66/2

Inclusion of etazene in Schedule I of the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961 as amended by the 1972 Protocol

At its 5th meeting, on 15 March 2023, the Commission on Narcotic Drugs decided by 47 votes to none, with no abstentions, to include etazene in Schedule I of the 1961 Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961 as amended by the 1972 Protocol.

Decision 66/3

Inclusion of etonitazepyne in Schedule I of the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961 as amended by the 1972 Protocol

At its 5th meeting, on 15 March 2023, the Commission on Narcotic Drugs decided by 47 votes to none, with no abstentions, to include etonitazepyne in Schedule I of the 1961 Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961 as amended by the 1972 Protocol.

Decision 66/4

Inclusion of protonitazene in Schedule I of the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961 as amended by the 1972 Protocol

At its 5th meeting, on 15 March 2023, the Commission on Narcotic Drugs decided by 47 votes to none, with no abstentions, to include protonitazene in

Schedule I of the 1961 Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961 as amended by the 1972 Protocol.

Decision 66/5

Inclusion of ADB-BUTINACA in Schedule II of the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971

At its 5th meeting, on 15 March 2023, the Commission on Narcotic Drugs decided by 47 votes to none, with no abstentions, to include ADB-BUTINACA in Schedule II of the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971.

Decision 66/6

Inclusion of *alpha*-PiHP in Schedule II of the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971

At its 5th meeting, on 15 March 2023, the Commission on Narcotic Drugs decided by 47 votes to none, with no abstentions, to include *alpha*-PiHP in Schedule II of the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971.

Decision 66/7

Inclusion of 3-methylmethcathinone in Schedule II of the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971

At its 5th meeting, on 15 March 2023, the Commission on Narcotic Drugs decided by 47 votes to none, with no abstentions, to include 3-methylmethcathinone in Schedule II of the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971.

Chapter II

General debate

3. At its 1st to 4th meetings, on 13 and 14 March 2023, the Commission on Narcotic Drugs considered agenda item 3, entitled “General debate”. Statements were made in person, online or by way of pre-recorded video messages.³⁷

4. At the 1st meeting of the sixty-sixth session of the Commission, on 13 March 2023, the following persons made statements:

Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Pakistan to the United Nations (Vienna) (on behalf of the Group of 77 and China)

Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Ghana to the United Nations (Vienna) (on behalf of the Group of African States)

Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Japan to the United Nations (Vienna) (on behalf of the Group of Asia-Pacific States)

Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Honduras to the United Nations (Vienna) (on behalf of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States)

Minister for Social Affairs and Public Health of Sweden (on behalf of the European Union and its member States)³⁸

Vice-President of the Plurinational State of Bolivia

Minister for Social Policy and Children’s Rights of Malta (pre-recorded video)

Minister for Communications and Information and Second Minister for Home Affairs of Singapore

Minister of State for Crime, Policing and Fire of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (pre-recorded video)

Minister and Executive Secretary, National Anti-Drug Secretariat of Paraguay

Minister of Health and Social Services of Namibia (pre-recorded video)

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Social Affairs and Health of Belgium (pre-recorded video)

Federal Minister of Narcotics Control of Pakistan

Minister of Health of Tunisia (pre-recorded video)

Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs of Honduras

Vice-Minister of Multilateral Affairs of Colombia

Minister of the Eastern Region of Ghana

Undersecretary of State to the Presidency of the Council of Ministers of Italy³⁹

Head of the National Narcotics Board of Indonesia

Secretary and Chairman of the Dangerous Drugs Board of the Philippines

Deputy Secretary of the Presidency of Uruguay

Director of the Drug Control Agency of Tajikistan

³⁷ The statements made at the general debate of the sixty-sixth session of the Commission have been posted on the website of UNODC (www.unodc.org).

³⁸ Also on behalf of Albania, Andorra, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Norway, the Republic of Moldova, San Marino, Serbia and Ukraine.

³⁹ Also delivered a statement on behalf of the Pompidou Group of the Council of Europe.

Secretary of Comprehensive Policies on Drugs of Argentina (pre-recorded video)

Vice-Minister of Health of Panama

National Secretary for Drug Policy and Asset Management, Vice-Minister of Justice and Public Security of Brazil

5. At the 2nd meeting of the sixty-sixth session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, on 13 March 2023, the following persons made statements:

Executive President of the National Commission for Development and Life without Drugs of Peru

Secretary-General of the Drug Control Headquarters of the Islamic Republic of Iran

Vice-Minister of the Interior of Guatemala

Vice-Commissioner of the National Narcotics Control Commission of China

Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation (pre-recorded video)

Vice-Minister of Justice of Cuba

Deputy Minister of Internal Affairs of Turkmenistan

Principal Administrative Secretary, Ministry of Interior and National Administration of Kenya

First Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Kazakhstan

Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Yemen to the United Nations (Vienna) and Chairman of the Council of Arab Ambassadors, on behalf of the Arab Group

Director of National Drug Control Policy of the United States of America

Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Japan to the United Nations (Vienna)

Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Austria to the United Nations (Vienna)

National Coordinator on Drugs, Drug Addiction and the Harmful Use of Alcohol of Portugal

Director General of the Controlled Substances Directorate of Health Canada

Deputy Minister of the Interior of Albania

Secretary-General of the Narcotics Control Board, Ministry of Justice of Thailand

Ministerial Adviser, Ministry of Social Affairs and Health of Finland

Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to the United Nations (Vienna)

Commissioner of the Federal Government for Drug and Addiction Policy, Federal Ministry of Health of Germany

National Director of the National Service for Prevention and Rehabilitation of Drug and Alcohol Consumption of Chile

President of the Interministerial Mission for Combating Drugs and Addictive Behaviours of France

Ambassador and Permanent Representative of South Africa to the United Nations (Vienna)

Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Spain to the United Nations (Vienna)

Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Switzerland to the United Nations (Vienna)

First Deputy Chief of the General Department for Intelligence and Investigation of Azerbaijan

Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Jordan to the United Nations (Vienna)

Director of the National Bureau for Drug Prevention of Poland

Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the United Arab Emirates to the United Nations (Vienna)

Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Republic of Korea to the United Nations (Vienna)

Executive Director of the National Anti-Drug Commission of El Salvador (pre-recorded video)

Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations (Vienna)

President of the National Addictions Authority of Cyprus

Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Australia to the United Nations (Vienna)

6. At the 3rd meeting of the sixty-sixth session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, on 14 March 2023, the following persons made statements:

Deputy Permanent Representative of Burkina Faso to the United Nations (Vienna)

Director General of the General Directorate of Narcotics Control of Saudi Arabia

Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Algeria to the United Nations (Vienna)

Additional Secretary, Ministry of Finance of India (online)

Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Türkiye to the United Nations (Vienna)

National Anti-Drugs Superintendent, Ministry of the People's Power for the Interior, Justice and Peace of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela

Ambassador and Deputy Permanent Representative of Côte d'Ivoire to the United Nations (Vienna)

Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Slovenia to the United Nations (Vienna)

Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Qatar to the United Nations (Vienna)

Counsellor and Chargé d'affaires of the Permanent Mission of Hungary to the United Nations (Vienna)

Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Norway to the United Nations (Vienna)

First Deputy Minister of Internal Affairs of Kyrgyzstan

Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Nepal to the United Nations (Vienna)

Group Manager for Public Health Strategy and Engagement of the Ministry of Health of New Zealand

Head of the International Relations and Legal Cooperation Department of the Ministry of Justice, Secretary of the Inter-Agency Coordinating Council for Combating Drug Abuse and Chairperson of the National Drug Observatory of Georgia (pre-recorded video)

Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations (Vienna)

Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Romania to the United Nations (Vienna)

First Secretary, Permanent Mission of Armenia to the United Nations (Vienna)

Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Czechia to the United Nations (Vienna)

Director of the National Institute against Drugs of Angola

Deputy Secretary-General for Security of the Ministry of Home Affairs of Malaysia

Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Morocco to the United Nations (Vienna)

Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Costa Rica to the United Nations (Vienna)

Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Dominican Republic to the United Nations (Vienna)

Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Mexico to the United Nations (Vienna)

Legal Officer, Ministry of Health and Wellness of Jamaica

Head of the Anti-Narcotics General Administration of Egypt (pre-recorded video)

Head of the Main Department for Drug Control and Combating Human Trafficking of Belarus

Chairman of the National Dangerous Drugs Control Board, Ministry of Public Security of Sri Lanka (online)

Chargé d'affaires of the Permanent Mission of Afghanistan to the United Nations (Vienna)

Chargé d'affaires of the Permanent Mission of Bangladesh to the United Nations (Vienna)

United Nations Assistant Secretary-General and Deputy Executive Director of the Policy, Advocacy and Knowledge Branch of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS

7. At the same meeting, the representative of the Russian Federation, the representative of the European Union, in its capacity as observer, and the representative of Ukraine made statements in exercise of the right of reply. The observer for Azerbaijan and the observer for Armenia also made statements in exercise of the right of reply. The representative of Algeria and the representative of Morocco also made statements in exercise of the right of reply.

8. At the 4th meeting of the sixty-sixth session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, on 14 March 2023, the following persons made statements:

Chargé d'affaires of the Permanent Mission of the United Republic of Tanzania to the United Nations (Vienna)

Director of the Narcotics Control Bureau of Brunei Darussalam
Agency Secretary of the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency of Nigeria
Director General of the General Directorate of Crime Detection and Forensic Science of Bahrain
Director General of the National Commission for Drug Control and Supervision of the Lao People's Democratic Republic
Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Ecuador to the United Nations (Vienna)
Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Sudan to the United Nations (Vienna)
Director General of the Drug Law Enforcement Agency of the Gambia
Director General of the Drug Enforcement Commission of Zambia (online)
Alternate Permanent Representative of Senegal to the United Nations (Vienna)
Director General of the Anti-Narcotics Department of the Police of the State of Palestine
Head of the Alcohol, Drugs and Addictive Behaviours Unit in the Department of Mental Health and Substance Use of the World Health Organization (WHO)
Alternate Permanent Representative of the Sovereign Military Hospitaller Order of St. John of Jerusalem, of Rhodes and of Malta to the United Nations (Vienna)
Senior Officer on Health and Care of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
Head of the Permanent Observer Mission of the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf to the United Nations (Vienna)
Head of the Permanent Observer Office of the International Criminal Police Organization to the United Nations (Vienna)
Secretary for Multidimensional Security of the Organization of American States
Secretary-General of the Colombo Plan
Co-Rapporteur on Terrorism and Special Representative for Women and Children in Armed Conflicts of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean (pre-recorded video)
Executive Director of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (pre-recorded video)
Chairperson of the Vienna NGO Committee on Drugs
Observer for Association Proyecto Hombre
President and Chief Executive Officer of Smart Approaches to Marijuana

Chapter III

Strategic management, budgetary and administrative questions

9. At its 4th meeting, on 14 March 2023, the Commission on Narcotic Drugs considered agenda item 4, which read as follows:

“Strategic management, budgetary and administrative questions:

- (a) Work of the standing open-ended intergovernmental working group on improving the governance and financial situation of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime;
- (b) Directives on policy and budgetary issues for the drug programme of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime;
- (c) Working methods of the Commission;
- (d) Staff composition of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and other related matters.”

10. For its consideration of item 4, the Commission had before it the following:

(a) Report of the Executive Director on the activities of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime ([E/CN.7/2023/2-E/CN.15/2023/2](#));

(b) Note by the Secretariat on the work of the standing open-ended intergovernmental working group on improving the governance and financial situation of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime ([E/CN.7/2023/3-E/CN.15/2023/3](#));

(c) Note by the Secretariat on the draft proposed programme plan for 2024 and programme performance for 2022 ([E/CN.7/2023/10-E/CN.15/2023/12](#)).

11. An introductory statement was made by the Director of the Division for Management of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC).

12. The observer for Albania, in her capacity as Vice-Chair of the standing open-ended intergovernmental working group on improving the governance and financial situation of UNODC, reported on the deliberations of the working group.

13. Statements were made by the representatives of the United States, Pakistan, China, Japan, Jamaica, South Africa and the Republic of Korea.

14. The observers for Burkina Faso and India also made statements.

Deliberations

15. Several speakers commended UNODC on its recent work, including in a situation of compounding crises related to the consequences of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic as well as new and protracted conflicts. Several speakers mentioned the UNODC Strategy 2021–2025 and noted progress in its implementation. The Strategic Vision for Africa 2030 and the Strategic Vision for Latin America and the Caribbean 2022–2025 were also welcomed, as was the new Global Programme on Preventing and Countering Terrorism (2022–2027) and the Office’s programming on synthetic drugs and on alternative development. Several speakers commended the work of the UNODC research programme. The importance of ensuring the objectivity of data and closely consulting with Member States in that regard was also mentioned. A number of speakers highlighted the role of global programming. Several speakers also welcomed the presence of the Office through its field office network, highlighted the importance of regional approaches and called upon the Office to maintain or increase its activities in their respective regions. UNODC was encouraged to deepen its partnerships with other intergovernmental organizations and to increase its internal coordination.

16. The efforts of UNODC to increase funding and partnerships were recognized, while the aggravated financial situation of the Office, in particular the decrease in the general purpose fund, was noted with concern. A number of speakers underlined the need for sufficient, adequate and predictable funding for UNODC. The Office's efforts to build a transparent funding model were noted. Some speakers highlighted the importance of ensuring efficiency, transparency and accountability, and the need for constant cooperation and consultations between the Secretariat and Member States was highlighted.

17. Many speakers commended the work of the standing open-ended intergovernmental working group on improving the governance and financial situation of UNODC as an invaluable opportunity for fostering cooperation with the Office. Particular reference was made to the dialogue with the Executive Director as an opportunity to exchange views and strengthen collaboration.

18. Several speakers noted with appreciation the improved situation with regard to gender parity among UNODC staff. Several speakers also welcomed the efforts undertaken by the Office to improve staff diversity, including geographical representation, and urged the Office to make further efforts in that regard. At the same time, it was emphasized that the basis for candidate selection should be merit and competence, as enshrined in Article 101, paragraph 3, of the Charter of the United Nations.

19. The importance of ensuring multilingualism in intergovernmental meetings was highlighted.

20. Some speakers also welcomed the efforts of UNODC in mainstreaming gender, age and human rights perspectives into drug-related policies and programmes.

Chapter IV

Implementation of the international drug control treaties

21. At its 5th and 6th meetings, on 15 March 2023, the Commission considered agenda item 5, which read as follows:

“Implementation of the international drug control treaties:

- (a) Changes in the scope of control of substances;
- (b) Challenges and future work of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, the World Health Organization and the International Narcotics Control Board in the review of substances for possible scheduling recommendations;
- (c) International Narcotics Control Board;
- (d) International cooperation to ensure the availability of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances for medical and scientific purposes while preventing their diversion;
- (e) Other matters arising from the international drug control treaties.”

22. For its consideration of item 5, the Commission had before it the following:

(a) Note by the Secretariat on changes in the scope of control of substances: proposed scheduling recommendations by the World Health Organization ([E/CN.7/2023/8](#));

(b) Conference room paper containing comments by States parties on proposed scheduling recommendations by the World Health Organization ([E/CN.7/2023/CRP.5](#)).

23. Introductory statements were made by the Chief and a representative of the Drugs, Laboratory and Scientific Services Branch of UNODC. Introductory statements were also made by observers for WHO and by the President of the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB). A video was presented by the secretariat.

24. Statements were made by the representatives of China, Japan, South Africa, the United States, the Kingdom of the Netherlands, the Russian Federation, Canada, Brazil, Pakistan, Thailand, Belgium, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Mexico, Ghana and Algeria.

25. Statements were also made by the observers for Indonesia, the representative of the European Union, in its capacity as observer (also on behalf of its member States),⁴⁰ and by the observers for India, Namibia, Belarus (online) and Burkina Faso.

26. A statement was made by the observer for the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

27. Statements were also made by the observers for the International Association for Hospice and Palliative Care, Physicians for Responsible Opioid Prescribing, Instituto RIA, Corporación Acción Técnica Social, Dejusticia, the Transform Drug Policy Foundation, the European Coalition for Just and Effective Drug Policies, the DRCNet Foundation and the International Harm Reduction Association.

⁴⁰ Also on behalf of Albania, Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Iceland, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Norway, Republic of Moldova, Serbia, Türkiye and Ukraine (agenda item 5 (b)); Albania, Andorra, Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Iceland, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Norway, Republic of Moldova, San Marino, Serbia and Ukraine (agenda item 5 (c)); and Albania, Andorra, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Iceland, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Norway, Republic of Moldova, San Marino, Serbia and Ukraine (agenda item 5 (d)).

28. The representative of the Russian Federation and the representative of the European Union, in its capacity as observer, made statements in exercise of the right of reply.

A. Deliberations

1. Changes in the scope of control of substances

(a) Consideration of a proposal from the World Health Organization to place 2-methyl-AP-237 in Schedule I of the 1961 Convention

29. The observer for WHO informed the Commission that 2-methyl-AP-237 was a synthetic opioid with a mechanism of action and effects similar to those of other opioids that were currently controlled under Schedule I of the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961 as amended by the 1972 Protocol. In common with other opioids, 2-methyl-AP-237 was an opioid receptor agonist that produced analgesia, respiratory depression and other typical opioid effects. Its potency was greater than that of morphine and similar to that of fentanyl. The observer stated that, on the basis of its mechanism of action, its known effects and self-reports of its use, 2-methyl-AP-237 was highly likely to be abused and had the potential to produce dependence similar to that induced by other opioids such as morphine and fentanyl. He also stated that, as a potent opioid, 2-methyl-AP-237 had the potential to produce severe adverse effects as well as death through respiratory depression, and that its use had been verified in reported fatalities, often with multiple substances involved. 2-Methyl-AP-237 had been detected in seized materials in countries across several regions. It had no therapeutic use. The observer informed the Commission that, as the substance had the potential for similar abuse and dependence and produced ill-effects similar to those of many other opioids placed in Schedule I of the 1961 Convention, the WHO Expert Committee on Drug Dependence recommended that 2-methyl-AP-237 also be placed in Schedule I of the 1961 Convention.

(b) Consideration of a proposal from the World Health Organization to place etazene in Schedule I of the 1961 Convention

30. The observer for WHO informed the Commission that etazene was a synthetic opioid that was closely related to opioids such as etonitazene and clonitazene, which were currently controlled under Schedule I of the 1961 Convention. In common with other opioids, etazene was an opioid receptor agonist that produced analgesia, respiratory depression and other typical opioid effects. Its potency was greater than that of morphine and lower than that of fentanyl. The observer stated that, on the basis of its mechanism of action, its known effects and self-reports of its use, etazene was highly likely to be abused and had the potential to produce dependence similar to that induced by other opioids such as morphine and fentanyl. He also stated that, as a potent opioid, etazene had the potential to produce serious adverse effects, such as euphoria as well as death through respiratory depression. Its use had been verified in reported fatalities, typically in combination with other opioids or benzodiazepines. Etazene had been detected in seized materials in countries across several regions. It had no therapeutic use. The observer informed the Commission that, as the substance had potential for similar abuse and dependence and produced ill-effects similar to those of many other opioids placed in Schedule I of the 1961 Convention, the Committee recommended that etazene also be placed in Schedule I of the 1961 Convention.

(c) Consideration of a proposal from the World Health Organization to place etonitazepyne in Schedule I of the 1961 Convention

31. The observer for WHO informed the Commission that etonitazepyne was a potent synthetic opioid that was closely related to opioids such as etonitazene and clonitazene, which were currently controlled under Schedule I of the 1961 Convention. In common with other opioids, etonitazepyne was an opioid receptor agonist that produced typical opioid effects, including analgesia, sedation and respiratory depression. Its potency was

greater than that of morphine and fentanyl. The observer stated that, on the basis of its mechanism of action, its known effects and self-reports of its use, etonitazepyne was highly likely to be abused and had the potential to produce dependence similar to that induced by other opioids such as morphine and fentanyl. He also stated that, as a potent opioid, etonitazepyne had the potential to produce serious adverse effects as well as death through respiratory depression, and that its use had been verified in reported fatalities. Etonitazepyne had been detected in seized materials in countries across several regions. It had no therapeutic use. The observer informed the Commission that, as the substance had the potential for similar abuse and dependence and produced ill-effects similar to those of many other opioids placed in Schedule I of the 1961 Convention, the Committee recommended that etonitazepyne also be placed in Schedule I of the 1961 Convention.

(d) Consideration of a proposal from the World Health Organization to place protonitazene in Schedule I of the 1961 Convention

32. The observer for WHO informed the Commission that protonitazene was a synthetic opioid that was closely related to opioids such as etonitazene and clonitazene, which were currently controlled under Schedule I of the 1961 Convention. In common with other opioids, protonitazene was an opioid receptor agonist that produced analgesia and other typical opioid effects, including sedation and respiratory depression. Its potency was greater than that of morphine and similar to that of fentanyl. The observer stated that, on the basis of its mechanism of action, its known effects and self-reports of its use, protonitazene was highly likely to be abused and had the potential to produce dependence similar to that induced by other opioids such as morphine and fentanyl. He also stated that, as a potent opioid, protonitazene had the potential to produce serious adverse effects as well as death through respiratory depression, and that its use had been verified in reported fatalities in which the presence of protonitazene had been confirmed, usually in combination with other substances. Protonitazene had been detected in seized materials in countries across several regions. It had no therapeutic use. The observer informed the Commission that, as the substance had potential for similar abuse and dependence and produced ill-effects similar to those of many other opioids placed in Schedule I of the 1961 Convention, the Committee recommended that protonitazene also be placed in Schedule I of the 1961 Convention.

(e) Consideration of a proposal from the World Health Organization to place ADB-BUTINACA in Schedule II of the 1971 Convention

33. The observer for WHO informed the Commission that ADB-BUTINACA was a synthetic cannabinoid with a mechanism of action and effects similar to those of other cannabinoids that were currently controlled under Schedule II of the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971. ADB-BUTINACA had been reported to produce effects such as euphoria, appetite stimulation, sedation and paranoia that were similar to the effects of other synthetic cannabinoid agonists. It was likely to be abused and it had the potential to produce dependence in a manner similar to other synthetic cannabinoids. The observer stated that, as a potent cannabinoid receptor agonist, ADB-BUTINACA had the potential to produce serious adverse effects. Cases of overdose resulting in loss of consciousness had been reported, and deaths had been attributed to the use of ADB-BUTINACA, both alone and when taken with other drugs. ADB-BUTINACA had been detected in seized materials in countries across several regions. It had no therapeutic use. The observer informed the Commission that, as the substance had potential for similar abuse and produced ill-effects similar to those of other synthetic cannabinoids placed in Schedule II of the 1971 Convention, the Committee recommended that ADB-BUTINACA also be placed in Schedule II of the 1971 Convention.

(f) Consideration of a proposal from the World Health Organization to place *alpha*-PiHP in Schedule II of the 1971 Convention

34. The observer for WHO informed the Commission that *alpha*-PiHP was a synthetic cathinone that was closely related to other cathinones, such as *alpha*-PHP and *alpha*-PVP, that were currently controlled under Schedule II of the 1971 Convention. The mechanism of action of *alpha*-PiHP was similar to that of other psychostimulants, including other cathinones and methamphetamine. Consistent with its psychostimulant mechanism of action, *alpha*-PiHP had been reported to produce effects such as euphoria, tachycardia, stimulation and vasoconstriction. In animal models, its potential for abuse was similar to that of methamphetamine and cocaine. In view of its actions and effects on the central nervous system, it would be expected to produce dependence similar to that induced by other psychostimulants such as methamphetamine. The observer stated that, as a psychostimulant with a mechanism of action and effects similar to those of methamphetamine, *alpha*-PiHP had the potential to produce serious adverse effects, including psychosis and cardiac events. Use of *alpha*-PiHP had been verified in reported fatalities and usually detected with other substances, including opioids and benzodiazepines. *Alpha*-PiHP had been detected in seized materials in countries across several regions. It had no therapeutic use. The observer informed the Commission that, as the substance had the potential for similar abuse and produced ill-effects similar to those of other cathinones placed in Schedule II of the 1971 Convention, the Committee recommended that *alpha*-PiHP also be placed in Schedule II of the 1971 Convention.

(g) Consideration of a proposal from the World Health Organization to place 3-methylmethcathinone in Schedule II of the 1971 Convention

35. The observer for WHO informed the Commission that 3-methylmethcathinone was a synthetic cathinone that was closely related to other cathinones, such as mephedrone, that were currently controlled under Schedule II of the 1971 Convention. The mechanism of action of 3-methylmethcathinone was similar to that of other psychostimulants, including other cathinones and methamphetamine. Consistent with its psychostimulant mechanism of action, 3-methylmethcathinone produced effects such as euphoria, tachycardia, agitation, anxiety, delirium and psychosis. It was likely to be abused and it had the potential to produce dependence in a manner similar to methamphetamine. The observer stated that severe adverse events reported in cases of 3-methylmethcathinone intoxication had included tachycardia, agitation, aggression, hypertension and hallucinations. Deaths had been reported as a result of 3-methylmethcathinone use, both alone and associated with other substances. 3-Methylmethcathinone had been detected in seized materials in countries across a number of regions. It had no therapeutic use. The observer informed the Commission that, as the substance had the potential for similar abuse and produced similar ill-effects as other cathinones placed in Schedule II of the 1971 Convention, the Committee recommended that 3-methylmethcathinone also be placed in Schedule II of the 1971 Convention.

2. Challenges and future work of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, the World Health Organization and the International Narcotics Control Board in the review of substances for possible scheduling recommendations

36. Several speakers mentioned the continued global challenge posed by new psychoactive substances, in particular new synthetic opioids and synthetic cannabinoids, as well as non-scheduled chemicals and designer precursors. The need to strengthen national, regional and international efforts to address those threats and to protect and promote the health of the population, in particular children and young people, was underscored by a number of speakers.

37. In that regard, responses aimed at controlling new psychoactive substances under the international drug conventions, as well as national efforts to prevent trafficking in and abuse of such substances, were commended. The need for targeted national and regional strategies to complement international scheduling was also

mentioned. A number of speakers also referred to various national and regional legislative responses on the matter.

38. The importance of multidisciplinary collaboration and evidence-based information-sharing among Member States, civil society stakeholders and the private sector was highlighted by several speakers.

39. The need for capacity-building at all levels was stressed, including through the sharing of expertise, testing technologies and methodologies for the detection and identification of new psychoactive substances. A number of speakers noted the important role of forensic laboratories in the identification of new substances in order to support early warning mechanisms.

40. The significant role of the UNODC global Synthetics Monitoring: Analyses, Reporting and Trends (SMART) programme, the UNODC early warning advisory on new psychoactive substances and other regional early warning and information-sharing networks in informing the international community about trends relating to new psychoactive substances was also noted. It was stated that continued strong international cooperation was needed between UNODC, INCB, WHO and other United Nations bodies and agencies in order to analyse, detect, monitor and quickly share information on the use, spread and risks of new psychoactive substances.

41. With regard to designer precursors, several speakers expressed appreciation for the initiatives of INCB, including activities aimed at furthering international cooperation. The need for a proactive approach to identifying emerging precursors was noted, and Governments were urged to share relevant data with INCB. Several speakers expressed their commitment to working together globally to tackle non-scheduled chemicals and designer precursors.

3. International Narcotics Control Board

42. Several speakers expressed support and appreciation for the work of INCB and welcomed its annual report for 2022, as well as the supplement entitled *No Patient Left Behind: Progress in Ensuring Adequate Access to Internationally Controlled Substances for Medical and Scientific Purposes*. Some speakers welcomed the thematic chapter of the annual report on the use of cannabis for non-medical and non-scientific purposes, while other speakers raised concerns about the information provided in that chapter and highlighted the importance of gathering and analysing further data for the evaluation of drug control policies.

43. With regard to the implementation of drug control policies, the central role of health, including mental health, and the protection of human rights, including promoting equality, non-discrimination and non-stigmatization of people who use drugs, was emphasized. Some speakers highlighted the importance of ensuring the availability of medicines containing internationally controlled substances, including for small countries, as well as evidence-based prevention and the provision of treatment services, including in emergency situations.

44. Speakers reiterated their commitment to the international drug control conventions. The importance of international cooperation in line with the principle of common and shared responsibility was highlighted. Some delegations made reference to the challenges posed by specific substances, such as fentanyl, opioids and new psychoactive substances.

45. A number of speakers mentioned the importance of capacity-building and technical assistance. In that regard, reference was made to INCB global programmes, namely, INCB Learning and the Global Rapid Interdiction of Dangerous Substances (GRIDS) Programme, as well as to other INCB initiatives, such as the recently launched Pre-Export Notification Online (PEN Online) Light system, the work of INCB on the digitalization of trade and on reporting requirements for cannabis-related substances, as well as the work of INCB on access to and the availability of controlled substances for medical and scientific purposes. Delegations highlighted the valuable contribution of those projects to enhancing global cooperation in implementing the

three international drug control conventions and expressed appreciation for the efforts of the Board, either in supporting or supervising Member States in the implementation of the treaties.

46. Some speakers expressed concern regarding the legalization of cannabis for non-medical purposes and stated that it was a violation of the international drug control conventions. Some speakers stated that conclusions on cannabis legalization should not be reached hastily and that all quality evidence available should be considered.

4. International cooperation to ensure the availability of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances for medical and scientific purposes while preventing their diversion

47. Many speakers highlighted the importance of ensuring the availability of and access to narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances for medical and scientific purposes, and recognized the work carried out by INCB, WHO, UNODC and the Commission in that regard.

48. Several speakers expressed concern about the persistent global disparity in the levels of availability and affordability of controlled substances for medical purposes. Problems in the procurement of essential medications at the international level and problems with the granting of export licences for controlled substances were mentioned as obstacles to ensuring access for medical purposes. Speakers raised the issue of the difficulties encountered by countries in emergency situations – with some citing terrorism, war and sanctions – in gaining access to urgently needed internationally controlled medicines. Some speakers also highlighted the problem of the non-medical use of controlled substances, in particular strong opioids, as a reason for many overdose deaths in some regions.

49. Many speakers expressed their commitment to addressing those issues in the context of the legal framework provided by the international drug control conventions. Several speakers described the measures taken by their Governments to improve access to and the availability of controlled substances for medical purposes. A number of speakers reiterated the importance of the technical assistance and continued support provided by INCB, WHO, UNODC and other organizations, and encouraged Member States and relevant international organizations to take concrete steps in that direction.

50. Some speakers expressed their appreciation and support for the global “Access and availability” initiative led by the Chair of the Commission at its sixty-fifth session, an awareness-raising campaign aimed at scaling up the implementation of international commitments on improving the availability of and access to controlled substances for medical and scientific purposes.

5. Other matters arising from the international drug control treaties

51. Speakers recalled that the international drug control conventions were the cornerstone of the international drug control system. States were urged to ensure full compliance with the three international drug control conventions. Speakers also underlined the role of the Commission as the policymaking body of the United Nations with prime responsibility for drug control and other drug-related matters. Reference was made to the persisting challenges of drug cultivation, production and trafficking, as well as to the dynamically expanding market for new psychoactive substances. The need for consolidated actions in line with the principle of common and shared responsibility, as outlined in the outcome document of the thirtieth special session of the General Assembly, held in 2016, was highlighted. In addition, the contribution to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals of integrated and balanced drug policies that respected the principle of common and shared responsibility and human rights was underlined.

B. Action taken by the Commission

52. At its 5th meeting, on 15 March 2023, the Commission decided by 47 votes to none, with no abstentions, to include 2-methyl-AP-237 in Schedule I of the 1961 Convention. (For the text of the decision, see chap. I, sect. B, decision 66/1.)
53. At the same meeting, the Commission decided by 47 votes to none, with no abstentions, to include etazene in Schedule I of the 1961 Convention. (For the text of the decision, see chap. I, sect. B, decision 66/2.)
54. At the same meeting, the Commission decided by 47 votes to none, with no abstentions, to include etonitazepine in Schedule I of the 1961 Convention. (For the text of the decision, see chap. I, sect. B, decision 66/3.)
55. At the same meeting, the Commission decided by 47 votes to none, with no abstentions, to include protonitazene in Schedule I of the 1961 Convention. (For the text of the decision, see chap. I, sect. B, decision 66/4.)
56. At the same meeting, the Commission decided by 47 votes to none, with no abstentions, to include ADB-BUTINACA in Schedule II of the 1971 Convention. (For the text of the decision, see chap. I, sect. B, decision 66/5.)
57. At the same meeting, the Commission decided by 47 votes to none, with no abstentions, to include *alpha*-PiHP in Schedule II of the 1971 Convention. (For the text of the decision, see chap. I, sect. B, decision 66/6.)
58. At the same meeting, the Commission decided by 47 votes to none, with no abstentions, to include 3-methylmethcathinone in Schedule II of the 1971 Convention. (For the text of the decision, see chap. I, sect. B, decision 66/7.)
59. At its 10th meeting, on 17 March 2023, the Commission adopted a revised draft resolution entitled “Safe handling and disposal of synthetic drugs, their precursors and other chemicals used in the illicit manufacture of drugs” (E/CN.7/2023/L.4/Rev.1), sponsored by Angola, Australia, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Ghana, Guatemala, Honduras, Japan, Kenya, Mexico, New Zealand, Norway, Paraguay, Peru, Senegal, Singapore, Sweden (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the European Union), Switzerland, Thailand, the United Kingdom, the United States and Uruguay. (For the text of the resolution, see chap. I, sect. B, resolution 66/2.) Upon the adoption of the revised draft resolution, the representative of Australia made a statement.
60. At the same meeting, the Commission adopted a revised draft resolution entitled “Strengthening information-sharing to increase scientific evidence-based support for international scheduling and the effective implementation of international scheduling decisions” (E/CN.7/2023/L.5/Rev.1), sponsored by Albania, Angola, Australia, Brazil, Canada, the Dominican Republic, Egypt, El Salvador, Ghana, Honduras, Japan, Kenya, Mexico, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Paraguay, Peru, Singapore, Sweden (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the European Union), Switzerland, Thailand, the United Kingdom and the United States. (For the text of the resolution, see chap. I, sect. B, resolution 66/3.) Upon the adoption of the revised draft resolution, the representative of the United States made a statement.

Chapter V

Follow-up to the implementation at the national, regional and international levels of all commitments, as reflected in the Ministerial Declaration of 2019, to address and counter the world drug problem

61. At its 6th and 7th meetings, on 15 and 16 March 2023, the Commission considered agenda item 6, which read as follows:

“Follow-up to the implementation at the national, regional and international levels of all commitments, as reflected in the Ministerial Declaration of 2019, to address and counter the world drug problem”.

62. For its consideration of item 6, the Commission had before it the following:

(a) Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem of 2009;⁴¹

(b) Joint Ministerial Statement of the 2014 high-level review by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs of the implementation by Member States of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem;⁴²

(c) Outcome document of the thirtieth special session of the General Assembly, entitled “Our joint commitment to effectively addressing and countering the world drug problem” (General Assembly resolution S-30/1, annex);

(d) Ministerial Declaration on Strengthening Our Actions at the National, Regional and International Levels to Accelerate the Implementation of Our Joint Commitments to Address and Counter the World Drug Problem;⁴³

(e) Report of the Executive Director on the activities of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime ([E/CN.7/2023/2-E/CN.15/2023/2](#));

(f) Report of the Secretariat on the world situation with regard to drug abuse ([E/CN.7/2023/4](#));

(g) Report of the Secretariat on the world situation with regard to drug trafficking ([E/CN.7/2023/5](#));

(h) Report of the Secretariat on strengthening international cooperation in combating illicit opiates originating in Afghanistan through continuous and reinforced support to the Paris Pact initiative ([E/CN.7/2023/9](#));

(i) Conference room paper containing the Chair’s summary on the thematic discussions on the implementation of all international drug policy commitments, following up to the Ministerial Declaration of 2019 (21 and 22 September 2023) ([E/CN.7/2023/CRP.1](#));

(j) Conference room paper prepared by the Secretariat on the implementation of all international drug policy commitments, following up to the Ministerial Declaration of 2019 ([E/CN.7/2023/CRP.2](#)).

63. Introductory statements were made by the Secretary of the Commission, a representative of the secretariat of the Commission, the Chief of the Research and Trend Analysis Branch, the Chief of the Drugs, Laboratory and Scientific Services Branch and the Chief of the Organized Crime and Illicit Trafficking Branch of UNODC. In addition,

⁴¹ See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2009, Supplement No. 8 (E/2009/28)*, chap. I, sect. C.

⁴² *Ibid.*, 2014, *Supplement No. 8 (E/2014/28)*, chap. I, sect. C.

⁴³ *Ibid.*, 2019, *Supplement No. 8 (E/2019/28)*, chap. I, sect. B.

representatives of the UNODC Youth Forum and representatives of the scientific community made statements.

64. Statements were made by the representatives of the United States, Thailand, Japan, Pakistan, the Republic of Korea (pre-recorded video), the Russian Federation (online), Canada, China, South Africa, the Kingdom of the Netherlands, Mexico (both pre-recorded video and in person), Kenya, Bangladesh,⁴⁴ Nigeria, Angola, Algeria and France.

65. Statements were made by the representative of the European Union, in its capacity as observer (on behalf of the European Union and its member States),⁴⁵ and by the observers for Norway, Indonesia, Paraguay and India.

66. Statements were also made by the observers for the International AIDS Society (pre-recorded video), the “Utrip” Institute for Research and Development, the Open Society Foundations, Students for Sensible Drug Policy, the Singapore Anti-Narcotics Association, the International Drug Policy Consortium, the Institute for Policy Studies and Corporación Acción Técnica Social.

A. Deliberations

67. Many speakers reaffirmed their commitment to the three international drug control conventions, which, together with other relevant international instruments, constituted the cornerstone of the international drug control system. Many speakers expressed concern about the legalization of cannabis for non-medical purposes and urged State parties to comply with the provisions of and ensure full and effective implementation of the three international drug control conventions. Another speaker stated that ending punitive drug policies could require changing the international drug control conventions. Many speakers expressed their commitment to the international drug policy commitments contained in the Political Declaration and Plan of Action of 2009, the Joint Ministerial Statement of 2014, the outcome document of the thirtieth special session of the General Assembly, held in 2016, and the Ministerial Declaration of 2019, noted the importance of accelerating the implementation of those commitments until 2029, and stressed that the midterm review of progress made in implementing those commitments, to be held in 2024, was a good opportunity in that regard.

68. Many speakers recalled the role of the Commission as the policymaking body of the United Nations with prime responsibility for drug control and other drug-related matters. The holding of the intersessional thematic discussions by the Commission was noted with appreciation, and the launch of the portal for follow-up on the Ministerial Declaration of 2019 was welcomed.

69. Many speakers highlighted the importance of ensuring a balanced, integrated, comprehensive, multidisciplinary and evidence-based approach to drug policy that respected and promoted health, human rights and fundamental freedoms. A number of speakers shared information on national efforts regarding legislation, policy development, the strengthening of institutions, capacity-building and international cooperation to foster the implementation of the policy documents of 2009, 2014 and 2016, as reiterated in the Ministerial Declaration of 2019. The need for accurate and reliable data was underlined in that regard.

70. A number of speakers shared information on demand reduction efforts in their countries. They reported on the implementation of prevention measures through

⁴⁴ Also on behalf of Algeria, Angola, Armenia, Bangladesh, Belarus, Burkina Faso, China, Cuba, Egypt, India, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Namibia, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Pakistan, the Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, the Sudan, the Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam and the State of Palestine.

⁴⁵ Also on behalf of Albania, Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Norway, the Republic of Moldova, Serbia and Ukraine.

educational initiatives and awareness-raising campaigns, including for children and youth. Life skills programmes and positive parenting programmes were also mentioned in that regard. In addition, some speakers reported on their countries' efforts to step up evidence-based treatment, care, rehabilitation and support for recovery services, as well as alternatives to incarceration programmes for people with drug use disorders, in cooperation with relevant public and private sector actors as well as civil society. The availability and accessibility of such services without stigma and discrimination, including for populations in a situation of marginalization, was highlighted as a key factor in their success. A number of speakers reported on their countries' national harm reduction programmes, including needle and syringe programmes, and other measures for the prevention of HIV/AIDS, viral hepatitis and other communicable diseases, as well as efforts for the management of overdoses. The cooperation with UNODC, INCB, WHO, the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) and other international organizations in the area of demand reduction and health-related measures was welcomed. A number of speakers highlighted that additional measures were needed to address persisting challenges with regard to access to and the availability of controlled substances for medical and scientific purposes.

71. Many speakers informed the Commission about recent legislation and measures to strengthen capacity in their countries for the investigation of drug trafficking cases and the dismantling of organized criminal groups, and reported statistics on drug seizures and asset confiscation. Measures to strengthen the investigation of money-laundering with a view to preventing the legalization of drug trafficking revenues were also reported. A number of speakers informed the Commission of measures to strengthen the tracing, seizure, freezing and confiscation of proceeds of drug trafficking through the use of enhanced financial investigation techniques and confiscation laws, including laws on non-conviction-based confiscation. The impact of drug trafficking offences on the environment and the links to other offences, such as trafficking in persons, terrorism and the financing of terrorism, were also mentioned. A number of speakers reported on capacity-building measures for criminal justice, law enforcement and border control agencies provided by, inter alia, UNODC and INCB, and a number of speakers called upon the international community to strengthen such capacity-building measures. The need for adequate, predictable and sustainable funding for UNODC so that it could provide capacity-building was highlighted.

72. A number of speakers informed the Commission of their efforts to place human rights at the centre of their national drug policies and to mainstream the specific needs of women, young people and communities into their demand and supply reduction efforts.

73. Many speakers reported on recent trends regarding drug trafficking in the territory of their countries, such as the use of the darknet and the use of cryptocurrencies for payment, and welcomed the information provided in the *World Drug Report 2022* in that regard. The persistent threat posed by new psychoactive substances was mentioned by a number of speakers. A number of speakers made reference to the use of information and communications technologies for drug-related crimes and reported on national investigation efforts in such cases.

74. A number of speakers made reference to international, regional and bilateral cooperation efforts to address the world drug problem based on the principle of common and shared responsibility. Some speakers made reference to joint law enforcement operations and the use of special investigative techniques such as cross-border controlled deliveries or the use of blockchain technology to track the flow of digital money associated with drug trafficking. Many speakers referred to the significance of enhancing information-sharing to promote international cooperation in the fight against drug trafficking.

75. Some speakers also reported on their countries' efforts in alternative development and called for a development-oriented drug control strategy.

B. Action taken by the Commission

76. At its 10th meeting, on 17 March 2023, the Commission adopted a draft resolution ([E/CN.7/2023/L.3](#)), as revised, entitled “Promoting alternative development as a development-oriented drug control strategy that is sustainable and inclusive”, sponsored by Albania, Angola, Brazil, Colombia, Côte d’Ivoire, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Japan, Mexico, Nigeria, Norway, Paraguay, Peru, Singapore, Sweden (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the European Union) and Thailand. (For the text of the resolution, see chap. I, sect. B, resolution 66/4.) Upon the adoption of the draft resolution, as revised, the representatives of Peru, the Plurinational State of Bolivia and Thailand made statements.

77. The Commission did not take action on the proposal contained in [E/CN.7/2023/L.6](#). The observer for Kyrgyzstan made a statement.

Chapter VI

Inter-agency cooperation and coordination of efforts in addressing and countering the world drug problem

78. At its 7th meeting, on 16 March 2023, the Commission considered agenda item 7, entitled “Inter-agency cooperation and coordination of efforts in addressing and countering the world drug problem”.

79. For its consideration of item 7, the Commission had before it the following:

(a) Note by the Secretariat on promoting coordination and alignment of decisions between the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and the Programme Coordinating Board of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (E/CN.7/2023/6);

(b) Conference room paper on inter-agency cooperation and coordination of efforts in addressing and countering the world drug problem (E/CN.7/2023/CRP.3).

80. Introductory remarks were delivered by the Chief of the Drugs, Laboratory and Scientific Services Branch of UNODC.

81. Statements were made by the representatives of the United States, the Republic of Korea, the United Kingdom, Jamaica, Nigeria and Switzerland.

82. Statements were also made by the representative of the European Union, in its capacity as observer (on behalf of the European Union and its member States),⁴⁶ and by the observers for Indonesia, Namibia and India.

83. Statements were further made by the observers for the Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights and the DRCNet Foundation.

Deliberations

84. Many speakers underscored the importance of an inter-agency approach and effective international collaboration for addressing the world drug problem and highlighted their continued commitment to the work of UNODC and the wider United Nations family. A number of speakers stressed the importance of the cooperation between UNODC, INCB and WHO, as well as other relevant entities, within their mandated functions. Reference was made to examples of effective inter-agency cooperation and coordination between these and other entities in responding to the world drug problem, including with regard to HIV/AIDS. The joint development of international treatment standards by UNODC and WHO was mentioned as a further example of effective inter-agency cooperation.

85. Many speakers called for enhanced partnerships and continued collaboration across the United Nations system, as well as with civil society and other stakeholders, to assist Member States in addressing the multifaceted challenges of the world drug problem, including emerging synthetic drug threats, and in implementing the international drug control conventions. A number of speakers also stressed the importance of a balanced, comprehensive, human rights- and evidence-based approach.

86. Several speakers expressed continued support for the United Nations system common position supporting the implementation of the international drug control policy through effective inter-agency collaboration, its contribution to promoting coherence in drug policy and enhancing inter-agency coordination within the United Nations system, and the leadership by UNODC of the United Nations system

⁴⁶ Also on behalf of Albania, Andorra, Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Iceland, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Norway, the Republic of Moldova, San Marino, Serbia and Ukraine.

coordination task team on the implementation of the United Nations system common position.

87. Some speakers mentioned the emergence and rapid spread of synthetic drugs and new substances as a cause for concern owing to the threat that they posed to public health and mentioned the UNODC Synthetic Drug Strategy as an example of a tool to ensure coherence in the response to synthetic drugs by promoting cooperation between United Nations agencies and other stakeholders.

88. Speakers mentioned examples of various national and regional efforts, as well as instances of cooperation with other Member States and multilateral organizations, that had contributed to progress in areas such as drug demand and supply reduction, disruption of drug trafficking, addressing the HIV/AIDS epidemic, ensuring the availability and accessibility of internationally controlled drugs for medical and scientific purposes, and drug use prevention and treatment.

Chapter VII

Recommendations of the subsidiary bodies of the Commission

89. At its 8th meeting, on 16 March 2023, the Commission considered agenda item 8, entitled “Recommendations of the subsidiary bodies of the Commission”.

90. For its consideration of item 8, the Commission had before it the report of the Secretariat on action taken by the subsidiary bodies of the Commission ([E/CN.7/2023/7](#)).

91. An introductory statement was made by a representative of the Secretariat to the Governing Bodies of UNODC.

92. Statements were made by the representatives of Turkmenistan, Kenya, Pakistan, the United States, China, Thailand, the Republic of Korea, South Africa and Nigeria.

93. Statements were also made by the observers for Guatemala, Malta, Albania, Namibia and India.

Deliberations

94. Many speakers welcomed the meetings of the subsidiary bodies of the Commission held in 2022 and the conduct of those meetings in person and in the regions, after two years of being held as special extraordinary meetings in an online format. Many speakers expressed appreciation for the work of the subsidiary bodies and underlined their role in the real-time exchange of information, good practices and lessons learned at the regional and international levels. They noted the broad participation in the meetings of the subsidiary bodies in their respective regions and in the activities undertaken during the meetings. A number of speakers underlined the importance of identifying regional trends and addressing the challenges identified in the Ministerial Declaration of 2019 from a regional perspective.

95. A number of speakers highlighted selected recommendations made by the working groups convened during the meetings of the respective subsidiary bodies, namely, on trends in drug trafficking and concealment methods and in intelligence-led international cooperation; synthetic drug production and trafficking, including the safe handling and disposal of synthetic drugs and their precursors; alternatives to conviction or punishment for drug-related offences; and the exchange of actionable intelligence and the role of regional cooperation platforms in facilitating such exchange. Some speakers referred to specific recommendations regarding new psychoactive substances, money-laundering investigations and the disruption of illicit financial flows, the safe handling and disposal of synthetic drugs, law enforcement cooperation and alternatives to imprisonment. Some speakers also noted with appreciation the support received by relevant UNODC programmes in their respective countries and regions.

96. The observer for Albania expressed the commitment of his Government to host the next Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Europe, and the representative of Nigeria expressed the commitment of his Government to host the next Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Africa, both to be held in 2023.

Chapter VIII

Contributions by the Commission to the work of the Economic and Social Council, in line with General Assembly resolutions 75/290 A and 75/290 B, including follow-up to and review and implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

97. At its 8th meeting, on 16 March 2023, the Commission considered agenda item 9, entitled “Contributions by the Commission to the work of the Economic and Social Council, in line with General Assembly resolutions 75/290 A and 75/290 B, including follow-up to and review and implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”.

98. For its consideration of item 9, the Commission had before it a conference room paper on inter-agency cooperation and coordination of efforts in addressing and countering the world drug problem (E/CN.7/2023/CRP.3).

99. A representative of the Secretariat to the Governing Bodies of UNODC and the Director of the Division for Policy Analysis and Public Affairs of UNODC made introductory statements.

100. Statements were made by the representatives of the United States, China, Thailand (pre-recorded video) and Canada.

101. A statement was made by the observer for the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (pre-recorded video).

102. Statements were also made by the observers for Médecins du Monde, Hepatitis Australia, Youth RISE and the Open Society Foundations.

Deliberations

103. Speakers welcomed the contributions by the Commission, as the policymaking body of the United Nations with prime responsibility for drug control and other drug-related matters, to the work of the Economic and Social Council. Appreciation was expressed for the commitment of the Commission to continuing its work during the COVID-19 pandemic and the ongoing hybrid working modalities employed by the Commission.

104. Several speakers reaffirmed their commitment to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and confirmed that efforts to effectively address the world drug problem and efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals were complementary and mutually reinforcing. The midterm review to be held by the Commission in 2024 was referred to as an important event in the lead-up to 2030.

105. Some speakers informed the Commission about national drug policies adopted with a view to contributing to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and to ensuring that no one was left behind. In that context, some speakers made reference to efforts to promote alternative development and to reduce health inequalities, as well as to the adoption of human rights-based and gender-responsive approaches in drug policies.

Chapter IX

Preparations for the midterm review, to be held in 2024, of progress made in implementing all international drug policy commitments, as reflected in the Ministerial Declaration of 2019, to address and counter the world drug problem

106. At its 9th meeting, on 17 March 2023, the Commission considered agenda item 10, entitled “Preparations for the midterm review, to be held in 2024, of progress made in implementing all international drug policy commitments, as reflected in the Ministerial Declaration of 2019, to address and counter the world drug problem”.

107. Statements were made by the representatives of China, the United States and Egypt.

108. Statements were also made by the representative of the European Union, in its capacity as observer (also on behalf of its member States),⁴⁷ and by the observers for Burkina Faso, Honduras and Namibia.

109. Statements were also made by the observers for the Vienna NGO Committee on Drugs and the Open Society Foundations.

A. Deliberations

110. Many speakers commended the Chair of the Commission at its sixty-sixth session for submitting the draft resolution contained in document [E/CN.7/2023/L.2](#) and for his leadership and efforts in reaching consensus on the modalities for the midterm review of all international drug policy commitments in line with the Ministerial Declaration of 2019.

111. A number of speakers stated that they looked forward to the midterm review in 2024 to take stock of progress made in implementing all international drug policy commitments and to outline the way forward to 2029, taking into account emerging challenges. They also underlined their commitment to working towards the adoption of a concise, action-oriented outcome document in 2024. Several speakers underlined the importance of transparency and inclusiveness in the preparations for and conduct of the midterm review in 2024, including through the participation of civil society organizations and other relevant stakeholders. One speaker stated that the midterm review should be an intergovernmental process led by Member States.

112. Some speakers reaffirmed their commitment to the three international drug control conventions and to implementing all international drug policy commitments as contained in the Political Declaration and Plan of Action of 2009, the Joint Ministerial Statement of 2014 and the outcome document of the thirtieth special session of the General Assembly, held in 2016. The principle of common and shared responsibility and the importance of international cooperation in accelerating the implementation of all international drug policy commitments were also underscored.

B. Action taken by the Commission

113. At its 9th meeting, on 17 March 2023, the Commission adopted a revised draft resolution entitled “Preparations for the midterm review to be held during the sixty-seventh session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, in 2024” ([E/CN.7/2023/L.2/Rev.1](#)), submitted by the Chair on behalf of the Commission. (For the text of the resolution, see chap. I, sect. B, resolution 66/1.) Before the adoption of the resolution, the Secretary of the Commission made a statement.

⁴⁷ Also on behalf of Albania, Andorra, Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Norway, the Republic of Moldova, San Marino, Serbia, Türkiye and Ukraine.

Chapter X

Provisional agenda for the sixty-seventh session of the Commission

114. At its 10th meeting, on 17 March 2023, the Commission considered agenda item 11, entitled “Provisional agenda for the sixty-seventh session of the Commission”. For its consideration of item 11, the Commission had before it a draft decision entitled “Report of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs on its sixty-sixth session and provisional agenda for its sixty-seventh session” ([E/CN.7/2023/L.7](#)).

Action taken by the Commission

115. At its 10th meeting, on 17 March 2023, the Commission decided to recommend for adoption by the Economic and Social Council the draft decision containing the draft provisional agenda for the sixty-seventh session of the Commission ([E/CN.7/2023/L.7](#)). (For the text of the draft decision, see chap. I, sect. A, draft decision I.)

Chapter XI

Other business

116. At its 10th meeting, on 17 March 2023, the Commission considered agenda item 12, entitled “Other business”. No issues were raised under the agenda item.

Chapter XII

Adoption of the report of the Commission on its sixty-sixth session

117. At its 10th meeting, on 17 March 2023, the Commission considered agenda item 13, entitled “Adoption of the report of the Commission on its sixty-sixth session”. The Rapporteur introduced the draft report.

118. At the same meeting, the Commission adopted the report on its sixty-sixth session, as orally amended.

Chapter XIII

Organization of the session and administrative matters

A. Informal pre-session consultations

119. At the pre-session consultations chaired by the First Vice-Chair of the Commission, Philbert Abaka Johnson (Ghana), and held on 10 March 2023, the Commission conducted a preliminary review of draft proposals that had been submitted by the deadline of 13 February 2023, pursuant to Commission decision 55/1, and dealt with organizational matters of the sixty-sixth session. The Chair also provided an overview of the organization of the programme of work of the session.

B. Opening and duration of the session

120. The Commission held its sixty-sixth session in Vienna from 13 to 17 March 2023. The Chair of the Commission opened the session and made a statement. The President of the Economic and Social Council addressed the Commission in a pre-recorded video message. The Executive Director of UNODC made an opening statement. The Commission was then addressed by the Director General of the World Health Organization in a pre-recorded video message. A statement was also made by the President of the International Narcotics Control Board. The United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights addressed the Commission in a pre-recorded video message.

C. Attendance

121. The arrangements for the organization of the sixty-sixth session had been endorsed by the Commission by means of a silence procedure that ended on 30 January 2023. In accordance with those arrangements, the session was conducted in a hybrid format.

122. The session was attended by representatives of the 53 States members of the Commission. Also attending were observers for 86 other States Members of the United Nations, as well as non-member States, representatives of organizations of the United Nations system and observers for intergovernmental, non-governmental and other organizations.

D. Election of officers

123. In section I of its resolution 1999/30, the Economic and Social Council decided that, with effect from the year 2000, the Commission on Narcotic Drugs should, at the end of each session, elect its Bureau for the subsequent session and should encourage it to play an active role in the preparations for the regular as well as the intersessional meetings of the Commission, so as to enable the Commission to provide continuous and effective policy guidance to the drug programme of UNODC.

124. In accordance with that resolution and rule 15 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Council, the Commission, at the end of its reconvened sixty-fifth session, on 9 December 2022, opened its sixty-sixth session for the purpose of electing its Bureau for that session. At that meeting, the Commission elected the members of the Bureau.

125. In view of the rotation of offices based on regional distribution, the officers of the Commission at its sixty-sixth session and their respective regional groups were as follows:

<i>Office</i>	<i>Regional group</i>	<i>Officer</i>
Chair	Latin American and Caribbean States	Miguel Camilo Ruíz Blanco (Colombia)
First Vice-Chair	African States	Philbert Abaka Johnson (Ghana)
Second Vice-Chair	Asia-Pacific States	Illa Mainali (Nepal)
Third Vice-Chair	Eastern European States	Barbara Zvokelj (Slovenia)
Rapporteur	Western European and other States	Paul Williams (Canada)

126. In accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1991/39 and established practice, a group composed of the Chairs of the five regional groups, the Chair of the Group of 77 and China and the representative of or observer for the State holding the Presidency of the European Union assists the Chair of the Commission in dealing with organizational matters. That group, together with the officers, constitutes the extended Bureau foreseen in Council resolution 1991/39.

127. During the sixty-sixth session of the Commission, the extended Bureau met on 15 and 16 March 2023 to consider matters related to the organization of work.

E. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

128. At its 1st meeting, on 13 March 2023, the Commission adopted by consensus its provisional agenda and organization of work ([E/CN.7/2023/1](#)), pursuant to Economic and Social Council decision 2022/329. The agenda was as follows:

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.
3. General debate.

Operational segment

4. Strategic management, budgetary and administrative questions:
 - (a) Work of the standing open-ended intergovernmental working group on improving the governance and financial situation of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime;
 - (b) Directives on policy and budgetary issues for the drug programme of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime;
 - (c) Working methods of the Commission;
 - (d) Staff composition of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and other related matters.

Normative segment

5. Implementation of the international drug control treaties:
 - (a) Changes in the scope of control of substances;
 - (b) Challenges and future work of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, the World Health Organization and the International Narcotics Control Board in the review of substances for possible scheduling recommendations;
 - (c) International Narcotics Control Board;

- (d) International cooperation to ensure the availability of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances for medical and scientific purposes while preventing their diversion;
 - (e) Other matters arising from the international drug control treaties.
6. Follow-up to the implementation at the national, regional and international levels of all commitments, as reflected in the Ministerial Declaration of 2019, to address and counter the world drug problem.
 7. Inter-agency cooperation and coordination of efforts in addressing and countering the world drug problem.
 8. Recommendations of the subsidiary bodies of the Commission.
 9. Contributions by the Commission to the work of the Economic and Social Council, in line with General Assembly resolutions [75/290 A](#) and [75/290 B](#), including follow-up to and review and implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

10. Preparations for the midterm review, to be held in 2024, of progress made in implementing all international drug policy commitments, as reflected in the Ministerial Declaration of 2019, to address and counter the world drug problem.
11. Provisional agenda for the sixty-seventh session of the Commission.
12. Other business.
13. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its sixty-sixth session.

F. Documentation

129. The documents before the Commission at its sixty-sixth session are listed in document E/CN.7/2023/CRP.14.

G. Closure of the session

130. At the 10th meeting, on 17 March 2023, a closing statement was made by the Director of the Division for Treaty Affairs, on behalf of the Executive Director of UNODC. The Chair of the Commission made closing remarks. The representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran made a statement.
