

UNGASS Roundtable 2

Supply reduction and related measures; responses to drug-related crime; and countering money laundering and promoting judicial cooperation

Salient points

It is my great pleasure to present the Co-Chairs summary of the salient points of Round Table 2 “Supply reduction and related measures; responses to drug-related crime; and countering money-laundering and promoting judicial cooperation” which was held on 20 April 2016 from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.. Round table 2 was co-chaired by H.E. Mr. Tayeb Louh, Minister of Justice of Algeria and myself.

The salient points summarized by the Co-Chairs are as follows:

Several speakers highlighted the need to strengthen law enforcement cooperation at the regional, sub-regional and international levels, including meaningful cross-border cooperation, sharing of criminal intelligence as well as judicial cooperation, such as for extradition and mutual legal assistance.

The United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988, the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its related Protocols and the UN Convention against Corruption, were cited by many speakers as providing a strong legal basis for Member States to target criminal organizations and the range of criminal activities related to drug trafficking. Several speakers commended the work of UNODC including the UNODC-WCO Container Control Programme (CCP).

A number of speakers highlighted the importance of tracing, among others, illicit financial flows related to drug trafficking and emphasized the need for financial investigation training to combat money-laundering.

The need to address existing challenges in reducing the illicit supply of controlled drugs within the framework of the international drug control conventions was further stressed. Many speakers noted that a comprehensive and balanced approach in implementing the international drug control conventions was needed, in line with the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda.

The importance of proportionate sentencing as well as of alternatives to imprisonment including treatment, rehabilitation and aftercare to those who suffer drug disorders was also noted by a number of speakers. In this regard, collaboration and coordination among criminal justice institutions as well as with other relevant institutions, such as the health care providers and community-based prevention and treatment actors was considered an essential element of effective criminal justice responses. Some speakers stressed that successful law enforcement efforts are those that are primarily aimed at dismantling organized and violent criminal groups, including, in some cases, gangs. Several speakers highlighted the increasing link between drug trafficking and other forms of organized crime, including money laundering, corruption, the financing of terrorism, and trafficking in firearms, posing a threat to world peace and security.

It was noted by some speakers that transit countries needed targeted strategies to deal with their specific problems. Several speakers noted that the Internet was increasingly being deliberately used by organized criminal groups to facilitate drug trafficking and highlighted the need for programmes that supported capacity-building and technical assistance for investigating and prosecuting such crimes.

Many speakers recognized the growing threat and global nature of new psychoactive substances, emphasizing the need for international cooperation to address the problem. To address the challenges posed by new psychoactive substances, speakers emphasized the importance of information-sharing at the regional and international levels, of improving the forensic profiling of the substances.

The need to maintain effective control over precursor chemicals and pre-precursors and to monitor and prevent diversion from licit sources was highlighted by many speakers. It was also noted that legal differences should not be an obstacle to international cooperation.

Several speakers noted that alternative development efforts had yielded good results, based on the principle of common and shared responsibility, supported by strong cooperation at the international level, including through the sharing of best practices and lessons learned. The importance of addressing the challenges faced by farmers following the eradication of crops was also highlighted by a number of speakers.