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## Commission on Narcotic Drugs

### Fifty-sixth session

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Item 7 of the provisional agenda\*

### World situation with regard to drug trafficking and recommendations of the subsidiary bodies of the Commission

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

### Report of the Secretariat

#### I. Introduction

1. Four meetings of subsidiary bodies of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs were held in 2012: the Twenty-second Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies (HONLEA), Africa, held in Accra from 25 to 29 June; the Twenty-second Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Antigua, Guatemala, from 1 to 5 October; the Thirty-sixth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Asia and the Pacific, held in Bangkok from 30 October to 2 November; and the forty-seventh session of the Subcommission on Illicit Drug Traffic and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East, held in Antalya, Turkey, from 19 to 23 November 2012.

2. Following a review of trends in drug trafficking and regional and subregional cooperation, each of the subsidiary bodies addressed drug law enforcement issues of priority in its 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 by each of the subsidiary bodies.

3. The recommendations of the subsidiary bodies at the above-mentioned meetings are reflected below. The reports of the Twenty-second Meeting of

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\* E/CN.7/2013/1.



HONLEA, Africa (UNODC/HONLAF/22/5), the Twenty-second Meeting of HONLEA, Latin America and the Caribbean (UNODC/HONLAC/22/5), the Thirty-sixth Meeting of HONLEA, Asia and the Pacific (UNODC/HONLAP/36/5) and the forty-seventh session of the Subcommission (UNODC/SUBCOM/47/5) will be made available to the Commission in the working languages of the respective subsidiary bodies. The reports are also available on the website of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC).

## **II. Matters calling for action by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs or brought to its attention**

### **Draft resolution recommended for adoption by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs**

4. The Twenty-second Meeting of HONLEA, Africa, recommended to the Commission on Narcotic Drugs the adoption of the following draft resolution:

#### **Accra declaration**

*The Commission on Narcotic Drugs,*

*Recalling* the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem,<sup>1</sup> in which it was recognized that the world drug problem remained a common and shared responsibility that required effective and increased international cooperation and demanded an integrated multidisciplinary mutually reinforcing and balanced approach to supply and demand reduction strategies,

*Recalling also* the provisions of the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961 as amended by the 1972 Protocol,<sup>2</sup> the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971<sup>3</sup> and the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988,<sup>4</sup>

*Welcoming* the outcomes of the Twenty-second Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Africa, held in Accra from 25 to 29 June 2012,

*Reaffirming* the provisions of its resolution 54/14 of 25 March 2011, on measures to support African States in their efforts to combat the world drug problem, and its resolution 55/9 of 16 March 2012, on follow-up on measures to support African States in their efforts to combat the world drug problem,

*Recalling* General Assembly resolution 66/183 of 19 December 2011, on international cooperation against the world drug problem, in which the Assembly invited Member States, in close consultation with the United

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<sup>1</sup> See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2009, Supplement No. 8 (E/2009/28)*, chap. I, sect. C.

<sup>2</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 976, No. 14152.

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*, vol. 1019, No. 14956.

<sup>4</sup> *Ibid.*, vol. 1582, No. 27627.

Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, donors and other relevant international organizations, to continue assisting African States in addressing health problems and raising awareness of the dangers associated with the abuse of all drugs, in accordance with Commission on Narcotic Drugs resolution 54/1,

1. *Takes note* of the Accra declaration, which is annexed to the present resolution;

2. *Urges* Member States to take appropriate measures to combat traffic in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances in accordance with the Accra declaration and other relevant resolutions of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly, consistent with their national legislation and the provisions of the international drug control treaties.

## **Annex**

### **Accra declaration**

We, the representatives of States assembled in a spirit of trust and cooperation at the Twenty-second Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Africa, held in Accra from 25 to 29 June 2012,

Gravely concerned about the growing threat posed by the drug problem in Africa,

Very concerned about the emergence of problems related to the illicit manufacture of amphetamine-type stimulants and the proliferation of psychotropic substances, e.g. tramadol,

Recalling the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem,<sup>a</sup> in which it is recognized that the world drug problem remains a common and shared responsibility that requires effective and increased international cooperation and demands an integrated, multidisciplinary, mutually reinforcing and balanced approach to supply and demand reduction strategies,

Noting that the African drug problem poses multifaceted challenges, including insufficient treatment and rehabilitation services to adequately respond to the magnitude of the need for interventions, as well as insufficient equipment, including state-of-the-art screening machines and closed-circuit television cameras at major airports and border points to address drug trafficking, and inadequate measures to address corruption as a major driver of drug trafficking,

Noting also that drug trafficking is a multifaceted issue that can be effectively tackled only by reducing both supply and demand, and that drug trafficking is on the increase in Africa,

Reaffirming our unwavering commitment to the principle of common and shared responsibility in addressing the world drug problem,

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

Convinced that concrete action and comprehensive, well-coordinated national plans are the most effective means to combat illicit drugs and related crime,

1. Have agreed to make the following recommendations on effective responses to meeting the challenges of illicit cultivation of, and trafficking in, cannabis:

(a) Governments should be encouraged to undertake surveys and in-depth studies of the threat that cannabis cultivation, trafficking and abuse pose in order to support the development of national strategies that act effectively to combat their damaging impact;

(b) Governments must consider alternative development strategies that invest in the infrastructure and equipment needed to support the social and human development of rural populations whose livelihoods are dependent upon the illicit cultivation of cannabis;

(c) Governments should ensure that their law enforcement authorities are well trained, equipped and coordinated with other national actors in their response to regional trafficking in cannabis.

2. Have agreed to make the following recommendations on good practices and strategies in the treatment and rehabilitation of drug abusers:

(a) Governments should be encouraged to gather factual, reliable and comprehensive information concerning the situation in their countries with respect to both drug trafficking and illicit drug use, so as to develop and implement strategies that are effective to combat drug abuse and reduce its impact on their communities;

(b) Governments should review their current strategies to ensure that affordable treatment and prevention services that cover a broad range of addictions are available to their citizens affected by illicit drug use and drug dependence;

(c) Governments should be encouraged to introduce within their criminal justice systems appropriate procedures to enable drug abusers to be provided treatment and rehabilitation as a supplement to prison terms.

3. Have agreed to make the following recommendations on awareness-raising, training, and building and enhancing the region's law enforcement capacity to successfully counter drug trafficking:

(a) As a part of their national strategy to combat drug trafficking and cross-border crime, Governments should be encouraged to actively support the Airport Communication Project of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and establish joint airport interdiction task forces at their international airports;

(b) Governments should review the training, equipment and preparedness of their law enforcement authorities to be able to respond to the threat posed by amphetamine-type stimulants and their illicit manufacture;

(c) Governments should commit their chemical control authorities to registering with, supporting and actively participating in the Pre-Export

Notification Online system offered by the International Narcotics Control Board so as to be able to confirm the legitimacy of commercial parties and their transactions of precursor chemicals;

(d) States participating in meetings of heads of national drug law enforcement agencies, Africa, should review relevant domestic legislation with a view to aligning it with the international drug conventions and in order to strengthen harmonization at the subregional and regional levels;

(e) States participating in meetings of heads of national drug law enforcement agencies, Africa, should commit themselves to increasing resources for public education for demand reduction, including the use of resources resulting from seizures.

4. Have also agreed to make the following recommendations, after consideration by the working groups of the issues set out in the agenda of the Twenty-second Meeting:

(a) States participating in meetings of heads of national drug law enforcement agencies, Africa, should continue the implementation of the recommendations made by the Twentieth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Africa, held in Nairobi from 13 to 17 September 2010, to ensure the effectiveness of the fight against the threat posed by illicit drugs;

(b) States participating in meetings of heads of national drug law enforcement agencies, Africa, should strengthen their mechanisms for the monitoring of licit manufacture, import, distribution, export and use of narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and chemical precursors, in line with the provisions of the three international drug control conventions (the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961 as amended by the 1972 Protocol,<sup>b</sup> the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971<sup>c</sup> and the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988),<sup>d</sup> as well as related resolutions of the Economic and Social Council and the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, to prevent the diversion of those substances into illicit channels while ensuring that they are available for legitimate purposes, and work with or request the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, in close collaboration and consultation with the International Narcotics Control Board, to provide training to national competent authorities in that regard;

(c) States participating in meetings of heads of national drug law enforcement agencies, Africa, should cooperate with the International Narcotics Control Board and submit all mandatory and voluntary reports in accordance with the above-mentioned conventions and related resolutions of the Economic and Social Council and the Commission on Narcotic Drugs;

(d) States participating in meetings of heads of national drug law enforcement agencies, Africa, are encouraged to continue to pursue the

<sup>b</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 976, No. 14152.

<sup>c</sup> Ibid., vol. 1019, No. 14956.

<sup>d</sup> Ibid., vol. 1582, No. 27627.

establishment of a common platform for the sharing of secure information and joint investigations of cross-border crimes, building upon experience gained through successful subregional joint operational initiatives;

(e) Bilateral agreements between competent national authorities should be promoted to facilitate the fight against the threat posed by illicit drugs;

(f) States participating in meetings of heads of national drug law enforcement agencies, Africa, should commit themselves to considering ways to further strengthen domestic action in respect of drug-related issues, including continued capacity-building and increased human and budgetary resources for law enforcement agencies;

(g) The competent national authorities of States participating in meetings of heads of national drug law enforcement agencies, Africa, should register with and/or continue to share real-time information on legitimate trade in precursor chemicals through the Pre-Export Notification Online system and should make active use of the new Precursor Incident Communication System to share real-time intelligence on precursor seizures, thefts, shipments stopped in transit, diversions and diversion attempts, and illicit laboratories;

(h) The competent national authorities of States participating in meetings of heads of national drug law enforcement agencies, Africa, should share information on the amphetamine-type stimulants phenomenon with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, through, inter alia, its global Synthetics Monitoring: Analysis, Reporting and Trends programme.

5. Call on the international community to continue to recognize the efforts undertaken by Africa in the global fight against illicit drugs and to seize the opportunity thus provided to enhance support for national drug law enforcement initiatives and capacity-building efforts on the continent.

### **III. Recommendations of the subsidiary bodies**

5. The recommendations below were transmitted by the subsidiary bodies for consideration and action by the Commission at its fifty-sixth session.

#### **A. Twenty-second Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Africa**

##### **Other recommendations**

6. In addition to recommending the adoption of a draft resolution, the Twenty-second Meeting of HONLEA, Africa, made the recommendations presented below.

**1. Effective responses to meet the challenges of illicit cultivation of, and trafficking in, cannabis**

7. The following recommendations were made with regard to effective responses to meet the challenges of illicit cultivation of, and trafficking in, cannabis:

(a) Governments should be encouraged to undertake surveys and in-depth studies of the threat that cannabis cultivation, trafficking and abuse pose in order to support the development of national strategies to effectively combat their damaging impact;

(b) Governments must consider alternative development strategies that invest in the infrastructure and equipment needed to support the social and human development of rural populations whose livelihoods are dependent upon the illicit cultivation of cannabis plant;

(c) Governments should ensure that their law enforcement authorities are well trained, equipped and coordinated with other national actors in their response to regional trafficking in cannabis.

**2. Good practices and strategies in the treatment and rehabilitation of drug abusers**

8. The following recommendations were made with regard to good practices and strategies in the treatment and rehabilitation of drug abusers:

(a) Governments should be encouraged to gather factual, reliable and comprehensive information concerning the situation in their countries with respect to both drug trafficking and illicit drug use, so as to develop and implement effective strategies to combat drug abuse and reduce its impact on their communities;

(b) Governments should review their current strategies to ensure that affordable treatment and prevention services covering a broad range of addictions are available to their citizens affected by illicit drug use and drug dependence;

(c) Governments should be encouraged to introduce within their criminal justice systems appropriate procedures to enable drug abusers to be provided treatment and rehabilitation as a supplement to prison terms.

**3. Awareness-raising, training, and building and enhancing the region's law enforcement capacity to successfully counter drug trafficking**

9. The following recommendations were made with regard to awareness-raising, training, and building and enhancing the region's law enforcement capacity to successfully counter drug trafficking:

(a) As a part of their national strategy to combat illicit drug trafficking and cross-border crime, Governments should be encouraged to actively support the Airport Communication Project (AIRCOP) of UNODC and establish joint airport interdiction task forces at their international airports;

(b) Governments should review the training, equipment and preparedness of their law enforcement authorities in order to be able to respond to the threat posed by amphetamine-type stimulants and their illicit manufacture;

(c) Governments should commit their chemical control authorities to registering, supporting and actively participating in the Pre-Export Notification (PEN) Online system offered by the International Narcotics Control Board so as to be able to confirm the legitimacy of commercial parties and their transactions of precursor chemicals.

## **B. Twenty-second Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Latin America and the Caribbean**

10. The recommendations below were made by the Twenty-second Meeting of HONLEA, Latin America and the Caribbean.

### **1. Responding to the challenges posed to the region by the production of and trafficking in cocaine, cannabis and heroin**

11. The following recommendations were made with regard to responding to the challenges posed to the region by the production of and trafficking in cocaine, cannabis and heroin:

(a) To assist the investigation of illicit trafficking and successful prosecution of those individuals responsible, Governments should ensure that their drug enforcement response is capable of undertaking the necessary level of forensic analysis of seized drugs and precursor chemicals;

(b) Governments must take steps to develop effective strategies that address the growing problem of microtrafficking that is threatening to expand domestic consumption and increase the demand for illicit drugs;

(c) Governments should support closer operational cooperation between the region's law enforcement authorities in response to the ongoing operational challenge that maritime trafficking poses to effective enforcement.

### **2. Joint agency task forces in response to drug trafficking**

12. The following recommendations were made with regard to joint agency task forces in response to drug trafficking:

(a) In view of the increasingly sophisticated methods employed by trafficking networks, Governments should support their law enforcement authorities in formalizing agreements that enable cross-border task force cooperation in response to specific needs and operational requirements;

(b) Governments should carry out a review of current practices and procedures related to undertaking the investigation of illicit drug trafficking and related organized crime offences in foreign jurisdictions, together with a similar review of procedures related to the formal gathering of evidence from these jurisdictions, to determine if existing practices meet the operational needs of their criminal justice systems;

(c) Governments should aim to strengthen national drug observatories by means of institutional capacity-building and inter-institutional coordination at the domestic, regional and international levels in order to close gaps in data collection



and exchange, thus enhancing their contribution to national and international decision-making and policy development;

(d) Governments should consider coordinating the data systems of their drug law enforcement and related agencies to contribute analysis to national drug policy and strategy decision-making and further developing them to provide real-time information in support of operational responses;

(e) Governments should complement the information provided in the annual reports questionnaire with relevant data compiled by the national drug observatories so that a more accurate assessment can be made regarding the implementation by Member States of and their follow-up to the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem.

### **3. Maintaining control over precursor chemicals and pharmaceutical preparations**

13. The following recommendations were made with regard to maintaining control over precursor chemicals and pharmaceutical preparations:

(a) Governments should be encouraged to undertake a comprehensive evaluation of their domestic legal needs and requirements for controlled chemicals so as to arrive at a baseline figure that will assist in the identification of any attempts at illicit diversion;

(b) Governments must take steps to ensure that the staff employed in their national authorities responsible for precursor control are sufficiently trained, with the specialized knowledge and professional skills required to effectively apply and enforce the legislation and procedures controlling the use of precursors, and that they remain in their posts so as to maintain continuity;

(c) Governments are encouraged to strengthen their efforts and ensure that their law enforcement agencies are aware of the important role played by forensic analysis of seized precursor chemicals, the shared results of which lead to increased regional knowledge of sources of manufacture and patterns in trafficking;

(d) Governments should encourage their national authorities to develop pharmaceutical industry voluntary codes of conduct that support the effective implementation of national legislation and regulations and that promote good cooperation between and corporate responsibility in the public and private sectors with regard to transactions involving pharmaceutical preparations.

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

14. The recommendations below were made by the Thirty-sixth Meeting of HONLEA, Asia and the Pacific.

**1. Precursor chemicals, including the identification of new smuggling routes and of trafficking groups involved in the diversion of precursors and their modi operandi**

15. The following recommendations were made with regard to precursor chemicals, including the identification of new smuggling routes and of trafficking groups involved in the diversion of precursors and their modi operandi:

(a) Governments should ensure that the sale and use of the preparation ketamine is controlled and monitored so as to prevent its diversion for illicit use;

(b) Governments must ensure that the staff of authorities responsible for the administration of procedures managing chemical substances and internationally controlled precursor chemicals are properly trained and equipped to identify controlled chemicals and other chemical substances of concern;

(c) Governments should consider establishing inter-agency partnerships comprising ministries with the appropriate mandates to regulate, oversee and enforce the import and export, national manufacture, trade and distribution of precursor chemicals.

**2. Production of amphetamine-type stimulants, in particular the detection and dismantling of “mega-labs”, the challenge of illicit manufacturing in kitchen laboratories, control of Internet pharmacies and the emergence of new designer drugs that are not under international control**

16. The following recommendations were made with regard to the production of amphetamine-type stimulants, in particular the detection and dismantling of “mega-labs”, the challenge of illicit manufacturing in kitchen laboratories, control of Internet pharmacies and the emergence of new designer drugs that are not under international control:

(a) Governments should review their legislation so as to ensure that their drug law enforcement authorities are empowered to deal with new challenges presented by pre-precursor substances, non-controlled licit chemicals and the emergence of new psychoactive substances that are sourced by drug traffickers;

(b) In response to the influence of transnational organized criminal groups trafficking amphetamine-type stimulants into and across the region, Governments should actively encourage and support their drug law enforcement authorities to increase cooperation through measures such as the proactive exchange of information, collaboration in joint targeting and interception operations against identified trafficking syndicates and the early development of bilateral procedures to support and facilitate a rapid response to requests to undertake controlled delivery operations;

(c) Governments should ensure that drug law enforcement authorities take measures to monitor the sale and trade in equipment used for the illicit production or manufacture of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, such as tablet-making machinery, laboratory glassware and related laboratory equipment, in order to effectively prevent the diversion of such materials to clandestine manufacturing sites.

### **3. Undertaking cross-border investigations: the challenges of multi-jurisdictional investigations, case studies of significant operations and lessons learned**

17. With regard to the issue entitled “Undertaking cross-border investigations: the challenges of multi-jurisdictional investigations, case studies of significant operations and lessons learned”, the following recommendations were made:

(a) Governments of the region should take steps to encourage law enforcement authorities based at international airports to work collaboratively, including in the creation of inter-agency task forces to pool professional experience and available knowledge, in order to address illicit drug trafficking and related organized crime by air;

(b) In response to the increasingly complex methods employed by drug trafficking networks operating into and through the region, Governments should support their law enforcement authorities and prosecutors in launching domestic and cross-border intelligence-led investigations against high-profile drug trafficking syndicates, in order to collaboratively investigate them and arrest and prosecute their members;

(c) In anticipation of requests for assistance in the investigation of cross-border drug trafficking offences from foreign law enforcement agencies, Governments should establish practices, procedures and standard operating procedures, where applicable and in line with their national rules and regulations, that will facilitate a response when overseas investigations require their operational support.

## **D. Forty-seventh session of the Subcommittee on Illicit Drug Traffic and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East**

18. The recommendations below were made by the Subcommittee on Illicit Drug Traffic and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East at its forty-seventh session.

### **1. Modi operandi of organized criminal groups involved in drug trafficking**

19. The following recommendations were made with regard to the modi operandi of organized criminal groups involved in drug trafficking:

(a) Governments should take steps to ensure that information needed to respond quickly to requests for controlled deliveries, such as agency contact details and minimum legal and procedural requirements, is readily available to other competent national authorities who require support in undertaking such joint operations;

(b) Governments should ensure that their national drug law enforcement authorities establish operational working relationships and regular communication with the following international and regional law enforcement support entities: International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL), Central Asian Regional Information and Coordination Centre (CARICC) and Gulf Criminal Intelligence Centre to Combat Drugs (GCIC). Those entities facilitate the coordination of multilateral investigations and cross-border operations and the collection, analysis

and sharing of information needed to target and respond to criminal groups engaged in the smuggling of drugs and precursors through the Near and Middle East;

(c) To contribute to the identification of new trends and the development of national response strategies, Governments should encourage their law enforcement authorities to contribute to the Paris Pact initiative online mapping tool (<http://heroin2011.dbroca.uz>), which indicates seizures of illicit drugs and precursors.

## **2. The emergence of West African drug trafficking networks and the threat they pose to the region covered by the Subcommission**

20. The following recommendations were made with regard to the emergence of West African drug trafficking networks and the threat they pose to the region covered by the Subcommission:

(a) Governments should undertake a threat assessment of the current activities of West African trafficking groups operating in their territory and, based on the outcome of that evaluation, develop an appropriate response strategy;

(b) To ensure that their territory, transit zones (airports, seaports and land border crossings) are not used by West African trafficking syndicates in their illegal activities, Governments should take steps to raise awareness of the common modus operandi the syndicates employ among their drug law enforcement authorities and to encourage the vigilance of those authorities to any future threats;

(c) Governments should encourage their law enforcement authorities to collate information on the activities of West African trafficking groups operating in their territory in a national centre for statistics, and share that information on a regular basis with their international and regional counterparts INTERPOL, CARICC, GCIC and the joint planning cell of the Triangular Initiative of Afghanistan, Iran (Islamic Republic of) and Pakistan, to assist in identifying and mapping the activities of those networks across regions.

## **3. Trends in the illicit manufacture and use of and trafficking in synthetic drugs, pharmaceutical preparations and psychotropic substances**

21. The following recommendations were made with regard to trends in the illicit manufacture and use of and trafficking in synthetic drugs, pharmaceutical preparations and psychotropic substances:

(a) Governments should ensure that their competent national authorities make use of the PEN Online system and the Precursor Incident Communication System (PICS) provided by the International Narcotics Control Board to prevent the illegal diversion of precursor chemicals when authorizing the shipment of controlled precursor chemicals;

(b) To determine the source, location and trafficking patterns of illicit drugs, and to increase the effectiveness of their national drug law enforcement response, Governments should support the development of drug signature analysis programmes and encourage the sharing of that research through regional and international collaboration;

(c) In response to the actions of transnational organized criminal groups trafficking amphetamine-type stimulants into and across the region, Governments should actively support their drug law enforcement authorities in developing closer operational cooperation with one another through the proactive exchange of information, collaboration in joint targeting and interception operations against identified trafficking syndicates and the development of bilateral procedures to support and facilitate a rapid response to requests to carry out controlled delivery operations;

(d) Governments should provide details on clandestine laboratories dismantled in their territories.

#### **IV. Follow-up to the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem**

22. Participants in the Twenty-second Meeting of HONLEA, Africa, the Twenty-second Meeting of HONLEA, Latin America and the Caribbean, the Thirty-sixth Meeting of HONLEA, Asia and the Pacific, and the forty-seventh session of the Subcommission on Illicit Drug Traffic and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East considered the item on their respective agendas entitled “Follow-up to the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem”. For their consideration of the item, they had before them the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem (A/64/92-E/2009/98, sect. II.A), adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 64/182.

23. Attention was drawn to the subsections of part II of the Plan of Action on enhancing cooperation, coordination and law enforcement operations to reduce supply; addressing new trafficking trends; and addressing supply and demand reduction together. It was emphasized that the General Assembly, in its resolution 64/182, had encouraged the meetings of heads of national drug law enforcement agencies and the Subcommission to continue to contribute to the strengthening of regional and international cooperation.

24. Furthermore, participants were informed that, pursuant to operative paragraph 40 of the Political Declaration, a high-level review of the implementation by Member States of the Declaration and its Plan of Action would take place at the fifty-seventh session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, in 2014, and were requested to provide recommendations on ways to support that review.

25. At the Twenty-second Meeting of HONLEA, Africa, participants were given a detailed presentation on the launch of a special UNODC report on West Africa that emphasized the regional and continent-wide dimensions of illicit manufacture of and trafficking in amphetamine-type stimulants, particularly methamphetamine. The report highlighted that the criminal organizations involved looked for ways to avoid effective law enforcement and precursor controls in order to traffic

amphetamine-type stimulants to other parts of the world, primarily East and South-East Asia.

26. The report was produced by the UNODC global Synthetics Monitoring: Analysis, Reporting and Trends (SMART) programme, which was aimed at assisting Governments in key regions of the world in generating, managing, analysing, reporting and using information on illicit synthetic drugs so that they could design effective policy and programme intervention.

27. The Meeting discussed the various challenges encountered by law enforcement agents in combating amphetamine-type stimulants and agreed, *inter alia*, that those substances posed a serious and constantly evolving challenge to their efforts, a challenge that threatened the security, health and welfare of local communities, particularly the young population.

28. Representatives from Benin, Ghana, Nigeria and Togo emphasized the importance of sharing and disseminating information through existing networks and strengthening the capacity of national investigative laboratories, and called on UNODC to lend support to such efforts. Furthermore, participants agreed that community-based units had a role to play in supporting awareness-raising and sensitization programmes targeting schools, churches, mosques and other places of worship.

29. At the Twenty-second Meeting of HONLEA, Latin America and the Caribbean, attention was drawn to part II of the Political Declaration and its Plan of Action, particularly the section on supply reduction. All speakers reiterated that their Governments remained fully committed to the implementation of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action.

30. The representative of Cuba reiterated the political will of his Government to make every possible effort to combat the scourge of international drug trafficking. He indicated that the HONLEA Meeting had been informed about efforts made by the countries in the region to reduce drug trafficking, but that it had not received information on the efforts made by consumer countries to reduce drug demand.

31. The representative of Mexico indicated that her Government placed special emphasis not only on the importance of supply reduction, but also on the issue of exchange of information, and in that regard referred to the statistical yearbook produced by Mexico based on a recommendation of the Fifth Meeting of HONLEA.

32. The representative of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela indicated that many of the elements contained in the Political Declaration and Plan of Action had served as a basis for the development of the national plan to combat the abuse of narcotic drugs, as well as for relevant domestic legislation, and that they were part of the organic drug law and the anti-organized crime law.

33. The representative of Ecuador indicated that his Government was carrying out legal reforms, as currently the implementation of certain investigation techniques was not envisaged in existing laws. He also indicated that elements of the Political Declaration and its Plan of Action had also served as a basis for the national anti-drug plan.

34. The representative of Guatemala requested Member States not to forget to also consider the drug problem from a health perspective, as human beings were the victims at the centre of the world drug problem.
35. The representative of Peru indicated that all elements contained in the Political Declaration and its Plan of Action were included in the national plan to combat drug abuse in that country.
36. The representative of Paraguay indicated that his Government had always considered international cooperation to be essential in countering the world drug problem.
37. The representative of the Bahamas indicated that his Government had always shaped policies so that they conformed at the tactical level to the Plan of Action.
38. At the Thirty-sixth Meeting of HONLEA, Asia and the Pacific, participants discussed the effectiveness of alternative development policies and programmes. The importance of combining long-term commitments to alternative development goals with law enforcement efforts to reduce supply was emphasized. Participants stressed the importance of regional and interregional cooperation in countering illicit cultivation through alternative development programmes. Alternative development was considered to be an effective solution to the problem of illicit cultivation of crops for the production of narcotic drugs.
39. The representative of Thailand informed the Meeting about the measures taken by his Government to address all key areas of drug control, namely alternative development, supply reduction, drug demand reduction, control of precursors, money-laundering and judicial cooperation. He emphasized that alternative development strategies and programmes were aimed at addressing the root cause of illicit cultivation of crops for the manufacture of drugs, namely poverty and lack of opportunities.
40. The representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran reported on the initiatives taken by his Government to establish closer cooperation with individual and relevant subregional, regional and international organizations aimed at combating trafficking in narcotic drugs. Together with supply reduction initiatives, the Islamic Republic of Iran had also put in place a number of harm reduction measures.
41. The representative of Pakistan provided the Meeting with information on the country's five-year drug abuse control master plan (2010-2014), which was launched in 2010 in order to reduce the health, social and economic costs associated with the drug problem. An expenditure of \$125 million was envisaged to implement the master plan, which included a substantial allocation for drug demand reduction activities. In that connection, assistance from the international community and UNODC would be welcome.
42. At the forty-seventh session of the Subcommittee on Illicit Drug Traffic and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East, speakers reported on measures taken by their Governments to implement the Political Declaration and Plan of Action. Turkey had adopted a national drug strategy and action plans on demand and supply reduction, which were based on the Political Declaration and Plan of Action, and worked closely with the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction. Data on drug seizures carried out by Turkey in 2011 and 2012 showed an increase in seizures of cannabis, heroin, opium and methylenedioxymethamphetamine (MDMA,

commonly known as “ecstasy”), as well as phenazepam (“bonsai”) and other drugs. Seizures of Captagon had significantly decreased, raising the question of whether trafficking routes had shifted southward as a result of political developments in the region. The representative of Turkey also mentioned ongoing cooperation with the drug law enforcement authorities of the Islamic Republic of Iran, with regard to methamphetamine, and successful controlled delivery operations with Germany and the Netherlands as examples of its international cooperation efforts. In addition to carrying out drug seizures, Governments should dismantle organized criminal groups involved in international drug trafficking.

43. The representative of Pakistan reported on efforts made to implement all aspects of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action. On demand reduction and related measures, a drug abuse master plan had been elaborated in cooperation with UNODC. Relevant measures included the establishment of rehabilitation and treatment centres, the promotion of community and civil society participation, awareness-raising, harm reduction to reduce HIV/AIDS and blood-borne diseases among injecting drug users, opioid substitution therapies and the Drug Free City Lahore project. On supply reduction, the representative stressed the country’s eradication efforts, which had led to it becoming “poppy-free” in 2011, and reported on alternative development projects, in line with its special development and enforcement plan. Further achievements included the elimination of heroin laboratories, seizures of opium and hashish, high conviction rates for drug-related offences and the freezing and forfeiture of assets derived from drug-related activities. Progress had also been made in the area of countering money-laundering and promoting judicial cooperation to enhance international cooperation. The representative stressed the positive results of Pakistan’s inter-agency task force on drugs, which had brought all of its law enforcement agencies under a single umbrella, and encouraged other Member States to do the same.

## **V. Organization of future meetings of the subsidiary bodies**

44. At the Thirty-sixth Meeting of HONLEA, Asia and the Pacific, the representative of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran informed participants of the offer by his Government to host the Thirty-seventh Meeting of HONLEA, Asia and the Pacific, in 2013.

45. As far as the organization of the next meetings of the other subsidiary bodies is concerned, attention is drawn to Economic and Social Council resolution 1988/15, entitled “Meetings of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies: Asia and the Pacific, Africa, and Latin America and the Caribbean”, in which the Council requested the Secretary-General to convene those three regional meetings at the capitals of States in the respective regions that might wish to act as host or at the headquarters of the regional commission concerned, annually, beginning in 1988. Accordingly, the Commission should encourage member States in the different regions to consider hosting forthcoming meetings of heads of national drug law enforcement agencies where no host has yet been identified and to coordinate with the Secretariat as soon as possible to allow sufficient time for the organizational arrangements to be made.