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## Commission on Narcotic Drugs

### Sixty-sixth session

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Item 8 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. The subsidiary bodies of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs convened the following five meetings in 2022: the Fourteenth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Europe, held in Valletta from 12 to 15 September; the Thirtieth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Guatemala City from 4 to 7 October; the Forty-fourth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Asia and the Pacific, held in Bangkok from 25 to 28 October; the Thirtieth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Africa, held in Nairobi from 8 to 11 November; and the fifty-fifth session of the Subcommission on Illicit Drug Traffic and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East, held in Ashgabat from 22 to 25 November.

2. Following a review of the current situation with respect to regional and subregional cooperation in addressing and countering the world drug problem, 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 the meetings of the working groups established for that purpose. In addition, each subsidiary body reviewed the implementation of previous recommendations. The follow-up to the implementation at the national, regional and international levels of all commitments, as reflected in the Ministerial Declaration on Strengthening Our Actions at the National, Regional and International Levels to Accelerate the Implementation of Our Joint Commitments to Address and Counter the World Drug Problem, was also discussed by the subsidiary bodies.

3. The recommendations set out below were made by working groups during the aforementioned meetings of the subsidiary bodies. Pursuant to Commission on Narcotic Drugs resolution 56/10, the participants in the meetings agreed to submit

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\* E/CN.7/2023/1.



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

4. The reports of the Fourteenth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Europe ([UNODC/HONEURO/14/6](#)), the Thirtieth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Latin America and the Caribbean ([UNODC/HONLAC/30/6](#)), the Forty-fourth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Asia and the Pacific ([UNODC/HONLAP/44/6](#)), the Thirtieth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Africa ([UNODC/HONLAF/30/6](#)) and the fifty-fifth session of the Subcommittee on Illicit Drug Traffic and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East ([UNODC/SUBCOM/55/6](#)) 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-sixth session.

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

#### 1. Trends in drug trafficking and concealment methods, and in intelligence-led international cooperation

6. The following recommendations were made with regard to the topic entitled “Trends in drug trafficking and concealment methods, and in intelligence-led international cooperation”:

(a) Governments are encouraged to continue to adopt and implement a proactive intelligence-led investigative methodology focused on high-value targets;

(b) Governments are encouraged to explore and apply innovative regulatory and technical solutions in relation to the use of encrypted communications by criminal networks;

(c) Governments are encouraged to regularly share information on changes in concealment methodology and trafficking routes and methodologies through existing regional and international information-sharing platforms and other appropriate channels;

(d) Governments are encouraged to foster public-private partnerships, especially with regard to postal services.

#### 2. Synthetic drug production and trafficking, including the safe handling and disposal of synthetic drugs and their precursors

7. The following recommendations were made with regard to the topic entitled “Synthetic drug production and trafficking, including the safe handling and disposal of synthetic drugs and their precursors”:

(a) Governments are encouraged to increase the capacity of their front-line law enforcement officers, and relevant agencies, to safely handle and dispose of synthetic drugs and their precursors, including by providing adequate tools and equipment for the identification and safe handling of drugs, as well as related training; this should also apply to relevant private firms in the context of public-private partnerships, whenever possible;

(b) Governments are encouraged to make full use of the United Nations Toolkit on Synthetic Drugs, which includes a wide range of resources, such as guidelines, technical information and links to useful resources, instruments and

training to assist Member States in designing effective countermeasures to contain the threats posed by synthetic drugs;

(c) Governments are encouraged to regularly exchange best practices and knowledge on the safe handling and disposal of synthetic drugs, including through existing channels of information-sharing.

### **3. Alternatives to conviction or punishment for drug-related offences**

8. The following recommendations were made with regard to the topic entitled “Alternatives to conviction or punishment for drug-related offences”:

(a) Governments are encouraged to adopt a health-oriented approach, under which people with drug use disorders in contact with the criminal justice system are directed to treatment and care as early as possible, in order to reduce the illicit use of drugs and the incidence of drug law offences or other crimes;

(b) Governments are encouraged to strengthen coordination among the health, education, justice and social sectors to ensure that the specific needs of individuals are appropriately met through relevant programmes and interventions provided as alternatives to conviction or punishment;

(c) Governments are encouraged to ensure that individualized and comprehensive screening and assessments are applied and respond to the specific needs of people who commit drug offences, including in relation to drug use disorders, homelessness, a history of violence and mental health issues, among other factors, with a view to ensuring that individuals are matched to the appropriate educational, treatment, rehabilitation and social reintegration programmes.

### **4. Exchange of actionable intelligence and the role of regional cooperation platforms in facilitating such exchange**

9. The following recommendations were made with regard to the topic entitled “Exchange of actionable intelligence and the role of regional cooperation platforms in facilitating such exchange”:

(a) Governments should maintain and expand, to the maximum extent possible, the network of outposted international liaison officers, with a view to fostering the timely exchange of actionable intelligence;

(b) Governments should encourage relevant law enforcement agencies to actively use regional and international cooperation platforms, such as the European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Cooperation (Europol), the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL), the World Customs Organization (WCO), the Central Asian Regional Information and Coordination Centre (CARICC) and the South-East European Law Enforcement Centre, as well as their secure communication channels, for the exchange of criminal intelligence and the coordination of multilateral operations.

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

### **1. Trends in drug trafficking and concealment methods, and in intelligence-led international cooperation**

10. The following recommendations were made with regard to the topic entitled “Trends in drug trafficking and concealment methods, and in intelligence-led international cooperation”:

(a) Governments should strengthen information channels between police forces, customs authorities and judicial investigators to constantly exchange updated first-hand information and intelligence on methods of drug trafficking and concealment;

(b) Governments should strengthen access for their law enforcement authorities to existing international databases, instruments and standards (such as the “Guidelines on representative drug sampling”, developed by UNODC in cooperation with the European Network of Forensic Science Institutes, the “Recommended methods for the identification and analysis of cocaine in seized materials”, published by UNODC, and the Relief database of INTERPOL) and encourage them to make active use of those databases, instruments and standards in the conduct of national operations. They should also regularly share information with appropriate intergovernmental organizations to allow for the continuous updating of those instruments;

(c) Governments should strengthen their capacities in the chemical extraction of controlled substances mixed with other chemical substances.

## **2. Synthetic drug production and trafficking, including the safe handling and disposal of synthetic drugs and their precursors**

11. The following recommendations were made with regard to the topic entitled “Synthetic drug production and trafficking, including the safe handling and disposal of synthetic drugs and their precursors”:

(a) Governments should integrate into their drug control strategies the safe handling and disposal of seized synthetic drugs and processes for the adequate treatment of their seized chemical precursors. They should also strengthen the institutions mandated with the safe handling of seized synthetic drugs and their precursors and designate national institutions to be responsible for their final disposal;

(b) Governments should provide comprehensive training for all sectors involved in the safe handling and disposal of seized synthetic drugs and their precursors, in particular law enforcement, customs, the judiciary, the health sector and academia, including through initiatives such as the UNODC Solutions, Training and Advice for Narcotics Disposal (STAND) programme;

(c) Governments should strengthen their early warning systems for the detection of new psychoactive substances, including with a view to detecting synthetic opioids and their analogues, and strengthen their laboratory systems, including through initiatives such as the UNODC Synthetic Drug Strategy and the global Synthetics Monitoring: Analyses, Reporting and Trends (SMART) programme.

## **3. Alternatives to conviction and punishment for drug-related offences**

12. The following recommendations were made with regard to the topic entitled “Alternatives to conviction and punishment for drug-related offences”:

(a) Governments are encouraged to ensure that individualized alternative measures to conviction or punishment for drug-related offences are implemented, in line with the international drug control conventions and international standards such as the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for Non-custodial Measures (the Tokyo Rules) and the United Nations Rules for the Treatment of Women Prisoners and Non-custodial Measures for Women Offenders (the Bangkok Rules), maximizing the possibilities under their current legislation. Alternative measures should respond to the specific needs of people who commit drug offences, in particular the needs of women, young people and vulnerable groups (including people with drug use disorders, people living on the street, people with a history of violence and people with mental health problems, among other factors), with a view to ensuring that they can access appropriate education, treatment, rehabilitation and social reintegration programmes;

(b) Governments should adopt a health-oriented approach to drug consumption, whereby people with drug use disorders who are in contact with the

criminal justice system receive treatment and care as soon as possible, in order to reduce illicit drug use and the commission of drug-related crimes;

(c) Governments are encouraged to strengthen coordination between the health, education, justice and social sectors in order to ensure that the specific needs of people with drug use disorders and other vulnerable groups in contact with the criminal justice system are adequately addressed.

#### **4. Exchange of actionable intelligence and the role of regional cooperation platforms in facilitating that exchange**

13. The following recommendations were made with regard to the topic entitled “Exchange of actionable intelligence and the role of regional cooperation platforms in facilitating that exchange”:

(a) Governments should strengthen their exchange of information and cooperation through international cooperation networks established by INTERPOL, the Police Community of the Americas and WCO among others, as well as through dedicated programmes developed by UNODC (such as the Global Maritime Crime Programme, the Container Control Programme, the Airport Communication Project (AIRCOP) and the global programme on strengthening criminal justice cooperation along trafficking routes (CRIMJUST));

(b) Governments should also strengthen their bilateral and regional cooperation through the network of law enforcement liaison officers accredited to countries in the region;

(c) Governments should integrate the fight against corruption into their efforts to address drug-related offences. They should strive to create synergies between their cooperation efforts through drug-related cooperation networks on the one hand and corruption-specific cooperation networks on the other hand.

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

#### **1. Trends in drug trafficking and concealment methods, and in intelligence-led international cooperation**

14. The following recommendations were made with regard to the topic entitled “Trends in drug trafficking and concealment methods, and in intelligence-led international cooperation”:

(a) Governments are urged to increase collaborative efforts to build trust, cooperate and share information on concealment methods and other *modi operandi* of criminal networks. This can be achieved by making the best use of existing bilateral, regional and international mechanisms;

(b) Governments should consider intensifying cooperation with the private sector, including transportation and logistics companies. This is important to ensure that law enforcement agencies receive the information they need in a timely manner, raise awareness in relevant industries and interdict criminal activity that increasingly relies on insider and industry-specific knowledge;

(c) Governments are encouraged to increase law enforcement cooperation by means of intelligence-led operations, backtracking investigations and controlled deliveries in order to apprehend the masterminds behind criminal groups and dismantle their networks. This can be achieved through joint operations and capacity-building in the area of detection and by strengthening mechanisms to guide cooperation and promote the timely exchange of information.

## **2. Synthetic drug production and trafficking, including the safe handling and disposal of synthetic drugs and their precursors**

15. The following recommendations were made with regard to the topic entitled “Synthetic drug production and trafficking, including the safe handling and disposal of synthetic drugs and their precursors”:

(a) Governments are encouraged to consider options for the safe disposal of drugs and chemicals, taking into account local contexts, including by coordinating among government agencies, collaborating with the private sector and educational institutions and evaluating the viability of using new, cost-effective disposal methods;

(b) Governments should consider adopting measures, including the establishment of public-private partnerships, to enhance monitoring capacities related to the trade in non-controlled chemicals that are known to be used for the illicit manufacture of synthetic drugs and related precursor chemicals in the region;

(c) Governments should consider the possibility of establishing national and regional early warning systems to monitor the emergence of new substances and synthetic drug products and should adopt timely measures to disrupt their production and spread among the community, while strengthening forensic capacity to better identify substances.

## **3. Alternatives to conviction or punishment for drug-related offences**

16. The following recommendations were made with regard to the topic entitled “Alternatives to conviction or punishment for drug-related offences”:

(a) Governments are encouraged to consider alternatives to conviction and punishment for minor drug-related offences, pursuant to the Tokyo Rules and the international drug control conventions;

(b) Governments should ensure the sustainability of innovative measures, which should be applied in coordination with all relevant government agencies involved in drug control. That would facilitate the provision of health and social services to people with drug use disorders in contact with the criminal justice system;

(c) Governments should strengthen available alternative measures, including prevention, treatment, care and social support, for people who use drugs in order to prevent drug-related crime and recidivism.

## **4. Exchange of actionable intelligence and the role of regional cooperation platforms in facilitating such exchange**

17. The following recommendations were made with regard to the topic entitled “Exchange of actionable intelligence and the role of regional cooperation platforms in facilitating such exchange”:

(a) Governments are encouraged to make use of existing bilateral, subregional, regional and international information exchange mechanisms and to explore the use of secure communication channels in order to more rapidly exchange intelligence on cases and the criminal groups involved;

(b) Governments should consider strengthening digital intelligence in order to address the increased use of technology and cybercrime by organized criminal groups in their drug trafficking operations and carry out financial investigations to disrupt illicit financial flows, which are often multinational in nature;

(c) Governments are encouraged to promote and open parallel investigations when they identify cases that involve other member States, in order to widen the reach of investigations and ensure that they and the subsequent criminal proceedings are comprehensive.

## **D. Thirtieth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Africa**

### **1. Trends in drug trafficking and concealment methods, and in intelligence-led international cooperation**

18. The following recommendations were made with regard to the topic entitled “Trends in drug trafficking and concealment methods, and in intelligence-led international cooperation”:

(a) Governments are urged to increase collaborative efforts to build trust, cooperate and share information on concealment methods and other *modi operandi* of criminal networks to enhance targeted action. This can be achieved by making use of existing regional cooperation mechanisms to exchange drug-related intelligence;

(b) Governments are encouraged to use advanced detection technology and increase law enforcement cooperation by means of intelligence-led operations, joint operations, backtracking investigations and controlled deliveries to apprehend the key actors behind criminal groups and dismantle their networks;

(c) Governments should consider intensifying participation in cooperation and capacity-building initiatives offered at the international level, such as the UNODC-WCO Container Control Programme, as well as AIRCOP and the Seaport Cooperation Project (SEACOP).

### **2. Synthetic drug production and trafficking, including the safe handling and disposal of synthetic drugs and their precursors**

19. The following recommendations were made with regard to the topic entitled “Synthetic drug production and trafficking, including the safe handling and disposal of synthetic drugs and their precursors”:

(a) Governments are encouraged to consider options to safely dispose of drugs and chemicals, taking into account local contexts, including by coordinating among government agencies, collaborating with the private sector and educational institutions, evaluating the viability of using new, cost-effective disposal methods and drawing on available capacity-building programmes to that end;

(b) Governments should consider adopting measures to mitigate the risks involved in handling synthetic drugs for first responders, including law enforcement officers, port authorities and health services, with specific attention to fentanyl and related substances, by making use of the *Guidelines for the Safe Handling of Synthetic Opioids for Law Enforcement and Customs Officers*;

(c) Governments should consider the possibility of strengthening cooperation through public-private partnership cooperation in the areas of cybersecurity and cryptocurrency, involving the banking sector, postal companies and courier services, to disrupt illegal trade in and the shipment of synthetic drugs and the associated payment methods;

(d) Governments should consider using appropriate innovative legislative approaches to address issues relating to synthetic drugs and the diversion of precursor chemicals.

### **3. Alternatives to conviction or punishment for drug-related offences**

20. The following recommendations were made with regard to the topic entitled “Alternatives to conviction or punishment for drug-related offences”:

(a) Governments are encouraged to consider alternatives to conviction and punishment for minor drug-related offences, pursuant to the Tokyo Rules, the international drug control conventions and relevant drug policy documents, and to consider legal reform, as appropriate;

(b) Governments should ensure the sustainability of innovative measures, which should be applied in coordination with and through cooperation between all relevant government agencies involved in drug control in order to facilitate the provision of health and social services to people with drug use disorders in contact with the criminal justice system, while freeing law enforcement capacity for the prosecution of serious crimes;

(c) Governments should strengthen available alternative measures, including prevention, treatment, care and social support, for people who use drugs, to prevent drug-related crime and recidivism;

(d) Governments are encouraged to harmonize drug policy, legislation and law enforcement practices in order to effectively address drug demand reduction.

#### **4. Exchange of actionable intelligence and the role of regional cooperation platforms in facilitating such exchange**

21. The following recommendations were made with regard to the topic entitled “Exchange of actionable intelligence and the role of regional cooperation platforms in facilitating such exchange”:

(a) Existing regional coordination mechanisms should establish mechanisms for the exchange of actionable intelligence on drug trafficking at the operational level among constituent partners;

(b) Governments should be encouraged to harmonize national databases through the creation of national observatories as repositories for the collection and analysis of information on drug trafficking networks and trends. Capacity-building in this regard should be provided by international partners;

(c) Governments should encourage the formation of joint investigation teams in transnational drug trafficking cases in order to bring to justice criminal networks operating across jurisdictional boundaries.

### **E. Fifty-fifth session of the Subcommittee on Illicit Drug Traffic and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East**

#### **1. Trends in drug trafficking and concealment methods, and in intelligence-led international cooperation**

22. The following recommendations were made with regard to the topic entitled “Trends in drug trafficking and concealment methods, and in intelligence-led international cooperation”:

(a) Governments are urged to increase collaborative efforts to build trust, cooperate and share information on concealment methods and other *modi operandi* of criminal networks to enhance targeted action. This can be achieved by making use of existing regional cooperation mechanisms to exchange drug-related intelligence, in particular CARICC and the Joint Planning Cell under the Triangular Initiative;

(b) Governments are encouraged to use advanced detection technology and increase law enforcement cooperation by means of intelligence-led operations, joint operations, backtracking investigations and controlled deliveries in order to apprehend the key actors behind criminal groups and disrupt their networks. UNODC is requested to provide technical assistance and equipment-related support to countries;

(c) Governments should consider increasing their participation in cooperation and capacity-building initiatives offered at the international level.



## **2. Synthetic drug production and trafficking, including the safe handling and disposal of synthetic drugs and their precursors**

23. The following recommendations were made with regard to the topic entitled “Synthetic drug production and trafficking, including the safe handling and disposal of synthetic drugs and their precursors”:

(a) Governments are encouraged to consider options for the safe disposal of drugs and chemicals, taking into account local contexts, including by coordinating among government agencies, collaborating with the private sector and educational institutions, evaluating the viability of using new, cost-effective disposal methods and making use of available capacity-building programmes to that end;

(b) Governments should consider adopting measures to mitigate the risk to first responders of handling synthetic drugs by making use of the *Guidelines for the Safe Handling of Synthetic Opioids for Law Enforcement and Customs Officers*;

(c) Governments should consider the possibility of strengthening cooperation in the area of cybersecurity and cryptocurrency among public-private partnerships involving the banking sector, postal companies and courier services, in order to disrupt the illegal trade in and shipment of synthetic drugs and the methods used to pay for those drugs;

(d) Governments should explore opportunities to build the capacity of their law enforcement agencies to undertake online investigations and track virtual currencies through programmes delivered under the UNODC Global Programme on Cybercrime;

(e) UNODC should consider supporting countries, where possible, in strengthening their capacity to safely dispose of seized drugs, chemicals and the precursors used in their illicit manufacture, through the provision of technical assistance and equipment-related support.

## **3. Alternatives to conviction or punishment for drug-related offences**

24. The following recommendations were made with regard to the topic entitled “Alternatives to conviction or punishment for drug-related offences”:

(a) Governments are encouraged to adopt a health-oriented approach, under which people with drug use disorders in contact with the criminal justice system are directed to treatment and care services as early as possible, in order to reduce the non-medical use of drugs and the incidence of drug-related offences and other crimes;

(b) Governments are encouraged to continue strengthening coordination among the health, education, justice and social sectors in order to ensure that the specific needs of individuals are met through appropriate programmes and interventions provided as alternatives to conviction and punishment;

(c) Governments are encouraged to conduct appropriate data collection in the health and justice systems in order to enhance monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of alternative measures for people with drug use disorders in contact with the criminal justice system.

## **4. Exchange of actionable intelligence and the role of regional cooperation platforms in facilitating such exchange**

25. The following recommendations were made with regard to the topic entitled “Exchange of actionable intelligence and the role of regional cooperation platforms in facilitating such exchange”:

(a) Existing regional coordination mechanisms, such as CARICC and the Criminal Information Centre to Combat Drugs of the Gulf Cooperation Council, should continue to promote and facilitate the exchange of actionable intelligence on drug trafficking at the operational level among constituent partners;

(b) Existing regional coordination mechanisms should continue their efforts to network with other regional intelligence-sharing platforms, including the Joint Planning Cell, in order to promote and facilitate the sharing of intelligence and joint operations both within and outside the region;

(c) Governments should encourage the formation of joint investigation teams in transnational drug trafficking cases in order to bring to justice criminal networks operating across jurisdictional boundaries.

### **III. Follow-up to the implementation at the national, regional and international levels of all commitments, as reflected in the Ministerial Declaration of 2019, to address and counter the world drug problem**

26. The Fourteenth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Europe, the Thirtieth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Latin America and the Caribbean, the Forty-fourth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Asia and the Pacific, the Thirtieth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Africa, and the fifty-fifth session of the Subcommission on Illicit Drug Traffic and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East each considered an agenda item on the follow-up to the implementation at the national, regional and international levels of all commitments, as reflected in the Ministerial Declaration of 2019, to address and counter the world drug problem.

27. 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), 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), and the Ministerial Declaration of 2019 ([E/2019/28-E/CN.7/2019/13](#), chap. I, sect. B).

28. Participants were asked to consider the actions taken and challenges faced by the States in their region with regard to the implementation of all commitments made.

29. Participants were informed of the multi-year workplan for the period 2019–2023, adopted by the Commission at its fourth intersessional meeting, on 24 June 2019, as a follow-up to the Ministerial Declaration of 2019, with a view to accelerating the implementation of all international drug policy commitments through the organization of thematic discussions aimed at fostering a dialogue and exchanging good practices, challenges and lessons learned.

30. Participants were encouraged to join the thematic discussions to share their operational perspectives with the Commission and exchange views with practitioners and experts from all over the world on how the implementation of all international drug policy commitments could be accelerated, addressing the challenges identified in the Ministerial Declaration of 2019, among others.

31. Participants reiterated their commitment to addressing the world drug problem in a comprehensive and balanced manner, including through law enforcement and health-related responses.

32. The Ministerial Declaration of 2019 was welcomed, as it facilitated streamlining of the implementation of all existing commitments by building on all policy documents.

33. Cooperation and coordination among countries were identified as crucial in addressing the world drug problem, while solutions needed to take into account national contexts, in particular with regard to socioeconomic factors.

34. The support provided by UNODC in addressing and countering the world drug problem, in particular its initiatives to prevent drug use among young people, was commended.

35. Information on efforts to implement the Ministerial Declaration of 2019 and to address the challenges noted therein was provided, with concrete examples of law enforcement assistance and international inter-agency cooperation.

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

36. Possible topics for the meetings of the subsidiary bodies to be held in 2023 were discussed and identified at the respective meetings.

37. 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.

38. At the Thirtieth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Africa, the representatives of Nigeria and Ghana had announced the interest of their Governments in hosting the Thirty-first Meeting, in 2023.

39. At the Thirtieth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Latin America and the Caribbean, the representatives of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, the Plurinational State of Bolivia and Ecuador had expressed their country’s readiness to host the Thirty-first Meeting.