



## Economic and Social Council

Distr.: Limited  
11 March 2010

Original: English

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### Commission on Narcotic Drugs

#### Fifty-third session

Vienna, 8-12 March 2010

#### Draft report

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#### Addendum

#### **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**

1. At its 6th meeting, on 10 March 2010, the Commission considered agenda item 4, "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".
2. The Officer-in-Charge of the Division for Treaty Affairs of UNODC made an introductory statement. The Executive Director of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) also made a statement.
3. Statements were made by the representatives of Uruguay, Peru, Spain, India, Argentina, Pakistan, Cuba, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, the Republic of Moldova (on behalf of GUAM), Colombia, the United States, the Russian Federation and the Lao People's Democratic Republic.
4. The observers for Japan, South Africa, Burkina Faso and Mexico also made statements.
5. The observers for the Sovereign Order of Malta, the Beckley Foundation (also on behalf of the International AIDS Society) and the Mentor Foundation (on behalf of the Vienna NGO Committee on Drugs) made statements.
6. Several speakers welcomed the adoption of and expressed support for the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an



Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem,<sup>1</sup> adopted at the high-level segment of the fifty-second session of the Commission, and reaffirmed by the General Assembly in its resolution 64/182. It was observed that that Political Declaration and Plan of Action maintained an integrated and balanced approach to drug supply and demand reduction and reflected the principle of shared responsibility. Some representatives noted that the world drug problem undermined sustainable development, political stability and democratic institutions. One speaker noted that not all the objectives of the Political Declaration adopted by the General Assembly at its twentieth special session,<sup>2</sup> in 1998, had been fully achieved and that the threat posed by opium originating in Afghanistan was a very serious issue. Support, including financial support, should be sought to address that issue.

7. It was noted that in the Political Declaration and Plan of Action, it had been recognized that the three international drug control conventions continued to provide the international legal framework for drug control and international cooperation. In the view of some speakers, other international instruments, such as the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime<sup>3</sup> and the United Nations Convention against Corruption,<sup>4</sup> were also relevant in tackling the world drug problem.

8. Some speakers also noted that, in accordance with the Political Declaration and Plan of Action, supply and demand reduction strategies should take into account socio-economic health and educational aspects, as well as respect for human rights.

9. Several speakers noted that the impact of the world drug problem on the social, economic, health, political and governance aspects of societies continued to be significant. That situation meant that Member States had an obligation to continue to invest in drug control and take further action in the years to come.

10. One speaker noted that the Commission should adjust its methods of work in accordance with the Political Declaration and Plan of Action. In that connection, consideration should be given to devoting the thematic debate of each session to a previously agreed part or section of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action and making consideration of that chosen item the central element of the work of the Commission at that session. In addition, Member States could be encouraged to submit draft resolutions on the selected part or section of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action. That speaker indicated that he would present proposals for the provisional agenda for the fifty-fourth session of the Commission. Another speaker agreed with that proposal, noting the need for Member States to adhere to the commitments made and deadlines set in the Political Declaration and Plan of Action. Topics considered at high-level segments should be prioritized and considered in five-year periods, similarly to what was done in the follow-up to other major United Nations summits.

11. Some speakers underlined the nexus between illicit drugs and criminal activities such as trafficking in firearms and precursors, the manufacture of synthetic drugs, money-laundering, corruption and the financing of terrorism.

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<sup>1</sup> A/64/92-E/2009/98, sect. II.A.

<sup>2</sup> General Assembly resolution S-20/2, annex.

<sup>3</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2225, No. 39574.

<sup>4</sup> *Ibid.*, vol. 2349, No. 42146.

12. One speaker drew attention to the possible collateral damage of criminalization under the current system of international drug control and called for exercising proportionality in determining punishment. An international debate, open to all opinions and without prejudice or discrimination should be held on all the complex social and cultural aspects of the drug phenomenon. Another speaker stated that the “securitization” of the drug problem (that is, the treatment of the drug problem as a security issue) should be avoided. Referring to the 6277th meeting of the Security Council, held on 24 February 2010, at which the Council considered the issue of drug trafficking as a threat to international peace and security, the speaker observed that the matter should be considered, rather, by competent multilateral forums such as the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the Commission on Narcotic Drugs.

13. A number of speakers noted the need to improve data collection and research.

14. Several speakers reported on national drug control legislation adopted by their Governments and on national drug control strategies or action plans promoting a balanced, multidisciplinary approach. A number of speakers reported on the achievements in combating drug trafficking and money-laundering.

15. Several speakers reported on action taken by their Governments in the area of demand reduction, including prevention, treatment, rehabilitation and social reintegration programmes.

16. Several speakers underlined increases in the abuse of certain drugs and the proliferation of new substances such as designer drugs, synthetic cannabinoids and cannabis plants rich in tetrahydrocannabinol, as well as the increased abuse of substances not under international control.

17. With regard to supply reduction, several speakers reported seizures of illicit drugs and emphasized the importance of international cooperation in combating drug trafficking. They also referred to agreements on extradition and mutual legal assistance, the sharing of information, best practices in the field of law enforcement and joint investigations. Several speakers highlighted the importance of cooperation and noted that the Triangular Initiative, the Paris Pact initiative and other regional initiatives such as the Rainbow Strategy and the meetings of the subsidiary bodies of the Commission, such as the Nineteenth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Latin America and the Caribbean, held in 2009, which was attended by representatives of 10 West African States, were effective mechanisms for promoting and facilitating regional and interregional cooperation. Some speakers reported on alternative development initiatives for the reduction of illicit drug crops in their countries.

18. Various speakers drew special attention to amphetamine-type stimulants and to efforts made in preventing the diversion of precursor chemicals used in their illicit manufacture, including the Pre-Export Notification Online (PEN Online) system of INCB.

19. Several Member States expressed appreciation for the assistance provided by UNODC, including through its Regional Office for Southern Africa.

20. Several speakers welcomed the establishment of the working group on governance and finance and expressed the hope that its essential work would enable UNODC to perform its mandated functions.