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Draft report

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Addendum**Follow-up to the twentieth special session of the General Assembly: general overview and progress achieved by Governments in meeting the goals and targets for the year 2008 set out in the Political Declaration adopted by the Assembly at its twentieth special session****A. Structure of the debate**

1. At its 1276th to 1278th meetings, on 13 and 14 March, the Commission considered agenda item 4, entitled "Follow-up to the twentieth special session of the General Assembly: general overview and progress achieved by Governments in meeting the goals and targets for the years 2003 and 2008 set out in the Political Declaration adopted by the Assembly at its twentieth special session".
2. For its consideration of the item, the Commission had before it the fourth biennial report of the Executive Director on the world drug problem (E/CN.7/2007/2 and Add.1-6).
3. The Director of the Division for Treaty Affairs of UNODC introduced the agenda item. A statement was made by the representative of Germany (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the European Union [...]). Statements were also made by the representatives of Ukraine (on behalf of Georgia, Ukraine, Azerbaijan and Moldova), Japan, Israel, Canada, Republic of Korea, Cuba, Russian Federation, Croatia, Peru, Myanmar, Hungary, Norway, United Kingdom, Mexico, United States and Lebanon. Statements were also made by the observers for South Africa, Azerbaijan, Spain, Ecuador, Pakistan, Portugal and Armenia. Statements were also made by the observers for the



International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and the International Association against Drug Trafficking and Drug Abuse.

Deliberations

4. Representatives expressed appreciation to the Executive Director for the quality of the fourth biennial report on the world drug problem (E/CN.7/2007/2 and Add.1-6). That comprehensive document provided Member States with a valuable representation of the progress made by Member States in meeting the goals of the twentieth special session of the General Assembly, held in 1998, and allowed them to draw conclusions on problems that remained in the achievement of those goals.

5. The report of the Executive Director indicated that significant progress continued to be made by Member States towards meeting the goals for 2008 set by the General Assembly at the special session. Overall, international drug control efforts showed progress and achievement.

6. The world drug problem was a common and shared responsibility of all States and representatives reiterated their commitment to achieving the goals of the special session through a balanced and integrated approach. The Political Declaration adopted by the Assembly at the special session (General Assembly resolution S-20/2, annex) and the relevant United Nations conventions provided the global legal framework for all drug control activities.

7. Concern was expressed by some representatives about the poor rate of response to the fourth biennial reports questionnaire, which had affected the accuracy of the analysis. In view of the importance of the 10-year review of the progress in achieving the goals set at the special session, to be held in 2008, Member States were encouraged to fulfil their commitment expressed in the Political Declaration and to provide full and timely responses to the fifth biennial reports questionnaire in 2007. It was stressed that improved reporting would result in a better understanding and a more thorough assessment of the global efforts to implement the action plans and measures adopted at the special session and would help in formulating objectives for the future.

8. The work done by UNODC to implement Commission on Narcotic Drugs resolution 49/1 was positively acknowledged. Several representatives welcomed the first consultation among experts, held by UNODC from 6 to 8 February 2007, to support the final assessment of the achievement of the goals of the special session through the collection and use of complementary drug-related data and expertise. The positive effect that information might have on the analytical process was recognized, in terms of ensuring an evidence-based review. The utilization of complementary data from different regional bodies, such as the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD), the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, and from UNODC regional projects was seen as particularly valuable. It was noted that, during the review of progress in achieving the goals set at the special session, Member States should utilize lessons learned from monitoring and evaluation in support of evidence-based and efficient policies. It was also noted that the current reporting mechanisms related to processes and commitments put in place by Member States and that future analysis could be extended to address the impact and effectiveness of the measures taken.

9. Other representatives highlighted the importance of the involvement of relevant non-governmental organizations in the special session review process. The representative of Canada, speaking on behalf of the Vienna Non-Governmental Organizations Committee, briefed the meeting on the outcome of the forum of non-governmental organizations that had taken place on 13 March 2007 on the margins of the current session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and on the plans of the community of non-governmental organizations to contribute to the assessment of the achievement of the goals set at the special session.

10. Several speakers presented information on progress achieved by their Governments thus far in meeting the goals of the special session. Several of their Governments had adopted, updated or made progress in the implementation of national drug control strategies or action plans promoting a balanced multidisciplinary approach. They also reported on their achievements in the various other sectors covered by the action plans and measures adopted at the special session.

11. The improvements in the area of demand reduction were specially recognized, as most Member States had made progress in developing comprehensive demand reduction strategies focusing on youth and vulnerable groups. Best practices in treatment and rehabilitation of drug users needed to be continually explored and shared. Several speakers underlined worrisome increases in the abuse of certain drugs in some regions. The balance between treatment and rehabilitation on the one hand and enforcement on the other was seen as one of the most significant aspects of the strategy emanating from the special session and several speakers recognized that the way to success was progress in demand reduction. Treatment worked and was cost-effective. The cost-benefit ratio of investing in demand reduction programmes would, in the long run, reduce costs related to crime and health issues.

12. In regard to supply reduction, several representatives emphasized the need to improve and strengthen international cooperation in combating trafficking in illicit drugs. Good border control was essential to effective drug control, as was building cross-border cooperation between neighbours and regions. Broader regional initiatives, such as the establishment of the Central Asia Regional Information and Coordination Centre, the Paris Pact agreed at the Conference on Drug Routes from Central Asia to Europe, regional meetings such as those of the subsidiary bodies of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (the Subcommission on Illicit Drug Traffic and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East and the meetings of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies) were highly appreciated, and representatives reaffirmed their commitment to and support for them. Such activities contributed to the development of collective strategies against trafficking in illicit drugs and precursors. The exchange of drug law enforcement information and sharing of resources, expertise and best practices between Member States was important and should be pursued. A number of representatives reported on the use of intelligence-gathering and controlled delivery techniques to dismantle drug trafficking networks in their countries and emphasized the need further to improve and extend such action.

13. A number of representatives reported on the preparation or adoption of new legislation against money-laundering in their countries, in line with the international requirements and standards in that area, such as the revised recommendations of the Financial Action Task Force on Money Laundering and the relevant United Nations

conventions, which enabled proceeds of crime to be identified, traced and ultimately seized and confiscated more efficiently. Some speakers stressed the critical role played by financial intelligence units in the analysis of suspicious financial transactions and reported on the establishment or functioning of financial intelligence units in their countries. Attention was drawn to the use of illicit proceeds of drug trafficking for the financing of terrorism. In that connection, the importance of international cooperation was emphasized.

14. Several representatives mentioned the strong impact of economic and social development on the drug situation in their countries. It was noted that the problem was particularly acute in those countries affected by poverty, lack of security and economic stagnation. Member States were therefore urged to include measures against drugs and crime in strategies to achieve sustainable economic development. Countries with economies in transition were at risk of becoming priority markets for international drug trafficking. The need to increase financial resources for UNODC technical cooperation activities in those countries was also stressed.

15. Several speakers reported on the eradication of illicit crops achieved by their Government in the past few years. It was stated by several representatives that cultivation of illicit drug crops, often related to poverty and social and economic exclusion, was a major obstacle to sustainable socio-economic development, rule of law and political stability. The representatives stressed the use of a variety of mutually reinforcing strategies and socio-economic interventions to provide an alternative to the need to cultivate illicit crops. The need for a balance between alternative measures, enforcement of legislation and eradication of illicit crops was also stressed.

16. Special attention was paid by various representatives to amphetamine-type stimulants (ATS) and their precursors. More efforts were required to reduce both supply and demand, especially among youth.

17. The prevention of diversion of precursor chemicals used in the illicit manufacture of cocaine, heroin and ATS was said to be crucial.

18. With regard to judicial cooperation, several representatives emphasized the importance of international and regional cooperation in addressing drug trafficking effectively and recognized the efforts of UNODC in that area. Most representatives who spoke on the issue referred to the need to build mutual trust and to work together in order to counter that global scourge. Some mentioned various means adopted by their Governments, such as the signing of new bilateral and multilateral agreements for extradition and mutual legal assistance, the use of controlled deliveries and the conducting of joint training sessions and joint investigations. A few representatives also raised the need to provide technical assistance to less developed countries. There was recognition of the progress being made in all sectors, although it was also noted that the pace of that progress could be stepped up. Speakers called on Member States to enhance efforts and investment to move towards achieving the targets set at the special session. Particular emphasis was put on the need to enhance cooperation further at the regional and international levels and on the need to ensure that UNODC had the capacity to provide technical assistance to Member States.

19. The participants were looking forward to the upcoming review of the special session, which would provide a better understanding of the drug phenomenon and make future interventions more targeted and more effective.
