

20 February 2024

English only

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**Commission on Narcotic Drugs****Sixty-seventh session**

Vienna, 14–22 March 2024

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****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 for 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 2023.

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\* E/CN.7/2024/1.

\*\* 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,<sup>1</sup> 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* and reaffirmed their common and shared responsibility towards countering the global threats that opiates pose to 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 partnership between Member States, competent international organizations and other relevant stakeholders in the fight against opiates originating in Afghanistan.<sup>2</sup>

3. The Vienna Declaration provides a framework for the partnership’s response to the international challenges and the corresponding international commitments 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”<sup>3</sup>, which are aimed at countering trafficking in narcotic drugs and addressing links with other forms of organized crime.

4. The Paris Pact partnership’s support for the four pillars of the Vienna Declaration contributes towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and their targets<sup>4</sup>. Under the Paris Pact global programme, the 81 members of the partnership receive assistance in prioritizing their support in line with Sustainable Development Goals 3 (Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages) and 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) in particular.

5. The Paris Pact has two dimensions. The first is the partnership of 58 countries and 23 organizations, including the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), for defining priorities and implementing measures in line with the Vienna Declaration, based on the principle of shared responsibility. The expert- and policy-level events organized in the framework of the partnership provide platforms for a global dialogue aimed at promoting good practices, adapting responses to evolving threats along the drug trafficking routes originating in Afghanistan, facilitating collaboration, and providing stronger evidence for coordinated action. The second dimension is the global Paris Pact programme established by UNODC to facilitate dialogue among the partners and provide coordination support for the consultative mechanism.

6. The Paris Pact is the only global cooperation mechanism dedicated to reducing trafficking, production, and global consumption of opiates, including the cultivation of opium poppy, in a focused and coordinated manner. The importance of the Paris Pact has been recognized in multiple resolutions adopted by the Security Council and the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, as part of a comprehensive approach to peace, stability and development in Afghanistan, the neighbouring region and beyond.

7. The evolving landscape of threats relating to drugs, organized crime, and terrorism, in the context of the humanitarian emergency in Afghanistan, have

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<sup>1</sup> See [E/CN.7/2012/17](#).

<sup>2</sup> See [E/CN.7/2013/14](#).

<sup>3</sup> General Assembly resolution [S-30/1](#), annex.

<sup>4</sup> See General Assembly resolution [70/1](#).

implications not only for the country and its population, but equally for the wider region and the international community. The challenges to security and development call for concerted efforts, political will, cooperation, and the support of the international community for mutually reinforcing and effective counternarcotics measures. In that context, within its mandates, the Paris Pact initiative plays a central role by supporting the international community in strengthening regional and international cooperation, fostering political momentum, and informing the development of operational responses to the intersecting challenges in combating illicit drugs originating in Afghanistan.

## **II. Status of implementation of Commission resolution 56/3**

### **A. Update on the UNODC Paris Pact programme**

8. Through its Paris Pact programme, UNODC acts as the coordinator for the Paris Pact partnership and supports it in realizing its goals, including by bringing together relevant UNODC operational capacities at the global, regional, and country level.

#### **Consultative mechanism**

9. The consultative mechanism of the Paris Pact initiative facilitates regular expert and policy consultations between the 81 Paris Pact partners to identify operational priorities for responses to the current and evolving new threats, and promotes the inter-thematic, regional, and interregional coordination along the opiate trafficking routes originating in Afghanistan. At the expert meetings, the Paris Pact partners share their state-of-the-art knowledge and operational best practices to support the development and implementation of enhanced measures for the four pillars of the Vienna Declaration. In the expert meetings the prioritized operational recommendations are reviewed and updated, and subsequently submitted for endorsement at the annual meeting of the decision-making body of the Paris Pact partnership, the Policy Consultative Group.

10. In 2023, the Paris Pact programme was able to successfully organize four global meetings of the consultative mechanism. Based on the modalities developed and adopted during the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, all the expert and policy meetings continued to be held in a hybrid format allowing both full-fledged in-person and virtual participation.

11. The three Paris Pact expert working group meetings organized in 2023 were attended by nearly 400 nominated experts representing a wide geographical spread of 45 countries and 13 international and regional organizations. The Policy Consultative Group meeting was attended by over 100 nominated delegates from 32 countries and 9 organizations.

12. The meeting of the expert working group focused on the second pillar of the Vienna Declaration, namely detecting and blocking financial flows linked to the illicit traffic in opiates, was held on 12 and 13 September 2023 in Ankara, Türkiye, hosted by the Turkish National Police. The event was originally scheduled to be conducted in a hybrid format on 7 and 8 February 2023. However, due to the devastating earthquake in several regions of Türkiye on the night before the meeting, the Turkish authorities decided to postpone the event to September 2023. The meeting was attended by over 160 nominated participants, including senior level representatives from the law enforcement and prosecutorial agencies, as well as the financial intelligence units, representing 35 countries and 10 international and regional organizations. In the meeting newly evolved challenges along the three drug trafficking routes (northern, Balkan, and southern) originating in Afghanistan, and operational best practices were identified and shared, with a particular focus on the risks posed by the illicit use of virtual assets, and asset recovery. As a key outcome of the meeting, the experts agreed on four operational priority recommendations.

13. The expert working group meeting on precursors, related to the third pillar of the Vienna Declaration, was hosted by the General Directorate Combating Organized

Crime of the Ministry of Interior of the Republic of Bulgaria on 13 and 14 June 2023, in Sofia, Bulgaria. In the meeting, attended by over 140 participants from 34 countries and 10 international and regional organizations, the experts shared updates on the latest trends in trafficking in precursor chemicals and provided information about recently identified trafficking routes and techniques. Other main topics discussed included the alignment of legal frameworks for the improved use of special investigative techniques, controlled deliveries, exchange of intelligence and parallel joint investigations. In addition, the delegates received updates on backtracking investigations carried out in both source and transit countries for trafficking of precursors and shared information about new methods to prevent the diversion of precursor chemicals by means of Internet. Finally, the experts agreed on 10 priority recommendations for enhancing actions related to precursors.

14. The expert working group meeting in support of a comprehensive approach to drug treatment and care, related to the fourth pillar of the Vienna Declaration, was held on 1 and 2 November 2023 in Samarkand, Uzbekistan and hosted by the National Center for Drug Control of the Republic of Uzbekistan. The event was attended by nearly 90 participants representing 24 countries and 5 international and regional organizations. In the meeting the latest scientific evidence and good practices regarding early prevention of drug use and drug use disorders were presented and discussed. The participants reviewed, inter alia, modern systems of prevention, and shared experiences in improving quality of prevention responses. The meeting participants agreed on eight priority recommendations aimed at improving services for early prevention of drug use and drug use disorders.

15. The seventeenth Policy Consultative Group meeting was organized by UNODC on 11 and 12 December 2023 in Vienna, Austria. The event, commemorating the 20th anniversary of the Paris Pact initiative, was attended by more than 100 delegates from 32 countries and 9 international and regional organizations. The Policy Consultative Group was briefed on the impact of the enforcement of a drug ban by the de facto authorities in April 2022 and on current and emerging drug trafficking patterns and trends both in Afghanistan and key neighbouring countries. The participants discussed the recent operational developments in Afghanistan, the progress made by the Paris Pact programme, and the UNODC Regional Programme for Afghanistan and Neighbouring Countries. The meeting presented partners with a chance to offer strategic direction for the Paris Pact initiative considering the evolving situation in Afghanistan. It also provided donors with an opportunity to reaffirm their ongoing financial backing for the initiative. In conclusion, the operational priority recommendations stemming from the expert meetings held in 2023 in relation to three pillars of the Vienna Declaration, were reviewed and endorsed.

#### **Liaison officer network**

16. The network of field-based Paris Pact liaison officers along the main Afghan opiate trafficking routes (in Islamic Republic of Iran, North Macedonia, Pakistan, Serbia, Türkiye, and Uzbekistan) continued supporting the implementation of the decisions and recommendations of the Paris Pact partnership under the supervision of the Paris Pact Coordination Unit.

17. The liaison officers continued to facilitate other UNODC programmes in support of the implementation of the Vienna Declaration. For example, the liaison officers improved the availability of data and assisted States in complying with their reporting responsibilities to UNODC through the annual report questionnaire (ARQ). In addition, the liaison officers supported UNODC's Afghan Opiates Trade Project in the implementation of the study on opiate trafficking in the Balkans including by conducting interviews, collecting data for the UNODC individual drug seizure (IDS) database and the Drugs Monitoring Platform project, and supporting the dissemination of the *World Drug Report 2023* in field settings. The liaison officers also supported several UNODC global and regional programmes (including the Container Control Programme, the Global Maritime Crime Programme, the Regional Programme for Afghanistan and Neighbouring Countries, the Regional Programme

for South-Eastern Europe, and the Programme for Central Asia) and facilitated relevant coordination activities and synergies with the Paris Pact initiative.

18. To further support improving the availability of data, the liaison officers continued updating the Paris Pact country fact sheets providing the latest figures on drug and precursor indicators for 21 countries in Central Asia, South-Eastern Europe, the Caucasus, and West Asia. The country fact sheets are made available through the Paris Pact web portal ([www.paris-pact.net](http://www.paris-pact.net)).

### **Information management**

19. In line with the recommendations of the independent midterm evaluation of the Paris Pact programme and following the decisions taken at the fourteenth meeting of the Policy Consultative Group, the Paris Pact programme continued to provide regularly updated information on the implementation of the activities under the four thematic pillars of the Vienna Declaration through the Paris Pact web portal. The web portal, available in both English and Russian, also allows registered users to find and retrieve specific information and documents for all Paris Pact events, including presentations, and adopted operational priority recommendations related to the four pillars of the Vienna Declaration.

## **B. Synergies**

20. The Paris Pact initiative is a key element of the interregional, interdivisional, and inter-thematic approach adopted by UNODC, the technical lead partner organization of the Paris Pact, to respond to the threats posed by opiates originating in Afghanistan. The Paris Pact programme continued ensuring the meaningful engagement of relevant UNODC programmes in the Paris Pact's consultative mechanism, including through the Regional Section for Europe, 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 Border Management Branch (through the Global Maritime Crime Programme, the Container Control Programme, the Airport Communication Project, the Criminal Network Disruption Programme and the Afghan Opiate Trade Project), the Organized Crime Branch (through the Global Programme against Money-Laundering, Proceeds of Crime and the Financing of Terrorism), the Drugs, Laboratory and Scientific Services Branch (through its Prevention, Treatment and Rehabilitation Section), and the Research and Trend Analysis Branch (through its Drug Research Section and Data Development and Dissemination Section).

## **C. Sustainability of the UNODC Paris Pact programme**

21. During the reporting period, the Paris Pact initiative effectively reached most of its partner countries and organizations through the successfully implemented three global expert working group meetings and the Policy Consultative Group meeting. In 2023, the events of the Initiative's consultative mechanism were attended by over 500 nominated participants from 48 countries and 14 regional and international organizations, underlining the demand for the initiative, the importance of its activities and the continued need for strengthening the Paris Pact initiative pursuant to Commission resolution 56/3.

22. In 2023, the Paris Pact programme actively collaborated with partners, urging increased financial assistance to sustain the initiative. As underlined at the seventeenth meeting of the Policy Consultative Group, the sustainability of the initiative remains fully subject to the availability of continued donor support. Moving forward, further leveraging the Paris Pact initiative's consultative mechanism, and developing the initiative as a rapidly adaptable vehicle entails new financial contributions and broadening the partnership's donor base in the spirit of common and shared responsibility.