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**Commission on Narcotic Drugs****Sixty-first session**

Vienna, 12–16 March 2018

Item 9 of the provisional agenda\*

**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. Five meetings of the subsidiary bodies of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs were held in 2017: the Twelfth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Europe, held in Vienna from 27 to 30 June; the Twenty-seventh Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Africa, held in Hurghada, Egypt, from 18 to 22 September; the Twenty-seventh Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Guatemala City from 2 to 6 October; the fifty-second session of the Subcommission on Illicit Drug Traffic and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East, held in Beirut from 13 to 17 November; and the Forty-first Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Asia and the Pacific, held in Bangkok from 27 to 30 November.
2. Following a review of trends in drug trafficking and regional and subregional cooperation, each of the subsidiary bodies discussed drug law enforcement issues of priority in its region and formulated a set of recommendations. Consideration of the 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. In order to facilitate the efforts of the subsidiary bodies to implement the recommendations contained in the outcome document of the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem held in 2016, while focusing on the regional perspective, each of the subsidiary bodies held additional working group meetings dedicated to cross-cutting issues identified in the outcome document.
3. The recommendations set out below were made by working groups during the above-mentioned meetings of the subsidiary bodies. Pursuant to Commission on Narcotic Drugs resolution 56/10, the participants in the meetings agreed to submit the

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\* [E/CN.7/2018/1](#).



recommendations — which had been made on the basis of the deliberations of their respective working groups — to the Commission at its sixty-first session.

4. The reports of the Twelfth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Europe ([UNODC/HONEURO/12/6](#)), the Twenty-seventh Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Africa ([UNODC/HONLAF/27/6](#)), the Twenty-seventh Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Latin America and the Caribbean ([UNODC/HONLAC/27/6](#)), the Forty-first Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Asia and the Pacific ([UNODC/HONLAP/41/6](#)) and the fifty-second session of the Subcommittee on Illicit Drug Traffic and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East ([UNODC/SUBCOM/52/6](#)) 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

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

### A. Twelfth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Europe

#### 1. Use of the Internet for drug-related activities

6. The following recommendations were made with regard to the topic entitled “Use of the Internet for drug-related activities”:

(a) Governments should be encouraged to ensure that their law enforcement agencies are well informed, professionally trained and suitably resourced so as to be effective in investigations into cyber-related offences and the related use of the Internet for illicit trafficking;

(b) Governments must work together to overcome the obstacles encountered in undertaking investigations into cyber-related trafficking offences across multiple jurisdictions and introduce the changes needed in legislation, practices and procedure to expedite information-sharing, enquiries with Internet service providers and the transfer of evidence;

(c) Governments should encourage their law enforcement agencies to develop the specialist skills that will support the investigation of cyber-related offences and lead to successful criminal prosecutions.

#### 2. Alternatives to imprisonment for certain offences as demand reduction strategies that promote public health and public safety

7. The following recommendations were made with regard to the topic entitled “Alternatives to imprisonment for certain offences as demand reduction strategies that promote public health and public safety”:

(a) Governments are encouraged to make full use of alternatives to imprisonment for people with drug use disorders in contact with the criminal justice system, particularly at the time of their arrest and at the pretrial stage;

(b) Governments are encouraged to promote and implement institutional mechanisms, including through induction and training programmes, that enable the police to screen, assess and refer appropriate cases to treatment facilities, taking into account their dual role as the first responders and the first criminal justice actors encountered by people with drug use disorders when they come into contact with the criminal justice system;

(c) Governments are encouraged to adopt or amend legislation, policies and guidelines that allow flexibility when handing down sentences for drug-related offences that take into account the nature and gravity of the offence as well as the personality and background of the offender;

(d) Governments are encouraged to employ a multidisciplinary approach in providing treatment and rehabilitation as an alternative to conviction or punishment and to promote and develop the capacity for institutional coordination between justice, health and social services authorities;

(e) Governments are encouraged to implement measures to increase public awareness of the benefits of using alternatives to imprisonment;

(f) Governments are encouraged to collect and analyse gender- and age-disaggregated data on the use of alternatives to imprisonment and, if applicable, to undertake periodic evaluations of existing initiatives to provide treatment as an alternative to conviction or punishment for people with drug use disorders.

### **3. Mainstreaming gender perspectives in drug-related policies and programmes**

8. The following recommendations were made with regard to the topic entitled “Mainstreaming gender perspectives in drug-related policies and programmes”:

(a) Governments are encouraged to collect and analyse gender-disaggregated data to obtain more information about the situation and circumstances of female drug users and the various roles women assume in drug-related crime and in organized criminal groups, with a view to developing and implementing effective and comprehensive policies and programmes;

(b) Governments are encouraged to ensure non-discriminatory access to health-care services for women, including in prison, and to develop gender-sensitive prevention, primary care, treatment and reintegration policies and programmes, particularly for pregnant women and women with caretaking responsibilities;

(c) Governments are encouraged to ensure close cooperation and collaboration among all relevant national authorities in developing and implementing gender-sensitive drug policies and programmes that take into account the specific needs and circumstances faced by women and girls with regard to the world drug problem.

### **4. Money-laundering, illicit financial flows and effective countermeasures**

9. The following recommendations were made with regard to the topic entitled “Money-laundering, illicit financial flows and effective countermeasures”:

(a) In support of investigations into money-laundering offences and the recovery of the proceeds of crime, Governments are encouraged to enable access by their law enforcement authorities to the information held by their financial intelligence units;

(b) Governments are encouraged to ensure that evidence gathered through investigations into money-laundering offences by their financial intelligence units has legal standing in their courts if used in prosecutions brought by other law enforcement agencies;

(c) Governments are encouraged to make use of the tools available for training and building the capacity of their law enforcement authorities, financial investigators and prosecutors available through the UNODC Global Programme against Money-Laundering and other training institutions;

(d) Governments are encouraged to share with UNODC the results of their national money-laundering risk assessments to facilitate a coordinated global response and to strengthen the capacity of competent authorities and financial institutions to thwart attempts at money-laundering.

## **B. Twenty-seventh Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Africa**

### **1. Effective measures to counter money-laundering and illicit financial flows**

10. The following recommendations were made with regard to effective measures to counter money-laundering and illicit financial flows:

(a) Governments are encouraged to make use of existing law enforcement mechanisms, both formal and informal, to enhance regional and international cooperation and of information exchange between law enforcement authorities and financial investigation units at the national and international levels;

(b) Governments are encouraged to streamline cooperation and coordination at the national level through, for example, the establishment of national multi-agency mechanisms or task forces;

(c) Governments are encouraged to consider establishing specialized units, if necessary, to address emerging threats, such as use of the darknet and virtual currencies for drug-related money-laundering, and to cooperate closely with the private sector in this regard;

(d) Governments are encouraged to streamline criminal investigations by using both the “from money to crime” and “from crime to money” approaches;

(e) Governments are encouraged to improve their strategic and criminal analysis capacities, including in criminal typology research;

(f) Governments are encouraged to compile the financial profiles of the most significant threat actors to increase their financial disruption capacity.

### **2. Enhancing coordination of the regional communication platforms that support drug law enforcement across Africa**

11. The following recommendations were made with regard to enhancing coordination of the regional communication platforms that support drug law enforcement across Africa:

(a) Governments are encouraged to develop policies to promote and further strengthen inter-agency cooperation and to establish a single national focal point to deal with information exchange and direct requests to the relevant authorities in an effective manner;

(b) Governments should encourage their law enforcement agencies to make better use of existing communication platforms, regional mechanisms and initiatives developed by the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL), the World Customs Organization and UNODC, as well as regional cooperation organizations;

(c) Governments are encouraged to further develop the capacity of their relevant agencies to enable backtracking investigations following significant seizures and participation in joint investigations to dismantle drug trafficking networks;

(d) Governments are encouraged to continue their engagement in the Airport Communication Project, the Container Control Programme, the CRIMJUST project, the “networking the networks” initiative and other programmes and projects of UNODC, the World Customs Organization and INTERPOL that focus on an intelligence-led approach and cross-border cooperation to address international drug trafficking and transnational organized crime;

(e) Synergies should be created between the public and private sectors (e.g., banking systems, mobile telecommunications providers, immigration services, the non-banking financial sector and logistics companies);

(f) Legal frameworks established to deal with drug trafficking and transnational organized crime that contain provisions on information exchange,

controlled deliveries and other law enforcement mechanisms should be harmonized among countries to enable further international cooperation in line with existing international legal frameworks;

(g) Governments should make maximum use of existing regional structures and mechanisms, informal networks and border liaison and foreign liaison officers.

### **3. Trafficking in new psychoactive substances, including khat, benzodiazepines and tramadol, and law enforcement responses**

12. The following recommendations were made with regard to trafficking in new psychoactive substances, including khat, benzodiazepines and tramadol, and law enforcement responses:

(a) Governments are encouraged to review and revise relevant national legislation as new substances of abuse continue to emerge and exert a negative impact on public health;

(b) Governments, in particular their law enforcement and health agencies, are encouraged to strengthen the coordination of national authorities at the regional level, including to enhance information-sharing;

(c) Governments are encouraged to improve the capacity of their front-line officers and forensic laboratories to better identify new psychoactive substances;

(d) Governments are encouraged to make use of existing regional and international instruments, tools, mechanisms and available information to address the challenges posed by synthetic and plant-based drugs and the diversion of precursors.

### **4. Addressing the specific needs of women and girls in the context of the world drug problem**

13. The following recommendations were made with regard to addressing the specific needs of women and girls in the context of the world drug problem:

(a) Governments are encouraged to gather sex- and age-disaggregated data in community and prison settings in order to better assess the specific needs of women and girls with regard to the world drug problem, and to facilitate the development of balanced, evidence-based and cost-effective policies, programmes and interventions in the context of drug supply reduction, drug demand reduction and HIV/AIDS interventions;

(b) Governments should develop and implement policies on drug demand reduction and HIV/AIDS that are informed by strategic information and tailored to the specific needs of women who use drugs;

(c) Governments are encouraged to ensure proportional sentencing and to develop and implement gender-responsive alternatives to imprisonment, in particular for women who commit minor drug-related offences or women with parental or other caretaking responsibilities, in line with international instruments, such as the United Nations Rules for the Treatment of Women Prisoners and Non-custodial Measures for Women Offenders (the Bangkok Rules);

(d) Governments are encouraged to develop coordination mechanisms that foster collaboration among all relevant stakeholders, including government entities, civil society organizations and women who use drugs in order to ensure a balanced, integrated and multisectoral approach in terms of drug supply reduction, drug demand reduction and HIV/AIDS interventions;

(e) Governments are encouraged to afford adequate protection to women who engage in drug trafficking as a result of coercion, threat of the use of force or use of force, as required under the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, if those women are found to be victims of trafficking in persons;

(f) Governments, in their efforts to implement multisectoral policy approaches to the drug problem, should increase the presence of women in law enforcement institutions and provide gender-sensitive training to law enforcement officers and other relevant professionals;

(g) Governments and the international community are invited to establish specific alternative development programmes for women in areas under illicit cultivation.

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

### **1. Coordinating the regional communication platforms supporting drug law enforcement across Latin America and the Caribbean**

14. With regard to issue 1, “Coordinating the regional communication platforms supporting drug law enforcement across Latin America and the Caribbean”, the following recommendations were made:

(a) Governments of the region are encouraged to support inter-agency responses to addressing drug trafficking and related offences;

(b) Governments are encouraged to support international initiatives, such as the UNODC Airport Communication Project and the UNODC and World Customs Organization Container Control Programme, that lead to better border management strategies and allow for the development of stronger interdiction measures;

(c) Governments are encouraged to provide adequate and targeted training to law enforcement, customs and border control authorities in combating trafficking in illicit firearms;

(d) Governments should take steps to encourage their authorities to make full use of the communication platforms available across the region for the timely sharing of information related to trafficking offences and the expeditious gathering of evidence against offenders.

### **2. Links between illicit drug trafficking and other forms of organized crime, including money-laundering**

15. With regard to issue 2, “Links between illicit drug trafficking and other forms of organized crime, including money-laundering”, the following recommendations were made:

(a) Governments are urged to continue to implement measures that enable asset recovery, in particular in respect to non-conviction-based asset forfeiture procedures, ensuring that they apply to drug trafficking and to other forms of organized crime;

(b) Governments should take steps to improve informal and formal cooperation exchanges with one another, including to ensure a fast and timely response to requests for mutual legal assistance;

(c) Governments are encouraged to establish legal frameworks in support of cross-border joint investigations and agreements for the sharing of information and return of recovered assets;

(d) Governments should implement institutional integrity measures addressed to judicial, prosecutorial and law enforcement institutions to enhance the effectiveness of operations against organized crime and build trust to boost inter-agency and inter-regional cooperation;

(e) Governments should contemplate legislating the criminal liability of legal persons, requiring such persons to adopt mechanisms for the control and prevention

of criminal risks, both internally and in their relations with other legal entities, primarily in the areas of trafficking in drugs and precursors and organized crime.

**3. Alternatives to imprisonment for certain offences as demand reduction strategies that promote public health and safety**

16. With regard to issue 3, “Alternatives to imprisonment for certain offences as demand reduction strategies that promote public health and safety”, the following recommendations were made:

(a) Governments are encouraged to make full use of alternatives to imprisonment for people facing drug charges, in particular at the time of their arrest and at the pretrial stage, in order to provide evidence-based drug treatment, thus reducing relapse and decreasing recidivism and the crime rate;

(b) Governments are encouraged to employ a multidisciplinary approach in providing treatment and rehabilitation as an alternative to conviction or punishment and to enhance institutional coordination between judicial, health and social services authorities;

(c) Governments should adopt measures to avoid barriers to access to effective treatment so as to guarantee that treatment is available, accessible, affordable, evidence-based and adapted to the special needs of women, children and other vulnerable groups, while ensuring the implementation of a zero-stigma and discrimination policy;

(d) Governments are encouraged to make criminal justice officials aware of the appropriate use of the different alternatives to imprisonment available under their internal legal framework for persons involved in minor drug cases, thereby enabling the State to provide an adequate social response using a human rights and public health approach.

**4. Practical measures tailored to the specific needs of children and youth to prevent and treat drug abuse among them and to address their involvement in drug-related crime**

17. With regard to issue 4, “Practical measures tailored to the specific needs of children and youth to prevent and treat drug abuse among them and to address their involvement in drug-related crime”, the following recommendations were made:

(a) Member States are encouraged to adopt legislation and procedures that protect the rights of young offenders and include a broad range of alternatives, including treatment, to imprisonment, leaving detention as a last resort;

(b) In cases of drug abuse disorders among children and youth, Governments are urged to prioritize a health system response over that of the justice system, and one that provides specialized and effective professional treatment;

(c) Governments that have not already done so are urged to adopt comprehensive drug and crime prevention strategies and programmes that take into consideration the needs of children and youth, address the risk factors and vulnerabilities associated with each developmental stage and are in line with international standards and norms;

(d) Governments are encouraged to promote close and effective inter-agency coordination to ensure that the needs of underage drug offenders are appropriately considered and that treatment and evidence-based prevention services are provided;

(e) Governments are encouraged to undertake evidence-based assessments of the drug demand situation at the national level, with the support of quality monitoring, evaluation and data collection.

## **D. Forty-first Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Asia and the Pacific**

### **1. Role of the Internet in addressing drug trafficking and abuse**

18. The following recommendations were made with regard to the role of the Internet in addressing drug trafficking and abuse:

(a) Governments are encouraged to develop, with the support of UNODC, guidelines and standard operating procedures for handling digital evidence and investigations into Internet-related drug crimes and cryptocurrency seizures, as well as to identify modalities for sharing best practices and experiences in addressing those issues;

(b) Governments are encouraged to allocate sufficient resources and build national capacities and capabilities in the field of online investigations, digital forensics and cryptocurrencies, as well as to cooperate with Internet service providers, in order to counter drug-related offences;

(c) Governments should encourage their law enforcement agencies to set up specialized units to deal with the use of the Internet and other technologies for drug trafficking, with a special focus on investigations into the darknet and cryptocurrencies, to appoint focal points, as appropriate, and to ensure better integration between those units and their counterpart cybercrime units, as well as to conduct joint operations to counter the use of the Internet in the commission of drug-related crime;

(d) Governments should continue to use the Internet to conduct awareness-raising and drug abuse prevention campaigns, targeting, in particular, young people;

(e) Governments are encouraged to engage in and promote cooperation at the regional and international levels in the area of the use of the Internet and modern technologies in the commission of drug-related crimes through, inter alia, platforms for research and joint training.

### **2. Measures to counter the illicit manufacturing of, the diversion of and trafficking in precursors**

19. The following recommendations were made with regard to measures to counter the illicit manufacturing of, the diversion of and trafficking in precursors:

(a) Governments are encouraged to develop robust national legislation and regulatory mechanisms on precursor controls in order to better monitor and respond to flows of precursor chemicals;

(b) Governments should provide additional capacity-building opportunities to their national law enforcement, forensic and regulatory authorities with a view to improving the identification and interdiction of precursor chemicals, in particular those substances that are not commonly used;

(c) Governments should improve their use of existing tools, such as Pre-Export Notification Online (PEN Online) and the Precursors Incident Communication System (PICS), developed by the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB) to control precursor chemicals;

(d) Government are encouraged to undertake additional efforts to assess how precursor chemicals are diverted and trafficked at the national and regional levels;

(e) Governments are encouraged to counter illicit financial flows related to the trafficking in and diversion of precursor chemicals;

(f) Governments on whose territories poppy cultivation is increasing should take measures to eliminate such cultivation, in order to reduce demand for and the flow of precursors.

### **3. Effective measures for coordinating border management strategies**

20. The following recommendations were made with regard to effective measures for coordinating border management strategies:

(a) Governments are encouraged to consider linking the networks of border liaison offices and port control units, as well as to make better use of the existing mechanisms for regional and international cooperation, including functioning regional cooperation centres such as the Joint Planning Cell, the Central Asian Regional Information and Coordination Centre for Combating Illicit Trafficking in Narcotic Drugs, Psychotropic Substances and their Precursors and the Criminal Information Centre to Combat Drugs of the Gulf Cooperation Council, as well as the networks of police and drug liaison officers based in the countries of the region;

(b) Governments are encouraged to improve and strengthen cooperation at the national level between law enforcement and other relevant agencies involved in border control;

(c) Governments are encouraged to monitor more closely all movement of goods, not to be limited only to import, but also transit and export;

(d) In order to increase knowledge about goods and supply chains and to ensure proper control measures, Governments are encouraged to actively promote cooperation between law enforcement and other relevant agencies and the private sector;

(e) Governments are encouraged to strengthen the capacities of the relevant agencies to collect, collate, analyse and share criminal intelligence, with a focus on the activities of organized criminal groups, including those involved in drug trafficking.

### **4. Practical measures tailored to the specific needs of children and young people to prevent and treat drug abuse among them and to address their involvement in drug-related crime, including cultivation and trafficking**

21. The following recommendations were made with regard to practical measures tailored to the specific needs of children and young people to prevent and treat drug abuse among them and to address their involvement in drug-related crime, including cultivation and trafficking:

(a) Governments are encouraged to enhance cooperation among the education, health and law enforcement sectors at the national level with regard to prevention interventions that target young people;

(b) Governments are encouraged to enhance the knowledge and build the capacity of teachers and other relevant professionals, including through training courses, in the area of drug use prevention;

(c) Governments are encouraged to further enhance their drug use prevention programmes that target pre-school and primary school children, as well as young people.

## **E. Subcommittee on Illicit Drug Traffic and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East at its fifty-second session**

### **1. Proactive, intelligence-led approach and capacity-building in the area of criminal intelligence collection, collation, analysis and sharing**

22. The following recommendations were made with regard to a proactive, intelligence-led approach and capacity-building in the area of criminal intelligence collection, collation, analysis and sharing:

(a) Governments should support and ensure better coordination and cooperation at the national level between law enforcement and other relevant agencies to facilitate the exchange of criminal intelligence and its proactive usage;

(b) Governments should ensure that training institutions have relevant training curricula and tools, as well as specialized equipment and software for the training of criminal intelligence analysts;

(c) Governments should encourage more active and systemic use of existing regional and international law enforcement structures for the sharing of criminal intelligence;

(d) Governments should be requested to consider appropriate policies to ensure retaining trained analysts within national organizations.

## **2. Countering money-laundering, illicit financial flows and the use of the darknet and cryptocurrencies in relation to the drug trade**

23. The following recommendations were made with regard to countering money-laundering, illicit financial flows and the use of the darknet and cryptocurrencies in relation to the drug trade:

(a) Governments should encourage better cooperation between financial intelligence units, law enforcement agencies and all other relevant national agencies;

(b) Governments should be encouraging intelligence-based policing that is proactive rather than reactive. The gathering and subsequent analysis of financial intelligence are key aspects of this;

(c) Governments should introduce policies and procedures that facilitate better sharing of information between public institutions and private companies in the financial sector;

(d) Governments should be encouraged to share case studies and research outcomes on the economic aspect of money-laundering and drug trafficking with each other, including on how the proceeds of illicit activities are transferred and used and on the role of new technologies in money-laundering.

## **3. Effective border control**

24. The following recommendations were made with regard to effective border control:

(a) Governments should consider strengthening inter-agency cooperation to leverage access to information, know-how, mandates and operational capacities;

(b) The capacities of existing law enforcement cooperation structures and centres, for example, in the areas of exchange of criminal intelligence and coordination of multilateral operations, should be used to the maximum extent;

(c) Governments should consider building on ongoing efforts to strengthen bilateral and regional cooperation, for example through border liaison offices, the Joint Planning Cell, the Central Asian Regional Information and Coordination Centre for Combating Illicit Trafficking in Narcotic Drugs, Psychotropic Substances and their Precursors, the Criminal Information Centre to Combat Drugs of the Gulf Cooperation Council, the Arab Interior Ministers Council, the Container Control Programme, the Global Maritime Crime Project, the Airport Communication Project and other ongoing UNODC programmes and initiatives, as well as initiatives and capacities of other regional and international organizations, including the I-24/7 global police communication system of INTERPOL and the Customs Enforcement Network Communication Platform system of the World Customs Organization;

(d) Governments, as well as international and regional organizations, should consider providing increased support, including technical assistance, equipment and

training and by sharing information, to the “front-line” countries, namely those situated close to areas where drugs are cultivated and produced.

#### 4. Prevention of drug use, focusing on children, youth, families and the education system

25. The following recommendations were made with regard to prevention of drug use, focusing on children, youth, families and the education system:

(a) Governments should be encouraged to adopt a health-centred approach that is balanced and comprehensive when it comes to drug control;

(b) Governments should be encouraged to use the *International Standards on Drug Use Prevention* as a framework to critically review national prevention strategies in line with the outcome document of the thirtieth special session of the General Assembly and target 3.5 of the Sustainable Development Goals;

(c) Governments should be encouraged to adopt a science-based approach in their drug prevention programmes for youth and to document the effectiveness and cost-effectiveness of those national programmes;

(d) Governments should consider enhancing the knowledge and capacity of teachers and other relevant professionals in prevention, especially in relation to high-risk populations;

(e) Governments should be encouraged to enhance cooperation among the education, law enforcement and public health sectors and other relevant stakeholders for more effective prevention and drug demand reduction efforts.

### 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, and to the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem held in 2016

26. The Twelfth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Europe; the Twenty-seventh Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Africa; the Twenty-seventh Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Latin America and the Caribbean; the Forty-first Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Asia and the Pacific; and the fifty-second session of the Subcommittee on Illicit Drug Traffic and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East 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, and to the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem held in 2016”. For their consideration of the item, the participants in the meetings 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), General Assembly resolution S-30/1, entitled “Our joint commitment to effectively addressing and countering the world drug problem” (the outcome document of the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem held in 2016) and Commission on Narcotic Drugs resolutions 56/10 and 56/12.

27. Participants were asked to consider the actions taken by and the challenges posed to the States of the region with regard to the implementation of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action and the operational recommendations contained in the outcome document of the special session.

28. During the consideration of the item at the Twelfth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Europe, the Meeting was reminded that

contributions by Member States to the established follow-up mechanism through the annual report questionnaires were crucial in measuring progress towards achieving the goals set out for the target date of 2019. The Meeting was also informed about the comprehensive and inclusive approach to the follow-up process, led by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, to the special session of the General Assembly, as well as the equal importance of and attention devoted to all seven chapters of the outcome document. One speaker highlighted the importance of operationalizing the outcome document. Cooperation among the relevant national authorities was considered a key element in effectively addressing and countering the world drug problem and in contributing to the successful implementation of the recommendations contained in the outcome document.

29. During the consideration of the item at the Twenty-seventh Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Africa, several speakers reaffirmed the commitment of their Governments to the Political Declaration and Plan of Action, 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 and the outcome document of the special session. It was noted that the three documents were complementary and mutually reinforcing, and support was expressed for the preparatory process for the sixty-second session of the Commission, to be held in 2019. Reference was also made to the impact that those three documents had on States' efforts to address the world drug problem at all levels. Support was expressed for the Commission as the policymaking body of the United Nations with prime responsibility for drug control matters and for the work of UNODC as the leading entity within the United Nations system for addressing and countering the world drug problem. It was noted that the Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Africa, provided a useful platform for exchanging information on the traffic in and abuse of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances. Several speakers reaffirmed the continued commitment of their Governments to the goals and objectives of the three international drug control conventions and emphasized the importance of ensuring the health, welfare and well-being of mankind. The need to advance efforts towards creating a society free of drug abuse was noted by a number of speakers. Furthermore, it was noted that, despite the progress made to date, drug trafficking and related offences continued to pose a major threat to security, public health and socioeconomic conditions in many countries.

30. During the consideration of the item at the Twenty-seventh Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Latin America and the Caribbean, some delegations stated that they saw the thirtieth special session of the General Assembly as a watershed that had redefined the way to address and counter the world drug problem, putting people at the centre and enriching the three pillars of the 2009 Plan of Action. They added that, as such, it was the new benchmark to which all had to aspire. It was also noted that each country should adapt the provisions of the various drug control instruments to its own reality and needs. Some delegates indicated that their countries were striving to reach the goals set in the Political Declaration and Plan of Action, the Joint Ministerial Statement and the outcome document, in view of the review that the Commission had decided to undertake in 2019. Several delegations recognized that steps had been taken to implement the recommendations of the outcome document at the national and regional levels and that there was a growing trend to apply a multidimensional, multidisciplinary and balanced approach to the world drug problem. Aspects of that approach included public health, demand reduction, human rights, a gender perspective, the prevention of crime and drug-related violence and attention to new psychoactive substances. Drug policies had become more balanced and effective to respond to new challenges and realities. Reference was made to the three international drug control conventions and the leadership role of UNODC, INCB and the Commission on Narcotic Drugs. The ongoing thematic discussions on the follow-up to the thirtieth special session of the

General Assembly at intersessional meetings of the Commission were also referred to by some speakers.

31. At the fifty-second session of the Subcommittee, speakers reported on measures taken by their Governments to implement the Political Declaration and Plan of Action, as well as the operational recommendations contained in the outcome document of the thirtieth special session. Some speakers reported on legislative measures that had been adopted to facilitate the implementation of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action and the outcome document, such as new national drug control strategies and master plans and the reviewing of sanctions imposed for drug-related offences in order to discourage traffickers from reoffending. As regards supply reduction, actions reported by Governments included cooperation with neighbouring States in relation to border control, the establishment of specialized institutions for training staff in investigation techniques, exchange of information to dismantle international drug cartels and container control efforts at borders. Speakers also reported on action taken to ensure the availability of controlled substances for medical and scientific purposes and to prevent their diversion and abuse. As regards demand reduction, speakers reported on measures such as raising awareness of the danger of drug abuse, and treatment and rehabilitation with community and civil society participation.

32. At the Forty-first meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Asia and the Pacific, one speaker noted that it was helpful to link the work of the subsidiary bodies of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs to the follow-up to the special session. The speaker also expressed her Government's support for the work of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies and encouraged States to assist UNODC in moving forward in that regard. Furthermore, the speaker highlighted that the drug problem should be addressed in an integrated, multidisciplinary, balanced and comprehensive manner in relation to supply and demand reduction strategies and reaffirmed her Government's commitment to the three international drug control treaties and to the operational recommendations contained in the outcome document of the special session. Moreover, the speaker expressed her Government's satisfaction with the inclusion of a thematic chapter on alternative development in the outcome document.

#### **IV. Implementation of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs decision 60/1, on strengthening the subsidiary bodies of the Commission**

33. Pursuant to Commission on Narcotic Drugs decision 60/1, during their meetings held in 2017, the subsidiary bodies of the Commission were invited to consider, under a dedicated agenda item, the invitation by the General Assembly to consider how they could better contribute to the implementation of the outcome document of the thirtieth special session, and to report back to the Commission on its findings.

34. At the Twelfth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Europe, some speakers underlined the need to maintain and strengthen the role of the meetings of heads of national drug law enforcement agencies as an exchange platform for law enforcement. Some other speakers expressed the view that the Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Europe, should primarily concentrate on law enforcement issues, and that demand reduction and other topics would be better dealt with in other forums. Other speakers highlighted the importance of taking into account the global discussions, held in the context of the follow-up to the special session, relating to demand reduction issues, such as prevention and treatment, as well as gender, human rights and access to controlled substances for medical and scientific purposes, and to strengthen the exchange of information and experiences among practitioners from different areas. No consensus was reached on the matter.

35. No statements were made during the consideration of the item at the Twenty-seventh Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Africa.

36. During the consideration of the item at the Twenty-seventh Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Latin America and the Caribbean, some speakers highlighted the importance of the involvement of the subsidiary bodies in the global discussions on international drug control held in follow-up to the thirtieth special session on the basis of the recognition in the outcome document that the world drug problem was multidimensional. They stated that the subsidiary bodies should contribute to the implementation of the outcome document, taking into account new multidimensional challenges and the need for more humane drug control policies, by including in their agendas topics such as alternatives to imprisonment for offenders responsible for minor drug offences or a public health approach to demand reduction. Other speakers, however, stated that it was important for the Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Latin America and the Caribbean, to focus primarily on law enforcement issues and that demand reduction and other topics would be better dealt with in other forums. They also underlined the need to maintain and strengthen the role of the Meeting as a platform for technical discussions and exchange of practical and sensitive information among law enforcement professionals, within their areas of expertise.

37. At the fifty-second session of the Subcommission, one speaker underlined the crucial role of the subsidiary bodies of the Commission in making tangible and substantive recommendations on both drug supply and demand reduction. Discussions at the sessions of the Subcommission were frank and interactive, and the recommendations adopted should be given due attention by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs. Consideration should be given to the possibility of holding the sessions of the Subcommission biannually. He also noted that steps should be taken to ensure participation in the sessions of the Subcommission by all its member States.

38. At the Forty-first meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Asia and the Pacific, it was noted by most speakers that the meetings of heads of national drug law enforcement agencies were an important platform for law enforcement practitioners to exchange best practices and information on drug-related matters, develop coordinated responses and enhance regional cooperation. It was also noted that the scope of the issues dealt with by those meetings should not be expanded. Furthermore, it was noted that the established format of the meetings had not exhausted its potential and that the best way to strengthen the subsidiary bodies of the Commission was to ensure a more targeted discussion of the issues that were directly related to its mandate, such as the continuing challenges posed by illicit drug cultivation, drug trafficking, trafficking in and diversion of precursors, new psychoactive substances, the use of the Internet in drug-related activities and other unresolved supply-related issues. It was also noted by one speaker that such topics, of interest to law enforcement, had not been fully covered during recent meetings and that different topics related to the world drug problem should be addressed in relevant formats. The speaker also noted that, in the light of the 2019 target date, it would be premature to discuss the possibility of any essential changes, including with regard to the mandate of the subsidiary bodies, as they would prejudice the results of the review.

39. At the same meeting, reference was made by another speaker to his Government's commitment to the work to be undertaken on the basis of the operational recommendations contained in the outcome document, which brought the shared vision of a drug-free society closer to realization. The speaker noted that other platforms existed that allowed countries to share their experiences in implementing the operational recommendations contained in the outcome document, including the thematic discussions held in the framework of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, such as the meetings of the Commission convened between September and November 2017. Some speakers acknowledged that there was no "one-size-fits-all" approach. One speaker referred to the importance of an integrated and tailored approach, which could be adjusted to the specific context and requirements of each

country, and expressed the agreement of her Government to expanding the scope of issues dealt with by the Meeting to include drug demand reduction, as recommended in the outcome document of the special session and in the Political Declaration and Plan of Action.

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

40. Possible topics for the meetings of the subsidiary bodies to be held in 2018 were discussed and identified at the respective meetings.

41. 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 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. Attention is also drawn to Economic and Social Council resolution 1990/30, entitled “Establishment of a Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, European Region”, in which the Council established the convening of regional meetings along the lines of those already established in other regions. Further attention is drawn to Commission on Narcotic Drugs resolution 6 (XXV), entitled “Establishment of a subcommission on illicit traffic in the Near and Middle East”, in which the Commission decided that meetings of the Subcommission and its working groups would be held in the territory of the States of regional members of the Subcommission. Accordingly, the Commission should encourage member States in the different regions to consider hosting forthcoming meetings of heads of national drug law enforcement agencies and sessions of the Subcommission 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.

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