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Implementation of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem: supply reduction and related measures

Paris Pact initiative

Note by the Secretariat**

The Secretariat hereby transmits to the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, for its attention, the text of the Vienna Declaration adopted by the Third Ministerial Conference of the Paris Pact Partners on Combating Illicit Traffic in Opiates Originating in Afghanistan, held in Vienna on 16 February 2012.

Pursuant to Commission resolution 54/7, in which the Commission requested the Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to facilitate the organization and holding of an international conference at the ministerial level and to report thereon to the Commission at its fifty-fifth session, the report of the Executive Director on the Paris Pact initiative is contained in document E/CN.7/2012/10.

* E/CN.7/2012/1.

** The present document contains the outcome of the Third Ministerial Conference of the Paris Pact Partners on Combating Illicit Traffic in Opiates Originating in Afghanistan, held in Vienna on 16 February 2012.



**Third Ministerial Conference of the Paris Pact Partners on Combating Illicit
Traffic in Opiates Originating in Afghanistan**

(Vienna, 16 February 2012)

Vienna Declaration *

1. The Paris Pact is one of the most important frameworks in the fight against opiates originating in Afghanistan (hereafter referred to as “opiates”). It aims at the reduction of illicit traffic in opiates including opium poppy cultivation and production and global consumption of heroin and other opiates, and at the establishment of a broad international coalition to combat illicit traffic in opiates. It relies on the commitments and ambitions of its partner countries working in consultation with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and in full conformity with the three international drug control conventions and the Political Declaration and Plan of Action adopted by the high-level segment of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs in March 2009.
2. Despite continued efforts by the international community and major achievements, the problem of illicit traffic in opiates continues to be of serious concern. Illicit traffic in opiates, including heroin, is a growing problem, generating illicit financial flows, fuelling corruption and organized crime and in some cases funding terrorist activities and insurgency.
3. Paris Pact partners, recognizing their common and shared responsibility reiterate their determination to counter, in a balanced and comprehensive manner, the sustained menace of illicit drugs, which causes widespread harm and suffering, endangers the health and welfare of human beings and adversely affects the social, economic, cultural and political foundations of society. We recognize that the narcotics problem is a global challenge which also requires a global response, including addressing the demand and supply sides.
4. Efforts under the aegis of the Paris Pact initiative are aimed at the strengthening of international and regional cooperation with the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan to support its sustained efforts, including on a national level, to address illicit traffic in opiates, recognizing the threat they pose to international peace and stability in different regions of the world and the important role played by UNODC in these efforts.
5. The Third Ministerial Conference of the Paris Pact Partners was held in accordance with decisions taken at the first (Paris, 21-22 May 2003) and second (Moscow, 26-28 June 2006) Conferences, where Foreign Ministers of 55 States and heads of 23 international organizations spoke in favour of holding such ministerial meetings on a regular basis.
6. The goal of this Ministerial Conference was to reaffirm the commitments of members of the international community towards the fight against illicit traffic in opiates, to strengthen cooperation between Paris Pact partners and to urge them to achieve substantial practical results in reducing illicit opiates trafficked from Afghanistan.

* The Vienna Declaration is reproduced in the form in which it was received.

7. Paris Pact partners took into account commitments by participants in the Istanbul Process on Regional Security and Cooperation for a Secure and Stable Afghanistan adopted at the Istanbul Conference for Afghanistan on 2 November 2011, and in the International Afghanistan Conference in Bonn, Germany, on 5 December 2011, which, inter alia, aimed at strengthening cooperation with the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and the States in the broader region to counter the threat posed by the illicit production, trafficking, and illicit consumption of drugs. In accordance with the principle of common and shared responsibility, Paris Pact partners took note that confidence-building measures addressing the illicit traffic in opiates using a comprehensive approach could be helpful.

8. Ministerial Conference participants discussed four main areas in which Paris Pact partners agreed cooperation should be strengthened: regional initiatives; financial flows linked to illicit traffic in opiates; preventing the diversion of precursor chemicals; and reducing drug abuse and dependence.

I. Strengthening and implementing regional initiatives to combat illicit traffic in opiates originating in Afghanistan

Reducing illicit traffic in opiates will contribute to enhanced international peace and stability as well as to solving problems of economic, social and humanitarian character related to the world drug problem. Efforts should focus on the following key areas:

1. Strengthening the capacity of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan in combating illicit opium poppy cultivation and illicit opiates production, including through law enforcement and socio-economic measures, such as alternative livelihoods, and in fighting trafficking as a contribution to international endeavours to improve stability in the region and beyond and tackle terrorism, organized crime and corruption;
2. Continuing to assist the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan as necessary in implementing its national Drug Control Strategy, aimed at eliminating, significantly and measurably, the illicit traffic in opiates, including through increased support for relevant Afghan institutions;
3. Providing urgent and appropriate technical assistance and support to the most affected transit States, based on the principle of common and shared responsibility, in order to promote the capacities of such States to counter the flow of illicit drugs;
4. Taking measures to stem the illicit traffic in opiates and to stop the diversion of precursor chemicals used for the illicit manufacturing of heroin and other opiates between Afghanistan, Paris Pact partners and other countries in the region and beyond, and to eliminate illicit heroin production facilities and their spread;
5. Providing further training to assist the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and other relevant Paris Pact partners to effectively implement the applicable international conventions including through relevant programmes and projects;
6. Facilitating cross-border operations between law enforcement agencies, including the planning of joint operations and in this respect appreciating joint operations by the members of the Triangular Initiative and supporting coordination of border management activities in the region, including the coordination of donor assistance to the region's border management programmes;

7. Supporting the United Nations, in particular UNODC, in its efforts to coordinate effective and result-oriented assistance to the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and neighbouring countries in countering illicit traffic in opiates, including through the UNODC Regional Programme for Afghanistan and Neighbouring Countries;

8. Commending the work of UNODC to collect and analyse data on illicit traffic in opiates and trends regarding the global Afghan opiate trade, encouraging the utilization of such analyses, as appropriate, while formulating and implementing regional and country programmes to support and assist States affected by opiates originating in Afghanistan, and encouraging Paris Pact partners to collect and share relevant data with UNODC;

9. Elaborating and implementing comprehensive regional programmes, to effectively counteract the challenges and threat of illicit traffic in opiates, in particular, the UNODC Regional Programme for Afghanistan and Neighbouring Countries, including:

(a) Supporting transregional cooperation;

(b) Enhancing counter-drug and related anti-crime cooperation and coordination efforts among regional and international organizations, including through controlled deliveries and joint operations, to interdict illegal shipments of opiates and precursors, such as the law enforcement operation Channel, the operations TARCET and TOPAZ and the operations conducted in the framework of the Triangular Initiative;

(c) Encouraging and supporting Paris Pact partners to coordinate initiatives to promote health and welfare of human beings, social and economic development, including trade capacity-building and job creation, crop substitution and alternative development programmes in Afghanistan in collaboration with the international organizations concerned.

II. Detecting and blocking financial flows linked to illicit traffic in opiates

Developing practical cooperation with due regard to the UNODC mandate in these areas to undermine organized crime networks involved in illicit traffic in opiates, including:

1. Enhancing the exchange of information on financial flows, linked to illicit traffic in opiates, including bank deposits, investments and property, using the existing mechanisms to the fullest extent possible;

2. Providing effective mutual legal assistance in a timely manner to tackle illicit financial flows in compliance with the 1988 United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, the 2000 United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, and the 2003 United Nations Convention against Corruption;

3. Providing support in developing national legislation, expertise, enforcement and administrative procedures consistent with established international standards to combat money-laundering and to train personnel in relevant fields;

4. Exchanging best practices in detection and suppression of financial flows linked to illicit traffic in opiates, including by inviting Paris Pact partners to continue and enhance cooperation with the private sector as appropriate;
5. Encouraging studies by relevant international and regional organizations and mechanisms in cooperation with UNODC, to determine the most effective ways and means to detect and block financial flows linked to the illicit traffic in opiates;
6. Encouraging UNODC, with due regard to its mandate, to consult with the Paris Pact partners, and while respecting national legislation, to explore with relevant international financial institutions the feasibility of new and innovative approaches to financing the prevention and the fight against illicit traffic in opiates, including consideration of whether and how confiscated proceeds of crime might be further mobilized.

III. Preventing the diversion of precursor chemicals used in illicit opiates manufacturing in Afghanistan

Prevention of supply of precursor chemicals to Afghanistan is a way to stop the illicit manufacturing of and traffic in opiates and a critical element of combating illicit opiate flows, noting that the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan has declared it has no licit domestic need for the precursor chemical acetic anhydride. To this end, Paris Pact partners should enhance cooperation in the following areas:

1. Exchanging data on suspicious transactions involving precursor chemicals among law enforcement and customs authorities, particularly through efforts to prevent diversion of legal dual-use chemicals, such as acetic anhydride, paying regard, as appropriate, to existing initiatives such as joint initiatives of UNODC, the World Customs Organization (WCO), the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL), the Container Control Programme and Programme Global Shield;
2. Strengthening the capacity of law enforcement and customs authorities in Afghanistan and its neighbouring countries, including by training their specialists in special investigative techniques, such as controlled deliveries, related to the diversion of precursor chemicals;
3. Assisting concerned Paris Pact partners in preventing and detecting illicit operations involving precursor chemicals as requested;
4. Providing forensic support to criminal justice entities of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and Paris Pact partners concerned when investigating crimes linked to the diversion of and illicit traffic in precursor chemicals;
5. Building capacities and exchanging best practices on the methodology for investigating cases of illicit diversion and traffic in precursor chemicals in order to detect and dismantle organized crime networks involved in illicit traffic in opiates;
6. Reinvigorating international and regional initiatives to combat the flow of precursor chemicals, including by cooperation with the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB);
7. Encouraging Operation TARCET to set specific objectives to allow measurable outcomes in the light of latest findings on emerging trends;

8. Involving countries in the above-mentioned activities, together with INCB and in accordance with the three drug control conventions and the principle of common and shared responsibility, including, as appropriate, countries which are not Paris Pact partners, in particular those where chemicals used in illicit production of heroin and other opiates are manufactured;
9. Urging Paris Pact partners that have not yet requested pre-export notification for shipments of precursor chemicals in accordance with article 12 of the 1988 United Nations Convention and relevant United Nations resolutions, to do so and report it to INCB and encourages all countries where precursor chemicals are produced to cooperate closely with the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and its neighbouring countries to continue the tracking of shipments of precursor chemicals and to prevent their diversion into illicit networks.
10. Enhancing public/private partnerships to detect and prevent the illicit export and diversion of precursor chemicals used in manufacturing heroin and other illicit opiates to Afghanistan in line with the INCB Guidelines for a voluntary code of practice for the chemical industry.

IV. Reducing drug abuse and dependence through a comprehensive approach

Drug demand reduction policy is aimed at ensuring effective measures based on scientific evidence, including prevention, education, treatment, care and related support services, rehabilitation and social reintegration aimed at promoting health and social well-being among individuals, families and communities. Such measures remain essential to decreasing both the abuse of drugs including opiates, as well as the number of drug addicts. To this end and keeping in mind that the health and welfare of humankind are of utmost concern within the international drug control system, it is necessary to intensify cooperation in the following areas and ways:

1. Ensuring that drug demand reduction policies are balanced and comprehensive and in full compliance with the three international drug control conventions, as well as fundamental human rights and freedoms, and based on scientific evidence;
2. Stressing an effective, balanced and comprehensive approach to reducing demand for and supply of illicit drugs;
3. Promoting short-term, mid-term and long-term planning and implementation of drug demand reduction programmes and measures, including those aimed at reducing the spread of blood-borne diseases, in particular HIV/AIDS;
4. Promoting collaboration among governments and civil society including non-governmental organizations and the private sector on drug demand reduction measures;
5. Engaging civil society and mass media, including to discourage the abuse of opiates;
6. Elaborating targeted drug addiction prevention, treatment, care, rehabilitation and reintegration programmes on this basis in families and households, schools and other educational institutions, health and social service settings, workplaces and prisons, including for groups most at risk, including through the use of media;

7. Improving specialized training systems for drug treatment professionals with regard to the abuse of opiates in all Paris Pact partners, particularly the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan.

Annex

The following organizations and stakeholders, which contribute to achieving the goals of the Paris Pact initiative, were invited to the Third Ministerial Conference:

1. Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)
2. Central Asian Regional Information and Coordination Centre (CARICC)
3. Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO)
4. Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS)
5. Council of Europe
6. Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO)
7. Eurasian Group on Combating Money-Laundering and the Financing of Terrorism (EAG)
8. European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA)
9. European Police Office (Europol)
10. European Union
11. Financial Action Task Force on Money Laundering (FATF)
12. Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
13. International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL)
14. International Narcotics Control Board (INCB)
15. Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS)
16. North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)
17. Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE)
18. Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO)
19. Southeast European Law Enforcement Centre (SELEC)
20. United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
21. United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)
22. United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK)
23. World Bank
24. World Customs Organization (WCO)
25. World Health Organization (WHO)