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**Implementation of the Political Declaration and
Plan of Action on International Cooperation
towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to
Counter the World Drug Problem****Strengthening international cooperation in combating illicit
opiates originating in Afghanistan through continuous and
reinforced support to the Paris Pact initiative******Report of the Secretariat***Summary*

In its resolution 56/3 entitled “Strengthening international cooperation in combating illicit opiates originating in Afghanistan through continuous and reinforced support to the Paris Pact initiative”, the Commission on Narcotic Drugs welcomed and reiterated its support to the Paris Pact initiative as one of the most important international frameworks and a unique platform for genuine partnership between States, competent international organizations and other relevant stakeholders in the fight against opiates originating in Afghanistan. The Commission continued to call upon Member States, in cooperation with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and other entities, to ensure the full implementation of the Vienna Declaration, the outcome document of the Third Ministerial Conference of the Paris Pact Partners on Combating Illicit Traffic in Opiates Originating in Afghanistan, held on 16 February 2012. As requested by the Commission, the present report describes the steps taken by UNODC to implement the resolution in 2018, the fifth year of implementation of the fourth phase of the initiative.

* E/CN.7/2018/1.

** This document has not been edited.



I. Background

1. The Vienna Declaration adopted at the Third Ministerial Conference of the Paris Pact Partners on Combating Illicit Traffic in Opiates Originating in Afghanistan, held in February 2012,¹ is a statement of international commitment to act in a balanced and comprehensive manner against the menace of opiates originating in Afghanistan. In the Declaration, participants prioritized four main areas, also known as pillars, for enhanced cooperation: (a) regional initiatives; (b) financial flows linked to traffic in opiates; (c) preventing the diversion of precursor chemicals; and (d) reducing drug abuse and dependence. The Conference signified an important landmark for the Paris Pact, as partners reaffirmed their common and shared responsibility towards combating opiates. The Vienna Declaration serves as a blueprint for the activities of the Paris Pact partnership and reflects the partnership's commitment to strengthening international and regional cooperation to counter, in a balanced manner, the global challenge and threat that opiates pose to international peace and stability in different regions of the world.

2. In its resolution 56/3 entitled "Strengthening international cooperation in combating illicit opiates originating in Afghanistan through continuous and reinforced support to the Paris Pact initiative", the Commission on Narcotic Drugs recognized the initiative's importance as one of the most significant international frameworks and a unique platform for genuine partnership between Member States, competent international organizations and other relevant stakeholders in the fight against opiates originating in Afghanistan.²

3. The Paris Pact has two dimensions. The first is the partnership itself, made up of 58 countries and 23 organizations, including the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). The partnership is responsible for defining priorities and implementing measures in line with the Vienna Declaration, based on the principle of shared responsibility. The second dimension is the global programme established by UNODC on behalf of the partnership to provide coordination support through the programme's three components developed during the preceding phases: the consultative mechanism, the research and liaison officer network, and information management. The programme facilitates the initiative's intergovernmental process of dialogue on opiates. Currently, the fourth phase of the programme is under way.

4. The Paris Pact partnership continues to play a pivotal role as a global advocacy platform at the highest political level for concrete action aimed at reducing the traffic in opiates, the cultivation of opium poppy and the production and global consumption of opiates by prioritizing technical assistance. The strategy of the partnership is adapting to reflect ongoing shifts and trends along opiate trafficking routes.

5. The Paris Pact is the only global cooperation mechanism dedicated to illicit opiates. The Paris Pact, whose efforts have been recognized by the Security Council in resolutions 2274 (2016), 2344 (2017) and 2405 (2018), serves to identify counter-narcotics priorities and highlight efforts taking place to combat opiate trafficking along the major routes.

6. The magnitude of the illicit opiate market is one of the most significant international policy challenges faced today. Health and security threats posed by record high production of opiates call for enhanced coordinated responses by Member States along the supply chain. As increased profits are generated by the record production of opiates, the expansion of the global opiate market requires close monitoring especially regarding the profits derived from drug trafficking and related illicit financial flows.³ The 2018 Geneva Conference on Afghanistan Joint Communiqué underscored the continuing challenges of the expanding illicit economy in Afghanistan to sustainable development, peace and security.

¹ See [E/CN.7/2012/17](#).

² See [E/CN.7/2013/14](#).

³ World Drug Report 2018.

7. Concerted efforts, political will, cooperation and the support of the international community are needed to articulate mutually reinforcing responses and effective counter-narcotics measures. Intensified efforts are needed to address the nexus between transnational organized crime and narcotics to counter challenges to security and development in the region. In that context, the Paris Pact remains a vital international mechanism. Further relevant frameworks in the area of drug control and regional cooperation are the Heart of Asia-Istanbul Process on Regional Security and Cooperation for a Secure and Stable Afghanistan and other initiatives led by Paris Pact partners.

8. The support of the Paris Pact partnership for the four pillars of the Vienna Declaration is linked to the Sustainable Development Goals and their targets.⁴ Under the Global Programme, the 81 members of the partnership receive assistance in prioritizing their support in line with the targets of the Sustainable Development Goals. The pillars of the Vienna Declaration are particularly relevant to the targets of Sustainable Development Goal 3 (To ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages), Sustainable Development Goal 5 (To achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls) and Sustainable Development Goal 16 (Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels).

9. The Vienna Declaration is the framework for the partnership's response to the international commitments aimed at countering traffic in narcotic drugs and addressing links with other forms of organized crime. The Vienna Declaration supports the operational recommendations outlined in 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".⁵

II. Status of implementation of Commission resolution 56/3

A. Strategic and expert-level dialogue

10. The priorities set under Paris Pact policy, the resulting outcomes and the discussions conducted at the operational level continue to highlight the necessity of keeping a sustained response to trends in trafficking along the Balkan, northern and southern routes. Developments along those routes underline the importance of cooperation among countries, regions and organizations.

11. In its current, fourth phase, the Paris Pact initiative is active in four areas, also known as action areas. The Paris Pact: (a) functions as a forum for global dialogue; (b) adapts responses to evolving threats along opiate trafficking routes; (c) enables the promotion of good practices; and (d) enhances the formulation of evidence-based policy and strategy formulation.

Global dialogue

12. On 14 March 2018, the Paris Pact Coordination Unit organized a High-level Side Event within the margins of the 61st Session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, sponsored by France, the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, the Russian Federation and the United States of America. Speakers stressed the need for strengthening regional and international cooperation based on the principle of shared responsibility as promoted under the banner of the Paris Pact. The event was an opportunity to reaffirm partners' commitment to engage and support efforts at both the political and technical level within Afghanistan, the region and beyond in tackling opiates.

13. The fourteenth Policy Consultative Group meeting has held in Vienna, Austria on 12 and 13 June 2018. The meeting brought together 80 participants from

⁴ See General Assembly resolution 70/1.

⁵ General Assembly resolution S-30/1, annex.

27 countries and 13 organizations and was co-chaired by UNODC Representative in Afghanistan and Deputy Minister of Counter Narcotics of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan. The recommendations put forward by the four expert working group meetings implemented in 2017 and 2018 on all four thematic pillars of the Vienna Declaration were considered and approved.

14. The outcomes of the meeting included a majority consensus on the uniqueness and relevance of the Paris Pact as a global coordination mechanism for maintaining international commitment towards tackling the global threat of opiates and strengthening interregional connectivity, cooperation and information-sharing.

15. Partners reaffirmed the ongoing validity of the Vienna Declaration and its four-pillar architecture, which supports the Sustainable Development Goals and embodies the partnership's commitment and shared responsibility to respond to the global challenges posed by opiates to international peace, security and development. Partners noted that any amendments to the Vienna Declaration including the name or scope of the Paris Pact's mandate would necessitate further discussion and possible endorsement at Ministerial level.

16. A key outcome of the event was the renewed commitment by partners on the necessity to engage and support political and technical level efforts on opiates within Afghanistan, the region and beyond. Partners were encouraged to come forward as potential hosts for the 2018 and 2019 expert meetings, bearing in mind the three-month minimum period and prerequisite funding required to prepare for an expert meeting.

17. The meeting of the expert working group on "Comprehensive Approach to Drug Treatment and Care: International Standards and Quality Assurance Systems" relating to the fourth pillar of the Vienna Declaration on "Drug Prevention and Health", was hosted in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan on 25 and 26 April 2018 by the European Union Action Against Drugs and Organised Crime (EU-ACT) project and the Central Asian Drug Action Programme (CADAP). The meeting brought together 41 participants representing 12 countries and 7 international organizations. Participants reviewed gaps, priorities, opportunities and limitations in strengthening the capacity of the system of drug treatment and care. They also looked at the International Standards for the Treatment of Drug Use Disorders and conducted a situational analysis of drug treatment services in select Paris Pact partners countries.

18. The meeting of the high-level expert working group on regional cooperation (the first pillar of the Vienna Declaration), was hosted by the Shanghai Cooperation Organization. The meeting was held in Beijing, the People's Republic of China on 13, 14 and 15 November 2018 and was attended by 70 participants, representing 19 countries and 10 international organizations. Participants discussed the potential and capability of law enforcement cooperation organizations and centres assisting Paris Pact partner States in facilitating the exchange of criminal intelligence and coordination of long-term multilateral operations. Participants highlighted the importance of utilizing specialized and new training techniques, methods and best practices in the design of training programmes. The experts also reviewed trends and patterns in the production of, trafficking in and demand for opiates.

19. In Beijing, the partnership reaffirmed their political commitment to the valuable work carried out under the Paris Pact and called for a strengthened role for the Central Asian Regional Information and Coordination Centre (CARICC), Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), European Police Office (Europol), the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) and other key regional organizations in the coordination of strategic and operational matters related to combating the opiate threat. Participants at the meeting also called upon the organizations to report on progress made, including the development and implementation of operations that support the eight recommendations at the next expert and Policy Consultative Group meetings.

20. The recommendations put forward by the “Drug Prevention and Health” themed expert working group held in Bishkek, were endorsed at the fourteenth Policy Consultative Group meeting. The recommendations put forth by the expert meeting held in Beijing, will be considered for endorsement at the fifteenth Policy Consultative Group meeting.

Promoting good practices

21. At the expert meeting on Comprehensive Approach to Drug Treatment and Care held in Bishkek, participants exchanged views and information on existing quality assurance mechanisms including mechanisms for credentialing and licensing with the objective of establishing a national quality assurance mechanism based on the International Standards for the Treatment of Drug Use Disorders. Taking into account best practices in the regions of West and Central Asia, discussions underscored the importance of sustainable strategies to improve drug treatment service for opiate users in line with the International Standards for the Treatment of Drug Use Disorders including identifying steps to enhance multilateral cooperation for promoting sustainable strategies.

22. In Beijing, the expert meeting on regional cooperation called for the review and replication where possible, of best practices of effective cooperation between law enforcement and prosecutorial bodies at national, regional and interregional level in investigating complex drug-related cases. The experts also participated in an experience-sharing visit to two law enforcement facilities under the Ministry of Public Security of the People’s Republic of China; the Anti-Terrorism Centre of the Main Directorate of Public Security of the City of Beijing and the Control Centre of Fentai District Security.

Enhancing evidence-based policy and strategy formulation

23. At the Policy Consultative meeting, partners emphasized the continued necessity to improve the availability of data and information to enable informed responses by the partnership on the opiate threat.

B. Update on the UNODC Paris Pact programme

24. Through its Paris Pact Coordination Unit, UNODC acts as the coordinator for the Paris Pact partnership and supports it in realizing its goals. During the reporting period, the UNODC Paris Pact programme continued facilitating the Paris Pact’s intergovernmental process by supplying information to partners about the threat posed by illicit opiates and promoting and facilitating activities under the Paris Pact initiative, thereby linking policy and operational elements. The programme is an overarching, inter-thematic and interregional coordination mechanism aimed at institutionalizing partnerships. During the reporting period, the programme, and by extension the UNODC Paris Pact Coordination Unit, has provided coordination support, interfaced with partners, facilitated the sharing of information and reported on partnership priorities.

25. The UNODC Paris Pact programme aims to bring together all UNODC operational capacity at the global, regional and country levels, taking into consideration the outlook and goals of the programme, in particular the identification of priorities for action and the formulation of recommendations at expert meetings.

26. The results of the midterm in-depth evaluation (September 2017 to February 2018), managed by the Independent Evaluation Unit were presented to the partnership at the Reconvened Policy Consultative Group meeting held on 8 March 2018 in Vienna. A detailed discussion on the way forward for the Programme took place at the policy consultative group meeting held in June 2018. The evaluation exclusively addressed the programme dimension of the Paris Pact specifically designed to support the implementation of the Vienna Declaration.

27. Together, the expert and policy meetings make up the first component of the UNODC Paris Pact programme, the consultative mechanism. The two other components are the field-based research and liaison officer network, and information management.

Consultative Mechanism

28. Through its first component, the consultative mechanism, the UNODC Paris Pact programme fosters dialogue among the 81 partners that make up the Paris Pact initiative by coordinating expert and policy meetings where priorities for partnership implementation are identified and endorsed. One of the objectives of the programme is to facilitate the comparative advantage of UNODC in leveraging is the collective will of the partnership to streamline responses to the opiate threat.

29. The UNODC Paris Pact Coordination Unit, through the Paris Pact Coordinator, facilitates processes and reinforces the extensive information-sharing and communication systems already in place for the partners.

30. Responding to the call made by the partnership at the fourteenth Consultative Group Meeting to prioritize existing Paris Pact expert recommendations to hone their operational focus and to explore strengthening the role of regional organizations in facilitating their implementation, a new pilot expert meeting modality placing focus on the identification and implementation of key recommendations from previous meetings was implemented at the Beijing expert meeting. The expert recommendation stocktaking exercise aims to align with the Paris Pact partner driven “gap analysis” process. Changes to the structure of expert meetings may be triggered by the recommendation prioritization exercise depending on the application to each thematic area of the Vienna Declaration. The process will continue to evolve in 2019.

31. Following partner discussions at the policy meeting and as part of the implementation of the midterm evaluation recommendations, the Paris Pact Programme participated in the fifty-third session of the Subcommission on Illicit Drug Traffic and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East held in Baku, Azerbaijan, on November 19 through 23, 2018. The meeting provided an opportunity to foster information-sharing across drug trafficking routes and promote synergies between the activities of the Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies (HONLEAs) and the Paris Pact. This advocacy was especially relevant to linking the outcomes of Paris Pact expert meetings with the HONLEA process. This new form of connecting partners and information along major illicit drug trafficking routes, complements the efforts initiated one week before at the Paris Pact High-Level meeting held in Beijing with regard to the implementation of the programme’s evaluation findings to strengthen follow-up of expert recommendations.

Research and Liaison Officer Network

32. During the reporting period, the network of research and liaison officers, serving as the second component of the programme, continued to function as the primary point of contact in the field for the Paris Pact with respect to the four pillars of the Vienna Declaration in support of the consultative mechanism and as a complement to the UNODC Paris Pact Coordination Unit. Research and liaison officers were based in select UNODC field offices along the northern and Balkan trafficking routes, operating under the supervision of the Paris Pact Coordinator.

33. The network continued to submit reports, which reflected major developments in areas relevant to the Paris Pact in line with the four pillars of the Vienna Declaration, and to facilitate other UNODC programmes covering a variety of inter-thematic issues, thereby supporting the implementation of the Vienna Declaration.

34. Research has been instrumental in creating an evidence base for action beyond the country level and in providing the Paris Pact partnership with strategic information. In countries where the Paris Pact has invested in research, there is more

capacity for examining the national, regional and international dimensions of drug trafficking and for mapping drug trafficking routes and their branches.

35. During the reporting period, the network of research and liaison officers of the UNODC Paris Pact programme provided assistance to Member States on the completion of global UNODC surveys as part of the mandated annual data-collection effort of UNODC.

36. The research and liaison officers located in Serbia and the Republic of North Macedonia acted as regional focal points supporting the project “Measuring and assessing organized crime in the western Balkans” managed by the Crime Research Section of the Research and Trend Analysis Branch. The officers provided data, liaison and research support to the project based on an agreed financial integration model in place with the Paris Pact.

37. The 2018 Paris Pact country fact sheets for Central Asia, South-Eastern Europe and countries located in the Caucasus and West Asia, closely aligned with the *World Drug Report* cycle, were made available to Paris Pact partners in February 2019. They included data on national and regional level drug and precursor indicators.

38. The research and liaison officers located in Central Asia collaborated with global, regional and country programme teams of UNODC in delivering specialized training to strengthen the research, analytical and skills capacity of law enforcement practitioners in West and Central Asia. The officers provided training to law enforcement agencies on data collection, mapping and analysis, statistical and spatial analysis and the darknet.

39. In line with the recommendation of the programme evaluation and discussions held at the June policy meeting, partners decided to maintain the research and liaison officer network. The programme will continue to seek further integration of the field network within other research relevant global and regional programmes teams in UNODC. Five out of eight network positions are currently filled due to current programme funding limitations.

Information Management

40. The third component of the programme comprises two parts, the Drugs Monitoring Platform, and an information hub that captures the information management work of the programme. The fluid sharing of information and analysis and the investment in research under the UNODC Paris Pact programme have made it possible to develop the Drugs Monitoring Platform, a system that centralizes information on drug trends and generates national-level data to inform the annual reports questionnaire, as well as the *World Drug Report* and other publications.

41. The Drugs Monitoring Platform is an innovative online tool for collecting, monitoring, mapping and sharing drug-related data. The Platform provides information on the global illicit trade in opiates originating in Afghanistan, the mapping of emerging threats and the identification of illicit drug trafficking routes. The knowledge generated by the Platform can be used to inform evidence-based policymaking. The Platform is a UNODC product jointly managed and funded under the UNODC Paris Pact programme and the Afghan Opiate Trade Project of the Research and Trend Analysis Branch. Operated by the coordination and analysis unit at the UNODC regional office for Central Asia, it supports the global data-collection process within UNODC. During the reporting period, the Drugs Monitoring Platform continued to facilitate the implementation by the Paris Pact partnership of Commission resolution 56/3.

42. During the reporting period, the updating of the Drugs Monitoring Platform continued jointly with the Afghan Opiate Trade Project. There are currently over 200,000 individual drug seizure cases record in the Platform, complete with geo-tagging. Several features contained in the Platform were further enhanced including a geo-mapping of law enforcement training institutions in Europe, West and Central Asia in support of the Global Programme on Building Effective Networks

against Transnational Organized Crime and a quick access law enforcement directory connected to individual drug seizure cases. The Paris Pact team continues to explore further synergies through the Platform with other UNODC projects and programmes and other stakeholders involved in combating drugs.

43. The UNODC/WHO treatment facility tool function, developed in partnership with the Drug Prevention and Health Branch as launched in 2018. The facility survey tool supports the implementation of the International Standards for the Treatment of Drug Use Disorders and recommendations stemming from the 2016 Pillar IV Paris Pact expert meeting held in Belgrade, Serbia.

44. In support of the implementation of Paris Pact expert recommendations on strengthening cross-border cooperation and regional initiatives, the UNODC law enforcement training database, is a new feature implemented within the Platform, established at the request and under the oversight of the Regional Section for Europe, West and Central Asia in cooperation with the Regional Office for Central Asia. The UNODC database was established with the objective of enhancing coordination and strengthening the oversight and sustainability of all law enforcement training activities conducted in Europe, West and Central Asia. The projects contained within the database are implemented under the frameworks of the Regional Programme for Afghanistan and Neighbouring Countries and the Country Programme for Afghanistan and is supported by the “Trilateral Cooperation between Japan, Russia and UNODC”.

45. In support of the recent programme evaluation, the programme is developing together with the Research and Trend Analysis Branch, a midterm strategy to further harness the potential and effectiveness of the platform, ensure its expansion while identifying cost-sharing mechanisms to secure sustainable funding for the platform. A series of actions are foreseen including a comprehensive upgrade of the Platform. A stronger Platform will better inform patterns and trends on illicit drugs. To complement the midterm strategy being developed, the work of the research and liaison officer network will be refocused to reinforce the network’s contributions to the Drugs Monitoring Platform. A new cost-sharing plan between the programme and the Afghan Opiate Trade Project went into effect in February 2019 to support the Platform as a common information system. Upgrading the Drugs Monitoring Platform from a tool serving mainly the Research and Trend Analysis Branch and the Paris Pact to one meeting the needs of multiple stakeholders reinforce the “One UNODC” approach.

46. During the reporting period, the longer-term migration of the Platform to servers at United Nations Headquarters in New York strategically led by the UNODC Paris Pact programme was ongoing.

47. In line with discussions at the June policy meeting and the recommendations of the Programme evaluation, partners decided to transform ADAM, the Automated Donor Assistance Mechanism into a secure information hub comprised of detailed information on the Paris Pact and related events. The Programme is currently reviewing options regarding the development of a simpler and cheaper system.

C. Synergies

1. Paris Pact partnership

48. The Paris Pact initiative is open to all interested countries and organizations. The initiative is particularly useful as a mechanism for dialogue and for the exchange of best practices.

49. The programme further supported the work of the Consultative Mechanism through its continued advocacy and coordination function, by providing space for the multiple operational initiatives and programmes put in place by UNODC and its partners to address opiates, to make use of the political momentum generated by the Paris Pact.

50. During the reporting period, the initiative gained further importance thanks to strengthened partnerships with organizations other than UNODC. In Beijing the partnership called for intensified collaboration with the Central Asian Regional Information and Coordination Centre (CARICC), Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), European Police Office (Europol), the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) and other key regional organizations in the coordination of strategic and operational matters related to combating the opiate threat. Strengthened cooperation also continued with the European Union through the European Union Action Against Drugs and Organised Crime (EU-ACT) project as well as the Central Asian Drug Action Programme through the hosting of a Paris Pact expert meeting (CADAP).

51. Throughout the fourth phase of the Paris Pact initiative, newly emerging routes, patterns and trends in opiate trafficking posed ongoing and new challenges, requiring the partnership to adjust accordingly, broadening the geographical coverage of the Paris Pact.

52. The strategic priorities of the Paris Pact defined at the Policy Consultative Group meeting are operationalized as part of the multiple programmes, funds, and projects delivered by members of the partnership, including UNODC.

2. UNODC

53. The primary functions of the UNODC Paris Pact programme are to facilitate political dialogue, institutionalize partnerships, foster the development of strategic priorities by the partnership and mobilize the appropriate comparative advantage of multiple UNODC interventions to align support by UNODC as a whole for implementing the four pillars of the Vienna Declaration.

54. Paris Pact partners through the midterm evaluation underscored the successful facilitation role of the programme with demonstrated results in terms of strengthening interregional connectivity, cooperation, information-sharing, promoting operational responses within the international community in combating the opiate threat and increasing the availability of drug-related data along major trafficking routes from Afghanistan.

55. The Paris Pact programme contributes to the implementation of the “One UNODC approach” adopted by UNODC by coordinating UNODC programme teams’ engagement in the Consultative Mechanism. The progress of the expert-level dialogue continues to be largely driven by the active involvement of UNODC thematic lead experts specialized in the four pillars of the Vienna Declaration. The experts provide technical guidance to the expert working groups at all stages of implementation, including the development of meeting recommendations.

56. More specifically, the UNODC Paris Pact programme closely interacts with UNODC at the global, regional and country levels to comprehensively cover the range of themes reflected in the Vienna Declaration, including through the Regional Section for Europe and for West and Central Asia (through the regional programme for Afghanistan and neighbouring countries, the regional programme for South-Eastern Europe and the programme for Central Asia), the Justice Section (through the Maritime Crime Programme), the Organized Crime and Illicit Trafficking Branch (through its Implementation Support Section and that Section’s global Container Control Programme and Global Programme on Building Effective Networks against Transnational Organized Crime; and through the Cybercrime and Anti-Money-Laundering Section and that Section’s Global Programme against Money-Laundering, Proceeds of Crime and the Financing of Terrorism), the Drug Prevention and Health Branch (through its Prevention, Treatment and Rehabilitation Section and all that Section’s global programmes), and the Research and Trend Analysis Branch (through its Drugs Research Section and the Afghan Opiate Trade Project, the Laboratory and Scientific Section, the drugs and data development unit and the Crime Research Section through the project “Measuring and assessing organized crime in the western Balkans”).

57. The UNODC regional programmes continued to work closely with the Paris Pact across all subprogrammes helping operationalize the recommendations of the expert working groups. The regional programme for Afghanistan and neighbouring countries, supported by efforts in the respective country programmes, is uniquely positioned to increase the coherence and effectiveness of Paris Pact partner interventions in the region. A more intense involvement in the Paris Pact particularly by the regional programme for South-East Asia and the Pacific and the regional programme in the Arab States and East Africa would further support the objective of the partnership.

D. Sustainability of the UNODC Paris Pact programme

58. The fourth phase of the UNODC Paris Pact programme extends until May 2019 and is financially supported by Austria, France, India, Norway, the Russian Federation, Turkey, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States. Discussions are under way with partners with a view to expanding the donor base to respond to the call for strengthening the initiative's collective response along all opiate drug trafficking routes as reiterated in the phase three (2010–2013) and phase four (May 2013 to October 2018) Paris Pact evaluations.

59. Since issuing its report to the Commission on Narcotic Drugs in March 2018, the UNODC Paris Pact programme has raised \$614,000 from France, the Russian Federation and the United States to cover the implementation costs for the workplan for the second half of 2018 and 2019. Funding is crucial to carrying out the work of the programme.

60. The recommendations of the midterm evaluation clearly emphasized the need for regular, predictable funding over a minimum of one calendar year to allow for the proper planning of programme activities. This ensures that inefficiencies caused by short-term, irregular funding can be minimized and the programme can fully carry out its work. The absence of set pledges and financial commitments restricts future programme activities. The programme continues to seek shared funding modalities with other UNODC programmes particularly for the drugs monitoring platform and the network of research and liaison officers.

61. The Policy Consultative Group meeting remains the appropriate forum for the partnership to review the initiative's strategy, welcome new partners and determine priorities for the year ahead.
