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Round-table discussions on progress made in the implementation by Member States of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem**Informal discussion notes distributed by the Chairs of the round-table discussions**

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* E/CN.7/2013/1.



I. Round-table discussion (a): Demand reduction and related measures: Drug prevention as a means to curb the world drug problem within the framework of a scientific evidence approach

A. Introduction

1. At the high-level segment of the fifty-second session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, held in March 2009, heads of States, ministers and government representatives from 132 States adopted the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem.

2. Member States committed themselves to implementing effectively the Political Declaration and its Plan of Action, and stressed the need to reducing drug abuse and dependence through a comprehensive approach by, among other things, promoting the sharing of effective models for demand reduction that address the problem in a comprehensive manner. The action plan noted that “some countries have implemented effective drug demand reduction policies. However, drug demand reduction measures are often limited in the range of interventions they offer. Measures are frequently planned and carried out in isolation and address only part of the health and socioeconomic problems associated with drug use and dependence.” and stated that Member States should, in addition to other things:

[...] (b) Ensure that prevention programmes target and involve youth and children with a view to increasing their reach and effectiveness;

[...] (f) Deliver targeted, in prevention programmes based on scientific evidence, both universal and a range of settings (such as schools, families, the media, workplaces, communities, health and social services and prisons).

3. The Action Plan also noted that “In many cases, drug use and dependence interventions aimed at prevention and care have been developed spontaneously by well-intentioned institutions responding to the urgency of a rapidly developing drug problem. Too often, however, those interventions were not based entirely on scientific evidence and a multidisciplinary approach.”

4. In addition, the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem called Member States to: “Support the development and adoption of appropriate health-care standards, as well as ongoing training on drug demand reduction measures”. The International Narcotic Control Board, in the thematic chapter of its 2009 annual report recommended that: “The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) should collaborate with others to develop standards against which Governments may measure their efforts in primary prevention. Collaboratively prepared standards can be used as a benchmark for parties intent on continuously improving their primary prevention efforts”. Finally, resolution 53/2 “Preventing the use of illicit drugs within Member States and strengthening international cooperation on policies of drug abuse prevention”, adopted by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND) in 2010 called “the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to gather national and international experiences and the best

available information on evidence-based prevention activities and instruments for the early identification of young people vulnerable to the use of illicit drugs” (paragraph 12), as well as urging “the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to facilitate the sharing, among Member States, of best practices in the area of drug abuse prevention and provide expert advice to Member States in this area, upon request” (paragraph 13).

5. During the round-table discussion, participants are encouraged to share their knowledge about lessons learned and experiences gained in drug prevention, in particular also the challenges faced and opportunities found.

B. Opportunities and challenges

6. In adopting the Political Declaration and its Plan of Action, Member States committed themselves to increase cooperation at the regional and international levels to reduce the illicit demand for narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances; and drug-related health and social risks.

7. In this connection, a series of actions were recommended to address the problem with some overarching recommendations on demand reduction in general, such as:

(a) Develop, review and strengthen, as appropriate, comprehensive and integrated drug demand reduction policies and programmes, providing a continuum of prevention and care in the health-care and social services, from primary prevention to early intervention to treatment and to rehabilitation and social reintegration, and in related support services, aimed at promoting health and social well-being among individuals, families and communities and reducing the adverse consequences of drug abuse for individuals and society as a whole, taking into account the particular challenges posed by high-risk drug users, in full compliance with the three international drug control conventions and in accordance with national legislation;

(b) Deliver comprehensive policies and programmes using a multi-agency approach, including health care, social care, criminal justice, employment and education agencies, non-governmental organizations and civil society, which should take full advantage of the activities of non-governmental and civil society organizations;

(c) Develop, implement and disseminate demand reduction strategies as part of their respective comprehensive and balanced national drug control strategies, clearly describing objectives, interventions and funding, as well as defining roles, responsibilities and mechanisms for different partners in all relevant sectors;

(d) Undertake drug demand reduction efforts to address all forms of drug use, including misuse and dependence related to the consumption of two or more substances at the same time;

(e) Ensure that drug demand reduction efforts address the vulnerabilities, such as poverty and marginalization, that undermine sustainable human development.

8. More specifically on drug prevention the following recommendation was part of the Action Plan:

(a) Deliver prevention programmes based on scientific evidence, both universal and targeted, in a range of settings (such as schools, families, the media, workplaces, communities, health and social services and prisons).

9. Also, particular attention was devoted to ensure that measures were developed in the framework of a scientific evidence approach requiring research and rigorous evaluation:

(a) Invest adequate resources in measures based on scientific evidence, building on the significant scientific progress achieved in that area;

(b) Support and widely disseminate, in collaboration with the international community, further research to develop measures based on scientific evidence that are relevant to different socio-cultural environments and social groups;

(c) Encourage innovative measures and incorporate evaluation in order to respond to present and future challenges; and take into account the possibilities given by new media and technologies, including the Internet, with a view to developing the scientific evidence base.

C. Points that may be considered for interventions and discussions

10. What measures are Member States taking to implement demand reduction activities in range of settings (such as schools, families, the media, workplaces, communities, health and social services and prisons) as recommended by the Action Plan? More in details it would be interesting for the round table to know whether each country is implementing the following prevention activities:

(a) Drug education in school: Does the country have a Government policy requesting each school to a) provide drug education in schools? If yes, is this based on a life-skills approach? What is the age of the pupils targeted? How many sessions does each pupil attend? Has the programme been evaluated?

(b) Family skills training programmes: What is the age of the children of the families targeted? Are parents (or equivalent) visited or do they have to attend individual/group sessions? How many sessions do parents (or equivalents) benefit from? Are children attending these sessions? Has the programme been evaluated?

(c) Workplace prevention: Do private or public employers provide workplace prevention programmes? How many employees have benefited from these programmes last year? Are these programmes developed by employers and employees together? Do these programmes include the following components: policy, awareness-raising about the risk of substance abuse and where to find help, stress management training workshops, training for managers on how to deal with substance abuse issues in the workplace, brief intervention, general counselling, referral to treatment services, reintegration in the workplace. Has the programme been evaluated? Does the country have a Government policy requesting employers to develop and implement a workplace prevention policy that includes the elements listed above?

(d) Has any media campaign on drugs been implemented in the country? For each campaign, please provide the following details: what were the characteristics of the target group (age, gender, etc.)? What was the main message? What were the media used (TV, radio, newspapers, Internet etc.)? How many of the target groups did the media campaign manage to reach? How many times/how often? Has the campaign been evaluated? If yes, please provide most important results. If not, please indicate whether an evaluation has been planned and which are the main indicators;

(e) Is the country implementing other kinds of programmes for the prevention of drug use? For each programme, please provide the following details: what activities does the programme implement? How many persons does the programme reach? What are the characteristics of the target group (age, gender, etc.)? How many times does each person participate in the activities? Has the programme been evaluated? If yes, please provide most important results. If not, please indicate whether an evaluation has been planned and which are the main indicators;

(f) Finally, taking into consideration that any preventive measures in order to be successful need to have a supportive environment (children and adolescents and other vulnerable groups needs to have access to social and welfare services — school, employment, health care, etc. — that per se reduce the risk of drug use and other risky behaviours), is the country considering the investment in social and welfare services and access to school as a means to prevent drug use in the long-term?

II. Round-table discussion (b): Supply reduction and related measures: The importance of international cooperation, coordination and funding to promote relevant activities and programmes on all aspects of alternative development in support of the drug control regime established by the three international drug control conventions, within a broader international framework

A. Introduction

11. At the high-level segment of the fifty-second session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND), held in March 2009, heads of States, ministers and government representatives from 132 States adopted the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem and committed themselves to implementing the 2009 Political Declaration and its Plan of Action on International Cooperation on eradicating the illicit cultivation of crops used for the production of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances and on alternative development.

12. Pursuant to CND resolutions 53/6 and 54/4, Thailand organized in 2011 an International Seminar Workshop on Sustainable Alternative Development, that produced a draft input for international guiding principles on alternative development. Pursuant to CND resolution 55/4, the Government of Peru organized a

high-level international conference, held in Lima, in November 2012 that adopted the Lima Declaration and the International Guiding Principles on Alternative Development.¹

13. Alternative Development (AD) is an integrated approach to improving community livelihood options that addresses all of the key factors that drive illicit cultivation of crops used for the production of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances. Experience shows that AD is more effective and more sustainable when integrated into a broader national development scheme that aims to improve the livelihoods of marginal rural populations.

14. Many alternative development projects primarily measure their success by the reduction in the cultivation of crops used for the production of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances. Yet it is questionable if this is an appropriate measure of success because it ignores the conditions under which these crops are cultivated and the common problem of replanting following eradication. In the Political Declaration and Plan of Action 2009, Member States agreed that when monitoring and assessing the qualitative and quantitative impact of alternative development and drug crop eradication programmes with respect to the sustainability of illicit crop reduction and socioeconomic development, “such assessment should include the use of human development indicators that reflect the Millennium Development Goals”.

15. While reductions in cultivation — and impact measurement based on that objective — are not an adequate measure of real progress or long-term impact in drugs control, a direct relationship exists between improved social and economic conditions of an area and the sustained reduction of illicit cultivation.

16. Poverty and food insecurity remain two of the key factors driving the illicit cultivation of crops used for the production of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances. The focus of alternative development programmes should be oriented to addressing the underlying causes of poverty and food insecurity and improving the socioeconomic conditions of these communities.

17. A serious problem facing alternative development programmes is that traditional sources of funding are becoming scarcer as traditional donor countries face their own financial problems, national drug control budgets of those countries are diverted to other types of programmes, and new and emerging challenges surface. Against this background, international financial institutions and relevant development organizations are requested to incorporate illicit crop control strategies into poverty reduction strategy papers, country assistance strategies and other forms of development assistance.

B. Opportunities and challenges

18. During the round-table discussion, participants are encouraged to share their knowledge about lessons learned and experiences gained in applying development

¹ See report by the Executive Director on the outcome of the high-level International Conference on Alternative Development (E/CN.7/2013/8).

oriented drug control strategies. Participants may want to focus on the recently developed set of international guiding principles.²

19. These international guiding principles on alternative development provide a new mechanism for policy guidance and programme development. Member States have the opportunity at the 56th session of the CND to formally endorse the international guiding principles thereby assisting a broad range of countries facing illicit crop cultivation issues.

20. In adopting the 2009 Political Declaration and its Plan of Action, Member States committed themselves to foster and strengthen international cooperation based on the principle of shared responsibility and reinforce international assistance in addressing the eradication of illicit drug crop cultivation through integrated and sustainable alternative development.

21. As stated in the 2009 Plan of Action, Member States should “ensure, when considering taking eradication measures that small-farmer households have adopted viable and sustainable livelihoods so that the measures may be properly sequenced in a sustainable fashion and appropriately coordinated”. In this regard, Member States, through the adoption of the 2009 Political Declaration and Plan of Action, committed themselves to ensure the proper and coordinated sequencing of development interventions when designing alternative development programmes.

22. Member States agreed that alternative development needs to be conducted through a comprehensive, interdisciplinary and multi-sectoral approach and with a focus that goes beyond rural and agricultural development and takes into consideration complementary development objectives, including health, education, rule of law and infrastructure such as roads, electricity and water. In this regard, the State plays an important role by providing the needed framework and enabling environment.

23. With regard to products stemming from alternative development projects, Member States should consider promoting value added products (instead of raw materials) to increase the income for small farmers. Through a market driven approach, producers of alternative development products should adapt to the current and prospective market demand, or, if possible, create new market niches. Therefore, it is important to understanding market dynamics and consumer demands when bringing alternative development products to the open market. In 2012, in its resolution 55/8, the Commission on Narcotic Drugs encouraged Member States to reach out to the private sector with a view to providing greater access to markets for alternative development products as well as to engage in dialogue and share experiences and proposals on special marketing regimes in the field of alternative development.

(a) Environmental threats are caused directly and indirectly through the cultivation of illicit crops: ecosystem degradation such as deforestation, degradation of soils through the uncontrolled use of herbicides and fungicides, and monoculture and the environmental impact of drug production caused by the dumping of precursors used for the production of coca paste and cocaine into rivers and lands. Therefore, environmental protection should be included into alternative

² E/CN.7/2013/8.

development programmes, such as the preservation of forests, sustainable use of timber and non-timber products, land titling and the rights of indigenous people.

C. Points that may be considered for interventions and discussions

(a) How can Member States utilize the International Guiding Principles to design policy, technical assistance and field-based interventions to reduce the illicit cultivation of crops used for the production of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances and improve the socioeconomic situation of small rural farmer communities?

(b) What measures have Member States taken to address the illicit cultivation of crops used for the production of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances and to promote alternative development?

(c) Has there been progress since the adoption of the 2009 Political Declaration and Plan of Action with regard to the reduction and elimination of illicit cultivation of crops used for the production of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances?

(d) Is ongoing collaboration between Member States, including South-South cooperation, as well as with development and financial institutions satisfactory? How could it be improved?

(e) How can the concept of alternative development be enlarged in order to move from a rural development to a more market-oriented approach?

(f) Which specific actions should be taken in the years ahead?

(g) Who are the main stakeholders that should be included when designing, implementing and evaluating alternative development strategies?

III. Round-table discussion (c): Countering money-laundering and promoting judicial cooperation to enhance international cooperation: The importance of further strengthening the operational implementation of treaty-based provisions on international cooperation, including for countering money-laundering and preventing the illicit cross-border movement of cash and monetary instruments

A. Introduction

24. At the high-level segment of the fifty-second session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, held in March 2009, heads of States, ministers and government representatives from 132 States adopted the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem.

25. Member States committed themselves to implementing effectively the Political Declaration and its Plan of Action, and stressed the need to foster international

cooperation by implementing the provisions against money-laundering contained in all relevant international and multilateral instruments, such as the 1988 Convention, the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the United Nations Convention against Corruption and, in accordance with national legislation, the Financial Action Task Force Recommendations on Money Laundering, and also by:

(a) Establishing new or strengthening existing domestic legislative frameworks to criminalize the laundering of money derived from drug trafficking, precursor diversion and other serious crimes of a transnational nature in order to provide for the prevention, detection, investigation and prosecution of money-laundering;

(b) Establishing new or strengthening existing financial and regulatory regimes for banks and non-bank financial institutions, including natural and legal persons providing formal or informal financial services, thus preserving the integrity, reliability and stability of financial and trade systems;

(c) Implementing effective detection, investigation, prosecution and conviction measures;

(d) Promoting effective cooperation in strategies for countering money-laundering and in money-laundering cases.

26. Strengthening the operational implementation of treaty-based provisions on international cooperation, including for countering money-laundering and preventing the illicit cross-border movement of cash and monetary instruments, is a key pillar in the international framework to counter drug trafficking and related crimes.

27. During the round-table discussion, participants are encouraged to share their knowledge about lessons learned and experiences gained in countering money-laundering and promoting judicial cooperation to enhance international cooperation, in particular the challenges faced and opportunities found.

28. Money-laundering and the illicit cross-border movement of cash and monetary instruments continue to pose serious challenges to economies and governments. They are key components of organized criminal activity, including that linked to trafficking in narcotic drugs, and should not be seen as isolated financial crimes.

29. Many Member States have taken a range of preventive and enforcement measures to combat criminal activities linked to trafficking in narcotic drugs and have taken specific measures against money-laundering and cash smuggling practices.

30. However, legal and operational obstacles inherent in many national frameworks stretch the ability of Member States to effectively implement treaty-based provisions on international cooperation, including for countering money-laundering and preventing the illicit cross-border movement of cash and monetary instruments. In many cases, the proceeds of drug trafficking and related crimes are raised in, or routed through countries which have weak monitoring systems, insufficient operational capacity, or do not effectively implement provisions on international cooperation.

31. Countries need to improve their ability to effectively cooperate with their neighbours, as well as regional and international partners. Many need to enhance their capacity to cooperatively monitor the cross-border movement of cash and monetary instruments, trace and confiscate proceeds of crime, conduct joint financial investigations, and conclude bilateral or multilateral asset-sharing agreements, information-sharing, extradition, and mutual legal assistance.

32. International cooperation is instrumental in reducing the illicit financial flows linked to drug trafficking, as well as the demand for and supply of illicit drugs. Any weakening of international cooperation in the fight against the world drug problem could affect the sustainability of positive results.

B. Opportunities and challenges

33. In adopting the Political Declaration and its Plan of Action, Member States committed themselves to implementing effectively the three international drug control conventions, the UNTOC and the UNCAC through resolute international cooperation, in collaboration with relevant regional and international organizations, with the full assistance of the international financial institutions and other relevant agencies and in cooperation with civil society, including non-governmental organizations, and the private sector.

34. In relation to countering money-laundering and preventing the illicit cross-border movement of cash and monetary instruments, as well as confiscating the proceeds of crime, States should consider that administrative, regulatory, law enforcement and other authorities dedicated to combating money-laundering (including, where appropriate under domestic law, judicial authorities) have the ability to:

(a) Exchange information at the national and international levels for the identification, tracing, and interdiction of laundered and smuggled moneys;

(b) Conduct joint investigations;

(c) Conduct cross-border operations;

(d) Engage in FIU to FIU cooperation and information-sharing;

(e) Cooperate for the purposes of confiscation of the proceeds of crime;

(f) Conclude, where necessary, bilateral or multilateral agreements or arrangements for using special investigative techniques such as electronic or other forms of surveillance and undercover operations in the context of cooperation at the international level;

(g) Make and honour requests for mutual legal assistance and extradition in a timely manner.

35. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime should continue facilitating international cooperation to reduce money-laundering and the illicit cross-border movement of cash and monetary instruments, the confiscation of proceeds of crime and promote technical assistance projects aimed at addressing these problems effectively.

C. Points that may be considered for interventions and discussions

(a) What measures are Member States taking to implement treaty-based provisions on international cooperation, including for countering money-laundering and preventing the illicit cross-border movement of cash and monetary instruments:

- (i) To improve FIU to FIU cooperation?
- (ii) To enhance joint investigations and cross-border operations?
- (iii) To exchange information?
- (iv) To engage in mutual legal assistance and facilitate extradition?
- (v) To conclude MOUs?

(b) What specific successes, resulting from regional/international cooperation, have been noted in the reduction of money-laundering, the illicit cross-border movement of cash and monetary instruments and the tracing and confiscation of proceeds of crime?

(c) What mechanisms and practices have been particularly helpful for increasing the tracing and confiscation of proceeds and for enhancing international cooperation in these areas? What mechanisms and practices have specifically contributed to a decrease in money-laundering and the illicit cross-border movement of cash and monetary instruments?

(d) Where are there gaps/shortfalls in operational capacity remaining and what specific actions/measures should be taken in the years ahead?

(e) What can the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime do to facilitate the further strengthening of international cooperation in these areas?

(f) Is the ongoing collaboration with regional and international organizations, international financial institutions and other relevant agencies and civil society satisfactory? If not, how could it be improved?
