

Resolution 60/5

Increasing international coordination relating to precursors and non-scheduled precursor chemicals used in the illicit manufacture of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances

The Commission on Narcotic Drugs,

Recalling the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988,¹ in particular article 12, which lays down the principles and mechanisms for international cooperation and control regarding substances frequently used in the illicit manufacture of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances,

Recalling also the provisions of article 13 of the 1988 Convention, which could provide a basis for national responses to the illicit manufacture of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances involving non-scheduled precursor chemicals,

Taking note of the outcomes of the third international conference on precursor chemicals and new psychoactive substances, held in Bangkok in February 2017,

Recalling its resolution 54/8 of 25 March 2011 and all prior resolutions in which the Commission on Narcotic Drugs called upon Member States to increase international and regional cooperation to counter the illicit manufacture of and trafficking in drugs, including by strengthening the control of international trade in substances frequently used in the illicit manufacture of drugs and preventing attempts to divert those substances from licit international trade to illicit use,

Recalling also its resolution 51/16 of 14 March 2008 on the sharing of information regarding the use of non-scheduled precursor chemicals as substitutes for scheduled substances frequently used in the illicit manufacture of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances and new methods of manufacture of illicit drugs,

Concerned that worldwide efforts to reduce the illicit supply of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances and maintain effective control of scheduled substances are being undermined by drug traffickers, who are increasingly using non-scheduled precursor chemicals as substitutes for scheduled substances in the illicit manufacture of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances,

Recognizing the important work of the International Narcotics Control Board as the principal body and global focal point for the international surveillance of non-scheduled precursor chemicals,

Reiterating the importance of further strengthening existing international cooperation mechanisms for the control of precursors, including through the participation of Member States in international operations such as Project Prism and Project Cohesion, with a view to gathering intelligence, on a voluntary basis, on the illicit trade patterns and diversion of targeted notified non-scheduled precursor chemicals,

Noting the most recent trends and challenges in precursor control, including diversion from domestic distribution channels as the prevailing method used by traffickers to obtain the chemicals they need, and the ongoing use of non-scheduled precursor chemicals, including “designer”

¹ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1582, No. 27627.

chemicals, as substitutes for precursors for amphetamine-type stimulants and other drugs,

Concerned about the increased use of non-scheduled precursor chemicals worldwide and about the fact that the use of non-scheduled precursor chemicals undermines the ability of the international community to prevent the illicit manufacture of narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and new psychoactive substances,

Welcoming the outcome document of the thirtieth special session of the General Assembly, entitled “Our joint commitment to effectively addressing and countering the world drug problem”,² in particular the operational recommendations related to those concerns,

1. *Requests* the International Narcotics Control Board, in close cooperation with Member States, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and other relevant organizations, to continue to lead the development of new and innovative approaches to better address the issue of non-scheduled precursor chemicals used in the illicit manufacture of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, including by updating, publicizing and disseminating the limited international special surveillance list of non-scheduled precursor chemicals of the Board, along with the list of voluntary actions that the Board provided that Governments may take, in accordance with their legal systems;

2. *Invites* Member States to take a range of forward-looking measures with respect to non-scheduled precursor chemicals, such as raising awareness among public authorities, private industry, the health and public safety sectors and other stakeholders of the risk of non-scheduled precursor chemicals being utilized for the illicit manufacture of scheduled precursor chemicals and drugs, securing cooperation from relevant sectors to facilitate the identification of suspicious transactions, as identified by importing, exporting and transit countries in accordance with their national laws, of non-scheduled precursor chemicals, including new and unusual trade patterns, remaining vigilant with respect to the substitution of non-scheduled precursor chemicals for scheduled precursor chemicals in illicit manufacturing processes and sharing information about their activities and findings with other Member States and appropriate organizations as far as practicable and to the extent possible;

3. *Encourages* Member States and relevant international and regional organizations to cooperate closely with the International Narcotics Control Board, in particular under its Project Prism and Project Cohesion, in order to enhance the effectiveness of those international initiatives;

4. *Encourages* Member States, in accordance with their national laws, to consider sending pre-export notifications on a voluntary basis, when appropriate, by using mechanisms such as Pre-Export Notification Online or normal bilateral communication channels, of suspicious consignments, when they are made aware of such suspicious consignments, duly corroborated by the relevant national authorities, of non-scheduled precursor chemicals which are generally believed to be used in the illicit manufacture of drugs, and are included in the international special surveillance list and all regional surveillance lists, including those identified by the International Narcotics Control Board, in accordance with its mandate, in order to enable authorities in the country of destination to verify the purpose of transactions and to react appropriately;

² General Assembly resolution S-30/1, annex.

5. *Also encourages* Member States to educate the relevant staff of competent authorities about the tools developed by the International Narcotics Control Board through which competent authorities may learn about the extent and level of legal controls in participating States, as made available by the Board, and invites the competent authorities of Member States to provide such information as they deem appropriate to the trusted relevant stakeholders in the chemical industry, with a view to increasing their level of awareness of the legal and regulatory requirements of transit and destination States;

6. *Recommends* that competent authorities register and use the Precursors Incident Communication System as a means of systematically sharing information about incidents involving not only scheduled but also non-scheduled precursor chemicals and that they submit the names of frequently diverted non-scheduled precursor chemicals, when they come to the notice of competent national authorities, to the International Narcotics Control Board for possible addition to the limited international special surveillance list of non-scheduled precursor chemicals;

7. *Requests* the International Narcotics Control Board to maintain and continue to improve the Precursors Incident Communication System and Pre-Export Notification Online, and invites Member States to continue to support the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the International Narcotics Control Board in the maintenance and improvement of those tools;

8. *Encourages* Member States to consider applying monitoring measures in accordance with their national laws to detect and prevent diversion and to use established mechanisms for the exchange of information, including through the Precursors Incident Communication System and the annual update and dispatch of information on substances frequently used in the illicit manufacture of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances using form D of the International Narcotics Control Board, on substances not included in Table I or Table II of the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988²⁷ that have been used in the illicit manufacture of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances;

9. *Invites* Governments to consider adopting measures, including, for example, enacting legislation or promulgating administrative procedures, where appropriate, authorizing the suspension of suspicious consignments of non-scheduled precursor chemicals, as identified by importing, exporting and transit countries in accordance with their national laws, and sharing information with the Board in order to prevent diversion;

10. *Encourages* Member States to establish and strengthen voluntary partnerships with industry, in particular the chemical and pharmaceutical industries, including relevant national, regional and international associations where they exist, to take into account the different roles of the relevant operators at the national level and to establish communication channels to report any suspicious orders and transactions, also encourages the use of the *Guidelines for a Voluntary Code of Practice for the Chemical Industry*,³ issued by the International Narcotics Control Board, and the Board's model memorandum of understanding between Governments and private sector partners, as and where appropriate, bearing in mind the important role that those industries can play in addressing and countering the world drug problem, and further encourages partnering activities

³ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.09.XI.17.

between countries with established voluntary industry cooperation mechanisms and countries wishing to develop similar mechanisms;

11. *Invites* Governments to enhance cooperation between regulatory and law enforcement authorities in sharing information, as soon as practically possible, on precursor incidents and, in particular, to provide actionable operational details that would enable follow-up investigations with a view to detecting and identifying trends and criminal networks involved and also to preventing the use of the same modus operandi by traffickers in future;

12. *Invites* Member States to explore new methods, as appropriate, for monitoring and control that do not solely rely on formal controls of individual precursor chemicals;

13. *Encourages* Member States, the International Narcotics Control Board, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and relevant regional and international organizations to collect data, analyse evidence and share information with respect to criminal activities conducted via the Internet relating to precursors, and to continue to strengthen legal, law enforcement and criminal justice responses, based on national legislation, as well as international cooperation, to curb such illicit activities;

14. *Encourages* Governments to enhance the capacity and effectiveness of national laboratories and promote national, regional and international cooperation among them, as appropriate, for the identification and detection of newly emerging precursor chemicals;

15. *Invites* Governments to consider, on a voluntary basis, a variety of approaches, such as rapid scheduling procedures, the compiling of lists of non-scheduled precursor chemicals with no known legitimate uses but known to be used for illicit drug manufacture, the adoption of provisions which would allow Governments to take action on such non-scheduled precursor chemicals when there is sufficient evidence that they will be used for illicit drug manufacture, and other innovative legislative, regulatory or administrative approaches;

16. *Invites* Member States and other donors to provide extra-budgetary resources for those purposes, in accordance with the rules and procedures of the United Nations.