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Commission on Narcotic Drugs

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Item 6 of the provisional agenda*

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

Honduras, Mexico and Paraguay: draft resolution

Strengthening international cooperation to address the links between illicit drug trafficking and illicit firearms trafficking

The Commission on Narcotic Drugs,

Recognizing that the world drug problem remains a common and shared responsibility that should be addressed in a multilateral setting through effective and increased international cooperation and demands an integrated, multidisciplinary, mutually reinforcing, balanced, scientific evidence-based and comprehensive approach,

Deeply concerned that drug-traffickers are heavily arming themselves with illicitly trafficked firearms, exposing people and law enforcement personnel to significant levels of violence and harm,

Noting with concern that drug traffickers accept or demand firearms as payment in kind for illicitly trafficked drugs and *concerned* that as a result of that trade they are able to increase their capabilities by accessing a wide variety of illicitly trafficked firearms and pose a significant threat to law enforcement entities,

Expressing deep concern at the high price paid by society and by individuals and their families as a result of links between illicit drug trafficking and illicit trafficking in firearms, and paying special tribute to those who have sacrificed their lives, in particular law enforcement and judicial personnel, and to the healthcare and civil society personnel and volunteers who dedicate themselves to countering and addressing this threat,

Recalling the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988,¹ in the preamble to which the parties to the Convention recognized the importance of strengthening and enhancing effective

* E/CN.7/2022/1.

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

legal means for international cooperation in criminal matters for suppressing the international criminal activities of illicit traffic,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 76/188 of 16 December 2021, entitled “International cooperation to address and counter the world drug problem”, which called upon Member States to respond to the serious challenges posed by the increasing links between drug trafficking and other forms of organized crime, including trafficking in persons, trafficking in firearms, cybercrime and money-laundering, and, in some cases, terrorism, including money-laundering in connection with the financing of terrorism,

Recalling that in its resolution 51/11 of 14 March 2008 on the links between illicit drug trafficking and illicit firearms trafficking, in which it reaffirmed the determination of Member States to combat the scourge of drug trafficking and related criminal activities, including the illicit trafficking in firearms and ammunition

Recalling all commitments related to addressing the challenges posed by the links between illicit trafficking in drugs and illicit trafficking in firearms, as contained in the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem², the Joint Ministerial Statement of the 2014 high-level review by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs 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 Problem³, and outcome document of the thirtieth special session of the General Assembly, entitled “Our joint commitment to effectively addressing and countering the world drug problem”⁴, as well as the Ministerial Declaration on Strengthening our Actions at the National, Regional and International Levels to Accelerate the Implementation of Our Joint Commitments to Address and Counter the World Drug Problem, adopted during the ministerial segment of the sixty-second session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, held in Vienna on 14 and 15 March 2019,

Bearing in mind the relevant international and regional instruments adopted to prevent and combat illicit firearms trafficking,

Noting that the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, in which the States participating in the United Nations Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, held in New York from 9 to 20 July 2001, expressed their concern about the close link between, inter alia, organized crime, trafficking in drugs and the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons,

Acknowledging the efforts carried out by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to analyse the links between illicit drug trafficking and illicit firearms trafficking and the assistance given, upon request, to Member States to address those challenges,

Taking note of the *Global Study on Firearms Trafficking 2020*,⁵ in which links between firearms trafficking and drug trafficking are considered,

Recognizing that efforts to effectively address the world drug problem and the efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development⁶, including Goal 16 on peace, justice, and strong institutions, are complementary and mutually reinforcing,

1. *Underlines* the importance of addressing in an integrated manner the global challenge posed by the multifaceted links between illicit drug trafficking and the illicit trafficking in firearms, while recognizing the specific and increasing challenges faced in different regions of the world;

⁵ United Nations publication, 2020.

2. *Emphasizes* that preventing and combating the link between illicit trafficking in drugs and illicit trafficking in firearms contributes to undermine the capabilities of drug traffickers;

3. *Encourages* Member States to better address the human dimension of the challenges posed by the links between illicit trafficking in drugs and illicit trafficking in firearms, and the importance of considering the situation of the victims of those crimes, including families of law enforcement personnel who lost their lives;

4. *Encourages* States to take appropriate measures consistent with their domestic legal frameworks and their respective obligations under the international instruments to which they are a Party, as well as other relevant international commitments, as appropriate, to prevent and combat the links between illicit drug trafficking and illicit trafficking in firearms;

5. *Invites* Member States, as appropriate, to take full advantage of international and regional drug control conventions and instruments addressing illicit trafficking in firearms, to which they are a Party, and to accelerate their efforts towards the implementation of the respective international obligations and the achievement of their commitments made in relevant policy documents on these issues, in accordance with domestic legislation;

6. *Encourages* Member States to adopt and strengthen coordinated border management strategies if needed, as well as increase the capacity of border control and law enforcement agencies, including through technical assistance, in particular for developing countries, upon request, including and where appropriate, the provision of equipment and technology, along with necessary training and maintenance support, in order to prevent, monitor and counter illicit drug trafficking, and illicit trafficking in firearms;

7. *Also encourages* Member States to strengthen national, regional and international measures and, as appropriate, rules and regulations aimed at enhancing operational cooperation to prevent drug traffickers from illicit trafficking in firearms;

8. *Calls upon* Member States, consistent with their domestic legal frameworks, to continue to exchange information and provide judicial cooperation to identify and investigate possible links between illicit drug trafficking and illicit trafficking in firearms;

9. *Recognizes the need* to further address the negative impact of the links between illicit drug trafficking and illicit trafficking in firearms on the lives of women, men, girls and boys, calls on Member states, in accordance with domestic legislation, to mainstream a gender perspective in preventing, combatting and eradicating those crimes, bearing in mind relevant resolutions of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and political commitments on these issues;

10. *Invites* relevant international and regional organizations, the private sector, non-governmental organizations, the academic community and civil society, to raise awareness of links between illicit drug trafficking and illicit trafficking in firearms and to contribute, as appropriate, to State's efforts in addressing these challenges;

11. *Underlines* that efforts to combat drug trafficking can be complemented by providing training in combatting illicit firearms trafficking for law enforcement personnel responsible for investigating such activities, where appropriate and consistent with their respective domestic legal and administrative frameworks, and encourages Member States with experience in that area to promote and increase bilateral and multilateral cooperation, including, where useful, through programmes administered by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime focused on capacity-building and training, and to exchange experiences and best practices;

12. *Requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to continue providing assistance to Member States, upon request, with regard to data collection, research and, as appropriate, intelligence- and analysis-sharing to disclose the extent of the links between illicit drug trafficking and illicit firearms trafficking and to

continue its already existing research on these links, subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources;

13. *Invites* Member States to foster cooperation, with the support of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, as appropriate, on their responses to threats related to technological developments and changing *modi operandi* for the illicit drug trafficking and illicit trafficking in firearms;

14. *Decides* to further discuss and better address the challenges posed by the links between illicit drug trafficking and illicit firearms trafficking;

15. *Invites* Member States and other donors to provide extrabudgetary resources for the purposes described above, in accordance with the rules and procedures of the United Nations;

16. *Requests* the Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to make the present resolution available to the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and to the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime.