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Draft report

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Addendum

Implementation of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem

1. At its 5th, 6th and 7th meetings, on 14 and 15 March, the Commission considered agenda item 6, which read as follows:

“Implementation of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem:

- “(a) Demand reduction and related measures;
- “(b) Supply reduction and related measures;
- “(c) Countering money-laundering and promoting judicial cooperation to enhance international cooperation.”

2. For its consideration of item 6, the Commission had before it the following:

- (a) Report of the Secretariat on the world situation with regard to drug abuse (E/CN.7/2013/2);
- (b) Report of the Executive Director on the activities of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (E/CN.7/2013/3-E/CN.15/2013/3);
- (c) Report of the Secretariat on the world situation with regard to drug trafficking (E/CN.7/2013/4);
- (d) Report of the Executive Director on the outcome of the high-level International Conference on Alternative Development (E/CN.7/2013/8);

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(e) Note by the Secretariat on promoting coordination and alignment of decisions between the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and the Programme Coordinating Board of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (E/CN.7/2013/9);

(f) Report of the Executive Director on follow-up to the Third Ministerial Conference of the Paris Pact Partners on Combating Illicit Traffic in Opiates Originating in Afghanistan (E/CN.7/2013/12);

(g) Background paper on international standards on drug use prevention (E/CN.7/2013/CRP.4);

3. The Chief of the Research and Trend Analysis Branch and the Chief of the Drug Prevention and Health Branch of UNODC made introductory statements. Statements were made by the observer for Ireland (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the European Union and Albania, Andorra, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Iceland, Montenegro, the Republic of Moldova, Serbia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey and Ukraine, as well as Liechtenstein and Norway), as well as by the representatives of Guatemala (on behalf of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States) the Republic of Korea, Israel, Italy, Thailand, France, India, Japan, Canada, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Algeria, Belarus, Brazil, Guatemala, the United States, Turkey and Egypt. Statements were also made by the observers for Ecuador, Tunisia, Kazakhstan, Portugal, South Africa, Nigeria, Lebanon, Norway, Switzerland, the Sudan, Burkina Faso, Finland, Indonesia, Argentina and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela. Statements were also made by the observers for the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD) of the Organization of American States, the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS, the Colombo Plan for Cooperative Economic and Social Development in Asia and the Pacific, Release Legal Emergency and Drugs Service and the Society Studies Centre.

Deliberations

1. Demand reduction and related measures

4. Many speakers reaffirmed the importance of evidence-based drug prevention in the context of a health-centred, comprehensive and balanced approach and welcomed the publication by UNODC of the *International Standards on Drug Use Prevention*.

5. The challenge posed by new psychoactive substances and other substances not under international control was emphasized, with some delegations reporting that their Governments had begun to place those substances under control at the domestic level.

6. Some speakers expressed concern regarding the lack of data and information on the results of demand reduction strategies, particularly in view of the high-level review of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem to be conducted in 2014, and called on Member States to strengthen their efforts in the collection, production and reporting of objective and reliable data. Speakers noted

the need for technical assistance, particularly for training, as well as resources, in order to be able to improve the collection and production of data.

7. Several speakers described national efforts for drug prevention and the treatment of drug dependence and noted that the delivery of services in that regard needed to be based on scientific evidence and to respect human rights. In that regard, the position paper entitled “UNODC and the promotion and protection of human rights” was welcomed. Furthermore, speakers emphasized the need for training of health practitioners and adequate resources to ensure the accessibility of treatment services. Some speakers also noted the important role that civil society, including non-governmental organizations, played in delivering demand reduction services. Several speakers stressed the need to intensify efforts in carrying out harm reduction strategies, in particular in view of the targets set by the General Assembly in the 2011 Political Declaration on HIV and AIDS: Intensifying Our Efforts to Eliminate HIV and AIDS.

2. Supply reduction and related measures

8. Several speakers reaffirmed their firm commitment to the goals and targets of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem, as well as to an integrated, multidisciplinary and balanced approach to tackling the world drug problem.

9. The outcome of the high-level International Conference on Alternative Development, including the Lima Declaration and the International Guiding Principles on Alternative Development, was welcomed, and speakers expressed their appreciation to the Governments of Peru and Thailand for their efforts.

10. Speakers reiterated the importance of the principle of common and shared responsibility and acknowledged that alternative development was a key element in reducing the supply of illicit drug crops. The need for alternative development, taking into account environmental protection, in particular in vulnerable areas, was highlighted. Speakers noted that sustainable alternative development programmes should be mainstreamed into a larger development agenda, with a view to addressing root causes, including poverty and the lack of opportunities.

11. A proposal to develop a special and voluntary marketing regime, under international trade rules, and with a view to developing a stamp for products stemming from alternative development, including preventive alternative development, was mentioned.

12. The essential role of bilateral and international cooperation, including South-South cooperation, and the exchange of information and best practices in the area of alternative development was also noted.

13. Speakers referred to the threat posed to national health and security by the illicit manufacture, trafficking and abuse of drugs. Reference was made to efforts to amend national legislation in order to more effectively prevent the manufacture of new psychotropic substances that were not currently under control. Precursor control was considered central to effective supply reduction strategies. The use of new communication technologies as a facilitator for the distribution of illicit drugs and new psychoactive substances was mentioned.

14. Several speakers noted that a multidisciplinary approach to dismantling organized criminal groups involved in drug trafficking was required. Inter-agency cooperation at all levels, the exchange of information, best practices and criminal intelligence, and cross-border coordination among authorities were identified as effective measures in countering drug trafficking.

15. One delegate, speaking on behalf of a regional group, expressed opposition to the use of the death penalty in all cases and under any circumstances.

16. Support was expressed for the work and programmes of UNODC, including the regional programme for Afghanistan and neighbouring countries for the period 2011-2014 and the global Synthetics Monitoring: Analysis, Reporting and Trends (SMART) programme, as well as for regional initiatives, such as the Paris Pact initiative.

3. Countering money-laundering and promoting judicial cooperation to enhance international cooperation

17. Speakers expressed their concern regarding the links between drug trafficking and other forms of transnational organized crime, including money-laundering. Efforts to tackle the financial structure of criminal organizations were considered crucial.

18. Some delegations noted that it was necessary to criminalize money-laundering and harmonize domestic laws with international standards. Several speakers also highlighted the importance of regulatory regimes to ensure that suspicious financial information was properly reported to authorities.

19. Several speakers underscored that effective regional and international cooperation was required, and some speakers noted the need for increased bilateral and multilateral efforts in judicial cooperation, including through mutual legal assistance, extradition and controlled deliveries.

20. Several speakers underlined the need for financial intelligence units to exchange information with their counterparts, as well as with other law enforcement agencies.

21. Many speakers emphasized that strong preventive and enforcement measures were crucial to countering money-laundering. Speakers stressed the need to establish mechanisms to identify, trace, investigate, freeze and confiscate assets derived from criminal activities. Delegations indicated that law enforcement agencies required further capacity-building in order to perform such tasks and to detect and combat financial crimes committed using new technologies.

22. Speakers highlighted various achievements made within their jurisdictions, such as the establishment of specialized financial crime units within their law enforcement authorities and the successful tracking of illicit financial transactions and confiscation of the proceeds of crime. Challenges in conducting effective financial investigations included the existence of protected offshore jurisdictions and tax havens.