

Statement on behalf of the Member States of the Central Asian Regional Information and Coordination Centre for combating the illicit trafficking of narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and their precursors

CARICC's Tenth Anniversary

On behalf of the Member States of the Central Asian Regional Information and Coordination Centre for combating the illicit trafficking of narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and their precursors (CARICC), the Republic of Azerbaijan, the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, the Republic of Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and the Republic of Uzbekistan, and in connection with CARICC's tenth anniversary, the delegation of the Russian Federation has the honor to address the UN Commission on Narcotic Drugs with the following statement:

Reaffirming the need to mobilize adequate resources to address and counter the world drug problem,

Stressing that the 1961 Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs as amended by the 1972 Protocol, the 1971 Convention on Psychotropic Substances and the 1988 United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances and other relevant instruments are the cornerstone of the international drug control system,

Noting our commitment to implementing effectively the provisions set out in the Political Declaration and the Plan of Action, as well as the Joint Ministerial Statement adopted within the high level review in March 2014, which contained calls to strengthen international and regional counter-drug cooperation,

Reaffirming our commitment to the principle enshrined in the outcome document of the 2016 United Nations General Assembly Special Session on the World Drug Problem that the drug problem remains common and shared responsibility that should be fulfilled in a multilateral setting through effective and increased international cooperation and requires an integrated, multidisciplinary, mutually reinforcing, balanced, evidence-based and comprehensive approach,

Highlighting the importance of the progressive implementation of the Declaration on Strengthening Cooperation in Countering the Illicit Trafficking in Drugs and Precursors and Preventing Abuse of Drugs and Psychotropic Substances adopted at the 10th review meeting of the Parties to the Memorandum of Understanding on Sub-Regional Drug Control Cooperation (MoU),

Recalling the steps that have been taken since 1996 under the MoU to address the challenges posed by the illicit production of and trafficking in drugs and drug abuse, including the establishment of the Central Asian Regional Information and Coordination Centre (CARICC), as well as the UNODC technical cooperation programmes in support of the MoU Parties,

Recognizing and stressing the significance of CARICC as a regional counter-drugs structure that coordinates efforts of the competent authorities of the Member States, other countries and international organizations in combating the illicit drug trafficking, including joint operations and exchange of information,

Emphasizing the important role of the MoU in strengthening regional and international cooperation to effectively counter the illicit drug trafficking and illicit financial flows, especially in the framework of the principle of common and shared responsibility for implementing confidence-building measures, including under the Paris Pact Initiative.

1. We reaffirm our support to and call upon CARICC to further enhance cooperation with the competent authorities of the Parties to the MoU, as well as relevant regional and international organizations to facilitate the exchange of information and intelligence, and joint operations;

2. We note the importance of the consistent implementation of the UNODC Programme for Central Asia (2015-2019) and the UNODC Regional Programme for Afghanistan and Neighbouring Countries (2011-2019) for the development of regional drug control cooperation;

3. We call upon the Parties to the MOU to reinforce controls with a view to preventing the illicit trafficking in precursor chemicals that drive the illicit drug production, and in that regard to support the efforts of the existing regional task forces;

4. We reaffirm our intention to enhance multilateral cooperation in close coordination with UNODC, including in law-enforcement, crime prevention and in strengthening judicial and legal cooperation;

5. We stress the need to pay greater attention to the interconnection between transnational organized crime, in particular drug-related crime, and corruption, and take adequate measures under the MoU;

6. We call upon the donor States to contribute financially or otherwise to the implementation of the UNODC Programme for Central Asia (2015-2019) and the UNODC Regional Programme for Afghanistan and Neighbouring Countries (2011-2019) with a view to further supporting efforts to counter threats related to illicit trafficking in drugs, especially opiates, in the region.