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Item 6 (b) of the provisional agenda\*

**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\*\*****Report of the Executive Director***Summary*

The present report describes steps taken by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) to implement Commission on Narcotic Drugs resolution 54/7, on the Paris Pact initiative, in which the Commission welcomed the decision taken by the reconvened meeting of the Paris Pact Policy Consultative Group held in Vienna on 17 March 2011 to convene in Vienna in the second half of 2011, in continuation of the Paris Pact initiative, an international conference at the ministerial level, and requested the Executive Director of UNODC to facilitate the organization and holding of the international conference and to report thereon to the Commission at its fifty-fifth session.

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 and attended by the Secretary-General, resulted in the adoption of the Vienna Declaration (E/CN.7/2012/17).

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\* E/CN.7/2012/1.

\*\* The present report reflects 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.



## **I. Background**

1. The Paris Pact initiative was launched at the Conference on Drug Routes from Central Asia to Europe held in Paris on 21 and 22 May 2003, hosted by the Government of France. At the Conference, more than 55 countries and international organizations affirmed the principle of shared responsibility in the fight against trafficking in opiates from Afghanistan. Through the Paris Statement (S/2003/641, annex), issued at the end of the Conference and which created the Paris Pact, Ministers agreed, inter alia, to combine their countries' efforts to step up national capabilities, develop regional partnerships and hence tackle all the aspects of the problem posed by the traffic of opium and heroin produced in Afghanistan, underlining that such action was an international security imperative.

2. At the Second Ministerial Conference on Drug Trafficking Routes from Afghanistan, organized by the Government of the Russian Federation, participants expressed support for the continuation, further enhancement and broadening of the scope of the Paris Pact initiative. In particular, there has since been a shift in the focus of the Paris Pact initiative, from sharing policies and information to a more action-oriented, coordinated approach.

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

3. The project of convening a third Ministerial conference was led by the Government of the Russian Federation with the support of the Government of France and was decided by all Paris Pact partners at the reconvened meeting of the Paris Pact Policy Consultative Group held in Vienna on 17 March 2011. In its resolution 54/7, the Commission on Narcotic Drugs welcomed that decision, and requested the Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources, to facilitate the organization and holding of the international conference and to report thereon to the Commission at its fifty-fifth session. UNODC, which has been traditionally involved in supporting the Paris Pact initiative, accordingly provided support for the Conference.

4. The Third Ministerial Conference of the Paris Pact Partners on Combating Illicit Traffic in Opiates Originating in Afghanistan had originally been scheduled to take place on 8 December 2011, as agreed by Paris Pact partners. However, the Conference was rescheduled for 16 February 2012 in view of the fact that another high-level meeting requiring the presence of Ministers for Foreign Affairs would also take place in December 2011.

5. The Government of Austria provided the facilities of the Hofburg for the holding of the Conference, an arrangement that fell under the host country agreement between the United Nations and the Government of Austria. The Government of the Russian Federation provided an earmarked contribution for the holding of the Third Ministerial Conference.

6. At the meeting of the Paris Pact Policy Consultative Group on 7 and 8 December 2011, Paris Pact partners agreed that informal consultations be held in January and February 2012 under the coordination of Norway, with the purpose of finalizing the text of the draft outcome document (the Vienna Declaration).

7. At the reconvened meeting of the Paris Pact Policy Consultative Group on 9 February 2012, Paris Pact partners agreed on the text of the Vienna Declaration and submitted it to the Ministerial Conference for adoption. Support for the holding of the reconvened meeting, including interpretation services, was provided by the Russian Federation.

### **III. Outcome of the Conference**

8. The Third Ministerial Conference of the Paris Pact Partners on Combating Illicit Traffic in Opiates Originating in Afghanistan was attended by 500 participants from 58 countries, including 12 Ministers and 16 organizations, as well as by the Secretary-General.

9. The statements made by Ministers and other heads of delegation focused on the 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.

10. On 16 February 2012, at the closing session, Ministers and other heads of delegation at the Ministerial Conference adopted the Vienna Declaration, which is transmitted to the Commission for its attention in document E/CN.7/2012/17.