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Statement submitted by the International Police Association**

The following statement is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 36 and 37 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31 of 25 July 1996.

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1. The drug problem is still a global challenge that constitutes a serious threat to the health, safety and well-being of humankind, in particular children and young people. Therefore, we are advised to offer young people alternatives on the field of "drug-abuse", in schools, hand in hand with the assistance of parents, teachers and psychologists. Illicit drug trafficking and organized crime activities around the globe are complex problems which require a coordinated approach, involving all agencies and governments including law enforcement, in particular the police, which is confronted with drug-related problems on a daily basis. Experts on the field of pharmaceutical products should be incorporated within the Police Force, in order to give professional assistance to the police. There is in fact a close link between drug supply, drug trafficking, organized crime and money-laundering and, for this reason, an enhanced cooperation of all the agencies involved could prove successful to counter illicit drug supply.

2. It is also a well-known fact that there are close links between drugs, crime and prostitution. We are confronted with a new evolution within the field of drugs. At present, we have to fight against synthetic drugs manufacture and trafficking. A way out of the illicit manufacture of synthetic drugs could be a closer cooperation between law enforcement/police and the chemical (pharmaceutical) industry, including trade companies, in order to prevent supply of illicit synthetic drugs. Companies manufacturing and trading in synthetic drugs and pharmaceutical products should be advised to take measures for countering the diversion of precursor chemicals used by criminals for the manufacture of synthetic drugs. The above mentioned companies should look very carefully when selling chemicals and, if there are any doubts of legal use of such chemicals, the police should be informed as soon as possible.

3. If all bodies involved are willing to cooperate and do so, there is a chance to reduce the manufacture and sale of illicit synthetic drugs.