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Addendum

Round-table discussions

1. On 12 March, the Commission considered agenda item 5, “Round-table discussions”, comprising the following topics:

(a) Counter-narcotics efforts and the principle of common and shared responsibility: opportunities and challenges;

(b) Measures to prevent diversion of substances frequently used in the manufacture of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances from domestic distribution channels, including by strengthening partnerships with the private sector.

2. The Commission had before it a note by the Secretariat on the organization of the round-table discussions at the fifty-fourth and fifty-fifth sessions (E/CN.7/2011/8).

Round table on counter-narcotics efforts and the principle of common and shared responsibility: opportunities and challenges

3. The round table on the topic “Counter-narcotics efforts and the principle of common and shared responsibility: opportunities and challenges” was chaired by Khamkheuang Bounteum, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Lao People’s Democratic Republic to the United Nations (Vienna).

4. The Chair summarized the salient points of the round-table discussion as follows:

(a) Member States reiterated that the world drug problem remained a common and shared responsibility that required effective and increased international



cooperation. There was a need for a balanced and holistic approach to combating the world drug problem through national, regional and multilateral efforts, while maintaining respect for differences in the policies, ideologies and situations of countries;

(b) Member States mentioned that they should continue to assess the implementation of the commitments adopted in the Political Declaration and Plan of Action in order to enhance progress towards effectively addressing the challenges posed by the world drug problem in the coming years, with the full assistance of relevant international agencies and in cooperation with civil society, including non-governmental organizations, and the private sector;

(c) Participants emphasized that the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime should continue facilitating international cooperation to reduce the illicit demand for, illicit supply of and trafficking in drugs and to promote technical assistance projects aimed at addressing the world drug problem more effectively;

(d) Speakers highlighted that an operational definition of the principle of common and shared responsibility was lacking, as was a definition of the extent of each country's responsibilities and commitments in the fight against illicit drugs, and more work was needed in order to clarify the concept of common and shared responsibility. It was recognized, however, that under that principle, the distinction between producer, consumer and transit countries was no longer valid;

(e) Since the main objective of transnational organized crime was to make economic profits, steps had to be taken to focus the fight against illicit drugs on controlling the proceeds of crime, including efforts to control money-laundering. It was pointed out that seized assets could be reinvested in measures to reduce demand for illicit drugs;

(f) Participants stated that it was necessary to take concrete steps to eliminate opium poppy cultivation in Afghanistan and to set out criteria for alternative development, as well as to explore more ways of enhancing alternative development in that region and other regions and sharing experiences of successful models of alternative development;

(g) Participants mentioned that Africa bore the brunt of illicit drug trafficking and consumption, in addition to other threats such as terrorism and money-laundering. There was a lack of capacity on the part of African States to deal with the drug problem, and therefore it was important for those States to receive technical assistance in the law enforcement and justice sectors and in demand reduction;

(h) Member States should strengthen the exchange of information and best practices at the bilateral, regional and international levels and strengthen joint operations and coordination, including in the area of preventive measures, and should support the use of intelligence-led law enforcement;

(i) Member States pointed out that supply reduction needed to be at the forefront, as demand reduction alone would not solve the drug problem. However, prevention, early intervention, treatment of drug abuse, and rehabilitation and reintegration of drug users were a fundamental part of drug policies;

(j) New challenges included the “northern route” and West Africa, which were increasingly being used for drug trafficking, especially in heroin and cocaine. Opiates were identified as the biggest problem, but it was also recognized that so-called designer drugs and “legal highs” were an increasing problem.

Round table on measures to prevent diversion of substances frequently used in the manufacture of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances from domestic distribution channels, including by strengthening partnerships with the private sector

5. The round table on the topic “Measures to prevent diversion of substances frequently used in the manufacture of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances from domestic distribution channels, including by strengthening partnerships with the private sector”, was chaired by Igor Voblikov, Counsellor of the Embassy of the Russian Federation and official representative of the Federal Drug Control Service of the Russian Federation in Austria.

6. The Chair summarized the salient points of the round-table discussion as follows:

(a) Participants emphasized that vigilance to prevent the diversion of precursor chemicals to the manufacture of heroin, cocaine and amphetamine-type stimulants remained a priority of Member States;

(b) The diversion of acetic anhydride to the manufacture of heroin in Afghanistan remained of great concern, and regional cooperation efforts were encouraged to intercept and prevent that precursor from entering Afghanistan;

(c) Concern was expressed about the global increase in the manufacture of amphetamine-type stimulants. International cooperative efforts through the International Narcotics Control Board-coordinated projects Prism and Cohesion were recognized for their successes, as were the regional initiatives in which Member States cooperated against the diversion of precursor chemicals, such as Operation Canal and Targeted Anti-trafficking Regional Communication, Expertise and Training (Tarcet);

(d) The Pre-Export Notification Online (PEN Online) system, managed by the International Narcotics Control Board, was regarded as an effective tool to prevent and identify attempts to divert precursor chemicals, and Member States were encouraged to use it;

(e) There was a call for Member States to review their chemical-control legislation to ensure that it met their needs to prevent diversion. It was observed that differing legislation applied by States and the different application of controls over specific chemicals at times caused difficulties in enforcement;

(f) Governments were encouraged to undertake an accurate assessment of their national needs for licit chemicals and pharmaceutical preparations so as to better identify attempts to divert them;

(g) The international monitoring of the 23 controlled precursor chemicals had revealed growth in the use of substitute substances to produce illicit drugs. In response, Governments were encouraged to introduce closed systems for monitoring

the licit chemical industry, such as the introduction of licensing for those handling controlled substances;

(h) There was recognition that a number of Member States needed international support, owing to resource difficulties that precluded their effective monitoring of precursor chemicals and action against diversion attempts;

(i) Participants agreed that the private sector was a key partner in applying effective controls over precursor chemicals and should be included in national strategies to address diversion. Member States were encouraged to support collaboration at the national level between the public and private sector players that had a legitimate role in the chemical and pharmaceutical industry.
