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Follow-up to the implementation at the national, regional and international levels of all commitments, as reflected in the Ministerial Declaration of 2019, to address and 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 2019, the fifth year of implementation of the fourth phase of the initiative.

* E/CN.7/2020/1.

** 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 regularly recognized in the Security Council resolutions, serves to identify counter narcotics priorities and highlight efforts taking place to combat opiate trafficking along the major routes.

6. 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.

¹ See [E/CN.7/2012/17](#).

² See [E/CN.7/2013/14](#).

7. With opium production remaining at record level,³ 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. The monitoring of the *modi operandi* of drug traffickers and their trafficking routes needs to capture the dynamics and incentive systems inherent to drug trafficking including associated illicit financial flows.⁴ The 8th Ministerial Conference of the Heart of Asia process, which took place in December 2019, stressed the urgent need to respond to the serious challenges posed by the nexus between revenue from illicit narcotics and financial support for anti-government actors and terrorist entities in Afghanistan and globally. It also stressed the need to advance regional cooperation as an effective and necessary means to address common challenges and to promote security, stability and socioeconomic development.⁵

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.⁶ 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 the Sustainable Development Goal 3 (To ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages) 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".⁷

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.⁸

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

Global dialogue

12. Following the discussions at the 14th Paris Pact Policy Consultative Group meeting in June 2018, the focus of the three subsequent expert working group meetings was placed on stock taking and prioritization of recommendations previously adopted under specific thematic pillars of the Vienna Declaration. This process was initiated at the expert working group meeting on Regional Cooperation

³ *World Drug Report 2019*.

⁴ *World Drug Report 2019*.

⁵ The Heart of Asia – 8th Ministerial Conference Declaration.

⁶ See General Assembly resolution 70/1.

⁷ General Assembly resolution S-30/1, annex.

⁸ UNODC report on "Opiate trafficking along the early stages of the Balkan route".

in November 2018 in Beijing as reported in the Conference Room Paper prepared by the Paris Pact Secretariat for the 62nd session of the CND. It was followed by the two expert-level meetings organized in the Paris Pact framework in 2019.

13. The meeting of the Paris Pact expert working group on Illicit Financial Flows was held in New Delhi, India on 27–28 June 2019 and hosted by the Government of India. The meeting brought together senior level officials representing 15 countries and six international organizations. This expert working group is related to the second law enforcement pillar of the Vienna Declaration: Detecting and Blocking Financial Flows Linked to Illicit Traffic in Opiates. The meeting resulted in four priority recommendations identified by the Expert Working Group for further follow up on their implementation by Paris Pact partners.

14. The meeting of the Paris Pact Expert Working Group on Preventing the Diversion of Precursor Chemicals, hosted by Shanghai Cooperation Organisation, took place in Shanghai, China on 26–28 November 2019. The event was attended by high-level delegates from 15 Paris Pact partner States and five international and regional organizations including UNODC, with the total of 55 participants. Leading practitioners from Paris Pact partner countries and organizations that are responsible for implementing actions in the field of precursors were invited to the meeting. Participants reviewed existing gaps, difficulties and challenges as well as prospective actions in the areas related to precursors. This meeting continued to take stock of the Paris Pact recommendations adopted under Pillar III of the Vienna Declaration since the beginning of Phase IV. As an outcome of the meeting, five priority recommendations were identified for further follow up on their implementation by Paris Pact partners. This stock-taking exercise was aligned to the continuous “Gap Analysis” process, driven by Paris Pact partners, with the support of UNODC.

15. The recommendations put forward by the two above meetings will be reviewed and considered for endorsement at the fifteenth Policy Consultative Group meeting to be organized in 2020.

Promoting good practices

16. At the expert meeting on Illicit Financial Flows held in New Delhi, participants identified gathering of good practices to be a priority in disrupting “contactless” drugs purchases.

17. In Shanghai, the expert meeting on precursors called upon partners to fully utilize good practices related to the existing monitoring mechanisms for international trade, making full use of the risk analysis capabilities of relevant international and regional organizations.

Enhancing evidence-based policy and strategy formulation

18. Supported by UNODC’s Research Branch, the Paris Pact Coordination Unit, through its Research and Liaison Officers network, continued to contribute to the improved availability of data and information to enable informed responses by the partnership on the opiate threat.

B. Update on the UNODC Paris Pact programme

19. 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 inter-governmental 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 UNODC Paris Pact

Coordination Unit has provided coordination support, interfaced with partners, facilitated the sharing of information and reported on partnership priorities.

20. 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.

21. The mid-term in-depth evaluation completed in 2018 and managed by the Independent Evaluation Section, resulted in ten recommendations, outlining the way forward for the Programme. Their implementation is an ongoing process, which is regularly recorded and communicated to the partnership.

22. 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

23. 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 the collective will of the partnership to streamline responses to the opiate threat.

24. Acting as a neutral broker and aiming to pursue the most inclusive approach without political consideration, 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.

25. Responding to the call made by the partnership at the 14th 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 expert meeting modality placed focus on the identification and implementation of key recommendations from previous meetings. This process was initiated in Beijing and continued to be implemented at the expert group meetings in New Delhi and in Shanghai. The expert recommendation stocktaking exercise aims to align with the Paris Pact partner driven 'gap analysis' process. The structure of expert meetings was adjusted with a view to focusing on the identification and implementation of the priority recommendations related to each thematic area of the Vienna Declaration. Partners also called upon relevant regional and international organizations to play an active role in the coordination, review and implementation of the identified priority recommendations. The process continued to evolve in 2019.

Research and Liaison Officer Network

26. 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 selected UNODC field offices along the northern and Balkan trafficking routes, operating under the supervision of the Paris Pact Coordinator.

27. 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.

28. 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.

29. 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.

30. 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.

31. The 2019 Paris Pact country fact sheets for Central Asia, South Eastern Europe and countries located in the Caucuses and West Asia, closely aligned with the *World Drug Report* cycle, were made available to Paris Pact partners in February 2020. They included data on national and regional level drug and precursor indicators.

32. 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. Details on the training courses provided by the research and liaison officers are available in the annual report of the Paris Pact programme.

33. In line with the recommendations of the programme evaluation and discussions held at the 2018 policy meeting, partners decided to maintain the research and liaison officer network. The programme will continue seeking 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

34. The third component of the programme comprises two parts, the Drugs Monitoring Platform (DMP), and a Paris Pact website that captures the information management work of the programme. The fluid sharing of information and analysis and continued 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.

35. 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 supported by the “Trilateral Cooperation between Japan, Russia and UNODC”.

36. In line with the recommendations of the independent mid-term evaluation of the Paris Pact programme, a development strategy for DMP has been finalized between

Paris Pact and UNODC Research and Analysis Branch (RAB). As a result, joint fundraising efforts succeeded in securing an earmarked funding for a three-year period.

37. The recipient of this earmarked contribution is UNODC RAB through its Trends Monitoring and Analysis Programme Support project, which has taken over the DMP component. As the Paris Pact Research and Liaison Officers continued to update the DMP by entering drug seizure data and other relevant information including on events and activities related to the priority areas of the Vienna Declaration, discussions have been initiated with UNODC RAB on a possible cost sharing modality for the Research and Liaison Officers.

38. As regards the Paris Pact web site, in line with discussions at the 2018 policy meeting and the recommendations of the programme evaluation, partners decided to transform the Paris Pact's Automated Donor Assistance Mechanism into a secure information hub comprised of detailed information on the Paris Pact and related events. The new web portal is currently under development by UNODC IT service and is envisaged to go live by early Q2 2020.

C. Synergies

1. Paris Pact partnership

39. 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.

40. 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.

41. 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 Organisation (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).

42. As drug routes are constantly diversifying and ramifying, they have to be continuously and scrupulously scrutinized, which underlines the need for regional and interregional collaboration. 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.

43. 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

44. 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.

45. Paris Pact partners through the mid-term 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.

46. 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.

47. 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 Global 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”).

48. The UNODC regional programmes continued to work closely with the Paris Pact across all sub programmes 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 Southeast 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

49. The fourth phase of the UNODC Paris Pact programme extends until May 2021 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 of America. 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 and phase four Paris Pact evaluations.

50. Since issuing its report to the Commission on Narcotic Drugs in March 2019, the UNODC Paris Pact programme has raised \$1.1 million from France, the Russian Federation and the United States to cover the implementation costs for the workplan for the second half of 2019 and the first trimester of 2020. Funding is crucial to carry

out the work of the programme. A technical programme revision of the Paris Pact programme was completed to extend the end date of the programme beyond May 2019, which will allow the implementation of the activities planned at the 14th Policy Consultative Group Meeting subject to the availability of new contributions.

51. The recommendations of the mid-term 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.

52. 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.
