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Item 5 (a) of the provisional agenda*

Illicit drug traffic and supply: world situation with regard to drug trafficking and action taken by subsidiary bodies of the Commission

Mexico: draft resolution

Links between drug trafficking and the illicit manufacture of and trafficking in firearms and ammunition

The Commission on Narcotic Drugs,

Recalling the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988,¹ in the preamble of which the parties to the Convention recognized the importance of strengthening and enhancing effective legal means for international cooperation in criminal matters for suppressing the international criminal activities of illicit traffic,

Recalling also the Political Declaration and Global Programme of Action adopted by the General Assembly at its seventeenth special session, devoted to the question of international cooperation against illicit production, supply, demand, trafficking and distribution of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances,² in particular paragraph 87 of the Global Programme of Action, in which it is stated that effective measures should be taken to prevent illicit and covert transfers of arms and explosives and their diversion to illicit drug traffic-related activities,

Recalling further General Assembly resolution 50/148 of 21 December 1995, in section IV of which the Assembly stressed that, when discussing the proposal to convene an international conference to combat the illicit production, sale, demand, traffic and distribution of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances and related activities, the Commission on Narcotic Drugs at its thirty-ninth session should take into account that the proposed conference should focus, with a balanced and integral

* E/CN.7/2008/1.

¹ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1582, No. 27627.

² General Assembly resolution S-17/2, annex.



approach, inter alia, on the assessment of existing strategies, as well as on the consideration of new strategies, methods, practical measures and concrete actions to strengthen international cooperation to address the problem of illicit drugs, including the fight against criminal organizations and illicit arms trade related to drug trafficking,

Recalling further the Political Declaration adopted by the General Assembly at its twentieth special session,³ in particular paragraph 11 of the Political Declaration, in which Member States expressed their concern over the growing violence resulting from links between illicit production of and illicit trafficking in arms and drugs and resolved to increase their cooperation in stemming illegal arms trafficking and to achieve concrete results in that field through appropriate measures,

Taking into account the terms of reference of the Commission of Narcotic Drugs,⁴ in which the Economic and Social Council considered that, in its future activities the Commission should apply an integral and balanced approach to the drug problem, taking into account all its aspects, and called upon the Commission to review the implementation of the Global Programme of Action adopted by the General Assembly at its seventeenth special session,

Bearing in mind the international and regional instruments adopted to prevent and fight arms trafficking, such as the Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Their Parts and Components and Ammunition, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime,⁵

Considering the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects,⁶ adopted by the United Nations Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, held in New York from 9 to 20 July 2001,

Recognizing the principle of shared responsibility as well as the necessity of having an integrated and balanced approach in the fight against the world drug problem,

Concerned by the fact that States that are used by criminal organizations as transit States for illicit drug trafficking are faced with increasing levels of violence as a result of, in particular, the availability of illicitly manufactured or trafficked firearms and ammunition,

Concerned about the violence generated by criminal organizations involved in drug trafficking that struggle for the control of the illicit drug trafficking routes and about the violence resulting from those organizations fighting with law enforcement agencies,

Notes with concern that criminal organizations involved in drug trafficking use arms as payment in kind for the distribution of illicit drugs,

³ General Assembly resolution S-20/2, annex.

⁴ Economic and Social Council resolution 1991/38.

⁵ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2326, No. 39574.

⁶ *Report of the United Nations Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, New York, 9-20 July 2001* (A/CONF.192/15), chap. IV, para. 24.

Bearing in mind that stopping the flow of arms between the criminal organizations involved in such barter trade is crucial to limiting the violence that has claimed so many lives,

Recognizing that profits to be gained in smuggling weapons are comparable to the profits to be gained in illicit drug trafficking, allowing criminal groups to have sufficient financial resources to sustain their criminal networks, to find new ways to break the law and to acquire sophisticated arms, similar to those used by national security forces,

1. *Recognizes* the increasing links between drug trafficking and the illicit manufacturing of and trafficking in firearms, and stresses the need to reduce the illicit manufacturing of and trafficking in firearms as an essential part of efforts to reduce the illicit drug supply;

2. *Calls upon* Member States to take adequate measures to prevent the acquisition and use of firearms and ammunition by criminal organizations involved in drug trafficking, including measures such as updating tracing systems and national requirements for the possession, transportation, commercialization, fabrication, import and export of firearms, ammunition and related material;

3. *Underlines* the need for cooperation among Member States in reinforcing border control with a view to preventing drug trafficking and the smuggling of firearms and ammunition;

4. *Encourages* Member States to ensure that their authorities responsible for dealing with drug-related offences receive adequate resources, training and information to enable them to prevent, detect and investigate the illicit manufacturing of and trafficking in firearms and to identify and dismantle the existing networks and disrupt the existing links of criminal organizations involved in drug trafficking and the illicit manufacturing of and trafficking in firearms;

5. *Calls upon* Member States with experience in countering the illicit manufacturing of and trafficking in firearms to promote cooperation and training, as well as the exchange of experiences and best practices, in order to increase the capacity of States to fight the illicit manufacturing of and trafficking in firearms, especially when those activities are linked with drug-related offences;

6. *Also calls upon* Member States to exchange information and provide judicial cooperation in order to identify and investigate possible links between activities of drug trafficking and those related to the illicit manufacturing of and trafficking in firearms and ammunition;

7. *Requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to include in its *World Drug Report* a special section on the existing relation between drug trafficking and the illicit manufacturing of and trafficking in firearms and ammunition;

8. *Also requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to design technical assistance programmes addressing the links between drug trafficking and the illicit manufacturing of and trafficking in firearms and ammunition.