I. Matters calling for action by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs or brought to its attention

Recommendations adopted by the Thirty-seventh Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Asia and the Pacific

1. Participants in the Thirty-seventh Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies (HONLEA), Asia and the Pacific:

   (a) Recalled the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem, adopted by the General Assembly at its sixty-fourth session, in which Member States decided that the Commission on Narcotic Drugs at its fifty-seventh session, in 2014, should conduct a high-level review of the implementation by Member States of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action;

   (b) Also recalled General Assembly resolution 67/193 of 20 December 2012, in which the Assembly decided to convene a special session on the world drug problem in 2016 to review the progress in the implementation of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action, which would include an assessment of the achievements and challenges in countering the world drug problem, within the framework of the three international drug control conventions and other relevant United Nations instruments;

   (c) Bore in mind the request made by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs in its resolution 56/10 to the meetings of the subsidiary bodies of the Commission to submit regional recommendations, on the basis of their deliberations aimed at advancing the implementation of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action;

   (d) Recalled Commission on Narcotic Drugs resolution 56/12, in which the Commission decided that the medium-term review, including intersessional meetings, should take into account, among other things, relevant studies and reports from the subsidiary bodies of the Commission, and called upon the participants in the high-level review to consider the work of the regional meetings of HONLEA, in particular initiatives that could further cooperation with regard to drug law enforcement;

   (e) Bore in mind the recommendations adopted by the Thirty-fourth, Thirty-fifth and Thirty-sixth Meetings of HONLEA, Asia and the Pacific, held in 2010, 2011 and 2012, following the adoption of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action in 2009;

   (f) Agreed to make the recommendations presented below.

Issue 1. Measures to counteract new trends in the use of technology by drug trafficking and organized criminal groups

2. The following recommendations were made with regard to the impact of modern technology on drug trafficking:

   (a) Governments of the region should review and amend accordingly their existing legislation to ensure that it supports the investigation, gathering of
electronic evidence and prosecution of drug trafficking and related offences that are facilitated by information and communications technology;

(b) Governments should take steps to ensure that their law enforcement agencies, prosecution services and judiciary are aware of the need and are adequately trained, supported and funded to undertake the investigation, gathering of evidence and prosecution of offences involving cyber-related drug trafficking and money-laundering offences;

(c) To meet the challenges of Internet-based pharmacies and similar websites offering illicit or controlled drugs and pharmaceutical preparations, Governments should take steps to ensure close cooperation between national law enforcement and regulatory authorities, such as drug law enforcement agencies, the postal services and other relevant actors, to enable them to develop their responses to these crimes.

**Issue 2. The role of law enforcement authorities in developing and implementing strategies for preventing drug trafficking and abuse**

3. The following recommendations were made with regard to the role of law enforcement authorities in developing and implementing strategies for preventing drug trafficking and abuse:

(a) Governments are encouraged to provide specific training to their drug law enforcement officials on HIV/AIDS, illicit drug use and effective approaches to interacting with people who inject drugs and who may be at higher risk of exposure to HIV/AIDS;

(b) Governments are encouraged to review the methodology they use for data collection on drug use, patterns and trends, to obtain a more accurate assessment of the actual situation and to better assist in the design and implementation of effective interventions to reduce demand;

(c) Governments are encouraged to assess alternatives to imprisonment programmes for drug dependent persons to reduce their exposure to HIV/AIDS and other blood-borne infectious diseases, where necessary.

**Issue 3. Controlling precursors and the illicit manufacture of heroin and amphetamine-type stimulants**

4. The following recommendations were made with regard to controlling precursors and the illicit drug manufacture of heroin and amphetamine-type stimulants:

(a) Governments should ensure that their competent national authorities register, support and actively participate in the Pre-Export Notification Online (PEN Online) system supported by the International Narcotics Control Board, to reduce the opportunity for traffickers to divert precursor chemicals to illicit manufacture;

(b) Governments should be encouraged to raise public awareness of the dangers of new psychoactive substances, while at the same time taking steps to review and amend legislation in order to ensure enforceable controls are in place to control their importation, manufacture and distribution;

(c) Governments are encouraged to collaborate in the sharing of information on the detection and toxicological properties of new psychoactive substances
II. Major regional drug trafficking trends and countermeasures

5. At its 1st and 2nd meetings, on 21 October 2013, the Meeting considered item 3 of its agenda, entitled “Major regional drug trafficking trends and countermeasures”. For its consideration of the item, the Meeting had before it a report of the Secretariat on statistical analysis of drug trafficking trends in East, South-East and South Asia, Oceania and worldwide (UNODC/HONLAP/37/2) and a note by the Secretariat on regional and subregional cooperation in Asia and the Pacific (UNODC/HONLAP/37/CRP.1). In addition, country reports were submitted by Armenia; Bangladesh; Brunei Darussalam; China; France; Hong Kong, China; India; Indonesia; Japan; Macao, China; Malaysia; New Zealand; Pakistan; the Russian Federation; Singapore; Sri Lanka; Thailand and Viet Nam (UNODC/HONLAP/37/CRP.3-20, respectively).

6. Representatives of UNODC introduced the item and made audiovisual presentations, providing an overview of trends in illicit drug production and trafficking in the region and worldwide, including the Global Smart Programme (East Asia) and the South-East Asia opiate economy, with indications of its growth and coming challenges. The presentations were based on information provided by Governments to UNODC. The representatives of India, the Russian Federation, Japan, Thailand, the Islamic Republic of Iran, New Zealand and Bangladesh made statements and audiovisual presentations.

7. Several participants reported on the activities of their respective authorities to counter drug trafficking and abuse, particularly through law enforcement cooperation in the region, such as information sharing and joint operations. Participants provided examples of recent interdiction cases and seizure statistics. Several representatives highlighted the importance of strengthening the exchange of operational information, including for countering the diversion of chemical precursors, as well as general information about drug-related crime. Countermeasures against illicit drug trafficking and abuse should take into account the need for the collaboration of drug law enforcement agencies and the forfeiture of proceeds derived from drug offences. Drug demand reduction measures should include public awareness programmes. The importance of the principle of shared responsibility was emphasized in addressing the drug problem, including countries of origin, transit and consumption.

8. Increased seizures of some drugs had been observed in the region. Methamphetamine seizures had reached their highest level in the East and South-East Asia region in 2012; in particular, in one country a steep rise (a 58-fold increase) had been observed in methamphetamine seizures over the past five years, while another country reported that interceptions of “yaba” had increased dramatically. There was a shift in precursor sourcing for methamphetamine to new forms using non-controlled substances. There had also been a five-fold increase in clandestine amphetamine-type-stimulant laboratories interdicted since 2006 in East and South-East Asia. Overall, amphetamine seizures had increased by about