

# Commission on Narcotic Drugs

## Compilation of the outcome of the thematic round-table discussion of the Commission at its fifty-fourth session

### Relevant part of the report on the fifty-fourth session (E/2011/28):

#### Round-table discussions

1. On 21 March, the Commission considered over the course of two meetings agenda item 5, "Round-table discussions", comprising the following topics:

(a) Regional and international cooperation in combating the world drug problem and its connection with organized crime;

(b) Revitalization of the principle of common and shared responsibility as the centrepiece of international cooperation to confront the challenges posed by the world drug problem, in a manner consistent with the relevant United Nations conventions and declarations;

(c) Addressing key public health and safety issues such as addictive behaviours by youth and drugged driving.

2. The Commission had before it a note by the Secretariat on the organization of the round-table discussions at the fifty-fourth and fifty-fifth sessions (E/CN.7/2011/8).

#### **Round table on regional and international cooperation in combating the world drug problem and its connection with organized crime**

3. The round table on regional and international cooperation in combating the world drug problem and its connection with organized crime was chaired by Mahmoud Hassan Elamin (Sudan).

4. At the round table, it was reiterated that the international drug control conventions, together with the international legal instruments addressing transnational organized crime, provided the legislative framework to support international cooperation and coordination in combating drug trafficking, as well as direction to international efforts in the area of supply and demand reduction. In that regard, the international community had made a commitment to the shared goal by adopting the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> A/64/92-E/2009/98, sect. II.A.

5. There was a need for a balanced and holistic approach in combating the world drug problem through national, regional and multilateral efforts. Drug trafficking had to be seen in the broader context of organized crime and had a negative impact on peace, development and security. Closer professional liaison between authorities, support through bilateral training and professional capacity-building and a common agreement on the need for coordinated international strategies were seen as examples of positive cooperation.
6. Proactive law enforcement strategies and operational responses were putting pressure on traffickers and organized criminal networks to limit their expansion and their profits from illicit drug trafficking. In order to make those efforts more effective, greater cooperation, responsiveness and flexibility among States in support of mutual legal assistance and judicial cooperation were needed.
7. Proposals for action included joint regional and international initiatives such as the investigation of offenders, the undertaking of controlled deliveries, the exchange of information and the sharing of specialist expertise in areas such as combating money-laundering, asset seizure and civil forfeiture.
8. The importance of maintaining the right balance in the delivery of demand reduction and treatment programmes complemented and supported by law enforcement initiatives was highlighted.

**Round table on revitalization of the principle of common and shared responsibility as the centrepiece of international cooperation to confront the challenges posed by the world drug problem, in a manner consistent with the relevant United Nations conventions and declarations**

9. The round table on revitalization of the principle of common and shared responsibility as the centrepiece of international cooperation to confront the challenges posed by the world drug problem, in a manner consistent with the relevant United Nations conventions and declarations, was chaired by Rómulo Pizarro (Peru), Executive President of the National Commission for Development and Life without Drugs (DEVIDA).
10. Action against the world drug problem remained a common and shared responsibility that required effective and increased international cooperation. It demanded an integrated, multidisciplinary, mutually reinforcing and balanced approach to supply and demand reduction.
11. Increasing illicit drug production and trafficking posed global challenges that needed to be tackled at the national, regional and international levels, in accordance with the principle of common and shared responsibility, including by means of enhanced and better coordinated technical and financial assistance.
12. Drug trafficking was an evolving phenomenon, as demonstrated by changes in the use of precursors, new drug trafficking routes and methods, including by mail and via the Internet, the manufacture of new types of drugs and new areas of cultivation.

13. There should be a greater commitment by consumer countries to supporting the efforts of producer countries in terms of technical assistance, legislative development and capacity-building.
14. It was important to strengthen the exchange of information at the bilateral, regional and international levels and strengthen joint operations and coordination among States.
15. Some countries had made progress in combating the world drug problem, to a large extent through international cooperation. For progress to be sustainable, international cooperation needed to be maintained and the trend of declining aid flows reversed. A weakening of international cooperation could affect the sustainability of national achievements. It was suggested that a report on international aid flows could assist in identifying areas where cooperation could be strengthened.
16. It was important to share experiences and good practices so as to embody the principle of shared responsibility. Reference was made to South-South cooperation in reducing the supply of and demand for drugs that had taken into account regional aspects common to the countries involved.
17. In some subregions in Asia, results in reducing supply had not been comparable to results achieved in other subregions, and it was necessary to strengthen the commitment of destination countries to increasing aid flows.
18. The links between drug trafficking, money-laundering and arms trafficking must be recognized and addressed. Drug trafficking was also linked to high levels of violence and corruption.
19. The principle of shared responsibility should be applied fairly and equitably. The responsibilities of each country in terms of drug production and consumption, weapons and corruption should be critically assessed.
20. The distinction between producer, consumer and transit countries was no longer valid. Under the principle of common and shared responsibility, all countries must take responsibility at all stages of the illicit drug chain.
21. Shared responsibility meant sharing tools for prevention and control, combating money-laundering and providing treatment and care, as well as well-functioning penal systems. Shared responsibility meant not finger-pointing but, rather, increased cooperation.

**Round table on addressing key public health and safety issues such as addictive behaviours by youth and drugged driving**

22. The round table on addressing key public health and safety issues such as addictive behaviours by youth and drugged driving was chaired by Alberto Groff (Switzerland).
23. Drugged driving was increasingly becoming a public safety and public health issue.

24. Data on the issue were patchy, and more needed to be done by Member States and the international community to collect reliable information on the extent, trends and patterns of that phenomenon, to develop standard and low-cost screening tools and to disseminate good practices on appropriate methodologies.
25. Addressing addictive behaviour, especially drugged driving, required concerted action, including prevention and raising awareness of the risks of drug use.
26. Drugged driving among young people was only part of a broader phenomenon transcending national boundaries, by which patterns of use were changing towards polysubstance use and consumption in public spaces.
27. Addressing such behaviour required a holistic response targeting personal vulnerabilities, starting at as young an age as possible and in a range of settings (schools, the community, families and entertainment venues), linking to the early identification of drug use and brief intervention, as well as drug dependence treatment and care when needed. A multisectoral, community-based approach was needed.
28. The development of appropriate legislation and enforcement with regard to the issue of drugged driving was an issue in many countries. Only limited research and experience existed with regard to the appropriate limits and standards with respect to impairment. That should be done in full respect of personal integrity.
29. The further exchange of experiences with regard to that and other issues would be welcome. Reference was made to initiatives in Europe and North America that might provide a good opportunity for such exchange. It was noted that research protocols had been developed by some States and that those could be further examined.
30. Enforcement should always be part of a broader policy including strong links to prevention and treatment, especially campaigns to raise awareness and understanding among the target population, in particular more focused work targeting youth. Law enforcement staff should be supported through increased training.