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## Commission on Narcotic Drugs

### Fifty-eighth 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 2014: the Twenty-fourth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Africa, held in Addis Ababa from 15 to 19 September; the Twenty-fourth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Asunción from 6 to 10 October; the Thirty-eighth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Asia and the Pacific, held in Bangkok from 21 to 24 October; and the forty-ninth session of the Subcommission on Illicit Drug Traffic and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East, held in Vienna from 10 to 13 November.

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 and formulated a set of recommendations. 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 set out below were made by the subsidiary bodies at the above-mentioned meetings. Pursuant to Commission on Narcotic Drugs

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\* E/CN.7/2015/1.



resolution 56/10, the participants of the meetings agreed to submit the recommendations, which had been made on the basis of the deliberations of their respective working groups, to the Commission at its fifty-eighth session as regional recommendations aimed at moving forward in the implementation of 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> They also considered follow-up to the Political Declaration and Plan of Action.

4. The reports of the Twenty-fourth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Africa (UNODC/HONLAF/24/5), the Twenty-fourth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Latin America and the Caribbean (UNODC/HONLAC/24/5), the Thirty-eighth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Asia and the Pacific (UNODC/HONLAP/38/5), and the forty-ninth session of the Subcommission (UNODC/SUBCOM/49/5) 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. Recommendations of the subsidiary bodies**

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

5. Prior to making the recommendations below, the Twenty-fourth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Africa:

(a) Recalled the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem, adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 64/182 of 18 December 2009, in which Member States decided, among other things, that the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, at its fifty-seventh session, in 2014, should conduct a high-level review of the implementation by Member States of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action, recommended that the Economic and Social Council should devote a high-level segment to a theme related to the world drug problem, and also recommended that the General Assembly should hold a special session to address the world drug problem;

(b) Also recalled General Assembly resolution 67/193 of 20 December 2012, in which the Assembly decided to convene, in early 2016, a special session on the world drug problem to review the progress in the implementation of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action, including an assessment of the achievements and challenges in countering the world drug problem, within the framework of the three international drug control conventions and other relevant United Nations instruments;

(c) Took note with appreciation of the Joint Ministerial Statement of the 2014 high-level review by the Commission of the implementation by Member States

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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.

of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action,<sup>2</sup> adopted by the Commission at its fifty-seventh session, in which achievements, challenges and priorities for further action were identified within the framework of the three international drug control conventions and other relevant United Nations instruments;

(d) Acknowledged, in accordance with the assessment contained in the Joint Ministerial Statement, that many challenges relating to the world drug problem had persisted and that new ones had emerged in some parts of the world, and that those new challenges needed to be taken into account in the implementation of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action;

(e) Emphasized the importance of a broad, transparent and inclusive discussion among Member States held in multilateral settings and based on scientific evidence. The discussion should take on board input from other relevant stakeholders as appropriate, focus on the most effective ways to counter the world drug problem in a manner consistent with the three international drug control conventions and other relevant international instruments, and further the implementation of the commitments and targets set out in the Political Declaration and Plan of Action;

(f) Welcomed the adoption by the Commission of its resolution 57/5 on the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem to be held in 2016. In the resolution the Commission underlined the importance of the special session as a milestone on the way to 2019, the target date set in the Political Declaration and Plan of Action for achieving targets and goals set out therein; recognized the leading role of the Commission as the central policymaking body within the United Nations system dealing with drug-related matters in the preparations for the special session; and decided to take all possible measures to ensure an adequate, inclusive and effective preparatory process with the active involvement of all relevant stakeholders;

(g) Resolved to continue to support and contribute to the preparatory process for a special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem in 2016 pursuant to resolution 56/10 of the Commission, in which it requested the meetings of its subsidiary bodies to contribute to the monitoring of the implementation by Member States of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action at the regional level by discussing regional views on the progress made and by submitting regional recommendations aimed at moving forward in the implementation of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action;

(h) Agreed to make the recommendations presented below.

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<sup>2</sup> See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2014, Supplement No. 8 (E/2014/28)*, chap. I, sect. C.

**1. Trends and developments regarding new psychoactive and other substances not currently under international control**

6. The following recommendations were made with regard to new psychoactive and other substances not currently under international control:

(a) In the face of a growing trend in the abuse of amphetamine-type stimulants and psychoactive substances, Governments must ensure that they provide adequate investment in and support for treatment facilities for stimulant abuse and initiatives to raise awareness of related public health issues to meet the needs of their communities;

(b) Governments are encouraged to undertake a study of the illicit use of plant-based stimulants and hallucinogenics, such as khat and datura, taking into consideration the extent of their abuse in their communities and the effect on public health;

(c) Governments are encouraged to focus on preventive measures to control precursor chemicals, essential chemicals and pharmaceutical preparations by strengthening the administrative procedures regulating their commercial use, sale and distribution.

**2. Addressing challenges posed by the cultivation and abuse of cannabis**

7. The following recommendations were made with regard to challenges posed by the cultivation and abuse of cannabis:

(a) In combating cannabis trafficking, Governments should encourage their law enforcement officials, prosecutors and judiciaries to work closely with their neighbours and with countries throughout the region to share information, conducting joint operations and improving communication channels;

(b) Governments are encouraged to review their legislation with a view to harmonizing offences and sanctions related to cannabis trafficking;

(c) Governments are encouraged to promote sustainable alternative development initiatives as an effective means of addressing the dependence of rural communities on the illicit cultivation of cannabis for their livelihoods.

**3. Responding to the current threat posed by trafficking of heroin, including by sea**

8. The following recommendations were made with regard to the current threat posed by trafficking of heroin, including by sea:

(a) Given the threat to public health, the harm to the environment caused by illicit cultivation, the adverse economic effects and the negative impact on the rule of law, Governments are strongly encouraged to keep illicit drug trafficking and related organized criminal offences at the forefront of their political agendas;

(b) Governments are encouraged to strengthen collaboration, professional networking, information-sharing mechanisms and communication between their drug law enforcement authorities in order to improve the regional response to heroin trafficking;

(c) To be effective against groups and individuals engaged in heroin trafficking and related criminal activities, Governments should review their existing

bilateral agreements to ensure that they meet the needs of their law enforcement and judicial authorities tasked with investigating and prosecuting such cross-border offences;

(d) Governments should consider making better use of the provisions on international cooperation contained in the three international drug control treaties.

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

9. Before they adopted the recommendations below, the participants in the Twenty-fourth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Latin America and the Caribbean:

(a) Recalled the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem, adopted during the high-level segment of the fifty-second session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and by the General Assembly in its resolution 64/182 of 18 December 2009, in which Member States decided, among other things, that the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, at its fifty-seventh session, in 2014, should conduct a high-level review of the implementation by Member States of the Political Declaration and its Plan of Action, recommended that the Economic and Social Council should devote a high-level segment to a theme related to the world drug problem, and also recommended that the General Assembly should hold a special session to address the world drug problem;

(b) Also recalled General Assembly resolution 67/193 of 20 December 2012, in which the Assembly decided to convene, in early 2016, a special session on the world drug problem to review the progress in the implementation of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action, including an assessment of the achievements and challenges in countering the world drug problem, within the framework of the three international drug control conventions and other relevant United Nations instruments;

(c) Acknowledged, in accordance with the assessment contained in the Joint Ministerial Statement of the 2014 high-level review by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs of the implementation by Member States of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem, that many challenges relating to the world drug problem had persisted, that new ones had emerged in some parts of the world, and that those new trends needed to be taken into account in the implementation of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action;

(d) Took note with appreciation of resolution AG/RES.1 (XLVI-E/14), on reflections and guidelines on formulating and following up on comprehensive policies to address the world drug problem in the Americas, adopted on 19 September 2014 by the General Assembly of the Organization of American States at its forty-sixth special session;

(e) Reaffirmed that policies and strategies for countering the world drug problem must have as aims the well-being, dignity and social inclusion of the individual, taking into account that the world drug problem must be addressed from a

comprehensive and balanced perspective, in full respect of international law and international human rights law and the three United Nations drug control conventions;

(f) Reiterated the importance of strengthening international cooperation to tackle the world drug problem, in conformity with the principle of common and shared responsibility;

(g) Emphasized the importance of a broad, transparent, inclusive and scientific evidence-based discussion among Member States, with inputs from other relevant stakeholders, as appropriate, in multilateral settings, on the most effective ways to counter the world drug problem, consistent with the three international drug control conventions and other relevant international instruments, in order to further implement the commitments and targets set out in the Political Declaration and Plan of Action;

(h) Welcomed the decision that the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem to be held in 2016 would have an inclusive preparatory process that would include extensive substantive consultations, allowing organs, entities and specialized agencies of the United Nations system, relevant international and regional organizations, civil society and other relevant stakeholders to fully contribute to the process, in accordance with the relevant rules of procedure and established practice, and that the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, as the central policymaking body within the United Nations system dealing with drug-related matters, would lead that process by addressing all organizational and substantive matters in an open-ended manner, and in that regard, invited the President of the General Assembly to support, guide and stay involved in the process;

(i) Recognized the importance of advancing, at its upcoming meetings, substantive dialogue focused on strengthening commitments and achieving better results in response to challenges that have arisen in recent years, in order to increase the effectiveness of the struggle against organized crime and the prevention of social, economic and health harms produced by the world drug problem, as well as to identify new challenges and difficulties when implementing national policies and international cooperation, in order to produce specific input for preparations for the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem to be held in 2016;

(j) Resolved to continue to support and contribute to the preparatory process for the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem to be held in 2016, in view of the requests made by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, in its resolution 56/10, to the meetings of the subsidiary bodies of the Commission to contribute to the monitoring of the implementation by Member States of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action at the regional level by discussing regional views on progress made in that regard and to submit regional recommendations aimed at moving forward in the implementation of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action;

(k) Observed the need to strengthen and ensure balance within comprehensive policies that include all elements of the strategy to counter the world drug problem, recognizing the different impacts, manifestations and realities of the problem, and strengthening dialogue with civil society;

(l) Agreed to make the recommendations presented below.

**1. Measures adopted to reduce the diversion of precursor chemicals, with reference to international cooperation and technical assistance**

10. With regard to issue 1, “Measures adopted to reduce the diversion of precursor chemicals, with reference to international cooperation and technical assistance”, the following recommendations were made:

(a) Where they have not already done so, Governments are encouraged to ensure their authorities are making full use of Pre-Export Notification Online (PEN Online) and the Precursors Incident Communication System, which are international initiatives of the International Narcotics Control Board, and are involved in the international intelligence-gathering operations under Project Prism, Project Cohesion and Project Ion to prevent the diversion of precursor chemicals and contribute to the pool of current information on developing trends and modi operandi;

(b) Acknowledging the diverse range of precursor chemicals increasingly being diverted to illicit drug manufacture, Governments are encouraged to ensure that their national legislation empowers their drug enforcement authorities to place effective controls over precursor substances, non-controlled chemicals and the emergence of the new psychoactive substances that are procured by drug traffickers;

(c) Governments are encouraged to develop specific surveillance lists of non-scheduled substances that are used in the illegal manufacture of drugs as part of their operational response to the appearance of new psychoactive substances on the illicit drug markets in their countries;

(d) Governments of the region are encouraged to coordinate in the harmonization and application of their administrative controls over precursor chemicals and controlled substances so as to prevent and discourage circumvention of restrictions over their availability through the diversion of those substances into neighbouring jurisdictions. Governments acknowledge that the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988 can help in that regard.

**2. Non-therapeutic use, diversion and abuse of medical preparations**

11. With regard to issue 2, “Non-therapeutic use, diversion and abuse of medical preparations”, the following recommendations were made:

(a) Where they are not already doing so, Governments are encouraged to undertake an annual survey to assess national pharmaceutical needs that not only informs and contributes to their health-care planning but also provides a baseline figure for identifying diversion attempts;

(b) Governments are encouraged to take measures to advance the monitoring of the abuse of pharmaceutical preparations, including the early identification of emerging trends, so as to be better prepared to develop and implement countermeasures and supportive public health strategies;

(c) Governments are encouraged to apply the same control measures to pharmaceutical preparations containing ephedrine or pseudoephedrine as to those substances as raw materials.

### **3. Demand reduction, prevention and treatment**

12. With regard to issue 3, “Demand reduction, prevention and treatment”, the following recommendations were made:

(a) Governments should support their health-care professionals working in drug treatment to engage in peer-to-peer networking and should encourage horizontal cooperation opportunities in the field of demand reduction, in particular with regard to training and the exchange of professional practices;

(b) Governments must encourage their authorities to develop innovative demand reduction initiatives and programmes that readily connect with their vulnerable populations, maintain engagement with such populations and promote the essential life skills needed to resist the abuse of psychoactive substances;

(c) Governments are encouraged to review their funding for demand reduction and treatment programmes so as to ensure that adequate funding is available to meet the needs of their at-risk communities;

(d) Governments are encouraged to adopt specific strategies against microtrafficking that would allow a combination of prevention and criminal prosecution of that activity;

(e) Governments are encouraged to consolidate a methodology that would allow for the collection of reliable data on current consumption and trends among their populations, for the purpose of sharing such data with other Member States.

### **4. Other recommendations**

13. The following additional recommendations were made:

(a) All Meetings of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Latin America and the Caribbean, should consider all the pillars of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action that cover measures to reduce supply and demand, analysis of social and economic consequences and the structural causes of the drug problem and analysis of new challenges in international cooperation;

(b) Once adopted, the recommendations should be published on the Commission on Narcotic Drugs website dedicated to the preparations for the special session of the General Assembly to be held in 2016 ([www.ungass2016.org](http://www.ungass2016.org));

(c) In the framework of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, greater visibility should be given to the statistical yearbook on drug control produced by Mexico, and this publication should be regarded by the Secretariat as an input to the *World Drug Report*;

(d) Governments should establish or strengthen mechanisms for the exchange of information focused on research in the fight against drug trafficking, as well as for the exchange of experiences and good practices.



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

14. Prior to making the recommendations below, the participants in the Thirty-eighth Meeting of HONLEA, Asia and the Pacific:

(a) Recalled the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem, adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 64/182, in which Member States decided, among other things, that the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, at its fifty-seventh session, in 2014, should conduct a high-level review of the implementation by Member States of the Political Declaration and its Plan of Action, recommended that the Economic and Social Council should devote a high-level segment to a theme related to the world drug problem, and also recommended that the General Assembly should hold a special session to address the world drug problem;

(b) Also recalled General Assembly resolution 67/193, in which the Assembly decided to convene, in early 2016, a special session on the world drug problem to review the progress in the implementation of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action, including an assessment of the achievements and challenges in countering the world drug problem, within the framework of the three international drug control conventions and other relevant United Nations instruments;

(c) Took note with appreciation of the Joint Ministerial Statement of the 2014 high-level review by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs of the implementation by Member States of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action, adopted by the Commission at its fifty-seventh session, in which achievements, challenges and priorities for action, in the framework of the three international drug control conventions and other relevant United Nations instruments, were identified;

(d) Acknowledged, in accordance with the assessment contained in the Joint Ministerial Statement, that many challenges relating to the world drug problem had persisted and that new ones had emerged in some parts of the world, which needed to be taken into account in the implementation of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action;

(e) Emphasized the importance of a broad, transparent, inclusive and scientific evidence-based discussion among Member States, with inputs from other relevant stakeholders, as appropriate, in multilateral settings, on the most effective ways to counter the world drug problem, consistent with the three international drug control conventions and other relevant international instruments, in order to further implement the commitments and targets set out in the Political Declaration and Plan of Action;

(f) Welcomed in that regard the adoption by the Commission of its resolution 57/5, on the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem to be held in 2016, in which the Commission, *inter alia*, underlined the importance of the special session as a milestone on the way to 2019, which had been set as the target date in the Political Declaration and Plan of Action to achieve targets and goals set out therein, recognized the leading role of the Commission, as the central policymaking body within the United Nations system dealing with

drug-related matters, in the preparations for the special session, and decided to take all possible measures to ensure an adequate, inclusive and effective preparatory process, with the active involvement of all relevant stakeholders;

(g) Welcomed and expressed support for the request to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, as the leading entity in the United Nations system for countering the world drug problem, to continue providing substantive expertise and technical support to the preparatory process for the special session of the General Assembly to be held in 2016, in line with Commission resolution 57/5;

(h) Resolved to continue to support and contribute to the preparatory process for the special session of the General Assembly to be held in 2016, in view of the request made by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, in its resolution 56/10, to the meetings of the subsidiary bodies of the Commission to contribute to the monitoring of the implementation by Member States of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action at the regional level by discussing regional views on progress made in that regard and submitting regional recommendations aimed at moving forward in the implementation of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action;

(i) Agreed to make the recommendations presented below.

**1. Responding to trafficking in synthetic drugs and new psychoactive substances and preventing the diversion of chemical precursors**

15. The following recommendations were made with regard to responding to trafficking in synthetic drugs and new psychoactive substances and preventing the diversion of chemical precursors:

(a) Governments are encouraged to strengthen their domestic controls over the availability of new psychoactive substances and to make available to their foreign law enforcement counterparts their national lists of controlled substances used in the manufacture of such substances;

(b) Governments should encourage their law enforcement authorities and chemical industry regulatory authorities to regularly update and widely circulate details of the manufacture and marketing of and trends in substances used in the manufacture of new psychoactive substances on secure platforms such as the UNODC early warning advisory system, the International Narcotics Control Board Precursors Incident Communication System and Project Ion, the World Customs Organization network of Regional Intelligence Liaison Offices, and other trusted communication and information-sharing networks;

(c) Governments should take steps to ensure that staff in their public health services and national drug analysis laboratories are familiar with the range of new psychoactive substances on their local markets in order to enable them to correctly identify such substances and respond appropriately.

**2. Measures to amend legislation, agency practices and procedures that may improve the responses of national authorities to challenges posed by drug trafficking and related organized criminal offences**

16. The following recommendations were made with regard to measures to amend legislation, agency practices and procedures that may improve the responses of

national authorities to challenges posed by drug trafficking and related organized criminal offences:

(a) Governments are encouraged to review their national drug control legislation regularly so as to ensure that it meets the needs of their enforcement agencies and the community they serve;

(b) Governments are encouraged to review their drug law enforcement and related legislation with a view to harmonizing their provisions with those of other countries in the region;

(c) Governments should encourage and support UNODC to step up efforts to provide technical assistance to Member States to review and support the reform of national laws, regulations and other measures with a view to fully implementing the international drug control treaties;

(d) Governments should consider sharing, with other Governments in the region, information on similarities and differences between their legislation and should make such information available to law enforcement authorities.

### **3. Collaboration and coordination among drug law enforcement agencies**

17. The following recommendations were made with regard to collaboration and coordination among drug law enforcement agencies:

(a) To address the increasing complexity of drug trafficking and facilitate the expeditious exchange of intelligence between lead law enforcement agencies, Governments are encouraged to establish operational joint agency teams to target trafficking syndicates;

(b) Governments must ensure that their law enforcement agencies responsible for drug law enforcement and related organized crime are adequately funded so as to meet the increasing need for cross-border cooperation and multi-jurisdictional investigations;

(c) Where they have not already done so, Governments are encouraged to review their existing bilateral and multilateral cooperation agreements to ensure that they support the needs of their drug enforcement agencies with regard to the exchange of information, requests for assistance and evidence-gathering.

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

18. Before agreeing on the recommendations below, the Subcommittee at its forty-ninth session:

(a) Recalled the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem, adopted by the General Assembly at its sixty-fourth session, in which Member States recommended that the General Assembly hold a special session to address the world drug problem;

(b) Also recalled General Assembly resolution 67/193, in which the Assembly decided to convene, in early 2016, a special session on the world drug

problem to review the progress in the implementation of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action, including an assessment of the achievements and challenges in countering the world drug problem, within the framework of the three international drug control conventions and other relevant United Nations instruments;

(c) Welcomed the adoption by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs of resolution 57/5, entitled “Special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem to be held in 2016”, in which the Commission recognized its leading role, as the central policymaking body within the United Nations for drug-related matters, in the preparations for the special session to be held in 2016;

(d) Took note with appreciation of the Joint Ministerial Statement of the 2014 high-level review by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs of the implementation by Member States of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem, adopted by the Commission at its fifty-seventh session, in which achievements, challenges and priorities for further action, in full conformity with the three international drug control conventions and the Political Declaration and Plan of Action, were identified;

(e) Acknowledged that, in accordance with the assessment contained in the Joint Ministerial Statement, many challenges of the world drug problem have persisted and new ones have emerged in some parts of the world, and that those new trends need to be taken into account in the implementation of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action, within the framework of the three international drug control conventions;

(f) Resolved to continue to support and contribute to the preparatory process for the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem to be held in 2016, in view of the request made by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs in its resolution 56/10 to the meetings of the subsidiary bodies of the Commission to contribute to the monitoring of the implementation by Member States of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action at the regional level by discussing regional views on progress made in that regard and by submitting regional recommendations aimed at moving forward in the implementation of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action, and in that context emphasized the importance of including, in the agenda of the special session, discussions on regional experiences, realities, challenges and approaches, within the framework of the three international drug control conventions;

(g) Agreed to make the recommendations set out below.

**1. Misuse of sea containers for the trafficking of illicit drugs, and possible investigative techniques**

19. The following recommendations were made with regard to the misuse of sea containers for the trafficking of illicit drugs, and possible investigative techniques:

(a) Governments are encouraged to review their national response strategies covering, inter alia, maritime borders to ensure that they adequately reflect current needs and that their border enforcement agencies are adequately equipped, trained and prepared to act effectively against illicit trafficking by sea;

(b) Member States should provide adequate resources and equipment to border management agencies and provide technical assistance to requesting States in that regard, without conditionality;

(c) Governments of the region should be encouraged to utilize their investment in training, technology and manpower to establish an inter-agency response for container control at seaports and container terminals through the establishment of specialist units dedicated to the review, selection and search of suspect containers of interest.

## **2. Emerging challenges for Afghanistan and the region in relation to drug trafficking**

20. The following recommendations were made with regard to emerging challenges for Afghanistan and the region in relation to drug trafficking:

(a) Governments are encouraged to contribute to the accurate assessment of global drug consumption through undertaking national drug use surveys and to update and regularly report their data on national drug consumption to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, through either the annual report questionnaire or other mechanisms;

(b) Governments are encouraged to adopt a proactive approach to strengthening the capacity of their law enforcement authorities to stop the diversion of precursor chemicals, through awareness-raising and training in the identification of scheduled precursors such as acetic anhydride, so as to prevent their use in the illicit manufacture of drugs;

(c) Governments should encourage their law enforcement agencies to engage in regional coordination agencies, such as the Central Asian Regional Information and Coordination Centre, the Criminal Information Centre to Combat Drugs of the Gulf Cooperation Council and the joint planning cell, that support their efforts to increase cross-border, regional and international cooperation in intelligence-sharing and operational cooperation against criminal organizations trafficking in illicit drugs.

## **3. Demand reduction responses, including to reduce the abuse of amphetamine-type stimulants and the non-therapeutic use of pharmaceutical preparations**

21. The following recommendations were made with regard to demand reduction responses, including to reduce the abuse of amphetamine-type stimulants and the non-therapeutic use of pharmaceutical preparations:

(a) Governments are encouraged to share with neighbouring countries and other States in the region information related to demand reduction activities, including training programmes, educational materials, treatment methods and awareness-raising campaigns to encourage the development of culturally appropriate responses to demand reduction and treatment;

(b) Governments should support their treatment professionals, facilitate their engagement in peer-to-peer networking and encourage opportunities for them to cooperate in joint training and the exchange of professional practices;

(c) If they have not already done so, Governments are encouraged to review their legislation that empowers law enforcement and health authorities to respond speedily to the challenges posed by the introduction of new psychoactive substances onto the recreational drugs market;

(d) Governments are encouraged to gather and share information on the emerging threat to the communities of the region of the non-medical use of tramadol and to take appropriate measures to address the trends of its misuse, as well as its trafficking, its supply from illicit sources and its diversion;

(e) The controversial concepts of harm reduction and legalization of illicit drugs in some parts of the world should be avoided.

#### **4. Other recommendations**

22. The following additional recommendations were made by the Subcommission:

(a) The Commission on Narcotic Drugs should continue to undertake all the organizational and substantive arrangements for the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem to be held in 2016, in its capacity as the central preparatory body for that purpose;

(b) The recommendations of the subsidiary bodies of the Commission should constitute the basis of the outcome document of the special session;

(c) The outcome document of the special session should be based on regional perspectives on and approaches to addressing the world drug problem with full respect for the cultural, religious and regional sensitivities of each region;

(d) The deliberations and outcome document of the special session should be based on full respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of States, the principle of non-intervention in the internal affairs of States, the principles of equal rights and mutual respect among States and commitment to unconditional international cooperation;

(e) The special session should be a milestone on the way to achieving the goals and targets set in the Political Declaration and Plan of Action to be achieved by 2019, in full conformity with the three international drug control conventions;

(f) The special session should address the emerging threats posed by the non-medical use and abuse of tramadol, as well as its trafficking, its supply from illicit sources and its diversion. Furthermore, the special session should address the threats posed by the legalization of drugs in some parts of the world;

(g) The special session should address the need for the prohibition of international trade in poppy seeds derived from sources of illicit cultivation of opium poppy, and encourage Member States to import poppy seeds derived from licitly grown opium poppies;

(h) While expressing concern that the representation of States members of the Subcommission within UNODC, including at the senior and policymaking levels, continues to be inadequate, and reaffirming the availability of qualified candidates from those Member States who could be considered and selected for different positions at the professional and executive levels, the Subcommission recommends that the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, at its fifty-eighth session,

examines that aspect and takes appropriate corrective action, with a view to enhancing overall efforts to counter the world drug problem;

(i) At its fiftieth session, the Subcommission should include an agenda item entitled “Improving the role and representation of States members of the Subcommission at United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime headquarters and field offices”, and the Secretariat is requested to brief the Subcommission, at its fiftieth session, on the current situation and implementation of the recommendation above, within existing resources, keeping in mind that it is to be a one-time item, pending a decision on whether it will be discussed further at future sessions.

### **III. 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**

23. Participants in the Twenty-fourth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Africa, the Twenty-fourth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Latin America and the Caribbean, the Thirty-eighth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Asia and the Pacific, and the forty-ninth session of the Subcommission each considered an agenda item 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, the participants 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, as well as Commission resolutions 56/10 and 56/12.

24. Pursuant to the request made by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs in its resolutions 56/10 and 56/12, the participants of the meetings agreed to submit to the Commission their recommendations (see section II above), made on the basis of the deliberations of their respective working groups, as regional recommendations aimed at moving forward in the implementation of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action.

25. Participants were asked to consider the challenges posed to the States of the region with regard to the implementation of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action, particularly part II of the Plan of Action, on supply reduction and related measures, but also the parts on demand reduction and related measures and on countering money-laundering and promoting judicial cooperation to enhance international cooperation. It was also emphasized that the General Assembly, in its resolution 68/197, 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.

26. Regarding the implementation of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action, the Twenty-fourth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Africa, made reference to the utility of the existing regional coordination bodies in the African region. The importance of the issue of cannabis cultivation and trafficking for the African region was highlighted, and speakers appealed to the international community to support their countries’ efforts to address its cultivation

and trafficking in the region. Several speakers also mentioned the threat posed to the region by methamphetamines and the need to dismantle the clandestine laboratories manufacturing them. It was noted that Member States should undertake in-depth studies of khat and datura and that consideration should be given to scheduling them. Speakers highlighted the importance of efforts undertaken at the subregional, regional and international levels and the need to promote international cooperation towards implementing the objectives of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action, including for the purpose of countering money-laundering, while respecting the integrity and national sovereignty of each country involved.

27. At the Twenty-fourth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Latin America and the Caribbean, many speakers observed that the efforts carried out so far had not been sufficient or effective in combating the world drug problem and recognized that it persisted as a global challenge, undermining social and economic development and causing violence and damaging human health. Speakers emphasized the need to look for alternative strategies and approaches to improve the capacity of the countries in the region to reduce the threat posed by drugs, within the framework of the international drug control conventions. In dealing with drug abuse, emphasis should be put on public health and on addressing the root causes of the drug problem. Speakers stressed the importance of a science-based, integrated and balanced approach to demand and supply reduction, taking full advantage of the existing channels of cooperation, in line with the principle of common and shared responsibility. Several speakers noted that the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem to be held in 2016 would provide a platform for making new proposals.

28. At the Thirty-eighth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Asia and the Pacific, a number of speakers expressed the concern of their countries regarding the trends in favour of legalization in some countries and some parts of civil society, which could harm the international drug control mechanism, based on the three conventions. They also noted that the international drug control treaties were not being adequately implemented. It was emphasized that the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and its subsidiary bodies should have a leading role in the preparatory process for the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem to be held in 2016. International cooperation should be further enhanced in the following areas: the elimination of organized criminal groups all over the world; the implementation of the main international drug control conventions and prohibition of legalization of any drugs controlled under those conventions; the prevention of the laundering of proceeds of crime derived from the drug business; and the establishment of alternative development in drug-producing regions and in regions experiencing economic difficulties with a high level of drug demand. Higher priority should be given to addressing amphetamine-type stimulants and new psychoactive substances.

29. At the forty-ninth session of the Subcommission, speakers stressed the value and importance of the Subcommission meetings in preparation for the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem to be held in 2016. Some speakers noted the importance of the recommendations of the subsidiary bodies of the Commission serving as the basis of discussions at that special session, and referred to the importance of respect for regional, religious and cultural specificities. Reference was made to the emergence of new psychoactive substances,



such as ketamine and mephedrone, and UNODC was asked to consider that menace. The need to set up a mechanism to terminate cultivation and production of opium in Afghanistan, to focus on alternative development with the assistance of the international community and UNODC and to exchange intelligence among origin, transit and target countries to combat drug smuggling was emphasized. Some delegations referred to the need to address the root causes of the world drug problem, based on the principle of common and shared responsibility, and to take into account a balance between law enforcement and prevention measures when addressing it. Reference was also made to the need to address emerging trends with regard to non-controlled substances such as tramadol.

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

30. Possible topics for the meetings of the subsidiary bodies to be held in 2015 were discussed and identified at the respective meetings.

31. The attention of the Commission and the members of its subsidiary bodies 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 had 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 had been identified and to coordinate with the Secretariat as soon as possible to allow sufficient time for the organizational arrangements to be made.