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### Commission on Narcotic Drugs

#### Fifty-second session

Vienna, 11-20 March 2009

Item 6 (a) of the provisional agenda\*

**Illicit drug traffic and supply: world situation with regard to drug trafficking and action taken by subsidiary bodies of the Commission**

### **Action taken by subsidiary bodies of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs**

#### **Report of the Secretariat**

#### **Addendum**

### **I. Introduction**

1. The Thirty-second Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies (HONLEA), Asia and the Pacific, was held in Bangkok from 10 to 13 February 2009.
2. Following a review of trends in drug trafficking and of regional and subregional cooperation, the subsidiary body addressed drug law enforcement issues of priority in the Asia and Pacific region. Consideration of those issues was facilitated by the discussions that had been held during informal meetings of the working groups established for that purpose. In addition, the implementation of previous recommendations was reviewed.
3. The recommendations are reflected in section II below. The report of the Thirty-second Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Asia and the Pacific (UNODC/HONLAP/2009/32/5), will be made available, upon request, in the working language of the subsidiary body. The report is also available on the website of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime.

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\* E/CN.7/2009/1.



## **II. Recommendations of the subsidiary body**

4. The recommendations below were transmitted by the subsidiary body for consideration and action by the Commission at its fifty-second session.

### **Thirty-second Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Asia and the Pacific**

#### **1. Changing trends in trafficking in heroin**

5. The following recommendations were made with regard to the issue entitled “Changing trends in trafficking in heroin”:

(a) Governments of countries in Asia and the Pacific should, through the exchange of information gathered on criminal groups and the development of coordinated enforcement strategies to target the organizers of such groups and to dismantle their networks, encourage their authorities to develop greater cooperation, both regionally and internationally, to address the diverse trafficking operations of West African criminal groups;

(b) It was proposed that the United Nations should widen the mandate of the International Security Assistance Force by investing it with the legal basis to interdict drug caravans, destroy illicit drug laboratories and support opium poppy eradication in Afghanistan;

(c) Governments of countries in Asia and the Pacific were encouraged to work towards harmonizing their legislation, regulations and penalties for the control of illicit drugs, in order to support closer operational cooperation both nationally and regionally and to reduce disparities in the sentencing of offenders;

(d) Support should be provided to law enforcement agencies to develop the professional skills of law enforcement personnel through exchange programmes, secondments and international technical assistance in order to increase the depth of their knowledge and extend their operational compatibility;

(e) Authorities responsible for drug law enforcement should become fully conversant with the use of special investigation techniques such as controlled deliveries, the use of undercover officers and formally structured informant programmes, in order to be operationally prepared to support one another to the fullest extent possible in the investigation and prosecution of drug trafficking groups.

#### **2. Recovering the proceeds of crime**

6. The following recommendations were made with regard to the issue entitled “Recovering the proceeds of crime”:

(a) Governments should act to ensure that their national legislation to counter money-laundering is fully implemented and adequately supports the needs of the authorities responsible for the investigation and prosecution of suspected money-laundering offences;

(b) Where they have not already done so, Governments of countries in Asia and the Pacific should take steps to ensure that all sectors of the criminal justice system with the responsibility and powers to investigate, prosecute and adjudicate on money-laundering offences are well informed, trained and familiar with the application of legislation related to combating money-laundering and recovering the proceeds of crime;

(c) Governments should be encouraged to introduce comprehensive legislation on civil asset forfeiture in order to support authorities in the recovery of the proceeds of crime.

### **3. Precursor control and the impact on the manufacture of amphetamine-type stimulants**

7. The following recommendations were made with regard to the issue entitled "Precursor control and the impact on the manufacture of amphetamine-type stimulants":

(a) Governments should be encouraged to assess the national demand for, and use and sources of, amphetamine-type stimulants, in order to be able to better respond with effective strategies to prevent their manufacture and trafficking;

(b) Governments should take steps to ensure that they have the forensic capacity to support the relevant authorities in the successful investigation of the manufacture of amphetamine-type stimulants, in identifying trafficking routes and in tracing manufacturing sites through the analysis of seized amphetamine-type stimulants;

(c) In order to more effectively deal with the illicit manufacture and abuse of, and trafficking in, amphetamine-type stimulants, Governments should encourage their drug control authorities to strengthen existing regional and international cooperation in the exchange of information, contribute to the international precursor control initiatives Operation Cohesion and Project Prism and develop partnerships with the chemical industries, in order to engage their support in combating the diversion of precursors.

## **III. Follow-up to the twentieth special session of the General Assembly**

8. Participants at the Thirty-second Meeting of HONLEA, Asia and the Pacific, discussed the follow-up to the twentieth special session of the General Assembly.

9. One representative noted his Government's commitment to continued implementation of the goals and targets set in the Political Declaration adopted by the General Assembly at its twentieth special session (General Assembly resolution S-20/2, annex) and in the related measures and plans of action. He stated that his Government had paid particular attention to implementing supply reduction and sustainable alternative development programmes and activities and that the sharing of best practices and successful measures in those areas among countries was important. He noted that the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime could play a major role in assisting countries to strengthen their data collection and the analysis of problems related to drug abuse. Support was expressed for the

Chairperson and Bureau of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs in taking the lead in preparations for the high-level segment of its fifty-second session.

10. Another representative highlighted several new trends that should be taken into account in the follow-up to the twentieth special session of the General Assembly. For example, there was a trend towards greater specialization and decentralization of the illicit manufacture of methamphetamine, in order to evade detection, and more non-controlled substances were being used. In order to address that situation, an information-sharing system had been developed for precursor control, in which other member States could participate. Another trend causing concern was the appearance of new synthetic drugs in the region, for example piperazine-type synthetic drugs, as well as mixtures of methamphetamine, methylenedioxymethamphetamine and ketamine. It was important for member States to share up-to-date information on precursors and the new types of drugs. In addition, concerns were expressed about the widespread production and distribution, including through postal and courier services, of tetrahydrocannabinol-rich cannabis seeds. The importance of preventing the smuggling of such cannabis seeds was emphasized, and it was proposed that there should be global monitoring of cannabis seeds conducted through the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the International Narcotics Control Board.

11. One representative stated that his Government had made it a priority to improve cooperation with other countries in the region in the fight against the cultivation, manufacture and transit of, and trafficking in, illicit drugs, by exchanging information and experience. The Government was also cooperating with the International Narcotics Control Board on the implementation of the international drug control conventions and the provision of relevant information, including through the Pre-Export Notification Online system. Challenges for Asia and the Pacific included the change from opium poppy cultivation to cannabis cultivation by some Afghan farmers, since it was a lower-risk cash crop, particularly in opium-free provinces. While global wheat prices had persuaded some farmers to cultivate wheat rather than opium, that situation could be reversed if the respective income ratios changed in the future.

#### **IV. Organization of future meetings of the subsidiary body**

12. No offer to host the Thirty-third Meeting of HONLEA, Asia and the Pacific, was made at the Thirty-second Meeting. Several member States indicated that more time was needed to plan for the chairing and possible hosting of the Meeting, and to that end the Secretariat would be in contact with the Bureau and other interested members States.