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**Implementation of the Political Declaration and
Plan of Action on International Cooperation
towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to
Counter the World Drug Problem****Strengthening international cooperation in combating illicit
opiates originating in Afghanistan through continuous and
reinforced support to the Paris Pact initiative****Report of the Secretariat***Summary*

In its resolution 56/3 entitled “Strengthening international cooperation in combating illicit opiates originating in Afghanistan through continuous and reinforced support to the Paris Pact initiative”, the Commission on Narcotic Drugs welcomed and reiterated its support to the Paris Pact initiative as one of the most important international frameworks and a unique platform for genuine partnership between States, competent international organizations and other relevant stakeholders in the fight against opiates originating in Afghanistan. The Commission continued to call upon Member States, in cooperation with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and other entities, to ensure the full implementation of the Vienna Declaration, the outcome document of the Third Ministerial Conference of the Paris Pact Partners on Combating Illicit Traffic in Opiates Originating in Afghanistan, held on 16 February 2012, as the framework for all future action within the four agreed areas for enhanced cooperation. As requested by the Commission, the present report describes steps taken by UNODC to implement the resolution in 2016, the third year of implementation of the fourth phase of the initiative.

* E/CN.7/2017/1.



I. Background

1. The Vienna Declaration,¹ adopted at the Third Ministerial Conference of the Paris Pact Partners on Combating Illicit Traffic in Opiates Originating in Afghanistan, held in February 2012, is a statement of international commitment to act in a balanced and comprehensive manner against the menace of opiates originating in Afghanistan. In the Declaration, participants prioritized four main areas, also known as pillars, for enhanced cooperation: (a) regional initiatives; (b) financial flows linked to traffic in opiates; (c) preventing the diversion of precursor chemicals; and (d) reducing drug abuse and dependence. The Conference signified an important landmark for the Paris Pact, as partners reaffirmed their common and shared responsibility towards combating opiates. The Vienna Declaration serves as a blueprint for the activities of the Paris Pact partnership and reflects the partnership's commitment to strengthening international and regional cooperation to counter, in a balanced manner, the global challenge and threat that opiates pose to international peace and stability in different regions of the world.

2. Commission on Narcotic Drugs resolution 56/3 entitled "Strengthening international cooperation in combating illicit opiates originating in Afghanistan through continuous and reinforced support to the Paris Pact initiative" recognized the initiative's importance as one of the most significant international frameworks and a unique platform for genuine partnership between Member States, competent international organizations and other relevant stakeholders in the fight against opiates originating in Afghanistan.²

3. The Paris Pact has two dimensions. The first is the partnership itself, made up of 58 countries and 22 organizations, including the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). That partnership is responsible for defining priorities and implementing measures in line with the Vienna Declaration, based on the principle of shared responsibility. The second dimension is the global programme established by UNODC on behalf of the partnership to provide coordination support through the programme's three components: the consultative mechanism, the research and liaison officer network, and information management. The fourth phase of the programme, which is currently under way, was initially set up by the partners for three years (2013-2016) and was extended until 2017 in December 2015, with a total budget of approximately \$6.7 million.

4. The Paris Pact partnership continues to play a pivotal role as a global platform for concrete action aimed at the reduction of the traffic in opiates, including the cultivation of opium poppy and the production and global consumption of opiates, by prioritizing technical assistance interventions. The partnership serves as an advocacy platform at the highest political level. It is a forum for global dialogue, promoting good practices and adapting responses to evolving threats along drug trafficking routes by encouraging interregional connectivity and providing stronger evidence for coordinated action.

5. An integrated, comprehensive and balanced response is fundamental to tackling the opiate threat. In that respect, the partnership itself has a shared responsibility to adapt its strategy to evolving needs on the ground, keeping in mind that the opiate threat is not static.

6. Since its inception, the partnership has expressed as part of its strategy a clear commitment to continuing to expand the programme's geographical coverage in order to adapt operational responses to emerging geographic trends along drug trafficking

¹ See [E/CN.7/2012/17](#).

² See [E/CN.7/2013/14](#).

routes. The priorities and outcomes of Paris Pact policy and operational level discussions continue to highlight the necessity of a sustained response to trends along the Balkan, northern and southern routes. Developments along those routes underline the importance of cooperation among countries, regions and organizations.

7. The efforts taken by Paris Pact partners to combat the threat posed by opiates and the importance of the initiative were further reinforced by the Security Council in its resolution 2274 (2016), in which, as in similar resolutions in previous years, the Council welcomed the ongoing work of the Paris Pact initiative as one of the most important frameworks in the fight against opiates originating in Afghanistan, took note of the Vienna Declaration and emphasized the aim of the Paris Pact to establish a broad international coalition to combat the traffic of illicit opiates, as part of a comprehensive approach to peace, stability and development in Afghanistan, the region and beyond.

8. Given the outcomes of the Brussels Conference on Afghanistan, held in October 2016, the Paris Pact remains a vital mechanism among relevant international frameworks and initiatives in the area of drug control and international cooperation. Those include the Heart of Asia Istanbul Process and other regional initiatives led by Paris Pact partners. The magnitude of the illicit opiate market is one of the most significant international policy challenges faced today. Effectively responding to a variety of issues related to the opiate market requires concerted efforts, political will, cooperation and the support of the international community. At the same time, the international community continues to underscore the links between drug trafficking and other forms of transnational organized crime. The increased complexity of, and current challenges to, drug control and demand clearly demonstrate the need to continue to strengthen the partnership and adapt its approach to shifts in opiate trafficking, all within the broader context of combating transnational organized crime.

9. Activities implemented in support of the four pillars of the Vienna Declaration contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.³ The three pillars related to law enforcement fall within Goal 16 (Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels). Three pillars are particularly relevant to the targets of the Sustainable Development Goals: the first pillar (regional initiatives) is relevant to target 16.a (Strengthen relevant national institutions, including through international cooperation, for building capacity at all levels, in particular in developing countries, to prevent violence and combat terrorism and crime); the second pillar (financial flows linked to traffic in opiates) to target 16.4 (By 2030, significantly reduce illicit financial and arms flows, strengthen the recovery and return of stolen assets and combat all forms of organized crime); and the fourth pillar (reducing drug abuse and dependence) to target 3.5 (Strengthen the prevention and treatment of substance abuse, including narcotic drug abuse).

10. The Vienna Declaration provides a framework for the partnership in the response to current international commitments outlined in the outcome document of the thirtieth special session of the General Assembly, entitled “Our joint commitment to effectively addressing and countering the world drug problem”,⁴ which are aimed at countering traffic in narcotic drugs and addressing links with other forms of organized crime.

³ General Assembly resolution 70/1.

⁴ General Assembly resolution S-30/1, annex.

II. Status of implementation of Commission resolution 56/3

A. Strategic and expert-level dialogue

11. In line with the objectives for 2016, the third year of implementation of the fourth phase, set by Paris Pact partners in December 2015 at the twelfth Policy Consultative Group meeting, one working group meeting was held on each of the four pillars of the Vienna Declaration, while the Paris Pact Policy Consultative Group held its thirteenth meeting in Vienna on 1 and 2 February 2017. The expert-level meetings built upon the discussions of previous expert forums held during 2014 and 2015, the first and second years of the implementation of the fourth phase. The activities of the third year once again reflected the heightened engagement of the international and regional organizations within the Paris Pact partnership that hosted three of the four meetings of the expert working groups: the European Police Office (Europol), the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe.

12. The meeting of the expert working group on integrating drug dependence treatment and care into the public health system (the fourth pillar of the Vienna Declaration) was hosted jointly by the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe Mission to Serbia and the Government of Serbia. The meeting was held in Belgrade on 10 and 11 October 2016 and brought together 64 participants representing 22 countries and three international organizations.

13. The expert meeting focused on substance abuse disorders in a global context, outcomes and implications of the thirtieth special session of the General Assembly in relation to public health systems, and means of implementing the standards of treatment of drug use disorders, including quality assurance mechanisms for drug treatment services. Other issues discussed included the importance of access to a comprehensive system of drug treatment services, the need for a multisectoral approach in drug dependence treatment and care and existing programmes centred on the development of an integrated system of care.

14. The meeting of the expert working group on law enforcement training to support cross-border cooperation (the first pillar of the Vienna Declaration) was hosted by INTERPOL in Lyon, France, on 8 and 9 November 2016. The meeting was attended by 52 participants representing 15 countries and 10 international organizations.

15. Topics of discussion included research and trends in heroin trafficking, existing initiatives of law enforcement training institutions and intelligence-led policing. Participants shared experiences and training methodologies on the delivery of specialized training and discussed the role of regional organizations in promoting and facilitating law enforcement training.

16. The expert meeting on precursors (the third pillar of the Vienna Declaration) was hosted by and held at Europol, The Hague, Netherlands, on 1 and 2 December 2016. Participants reviewed trends, routes and techniques used to smuggle precursor chemicals destined for use in illicit heroin production with a view to improving interregional cooperation and information-sharing, especially the need to build upon successful regional initiatives. Partners also stressed the continued importance of incorporating financial investigations into investigations relating to precursors, the necessity of cooperation with the private sector and the need to enhance domestic monitoring mechanisms and make use of existing monitoring mechanisms for international trade. The meeting was attended by 50 participants representing 21 countries and seven international organizations.

17. The meeting of the expert working group on illicit financial flows deriving from the trafficking of opiates originating in Afghanistan (the second pillar of the Vienna Declaration) was held in Vienna on 17 and 18 January 2017. Further information on the meeting will be provided in the addendum to the present report ([E/CN.7/2017/9/Add.1](#)).

18. The recognition of the important role of the Paris Pact is evidenced by the continued trend in 2016 of increased engagement by non-Paris Pact partner countries and organizations in Paris Pact expert forums. Participation included representatives from the Persian Gulf (Bahrain, Qatar and the Criminal Information Centre to Combat Drugs of the Gulf Cooperation Council), Asia-Pacific Information and Coordination Centre for Combating Drug Crimes and the European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Training (CEPOL).

19. The Paris Pact, together with the UNODC Paris Pact programme and the UNODC Global Programme against Money-Laundering, Proceeds of Crime and the Financing of Terrorism, are exchanging best practices with several Member States in the Caribbean, Central and South America and West Africa to formulate an integrated, interregional response to illicit financial flows associated with drug trafficking.

20. Reflecting on the current landscape of transnational organized crime and, more specifically, the challenges related to combating drug trafficking, the partnership's focus on developing adequate responses to the world drug problem must be continually refined. Since the beginning of the fourth phase in particular, the partnership's efforts have been more operationally focused. That approach, driven by donors and partners alike, most recently translated into a gap analysis exercise first conducted at all four of the 2015 expert working group meetings. Each expert meeting aimed at identifying concrete actions required to address priority gaps under each of the four pillars of the Vienna Declaration. The results of that process continued to be discussed through expert meeting dialogue in 2016.

21. The 2016 drug supply expert meetings continued to demonstrate the relevance of a recurrent set of themes termed "the cross-cutting approach to tackling opiate issues". The cross-cutting issues encompass research, interregional cooperation, intelligence-sharing and multilateral operations, capacity development, tackling illicit financial flows, legal cooperation and maritime trafficking, which must be addressed in a cohesive manner at the country, regional and global levels in order to effectively implement the Vienna Declaration.

22. The recommendations put forward by the expert working groups were considered and endorsed at the thirteenth Policy Consultative Group meeting. Further information will be provided in the addendum to the present report ([E/CN.7/2017/9/Add.1](#)).

B. Update on the UNODC Paris Pact programme in support of the initiative

23. Through the Paris Pact Coordination Unit, UNODC acts in its capacity as coordinator in support of the partnership and the realization of its goals. The Paris Pact programme makes available information on the threat posed by illicit opiates and promotes and facilitates the initiative's activities, thereby linking policy and operational elements.

24. The expert and policy meetings described above make up the first component of the Paris Pact programme, the consultative mechanism.

25. In support of the consultative mechanism, the Paris Pact Coordination Unit produced the Paris Pact report for 2015-2016, covering the second and third years of

the fourth phase of the initiative. The report, issued on 1 December 2016, was put together at the request of the partnership to support its objectives. The report captures for the first time the resolve of the partnership to adapt to emerging threats and trends by refining priorities across the Vienna Declaration through the gap analysis process. The gap analysis represents the cumulative result of the ongoing evolution of the efforts of the Paris Pact partnership to address the opiate threat.

26. The results of expert and policy meetings held since 2013 form the foundation of the gap analysis discussions. The results of that exercise were not intended to be uniform, given the unique evolution of efforts across each pillar of the Vienna Declaration. The Paris Pact report for 2015-2016 represents a refined version of the results of that process, a process that is considered a work in progress and that requires partnership-wide engagement in order to move priorities forward based on the principle of shared responsibility. The activities outlined in the Paris Pact report for 2015-2016 are based upon the implementation of priorities and recommendations resulting from expert working groups and are focused largely on efforts of UNODC, using the information made available to the Paris Pact Coordination Unit.

27. UNODC contributes to the implementation of the Vienna Declaration by creating a series of integrated initiatives focusing on building international, regional and local partnerships and delivering solutions in the field. The report elaborates measures undertaken by UNODC to address these cross-cutting issues and, by using the gap analysis as a point of departure, what still needs to be addressed.

28. The information contained in the report is in line with the Paris Pact's mandate to strengthen cooperation among partners along the major drug trafficking routes, the focus of which is evolving from the northern route to the Balkan route, and also to certain parts of the southern route.

29. During the reporting period, the network of the Paris Pact research and liaison officers deployed along the northern and Balkan routes enabled the continued facilitation of the work of multiple UNODC programmes covering a variety of inter-thematic issues.

30. The research and liaison officers contributed to the preparation of a number of reports and studies carried out by the Research and Trend Analysis Branch of UNODC, including the 2016 *World Drug Report* and the study currently under way on the trafficking of opiates along the northern route.

31. Data collection on developments along major opiate trafficking routes represents an important aspect of the research and liaison officers' work in support of the implementation of the Paris Pact mandate and is performed under the technical guidance of the Afghan Opiate Trade Project and overall supervision of the Research and Trend Analysis Branch. The 2016 Paris Pact country fact sheets, now closely aligned with the *World Drug Report* cycle, were published in January 2017.

32. The research and liaison officers continued to provide assistance to Member States on the completion of global UNODC surveys as part of the mandated annual data collection systems of UNODC. In 2016, that assistance was extended to the global Synthetics Monitoring: Analyses, Reporting and Trends (SMART) programme to bolster data collection efforts in Central Asia.

33. At the end of the reporting period, the research and liaison officers located in Serbia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia will be providing data, liaison and research support to the project "Measuring and assessing organized crime in the western Balkans" under the crime research section of the Research and Trend Analysis Branch.

34. In support of the UNODC institutional strategy for law-enforcement capacity-building and as outlined in the activities of the Paris Pact report for 2015-2016, the Paris Pact research and liaison officers located in Central Asia continued to deliver specialized training to strengthen the research capacity of law enforcement practitioners in collaboration with UNODC global, regional and country programmes active in West and Central Asia.

35. As part of the further integration of the Paris Pact research and liaison officer network and the Afghan Opiate Trade Project field research staff, discussions are under way with the Afghan Opiate Trade Project to explore modalities for a jointly funded capacity-building delivery plan for Central Asia and the wider region to maximize access to the Project for law enforcement officials. The aim of the delivery plan will be two-fold: to produce evidence for policymaking purposes and to use research as a means to enhance the operational objectives of other UNODC projects and programmes.

36. The Drugs Monitoring Platform is an online tool that was jointly initiated and consistently supported with human and financial resources by the Paris Pact programme and the Afghan Opiate Trade Project. It is managed by the coordination and analysis unit based at the Regional Office for Central Asia and supports the regional programme for Afghanistan and neighbouring countries and the regional programme for Central Asia.

37. The Platform has proved to be increasingly valuable, particularly in facilitating the implementation by the Paris Pact Partnership of Commission resolution 56/3. It is a powerful mechanism for monitoring drug-related data by means of multi-layered mapping and for obtaining evidence on counter-narcotics developments and measures in support of the four pillars of the Vienna Declaration. The Platform can be used to create a comprehensive picture of the situation in the region and beyond, so that more information can be made available to stakeholders. The Platform is populated with data provided by Paris Pact partners, collected mainly by the field-based research and liaison officers and research staff working for the Afghan Opiate Trade Project. The Platform is part of the UNODC global data collection process and has a strong potential for growth in terms of both volume and usability.

38. During the reporting period, the Drugs Monitoring Platform continued to be improved and updated jointly with the Afghan Opiate Trade Project. The interest in and expectations for the Platform are growing rapidly among Paris Pact partners and within other UNODC programmes, making it necessary to perform a technical assessment of the online database to ensure that required standards of data security are met and to explore options for improving Internet connectivity issues. On the basis of the results of the assessment, the Paris Pact and the Afghan Opiate Trade Project have jointly identified options for increasing the accessibility and functionality of the system, which will be put in place in 2017.

39. An improvement plan is being developed to determine how to incorporate into the platform the interests of key stakeholders, both within and beyond UNODC, including the UNODC/World Customs Organization Container Control Programme and the Global Programme against Money-Laundering, as well as data stemming from the Compendium at Sea, compiled by the UNODC Maritime Crime Programme and the Combined Maritime Forces.

40. The Automated Donor Assistance Mechanism (ADAM) is an Internet-based tool that was initially developed to serve as a project database. In recent years, it has evolved into an active information hub with a variety of additional functionalities that cover a wide array of issues related to the Paris Pact and, in particular, the implementation of the Vienna Declaration. The latter aspect was further refined during

the reporting period with a view to increasing the user-friendliness of the available functionalities.

41. In response to a request made at the twelfth Policy Consultative Group meeting, the Paris Pact Coordination Unit devised a targeted advocacy campaign focused on ADAM (the Paris Pact website and database) to draw attention to the new elements incorporated into ADAM during the implementation of the fourth phase of the initiative.

42. Over the reporting period, the alignment of ADAM with the Vienna Declaration remained a primary programme objective. Development work continued, refining the ability to record the involvement of partners in activities and projects. The goal is to create a database of partner interventions related to the four pillars of the Vienna Declaration.

43. In order to support the Paris Pact programme's communication strategy, a page on the Paris Pact initiative was added to the UNODC website. In addition, the Paris Pact initiative brochure, serving as a reference document on the partnership and the programme, was published in December 2015 and updated in September 2016.

C. Synergies

44. Membership in the Paris Pact initiative is open to all interested countries and organizations and is particularly useful as a mechanism for dialogue and the exchange of best practices extending beyond Europe and West and Central Asia.

45. The Paris Pact continues to serve as an advocacy platform at the highest political level, and it is also a vehicle for global dialogue, adapting to evolving threats along trafficking routes, promoting good practices and enhancing evidence-based policy and strategy formulation.

46. Over the reporting period, the initiative's significance was further recognized and reinforced by strengthened partnerships with organizations beyond UNODC. Intensified collaboration took place with the Eurasian Group, Europol, the International Narcotics Control Board, INTERPOL, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and other actors that are interested in the Paris Pact's discussions but are not yet partners, such as the Combined Maritime Forces and the Criminal Information Center to Combat Drugs of the Gulf Cooperation Council.

47. In 2016, the increased participation of non-partner countries and organizations in Paris Pact forums was a clear example of the evolving trends and priorities that have emerged during the fourth phase of the Paris Pact initiative. That increase underlines both the Paris Pact's significance and the readiness of countries situated along drug trafficking routes, including key parts of the southern route, to engage in the global dialogue on opiates and to benefit from the collective expertise and experience of partners within the Paris Pact framework.

48. Newly emerging routes and trends in opiate trafficking pose new challenges and require the partnership to adjust accordingly, including by broadening the geographic coverage of the Paris Pact to include the southern opiate trafficking route. The Paris Pact would benefit from fostering synergies with the stakeholders of the newly formed Southern Route Partnership under the recently adopted Colombo Declaration.⁵

49. Such increased participation serves the objectives of the partnership by fostering interregional coordination, strengthening engagement in Paris Pact thematic

⁵ www.southernroute.org/download/20161029%20-Colombo%20Declaration.pdf.

operational meetings and bolstering cooperation with new stakeholders across both the drug supply and demand priorities of the Vienna Declaration.

50. Since its creation in 2003, the Paris Pact process has given rise to an interregional, interdivisional and inter-thematic approach by UNODC, the technical lead organization of the Paris Pact, involving coordination with relevant sections, units, programmes and partner organizations. These interconnections were further elaborated over the reporting period.

51. The Paris Pact programme closely interacts with UNODC at the global, regional and country levels, including through the regional section for Europe and for West and Central Asia (through the regional programme for Afghanistan and neighbouring countries, the regional programme for South-Eastern Europe and the programme for Central Asia), the justice section (through the Maritime Crime Programme), the Organized Crime and Illicit Trafficking Branch (through its implementation support section, the Global Programme against Money-Laundering, Proceeds of Crime and the Financing of Terrorism, the global Container Control Programme, and the Global Programme on Building Effective Networks against Transnational Organized Crime), the Drug Prevention and Health Branch (through its prevention, treatment and rehabilitation unit), and the Research and Trend Analysis Branch (through its drugs research section and the Afghan Opiate Trade Project, the laboratory and scientific section, the drugs and data development unit and the crime research section).

52. The progress of expert-level dialogue was largely driven by the active involvement of UNODC thematic lead experts from the Organized Crime and Illicit Trafficking Branch, the Drug Prevention and Health Branch and the UNODC country office for Afghanistan, who provided technical guidance at all implementation stages of the four thematic expert working groups during the reporting period.

53. The strategic priorities of the Paris Pact as defined at the Policy Consultative Group meeting are subsequently operationalized by the multiple programmes, funds, and projects delivered by members of the partnership, including UNODC.

54. The regional programmes continued to play an important role in putting strategies in motion by acting as the principal operational delivery vehicle of UNODC for the Paris Pact in their respective regions.⁶ The regional programme for Afghanistan and neighbouring countries, supported by efforts in the respective country programmes, is uniquely positioned to increase coherence and effectiveness of Paris Pact partner interventions in specific countries of the region.

55. The growing importance of the southern route calls for more intense involvement in the Paris Pact by relevant thematic and regional programmes such as the Maritime Crime Programme and the regional programmes in the Arab States and East Africa.

56. The additional focus placed on the southern route also requires an increase of geographical coverage in data collection and research. The methodology behind the work of the research and liaison officer network allows them to address knowledge gaps along major trafficking routes. The network represents a valuable mechanism that can be adapted and extended to respond to shifts in opiate trafficking, including along the southern route.

⁶ The draft resolution entitled “Strengthening international cooperation in combating illicit production and trafficking of opiates originating in Afghanistan in the framework of the Paris Pact initiative” (E/CN.7/2016/L.4) was not adopted by the Commission at its fifty-ninth session owing to the lack of consensus on the phrase “opiates originating from Afghanistan”. During the discussions on the draft resolution, Afghanistan did not agree with the inclusion of any references to opiates originating in its territory. At the fifty-ninth session, Afghanistan, France and the Russian Federation each made statements confirming their continued commitment to the Paris Pact despite the lack of consensus on the specific wording.

57. The fourth phase mandates, funding permitting, the Paris Pact programme to expand the research and liaison officer network. Such an expansion would be aimed at maximizing synergies, ensuring complementarity to support the existing data collection system of UNODC and addressing existing data deficiencies in multiple regions. Options for jointly stepping up research capacity are currently being explored with the Afghan Opiate Trade Project and include making joint use of the field staff networks to optimize cost-saving measures, strengthen field network integration and broaden research coverage across the main drug trafficking routes.

D. Sustainability of the Paris Pact programme

58. At present, the fourth phase of the Paris Pact programme is financially supported by Austria, France, India, Norway, the Russian Federation, Turkey, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America. As a consequence of the continuous fundraising efforts of the Paris Pact Coordination Unit, discussions are under way with partners with a view to expanding the donor base to ensure consistent funding of the programme.

59. Following the decision to extend the fourth phase of the Paris Pact programme until the end of 2017, the independent evaluation of the programme will be conducted in the second half of 2017.

60. Since issuing its report to the Commission on Narcotic Drugs in March 2016, the Paris Pact programme has raised approximately \$1.13 million for meeting activities and staff costs through June 2017. Funding is key to carrying out the work of the programme. The programme has been fully funded since its inception more than 10 years ago.

61. The Paris Pact programme has always received the financial funding needed to implement its activities, as determined at the Policy Consultative Group meeting. The articulation of intended pledges by partners at the Policy Consultative Group meeting would guarantee support of annual programme activities and ease planning for the year ahead. The absence of set pledges and financial commitments restricts future programme activities.

62. In order for the Paris Pact partnership to keep up with new trends and shifts along trafficking routes and to synchronize its strategic, programmatic and funding approaches, an increase in the current funding base is imperative. The need to strengthen the initiative's collective response along all three main opiate drug trafficking routes has been emphasized repeatedly since the launch of the fourth phase in June 2013.

63. A more holistic approach may be needed to respond to the threat of drugs. Neither opiates nor the thematic objectives outlined in the four pillars of the Vienna Declaration can be viewed in isolation, considering the interrelationship between supply and demand.

64. In Paris Pact expert and policy meeting discussions over the reporting period, partners raised several issues related to drug trafficking that have not as yet been fully considered under the Paris Pact framework. These elements include alternative development, opiate trafficking and the financing of terrorism, understanding polydrug use for the treatment of opiate dependence and polydrug trafficking.

65. The Policy Consultative Group meeting remains the appropriate forum for the partnership to review the initiative's strategy, welcome new partners to the initiative and determine priorities for the year ahead.