

**Economic and Social Council**Distr.: General
11 February 2013

Original: English

Commission on Narcotic Drugs**Fifty-sixth session**

Vienna, 11-15 March 2013

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**Follow-up to the Third Ministerial Conference of the Paris Pact Partners on Combating Illicit Traffic in Opiates Originating in Afghanistan****Report of the Executive Director***Summary*

The present report describes steps taken by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to implement Commission on Narcotic Drugs resolution 55/11, on follow-up to the Third Ministerial Conference of the Paris Pact Partners on Combating Illicit Traffic in Opiates Originating in Afghanistan, in which the Commission, welcoming the Paris Pact initiative as one of the most important frameworks in the fight against opiates originating in Afghanistan, called upon Member States, in cooperation with UNODC and other organizations, to promote the full implementation of the Vienna Declaration adopted in February 2012 by the Third Ministerial Conference of the Paris Pact Partners on Combating Illicit Traffic in Opiates Originating in Afghanistan. The Commission requested the Executive Director of UNODC to report to the Commission at its fifty-sixth session on the measures taken and progress achieved in the implementation of that resolution. As decided by Paris Pact partners, the Paris Pact initiative will use the Vienna Declaration as the framework for all future interventions within the four agreed-upon areas for enhanced cooperation.

* E/CN.7/2013/1.



I. Background

1. The Third Ministerial Conference of the Paris Pact Partners on Combating Illicit Traffic in Opiates Originating in Afghanistan, facilitated by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) in cooperation with the Governments of Austria, France and the Russian Federation, was held in Vienna on 16 February 2012. Ministers and other heads of delegation adopted the Vienna Declaration (see E/CN.7/2012/17), a statement of international commitment to act in a balanced and comprehensive manner against the global menace of opiates originating in Afghanistan, taking into account the goals and objectives of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem. The 500 Conference participants prioritized four main areas detailed in the Vienna Declaration for enhanced cooperation: regional initiatives; financial flows linked to illicit traffic in opiates; preventing the diversion of precursor chemicals; and reducing drug abuse and dependence. The Third Ministerial Conference signified an important landmark for the Paris Pact, as partners reaffirmed their common and shared responsibility for combating opiates. The Vienna Declaration serves as a blueprint for the activities of Paris Pact partners in recognition of the pivotal role of counter-narcotics efforts in building security, democracy and prosperity in Afghanistan. A particularly challenging period lies ahead in the light of evolving international political agendas and the multifaceted transition planned in Afghanistan in 2014.

II. Fifty-fifth session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs

2. As an immediate follow-up to the Third Ministerial Conference, the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, at its fifty-fifth session, in March 2012, adopted resolution 55/11, in which it called upon Member States, in cooperation with UNODC, the International Narcotics Control Board and other competent international organizations, to promote the full implementation of the Vienna Declaration adopted at the Conference.

3. The Commission on Narcotic Drugs took note with appreciation of the initiative of the Executive Director of UNODC to prepare a compendium of concrete ideas and proposals aimed at strengthening the Paris Pact initiative and implementing the Vienna Declaration, as expressed by Paris Pact partners at the Conference, which may be used by UNODC in its programme activities in consultation with Member States.

III. Status of implementation of Commission resolution 55/11

4. UNODC and Paris Pact partners recognize the challenging circumstances and period ahead for all stakeholders tackling the global menace of opiates originating in Afghanistan. In recognition of the need to strengthen coordination between them, Paris Pact partners have undertaken numerous efforts to streamline the Paris Pact framework towards operationalizing the Vienna Declaration. The first major step took place at the reconvened meeting of the Paris Pact Policy Consultative Group on 3 September 2012, at which Paris Pact partners adopted the Vienna Declaration as a

road map to guide such efforts during the planned three-year fourth phase of the Paris Pact initiative, with the coordination and technical assistance support of UNODC.

5. At the reconvened meeting of the Paris Pact Policy Consultative Group on 3 September 2012, partners endorsed the findings and recommendations of the independent evaluation of the third phase of the Paris Pact initiative, which confirmed the importance of the unique mechanism provided by the UNODC-supported initiative, and agreed to extend the current third phase of the initiative from May 2012 to May 2013, based on the evaluation outcomes.

6. The decision of Paris Pact partners to extend the third phase of the initiative to May 2013 allows for the implementation of four expert working groups that mirror the four pillars for enhanced cooperation outlined in the Vienna Declaration.

7. The first meeting of the expert working group devoted exclusively to drug abuse prevention and reduction was organized and hosted by UNODC on 4 and 5 October 2012 in Vienna. The meeting reviewed and discussed drug prevention interventions and policies. A set of recommendations was compiled by UNODC to be endorsed by the Policy Consultative Group at its meeting on 6 and 7 March 2013, to guide the partnership's implementation of the pillar of the Vienna Declaration on reducing drug abuse and dependence.

8. At the time of writing of the present report, the three law-enforcement-themed expert working groups are scheduled to be hosted by the European Police Office (Europol) in The Hague, with the support of UNODC. The expert working groups will review the status of implementation of Paris Pact expert working group recommendations instituted at previous meetings held on these topics and identify priority activities for future partnership interventions towards the implementation of the Vienna Declaration framework.

9. The expert working group on precursors is scheduled to meet on 11 February 2013. Discussions will revolve around updates on the latest trends, routes and techniques used to smuggle precursor chemicals destined for use in illicit heroin production and on the regional intelligence working group on precursors and other international investigations into trafficking in precursors.

10. The expert working group on cross-border cooperation and legal frameworks is scheduled to meet on 12 February 2013. Discussions will focus on the sharing of information and forensic intelligence, integrated law enforcement interdiction strategies and legal cooperation.

11. The expert working group on detecting and blocking illicit financial flows linked to traffic in opiates is scheduled to meet on 13 February 2013. Discussions will centre on alternative remittance systems, a network for asset forfeiture practitioners, practical measures to identify, prevent and interdict the illicit cross-border movement of cash and the establishment of a road map for combating illicit financial flows derived from Afghan opiates.

IV. Future steps for the Paris Pact initiative

12. The launch of the fourth phase of the Paris Pact initiative will coincide with the tenth anniversary of the Ministerial Conference on Drug Routes from Central Asia to Europe, held in Paris on 21 and 22 May 2003, which marked the starting point of the Paris Pact initiative. The project document for the fourth phase of the Paris Pact initiative is currently being developed by UNODC and will be presented at the Policy Consultative Group meeting on 6 and 7 March 2013 for endorsement. The fourth phase of the initiative will emphasize the Paris Pact partnership as a multilayered initiative that assists in defining policy and translating it into action, with the objective of demonstrating the results of heightened collaboration among partners on the four priority areas for intervention of the Vienna Declaration.

13. In full agreement with Paris Pact partners, it is envisaged that UNODC will provide follow-up in support of the implementation of the expert recommendations to strengthen reporting on progress made on the implementation of the Vienna Declaration, as noted by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs in its resolution 55/11.

14. UNODC will continue to act in its capacity as a coordinator in support of the Paris Pact partners and the realization of its goals, as it has since the inception of the initiative. UNODC, through the Paris Pact Coordination Unit, will continue to support the Paris Pact partners and to facilitate consultations among partners at the expert and policy level while strengthening the follow-up of expert recommendations and activities in support of the Vienna Declaration. The development of a system and tools to gather, collate and analyse information on the four areas for enhanced cooperation outlined in the Vienna Declaration is envisaged. This is dependent on the free flow of information received from members of the partnership, including UNODC as an equal member of the partnership.

15. During the fourth phase of the Paris Pact initiative, UNODC will aim to ensure appropriate coordination among Paris Pact partners and all relevant interdivisional UNODC specialist sections and programmes, including the Organized Crime and Illicit Trafficking Branch (through the Implementation Support Section, the Global Programme against Money-Laundering, Proceeds of Crime and the Financing of Terrorism and the global Container Control Programme), the Drug Prevention and Health Branch (through the Prevention, Treatment and Rehabilitation Unit) and the Research and Trend Analysis Branch. Interregionally, the Paris Pact will also coordinate, in particular, with the regional programme for Afghanistan and neighbouring countries and the regional programme for South-Eastern Europe. This approach will maximize synergies, bolster the integrated nature of UNODC projects and avoid duplication of effort to allow for more equitable coverage and technical assistance in all four priority areas outlined in the Vienna Declaration.

V. Paris Pact compendium of proposals

16. As a follow-up to a proposal made by the Executive Director of UNODC at the Third Ministerial Conference of the Paris Pact Partners, UNODC compiled a first version of a compendium of proposals emanating from statements put forth by partners at the Third Ministerial Conference. This compendium has been

streamlined with the four priority areas for enhanced cooperation outlined in the Vienna Declaration.¹

17. The compendium was presented to the partnership by UNODC and can be considered as a complementary advocacy tool to assist joint efforts of the partnership and UNODC to implement the Vienna Declaration. In that spirit, a meeting with UNODC was initiated by the Federal Drug Control Service of the Russian Federation in late November 2012 to discuss the possibility of developing a joint project on an interactive map of Afghanistan, a proposal made by Sergey Lavrov, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation, at the Ministerial Conference.

¹ The compendium, as it was shared with Paris Pact partners on 4 May 2012, is attached as an annex to the present document.

Annex

Compendium of statements made in reference to the Vienna Declaration adopted by the Third Ministerial Conference of the Paris Pact Partners on Combating Illicit Traffic in Opiates Originating in Afghanistan

I. Introduction

1. The below compendium of statements made in reference to the Vienna Declaration adopted on 16 February 2012 by the Third Ministerial Conference of the Paris Pact Partners on Combating Illicit Traffic in Opiates Originating in Afghanistan emanated from statements put forth by partners at that Conference.

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

A. Pooling the efforts of various regional initiatives

2. “There are numerous mechanisms and regional initiatives on Afghanistan’s drug problem, including the Paris Pact initiative, cooperation initiatives within the framework of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), initiatives carried out by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and bilateral cooperation between various countries and Afghanistan. We should make efforts to strengthen the coordination and mutual support among the various mechanisms and initiatives so as to form a joint force.” (China/Economic Cooperation Organization)

3. “... establishing interaction and enhancing coordination of the United Nations with international organizations active in the region, such as SCO, the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO), the Eurasian Economic Community and the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), that have practical experience with regard to cooperation, including in counteracting criminal challenges.” (Russian Federation)

4. “... development of this cooperation [i.e. SCO, CSTO, the Eurasian Economic Community and CIS] is to be a priority in the implementation of the UNODC regional programme for Afghanistan and neighbouring countries launched in 2011. We really look forward to the interaction between CSTO and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), with a view to counteracting drug trafficking, which would be very useful.” (Russian Federation)

5. “My Government is exploring with other partners in the Central Asia region how we can better cooperate and coordinate law enforcement efforts. We want to build on existing institutions and facilitate sharing of law enforcement intelligence and sensitive operations.” (United States of America)

B. Deepening practical cooperation

6. “All parties should further tap the potential of cooperation and make efforts in areas such as establishing channels of cooperation among drug control law enforcement agencies, improving the efficiency of cooperation, advancing practical cooperation in terms of intelligence-sharing, border control, mutual legal assistance, management of precursor chemicals and reduction of drug demand, and continuing technical support to Afghanistan with a view to enhancing its drug control law enforcement capacity through the training of law enforcement officials.” (China)

7. “... enhanced border and customs control on the Paris Pact partners’ borders, including with the use of advanced technologies.” (Russian Federation)

8. “There is still room for further development of the operational aspect of the Paris Pact. We see this initiative as a provider of common ground among its partners, which would also serve as a partnership project to upgrade law enforcement cooperation to the highest level possible in a very difficult region. Intensified operational cooperation among law enforcement authorities, particularly at the regional level, is essential for success. This, in our view, is yet to be achieved and should therefore be one of the priorities of our future work.” (Turkey)

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

A. Specialized United Nations fund

9. “... establishment of a UNODC-sponsored specialized United Nations fund to be used for channelling confiscated proceeds from drug trafficking to United Nations programmes on combating organized crime, corruption and drugs in Afghanistan.” (Russian Federation)

B. Pool of specialized international structures

10. “... creating, within the framework of the Paris Pact and with the participation of all interested business communities, a pool of specialized international structures, coordinated by the United Nations, that would include UNODC, the Financial Action Task Force, the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL), the European Police Office (Europol), SCO, CIS and the Eurasian Group on Combating Money-Laundering and Financing of Terrorism.” (Russian Federation/China)

C. Research

11. “The issue of Afghan drug money should form the focus of global research on financial flows carried out by UNODC.” (Russian Federation)

D. Standing working groups

12. "... to further pursue the policy of institutionalizing the Paris Pact activities, [[we]] suggest creating a standing working group on financial flows." (Russian Federation)

IV. Preventing the diversion of precursor chemicals used in illicit opiate manufacturing in Afghanistan

A. Supply chains

13. "In our opinion, practical measures on closure of precursor supply chains to Afghanistan have been implemented insufficiently and inefficiently. We believe it is necessary to improve the operation on detection and closure of established channels of chemical smuggling to Afghanistan for drug production." (CSTO)

14. "As a producer of precursor chemicals in the region in general and acetic anhydride in particular, India requests the Paris Pact member States to work towards further strengthening of the security of the acetic anhydride international supply chain." (India)

B. Improved control through normative action

15. "The Board believes that a number of important normative activities could presently be undertaken that would significantly contribute to improving the drug control situation in the country. These include, for instance, improved control over the licit movement of internationally controlled substances, prevention of diversion and abuse of psychotropic substances and enhanced precursor control." (International Narcotics Control Board)

C. Collection and analysis of information

16. "The Board calls upon the Government of Afghanistan and the international community to take adequate measures to ensure the effective implementation of Security Council resolution 1817 (2008) on precursor control. More specifically, the Board strongly urges the international community to assist the Government of Afghanistan to continue to improve systems for the collection and analysis of information with regard to seized precursor chemicals, in order to facilitate the identification and interdiction of smuggled consignments. The Board also calls on all Governments and relevant regional and international entities operating in and around Afghanistan to share information through the established Project Cohesion mechanisms." (International Narcotics Control Board)

D. Public-private partnerships

17. "... launching, under the United Nations aegis, a project on strengthening public-private partnership aimed at preventing acetic anhydride diversion into illicit

traffic, with the “Guidelines for a Voluntary Code of Practice for the Chemical Industry”, adopted in 2009 by the International Narcotics Control Board, as a basis.” (Russian Federation)

E. Standing working groups

18. “... to further pursue the policy institutionalizing the Paris Pact activities, [[we]] suggest creating a standing working group on precursors.” (Russian Federation)

F. Marking acetic anhydride

19. “I would particularly like to say something about the need to tag acetic anhydride—that is, dye it a certain colour at the manufacturing plants. We put that suggestion forward as far back as at the anti-narcotics conference held within the framework of the Paris Pact at the United Nations Vienna office in 2005.” (Tajikistan)

V. Reducing drug abuse and dependence through a comprehensive approach

A. Exchange of experience

20. “The issues of drug use prevention and drug addicts’ rehabilitation have to be paid attention to as well. The practice shows the existence of the problems in this field, and many of them cannot be practically solved without cooperation with the other States and international structures. There is a need for exchange of experience, new high-efficiency treatment techniques and rehabilitation procedures. In our opinion, it would be reasonable to consider the issue on development and implementation of the dedicated international project on these topics.” (CSTO)

21. “The Paris Pact platform can and should be used for cooperation aimed at working out science-based strategies for drug addiction prevention and treatment.” (Russian Federation)

B. Drug demand reduction outside West and Central Asia

22. “... regarding the need for countries outside the Central Asia region to do more to reduce their drug demand, this involves working with social policies, legislation and stricter border controls and committing more resources to fighting the vice of narcotics. The measures should particularly target the young.” (Sweden)

C. Drug demand reduction within West and Central Asia

23. “We suggest conducting the joint activities on drug abuse prevention and healthy lifestyle promotion in the frontier regions of the Republic of Tajikistan and

the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, as well as of the Republic of Tajikistan and the Kyrgyz Republic, with the involvement of law enforcement agencies and famous people in the field of science and culture, sport, education, medicine and religion of our States.” (Tajikistan)

VI. Other areas

24. “...creation of the digital interactive map of drug crops in the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan”.

25. “...use of space systems, including the Global Navigation Satellite System (GLONASS), to combat illicit traffic of Afghan drugs and precursors”. (Russian Federation)
