Resource tool in support of the preparations for the high-level review of 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

Background information

In its resolution 56/12, the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, inter alia, resolved that a brief joint ministerial statement shall be issued at the conclusion of the high-level review, identifying, on the basis of the review of the progress made in the implementation by Member States of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action, achievements, challenges and priorities for further action, in the framework of the three international drug control conventions and other relevant United Nations instruments.

In the same resolution, the Commission also decided that the medium-term review, including intersessional meetings, shall take into account contributions by Member States, as well as:

(a) The report of the Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime on action taken by Member States to implement the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem, considered by the Commission at its fifty-fifth session;

(b) The outcome of the thematic round-table discussions of the Commission at its fifty-third through fifty-sixth sessions;

(c) Relevant studies and reports from the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the International Narcotics Control Board, the subsidiary bodies of the Commission and other relevant United Nations agencies;

(d) Other relevant information related to the world drug problem from relevant international and regional organizations;

(e) Other relevant information related to the world drug problem from civil society and the private sector.

Below is a compilation of extracts from sources (a), (b) and (c)¹ as listed above, along with the respective references, which could serve as resource tool in the preparations for the high-level review of 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. Information under (d) and (e) has been posted under :


The information has been organized around the three parts of the Plan of Action.

Demand reduction and related measures

Achievements

• Most reporting Member States indicated that they had adopted a written national drug strategy that included a demand reduction component. Those strategies were all ongoing and had an average period of coverage of three to seven years. Most strategies reportedly covered prevention, treatment, rehabilitation and social reintegration services, as well as services to prevent the health and social consequences of drug

¹ For point (c), in specific the relevant reports from the subsidiary bodies of the Commission.
use and drug monitoring and research. Most reporting Member States entrusted a central coordination body with the implementation of the drug demand reduction component of the strategy. Over 85 per cent of responses indicated that the ministries of health, social affairs, education, law enforcement and justice were represented on the central coordination body. Three quarters to two thirds of the responses indicted that non-governmental organizations (NGOs), ministries of labour and employment and the private sector were represented on the central coordination body. ²

Challenges

• Every third national demand reduction strategy globally remained unfunded. The situation was particularly serious in Africa, where none of the strategies reported as being in existence were funded. The absence of funding was also a problem for one third or more of the strategies in countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, Central, South and West Asia, Central and Western Europe and East and South-Eastern Europe. Almost every third Member State with a budgeted strategy reported a decrease in the budget allotted for treatment and prevention relative to 2010. The situation was particularly acute in Central and Western Europe and North Africa and the Middle East, where over 40 per cent of countries reported a drop in the budget for treatment. A similar percentage of the European countries reporting indicated a decrease in the budget for prevention. ³

• The growing problem posed by new psychoactive substances. ⁴

• Drug-prevention interventions and policies were viewed as effective and cost-effective in preventing drug use and its health and social consequences; nonetheless, drug prevention was often severely underfunded, a problem that needed to be tackled. ⁵

Priorities for further action

• Global mobilization is necessary at all levels to increase the coverage of interventions for the prevention of drug use and for the treatment, care, rehabilitation and reintegration of people suffering from drug dependence, in particular for groups at risk and persons in prison settings. ⁶

• Member States should consider increasing the implementation of prevention interventions based on scientific evidence, as well as the monitoring and evaluation of their outcomes and impact. ⁷

• Member States should consider increasing access to drug dependence treatment, care, rehabilitation and reintegration services with the costs covered by insurance or by the Government rather than by the patients, their families or civil society, as for any other health disorder. ⁸

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² E/CN.7/2012/14 – Report of the Executive Director on Action taken by Member States to implement the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem – paragraph 3
³ E/CN.7/2012/14 – paragraph 4
⁴ E/2013/28 - Report on the fifty-sixth session - Round table on demand reduction and related measures: drug prevention as a means to curb the world drug problem within the framework of a scientific evidence approach - Chairman’s salient point (d)
⁵ E/2013/28 - Report on the fifty-sixth session - Round table on demand reduction and related measures: drug prevention as a means to curb the world drug problem within the framework of a scientific evidence approach - Chairman’s salient point (g)
⁶ E/CN.7/2012/14 – paragraph 68
⁷ E/CN.7/2012/14 – paragraph 69
⁸ E/CN.7/2012/14 – paragraph 70
• Reliable information on drugs and training for drug prevention should be provided extensively to primary health care workers, teachers, parents, media professionals and police officers.  

• Prevention efforts should (be) carried out in different settings (the school, the family and the community, as well as through the media), and should be tailored for the target population groups and be mainstreamed in national education and health policies.  

• Care for drug addicts should be integrated into mainstream health-care services.  

• Drug prevention should target groups and individuals that were particularly at risk, such as children and youth. Particular attention should also be paid to situations of social marginalization and poverty, which rendered people vulnerable to drug abuse.  

• A range of interventions and policies was necessary, depending on the local context. This in turn required effective coordination among different sectors, including local communities and civil society.  

• More scientific research was needed on the effectiveness of drug prevention interventions and policies, particularly in developing countries, as well as the development and use of methodologies for evaluating them.  

• It was crucial to reach people who had started to experiment with drugs in order to prevent their transitioning to drug dependence.  

• Governments are encouraged to create coordinating bodies at all levels (national, regional and municipal), including both the law enforcement and the drug demand reduction sectors, to plan interventions and policies together (…) and to develop joint training courses for law enforcement and drug demand reduction professionals.

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9 E/2010/28 - Report on the fifty-third session -: Thematic debate: in the context of a balanced approach to reducing drug demand and supply, measures to enhance awareness of the different aspects of the world drug problem, including by improving understanding of how to tackle the problem – Chairman’s salient point (f)  
10 E/2010/28 - Report on the fifty-third session -: Thematic debate – Chairman’s salient point (g)  
11 E/2010/28 - Report on the fifty-third session -: Thematic debate – Chairman’s salient point (k)  
12 E/2013/28 - Report on the fifty-sixth session - Round table on demand reduction and related measures: drug prevention as a means to curb the world drug problem within the framework of a scientific evidence approach - Chairman’s salient point (c)  
13 E/2013/28 - Report on the fifty-sixth session - Round table on demand reduction and related measures: drug prevention as a means to curb the world drug problem within the framework of a scientific evidence approach – Chairman’s salient point (e)  
14 E/2013/28 - Report on the fifty-sixth session - Round table on demand reduction and related measures: drug prevention as a means to curb the world drug problem within the framework of a scientific evidence approach - Chairman’s salient point (f)  
15 E/2013/28 - Report on the fifty-sixth session - Round table on demand reduction and related measures: drug prevention as a means to curb the world drug problem within the framework of a scientific evidence approach - Chairman’s salient point (d)  
16 UNODC/SUBCOM/46/5 Recommendations adopted by the Subcommission on Illicit Drug Traffic and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East at its forty-sixth session
Supply reduction and related measures

Achievements

• The majority of Member States responding indicated that they had an integrated written strategy to reduce the supply of and demand for drugs. Many States also had a written strategy against organized crime, approved by the Government and with a specific component to reduce drug supply. Some States indicated that they were developing strategies to combat organized crime that would include measures against drug trafficking. 17

• The majority of Member States indicated that they were actively engaged in the control and monitoring of ATS and illicit substances through programmes for the eradication of illicit drug crops, control and monitoring of precursor chemicals, use of forensic intelligence in the analysis of seizures and in investigations, application of legislation to combat money-laundering and research into and evaluation of drug supply reduction activities. Alternative development programmes were only being pursued in a minority of Member States. 18

• Several Member States indicated that they had adopted specific programmes in the area of arresting drug traffickers and dealers, with a regular review of their national crime and drug strategies to ensure that responses were appropriate. Other Member States were taking a number of measures: attempting to make better use of the resources of law enforcement agencies in the fight against drug trafficking; developing joint task forces; extending their lists of precursor chemicals under national control; closer monitoring of precursor chemical manufacturers and sales; developing public/private partnerships with the chemical industry; directing more attention towards production of ATS; tightening controls over precursors transiting their territories; taking part in international operations such as the Channel programme; awareness-raising in law enforcement agencies as regards the changing dynamics of drug trafficking; strengthening information-gathering to develop better targeted operations; negotiating bilateral cooperation agreements with other Member States; developing specific cooperation agreements concerning shared borders; and putting more focus on the organizers behind drug trafficking. 19

• The responses indicated that national or federal police and customs authorities were mandated to reduce drug supply in most Member States. (…) Member States indicated that they engaged a broad range of law enforcement agencies to reduce drug supply, including national gendarmerie, airport security, national security services, narcotics control agencies, maritime and merchant marine protection agencies, state border guard services, prison administration services and central prosecutor’s offices. 20

• More than half of responding Member States indicated that there was an entity that coordinated the activities of agencies mandated to reduce drug supply. The types of coordination agency varied and included secretariats for the prevention of drug addiction and drug trafficking, police services, national authorities responsible for monitoring of chemical precursors, ministries of the interior or justice, organized crime bureaux, public prosecutor’s offices, drug control and addiction councils, national drug intelligence bureaux, drug enforcement agencies and state commissions. 21

17 E/CN.7/2012/14 – paragraph 24
18 E/CN.7/2012/14 – paragraph 25
19 E/CN.7/2012/14 – paragraph 26
20 E/CN.7/2012/14 – paragraph 27
21 E/CN.7/2012/14 – paragraph 28
According to the responses received, a majority of Member States had established all of the suggested measures and institutions to address the threat posed by corruption within their domestic law enforcement agencies with a mandate to reduce the supply of drugs, including internal and external oversight bodies; a code of conduct; the obligation for staff of such agencies to declare any assets and to report suspected incidents of corruption; and professional ethics training for such staff. Additionally, some States had adopted special criminal or ethics legislation, set up associated courts and appointed specific commissioners or specific investigating prosecutors.  

In most Member States the legal system allowed for the use of special investigative techniques. Law enforcement agencies most frequently used informants and undercover techniques to gather evidence (…………), followed by controlled delivery and electronic surveillance. Some Member States indicated that they also employed other methods, such as anonymous witnesses, witness protection, monitoring of suspicious financial transactions, interception of telecommunications, covert surveillance or the establishment of companies with which to attract and engage trafficking groups.  

In order to support cross-border cooperation between law enforcement agencies in different countries, Member States engaged most frequently in exchange of information (…………), followed by joint operations with other countries and the exchange of liaison officers (…………). Some Member States also organized study visits, joint operational meetings, controlled deliveries, joint border surveillance and joint training activities. Significant results of such cooperation had included specific operations such as Channel, the recovery of large amounts of heroin, cocaine and ATS, closer cross-border cooperation between police services, customs services and prosecutors in combating drug trafficking, expert workshops for forensic staff, joint inter-agency training, better executed controlled deliveries and the dismantling of an extensive ATS trafficking syndicate.  

The vast majority of Member States reported that their law enforcement agencies used (…) communication platforms (…) in order to exchange information with counterparts in other countries. Direct communication between law enforcement agencies, regional and international meetings and regional organizations were the most frequently used channels, followed by the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL), liaison officers and diplomatic channels(…). Other channels included the European Police Office (Europol), the European Union’s Judicial Cooperation Unit and the Southeast European Cooperative Initiative.  

To meet the challenges arising from new technologies (e.g. computers, mobile phones and the Internet) in combating trafficking in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, Member States indicated that the steps most frequently taken included organizing specific training on the recovery of evidence and introducing measures to raise awareness among law enforcement personnel, including on pharmaceuticals.

Specific legislation had been enacted in a minority of Member States.  

A significant number of Member States reported that they had received technical assistance in the area of drug supply reduction from another country or from an international organization. The most common form of assistance was training, followed by data-sharing.
Most Member States reported that they had compiled a list of national companies authorized to manufacture, distribute and trade in precursors. Some Member States had adopted new measures in collaboration with relevant industries as regards the supply of and trafficking in precursor and other chemicals not yet under international control. Such measures included extending the number of chemical substances under national control, developing codes of conduct for the chemical industry and guidelines on manufacture, sales and management of precursor chemicals, concluding memorandums of understanding with chemical producers and retailers, assessing the legitimate national needs for chemical precursors, developing e-learning materials for industry and enforcement agencies, holding seminars for the chemical industry and establishing inter-agency precursor working groups to develop better precursor controls, backtracking investigations and measures to encourage the voluntary monitoring of non-controlled substances.

A significant number of Member States had taken steps to address the use of substances not under international control and substitute chemicals for the manufacture of precursors used in the manufacture of heroin, cocaine or ATS.

Most Member States indicated that their framework for the control of precursor chemicals (...) utilized the Pre-Export Notification Online (PEN Online) (...) designed by the International Narcotics Control Board.

Most Member States were of the view that the existing international cooperation on control of precursor chemicals adequately met requirements in that regard.

Most Member States indicated that they had systems in place to allow for the post-seizure investigation of precursor chemicals. They considered that those systems made it possible to track the origin of seized precursor chemicals and to carry out controlled deliveries of precursor chemicals.

The Member States most affected by cultivation of illicit drug crops reported that national alternative development strategies were in place, some as a stand-alone plan and others as part of the national economic development plan.

Challenges

Only a minority of Member States had systems in place to monitor the sale over the Internet of pharmaceutical preparations containing narcotic drugs or psychotropic substances under international control.

Although 25 Member States indicated that they had extradited drug offenders to other countries under existing bilateral, regional or international agreements or memorandums of understanding, this was not the case in most Member States.
The most frequent problem faced by judicial or law enforcement agencies in cooperating with counterparts in other countries was the slowness of formal procedures. Other important problems included the lack of a common language for communication and the lack of cooperation from counterparts or insufficient exchange of information, followed by a lack of agreements enabling operational cooperation or mutual legal assistance, and the inability of authorities to identify counterparts to be contacted or with whom to establish communication quickly.  

Member States that received technical assistance indicated the need for improved capacity to develop intelligence, information and related analysis, as well as for language training and support in the identification of synthetic drugs. There were also further requirements for adequate equipment, including drug detector dogs, search equipment, x-ray equipment, surveillance equipment, financial analysis software and laboratory support equipment.

Member States considered the response times to PEN requests too slow to enable effective controls. Some indicated that there was insufficient information on the international trade in and the movement and sales of legitimate chemicals and precursors. As there was no requirement for a registered end-user for chemical shipments, opportunities for diversion remained.

It was observed that differing legislation applied by States and the different application of controls over specific chemicals at times caused difficulties in enforcement.

The international monitoring of the 23 controlled precursor chemicals had revealed growth in the use of substitute substances to produce illicit drugs.

There was recognition that a number of Member States needed international support, owing to resource difficulties that precluded their effective monitoring of precursor chemicals and action against diversion attempts;

Priorities for further action

Member States should consider making further efforts to reduce the illicit supply of drugs and to address drug trafficking, at the national level and through international cooperation, including by creating regional mechanisms for promoting information-sharing and cross-border law enforcement activities. Member States should also consider taking further measures to control precursor chemicals and illicit crop cultivation.

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36 E/CN.7/2012/14 – paragraph 34
37 E/CN.7/2012/14 – paragraph 39
38 E/CN.7/2012/14 – paragraph 44
39 E/2012/28 - Report on the fifty-fifth session - Round table on measures to prevent diversion of substances frequently used in the manufacture of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances from domestic distribution channels, including by strengthening partnerships with the private sector - Chairman’s salient point (e)
40 E/2012/28 - Report on the fifty-fifth session - Round table on measures to prevent diversion of substances frequently used in the manufacture of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances from domestic distribution channels, including by strengthening partnerships with the private sector - Chairman’s salient point (g)
41 E/2012/28 - Report on the fifty-fifth session - Round table on measures to prevent diversion of substances frequently used in the manufacture of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances from domestic distribution channels, including by strengthening partnerships with the private sector - Chairman’s salient point (h)
42 E/CN.7/2012/14 – paragraph 71
Governments should review their legislation to ensure that drug law enforcement authorities are empowered to deal with new challenges presented by pre-precursor substances, non-controlled licit chemicals and the emergence of new psychoactive substances that are sourced by drug traffickers. 43

Governments should ensure that their drug law enforcement agencies establish standard operating procedures that support fast decision-making and closer operational cooperation with counterpart authorities in joint investigations of traffickers operating across multiple jurisdictions. 44

Member States should strengthen the exchange of information and best practices at the bilateral, regional and international levels and strengthen joint operations and coordination, including in the area of preventive measures, and should support the use of intelligence-led law enforcement. 45

Governments should encourage the law enforcement agencies managing their land, sea and air borders to develop cooperating agreements that promote regular information-sharing, joint training for undertaking common tasks, and coordination in the planning and execution of operations against drug trafficking. Governments should review and, where necessary, upgrade the technology available to their law enforcement agencies for detecting drugs being smuggled (....) in order to better meet the challenges of innovative concealment techniques. 46

Governments (...) should be encouraged to utilize their investment in training, technology and manpower to establish an inter-agency response for container control at national ports and container terminals through the establishment of specialist units dedicated to the review, selection and search of suspect containers of interest; 47

Governments should carry out a review of current practices and procedures related to undertaking the investigation of illicit drug trafficking and related organized crime offences in foreign jurisdictions, together with a similar review of procedures related to the formal gathering of evidence from these jurisdictions, to determine if existing practices meet the operational needs of their criminal justice system; 48

Governments should examine the factors contributing to corruption that affect their law enforcement agencies; 49

Governments must be encouraged to invest in the training, professional development and operational capacity of their drug law enforcement agencies if they expect their policies to be successful in dismantling

43 UNODC/HONLAP/36/5 - Recommendations adopted by the Thirty-sixth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Asia and the Pacific
44 UNODC/HONEURO/9/6 - Recommendations adopted by the Ninth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Europe
45 E/2012/28 - Report on the fifty-fifth session - Round table on counter-narcotics efforts and the principle of common and shared responsibility: opportunities and challenges - Chairman’s salient point (i)
46 UNODC/SUBCOM/45/6 - Recommendations adopted by the Subcommission on Illicit Drug Traffic and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East at its forty-fifth session
47 UNODC/HONLAC/21/5 - Recommendations adopted by the Twenty-first Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Latin America and the Caribbean
48 UNODC/HONLAC/22/5 - Recommendations adopted by the Twenty-second Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Latin America and the Caribbean
49 UNODC/HONLAC/20/6 - Recommendations adopted by the Twentieth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Latin America and the Caribbean
groups involved in drug trafficking and in effectively disrupting the damaging flow of illicit drugs into their communities; 50

- Governments that do not have in place legislation to support the undertaking of controlled delivery operations are encouraged to establish legal frameworks and to provide the necessary equipment, resources and training to staff to ensure that such operations can be carried out effectively; 51

- There was a call for Member States to review their chemical-control legislation to ensure that it met their needs to prevent diversion. 52

- Governments were encouraged to undertake an accurate assessment of their national needs for licit chemicals and pharmaceutical preparations so as to better identify attempts to divert them; 53

- Governments were encouraged to introduce closed systems for monitoring the licit chemical industry, such as the introduction of licensing for those handling controlled substances; 54

- The private sector was a key partner in applying effective controls over precursor chemicals and should be included in national strategies to address diversion. Member States were encouraged to support collaboration at the national level between the public and private sector players that had a legitimate role in the chemical and pharmaceutical industries; 55

- Support was expressed for the International Guiding Principles on Alternative Development, and Member States were called upon to use them in designing and implementing alternative development programmes; 56

- The importance of viewing alternative development as part of comprehensive drug control strategies, as well as its viable role in addressing poverty reduction, food security and socioeconomic development. Additionally, participants emphasized the need to incorporate alternative development into broader development approaches at the national and international levels; 57

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50 UNODC/HONLAF/20/6 - Recommendations adopted by the Twentieth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Africa
51 UNODC/HONLAF/21/5Recommendations adopted by the Twenty-first Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Africa
52 E/2012/28 - Report on the fifty-fifth session - Round table on measures to prevent diversion of substances frequently used in the manufacture of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances from domestic distribution channels, including by strengthening partnerships with the private sector- Chairman’s salient point (e)
53 E/2012/28 - Report on the fifty-fifth session - Round table on measures to prevent diversion of substances frequently used in the manufacture of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances from domestic distribution channels, including by strengthening partnerships with the private sector- Chairman’s salient point (f)
54 E/2012/28 - Report on the fifty-fifth session - Round table on measures to prevent diversion of substances frequently used in the manufacture of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances from domestic distribution channels, including by strengthening partnerships with the private sector- Chairman’s salient point (g)
55 E/2012/28 - Report on the fifty-fifth session - Round table on measures to prevent diversion of substances frequently used in the manufacture of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances from domestic distribution channels, including by strengthening partnerships with the private sector- Chairman’s salient point (i)
56 E/2013/28 - Report on the fifty-sixth session - Round table on supply reduction and related matters: 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 - Chairman’s salient point (b)
57 E/2013/28 - Report on the fifty-sixth session - Round table on supply reduction and related matters: the importance of international cooperation, coordination and funding to promote relevant activities and programmes
● The importance of a market-driven approach for products stemming from alternative development, considering their added value, as well as the need to ensure quality through the production chain linked to both national and international markets; 58

● The need to identify key performance indicators and to conduct joint surveys and evaluations of alternative development projects, which would contribute to measuring programmes at the outcome and impact levels; 59

● The need for cooperation with research centres to identify and ensure the use of economically viable, ecologically friendly and sustainable crops in alternative development; 60

● The need to consider the environmental impact of alternative development interventions and to integrate environmental conservation into alternative development programmes; 61

● The need for an integrated approach to alternative development requiring the engagement of the broader development community and the international financial institutions to ensure long-term financial sustainability; 62

● The importance of establishing special marketing regimes for products stemming from alternative development; 63

● Alternative development programmes should be implemented in conjunction with eradication activities and border controls when undertaking supply reduction activities; 64

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 - Chairman’s salient point (d)

58 E/2013/28 - Report on the fifty-sixth session - Round table on supply reduction and related matters: 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 - Chairman’s salient point (e)

59 E/2013/28 - Report on the fifty-sixth session - Round table on supply reduction and related matters: 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 - Chairman’s salient point (f)

60 E/2013/28 - Report on the fifty-sixth session - Round table on supply reduction and related matters: 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 - Chairman’s salient point (g)

61 E/2013/28 - Report on the fifty-sixth session - Round table on supply reduction and related matters: 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 - Chairman’s salient point (h)

62 E/2013/28 - Report on the fifty-sixth session - Round table on supply reduction and related matters: 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 - Chairman’s salient point (i)

63 E/2013/28 - Report on the fifty-sixth session - Round table on supply reduction and related matters: 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 - Chairman’s salient point (j)

64 E/2013/28 - Report on the fifty-sixth session - Round table on supply reduction and related matters: the importance of international cooperation, coordination and funding to promote relevant activities and programmes
• For alternative development to be successful, a number of preconditions might be required, including rule of law, law enforcement, safety and security, and access to basic social services, as well as infrastructure, such as irrigation systems.  

• The need to broaden bilateral and multilateral cooperation in the area of alternative development, including a continued exchange of best practices and lessons learned within the framework of South-South cooperation;  

• Governments must consider alternative development strategies that invest in the infrastructure and equipment needed to support the social and human development of rural populations whose livelihoods are dependent upon the illicit cultivation of cannabis;  

**Countering money-laundering and promoting judicial cooperation to enhance international cooperation**

**Achievements**

• A majority of Member States reported having some form of legislation criminalizing money-laundering and that most of that legislation took into consideration international requirements and standards.  

• Most of the Member States responding to the questionnaire reported that their banks and financial institutions had adopted measures to regulate financial activities by adhering to customer identification and verification requirements, by requiring identification of beneficial ownership information for legal persons, by keeping financial records, by requiring reporting of suspicious transactions and by establishing mechanisms to detect and monitor the cross-border transport of cash and bearer negotiable instruments. Many Member States also had in place mechanisms to detect the flow of drug money into the financial system and enhanced due diligence measures when dealing with domestic and internationally politically exposed persons.  

**Challenges**

• An important part of a country’s capacity to combat money-laundering is its ability to identify, seize and recover illicit funds, thereby removing the profit from illegal activities. While progress on the issue of asset

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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 - Chairman’s salient point (k)  
65 E/2013/28 - Report on the fifty-sixth session - Round table on supply reduction and related matters: 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 - Chairman’s salient point (m)  
66 E/2013/28 - Report on the fifty-sixth session - Round table on supply reduction and related matters: 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 - Chairman’s salient point (l)  
67 UNODC/HONLAF/22/5 - Recommendations adopted by the Twenty-second Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Africa  
68 E/CN.7/2012/14 – paragraph 50  
69 E/CN.7/2012/14 – paragraph 56
recovery had been made in recent years, there were few measurable data with regard to confiscations and
the related return of assets back into national government budgets. 70

● Another key component is a country’s ability to cooperate effectively with its neighbours, as well as with
regional and international partners, yet only 20 Member States indicated that their legislation to combat
money-laundering enabled them to conclude bilateral or multilateral agreements for information-sharing, extraditchand mutual legal assistance. 71

● Responses indicated that half of the Member States surveyed did not have any bilateral or multilateral
agreements or memorandums of understanding on extradition. 72

● In conducting financial investigations, it was noted that bank secrecy and tax havens continued to pose
challenges (…) related to proving the origin of funds and assets in cases of money-laundering and asset
forfeiture; 73

**Priorities for further action**

● Member States should consider making further efforts to combat money laundering, including through
the creation, implementation and enforcement of comprehensive legal and regulatory regimes, in
accordance with international standards, in order to undermine organized criminal activities linked to
trafficking in narcotic drugs. 74

● Member States that have not yet done so should seek to conclude where applicable bilateral or
multilateral agreements or arrangements in relation to extradition, mutual legal assistance and illicit traffic
by sea with more countries, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the United Nations Convention
against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988,3 the United Nations
Convention against Transnational Organized Crime4 and the United Nations Convention against
Corruption,5 especially if they do not grant extradition and/or mutual legal assistance in the absence of a
treaty or based on the principle of reciprocity. 75

● Steps had to be taken to focus the fight against illicit drugs on controlling the proceeds of crime,
including efforts to control money-laundering. It was pointed out that seized assets could be reinvested in
measures to reduce demand for illicit drugs; 76

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70 E/CN.7/2012/14 – paragraph 53
71 E/CN.7/2012/14 – paragraph 54
72 E/CN.7/2012/14 – paragraph 59
73 E/2013/28 - Report on the fifty-sixth session - Round table on 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 Chairman’s salient
point (d)
74 E/CN.7/2012/14 – paragraph 72
75 E/CN.7/2012/14 – paragraph 73
76 E/2012/28 - Report on the fifty-fifth session - Round table on counter-narcotics efforts and the principle of
common and shared responsibility: opportunities and challenges - Chairman’s salient point (e)
Strong domestic legal regimes were required to address the problems of money-laundering and the financing of terrorism, and that such laws should be harmonized with international standards. Simultaneous investigations related to money laundering should be conducted in parallel with investigations related to predicate offences, such as drug trafficking and other criminal activities.

The need to establish mechanisms in order to identify, investigate and seize criminal assets, and (...) the need to build the capacity of law enforcement agencies to perform those tasks.

Collaboration and coordination across borders were essential in order to effectively tackle money laundering, with a view to preventing safe havens for criminals (...) The importance of enhanced cooperation at the international, regional and national levels that was aimed at strengthening the sharing of information among relevant agencies, including financial intelligence units, police investigators, prosecutors and other criminal justice officials.

Need to create specialized anti-money-laundering units within law enforcement institutions and to provide specialized training for judges and prosecutors.

Better use should be made of existing cooperation mechanisms and platforms which facilitated information-sharing between financial intelligence units.

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77 E/2013/28 - Report on the fifty-sixth session - Round table on 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 Chairman’s salient point (c)

78 E/2013/28 - Report on the fifty-sixth session - Round table on 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 Chairman’s salient point (d)

79 E/2013/28 - Report on the fifty-sixth session - Round table on 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 Chairman’s salient point (e)

80 E/2013/28 - Report on the fifty-sixth session - Round table on 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 Chairman’s salient point (f)

81 E/2013/28 - Report on the fifty-sixth session - Round table on 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 Chairman’s salient point (f)

82 E/2013/28 - Report on the fifty-sixth session - Round table on 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 Chairman’s salient point (g)
Governments should be encouraged to introduce comprehensive legislation in the matter of asset forfeiture in its various forms to support authorities in the recovery of the proceeds of crime (and) should review their domestic legislation on asset forfeiture in order to identify legal mechanisms aimed at optimizing the application of forfeiture of property derived from illicit drug trafficking.  

83 UNODC/HONLAC/21/5 - Recommendations adopted by the Twenty-first Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Latin America and the Caribbean