

Distr.: Limited
9 July 2008

Original: English

**Open-ended intergovernmental expert
working group on supply reduction**

Vienna, 23-25 June 2008

**Report of the meeting of the open-ended intergovernmental
expert working group on supply reduction, held in Vienna
from 23 to 25 June 2008**

Contents

	<i>Paragraphs</i>	<i>Page</i>
I. Significant and measurable results in supply reduction.	1-12	3
II. Limitations and problems.	13-25	5
III. The way forward: identification of elements to be discussed at intersessional meetings of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs	26-65	7
A. Countering drug trafficking by sea	29-36	8
B. Challenges in the areas of cooperation, coordination and operations	37-50	9
C. Maintaining integrity for effective drug law enforcement	51-59	10
D. Reducing violence	60-65	12
IV. Conclusions.	66-68	13
V. Adoption of the report of the working group	69	16
VI. Organization of the meeting	70-76	16
A. Opening and duration of the meeting	70	16
B. Attendance	71	17
C. Election of officers.	72	17
D. Adoption of the agenda	73-74	17
E. Documentation	75	18
F. Closure of the meeting	76	18



Annex

List of documents before the open-ended intergovernmental working group on supply reduction 19

I. Significant and measurable results in supply reduction

1. At its 1st meeting, on 23 June, the open-ended intergovernmental expert working group on supply reduction considered agenda item 3, entitled “Significant and measurable results in supply reduction”.

2. For its consideration of the item, the working group had before it the following:

(a) Note by the Secretariat on the results attained by Member States in achieving the goals and targets set at the twentieth special session of the General Assembly, the limitations and problems encountered and the way forward: supply reduction (UNODC/CND/2008/WG.1/2);

(b) Fifth report of the Executive Director on the world drug problem (E/CN.7/2008/2);

(c) Fifth report of the Executive Director on the world drug problem: Action Plan against Illicit Manufacture, Trafficking and Abuse of Amphetamine-type Stimulants and Their Precursors (E/CN.7/2008/2/Add.4);

(d) Report of the Executive Director on the collection and use of complementary drug-related data and expertise to support the global assessment by Member States of the implementation of the declarations and measures adopted by the General Assembly at its twentieth special session (E/CN.7/2008/8);

(e) Report of the Executive Director on the collection and use of complementary drug-related data and expertise to support the global assessment by Member States of the implementation of the declarations and measures adopted by the General Assembly at its twentieth special session (E/CN.7/2007/7);

(f) Complementary drug-related data and expertise to support the global assessment by Member States of the implementation of the declarations and measures adopted by the General Assembly at its twentieth special session (E/CN.7/2008/CRP.1-9);

(g) “Beyond 2008”: contribution of non-governmental organizations to the implementation of the Political Declaration and Action Plans adopted by the twentieth special session of the General Assembly (E/CN.7/2008/CRP.12);

(h) Report of the International Narcotics Control Board pursuant to the twentieth special session of the General Assembly (E/CN.7/2008/CRP.16);

(i) Note by the International Narcotics Control Board on the open-ended intergovernmental expert working group on supply reduction (UNODC/CND/2008/WG.1/CRP.1).

3. An introductory statement was made by the Secretariat. Statements were made by the representatives of Bolivia, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Canada, Spain, Pakistan, Afghanistan, the Netherlands, Argentina, Australia, Belarus, Colombia, Cuba, Latvia, Thailand, Nigeria, the Russian Federation, China and the United States of America.

Deliberations

4. Speakers generally agreed that there had been significant progress in the area of drug control since 1998 in relation to the agreements and targets set in the Political Declaration adopted by the General Assembly at its twentieth special session (resolution S-20/2, annex) and the action plans adopted at that session. Drug control had been incorporated in national policy agendas with a majority of States having put in place counter-narcotic strategies and strengthened controls over precursors, chemical substances and solvents. Several speakers further noted that action against the world drug problem remained a common and shared responsibility requiring a balanced, coordinated and integrated approach. One speaker noted that it was important to ensure appropriate use of the concept of shared responsibility so as to avoid the watering down of the prime responsibility of Member States in combating trafficking in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances and that this concept should be translated into regional and international cooperation as well as into technical assistance.

5. Many participants expressed concern about the major increase in opium production over the past few years.

6. Several speakers noted that the three international drug control conventions had been supplemented by the entry into force of other international instruments, notably the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime¹ and the United Nations Convention against Corruption.² It was noted that the new conventions provided tools to reinforce global efforts to combat trafficking in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances. Furthermore, it was emphasized that the three international drug control conventions continued to provide a valid international legal framework to address the world drug problem. One speaker stated that the international drug control system may need to be adjusted in order to promote full compliance and noted that the social and economic conditions of States should also be taken into account. The same speaker noted that a technical debate to foster the functioning of the international drug control system should be conducted.

7. Speakers noted important improvements in national and international drug control regimes, including the establishment of national drug control and coordinating institutions. Several speakers commented on the establishment of national drug control coordination centres to monitor trends in trafficking in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances and to collect data.

8. A number of speakers stated that the implementation of bilateral, regional and multilateral treaties had allowed for better information- and intelligence-sharing. The implementation of those treaties had also enabled some States to control maritime and air trafficking routes and to interdict shipments of illicit drugs more effectively. Bilateral, regional and interregional agreements had also enabled States to better track and recover the proceeds of crime.

9. A number of speakers made remarks with regard to the need for a broader scope for supply reduction efforts. Reference was made to crime prevention and to the interrelationship between demand and supply reduction efforts.

¹ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2225, No. 39574.

² United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2349, No. 42146.

10. Several speakers emphasized the importance of strengthening existing legislation and of introducing new legislation to enhance the effectiveness of existing drug control strategies. Legislation on money-laundering had been introduced in many States and had proved to be an important tool in combating trafficking in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances.

11. Several speakers stated that as a result of proactive efforts to strengthen the capacity of law enforcement agencies to share information and intelligence there had been notable drug seizures. Such collaboration had also resulted in closer working relations between agencies both within and among countries.

12. Several speakers reiterated the importance of respecting human rights, specifically those enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (General Assembly resolution 217 A (III)), when implementing supply reduction policies. One speaker referred to his Government's successful human-rights-based approach to crop eradication and alternative development. Several speakers noted that eradication programmes had proved to be effective in maintaining a downward trend in illicit crop cultivation and illicit drug production.

II. Limitations and problems

13. At its 2nd meeting, on 23 June, the working group considered agenda item 4, entitled "Limitations and problems".

14. For its consideration of the item, the working group had before it the following documents:

(a) Note by the Secretariat on the results attained by Member States in achieving the goals and targets set at the twentieth special session of the General Assembly, the limitations and problems encountered and the way forward: supply reduction (UNODC/CND/2008/WG.1/2);

(b) Fifth report of the Executive Director on the world drug problem (E/CN.7/2008/2);

(c) Fifth report of the Executive Director on the world drug problem: Action Plan against Illicit Manufacture, Trafficking and Abuse of Amphetamine-type Stimulants and Their Precursors (E/CN.7/2008/2/Add.4).

15. A representative of the Secretariat made an introductory statement. Statements were made by the representatives of Pakistan, Cuba, Bolivia, Nigeria, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Romania, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Mexico, Colombia, Japan, Slovenia (on behalf of the European Union), Ghana, Canada, Afghanistan, the Russian Federation, Argentina, Latvia, the United States, Australia and Algeria.

Deliberations

16. Several speakers noted that despite reductions in the supply of some illicit drugs, there were still significant limitations and problems in countering global trafficking in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances that prevented full

attainment of the targets established at the twentieth special session of the General Assembly.

17. Several speakers expressed concern that after many decades of efforts to combat global trafficking in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances there continued to be problems with regard to collecting complete, reliable and accurate data for assessing the true scope of the problem. As Member States had varying capacities to collect and report data, the true dimension of trafficking in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances and of progress made in combating such trafficking remained somewhat uncertain. Moreover, several speakers indicated the need to improve data collection and the methodology to compile data used to evaluate the problem.

18. Several speakers noted that ensuring effective control of national borders and border regions remained a challenge. Increasingly faster and a greater variety of transport, including through postal services, and increasing volumes of traffic were challenging the traditional approaches used by law enforcement agencies to manage borders, whether the entry point was by sea, land or air.

19. Many speakers agreed that several new developments continued to pose new challenges in the fight against global trafficking in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances and that the capacity of States to respond needed to be increased. Some speakers emphasized that significant shifts from one region to another in the production sites of illicit narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances and the emergence of new transit routes should be borne in mind when developing the capacity of authorities to respond quickly to the changing tactics of traffickers. A worrying trend over recent years had been the trafficking in cocaine across the Atlantic through the States of West Africa, whose authorities were now facing difficulties in controlling their borders.

20. Several speakers noted the rapid spread of illicit synthetic drug manufacture and the diversion of precursors used in their manufacture in a number of countries around the world. Concern was expressed about the appearance of synthetic drugs in new markets.

21. Several speakers noted with concern the links between trafficking in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances and other forms of organized crime, as well as corruption, trafficking in persons, money-laundering and trafficking in firearms and, in some parts of the world, notably in Afghanistan, financing of international terrorism. Because of their adaptability and ever evolving modus operandi, organized criminal groups had been able to respond to the shifting demands of illicit markets. One speaker noted that trafficking in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances was becoming increasingly complex. Its transnational nature, the fluidity of trafficking patterns and the increasing use of high technology, including the Internet, had made it difficult for States to respond to trafficking in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances.

22. Several speakers referred to the fundamental need to address the root causes of illicit drug production, such as poverty and vulnerability. Some speakers suggested that in poor communities without the support of well-funded alternative development programmes, enforced supply reduction policies such as eradication had only resulted in displacement and replanting on more remote sites.

23. A number of speakers noted that in certain States little attention was being paid to the cultivation of cannabis plant, making that activity an easy and valuable source of income for criminal groups. Cannabis plant cultivation and cannabis resin production were noted to be on the rise in some Member States. More needed to be done to increase capacity to stem such production. One speaker noted that lenient policies on cannabis did not facilitate the implementation of drug control policies where cannabis presented serious drug control challenges.

24. Some speakers expressed the view that it was necessary to strengthen multilateral activities in combating trafficking in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances. In that regard, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) should be strengthened in order to enable it to fulfil its mandate of strengthening the capacity of Member States to combat the world drug problem.

25. Several speakers drew attention to the need for Governments, multilateral agencies and international and regional financial institutions to maintain continuous short-, medium- and long-term plans with the objective of providing stable financial resources to tackle the world drug problem and related crimes.

III. The way forward: identification of elements to be discussed at intersessional meetings of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs

26. At its 2nd, 3rd and 4th meetings, on 23 and 24 June, the working group considered agenda sub-items 5 (a) to (d):

- (a) Countering drug trafficking by sea;
- (b) Challenges in the areas of cooperation, coordination and operations;
- (c) Maintaining integrity for effective drug law enforcement;
- (d) Reducing violence.

27. For its consideration of the sub-items, the working group had before it the following:

(a) Note by the Secretariat on the results attained by Member States in achieving the goals and targets set at the twentieth special session of the General Assembly, the limitations and problems encountered and the way forward: supply reduction (UNODC/CND/2008/WG.1/2);

(b) “Making drug control ‘fit for purpose’: building on the UNGASS decade”; report by the Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime as a contribution to the review of the twentieth special session of the General Assembly (E/CN.7/2008/CRP.17);

(c) Note by the International Narcotics Control Board on the open-ended intergovernmental expert working group on supply reduction (UNODC/CND/2008/WG.1/CRP.1).

28. Introductory statements were made by the Secretariat. Under agenda sub-item 5 (a), statements were made by the representatives of Nigeria, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Colombia, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern

Ireland, Romania, Australia, Afghanistan, the United States, Bolivia, the Russian Federation, Canada, Argentina, France, Pakistan, Egypt and Spain.

Deliberations

A. Countering drug trafficking by sea

29. The issue of border control should remain an important aspect of supply reduction.

30. Several speakers emphasized that the way forward should focus on better and stronger cooperation in various forms, such as bilateral and multilateral international agreements, timely information-sharing, border control, provision of equipment, exchange of law enforcement officers, collaboration between private and public sectors and development of new, practical methods to enable effective monitoring of vessels. It was noted that in several instances such an approach had already yielded significant successes in terms of large seizures. One speaker noted that trafficking in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances represented an attack on national security.

31. Some speakers mentioned recent achievements in interdiction of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances and noted the emergence of new trafficking routes and the need for new strategies to keep up with innovative methods of concealment of illicit drugs, especially when trafficked by sea. Concern was expressed over new methods being used to conceal cocaine, including in liquid diesel and in semi-submersible vessels. Those vessels were not very expensive, were hard to detect and could easily be scuttled, making the gathering of evidence and prosecution of traffickers very difficult.

32. Several speakers noted the variety of shipping methods used for trafficking in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances by sea. Apart from normal cargo, these included small craft, such as fishing boats and speedboats, and might also involve hull attachments. Moreover, trafficking routes also included rivers and lakes.

33. Several speakers noted that many other illicit products could be concealed in shipping containers. While the current international control framework formed a good basis for countering trafficking in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances by sea, limited resources called for closer cooperation with the industry. Increasing the accountability of commercial operators and exerting pressure on them to exercise due diligence was an option to be considered. It was noted that measures to counter trafficking by sea needed to strike a balance between facilitating trade and compliance with Government regulations.

34. A number of speakers called for the need to view trafficking in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances as a broad threat. The focus on sea routes should not come at the expense of counter-trafficking efforts targeting other means of transportation along air and land routes, as well as the postal system. The importance of air routes, in particular those used by private aircraft transporting large consignments of cocaine from South America to West Africa, was highlighted.

35. It was observed that although the number of seizures along sea routes might be relatively small by comparison with those carried out along other routes, those

seizures tended to be very large; therefore, the total volume of drugs seized along sea routes was also large.

36. The importance of implementing the provisions contained in the existing international legal framework was also emphasized. Some issues were identified in that context: improving exchange of information; developing new ways to monitor vessels; eliminating gaps between interdiction and prosecution, by means of bilateral and multilateral agreements where necessary; increasing inspections at ports; and ensuring port employees are vetted and supported by specialists. The way forward should include working in partnership with other international organizations working on regulatory matters, such as the International Maritime Organization, the World Customs Organization and others.

B. Challenges in the areas of cooperation, coordination and operations

37. Under agenda sub-item 5 (b), statements were made by the representatives of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Slovenia (on behalf of the European Union), Nigeria, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Mexico, Colombia, Bolivia, the United Kingdom, Thailand, Cuba, Romania, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Ireland, Switzerland, Latvia, France, Algeria, China, Australia, the Russian Federation, the United States, Egypt and Turkey.

38. One speaker expressed the view that there was a need for a technical debate to foster a better functioning of the international drug control system in order to accommodate new trends and to take into account sociocultural characteristics of countries. Another speaker noted that in its annual report for 2007 the International Narcotics Control Board³ indicated that reservations under one international drug control convention did not alleviate obligations under the other conventions.

39. Some speakers noted the negative consequences of the recent increase in opium production in Afghanistan and the need for the international community to work towards a coordinated approach and practical solutions in that area.

40. A number of speakers drew attention to the importance of strengthening regional and subregional mechanisms, as needed, and, with the assistance of UNODC and the International Narcotics Control Board, of establishing links and cooperation between those mechanisms and the United Nations.

41. Some speakers emphasized the importance of regional initiatives, such as the triangular initiative between Afghanistan, the Islamic Republic of Iran and Pakistan.

42. A number of speakers noted that supply reduction strategies should focus on trafficking in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, investigative techniques and dismantling the networks involved in such trafficking and related criminal activities. Authorities needed to be proactive, inventive and flexible in order to target those groups. They should also adapt their investigative techniques as quickly as the networks adjust their methods of operation.

³ *Report of the International Narcotics Control Board for 2007* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.08.XI.1).

43. Several speakers stated that there was a lack of common understanding of the modus operandi of drug traffickers. Several States supported the idea of a data collection initiative, for example one that would involve reviewing and updating the annual reports questionnaire, in order to enable States to share knowledge and to understand trafficking in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances better. In turn, that would enable States to respond more effectively to activities related to trafficking in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances.

44. Several speakers emphasized the importance of timely information- and intelligence-sharing for successfully apprehending drug traffickers. Several speakers noted the need to intensify cooperation between law enforcement officials with the objective of making the fight against trafficking in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances more effective.

45. A number of speakers noted that lack of capacity often prevented Governments from conducting joint investigations and controlled deliveries, as well as from providing mutual legal assistance. It was stated that assistance should be provided in a balanced manner so that States could respond to requests for cooperation.

46. Several speakers noted that in some States legislation on the use of special investigative measures, such as controlled delivery operations, was either inadequate or missing. Several speakers suggested that procedures and regulations governing cooperation should be harmonized and special investigative measures should be deployed in joint investigations and controlled delivery operations.

47. A number of speakers suggested that Governments should consider streamlining their judicial processes in order to provide timely responses to requests for mutual legal assistance. Some speakers noted that in some cases, investigations had failed because States did not respond to requests in due time, for example for the gathering of evidence from a suspect.

48. Some speakers commented on the importance of using comprehensive strategies in the fight against trafficking in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances that take into account, inter alia, socio-economic and health factors. Supply reduction strategies should focus on strengthening law enforcement capacities and on supporting alternative development.

49. Some speakers noted that the lack of regional coordination mechanisms and information on counterparts in other States had precluded their Governments from sharing information and cooperating effectively.

50. Several speakers expressed concern about the use of cybertechnology to traffic in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances. It was noted that the number of websites selling cannabis, cannabis seeds and other drugs, as well as cultivation equipment, had increased. Greater international cooperation was needed to collect data on the phenomenon and to assess its impact.

C. Maintaining integrity for effective drug law enforcement

51. Under agenda sub-item 5 (c), statements were made by the representatives of Nigeria, the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Netherlands, Canada, Colombia, Bolivia,

Australia, Cuba, Mexico, the United States, Afghanistan, the Russian Federation and Romania.

52. Several speakers affirmed their Governments' commitment to the Convention against Corruption and proposed that it be used as a basis for the implementation of measures to address the issue of the integrity of law enforcement and judicial personnel.

53. Several speakers discussed the cross-cutting nature of issues surrounding integrity, such as organized crime and trafficking in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances. They also emphasized that organized criminal groups were naturally predisposed towards contributing to and benefiting from the corruption of law enforcement and other public officials at all levels. This link had the potential of becoming a serious threat to the rule of law.

54. Speakers stressed that collaboration and mutual assistance at the international level were critical in order to strengthen institutions against corruption. Technical assistance programmes and projects coordinated by UNODC, such as the asset recovery programme, were cited. Several speakers called for more bilateral and multilateral agreements to foster capacity-building.

55. Several speakers also underlined the importance of coordination at the national level in order to fight corruption. Lack of coordination among agencies with shared drug law enforcement mandates created problems in terms of responsibility and accountability. Several speakers recommended that specialized independent oversight entities be established for that purpose. Some existing entities were cited as examples, including elite police and judiciary units, police oversight bodies and anti-corruption commissions reporting directly to Governments. A specialized integrity office with combined investigative and inquiry powers was also mentioned.

56. Some speakers observed that internal control procedures within agencies were important for monitoring integrity. Additionally, maintaining the independence of the primary agencies involved in combating trafficking in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, namely the police, the prosecutor's office and the judiciary, was also an effective safeguard against corruption.

57. Several speakers mentioned the importance of addressing the root causes of corruption. Conditions of service were cited as factors that could make public officials more susceptible to corruption. Low salaries, inadequate training, lack of equipment and poor supervision and procedures were also identified as contributing factors. Several speakers proposed introducing a system of incentives and checks, such as systems of accreditation and monitoring of police activities, as the best way to address the issue of integrity of personnel. Apart from competitive salaries, one example put forward was a voluntary scheme to assess the conduct of public officials, coupled with penalties for crimes committed by them which were harsher than those stipulated for other citizens.

58. A number of speakers emphasized the importance of an integrated approach in the fight against trafficking in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, noting that the issue of integrity of personnel fell within the broader scope of addressing the better operation of law enforcement agencies. Training of personnel was viewed

as important by several speakers, although it was also observed that the required specialized training was not available in all countries.

59. One speaker proposed to broaden the scope of the discussion by making reference to human rights, the rule of law and proportionality of law enforcement efforts as integral components of maintaining integrity for effective law enforcement. In that regard, reference was made to the relevant elements in the report of the Executive Director entitled “Making drug control ‘fit for purpose’: building on the UNGASS decade” and the *Report of the International Narcotics Control Board for 2007*.⁴

D. Reducing violence

60. Under agenda sub-item 5 (d), statements were made by the representatives of Latvia, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Mexico, Nigeria, Colombia, the United States, Argentina, Egypt, Norway, Romania, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Cuba, Australia, Peru and the Russian Federation.

61. Several speakers highlighted the close link between trafficking in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, trafficking in firearms, and violence, thus reaffirming the continued relevance of paragraph 11 of the Political Declaration adopted by the General Assembly at its twentieth special session. Some speakers noted that uncontrolled trafficking in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances and arms had posed a security threat to communities, which, in turn, had fostered criminal activity and perpetuated violence.

62. Some speakers commented that, in their experience, groups involved in trafficking in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances not only engaged in firearms smuggling but also in the smuggling of explosives and of the chemical substances used to manufacture narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances. Such groups perceived illicit trafficking in firearms as an activity that could be used to fund their operations. Other speakers noted that in their regions there appeared to be no proven link between trafficking in drugs and psychotropic substances and trafficking in firearms, and that the link that existed was with other forms of organized crime. Therefore, it was not possible to make generalizations on the subject.

63. Several speakers remarked on the need to improve mechanisms to combat arms trafficking and to break the link with drug trafficking. Some speakers suggested that strengthened law enforcement capacities and effective domestic controls on the licit trade in firearms needed to be improved in order to prevent the acknowledged diversion of such arms from legal to criminal use. It was suggested that the Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Their Parts and Components and Ammunition, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime⁵ offered a sound platform that could be used to initiate activities. Several speakers expressed diverse views about the appropriateness of dealing with trafficking in firearms in the context of the

⁴ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.08.XI.I.

⁵ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2326, No. 39574.

Commission on Narcotic Drugs and some speakers called for caution in that regard, noting that there were other forums with specific mandates in that field.

64. A number of speakers said that it was necessary to strengthen the mechanisms used to protect witnesses of crime who cooperated with law enforcement authorities. It was noted that such witness protection mechanisms needed to be supported with adequate legislation, funding and procedural guidelines.

65. Other speakers stated that it was also necessary to ensure the protection of public officials, law enforcement officers, prosecutors, judges and other persons involved in the judicial process who might be subjected to threats or intimidation. Some speakers noted that witness protection programmes should also extend to the protection of informants who provided evidence crucial to the outcome of an investigation.

IV. Conclusions

66. At its 6th meeting, on 25 June 2008, the working group considered agenda item 6, entitled "Conclusions". For its consideration of the item, the working group had before it the draft conclusions.

67. In the course of the deliberations of the working group, a number of issues were raised that are presented below as salient points to be transmitted to the Commission on Narcotic Drugs for its consideration during the intersessional period preceding its fifty-second session in accordance with the mandate contained in its resolution 51/4.

68. The elements listed below reflect issues raised in the discussions that took place in the first two days of the meeting of the working group. The elements contained in the list below, which is not to be considered exhaustive, were not negotiated and do not reflect consensus language. They are meant to inform the intersessional work of the Commission:

(a) Effective implementation of the commitments made at the twentieth special session of the General Assembly to reduce the supply of illicit drugs will require strong political will and practical solutions, including with respect to corruption;

(b) Actions to reduce the supply of illicit drugs should take into account the principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations;

(c) The three international drug control conventions should continue to provide the international legal framework for tackling the world drug problem;

(d) The Organized Crime Convention and its Protocols and the Convention against Corruption should also be taken into account and broader adherence and implementation of those instruments should be pursued;

(e) Greater international commitment should be made to implementing medium and long-term strategies in order to ensure a stable allocation of resources to combat trafficking in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances;

(f) Linkages between trafficking in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances and organized crime, trafficking in firearms, money-laundering and

corruption should be some of the elements borne in mind when developing and implementing supply reduction strategies;

(g) The approach of the international community to the drug problem beyond 2009 should continue to be based on a principle of shared responsibility that is balanced, coordinated and integrated. Supply and demand reduction strategies should be integrated, balanced, coordinated and mutually reinforcing elements of comprehensive strategies and operations;

(h) Alternative development strategies and related activities to reduce illicit drug crops should aim to promote human development;

(i) Supply reduction strategies should include socio-economic aspects, such as health and education, and be developed in an integrated manner with demand reduction interventions;

(j) Attention should continue to be given to the development of methods for gathering and using hard-to-reach intelligence and evidence, including judicially sanctioned evidence-gathering techniques such as electronic surveillance, structured informant programmes and controlled delivery;

(k) Exchange of intelligence should be promoted among countries of origin, transit and destination while safeguarding the integrity of information;

(l) The international community should monitor the nature, use, extent and impact of cybertechnology on trafficking in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances and consideration should be given to the development and implementation of legislation and training opportunities in order to respond effectively to the emerging problem;

(m) Efforts should be made to ensure that appropriate procedural and substantive legislation is developed at the national level to deal with crimes committed in an electronic environment. Governments should require online pharmacies to be licensed wherever they operate or deliver prescription drugs and should set up a system of oversight for such activities;

(n) Effective legislation and legislative frameworks for bilateral, subregional, regional and multilateral cooperation, including agreements on mutual legal assistance and extradition, should be further developed and implemented and issues regarding jurisdiction should be addressed appropriately. The processing of mutual legal assistance and extradition requests should be expedited and, when possible, joint investigations should be carried out;

(o) The international community should maintain and expand projects and programmes to foster bilateral and regional cooperation on specific issues of supply reduction;

(p) Domestic and international training efforts for law enforcement and judicial capacity-building should be further developed and improved, while avoiding duplication and ensuring efficiency;

(q) Strategies must be implemented to disrupt and dismantle major organizations involved in trafficking in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances and to address emerging trends;

(r) The use of controlled deliveries and other special investigation techniques, both nationally and internationally, should be further developed and supported;

(s) Consideration should be given to updating the amended Table I and Table II annexed to the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988⁶ to include substances not currently under international control that may be commonly used as substitutes in the manufacture of illicit drugs;

(t) Consideration should be given to reassessing current data collection strategies and instruments in order to enable States to compile reliable, relevant, comparable and usable data on drug supply in order to ensure a strong and common understanding of the issue. In that regard, consideration should be given to adjusting and harmonizing international data collection efforts;

(u) Clear, measurable indicators should be established in order to accurately assess achievement of the goals and targets that might be set by the international community beyond 2009;

(v) Knowledge of the modus operandi of drug traffickers should be acquired, including through regional and international mapping exercises;

(w) The resources of existing international police structures and institutions should be harnessed to address the issue of trafficking in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances in a coordinated manner and to ensure a greater degree of efficiency and efficacy;

(x) Legislation on precursor control should be harmonized and institutionalized;

(y) Assistance to combat trafficking in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances more efficiently should be provided to transit States, as well as States neighbouring Afghanistan;

(z) Border management agencies should be well resourced and equipped;

(aa) Law enforcement capabilities should be strengthened and integrated to better investigate organized criminal groups engaged in trafficking in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances;

(bb) Consideration should be given to the development of homogenous sentencing guidelines for trafficking in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances and related offences;

(cc) Sustainable and comprehensive programmes should be developed and introduced in judicial and law enforcement institutions. Such initiatives should address conditions of service, remuneration and training so as to attract and retain the best personnel;

(dd) Sustainable alternative development programmes should target those living in poverty as they are more vulnerable to exploitation by traffickers and more likely to engage in the cultivation and production of and trafficking in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances;

⁶ Ibid., vol. 1582, No. 27627.

(ee) Standard procedures and best practices should be developed and exchanged;

(ff) Relevant United Nations entities with pertinent expertise should be allocated resources to collect data and to provide technical and financial assistance to States with a view to enhancing their capability to address trafficking in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances;

(gg) Coordination with and among United Nations entities and various multilateral entities should be strengthened;

(hh) Additional steps should be taken in order to present a unified response by Member States against trafficking in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances by land, air and sea, in partnership with other United Nations entities and international partners so as to address jurisdictional gaps in the investigation, interdiction and prosecution of traffickers;

(ii) The liability and responsibilities of various shipping structures should be well defined and cooperation with professional trade associations should be strengthened;

(jj) Commercial port operations should be supported by drug law enforcement authorities with adequate resources, equipment, training and legal powers to enable the effective screening, evaluation and examination of commercial freight and sea-bound containers;

(kk) Coordination and the uniform application of policies should be carried out at the national and international levels;

(ll) Proactive strategies should be pursued by law enforcement agencies to prevent corruption. Such strategies include participating in multilateral and bilateral anti-corruption technical assistance programmes, preparing corruption action plans and instituting integrity programmes for law enforcement officials;

(mm) Given that the protection of witnesses continues to be a significant challenge, more attention should be paid to strengthening intergovernmental agreements so that States can effectively implement their existing witness protection programmes.

V. Adoption of the report of the working group

69. At its 6th meeting, held on 25 June 2008, the working group adopted its report, including its conclusions, to be submitted for consideration at the intersessional meetings preceding the fifty-second session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs.

VI. Organization of the meeting

A. Opening and duration of the meeting

70. The meeting of the open-ended intergovernmental expert working group on supply reduction was held from 23 to 25 June 2008, pursuant to Commission on Narcotic Drugs resolution 51/4. The Chairperson of the fifty-second session of the

Commission on Narcotic Drugs made an opening statement. The elected Chairperson of the working group also addressed the meeting. The Secretary introduced the provisional agenda and the proposed organization of work (UNODC/CND/2008/WG.1/1).

B. Attendance

71. The meeting was attended by representatives of 62 Member States and, as observers, representatives of three intergovernmental organizations (for a list of participants, see UNODC/CND/2008/WG.1/INF.1/Rev.1).

C. Election of officers

72. At its 1st meeting, on 23 June 2008, the working group elected the following officers by acclamation:

<i>Office</i>	<i>Regional group</i>	<i>Elected officer</i>
<i>Chairperson</i>	Group of Asian States	Ali Asghar Soltanieh (Islamic Republic of Iran)
<i>First Vice-Chairperson</i>	Group of African States	Bakassa Bakayoko (Côte d'Ivoire)
<i>Rapporteur</i>	Group of Eastern European States	Narcisa Vladulescu (Romania)

D. Adoption of the agenda

73. At its 1st meeting, on 23 June 2008, the working group adopted by consensus the following provisional agenda:

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.
3. Significant and measurable results in supply reduction.
4. Limitations and problems.
5. The way forward: identification of elements to be discussed at intersessional meetings of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs:
 - (a) Countering drug trafficking by sea;
 - (b) Challenges in the areas of cooperation, coordination and operations;
 - (c) Maintaining integrity for effective drug law enforcement;
 - (d) Reducing violence.
6. Conclusions.
7. Adoption of the report of the working group.

74. Prior to the adoption of the provisional agenda, the representative of Bolivia noted that the functioning of the international drug control system needed to be considered by the working group in its deliberations.

E. Documentation

75. The documents before the working group are listed in the annex to the present report.

F. Closure of the meeting

76. A closing statement was made by the Chairperson of the working group.

Annex

List of documents before the open-ended intergovernmental expert working group on supply reduction

<i>Document</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>	<i>Title or description</i>
UNODC/CND/2008/WG.1/1	2	Provisional agenda, annotations and proposed organization of work
UNODC/CND/2008/WG.1/2	3, 4, 5	Note by the Secretariat on the results attained by Member States in achieving the goals and targets set at the twentieth special session of the General Assembly, the limitations and problems encountered and the way forward: supply reduction
UNODC/CND/2008/WG.1/CRP.1		Note by the International Narcotics Control Board on the open-ended intergovernmental expert working group on supply reduction
UNODC/CND/2008/WG.1/CRP.2		European Union position paper on the review of the UNGASS process – supply reduction
UNODC/CND/2008/WG.1/CRP.3		U.S. proposals for consideration in the UNGASS review
E/CN.7/2008/2	3, 4	Fifth report of the Executive Director on the world drug problem
E/CN.7/2008/2/Add.4	3, 4	Fifth report of the Executive Director on the world drug problem. Action Plan against Illicit Manufacture, Trafficking and Abuse of Amphetamine-type Stimulants and Their Precursors
E/CN.7/2008/8	3	Report of the Executive Director on the collection and use of complementary drug-related data and expertise to support the global assessment by Member States of the implementation of the declarations and measures adopted by the General Assembly at its twentieth special session
E/CN.7/2007/7	3	Report of the Executive Director on the collection and use of complementary drug-related data and expertise to support the global assessment by Member States of the implementation of the declarations and measures adopted by the General Assembly at its twentieth special session
E/CN.7/2008/CRP.1-9		Complementary drug-related data and expertise to support the global assessment by Member States of the implementation of the declarations and measures adopted by the General Assembly at its twentieth special session

<i>Document</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>	<i>Title or description</i>
E/CN.7/2008/CRP.12		“Beyond 2008”: contribution of non-governmental organizations to the implementation of the Political Declaration and Action Plans adopted by the twentieth special session of the General Assembly
E/CN.7/2008/CRP.16		Report of the International Narcotics Control Board pursuant to the twentieth special session of the General Assembly
E/CN.7/2008/CRP.17		“Making drug control ‘fit for purpose’: building on the UNGASS decade”; report by the Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime as a contribution to the review of the twentieth special session of the General Assembly
