



# Economic and Social Council

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## Commission on Narcotic Drugs

### Fifty-second session

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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 years 2003 and 2008 set out in the Political Declaration adopted by the Assembly at its twentieth special session**

1. At its 9th meeting, on 18 March 2009, the Commission considered agenda item 4, "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. Statements were made by the representatives of the Republic of Moldova, Japan, the Russian Federation, the Republic of Korea, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Saudi Arabia, China and the United Arab Emirates.
3. The observers for the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and Human Rights Watch also made statements.
4. Several speakers noted that, although significant progress had been made since 1998, much remained to be done in implementing the goals and targets set out in the Political Declaration adopted by the General Assembly at its twentieth special session (Assembly resolution S-20/2, annex) and the measures to enhance international cooperation to counter the world drug problem (Assembly resolutions S-20/4 A to E).
5. 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, adopted at the high-level segment of the fifty-second session of the Commission. It was observed that those documents had maintained an integrated and balanced approach to drug supply and demand reduction.

6. Speakers referred to the emergence of new trends in the manufacture of synthetic drugs, including an increase in the manufacture in Asia of substances known as “piperazines”. One speaker drew attention to the use being made of latest-generation technologies to cultivate cannabis plant rich in tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) and to the spread of THC-rich cannabis seeds, urging Member States and international organizations to improve cooperation in preventing the movement of such seeds. A number of speakers noted the need to improve data collection and research.

7. Speakers expressed concern regarding the spread of HIV/AIDS and its link to illicit drug use, emphasizing that drug demand reduction measures were an essential part of drug control policy and that such measures should be based on scientific evidence. A number of speakers indicated that their Governments had been implementing treatment, rehabilitation and social reintegration programmes, in some cases as alternatives to prosecution. Special mention was made of the role of communities in drug demand reduction efforts and of the importance of avoiding the stigmatization of those using illicit drugs.

8. Member States were urged to increase the control of precursor chemicals, including of intermediate substances, to prevent the diversion of such chemicals and to establish an international monitoring support system to gather information on the flows of synthesized intermediates. Several speakers noted the importance of conducting controlled deliveries, while some indicated their support for the global Synthetics Monitoring: Analysis, Report and Trends (SMART) programme, launched by UNODC in 2008.

9. Noting the commitment and political will of the Government of Afghanistan, one speaker called on the international community to increase assistance to that State. Several speakers emphasized that cooperation at the local, bilateral, subregional, regional and international levels, the exchange of information and cooperation between the public and private sectors should be strengthened continuously in order to address the complex threats posed by the world drug problem and to achieve more tangible results.

10. Several speakers reported on changes made to their national drug control legislation to bring it in line with the international drug control conventions. Several speakers highlighted the importance of providing training to health, law enforcement and other relevant personnel to tackle the drug situation effectively.

11. A number of speakers referred to regional initiatives and related activities, including those of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, the Shanghai Cooperation Organization and GUAM. Several Member States expressed appreciation for the assistance provided by UNODC, INCB and other international bodies, and called on them to cooperate closely in the area of health-related drug policy. It was noted that drug control efforts could contribute to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (A/56/326, annex).