

## ***High-level meeting of Partners for Afghanistan and Neighbouring Countries***

### ***Conclusion of the Chairs***

***(Vienna, 14 December 2015)***

*Transnational organized crime and illicit trafficking affect all sectors of society in all countries. Trafficking of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, including precursor chemicals, and its illicit economy undermine stability, peace and governance; it represents a threat to public health and affects the universality of the new sustainable social and economic development agenda. Therefore, We, the Chairs of the “High-level meeting of Partners for Afghanistan and Neighbouring Countries” convened in Vienna, on 14 December 2015, summarize the discussions of the meeting as follows:*

*The participating States and Organizations:*

***Reaffirmed*** the commitments assumed by Member States in the Political Declaration adopted by the General Assembly at its twentieth special session and the measures to strengthen international, regional and sub-regional cooperation to counter the world drug problem;

***Recalled*** the United Nations General Assembly resolutions 67/193 of 20 December 2012, 68/197 of 18 December 2013 and 69/201 of 18 December 2014, entitled “International cooperation against the world drug problem”;

***Recalled*** also the United Nations Security Council resolutions 2195 of 19 December 2014, and 2199 of 12 February 2015 underlining the importance of strengthened regional and international cooperation to address the nexus between transnational organized crime and terrorism;

***Referred to*** the Declaration of the Istanbul Process/Heart of Asia on Regional Security and Cooperation for a Secure and Stable Afghanistan (of 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2011) and to the Declaration adopted at the 5<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Conference (Islamabad, 9 December 2015), as well as to the Vienna Declaration of the Paris Pact Initiative (of 16 February 2012) and its four priority areas for enhanced coordination and cooperation, namely, regional initiatives; financial flows linked to illicit traffic in opiates; preventing the diversion of precursor chemicals; and reducing drug abuse and dependence;

***Took note*** of the UN Security Council resolution 2210 of 16 March 2015 in which the Council stresses the importance of a comprehensive approach to address the security, economic, governance and development challenges in Afghanistan, and also encourages the international community and regional partners to further effectively support Afghan-led sustained efforts to address drug production and trafficking in a balanced and integrated approach, including through regional initiatives, and recognizes the threat posed by the production, trade and trafficking of illicit drugs to international peace and stability in different regions of the world;

**Welcomed** the Declaration adopted at the Ninth Ministerial meeting of the States parties to the Memorandum of Understanding on Sub-Regional Drug Control Cooperation (Ashgabat, 5<sup>th</sup> May 2015), and the Joint Statement of the Dushanbe High-Level Conference (27 May 2015), which reaffirm the political will and commitment of the countries in the region to strengthen the cooperation in the fight against drugs and crime;

**Acknowledged** the outcome of the Senior Officials Meeting (Kabul, Afghanistan, 6<sup>th</sup> September 2015) where partners refreshed the Tokyo Mutual Accountability Framework (TMAF) that defines joint objectives for the Afghanistan Transformation Decade (2015-2024);

**Saluted** the considerable efforts of Afghanistan and the Neighboring Countries in West and Central Asia to counter the threats of transnational organized crime, and especially the scourge of illicit drugs and precursor chemicals trafficking;

**Noted** that the upcoming United Nations General Assembly Special Session on the World Drug Problem (UNGASS 2016), to be held in New-York from 19 to 21 April 2016, will offer a unique opportunity to address issues of critical interest to the states of the region and the international community;

**Welcomed** the priority directives given by Members States, regional fora and international organizations in countering transnational organized crime and narcotics;

**Reaffirmed** the commitments aimed at strengthening international and regional cooperation in combating transnational organized crime, illicit trafficking, especially of narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and their precursors, and in this regard:

**Recognize** that action against the world drug problem remains a common and shared responsibility that requires effective and increased international and regional cooperation with a focus on an integrated, multidisciplinary, mutually reinforcing and balanced approach addressing both supply and demand reduction sides;

**Request** regional States to strengthen cooperation to counter the threat posed by the illicit production and trafficking of opiates and precursor chemicals, including through strengthening border management and judicial cooperation, as well as against money-laundering and illicit financial flows linked to such trafficking;

**Underline** the importance of supporting a regional approach aimed at strengthening coordination of activities and measures against drug trafficking and organized crime, and in this regard:

**Support** the efforts of Afghanistan aimed at eradication of poppy fields, dismantling of drug laboratories, seizure of drugs and precursors as well as investigation and prosecution of the criminal groups and networks involved, including the development of alternative livelihood programmes, especially by effective implementation of its new “Afghan National Drug Action Plan (2015-2019)”;

***Express*** confidence that development of cooperation among the States of the region with the support of international organizations and donor countries, in accordance with the principle of common and shared responsibility, will further promote effective measures against drug trafficking at regional and international level;

***Undertake*** to promote bilateral, regional and international cooperation, including through intelligence-sharing and cross-border cooperation, aimed at countering the world drug problem more effectively, and in this context support existing regional initiatives and mechanisms such as the Triangular Initiative (TI), the Afghanistan/Kyrgyzstan/Tajikistan Initiative (AKT), the Joint Planning Cell (JPC), and the Central Asian Regional Information and Coordination Centre for combating the illicit trafficking of narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and their precursors (CARICC) amongst others;

***Stress*** the importance of supporting effective regional cooperation to address the threat posed by the illicit production of and trafficking of drugs, and in this regard welcome the UNODC Inter-Regional Drug Control and the Networking the Networks approaches as well as the extension for the period 2016-2019 of the UNODC Programme Portfolio for West and Central Asia, especially the Regional Programme for Afghanistan and Neighboring countries which is also to support the existing regional initiatives and mechanisms in the Region such as the TI, AKT, CARICC and JPC, amongst others;

***Request*** the international community to provide sufficient financial and technical assistance and support to the countries in West and Central Asia, based on the principle of shared responsibility, in order to promote the capacities of the regional States in their efforts to combat trafficking of narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and their precursors, including within the framework of the UNODC Regional and Country Programmes in West and Central Asia.

***Vienna, 14 December 2015***