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Recommendations of the subsidiary bodies of the Commission

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

Report of the Secretariat

I. Introduction

1. Four meetings of the subsidiary bodies of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs were held in 2018: the Twenty-eighth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Africa, held in Dar es Salaam, United Republic of Tanzania, from 17 to 21 September; the Forty-second Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Asia and the Pacific, held in Bangkok from 2 to 5 October; the Twenty-eighth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Santiago de Chile from 22 to 26 October and the fifty-third session of the Subcommittee on Illicit Drug Traffic and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East, held in Baku from 19 to 23 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 recommendations — which had been made on the basis of the deliberations of their respective working groups — to the Commission at its sixty-second session.

* [E/CN.7/2019/1](#).



4. The reports of Twenty-eighth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Africa ([UNODC/HONLAF/28/6](#)), the Twenty-eighth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Latin America and the Caribbean ([UNODC/HONLAC/28/6](#)), the Forty-second Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Asia and the Pacific ([UNODC/HONLAP/42/6](#)) and the fifty-third session of the Subcommission on Illicit Drug Traffic and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East ([UNODC/SUBCOM/53/6](#)) are 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-second session.

A. Twenty-eighth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Africa

1. Recent trends in drug trafficking in Africa and links to organized crime

6. The following recommendations were made with regard to recent trends in drug trafficking in Africa and links to organized crime:

(a) Governments are encouraged to strengthen efforts in undertaking comprehensive research and analysis to ensure that drug trafficking and its links to all forms of organized crime impacting the region are better understood;

(b) Governments are encouraged to develop the capacities of their relevant law enforcement agencies to investigate and disrupt drug trafficking groups linked to other forms of organized crime;

(c) Governments are urged to adapt their training programmes to counter drug trafficking and organized criminal groups by including, inter alia, specific programmes related to investigating and disrupting illicit financial flows; tracing, freezing and confiscating proceeds of crime; and enhancing the identification of other related forms of organized crime;

(d) It is recommended that Governments make best use of existing regional and international mechanisms to enhance law enforcement coordination and cooperation, as well as knowledge of the criminal environment, and target the links between drug trafficking and other forms of organized crime.

2. Best practices in prison reform and alternatives to conviction or punishment

7. The following recommendations were made with regard to best practices in prison reform and alternatives to conviction or punishment:

(a) Countries of the region are encouraged to expand practical measures for alternatives to imprisonment, including for drug users and those found in possession of small quantities of drugs;

(b) Governments should consider multisectoral programmes for drug offenders, including specialized programmes for vulnerable groups such as female offenders, drug users, minors and the elderly. These programmes should address skills development; education; health services, with a particular focus on drug treatment and HIV services; legal aid; and post-release social reintegration measures;

(c) Governments are encouraged to develop or strengthen measures for the oversight and monitoring of prison settings and other detention facilities in order to ensure compliance with international standards and human rights instruments.

3. Practical measures to operationalize regional cooperation in drug law enforcement

8. The following recommendations were made with regard to practical measures to operationalize regional cooperation in drug law enforcement:

(a) Governments are encouraged to ensure enhanced awareness and to make best use of existing intelligence and cooperation platforms such as the African Police Cooperation Organization, the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL), the World Customs Organization, the Asset Recovery Interagency Networks, judicial cooperation networks and others;

(b) Drug law enforcement and other relevant agencies should explore opportunities to undertake multilateral intelligence-led investigations targeting regional and interregional drug trafficking networks;

(c) Governments are urged to undertake regular assessments of the training needs of their drug law enforcement agencies and to develop capacity-building programmes, with a view to addressing current gaps in their capability to tackle drug trafficking activities that are impacting the African continent.

4. Awareness-raising on drug-related issues in educational settings

9. The following recommendations were made with regard to activities and programmes on awareness-raising on drug-related issues in educational settings:

(a) Understanding that programmes need to address all development stages and be conducted in multiple settings in order to have an impact on preventing drug use and drug use disorders, Governments are encouraged to develop and implement effective drug use prevention systems that include supportive legal and policy frameworks, scientific evidence and research, coordination mechanisms of multiple sectors and levels, the building of capacity among policymakers and practitioners and the allocation of adequate resources to sustain the system in the long term;

(b) Acknowledging that the objective of drug use prevention efforts is to help young people to avoid or delay initiation into the use of drugs and to also avoid developing drug use disorders, Governments are encouraged to scale up availability, coverage and quality of prevention activities and programmes based on scientific evidence in all relevant settings, including schools, in line with 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” (General Assembly resolution S-30/1, annex);

(c) Governments are encouraged to enhance the gathering of gender- and age-disaggregated drug use data and evidence of the impact of drug use prevention programmes, with a view to ensuring that the drug use prevention programmes implemented are effective and fit for purpose.

B. Forty-second Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Asia and the Pacific

1. Role of customs and other law enforcement agencies in effective border management strategies

10. The following recommendations were made with regard to the role of customs and other law enforcement agencies in effective border management strategies:

(a) Governments should specify and/or update information on their single national focal point to be contacted by foreign agencies for matters relating to drug law enforcement issues. The single focal point serves as the link to the national authorities. He or she ensures that information is exchanged in real time and requests are processed;

(b) Governments are encouraged to make the best use possible of the existing regional and international mechanisms and structures and of the network of the liaison officers to facilitate the exchange of criminal intelligence and the coordination of multilateral operations targeting international drug trafficking;

(c) Governments are encouraged to strengthen inter-agency cooperation between customs and other law enforcement authorities at the national level, for example by establishing inter-agency task forces.

2. Illicit cultivation and production of drugs, and latest trends in drug-related money-laundering and illicit financial flows, including the financing of terrorism through drug trafficking

11. The following recommendations were made with regard to the illicit cultivation and production of drugs, and the latest trends in drug-related money-laundering and illicit financial flows, including the financing of terrorism through drug trafficking:

(a) Governments are encouraged to conduct post-seizure and other backtracking investigations, as well as related financial investigations, on major drug cases in order to identify, prosecute and dismantle organized criminal groups and to disrupt their supply chains and illicit financial flows;

(b) Governments are encouraged to engage with financial institutions, money-transfer businesses and other private actors to establish focal points and strengthen cooperation regarding the investigation and disruption of illicit financial flows related to drug trafficking;

(c) Governments should significantly strengthen inter-agency cooperation at the national level, as well as law enforcement cooperation at the regional and international levels, with a view to addressing challenges of drug-related money-laundering and the criminal use of cryptocurrencies in drug-related cases. This includes the exchange of information that would support law enforcement in the backtracking of financial flows along drug trafficking routes;

(d) Governments should develop training capacities and should provide training to law enforcement officers on the investigation of drug-related money-laundering, including in cases related to the use of cryptocurrencies. Governments should also provide basic training to front-line officers;

(e) Governments are encouraged to enhance regional and international cooperation to eliminate or significantly reduce the illicit cultivation and production of drugs, and trafficking in drugs, including by enhancing law enforcement cooperation and exchanging information and experience.

3. Inter-agency cooperation within and among countries on the control of precursor chemicals and new psychoactive substances

12. The following recommendations were made with regard to inter-agency cooperation within and among countries on the control of precursor chemicals and new psychoactive substances:

(a) Governments should strengthen their capacity to conduct forensic analyses of chemical substances in support of criminal investigations involving seizures of chemical substances, and their capacity to provide assistance in bilateral and multi-jurisdictional investigations. In doing so, they should aim, among other things, to assist other countries in identifying new psychoactive substances and alert them to the associated risks;

(b) Governments are encouraged to make full use of the existing tools to monitor the movement of chemicals with a view to minimizing the risk of their diversion into the illicit manufacture of drugs;

(c) Governments are encouraged to establish or strengthen partnerships with the industries and private sector entities involved in the manufacture of and trade in precursor chemicals;

(d) Governments should share, in a timely manner, detailed information on seizures of precursor chemicals with authorities in other jurisdictions involved in the same cases or in potentially similar ones in order to enable those authorities to conduct their own investigations and proactively prevent the diversion of similar precursor chemicals in the future. They should also share training materials, good practices and tools at the regional and international levels.

4. Raising awareness about drug-related issues in educational settings

13. The following recommendations were made with regard to raising awareness about drug-related issues in educational settings:

(a) Governments are encouraged to integrate evidence-based prevention efforts into national education curricula;

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

(c) Governments are encouraged to further explore the use of new technologies for raising awareness among children and young people on the health and social consequences of drug use;

(d) Governments are encouraged, as a complement to prevention efforts in educational settings, to further support parenting and family skills activities that build resilience among children and young people as a form of effective drug use prevention;

(e) The collection of national data on drug use trends, including on the efficacy of prevention efforts, should be strengthened;

(f) Governments are encouraged to enhance efforts to provide sports and other healthy recreational facilities to children and young people in educational settings.

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

1. New modi operandi in trafficking and trends in concealment methods and transport, and effective investigative techniques in response thereto

14. The following recommendations were made with regard to new modi operandi in trafficking and trends in concealment methods and transport, and effective investigative techniques in response thereto:

(a) Governments of the region are encouraged to further invest in confidence-building measures through regional and interregional training, study visits and meetings of case officers;

(b) Governments are encouraged to strengthen anti-corruption and institutional-integrity measures, for example, through the development of standard operating procedures, the establishment of inter-agency task forces and the use of vetting procedures for staff involved in combating drug trafficking;

(c) Governments should ensure that effective measures are in place for inter-agency cooperation at the national level between relevant authorities involved in combating drug trafficking;

(d) Governments are encouraged to use mechanisms for exchanging information on new trends in drug trafficking, new concealment methods and modi operandi;

(e) Governments should consider developing and implementing training programmes for law enforcement officers and prosecutors, taking into account new trends in drug trafficking.

2. Trends in precursor control, diversion trends and trafficking routes for cocaine precursors into and through the region

15. The following recommendations were made with regard to trends in precursor control, diversion trends and trafficking routes for cocaine precursors into and through the region:

(a) Governments are encouraged to establish practical national cooperation mechanisms for investigating and countering the diversion of and trafficking in chemical substances;

(b) Governments are encouraged to make the best use of existing structures and mechanisms for regional and international cooperation, including for the exchange of information and for the coordination of multilateral operations targeting the diversion of and trafficking in precursor chemicals. Governments should also share operational information on the diversion of chemical precursors using the INTERPOL notification system, in particular its purple notices;

(c) Governments should strengthen the implementation or make better use of existing tools, such as the Pre-Export Notification Online (PEN Online) system, when invoking article 12, paragraph 10 (a), of the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988 to request pre-export notifications for imports of substances listed in Tables I and II of that Convention. Governments should also strengthen the application or make better use of existing tools for precursor control, such as the Precursors Incident Communication System;

(d) Governments are encouraged, individually or through existing regional mechanisms, to devise appropriate strategies to fill current knowledge gaps concerning trafficking trends and *modi operandi* used by traffickers to acquire substances for the illicit manufacture of drugs.

3. Use of the darknet in the illicit trade in drugs and use of cryptocurrencies for money-laundering

16. The following recommendations were made with regard to use of the darknet in the illicit trade in drugs and use of cryptocurrencies for money-laundering:

(a) Governments should address the risks posed by the illicit use of cryptocurrencies through strengthening inter-agency and international cooperation;

(b) Governments should consider the provision of basic training to law enforcement officers and prosecutors, along with the creation of specialized units comprising highly trained experts, to undertake operations and investigations relating to criminal activity on the darknet;

(c) Governments should consider updating their legal frameworks related to investigations into the darknet and transactions with cryptocurrencies, allowing, *inter alia*, undercover operations on the darknet and the securing of related digital evidence.

4. Developing and implementing comprehensive and sustainable alternative development programmes

17. The following recommendations were made with regard to developing and implementing comprehensive and sustainable alternative development programmes:

(a) Governments should develop and implement alternative development programmes, for communities in rural areas affected by or at risk of the illicit cultivation of drug crops, that are aimed at alleviating poverty as well as at preventing and reducing the illicit cultivation of crops;

(b) Governments are encouraged to report on efforts made to understand the drivers of the illicit cultivation, production and manufacture of drugs and to address underlying socioeconomic factors;

(c) In developing and implementing alternative development programmes, Governments should ensure the empowerment, ownership and responsibility of affected communities, taking into account their specific characteristics, vulnerabilities and needs;

(d) Governments should increase cooperation and coordination in the field of alternative development through the exchange of information, best practices and lessons learned, and create a repository for best practices and lessons learned in order to optimize the use of resources for alternative development;

(e) Governments should explore the possibility of using legal instruments such as extinction of domain to fund alternative development programmes.

D. Subcommission on Illicit Drug Traffic and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East at its fifty-third session

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

18. 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 are encouraged to introduce and/or duly enforce regulations requiring parallel financial investigations at the national and international levels linked to serious drug- and precursor-related cases based on their national legislation;

(b) Governments should consider developing, or acquiring, and implementing basic training programmes for law enforcement agencies on the topics of money-laundering and the use of cryptocurrencies and the darknet for the illicit drug trade;

(c) Governments are encouraged to establish or strengthen within the appropriate agency a core unit tasked with combating the new and emerging threat of the darknet and cryptocurrencies;

(d) Governments should ensure cooperation at both the national and international levels through the exchange of information for the investigation of money-laundering and illicit financial flows related to drug and precursor trafficking.

2. Countering trafficking in precursors, including non-scheduled chemicals, and the threat posed by synthetic drug trends, including new psychoactive substances, and responses

19. The following recommendations were made with regard to countering trafficking in precursors, including non-scheduled chemicals, and the threat posed by synthetic drug trends, including new psychoactive substances, and responses:

(a) Governments should consider establishing national early warning systems involving law enforcement, health agencies and legislative bodies to monitor the appearance of emerging drugs used in the country, in order to reduce the information gaps and assist in the legislative process, while taking advantage of the UNODC early warning advisory on new psychoactive substances and ensuring the exchange of relevant information at the national and regional levels;

(b) Governments are encouraged to increase the capacity of their front-line officers and forensic laboratories in order to better identify new psychoactive substances while taking advantage of tools made available by UNODC;

(c) Governments are encouraged to communicate incidents involving new psychoactive substances through the Project Ion Incident Communication System and to provide each other with the support necessary to facilitate their investigations;

(d) Governments should take measures to ensure that shipments in international legitimate trade that are refused or stopped receive the same attention and are investigated in the same manner as shipments that are seized, with a view to obtaining actionable intelligence to prevent future diversion elsewhere;

(e) Governments are encouraged to strengthen their capacities and timely information exchange to counter the flow of precursor chemicals that are suspected of diversion, through the use of mechanisms of the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB), existing regional platforms, including the Joint Planning Cell and the Central Asian Regional Information and Coordination Centre for Combating Illicit Trafficking in Narcotic Drugs, Psychotropic Substances and their Precursors (CARICC), and bilateral and multilateral cooperation;

(f) The international community is requested to assist transit countries neighbouring Afghanistan to increase their capacities, based on the principle of common and shared responsibility.

3. Connecting regional cooperation centres for the exchange of information

20. The following recommendations were made with regard to connecting regional cooperation centres for the exchange of information:

(a) Governments are encouraged to make use of international and regional platforms, such as CARICC, the Criminal Intelligence Centre to Combat Drugs of the Gulf Cooperation Council and the Joint Planning Cell, for the timely exchange of criminal intelligence on the diversion of precursor chemicals and the coordination of multilateral operations targeting drug trafficking and related illicit financial flows;

(b) Governments concerned should encourage centres, such as CARICC, the Criminal Intelligence Centre to Combat Drugs of the Gulf Cooperation Council and the Joint Planning Cell, to develop and utilize informal operating procedures on the exchange of information and to implement operational requests;

(c) Governments should consider making use of the network of liaison officers and establish corresponding national focal points for the exchange of strategic information and real-time intelligence;

(d) UNODC is requested to provide further technical assistance to the existing regional platforms in order to enhance their effectiveness.

4. Developing and implementing comprehensive and sustainable alternative development programmes

21. The following recommendations were made with regard to developing and implementing comprehensive and sustainable alternative development programmes:

(a) Governments should develop and implement long-term alternative development programmes for communities in rural areas affected by illicit cultivation of drug crops, with the aim of alleviating poverty and reducing the illicit cultivation of such crops;

(b) Governments should strengthen subregional, regional and international cooperation to implement comprehensive, sustainable and action-oriented alternative development programmes, based on the principle of common and shared responsibility and supported by enhanced and better coordinated financial and technical assistance;

(c) Governments should increase the exchange of information, best practices and lessons learned in the field of alternative development;

(d) Long-term and flexible funding should be provided for alternative development programmes in Afghanistan and neighbouring countries, including by donors, relevant international financial institutions and United Nations entities.

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, taking into consideration the ministerial segment to be held during the sixty-second session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs

22. The Twenty-eighth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Africa; the Forty-second Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Asia and the Pacific; the Twenty-eighth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Latin America and the Caribbean; and the fifty-third session of the Subcommittee on Illicit Drug Traffic and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East each considered an agenda item on the 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, taking into consideration the ministerial segment to be held during the sixty-second session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs. 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.

23. 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.

24. During the consideration of the item at the Twenty-eighth 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, and the outcome document of the thirtieth special session of the General Assembly. Reference was also made to the impact that those three documents had on States’ efforts to address the world drug problem at all levels. Some speakers highlighted that 2019 was the target date of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action and that, as such, the mandate for the ministerial segment ought to be to take stock of and review the implementation of the targets contained in it. It was noted that considerable progress had been made since 2009 in many countries, and in Africa as a whole, in both drug supply and demand reduction, as well as in international cooperation. Some speakers highlighted that the role that health played in the drug strategies and implementation plans of African countries had grown since 2009, and that prevention and treatment measures were increasingly based on scientific evidence. Some speakers reported on measures being taken by their Governments to improve the access to and availability of controlled substances for medical and scientific purposes, also noting that it was an issue of importance to Africa. A number of delegations reported on institutions that had been strengthened since 2009, such as financial intelligence units, as well as on mechanisms coordinating the work of the various government stakeholders involved in addressing the drug problem. Some

delegations noted that their Governments were in the process of revising drug-related laws, using the outcome document of the thirtieth special session as a reference point. Several speakers provided information on supply reduction measures taken at the national level, including by making reference to particular cases and seizures. The need to strengthen border management measures was also noted, as was the need for continued exchanges of operational information and intelligence, as well as for the elaboration of specific cooperation initiatives for the African region. Concern was expressed regarding the alarming dimensions of cocaine trafficking from Latin America through the African region, as well as the cultivation of and trafficking in cannabis. The need for efforts focused on income-generating activities for farmers and on alternative development was highlighted. Many speakers highlighted the marked increase in the use of and trafficking in tramadol, which was also sold in pharmacies. A number of speakers referred to the increase in the abuse of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances among children and youth and reported on activities related to drug use prevention in schools.

25. At the Forty-second Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Asia and the Pacific, speakers reiterated their Governments' full commitment to the Political Declaration and Plan of Action and to General Assembly resolution S-30/1. It was noted that the two documents were complementary and mutually reinforcing. One speaker analysed the documents in terms of their health, human rights and alternative development aspects, which contributed to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. Speakers called upon all Member States to make efforts to fully implement the commitments contained in the Political Declaration and Plan of Action and in General Assembly resolution S-30/1. One speaker specifically referred to efforts to implement the five targets contained in the Political Declaration and Plan of Action, highlighting that such efforts would continue to be required in the future. One speaker called upon the international community to pay attention to regional developments during the preparations for the sixty-second session of the Commission, and expressed concern about the situation in the Golden Triangle. The role of the subsidiary bodies in the implementation of the commitments contained in the Political Declaration and Plan of Action and in General Assembly resolution S-30/1 was recognized.

26. The importance of data collection was highlighted, because data were needed to assess the implementation of the two documents. Member States were therefore encouraged to provide data using the existing data collection tools, such as the annual report questionnaire.

27. Some speakers provided information on their countries' efforts to implement the Political Declaration and Plan of Action and General Assembly resolution S-30/1. The country of one speaker made efforts to reduce demand and supply and took part in bilateral, regional and international cooperation. The speaker provided concrete examples of law enforcement assistance and international inter-agency cooperation. Another speaker gave an update on a recent major drug seizure.

28. After discussing the agenda item, the Forty-second Meeting made the following recommendations:

(a) Member States are urged to reiterate their acknowledgement of the importance of the targets set out in paragraph 36 of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action in the context of the preparations for the ministerial segment to be held during the sixty-second session of the Commission, in 2019;

(b) Member States are encouraged to promote an integrated follow-up to the commitments contained in the Political Declaration and Plan of Action and in General Assembly resolution S-30/1;

(c) Member States are encouraged to accelerate efforts, both in the lead-up to the sixty-second session of the Commission and beyond, to implement the commitments contained in those two documents, which are based on a balanced approach to the drug problem and are mutually reinforcing.

29. During the consideration of the item at the Twenty-eighth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Latin America and the Caribbean, one speaker mentioned that the outcome document of the thirtieth special session of the General Assembly was the most comprehensive and complete consensus reached so far by the international community, reflecting the evolutionary nature of the international drug regime. The seven thematic chapters of the outcome document had gone beyond the three traditional pillars (supply reduction, demand reduction, and combating money-laundering and promoting judicial cooperation to enhance international cooperation) and reinforced them in a transversal and multidimensional way. The participation of all stakeholders, including key actors such as the Secretary-General, representatives of UNODC, the World Health Organization (WHO), INCB and other specialized agencies and regional organizations was key for the successful outcome of the ministerial segment to be held in 2019.

30. Another speaker indicated that it was expected that, at the ministerial segment to be held in 2019, the Commission would take stock of the implementation of international commitments to address and counter the world drug problem, in particular in the light of the targets established in paragraph 36 of the Political Declaration. The questions States must ask themselves related to: (a) how to reduce drug-related deaths; (b) how to counteract the effects of the global drug threat; (c) how to counter drug trafficking; (d) how to control the substances subject to international control and avoid the diversion thereof; (e) how to reduce illicit crop cultivation; (f) how to face evolving realities, trends and existing circumstances and emerging and persistent challenges and threats; and (g) how to deal with the gap that existed between the commitments of Governments and the tolerance that seemed to exist in society in terms of consumption. Evolving realities, trends and existing circumstances, and emerging and persistent challenges and threats must be addressed through the formulation and execution of more effective and more humane policies, allowing for a broader approach to respond to the complex reality of today. There was a need for complete and comparable information that would allow for the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the efficacy of drug policies at the national, regional and international levels. Information should also include data related to compliance with the Sustainable Development Goals.

31. Another speaker reported on his Government's efforts to implement the provisions of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on demand reduction as well as on the creation of a technical body to deal with alternative development as a measure to complement supply reduction. A more comprehensive approach to the drug issue was needed that would go beyond interdiction and include the promotion of health and development. The implementation of the recommendations contained in the various international instruments sometimes suffered from a lack of inter-institutional coordination. Equally important was strengthening relations with neighbouring countries to monitor the dynamics of the drug issue in all its forms and manifestations, in order to adopt more effective measures.

32. At the fifty-third session of the Subcommittee, speakers reiterated the commitment of 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 of the General Assembly, and reported on measures taken in that respect.

33. In preparing for the ministerial segment of the sixty-second session of the Commission, there was a need to enhance efforts to achieve the goals and targets set out in the Political Declaration and Plan of Action. It was hoped that the ministerial segment would set a clear direction for enhanced international efforts to counter the world drug problem after 2019, including by preserving the goals and targets set out in the Political Declaration and Plan of Action.

34. Several speakers reported that national drug control plans and strategies had been adopted and implemented in their countries by the various agencies and ministries concerned, with a view to achieving a balanced approach to drug demand

and supply reduction. As a result, national legislative frameworks had been strengthened. It was noted that treaties pertaining to mutual legal assistance and extradition had been signed among countries in the region. Other forms of international cooperation had also been developed, including with UNODC, INCB and WHO. Other actions reported by Governments in the field of drug supply reduction included joint investigations among countries in the region, participation in the UNODC/World Customs Organization Container Control Programme and the use of the PEN Online system.

35. With regard to demand reduction, speakers reported on cooperation efforts with civil society organizations, the scientific community and volunteers; the establishment of treatment and rehabilitation centres; the use of methadone in opioid substitution therapies; and measures related to the prevention and treatment of HIV/AIDS. Other measures concerned awareness-raising campaigns with community and civil society participation, and targeted drug demand reduction interventions for youth, women, families and street children, including in educational settings and the workplace. Counselling for addicts and the establishment of hotlines were also mentioned.

36. One speaker reported on efforts to make drugs available for legitimate medical purposes through the adoption of regulations in that regard. Another speaker reported on the amendment of national legislation as part of an effort to comply with the recommendations contained in the outcome document of the thirtieth special session of the General Assembly on alternatives to punishment for drug users.

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

37. Pursuant to Commission on Narcotic Drugs decision 60/1, during their meetings held in 2018, 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.

38. During the consideration of the item at the Twenty-eighth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Africa, several speakers highlighted that addressing and countering the world drug problem could not be dealt with by one entity alone but required a comprehensive, multisectoral approach, including by involving all relevant ministries as well as civil society actors. Some speakers noted that the subsidiary bodies of the Commission had an important role to play in both supply and demand reduction and, as such, the bodies should involve all relevant stakeholders in their meetings. Some delegations were of the view that the subsidiary bodies could be strengthened in terms of their coverage of demand reduction issues, with a view to addressing the world drug problem in a comprehensive manner.

39. At the Forty-second meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Asia and the Pacific, one speaker expressed appreciation for the work of the subsidiary bodies and their contribution to the implementation of General Assembly resolution S-30/1. He noted that the practice of holding roughly three workshops on topics that focused more on the supply side and one on a topic that focused more on the demand side was useful and should be continued. He also noted that the subsidiary bodies were already fulfilling their task by contributing to the implementation of General Assembly resolution S-30/1 and stressed that his delegation would not be supportive of any fundamental change in the role or mandate of the subsidiary bodies.

40. During the consideration of the item at the Twenty-eighth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Latin America and the Caribbean, one speaker indicated that the Meetings of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement

Agencies, Latin America and the Caribbean, and the other subsidiary bodies of the Commission, could systematically contribute to the implementation of the operational recommendations contained in the outcome document and could discuss the achievement of the targets contained in the Political Declaration and Plan of Action in the light of the 2019 target date. While the meetings of heads of national drug law enforcement agencies had been mainly devoted to supply reduction issues, they should continue to have on their agenda, including for the working groups, issues contained in the seven chapters of the outcome document. Other speakers 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; topics of a broader or political nature should be dealt with in other forums. They also underlined the need to keep and strengthen the role of the Meeting as a platform for technical discussions and the transparent exchange of information among law enforcement professionals, including on specific cases. Other suggestions included the possibility of reducing the duration of the meetings to four days and allowing time for delegations to conduct informal meetings, for the exchange of information, on the margins of the deliberations in the plenary.

41. No statements were made during the consideration of the item at the fifty-third session of the Subcommission.

V. Organization of future meetings of the subsidiary bodies

42. Possible topics for the meetings of the subsidiary bodies to be held in 2019 were discussed and identified at the respective meetings.

43. 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.