



# Economic and Social Council

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## Commission on Narcotic Drugs

### Sixtieth session

Vienna, 13-17 March 2017

Item 5 of the provisional agenda\*

### **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**

#### **Addendum**

1. 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. A total of 72 participants, representing 26 countries and nine organizations, including the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), attended the meeting.
2. Participants reviewed trends, case studies, developments and activities along the Balkan, northern and southern drug trafficking routes with a view to understanding and disrupting illicit financial flows associated with opiates originating in Afghanistan and to developing the capacity of those working to counter money-laundering and the financing of terrorism to better combat such illicit financial flows.
3. Topics of discussion included the holding of integrated events on precursors and financial investigations, the strengthening of professional development and training systems for financial investigators, the identification and collection of the good practices of inter-agency working groups on countering money-laundering and combating the financing of terrorism, non-conviction-based asset forfeiture and the continuing investigation of the links between the opiate trade and associated terrorist activities. Participants also prioritized sharing research methodologies, identifying and collecting practices on financial investigations and conducting outreach to countries affected by trafficking in cocaine, particularly in West Africa.
4. The recommendations put forward by the four expert working groups (implemented in the third year of the fourth phase) were considered and approved at

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the thirteenth Policy Consultative Group meeting, held in Vienna on 1 and 2 February 2017, which resulted in a series of strategic discussions at the meeting regarding the future of the initiative. The outcomes of the meeting included a decision on priorities for expert dialogue in 2017, a discussion on potential hosts for future expert working group meetings and an ongoing review of the gap analysis initiated in 2015. Presentations were given on a number of UNODC programmes with a view to updating the partnership on the integrated “one UNODC” response in support of Paris Pact priorities.

5. The increasing number of Paris Pact partners is evidence of the continuing recognition of the Pact as a primary international cooperation platform to address opiates, and in that connection the thirteenth Policy Consultative Group meeting provided the opportunity to endorse the Criminal Information Centre to Combat Drugs of the Gulf Cooperation Council as an additional partner.

6. The twelfth senior officials meeting of the Triangular Initiative, which was held on 3 February 2017, hosted by the Permanent Mission of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations (Vienna) and organized in close coordination with the Paris Pact policy meeting, resulted in a high level of representation at both events from States members of the Initiative, Afghanistan, Iran (Islamic Republic of) and Pakistan, and the adoption of an operational plan for 2017-2018.

7. At the policy meeting, following an update provided by the Deputy Minister of the Ministry of the Interior of Afghanistan, partners reiterated their commitment to and interest in monitoring the implementation of and identifying areas for increased support to the national drug action plan of Afghanistan by the international community. Partners recognized the need for a consolidation of common efforts in cooperation with UNODC, within the framework of the Paris Pact priorities to maintain global efforts to curb opiates.

8. A key outcome of the event was the renewed commitment to the process, which the partnership expressed unanimously. Engaging with new donors and involving various members of the partnership in discussions was also among the aims of the policy meeting.

9. Partners were briefed on the parameters of the upcoming phase four in-depth evaluation, an intensive eight-month-long process requiring broader engagement of stakeholders from within the partnership and UNODC to capture the scope of evolving geographic and thematic partnerships and shifting trends along drug trafficking routes. The detailed evaluation, managed by the UNODC Independent Evaluation Unit, will address the partnership and UNODC global programme dimensions of the Paris Pact. The evaluation will seek to address key questions related to the Paris Pact and measure the adoption rate of the recommendations stemming from the evaluation of phase three.

10. The representative of France shared a series of reflections at the policy meeting to inform the upcoming evaluation and assist partners and UNODC in collectively defining which objectives to achieve over the coming years. Partners, including UNODC, welcomed the timing of the upcoming evaluation and unanimously affirmed that they looked forward to contributing to the process while reiterating the validity of the architecture of the four pillars of the Vienna Declaration as a road map for the partnership. Partners agreed that the Paris Pact should continue to be the primary global cooperation platform to discuss opiates, recognizing the crucial role of UNODC in operationalizing the Vienna Declaration.

11. The decisions taken at the thirteenth Policy Consultative Group meeting will make it possible to implement the full agenda for 2017 (the fourth year of the fourth phase), which includes meetings of four expert working groups, an in-depth evaluation

of the fourth phase and the fourteenth Policy Consultative Group meeting to review the findings and recommendations of the evaluation (which will conclude the fourth year of the fourth phase). At the policy meeting, partners were informed that funding had been secured until the end of June 2017 and that additional funds were needed to cover the implementation costs for the second half of the 2017 workplan.

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