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Thematic debate on the follow-up to the twentieth special session of the General Assembly: general overview and progress achieved by Governments in meeting the goals and targets for the years 2003 and 2008 set out in the Political Declaration adopted by the Assembly at its twentieth special session

Collection and use of complementary drug-related data and expertise to support the global assessment by Member States of the implementation of the declarations and measures adopted by the General Assembly at its twentieth special session

Report of the Executive Director

Summary

The present report has been prepared pursuant to Commission on Narcotic Drugs resolution 49/1, entitled “Collection and use of complementary drug-related data and expertise to support the global assessment by Member States of the implementation of the declarations and measures adopted by the General Assembly at its twentieth special session”, and Commission resolution 50/12, entitled “Measures to meet the goal of establishing by 2009 the progress achieved in implementing the declarations and measures adopted by the General Assembly at its twentieth special session”.

The report summarizes the work undertaken by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) to implement the resolutions, in particular in engaging with national and regional experts from all geographical regions and experts from relevant international organizations on the collection and use of complementary drug-related

* E/CN.7/2008/1.



data and expertise, and in obtaining from relevant intergovernmental, international and regional organizations supplementary information to support the global assessment by Member States of the implementation of the declarations and measures adopted by the General Assembly at its twentieth special session.

The report reflects the outcome of the informal expert consultations organized by UNODC and held from 6 to 8 February and from 18 to 20 September 2007; those consultations were made possible by a special-purpose financial contribution from the European Commission.

I. Introduction

1. In its resolution 49/1, the Commission on Narcotic Drugs called upon the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) to engage, subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources, with national and regional experts from all geographical regions and experts from relevant international organizations in the area of drug control on the collection and use of complementary drug-related data and expertise to support the global assessment by Member States of the implementation of the declarations and measures adopted by the General Assembly at its twentieth special session. In that same resolution, the Commission requested the Executive Director of UNODC to report to the Commission on the results of those efforts, including recommendations on the collection and use of complementary drug-related data and expertise with a view to complementing the information available to Member States and to achieving an objective, scientific, balanced and transparent global assessment of the implementation of the declarations and measures adopted by the Assembly at its twentieth special session. That report was submitted to the Commission in early 2007 (E/CN.7/2007/7).

2. In its resolution 50/12, the Commission recalled its resolution 42/11, in which it requested the Executive Director to prepare a single biennial report and it decided to submit a report to the General Assembly in the years 2003 and 2008 on the progress achieved in meeting the goals and targets set out in the Political Declaration adopted by the Assembly at its twentieth session (Assembly resolution S-20/2, annex); acknowledged the need to conduct a proper and thorough assessment of the programmes to implement the declarations and measures adopted by the Assembly at its twentieth special session; requested the Executive Director of UNODC to submit to the Commission at its fifty-first session a report drawing together information gathered through all previous biennial reports questionnaires and the report requested in Commission resolution 49/1; and requested UNODC to invite, prior to the fifty-first session of the Commission, relevant intergovernmental, international and regional organizations to make available supplementary information in order to facilitate the deliberations of the Commission at that session.

3. The present report contains information on the work undertaken by UNODC to implement Commission resolutions 49/1 and 50/12. In that connection, UNODC invited relevant international organizations to make available complementary information and it organized two informal consultations with individual experts and

experts of relevant international organizations; those consultations were held in Vienna from 6 to 8 February and from 18 to 20 September 2007.¹

II. Implementation of Commission on Narcotic Drugs resolutions 49/1 and 50/12

4. To provide support in the preparation of the fourth biennial report of the Executive Director on the world drug problem (E/CN.7/2007/2 and Add.1-6), UNODC established in November 2005 an internal coordination group in which all relevant substantive units of UNODC participated. The group developed and supervised the application of the methodology² used to produce the report, based on the information provided by Member States through the biennial reports questionnaire. The same methodology was used in the preparation of the fifth biennial report, bringing together the data provided by Member States over the five reporting periods pursuant to Commission resolution 50/12.

A. Consultations with relevant international organizations

5. The coordination group identified a number of relevant international organizations thought to possess relevant information in the area of drug control.

6. In July 2006, UNODC invited a number of those organizations³ to provide information or regionally consolidated analyses to complement the assessment of the implementation of the goals and targets set by the General Assembly at its twentieth special session. To facilitate the provision of information in a structured manner, the request was accompanied by a table showing specific indicators contained in the biennial reports questionnaire.

7. The overall objective of the exercise was to ascertain what drug-related information was available, whether it could be used to complement the information

¹ The informal expert consultations were made possible by a special-purpose contribution from the European Commission.

² The common methodology adopted for the preparation of the report involved, where applicable: (a) the development of indexes based on the indicators identified in the biennial reports questionnaire covering action plans and measures adopted by the General Assembly at its twentieth special session; those indexes reflect the responses provided by Member States to the biennial reports questionnaire over its four cycles; (b) the development of a system for monitoring progress over time based on those core indicators; and (c) the establishment of standardized regional groupings. The methodological approach makes it possible to visualize, at the regional level, the progress made over time by Member States in achieving the targets set in 1998, on the basis of the indicators identified by the Commission, as reflected in the biennial reports questionnaire.

³ World Health Organization (WHO), Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), International Maritime Organization, Interpol, World Customs Organization, Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and China Cooperative Operations in Response to Dangerous Drugs (ACCORD), European Police Office (Europol), Southeast European Cooperative Initiative, Gulf Cooperation Council, Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD) of the Organization of American States, European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Abuse and Southern African Development Community Epidemiology Network on Drug Use.

already collected through the biennial reports questionnaire and the annual reports questionnaire and, if so, how it might be used to assist Member States with their assessment and review of progress since the twentieth special session of the General Assembly in 1998.

8. A number of the organizations responded to the invitation⁴ and expressed their interest in participating in an informal consultation to consider technical and methodological issues related to the utilization of such data.

B. Informal expert consultation held in Vienna from 6 to 8 February 2007

9. Pursuant to paragraph 2 of Commission resolution 49/1, UNODC held an informal expert consultation in Vienna from 6 to 8 February 2007. The report on the outcome of that meeting was presented to the Commission at its fiftieth session (E/CN.7/2007/7, paras. 16-55). During the consultation, participants acknowledged that the Political Declaration and action plans and measures adopted by the General Assembly at its twentieth special session represented a major development in international drug control.

10. The experts agreed that qualitative and quantitative information from regional systems and other international organizations could assist in the contextual analysis of the information provided by Member States through the biennial reports questionnaire and could enhance reporting to the Commission in 2008.

11. The experts found that significant overlap and complementarity existed between the biennial reports questionnaire indicators and some of the indicators used by regional monitoring mechanisms. Opportunities for further accessing such information should therefore be explored. In that connection, the Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism of the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD) of the Organization of American States, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and China Cooperative Operations in Response to Dangerous Drugs (ACCORD), the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA), the European Police Office (Europol) and Interpol offered to share information they had available from their respective members, including, in some cases, their own regional analyses. It was suggested that that information could complement and be of use in interpreting the information provided by Member States through the biennial reports questionnaire and reflected in the final report to the Commission on the world drug problem.

C. Complementary information

12. Pursuant to paragraph 4 of resolution 50/12, UNODC in May 2007 contacted a number of relevant intergovernmental, international and regional

⁴ For a detailed overview, refer to the report of the Executive Director on the collection and use of complementary drug-related data and expertise to support the global assessment by Member States of the implementation of the declarations and measures adopted by the General Assembly at its twentieth special session (E/CN.7/2007/7).

organizations,⁵ inviting them to make available supplementary information in order to facilitate the deliberations of the Commission at its fifty-first session. To ensure fuller regional coverage, several African and Asian organizations were approached in addition to those contacted in July 2006 (see para. 6 above).

13. A number of organizations responded to that second invitation, although not all of them provided drug-related information. That was particularly the case for regions and subregions in Central and South Asia and Africa. As a result, very limited information was available for purposes of comparing or placing in context the data received from Member States through the biennial reports questionnaire for Africa and Asia. Not all the responses contained uniform information following the guidelines and standardized indicators furnished by UNODC or offered a basis for comparing, complementing and placing in context the information provided by Member States through the biennial reports questionnaire.

14. EMCDDA provided a document on the development of national drug strategies and drug demand reduction interventions in Europe since 1998, according to the selected indicators.

15. CICAD provided a compilation from the first, second and third hemispheric Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism reports on national drug control infrastructure, precursor control, eradication of illicit crops and demand reduction. In addition, UNODC received national analyses from the report on the achievements of the Mechanism for the period 1997-2007 that corresponded to the action plans and measures adopted in 1998.

16. The report provided by Europol gave a 10-year overview of the situation in the European Union with regard to the manufacture of and trafficking in amphetamine-type stimulants and their precursors and contained information on initiatives taken by the European Union to address the problem.

17. Interpol provided information from its database on the number of persons extradited for drug-related offences and on drug seizures made in recent years.

18. ACCORD provided data on national drug strategies, precursor control, trafficking in and manufacture and abuse of amphetamine-type stimulants and demand reduction interventions for all 11 member States of ACCORD.

19. The Southern Caucasus Anti-Drug Programme (SCAD) provided data on national drug strategies, precursor control, judicial cooperation, the trafficking in and manufacture and abuse of amphetamine-type stimulants and demand reduction according to the indicators established by UNODC.

⁵ ACCORD, African Union, ASEAN, Caribbean Financial Action Task Force, Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), Collective Security Treaty Organization, Colombo Plan for Cooperative Economic and Social Development in Asia and the Pacific, Commonwealth Secretariat, CICAD Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism, Economic Community of West African States, Economic Cooperation Organization, Egmont Group of Financial Intelligence Units, European Commission, EMCDDA, Eurojust, Europol, Financial Action Task Force of South America against Money Laundering (GAFISUD), Interpol, Pompidou Group of the Council of Europe, Southern Caucasus Anti-Drug Programme, UNAIDS, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), WHO, several World Bank offices and regional development banks.

20. The Caribbean Financial Action Task Force and the Financial Action Task Force of South America against Money Laundering (GAFISUD) provided, for all the countries in the region, specific responses to the indicators identified from the biennial reports questionnaire on countering money-laundering. The Egmont Group of Financial Intelligence Units made available a report on the reporting obligations and role of financial intelligence units in international cooperation.

21. The European Commission provided a situational report on precursor control measures in the European Union.

22. The Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) provided information from its database on injecting drug use and HIV, a global overview of measures taken by countries in response to injecting drug use and HIV infection among injecting drug users and a report on the coverage of selected services for HIV/AIDS prevention, care and treatment in low- and middle-income countries.

23. The World Health Organization (WHO) provided a report of the ATLAS-Substance Use project on the level and type of resources available for the treatment and prevention of alcohol and drug problems in the member States of WHO.

24. The World Bank office in Afghanistan made available a report entitled "Treating the opium problem in World Bank operations in Afghanistan".

III. Informal expert consultation held in Vienna from 18 to 20 September 2007

25. Pursuant to paragraph 4 of Commission resolution 50/12, UNODC held an expert consultation in Vienna from 18 to 20 September 2007. With a view to broader geographical coverage, UNODC invited a number of additional organizations that had not been invited to the first consultation.⁶ The second round of informal expert consultations was similarly made possible by a special-purpose contribution from the European Commission.

26. The consultation benefited from the participation of experts from international organizations and individual experts with relevant regional or thematic expertise, as well as UNODC staff members with specific expertise in the areas covered by the action plans. Five individual experts attended the consultation, in addition to experts from the following international and regional entities: UNAIDS, WHO, ASEAN, ACCORD, CICAD, EMCDDA, Commonwealth of Independent States, Economic Community of West African States, GAFISUD, Egmont Group of Financial Intelligence Units, Pompidou Group of the Council of Europe, Eurojust, Europol and Interpol. UNODC was represented by staff members from the Division for Treaty Affairs, the Division for Operations and the Division for Policy Analysis and Public Affairs.

⁶ African Union, Economic Cooperation Organization, Economic Community of West African States, Caribbean Financial Action Task Force, CIS, Collective Security Treaty Organization, Colombo Plan for Cooperative Economic and Social Development in Asia and the Pacific, Commonwealth Secretariat, Eurojust, GAFISUD, Pompidou Group of the Council of Europe, Southern Caucasus Anti-Drug Programme, UNESCO, UNICEF and the World Bank.

27. UNODC served as substantive technical secretariat for the consultation, for which purpose detailed terms of reference and a programme to guide the proceedings were prepared. The principal objectives of the consultation were as follows:

- (a) To review lessons learned from regional monitoring systems;
- (b) To review the data made available by international and regional organizations and analyse how that data could be utilized to complement the information provided by Member States through the biennial reports questionnaire;
- (c) To review initial substantive outlines for the fifth biennial report of the Executive Director on the world drug problem, prepared on the basis of the analysis of the responses provided by Member States in the five reporting cycles of the biennial reports questionnaire, and to ascertain how that information may be complemented with relevant drug-related information that had been made available by various regional and international organizations;
- (d) To assist UNODC in further refining the methodology used for the 10-year review of the implementation of the declarations and measures adopted by the General Assembly at its twentieth special session;
- (e) To contribute to the preparation of the fifth biennial report of the Executive Director on the world drug problem from an analytical and substantive point of view.

28. The informal consultation spanned two and a half days. The first meeting, held on 18 September 2007, was devoted to plenary discussions on the outcome of the fiftieth session of the Commission and on its resolution 50/12. The experts were provided an overview of trends for the six parts of the fifth biennial report on the world drug problem (demand reduction, illicit manufacture of, trafficking in and abuse of amphetamine-type stimulants and their precursors, control of precursors, judicial cooperation, countering money-laundering and eradication of illicit drug crops and alternative development), a preliminary analysis of the information provided by Member States through the five biennial reports questionnaires and complementary information received from various organizations. For the second, third and fourth meetings, on 18 and 19 September, the experts broke into three parallel working groups, focusing specifically on demand reduction aspects of the assessment; measuring progress in judicial cooperation and in countering money-laundering; and measuring progress in combating the illicit manufacture of, trafficking in and abuse of amphetamine-type stimulants and their precursors, in precursor control and in international cooperation on the eradication of illicit drug crops and alternative development. At the fifth meeting, on 20 September, the experts met again in plenary to review the reports from the working groups, to consider the priorities beyond 2008 and to review the report and recommendations of the consultation.

29. The participants recognized that the Political Declaration and the action plans and measures adopted by the General Assembly at its twentieth special session represented a major development in international drug control, as it was the first time that the world drug problem had been considered in its entirety by the international community. It was noted that, for the first time, Member States had adopted a set of comprehensive and concrete measures covering all aspects of

international drug control, placing specific emphasis on the importance of international cooperation and establishing concrete targets over time.

30. The experts recognized that the number of responses and the quality (validity, reliability and objectivity) of the data provided by Member States posed limitations for monitoring the progress being made in the implementation of the goals and targets adopted in 1998. Nevertheless, the information provided by Member States in the biennial reports questionnaire had enabled the establishment of a database that constituted a valuable source of information on the efforts made by Member States to implement the commitments assumed in 1998.

31. The experts noted that some questions contained in the instrument developed by Member States in 2000 and revised in 2001 for monitoring progress in the implementation of goals and targets set by the General Assembly at its twentieth special session – in other words, the biennial reports questionnaire – were imprecise in some areas and that might have caused some bias in responses and presented analytical difficulties. That concern could also affect the indexes that had been developed to analyse and present the responses to the questionnaire, if the questions covered by the indexes were ambiguous. Moreover, the absence of definitions or a glossary of terms used in the instrument could have meant that in some cases different authorities interpreted particular questions in somewhat different ways; their responses may thus not necessarily have been comparable, which could complicate the interpretation of responses and their analysis.

32. The experts recognized also that the monitoring of drug control activities in regions that did not have regional monitoring systems in place posed special challenges.

IV. Observations and recommendations of the experts

A. Observations and recommendations relevant to the 10-year assessment of the outcome of the twentieth special session of the General Assembly

33. At the fifth meeting, on 20 September, the experts reviewed and finalized the recommendations made by the working groups. Those recommendations are presented below for the consideration of the Commission pursuant to its resolutions 49/1 and 50/12. The recommendations are grouped into general and specific recommendations on each of the action plans and measures adopted by the General Assembly at its twentieth special session.

1. General observations and recommendations

34. The experts felt that the 10-year assessment of the progress made by Member States in meeting the goals and targets set at the twentieth special session of the General Assembly should be anchored in contextual information provided by other international and regional entities through their official data-gathering systems. That information would complement the information provided by Member States through their responses to the biennial and annual reports questionnaires. It was felt that such contextualization of the information and the related analyses would better

depict the actual situation of the drug problem and the responses of Member States thereto and their impact.

35. Data from other sources describing trends on similar issues for a comparable period should be used to complement the data from the biennial reports questionnaire and related analyses, to verify the results in terms of trends and new developments and to assist in providing explanations of possible data and reporting inconsistencies.

36. It was recognized that many Member States had introduced the measures envisaged in the action plans, but implementation of those measures was still lacking or inadequate. States therefore could be urged to assume a greater commitment to fulfilling the goals and targets set at the twentieth special session of the General Assembly.

37. The inclusion of best practices and of specific country information in the fifth biennial report was seen by the experts as a way of contextualizing the measures taken by Member States.

38. The report on the world drug problem presents the information provided by Member States arranged in nine geographical subregions. In some cases, large reporting variations within a given region from one reporting period to the next could not be explained. As such regional representations of data tend to hide, to a large extent, high- and low-performing countries, it was suggested that those countries should receive particular attention in the report and that the issue might be noted as an introductory remark in the report.

39. There was agreement that, in addition to reporting on progress by Member States towards meeting the goals and targets set by the General Assembly at its twentieth special session, the report would benefit from reflecting some of the outcomes, successes and impact of the process.

40. In that regard, it was noted that the biennial reports questionnaire was neither designed nor intended to enable an assessment of the impact of the implementation of those commitments. Consequently, the data provided through the questionnaire could not be expected to perform a function that it had not been designed for. However, on the basis of complementary information, it should be possible to provide some degree of assessment of the impact of drug control efforts by Member States.

41. The experts noted that the established format for reports to the Commission did not allow for inclusion of sufficient supplementary information from international agencies or other referenced data sources or for deeper contextual analysis. Additional detailed information on Member States and supplementary information should be made available through other means.

42. It was pointed out that the final report on the assessment of the goals and targets set by the General Assembly at its twentieth special session should assist Member States in identifying future priorities for action that would be considered in 2009 at the high-level segment of the fifty-second session of the Commission.

2. Demand reduction

43. The experts felt that the biennial reports questionnaire had been very useful in identifying services provided and noted that, in some regions, the mere existence of services should be highlighted as a positive development.

44. It was observed that, while the instrument did identify the existence of various services, it did not allow an assessment of the extent of coverage or the impact of interventions. In some regions, the lack of other reliable sources of information made it difficult to validate the information provided. Some of the information (such as the existence of a national strategy and budget) could be validated by information that could be compiled, for example, by regional offices of UNODC working closely with the Governments in each region or regional monitoring systems.

45. The experts indicated that the evaluation of regional trends should take into account the baseline level of implementation and identify regions that were able to sustain or improve their response level.

46. Both the annual reports questionnaire and the biennial reports questionnaire were thought to play an important role in the assessment of the goals and targets set by the General Assembly at its twentieth special session. While the latter was designed for monitoring the implementation of measures taken by Member States to implement those goals and targets, the former was intended to provide annual data for situational and trends analysis. To complement the assessment, the use of information from the annual reports questionnaire was regarded as beneficial as, in some areas, it provided information that could allow for the contextualization of the information received through the biennial reports questionnaire.⁷

3. Eradicating illicit drug crop cultivation and on alternative development

47. Some experts felt that the efforts and progress in certain areas, although impressive, had not led to any significant overall reduction in global illicit crop cultivation and illicit drug production.

48. It was stated that estimates concerning hydroponically grown cannabis should be included in the report.

4. Judicial cooperation

49. The responses to the biennial reports questionnaire were not considered to provide sufficient information to assess the impact of the measures taken by Member States over the years. In that regard, it was observed that the indexes provided an indication of the level of implementation of those measures, but not of the changes they had brought about in the situation.

50. The experts were of the opinion that the lack of statistics in the area of judicial cooperation could be addressed to some extent by using complementary sources, such as reports from the Financial Action Task Force on Money Laundering (FATF), FATF-style regional bodies, the International Monetary Fund or the World Bank, or by recommending the creation of national databases on judicial cooperation.

⁷ That situation applied in particular, but not exclusively, to demand reduction.

51. Noting that certain characteristics of some national criminal justice systems were linked to their constitutional structure and were unlikely to be changed (non-extradition of nationals, prima facie evidence requirement), the experts felt that the recommendations should focus on alternative, practical solutions and simplified procedures.

52. From the list of obstacles mentioned in the report, bridging the differences among legal systems was singled out as the main challenge facing effective international cooperation that needed to be addressed.

5. Amphetamine-type stimulants and their precursors

53. In the view of the experts, the fifth biennial report on the world drug problem should reflect, in addition to the information provided by Member States on progress made towards achieving the goals, statistics that illustrate tangible results, impact and trends arising from the adoption of strategies to attain the goals and targets set by the General Assembly at its twentieth special session with regard to amphetamine-type stimulants.

54. The experts reconfirmed that the information collected through the biennial reports questionnaire needed to be complemented in order to fully represent the world drug situation with regard to amphetamine-type stimulants; in that connection, information from experts and from regional and international organizations needed to be incorporated.

6. Control of precursors

55. There was agreement that, in addition to reporting on the progress made by Member States towards implementing the goals and targets set by the General Assembly at its twentieth special session, the report would benefit from reflecting some of the outcomes, successes and impact of the process. To that end, it was suggested that the assessed requirements for precursor chemicals used in illicit drug manufacture be placed in the context of the legitimate global requirements for those chemicals, including data on seizure trends and information about substitute substances.

56. It was felt that the report would benefit from the inclusion of information about difficulties in maintaining control over internationally controlled substances in the light of emerging trends, such as the illicit manufacture of substitute chemicals, the splitting up of production processes in order to make detection of production for illicit purposes more difficult and the shift towards illicit drug manufacturing in border regions, particularly where central government control over the territory was weak.

57. The experts indicated that the supplementary information provided by the invited expert agencies should be integrated into the report or appended to it or made available in some form to the Commission, with an indication of the source. In so doing, illustrative examples of actions taken by Member States could be highlighted.

58. There was discussion on the inclusion in the report of examples provided by specific Member States. It was agreed that such examples could add to the readability of the report. It was noted that, if adopted, the practice should be applied

consistently throughout the other chapters of the report. However, given established reporting formats, including length limits for reports submitted to the Commission, the measure may not be fully realizable (see para. 41 above).

59. It was observed that the responses to the biennial reports questionnaire highlighted a number of important elements that needed to be brought out in the report, such as the shortfalls in data collection; an important example was the Africa region, which was increasingly being targeted by traffickers. The lack of resources in order to report on and implement measures to control precursors was noted as a major constraint.

7. Money-laundering

60. In instances where data from the biennial reports questionnaire and data on the same country from the mutual evaluations of FATF and the FATF-style regional bodies were considered, it was found that they generally contained the same information and reached similar conclusions, thus underscoring the reliability of the data gathered in the biennial reports questionnaire relating to efforts to combat money-laundering.

61. In order to effectively combat money-laundering, it was felt that the recommendations on legislative measures needed to be reiterated. The experts agreed that Member States should consider revising their legislation and, when necessary, should reform and simplify their procedures with respect to extradition, in particular as regards dual criminality (to be interpreted as criminalizing the conduct underlying the offence), definition of political offences and the possibility of simplifying surrender procedures.

B. Observations and recommendations relevant to the period beyond the 10-year assessment of the outcome of the twentieth special session of the General Assembly

62. After formulating the recommendations, the experts devoted some time to brainstorming on possible action beyond 2008, drawing on the lessons learned from the system for monitoring progress in the implementation of the measures and action plans adopted by the General Assembly at its twentieth special session.

63. With a view to contributing to that process, the experts made the following concrete, forward-looking and policy-oriented recommendations reflecting what, in their view, the international community should do in various areas of drug control beyond 2009 and how the implementation of activities and their impact could be monitored.

1. General observations and recommendations

64. It was noted that the biennial reports questionnaires report covered areas of critical importance for international drug control activities and represented the first effort to comprehensively monitor those activities at the global level. Such monitoring was important for the further development of drug control activities and therefore a mechanism was needed for collecting information also after the current assessment was completed.

65. The experts agreed that future activities in the area should build on the lessons learned from the monitoring of the achievement of the goals and targets set by the General Assembly at its twentieth special session and should be harmonized with other relevant international and regional monitoring activities in order to avoid duplication of efforts and to increase the relevance and comparability of information collected.

66. It was stressed that any future reporting system should be as efficient as possible and should focus on a core set of methodologically sound indicators. The reporting burden should be minimized by restricting data collection to core areas and making use of existing capacity and available resources. An extension of the reporting period was suggested in that regard. To ensure the reliability and validity of responses, it was considered essential that the agencies dealing with the various sectors of drug control be identified and contacted directly with requests to complete the questionnaire.

67. It was recommended that the international community and relevant regional and national reporting entities should be encouraged to work together to develop common and high-quality reporting tools and share information resources and expertise. Such a system could benefit from, *inter alia*, the experience gathered by the Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism of CICAD, EMCDDA, the ACCORD secretariat and UNODC. In that connection, regional organizations should establish regional monitoring systems in regions where none was yet in place.

68. The experts recommended that data from other sources, including regional situation overviews, should be used on a regular basis in similar future assessments in order to complement official data reported by Member States and related analyses. Doing so would help to verify those data in terms of trends and new developments and to provide explanations of possible data and reporting inconsistencies.

69. It was felt that consideration should be given to developing a future global drug strategy along the lines of the Millennium Development Goals, which had proven to be a successful catalyst for action.

70. The experts made clear that UNODC would have to be provided with a stronger mandate to collect regional information to complement national data in order to tackle the world drug problem successfully in the future; that included being equipped with better tools, working more independently from Governments and working in synergy with existing regional monitoring systems.

2. Demand reduction

71. Despite its limitations, the mechanism for monitoring the goals and targets set by the General Assembly at its twentieth special session and its information-gathering instrument represented an important development in introducing the monitoring of a number of important topical areas; that was especially relevant in the area of demand reduction. The progress made in monitoring in those areas should not be neglected once the current assessment had been completed, it being recognized that further work would be required to refine reporting tools and mechanisms.

72. It was recognized that approaches should be tailored to different national and regional contexts according to the level of information available. Furthermore, capacity-building activities were needed for those areas of the world where the reporting capacity was insufficient.

3. Eradicating illicit drug crop cultivation and on alternative development

73. Highlighting poverty as one of the factors that contributed to illicit drug crop cultivation in Afghanistan and elsewhere, the experts felt that a balanced approach was needed in tackling the poverty problem and strengthening the rule of law.

74. It was pointed out that there was a need to support markets for alternative development products, which likewise were contingent on the rule of law. Brand labels and fair trade cooperation agreements appeared to have worked well in recent years and should be further explored. Alternative development should be mainstreamed into broader development plans, programmes and projects.

75. It was recommended that the Global Donor Platform for Rural Development and other donor mechanisms should be sensitized to the need to support rural development in areas affected by illicit drug crop cultivation.

76. The experts felt that stronger commitment from the affected countries themselves was necessary in order to finance alternative development. In that regard, international financial institutions should be approached and engaged in alternative development; and Cross-border, subregional and regional technical assistance and cooperation should be promoted, including South-South cooperation.

77. The experts advised that, before alternative development was introduced as a tool to reduce cannabis cultivation, monitoring and analysis of the situation was required.

4. Judicial cooperation

78. As statistical data were a key element to any assessment of the situation with regard to judicial cooperation, the experts felt that such data should be an essential element of any future monitoring or reporting mechanism.

79. In the field of judicial cooperation, the experts identified several areas for future action: (a) standardized mechanisms to facilitate extradition should be discussed and implemented; (b) the approach to mutual legal assistance should be flexible and the broadest possible range of assistance should be provided, particularly in the case of non-coercive measures; (c) cooperation between States should be enhanced and national capacities in the area of controlled delivery and special investigations should be developed further; (d) information-sharing between source, transit and destination countries and with intergovernmental organizations should be improved and institutionalized; and (e) States should adopt legislation and practical measures to provide in particular for the protection of witnesses.

5. Amphetamine-type stimulants and their precursors

80. As the problem of amphetamine-type stimulants had not diminished in the past 10 years, the need for further international cooperation and other measures in that regard was emphasized by the experts. That work could take the form of (a) linking existing related activities around the world in a more systematic way and launching

new monitoring activities in cooperation with regional entities; (b) better integrating forensic data and qualitative information, including type of end product available (for prevention, treatment and law enforcement purposes), type of precursor (to improve specific measures and for targeting law enforcement investigations), drug purity and other forensic data to be shared among law enforcement agencies and regional and international organizations; and (c) improving the exchange of information on prices of amphetamine-type stimulants.

81. The experts highlighted the need for further capacity-building, backstopped by scientific support, in the safe investigation and handling of seized clandestine laboratories and precursor chemicals.

82. It was observed that forensic laboratory data and qualitative information on illicit synthetic drugs and precursors needed to be integrated into monitoring activities and law enforcement investigations.

6. Control of precursors

83. The experts highlighted the need for more international cooperation in information exchange and internal coordination between drug control agencies, customs authorities, the police and the private-sector chemical industry.

84. As in some regions, Africa in particular, no intergovernmental bodies were able to provide a picture of the situation with regard to precursor control, it was observed that the international community needed to increase its efforts in those parts of the world.

85. Several potential areas for improvements in the field of precursor control were suggested: (a) promotion of a universal code of conduct for the chemical industry; (b) the importance of Member States adhering to procedures such as the Pre-Export Notification Online (PEN Online) system; (c) the need for Member States to address deficiencies or inadequacies in national legislation on the control of precursor chemicals; (d) the need for ongoing and practical training in precursor control for officials and for their counterparts in the chemical industry; (e) the need to make the most out of new and developing technologies to support effective national and international control measures; (f) expansion of the UNODC approach of undertaking research for the analysis of precursor control, drawing information not only from the official authorities of Member States but also from other reliable information sources; and (g) the growing importance of forensic support to precursor control and the investigation of trafficking offences.

7. Money-laundering

86. In the event that Member States decide to pursue beyond 2009 the measuring of progress in efforts to counter money-laundering, the experts recommended that any new reporting mechanism should contain the standards embedded in United Nations conventions applicable to countering money-laundering and the financing of terrorism and should refer to other international standards, in particular the Forty Recommendations on Money-Laundering and Nine Special Recommendations on Terrorist Financing of the Financial Action Task Force.

87. The experts also recommended that the ministries of foreign affairs, to which such information-gathering instruments were usually transmitted, in accordance

with established practices regarding official communications to Member States, forward the section dealing with money-laundering to the relevant national authorities for its completion.
