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Coordination and management meeting

Summary record of the 44th meeting

Held at Headquarters, New York, on Tuesday, 15 July 2014, at 3 p.m.

President: Mr. Oh Joon (Vice-President) (Republic of Korea)

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In the absence of Mr. Sajdik (Austria), Mr. Oh Joon (Republic of Korea), Vice-President, took the Chair

The meeting was called to order at 3.10 p.m.

Social and human rights questions

(c) Crime prevention and criminal justice

(E/2014/30 and E/2014/85)

(d) Narcotic drugs (E/2014/28; E/INCB/2013/1 and E/INCB/2013/4)

1. **Mr. Naidoo** (President, International Narcotics Control Board), introducing the annual report of the Board for 2013 (E/INCB/2013/1) and the annual report of the Board on precursor chemicals (E/INCB/2013/4), said that, at a time when alternatives to the international drug control system were being discussed and some jurisdictions were taking steps contrary to that system, the Board stood firm in carrying out its mandate to ensure compliance with the three drug control treaties: the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, 1961; the Convention on Psychotropic Substances, 1971; and the Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, 1988. The goal of the Board in implementing its mandate was to ensure the availability of drugs for medical and scientific purposes, yet at the same time prevent their illicit cultivation, production, trafficking, diversion and abuse.

2. Drug abuse disproportionately affected groups such as low-income populations, women and children. Investment in prevention, treatment and rehabilitation programmes could yield significant savings and alleviate suffering; sadly, only one in six problem drug users worldwide received the treatment they needed. The Board's recommendations were aimed at mitigating the economic consequences of drug abuse and its effects on health, public safety, crime, productivity and governance.

3. The licit use of internationally controlled medicines for the treatment of pain and mental or neurological disorders was disproportionately concentrated in North America, Western Europe, and parts of Oceania, where the availability of those drugs in greater quantities than required for sound medical treatment led to diversion and abuse. He called on all States to develop strategies to reduce the abuse of prescription drugs. Capacity-building was necessary to improve national estimates of the medical and

scientific requirements for narcotic drugs so that supply could be regulated in accordance with demand. An international import and export system would soon be in place to assist national authorities in facilitating licit trade and preventing diversion.

4. The success of national efforts to prevent the diversion of precursor chemicals, supported by the Board's online Pre-Export Notification System, had prompted traffickers to resort to diversion at the domestic rather than the international level and to turn to newly emerging and non-scheduled chemicals. On the Board's recommendation, a new amphetamine pre-precursor had been scheduled for international control by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs at its fifty-seventh session. The Board's online Precursors Incident Communication System allowed Governments to share real-time intelligence on diversions, attempted diversions, and seizures of precursors.

5. He urged States that had not acceded to the three international drug control treaties, which were disproportionately concentrated in Oceania, to do so as a matter of priority. He congratulated Timor-Leste on its recent accession to the 1988 Convention and urged it to follow suit with the other two. Legalizing the production, sale and consumption of cannabis for non-medical or recreational purposes, as had recently been done in Uruguay and in the states of Colorado and Washington in the United States of America, was in contravention of the 1961 Convention. The Board was committed to continued dialogue with the Governments of Uruguay and the United States with a view to facilitating their continued compliance with the treaties to which they were party, and had invited the World Health Organization to evaluate the potential benefits and risks of cannabis to human health.

6. Continued international and regional cooperation was essential to reducing illicit opium poppy cultivation and opium production in Afghanistan, which had reached a record high in 2013. There had also been increases in the trafficking of opiates through East Africa and cocaine in North and East Africa, and an increase in the illicit manufacture and trafficking of methamphetamine in Africa as a whole. Weak law enforcement owing to the political situation in West Africa had led to the increased trafficking of heroin, mainly to Europe, but also to South Africa. In Europe, there had been an increase in the illicit cultivation of cannabis, which was the most frequently mentioned drug of abuse among those entering treatment for the

first time in Western and Central Europe. Cocaine-trafficking routes to Europe had become diversified, while the amount of heroin trafficked along the primary Balkan route had declined in 2013. In Eastern and Southern Europe, new psychoactive substances were an emerging problem. The Board also remained concerned about the manufacture and use of heroin and amphetamine-type stimulants in East and South-East Asia.

7. The Board would continue its dialogue with Governments and civil society on improving implementation of the drug control treaties, and it counted on the support of Member States to help meet the treaty-mandated reporting obligations and its review of compliance. He urged delegations to convey the Board's recommendations to their Governments. At a time when some were considering alternative approaches, he reminded the Council that the Conventions had been carefully designed to balance drug abuse prevention with access to essential controlled medicines, the primary concern being the health and welfare of humankind.

8. **Mr. Shamaa** (Chair, Commission on Narcotic Drugs), introducing the report of the Commission on its fifty-seventh session (E/2014/28) and accompanying his statement with a digital slide presentation, said that the session had included a two-day high-level review of the 2009 Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem, as called for in paragraph 40 of the Declaration. It had included a general debate and round-table discussions on the three pillars of the plan of action, that is, demand reduction; supply reduction; and countering money-laundering and promoting judicial cooperation. The high-level review had closed with the consensus adoption of a joint ministerial statement.

9. During the subsequent regular session, the Commission had considered administrative, budgetary and management questions, as well as implementation of the drug control treaties and of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action. An important topic had been changes in the scope of control of substances, and a unanimous decision had been taken to schedule a new substance under the 1988 Convention. The session had closed with the adoption of 11 resolutions and the recommendation of one resolution for adoption by the General Assembly. Preparations were under way for

the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem to be held in 2016 pursuant to the Political Declaration and Plan of Action and General Assembly resolution 67/193.

10. **Mr. Galuška** (Chair, Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice), introducing the report of the Commission on its twenty-third session (E/2014/30) and accompanying his statement with a digital slide presentation, said that the annual theme of that session had been international cooperation in criminal matters. Both the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice had been following the practice of the "Vienna spirit" that allowed non-member States to take part in all activities short of actually proposing a resolution. The session had adopted three resolutions by consensus, recommended three draft resolutions for adoption by the Council, and recommended six draft resolutions for approval by the Council and subsequent adoption by the General Assembly.

11. Preparations were under way for the thirteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, with the theme of "Integrating crime prevention and criminal justice into the wider United Nations agenda to address social and economic challenges and to promote the rule of law at the national and international levels, and public participation". It would include a high-level segment, following by consideration of the agenda approved in the Council's resolution 2012/17. Regional preparatory meetings had been held in Latin America and the Caribbean, West Asia, Asia and the Pacific, and Africa, the recommendations of which, together with feedback from the Commission's twenty-third session, would form the basis of the draft declaration of the Congress. The Congress would offer a unique opportunity to explore the role of crime prevention and criminal justice in the post-2015 development agenda, in particular in promoting the rule of law.

12. **Mr. Karia** (Member, Board of Trustees, United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute), introducing the report of the Board of Trustees on major activities of the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research (E/2014/85), said that the Institute had continued to see growth in funding and staff, had achieved a balanced budget since 2012, had opened offices in critical countries and regions, and was in full compliance with United Nations rules in all areas of operation. It had expanded

its partnerships with international organizations, including the European Union, the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), the World Bank and the International Maritime Organization.

13. Over the previous year, the Institute had completed several projects and initiated several others in its six priority areas: countering the threat of organized crime to security and development; increasing the efficiency of criminal justice systems and protection of vulnerable groups; promoting international criminal law and practice; sharing best practices, building capacity to promote human rights and improving access to services; security governance and countering the appeal of terrorism; and building capacity in crime prevention and criminal justice through training and advanced education. He drew the attention of the Council to the decision of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice to appoint three new members to the Institute's Board of Trustees.

14. **Ms. Morgan** (Observer for Mexico) said that the high-level review of the 2009 Political Declaration and Plan of Action had been an important contribution to the preparatory work for the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem to be held in 2016. In the decade and a half since the previous such special session, drugs had continued to pose a serious threat to the health, safety and well-being of humankind, in particular for young people. Preparations for the upcoming session should be inclusive, evidence-based and open to alternative approaches. Her country had insisted on a transparent and pluralistic debate that included representatives of academia, civil society and the relevant United Nations agencies. The involvement of the President of the General Assembly would be essential to that process. Ensuring robust and inclusive participation in the special session was crucial to generating the political will and decisive action necessary for addressing the scourge of illegal drugs.

15. **Mr. Rogov** (Russian Federation) said that his country was particularly concerned that the impending withdrawal of international contingents from Afghanistan could lead to a dramatic increase in the amount of illegal drugs coming from that country. He expressed his delegation's satisfaction that the fifty-seventh session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, including the high-level review, had been conducted with a view to maintaining and strengthening existing

mechanisms under the three drug control treaties. Consistent implementation by States and relevant international organizations of a comprehensive and balanced approach to the global drug problem was a prerequisite for achieving the goals set by the Political Declaration and Plan of Action, and reinforcing such an approach should be the focus of the special session of the General Assembly.

16. In 2015, the Russian Federation would host the sixth session of the Conference of the States parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption. Regarding the role of the participation by non-governmental organizations in the mechanism for the review of implementation of that Convention, he stressed the need to maintain the intergovernmental nature of working groups and to keep the work of non-profit organizations aligned with the work of States. He expressed his delegation's support for a global convention to bridge existing gaps in the struggle against crimes relating to information and communications technology, and for improving the effectiveness of implementation of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime.

Coordination, programme and other questions

(a) Reports of coordination bodies (E/2014/69)

17. **Ms. Petrova** (Secretariat of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination), introducing the annual report of the Chief Executives Board for 2013 (E/2014/69), said that the Board's review of the implementation of selected Millennium Development Goals in eight countries had proved useful in prompting United Nations country teams and World Bank country offices to take a fresh look at coordination strategies. The Board also focused on decisions taken by the General Assembly to strengthen coordination in the preparation and follow-up to intergovernmental meetings and conferences.

18. In 2013, the Board's three subsidiary bodies had conducted a number of activities. The High-level Committee on Programmes had focused on system-wide coordination on the issues of international migration, youth, human rights, cybercrime and climate change. The High-level Committee on Management had approved a 2013-2016 strategic plan that aimed to enhance the relevance, coherence, effectiveness, efficiency, accountability and credibility of the United Nations system through improvements in

administrative and management functions, with a focus on the harmonization and simplification of business practices. The United Nations Development Group had focused on coherent implementation of the quadrennial comprehensive policy review, and had also developed a number of tools for United Nations country teams to promote operational coordination and effectiveness at the country level.

19. The Board had also cooperated with other inter-organizational bodies, including the Joint Inspection Unit and the International Civil Service Commission, and had continued to enhance dialogue and interaction with Member States through formal and informal exchanges and briefings. The new release of the Board's website would provide better access to United Nations system financial statistics and data on human resources and procurement.

20. **Ms. Abascal** (Cuba) said that the streamlining of administrative practices would increase efficiency throughout the United Nations system. She highlighted the need for the Board's activities to be in line with the priorities of Member States. Continued dialogue and interaction with Member States could help to improve transparency and accountability. She urged the Board and all United Nations agencies to incorporate South-South cooperation into their activities. The High-level Committee on Programmes had contributed to preparations for the post-2015 development agenda. The Board's efforts to promote coordination were helpful in addressing the difficulties faced by the United Nations system in defining its role. She commended the report of the High-level Panel of Eminent Persons on the Post-2015 Development Agenda, and highlighted the need for respect for human rights within the United Nations system.

The meeting rose at 5 p.m.