

Chapter I

Matters calling for action by the Economic and Social Council or brought to its attention

A. Outcome document transmitted by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs to the General Assembly and recommended for adoption at the plenary of the special session on the world drug problem to be held in 2016

1. The annex to the following resolution is brought to the attention of the General Assembly and recommended for adoption at the plenary of the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem to be held from 19 to 21 April 2016.

Resolution 59/1

Special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem to be held in 2016

The Commission on Narcotic Drugs,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 67/193 of 20 December 2012, in which the Assembly decided to convene, in early 2016, a special session on the world drug problem,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 70/181 of 17 December 2015, in which the Assembly requested the Commission on Narcotic Drugs to produce a short, substantive, concise and action-oriented document to be recommended for adoption at the plenary of the special session,

Decides to transmit the outcome document, entitled “Our joint commitment to effectively addressing and countering the world drug problem”, which is annexed to the present resolution, to the General Assembly and to recommend its adoption at the plenary of the special session on the world drug problem to be held from 19 to 21 April 2016.

Annex

Our joint commitment to effectively addressing and countering the world drug problem

We, heads of State and Government, ministers and representatives of Member States, assembled at United Nations Headquarters from 19 to 21 April 2016 for the thirtieth special session of the General Assembly, convened in accordance with Assembly resolution 67/193 of 20 December 2012, to review the progress in the implementation of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World

Drug Problem,¹ including an assessment of the achievements and challenges in countering the world drug problem, within the framework of the three international drug control conventions and other relevant United Nations instruments;

We reaffirm our commitment to the goals and objectives of the three international drug control conventions, including concern with the health and welfare of humankind as well as the individual and public health-related, social and safety problems resulting from the abuse of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, in particular among children and young people, and drug-related crime, and we reaffirm our determination to prevent and treat the abuse of such substances and prevent and counter their illicit cultivation, production, manufacturing and trafficking;

We recognize that, while tangible progress has been achieved in some fields, the world drug problem continues to present challenges to the health, safety and well-being of all humanity, and we resolve to reinforce our national and international efforts and further increase international cooperation to face those challenges;

We reaffirm our determination to tackle the world drug problem and to actively promote a society free of drug abuse in order to help ensure that all people can live in health, dignity and peace, with security and prosperity and reaffirm our determination to address public health, safety and social problems resulting from drug abuse;

We note with concern that the availability of internationally controlled drugs for medical and scientific purposes, including for the relief of pain and suffering, remains low to non-existent in many countries of the world, and we highlight the need to enhance national efforts and international cooperation at all levels to address that situation by promoting measures to ensure their availability and accessibility for medical and scientific purposes, within the framework of national legal systems, while simultaneously preventing their diversion, abuse and trafficking, in order to fulfil the aims and objectives of the three international drug control conventions;

We recognize 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;

We reaffirm our unwavering commitment to ensuring that all aspects of demand reduction and related measures, supply reduction and related measures, and international cooperation are addressed in full conformity with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, international law and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,² with full respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of States, the principle of non-intervention in the internal affairs of States, all human rights, fundamental freedoms, the inherent dignity of all individuals and the principles of equal rights and mutual respect among States;

¹ See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2009, Supplement No. 8 (E/2009/28)*, chap. I, sect. C.

² General Assembly resolution 217 A (III).

We underscore that the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1954 as amended by the 1972 Protocol,³ the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971,⁴ the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988⁵ and other relevant international instruments constitute the cornerstone of the international drug control system;

We reaffirm our commitment to implementing effectively the provisions set out in the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem, mindful of the targets and goals set therein, as well as to addressing the general challenges and priorities for action identified in the Joint Ministerial Statement adopted at the high-level review in March 2014;⁶

We welcome the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,⁷ and we note that efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and to effectively address the world drug problem are complementary and mutually reinforcing;

We recognize, as part of a comprehensive, integrated and balanced approach to addressing and countering the world drug problem, that appropriate emphasis should be placed on individuals, families, communities and society as a whole, with a view to promoting and protecting the health, safety and well-being of all humanity;

We recognize the importance of appropriately mainstreaming gender and age perspectives in drug-related policies and programmes;

We recognize that there are persistent, new and evolving challenges that should be addressed in conformity with the three international drug control conventions, which allow for sufficient flexibility for States parties to design and implement national drug policies according to their priorities and needs, consistent with the principle of common and shared responsibility and applicable international law;

We reaffirm the need to mobilize adequate resources to address and counter the world drug problem and call for enhancing assistance to developing countries, upon request, in effectively implementing the Political Declaration and Plan of Action and the operational recommendations contained in the present document;

We recognize that transit States continue to face multifaceted challenges, and reaffirm the continuing need for cooperation and support, including the provision of technical assistance, to, inter alia, enhance their capacities to effectively address and counter the world drug problem, in conformity with the 1988 Convention;

We reaffirm the principal role of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs as the policymaking body of the United Nations with prime responsibility for drug control matters, and our support and appreciation for the efforts of the United Nations, in

³ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 976, No. 14152.

⁴ *Ibid.*, vol. 1019, No. 14956.

⁵ *Ibid.*, vol. 1582, No. 27627.

⁶ 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 Problem (*Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2014, Supplement No. 8* (E/2014/28), chap. I, sect. C).

⁷ General Assembly resolution 70/1.

particular those of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime as the leading entity in the United Nations system for addressing and countering the world drug problem, and further reaffirm the treaty-mandated roles of the International Narcotics Control Board and the World Health Organization;

We recognize that successfully addressing and countering the world drug problem requires close cooperation and coordination among domestic authorities at all levels, particularly in the health, education, justice and law enforcement sectors, taking into account their respective areas of competence under national legislation;

We welcome continued efforts to enhance coherence within the United Nations system at all levels;

We recognize that civil society, as well as the scientific community and academia, plays an important role in addressing and countering the world drug problem, and note that affected populations and representatives of civil society entities, where appropriate, should be enabled to play a participatory role in the formulation, implementation, and the providing of relevant scientific evidence in support of, as appropriate, the evaluation of drug control policies and programmes, and we recognize the importance of cooperation with the private sector in this regard;

We express deep concern at the high price paid by society and by individuals and their families as a result of the world drug problem, and pay special tribute to those who have sacrificed their lives, in particular law enforcement and judicial personnel, and to the health-care and civil society personnel and volunteers who dedicate themselves to countering and addressing this phenomenon;

We reaffirm the need to strengthen cooperation between the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and other United Nations entities, within their respective mandates, in their efforts to support Member States in the implementation of international drug control treaties in accordance with applicable human rights obligations and to promote protection of and respect for human rights and the dignity of all individuals in the context of drug programmes, strategies and policies;

We reaffirm the need to address the key causes and consequences of the world drug problem, including those in the health, social, human rights, economic, justice, public security and law enforcement fields, in line with the principle of common and shared responsibility, and recognize the value of comprehensive and balanced policy interventions, including those in the field of promotion of sustainable and viable livelihoods;

We reaffirm that targeted interventions that are based on the collection and analysis of data, including age- and gender-related data, can be particularly effective in meeting the specific needs of drug-affected populations and communities;

We reiterate our commitment to end by 2030 the epidemics of AIDS and tuberculosis, as well as combat viral hepatitis, other communicable diseases, inter alia, among people who use drugs, including people who inject drugs.

Operational recommendations on demand reduction and related measures, including prevention and treatment, as well as other health-related issues

1. We reiterate our commitment to promote the health, welfare and well-being of all individuals, families, communities and society as a whole, and facilitate healthy lifestyles through effective, comprehensive, scientific evidence-based demand reduction initiatives at all levels, covering, in accordance with national legislation and the three international drug control conventions, prevention, early intervention, treatment, care, recovery, rehabilitation and social reintegration measures, as well as initiatives and measures aimed at minimizing the adverse public health and social consequences of drug abuse, and we recommend the following measures:

Prevention of drug abuse

(a) Take effective and practical primary prevention measures that protect people, in particular children and youth, from drug use initiation by providing them with accurate information about the risks of drug abuse, by promoting skills and opportunities to choose healthy lifestyles and develop supportive parenting and healthy social environments and by ensuring equal access to education and vocational training;

(b) Also take effective and practical measures to prevent progression to severe drug use disorders through appropriately targeted early interventions for people at risk of such progression;

(c) Increase the availability, coverage and quality of scientific evidence-based prevention measures and tools that target relevant age and risk groups in multiple settings, reaching youth in school as well as out of school, among others, through drug abuse prevention programmes and public awareness-raising campaigns, including by using the Internet, social media and other online platforms, develop and implement prevention curricula and early intervention programmes for use in the education system at all levels, as well as in vocational training, including in the workplace, and enhance the capacity of teachers and other relevant professionals to provide or recommend counselling, prevention and care services;

(d) Promote the well-being of society as a whole through the elaboration of effective scientific evidence-based prevention strategies centred on and tailored to the needs of individuals, families and communities as part of comprehensive and balanced national drug policies, on a non-discriminatory basis;

(e) Involve, as appropriate, policymakers, parliamentarians, educators, civil society, the scientific community, academia, target populations, individuals in recovery from substance use disorders and their peer groups, families and other co-dependent people, as well as the private sector, in the development of prevention programmes aimed at raising public awareness of the dangers and risks associated with drug abuse, and involve, inter alia, parents, care services providers, teachers, peer groups, health professionals, religious communities, community leaders, social workers, sports associations, media professionals and entertainment industries, as appropriate, in their implementation;

(f) Consider enhancing cooperation between public health, education and law enforcement authorities when developing prevention initiatives;

(g) Develop and improve recreational facilities and provide access for children and youth to regular sports and cultural activities, with a view to promoting healthy lives and lifestyles, including through the recovery and improvement of public spaces, and promote the exchange of experiences and good practices in this field to further enhance effective preventive interventions;

(h) Promote and improve the systematic collection of information and gathering of evidence as well as the sharing, at the national and international levels, of reliable and comparable data on drug use and epidemiology, including on social, economic and other risk factors, and promote, as appropriate, through the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and the World Health Assembly, the use of internationally recognized standards, such as the *International Standards on Drug Use Prevention*, and the exchange of best practices, to formulate effective drug use prevention strategies and programmes in cooperation with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the World Health Organization and other relevant United Nations entities;

Treatment of drug use disorders, rehabilitation, recovery and social reintegration; prevention, treatment and care of HIV/AIDS, viral hepatitis and other blood-borne infectious diseases

(i) Recognize drug dependence as a complex, multifactorial health disorder characterized by a chronic and relapsing nature with social causes and consequences that can be prevented and treated through, inter alia, effective scientific evidence-based drug treatment, care and rehabilitation programmes, including community-based programmes, and strengthen capacity for aftercare for and the rehabilitation, recovery and social reintegration of individuals with substance use disorders, including, as appropriate, through assistance for effective reintegration into the labour market and other support services;

(j) Encourage the voluntary participation of individuals with drug use disorders in treatment programmes, with informed consent, where consistent with national legislation, and develop and implement outreach programmes and campaigns, involving drug users in long-term recovery, where appropriate, to prevent social marginalization and promote non-stigmatizing attitudes, as well as to encourage drug users to seek treatment and care, and take measures to facilitate access to treatment and expand capacity;

(k) Promote and strengthen regional and international cooperation in developing and implementing treatment-related initiatives, enhance technical assistance and capacity-building and ensure non-discriminatory access to a broad range of interventions, including psychosocial, behavioural and medication-assisted treatment, as appropriate and in accordance with national legislation, as well as to rehabilitation, social reintegration and recovery-support programmes, including access to such services in prisons and after imprisonment, giving special attention to the specific needs of women, children and youth in this regard;

(l) Develop and strengthen, as appropriate, the capacity of health, social and law enforcement and other criminal justice authorities to cooperate, within their mandates, in the implementation of comprehensive, integrated and balanced responses to drug abuse and drug use disorders, at all levels of government;

(m) Promote the inclusion in national drug policies, in accordance with national legislation and as appropriate, of elements for the prevention and treatment of drug overdose, in particular opioid overdose, including the use of opioid receptor antagonists such as naloxone to reduce drug-related mortality;

(n) Promote cooperation with and technical assistance to the States most affected by the transit of drugs in developing and implementing comprehensive and integrated policies to address, where appropriate, the impact of illicit drug trafficking on increasing drug use in such States, including by reinforcing national programmes aimed at prevention, early intervention, treatment, care, rehabilitation and social reintegration;

(o) Invite relevant national authorities to consider, in accordance with their national legislation and the three international drug control conventions, including in national prevention, treatment, care, recovery, rehabilitation and social reintegration measures and programmes, in the context of comprehensive and balanced drug demand reduction efforts, effective measures aimed at minimizing the adverse public health and social consequences of drug abuse, including appropriate medication-assisted therapy programmes, injecting equipment programmes, as well as antiretroviral therapy and other relevant interventions that prevent the transmission of HIV, viral hepatitis and other blood-borne diseases associated with drug use, as well as consider ensuring access to such interventions including in treatment and outreach services, prisons and other custodial settings, and promoting in that regard the use, as appropriate, of the *WHO, UNODC and UNAIDS Technical Guide for Countries to Set Targets for Universal Access to HIV Prevention, Treatment and Care for Injecting Drug Users*;⁸

(p) Promote and implement the standards on the treatment of drug use disorders developed by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the World Health Organization and other relevant international standards, as appropriate and in accordance with national legislation and the international drug control conventions, and provide guidance, assistance and training to health professionals on their appropriate use, and consider developing standards and accreditation for services at the domestic level to ensure qualified and scientific evidence-based responses;

(q) Intensify, as appropriate, the meaningful participation of and support and training for civil society organizations and entities involved in drug-related health and social treatment services, in accordance with national legislation and in the framework of integrated and coordinated national drug policies, and encourage efforts by civil society and the private sector to develop support networks for prevention and treatment, care, recovery, rehabilitation and social reintegration in a balanced and inclusive manner;

(r) Encourage the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the International Narcotics Control Board to strengthen cooperation with the World Health Organization and other competent United Nations entities, within their respective mandates, as part of a comprehensive, integrated and balanced approach to strengthening health and social welfare measures in addressing the world drug problem, including through effective prevention, early intervention, treatment, care,

⁸ World Health Organization (Geneva, 2009).

recovery, rehabilitation and social reintegration, in cooperation, as appropriate, with civil society and the scientific community, and to keep the Commission on Narcotic Drugs appropriately updated.

Operational recommendations on ensuring the availability of and access to controlled substances exclusively for medical and scientific purposes, while preventing their diversion

2. We reiterate our strong commitment to improving access to controlled substances for medical and scientific purposes by appropriately addressing existing barriers in this regard, including those related to legislation, regulatory systems, health-care systems, affordability, the training of health-care professionals, education, awareness-raising, estimates, assessment and reporting, benchmarks for consumption of substances under control, and international cooperation and coordination, while concurrently preventing their diversion, abuse and trafficking, and we recommend the following measures:

(a) Consider reviewing, within the framework of national legal systems, domestic legislation and regulatory and administrative mechanisms, as well as procedures including domestic distribution channels, with the aim of simplifying and streamlining those processes and removing unduly restrictive regulations and impediments, where they exist, to ensure access to controlled substances for medical and scientific purposes, including for the relief of pain and suffering, as required by the three international drug control conventions and defined by national legislation, while preventing their diversion, abuse and trafficking, and encourage the exchange of information, lessons learned and best practices in designing and implementing regulatory, financial, educational, administrative and other related measures;

(b) Strengthen, as appropriate, the proper functioning of national control systems and domestic assessment mechanisms and programmes, in cooperation with the International Narcotics Control Board, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the World Health Organization and other relevant United Nations system agencies, to identify, analyse and remove impediments to the availability and accessibility of controlled substances for medical and scientific purposes, within appropriate control mechanisms, as required by the three international drug control conventions and taking into account *Ensuring Balance in National Policies on Controlled Substances: Guidance for Availability and Accessibility of Controlled Medicines*⁹ and, for that purpose, consider the provision of technical and financial assistance, upon request, to developing countries;

(c) Expedite, in accordance with national legislation, the process of issuing import and export authorizations for controlled substances for medical and scientific purposes by using the above-mentioned guidance and the International Import and Export Authorization System of the International Narcotics Control Board;

(d) Address, at the national and international levels, issues related to the affordability of controlled substances for medical and scientific purposes, while ensuring their quality, safety and efficacy, including limited financial resources and problems in sourcing with regard to these substances, including in cooperation, as

⁹ World Health Organization (Geneva, 2011).

appropriate, with the private sector through, inter alia and where needed, expanding the national coverage of distribution networks to rural areas, addressing the link with government regulations, licences and taxation and allowing appropriately trained and qualified professionals to prescribe, dispense and administer controlled medicines based on their general professional licence, as well as, where appropriate, the manufacture of generic pharmaceutical preparations that are bioequivalent and cost-effective;

(e) Take measures, in accordance with national legislation, to provide capacity-building and training, including with the support of relevant United Nations entities such as the World Health Organization and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, targeted at competent national authorities and health-care professionals, including pharmacists, on adequate access to and use of controlled substances for medical and scientific purposes, including the relief of pain and suffering, consider the development and wider implementation of relevant clinical guidelines on the rational use of controlled medicines, and conduct appropriate awareness-raising campaigns under the coordination of relevant national health authorities and in cooperation with other relevant stakeholders;

(f) Develop national supply management systems for controlled substances that comprise selection, quantification, procurement, storage, distribution and use, strengthen the capacity of competent national authorities to adequately estimate and assess the need for controlled substances and paying special attention to essential medicines, as defined by national legislation, taking due note of the *Guide on Estimating Requirements for Substances under International Control*,¹⁰ and enhance domestic data-collection mechanisms in order to present the International Narcotics Control Board with estimates on the consumption of drugs used for medical and scientific purposes;

(g) Continue to regularly update the Model Lists of Essential Medicines of the World Health Organization, enhance collaboration among Member States and the treaty bodies with scheduling responsibilities, leading to informed and coordinated scheduling decisions by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs that take due account of all relevant aspects to ensure that the objectives of the conventions are met, and review national lists of controlled substances and national lists of essential medicines, as appropriate.

Operational recommendations on supply reduction and related measures; effective law enforcement; responses to drug-related crime; and countering money-laundering and promoting judicial cooperation

3. We reiterate our commitment to protecting the safety and assuring the security of individuals, societies and communities by intensifying our efforts to prevent and counter the illicit cultivation, production and manufacture of and trafficking in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, as well as drug-related crime and violence, through, inter alia, more effective drug-related crime prevention and law enforcement measures, as well as by addressing links with other forms of organized

¹⁰ International Narcotics Control Board and World Health Organization (Vienna, 2012).

crime, including money-laundering, corruption and other criminal activities, mindful of their social and economic causes and consequences, and we recommend the following measures:

Prevention of drug-related crime

(a) Strengthen multidisciplinary measures at the international, regional, national, and local and community levels to prevent drug-related crime, violence, victimization and corruption and foster social development and inclusiveness, integrate such measures into overall law enforcement efforts and comprehensive policies and programmes, and promote a culture of lawfulness, as described in the Doha Declaration on Integrating Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice into the Wider United Nations Agenda to Address Social and Economic Challenges and to Promote the Rule of Law at the National and International Levels, and Public Participation;

(b) Promote comprehensive supply reduction efforts that include preventive measures addressing, inter alia, the criminal justice and socioeconomic-related factors that may facilitate, drive, enable and perpetuate organized crime and drug-related crime;

(c) Promote data collection, research and the sharing of information, as well as the exchange of best practices on preventing and countering drug-related crime and on drug supply reduction measures and practices, in order to enhance the effectiveness of criminal justice responses, within the framework of applicable law;

Countering illicit traffic in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances

(d) Increase cooperation at all levels and enhance measures to prevent and significantly and measurably reduce or eliminate the illicit cultivation of opium poppy, coca bush and cannabis plant used for the production of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, including through eradication, within the framework of sustainable crop control strategies and measures;

(e) Monitor current trends and drug trafficking routes and share experiences, best practices and lessons learned, in order to prevent and counter the misuse of international trade for illicit drug-related activities, and note the success achieved through United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime operational initiatives, including initiatives aimed at countering the exploitation of freight containers for drug trafficking and at preventing and countering the diversion of precursors for illicit use and illicit financial flows stemming from drug trafficking and related crimes, as well as other technical assistance activities;

(f) Promote and strengthen the exchange of information and, as appropriate, drug-related criminal intelligence among law enforcement and border control agencies, including through the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime multilateral portals and regional information centres and networks, and promote joint investigations and coordinate operations, in conformity with national legislation, and training programmes at all levels, in order to identify, disrupt and dismantle organized criminal groups operating transnationally that are involved in any activities related to the illicit production of and trafficking in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances and the diversion of their precursors and related money-laundering;

(g) Strengthen coordinated border management strategies, as well as the capacity of border control and law enforcement and prosecutorial agencies, including through technical assistance, 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 trafficking in drugs, trafficking in precursors and other drug-related crimes such as trafficking in firearms, illicit financial flows, smuggling of bulk cash and money-laundering;

(h) Enhance the capacity of law enforcement and criminal justice agencies in forensic science in the context of drug investigations, including the quality and capacity of drug analysis laboratories to gather, preserve and present forensic evidence to effectively prosecute drug-related offences through considering, inter alia, the provision of advanced detection equipment, scanners, testing kits, reference samples, forensic laboratories and training, as requested;

(i) Strengthen regional, subregional and international cooperation in criminal matters, as appropriate, including judicial cooperation in the areas of, inter alia, extradition, mutual legal assistance and transfer of proceedings, in accordance with the international drug control conventions and other international legal instruments and national legislation, and strive to provide appropriate resources to national competent authorities, including through the provision of targeted technical assistance to requesting countries;

(j) Maximize the effectiveness of law enforcement measures against organized criminal groups and individuals involved in drug-related crimes, including by placing appropriate focus within our respective jurisdictions on those responsible for illicit activities of a larger scale or more serious nature;

Addressing links with other forms of organized crime, including money-laundering, corruption and other criminal activities

(k) Respond to the serious challenges posed by the increasing links between drug trafficking, corruption 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, by using an integrated, multidisciplinary approach, such as through promoting and supporting reliable data collection, research and, as appropriate, intelligence- and analysis-sharing to ensure effective policymaking and interventions;

(l) Encourage the use of existing subregional, regional and international cooperation mechanisms to combat all forms of drug-related crime, wherever committed, including, in some cases, violent crimes related to gangs, including by enhancing international cooperation to successfully counter and dismantle organized criminal groups, including those operating transnationally;

(m) Strengthen national, regional and international measures and, as appropriate, rules and regulations aimed at enhancing operational cooperation to prevent transnational organized criminal networks involved in illicit drug-related activities from trafficking and acquiring firearms, their parts and components and ammunition, explosives and other related material;

(n) Consider ratifying or acceding to relevant international legal instruments, including the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto,¹¹ the United Nations Convention against Corruption¹² and the international conventions and protocols related to countering terrorism, and call upon States parties to take measures to more effectively implement those international legal instruments;

(o) Continue to foster international cooperation by implementing the provisions against money-laundering contained in all relevant international and multilateral instruments, such as the 1988 Convention, the Organized Crime Convention and the Convention against Corruption and, in accordance with national legislation, the Financial Action Task Force Recommendations on Money Laundering;¹³

(p) Strengthen and utilize existing and relevant regional, as appropriate, subregional and international networks for the exchange of operational information to prevent and counter money-laundering, illicit financial flows and terrorist financing;

(q) Develop and strengthen, as appropriate, mechanisms of domestic coordination and timely and efficient information-sharing between authorities involved in identifying and countering drug trafficking, diversion of precursors and related money-laundering, integrate financial investigations more thoroughly into interdiction operations to identify individuals and companies involved in such activities, and encourage, in accordance with national legislation, cooperation with the private sector, including financial institutions, designated non-financial businesses and professions, as well as providers of money or value transfer services, to identify suspicious transactions, with a view to further investigating and disrupting the drug trafficking business model;

(r) Enhance national, regional, subregional, interregional and international capacity to prevent and counter money-laundering and illicit financial flows stemming from drug trafficking and related crimes, including, as appropriate, through detection, investigation and prosecution of such activities, with a view to effectively addressing safe havens, and identify and mitigate money-laundering risks linked to new technologies, as well as emerging money-laundering methods and techniques, by using, inter alia, existing United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime technical assistance tools;

(s) Develop and strengthen bilateral, subregional and international mechanisms to share information among competent authorities and promote their cooperation to effectively and in a timely manner identify, trace, freeze, seize and confiscate assets and proceeds of drug-related crime and their disposal, including sharing, in accordance with the 1988 Convention, as well as their return, in appropriate drug-related corruption cases, in the framework of the Convention against Corruption, or, as appropriate, in cases of drug-related crimes involving transnational organized groups, consistent with the Organized Crime Convention;

¹¹ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vols. 2225, 2237, 2241 and 2326, No. 39574.

¹² *Ibid.*, vol. 2349, No. 42146.

¹³ Financial Action Task Force, *International Standards on Combating Money Laundering and the Financing of Terrorism and Proliferation* (Paris, 2015).

and encourage the timely sharing of operational information among relevant law enforcement and prosecutorial agencies and financial intelligence units;

(t) Promote effective measures capable of addressing the links between drug-related crimes and corruption, as well as obstruction of justice, including through the intimidation of justice officials, as a part of national anti-corruption and drug control strategies;

(u) Improve the availability and quality of statistical information and analysis of illicit drug cultivation, production and manufacturing, drug trafficking, money-laundering and illicit financial flows, including for appropriate reflection in reports of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the International Narcotics Control Board, in order to better measure and evaluate the impact of such crimes and to further enhance the effectiveness of criminal justice responses in that regard.

Operational recommendations on cross-cutting issues: drugs and human rights, youth, children, women and communities

4. We reiterate our commitment to respecting, protecting and promoting all human rights, fundamental freedoms and the inherent dignity of all individuals and the rule of law in the development and implementation of drug policies, and we recommend the following measures:

Drugs and human rights, youth, women, children, vulnerable members of society, and communities

(a) Enhance the knowledge of policymakers and the capacity, as appropriate, of relevant national authorities on various aspects of the world drug problem in order to ensure that national drug policies, as part of a comprehensive, integrated and balanced approach, fully respect all human rights and fundamental freedoms and protect the health, safety and well-being of individuals, families, vulnerable members of society, communities and society as a whole, and to that end encourage cooperation with and among the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the International Narcotics Control Board, the World Health Organization and other relevant United Nations entities, within their respective mandates, including those relevant to the above-mentioned issues, and relevant regional and international organizations, as well as with civil society and the private sector, as appropriate;

(b) Ensure non-discriminatory access to health, care and social services in prevention, primary care and treatment programmes, including those offered to persons in prison or pretrial detention, which are to be on a level equal to those available in the community, and ensure that women, including detained women, have access to adequate health services and counselling, including those particularly needed during pregnancy;

(c) Promote effective supervision of drug treatment and rehabilitation facilities by competent domestic authorities to ensure adequate quality of drug treatment and rehabilitation services and to prevent any possible acts of cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, in accordance with domestic legislation and applicable international law;

(d) Continue to identify and address protective and risk factors, as well as the conditions that continue to make women and girls vulnerable to exploitation and participation in drug trafficking, including as couriers, with a view to preventing their involvement in drug-related crime;

(e) Promote, in accordance with domestic legislation, effective coordination among the justice, education and law enforcement sectors and social services to ensure that the specific needs, including mental and physical needs, of underage drug offenders and children affected by drug-related crime are appropriately considered, including in criminal justice proceedings where required, including by providing those in need with drug treatment and related support services;

(f) Implement age-appropriate practical measures, tailored to the specific needs of children, youth and other vulnerable members of society, in the legislative, administrative, social, economic, cultural and educational sectors, including measures to provide them with opportunities for healthy and self-sustained lives, in order to prevent their abuse of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, and address their involvement, use and exploitation in the illicit cultivation of crops, production, manufacturing and trafficking of narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and other forms of drug-related crime, including urban crime, youth and gang-related violence and crime, fulfilling the obligations as States parties to the Convention on the Rights of the Child and taking into account the United Nations Guidelines for the Prevention of Juvenile Delinquency (the Riyadh Guidelines);¹⁴

(g) Mainstream a gender perspective into and ensure the involvement of women in all stages of the development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of drug policies and programmes, develop and disseminate gender-sensitive and age-appropriate measures that take into account the specific needs and circumstances faced by women and girls with regard to the world drug problem and, as States parties, implement the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women;¹⁵

(h) Consider, on a voluntary basis, when furnishing information to the Commission on Narcotic Drugs pursuant to the three international drug control conventions and relevant Commission resolutions, the inclusion of information concerning, inter alia, the promotion of human rights and the health, safety and welfare of all individuals, communities and society in the context of their domestic implementation of these conventions, including recent developments, best practices and challenges;

(i) Ensure that measures to prevent the illicit cultivation of and to eradicate plants containing narcotic and psychotropic substances respect fundamental human rights, take due account of traditional licit uses, where there is historic evidence of such use, and of the protection of the environment, in accordance with the three international drug control conventions, and also take into account, as appropriate and in accordance with national legislation, the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples;¹⁶

¹⁴ General Assembly resolution 45/112, annex.

¹⁵ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1249, No. 20378.

¹⁶ General Assembly resolution 61/295, annex.

Proportionate and effective policies and responses, as well as legal guarantees and safeguards pertaining to criminal justice proceedings and the justice sector

(j) Encourage the development, adoption and implementation, with due regard to national, constitutional, legal and administrative systems, of alternative or additional measures with regard to conviction or punishment in cases of an appropriate nature, in accordance with the three international drug control conventions and taking into account, as appropriate, relevant United Nations standards and rules, such as the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for Non-Custodial Measures (the Tokyo Rules);

(k) Consider sharing, through the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, information, lessons learned, experiences and best practices on the design, implementation and results of national criminal justice policies, including, as appropriate, domestic practices on proportional sentencing, related to the implementation of the three international drug control conventions, including article 3 of the 1988 Convention;

(l) Promote proportionate national sentencing policies, practices and guidelines for drug-related offences whereby the severity of penalties is proportionate to the gravity of offences and whereby both mitigating and aggravating factors are taken into account, including the circumstances enumerated in article 3 of the 1988 Convention and other relevant and applicable international law, and in accordance with national legislation;

(m) Enhance access to treatment of drug use disorders for those incarcerated and promote effective oversight and encourage, as appropriate, self-assessments of confinement facilities, taking into consideration the United Nations standards and norms on crime prevention and criminal justice, including the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (the Nelson Mandela Rules),¹⁷ implement, where appropriate, measures aimed at addressing and eliminating prison overcrowding and violence, and provide capacity-building to relevant national authorities;

(n) Encourage the taking into account of the specific needs and possible multiple vulnerabilities of women drug offenders when imprisoned, in line with the United Nations Rules for the Treatment of Women Prisoners and Non-custodial Measures for Women Offenders (the Bangkok Rules);¹⁸

(o) Promote and implement effective criminal justice responses to drug-related crimes to bring perpetrators to justice that ensure legal guarantees and due process safeguards pertaining to criminal justice proceedings, including practical measures to uphold the prohibition of arbitrary arrest and detention and of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment and to eliminate impunity, in accordance with relevant and applicable international law and taking into account United Nations standards and norms on crime prevention and criminal justice, and ensure timely access to legal aid and the right to a fair trial.

¹⁷ General Assembly resolution 70/175, annex.

¹⁸ General Assembly resolution 65/229, annex.

Operational recommendations on cross-cutting issues in addressing and countering the world drug problem: evolving reality, trends and existing circumstances, emerging and persistent challenges and threats, including new psychoactive substances, in conformity with the three international drug control conventions and other relevant international instruments

5. We reiterate our commitment to strengthen our efforts in addressing and countering emerging and persistent challenges and threats of all aspects of the world drug problem, and note the need to effectively respond to the evolving reality, trends and existing circumstances through comprehensive, integrated and balanced drug control policies and programmes that take into account their transnational implications and that are in conformity with the three international drug control conventions and other relevant international instruments, and to strengthen our international, regional and subregional cooperation, and we recommend the following:

Addressing new psychoactive substances, amphetamine-type stimulants, including methamphetamine, the diversion of precursors and pre-precursors and the non-medical use and misuse of pharmaceuticals containing narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances

We resolve to strengthen national and international action to address the emerging challenge of new psychoactive substances, including their adverse health consequences, and the evolving threat of amphetamine-type stimulants, including methamphetamine, and underscore the importance of enhancing information-sharing and early warning networks, developing appropriate national legislative, prevention and treatment models and supporting scientific evidence-based review and scheduling of the most prevalent, persistent and harmful substances, we note the importance of preventing the diversion and misuse of pharmaceuticals containing narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances and precursors while ensuring their availability for legitimate purposes, and we recommend the following measures:

(a) Encourage the development and implementation of, as appropriate and in accordance with national legislation, comprehensive measures and programmes, as outlined in paragraph 1 of this document, adapt those measures to the risks and challenges posed by the use of new psychoactive substances and amphetamine-type stimulants, including methamphetamine, and the non-medical use and misuse of pharmaceuticals containing narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, and actively share information on best practices and lessons learned with regard to national health-related experiences;

(b) Enhance the capacity of law enforcement agencies to detect and identify new psychoactive substances and amphetamine-type stimulants, including methamphetamine, and promote cross-border cooperation and information-sharing to prevent their abuse and diversion, including through the use of existing International Narcotics Control Board and United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime tools and projects;

(c) Establish and strengthen partnerships and information exchange with industries, in particular with chemical and pharmaceutical industries and other

relevant private sector entities, and encourage the use of the *Guidelines for a Voluntary Code of Practice for the Chemical Industry*, issued by the International Narcotics Control Board, and the Board's model memorandum of understanding between governments and private sector partners, as and where appropriate, bearing in mind the important role these industries can play in addressing and countering the world drug problem;

New psychoactive substances

(d) Continue to identify and monitor trends in the composition, production, prevalence and distribution of new psychoactive substances, as well as patterns of use and adverse consequences, and assess the risks to health and safety of individuals and society as a whole and the potential uses of new psychoactive substances for medical and scientific purposes, and on that basis to develop and strengthen domestic and national legislative, regulatory, administrative and operational responses and practices by domestic and national legislative, law enforcement, judiciary, social and welfare, educational and health authorities;

(e) Commit to implementing timely, scientific evidence-based control or regulatory measures within national legislative and administrative systems to tackle and manage the challenge of new psychoactive substances, and consider the use of interim steps while substances are under review, such as provisional measures of control, or make public health announcements, as well as share information and expertise on those measures;

(f) Share relevant information with, as appropriate, and strengthen the capacity of the World Health Organization, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the International Narcotics Control Board and other relevant international and regional organizations to prioritize the review of the most prevalent, persistent and harmful new psychoactive substances and to facilitate informed scheduling decisions by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs;

(g) Actively participate in early warning networks and promote the use of relevant surveillance lists and voluntary controls and the sharing of information through the International Narcotics Control Board, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the World Health Organization, within their respective mandates, and enhance bilateral, subregional, regional and international cooperation in the identification and reporting of new psychoactive substances and incidents involving such substances and, to that end, strengthen the use of national, regional and international established reporting and information exchange systems, such as, where appropriate, the early warning advisory on new psychoactive substances and the global Synthetics Monitoring: Analysis, Reporting and Trends (SMART) programme of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and Project Ion of the International Narcotics Control Board;

(h) Enhance the capacity and effectiveness of national laboratories and promote national and regional cooperation among them, as appropriate, for the detection and identification of new psychoactive substances, including through the use of existing United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime reference standards and assistance activities;

(i) Strengthen domestic information-sharing and promote information exchange at the regional and international levels on effective prevention and

treatment and related legislative measures in order to support the development of effective, scientific evidence-based responses to the emerging challenge of new psychoactive substances with regard to their adverse social and health consequences;

Amphetamine-type stimulants, including methamphetamine

(j) Support existing research, collection and scientific analysis of data related to amphetamine-type stimulants through the global SMART programme and relevant International Narcotics Control Board tools, such as Project Prism, and strengthen cooperation at all levels in tackling amphetamine-type stimulants, including methamphetamine;

(k) Promote the use, as appropriate, of relevant existing programmes, mechanisms and coordinated operations at all levels and continue the development and sharing of best practices and lessons learned among practitioners with regard to a balanced and integrated approach to the evolving threat of amphetamine-type stimulants;

Precursors and pre-precursors

(l) Strengthen national, regional and international monitoring of chemicals used in the illicit manufacture of drugs and new psychoactive substances, with a view to more effectively preventing the diversion of and trafficking in those chemicals, while ensuring that the legitimate trade in and use of those chemicals are not adversely affected, including by using national, subregional and international reporting systems and International Narcotics Control Board tools such as Project Prism, the Precursors Incident Communication System and Pre-Export Notification Online (PEN Online);

(m) Take appropriate measures to address the diversion and illicit manufacturing of and trafficking in as well as misuse of precursors under international control and to tackle the misuse of pre-precursors and substitute or alternative precursors for illicit drug manufacturing, and enhance voluntary efforts, including voluntary codes of conduct in cooperation with relevant industries and commerce at the national, regional and international levels, including through use of relevant International Narcotics Control Board tools;

Non-medical use and misuse of pharmaceuticals

(n) Enhance the sharing of information on the misuse of pharmaceuticals containing narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, and the quality and consistency of reported data, including through the annual report questionnaire of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime;

(o) Develop and implement countermeasures and supportive public health, education and socioeconomic strategies to effectively address and counter the non-medical use and misuse of pharmaceuticals that contain narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, while ensuring their availability for legitimate purposes, and promote national subregional, regional and international cooperation to prevent their diversion, trafficking and abuse, including through the use of existing World Health Organization, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and International Narcotics Control Board projects and tools;

Use of the Internet in relation to drug-related activities

(p) Support research, data collection, analysis of evidence and sharing of information and strengthen law enforcement, criminal justice and legal responses, as well as international cooperation, to prevent and counter drug-related criminal activities using the Internet, consistent with relevant and applicable law;

(q) Increase the provision of technical assistance and capacity-building at all levels to Member States, upon request, to prevent and counter the use of technologies, including the Internet, by drug trafficking networks and transnational criminal organizations, to facilitate drug-related activities;

(r) Enhance the capacity of national authorities, in particular law enforcement authorities, to preserve and analyse electronic evidence related to illicit activities, including drug trafficking and money-laundering, and to monitor sales of illicit drugs using the Internet;

(s) Encourage the use of the *Guidelines for Governments on Preventing the Illegal Sale of Internationally Controlled Substances through the Internet*,¹⁹ as appropriate;

(t) Support measures on the use of the Internet for prevention purposes, including appropriate counselling and information provision, develop, implement and promote, in accordance with national legislation, prevention strategies, programmes and measures, including via social media and other social networks, aimed at, inter alia, protecting children and young people from the abuse of controlled substances and new psychoactive substances and from involvement in their illicit sale and purchase via the Internet, and enhance cooperation at all levels in that regard;

Evolving reality, trends and existing circumstances, emerging and persistent challenges and threats

(u) Promote, as appropriate, the use and analysis of relevant, reliable and objective data generated by national and regional monitoring and evaluation to improve the implementation of comprehensive, integrated and balanced national drug control strategies, policies and programmes, in conformity with the three international drug control conventions and other relevant international instruments, and encourage the sharing of best practices and lessons learned, including through the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and other relevant regional and international organizations, within their mandates, to, inter alia, better understand both their domestic and transnational implications;

(v) Intensify efforts in the context of long-term and sustainable development programmes to address the most pressing drug-related socioeconomic factors, including unemployment and social marginalization, conducive to their subsequent exploitation by criminal organizations involved in drug-related crime;

(w) Encourage the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, in cooperation with relevant United Nations entities, within their respective mandates, to consider, as appropriate, reviewing existing guidelines and, where required, developing new ones on the various aspects of the world drug problem, with a view to enhancing the

¹⁹ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.09.XI.6.

capacity of relevant national authorities and strengthening international and inter-agency cooperation;

(x) Promote exchange of information to better understand the extent of adverse impacts, including the health, social and economic and safety impacts, of drug trafficking in small quantities in order to develop, where appropriate, effective responses to counter microtrafficking;

(y) Call upon the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the International Narcotics Control Board, the World Health Organization and other United Nations entities with pertinent technical and operational expertise, within their mandates, to continue to provide, upon request, advice and assistance to States that are reviewing and updating their drug policies, in compliance with the international drug control conventions, taking into account their national priorities and needs through, among others, the promotion of exchange of information and best practices on scientific evidence-based policies adopted by States.

Operational recommendations on strengthening international cooperation based on the principle of common and shared responsibility

6. We reiterate our commitment to supporting our efforts at all levels, based on common and shared responsibility, to effectively address and counter the world drug problem and to enhance international cooperation and, to that end, we recommend the following measures:

(a) Strengthen specialized, targeted, effective and sustainable technical assistance, including, where appropriate, adequate financial assistance, training, capacity-building, equipment and technological know-how, to requesting countries, including transit countries, through and in cooperation with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, as well as the World Health Organization and other relevant United Nations entities and international and regional organizations, within their respective mandates, to assist Member States to effectively address the health, socioeconomic, human rights, justice and law enforcement aspects of the world drug problem;

(b) Enhance North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation among Member States, in cooperation with the international development community and other key stakeholders, in order to effectively address and counter the world drug problem;

(c) Strengthen, including through the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and, as appropriate, its subsidiary bodies, the regular exchange of information, good practices and lessons learned among national practitioners from different fields and at all levels to effectively implement an integrated and balanced approach to the world drug problem and its various aspects and consider additional measures to further facilitate meaningful discussion among those practitioners;

(d) Encourage the Commission on Narcotic Drugs to contribute to the global follow-up and support the thematic review of progress on the Sustainable

Development Goals,²⁰ within its mandates, bearing in mind the integrated nature of the Goals as well as the interlinkages between them, and make that information available to the high-level political forum through the appropriate institutional framework, taking into account General Assembly resolution 70/1;

(e) Encourage the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to further increase cooperation and collaboration with all relevant United Nations entities and international financial institutions, within their respective mandates, when assisting Member States in designing and implementing comprehensive, integrated and balanced national drug strategies, policies and programmes.

Operational recommendations on alternative development; regional, interregional and international cooperation on development-oriented balanced drug control policy; addressing socioeconomic issues

7. We reiterate our commitment to addressing drug-related socioeconomic issues related to the illicit cultivation of narcotic plants and the illicit manufacture and production and trafficking of drugs through the implementation of long-term, comprehensive and sustainable development-oriented and balanced drug control policies and programmes, including alternative development and, as appropriate, preventive alternative development programmes, which are part of sustainable crop control strategies, and we recommend the following measures:

Socioeconomic issues and alternative development

(a) Target the illicit cultivation of crops used for the illicit production and manufacture of drugs and address related factors by implementing comprehensive strategies aimed at alleviating poverty and strengthening the rule of law, accountable, effective and inclusive institutions and public services and institutional frameworks, as appropriate, and by promoting sustainable development aimed at enhancing the welfare of the affected and vulnerable population through licit alternatives;

(b) Encourage the promotion of inclusive economic growth and support initiatives that contribute to poverty eradication and the sustainability of social and economic development, develop measures for rural development, improving infrastructure and social inclusion and protection, addressing the consequences of illicit crop cultivation and the manufacture and production of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances on the environment, with the incorporation and participation of local communities, and consider taking voluntary measures to promote products stemming from alternative development, including preventive alternative development, as appropriate, to gain access to markets, consistent with applicable multilateral trade rules and with national and international law, within the framework of comprehensive and balanced drug control strategies;

(c) Express concern that illicit cultivation of crops and illicit manufacture, distribution and trafficking remain serious challenges in addressing and countering

²⁰ Contained in General Assembly resolution 70/1.

the world drug problem, and recognize the need for strengthening sustainable crop control strategies that may include, inter alia, alternative development, eradication and law enforcement measures, for the purpose of preventing and reducing significantly and measurably the illicit cultivation of crops, and the need for intensifying joint efforts at national, regional and international levels in a more comprehensive manner, in accordance with the principle of common and shared responsibility, including by means of appropriate preventive tools and measures, enhanced and better coordinated financial and technical assistance and action-oriented programmes, in order to tackle those challenges;

(d) Consider elaborating and implementing comprehensive and sustainable alternative development programmes, including preventive alternative development, as appropriate, that support sustainable crop control strategies to prevent and significantly, durably and measurably reduce illicit crop cultivation and other illicit drug-related activities, ensuring the empowerment, ownership and responsibility of affected local communities, including farmers and their cooperatives, by taking into account the vulnerabilities and specific needs of communities affected by or at risk of illicit cultivation, in cooperation with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the International Labour Organization, the United Nations Development Programme and other relevant international organizations, bearing in mind national and regional development policies and action plans, with a view to contributing to the building of peaceful, inclusive and just societies, consistent with the Sustainable Development Goals and in compliance with relevant and applicable international and national law;

(e) Strengthen subregional, regional and international cooperation to support comprehensive and sustainable alternative development programmes, including, as appropriate, preventive alternative development, as an essential part of successful prevention and crop control strategies to increase the positive outcome of such programmes, especially in the areas affected by and at risk of illicit cultivation of crops used for the production of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, taking into account the United Nations Guiding Principles on Alternative Development;²¹

(f) Strengthen regional and international cooperation to support sustainable alternative development programmes, including, as appropriate, preventive alternative development, in close collaboration with all relevant stakeholders at the local, national and international levels, and to develop and share best practices towards implementing the United Nations Guiding Principles on Alternative Development, taking into account all the lessons learned and good practices, in particular by countries with extensive expertise in alternative development, and take note, inter alia, of the Second International Conference on Alternative Development;

(g) Promote research by States, including through cooperation with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and other relevant United Nations entities and international and regional organizations, academic institutions and civil society, to better understand factors contributing to illicit crop cultivation, taking into account local and regional specificities, and to improve impact assessment of alternative development programmes, including preventive alternative development, as appropriate, with a view to increasing the effectiveness of these programmes,

²¹ General Assembly resolution 68/196, annex.

including through the use of relevant human development indicators, criteria related to environmental sustainability and other measurements in line with the Sustainable Development Goals;

Technical and financial cooperation for comprehensive and balanced development-oriented drug policies and viable economic alternatives

(h) Consider strengthening a development perspective as part of comprehensive, integrated and balanced national drug policies and programmes so as to tackle the related causes and consequences of illicit cultivation, manufacture, production of and trafficking in drugs by, inter alia, addressing risk factors affecting individuals, communities and society, which may include a lack of services, infrastructure needs, drug-related violence, exclusion, marginalization and social disintegration, in order to contribute to the promotion of peaceful and inclusive societies;

(i) Urge relevant international financial institutions, United Nations entities, non-governmental organizations and the private sector, as appropriate, to consider increasing their support, including through long-term and flexible funding, for the implementation of comprehensive and balanced development-oriented drug control programmes and viable economic alternatives, in particular alternative development, including, as appropriate, preventive alternative development programmes, based on identified needs and national priorities, for areas and populations affected by or vulnerable to the illicit cultivation of drug crops, with a view to its prevention, reduction and elimination, and encourage States to the extent possible to stay strongly committed to financing such programmes;

(j) Encourage the development of viable economic alternatives, particularly for communities affected by or at risk of illicit cultivation of drug crops and other illicit drug-related activities in urban and rural areas, including through comprehensive alternative development programmes, and to this end consider development-oriented interventions, while ensuring that both men and women benefit equally from them, including through job opportunities, improved infrastructure and basic public services and, as appropriate, access and legal titles to land for farmers and local communities, which will also contribute to preventing, reducing or eliminating illicit cultivation and other drug-related activities;

(k) Consider the development of sustainable urban development initiatives for those affected by illicit drug-related activities to foster public participation in crime prevention, community cohesion, protection and safety and to stimulate innovation, entrepreneurship and employment;

(l) Promote partnerships and innovative cooperation initiatives with the private sector, civil society and international financial institutions to create conditions more conducive to productive investments targeted at job creation in areas and among communities affected by or at risk of illicit drug cultivation, production, manufacturing, trafficking and other illicit drug-related activities in order to prevent, reduce or eliminate them, and share best practices, lessons learned, expertise and skills in this regard.

8. We express appreciation for the inclusive, transparent and open-ended preparatory process for the special session, led by the Commission on Narcotic

Drugs with the support, guidance and involvement of the President of the General Assembly, and for all contributions to this preparatory process.

9. We resolve to take the necessary steps to implement the above-listed operational recommendations, in close partnership with the United Nations and other intergovernmental organizations and civil society, and to share with the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, as the policymaking body of the United Nations with prime responsibility for drug control matters, timely information on progress made in the implementation of these recommendations.

B. Draft resolution to be recommended by the Economic and Social Council for adoption by the General Assembly

2. The Commission on Narcotic Drugs recommends to the Economic and Social Council the approval of the following draft resolution for adoption by the General Assembly:

Draft resolution

Promoting the implementation of the United Nations Guiding Principles on Alternative Development

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming the Political Declaration adopted by the General Assembly at its twentieth special session²² and the Action Plan on International Cooperation on the Eradication of Illicit Drug Crops and on Alternative Development,²³

Reaffirming also the commitments contained in the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem,²⁴ adopted at the high-level segment of the fifty-second session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and by the General Assembly in its resolution 64/182 of 18 December 2009, as well as 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,²⁵ adopted at the high-level segment of the fifty-seventh session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs,

Recalling its resolution 68/196 of 18 December 2013, in which it adopted the United Nations Guiding Principles on Alternative Development and encouraged Member States, international organizations, international financial institutions, entities and other relevant stakeholders to take into account those Guiding Principles when designing and implementing alternative development programmes, including, as appropriate, preventive alternative development programmes,

²² General Assembly resolution S-20/2, annex.

²³ General Assembly resolution S-20/4 E.

²⁴ See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2009, Supplement No. 8 (E/2009/28)*, chap. I, sect. C.

²⁵ See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2014, Supplement No. 8 (E/2014/28)*, chap. I, sect. C.

Recalling also Commission on Narcotic Drugs resolutions 52/6 of 20 March 2009, 53/6 of 12 March 2010, 54/4 of 25 March 2011, 55/4 of 16 March 2012, 57/1 of 21 March 2014 and 58/4 of 17 March 2015,

Welcoming the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,²⁶ and stressing that the implementation of the United Nations Guiding Principles on Alternative Development will contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals contained therein,

Taking note of the outcome of the international seminar/workshop on the implementation of the United Nations Guiding Principles on Alternative Development and the Second International Conference on Alternative Development,²⁷ which includes conclusions and recommendations drawn from the field visits, the seminar/workshop and the high-level International Conference, and noting in particular the alternative development projects, as seen in the field visits, focused on enhancing individual and community resilience and recognized as an example of the sufficiency economy philosophy of the King of Thailand,

Reaffirming that alternative development is an important, lawful, viable and sustainable alternative to the illicit cultivation of drug crops, that it is an effective measure to counter the world drug problem and other drug-related crime challenges, and that it is one of the key components of policies and programmes for reducing illicit drug production,

Expressing concern that illicit cultivation of crops and illicit drug production, manufacture, distribution and trafficking remain major challenges in countering the world drug problem, and recognizing the need to strengthen sustainable crop control strategies that include alternative development, eradication and law enforcement measures, for the purpose of preventing and reducing significantly and measurably the illicit cultivation of crops, and the need to intensify joint efforts at the national, regional and international levels in a more comprehensive manner, in accordance with the principle of common and shared responsibility, including by means of appropriate preventive tools and measures, enhanced and better-coordinated financial and technical assistance and action-oriented programmes, in order to tackle those challenges,

Noting with concern that overall financial support for alternative development projects and programmes, including, as appropriate, preventive alternative development, has only accounted for a minor share of official development assistance and has only reached a minor percentage of communities and households involved in illicit drug crop cultivation at the global level,

1. *Takes note* with appreciation of the outcome of the international seminar/workshop and the Second International Conference on Alternative Development, held in Chiang Rai, Chiang Mai and Bangkok, Thailand, and Shan State, Myanmar, from 19 to 24 November 2015 and hosted by the Government of Thailand, in collaboration with the Government of Germany, the Government of Myanmar and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, as an input to continued discussions on and enhanced implementation of the United Nations

²⁶ General Assembly resolution 70/1.

²⁷ E/CN.7/2016/13, annex.

Guiding Principles on Alternative Development,²⁸ in accordance with national legislation;

2. *Reaffirms*, as highlighted in the United Nations Guiding Principles on Alternative Development, that alternative development, as an integral component of policies and programmes for reducing drug production, is an important, viable and sustainable option for preventing, eliminating or significantly and measurably reducing the illicit cultivation of crops used for the production and manufacture of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances through tackling poverty and providing livelihood opportunities;

3. *Urges* Member States affected by or at risk of illicit crop cultivation to consider integrating comprehensive and sustainable alternative development, including, as appropriate, preventive alternative development, into national development policies and strategies, as appropriate, in order to address illicit crop cultivation and its related socioeconomic factors, provide sustainable alternative livelihoods and significantly contribute to the building of inclusive and just societies in order to reduce inequality within and among countries;

4. *Urges* Member States, when formulating and implementing comprehensive and sustainable alternative development strategies and policies, including, as appropriate, preventive alternative development strategies and policies, to take into account the specific needs of the communities and groups affected by the illicit cultivation of crops used for drug production and manufacture, within the broader framework of national policies;

5. *Stresses* that, when designing and implementing comprehensive and sustainable alternative development programmes and projects, including, as appropriate, preventive alternative development programmes and projects, the focus should be on empowering and encouraging ownership by local communities, including women, children and young people, taking into account their specific needs, and on strengthening local capacities, as ensuring the effective cooperation of all stakeholders in the entire alternative development process is crucial for the success of alternative development;

6. *Also stresses* that comprehensive and sustainable alternative development, as one of the tools available for tackling the world drug problem, increases the State's presence, builds trust between communities and government, strengthens local governance and institutions, promotes peaceful and inclusive societies and, under Sustainable Development Goal 16, includes the promotion of the rule of law;

7. *Encourages* further discussions on the relationship and potential links between alternative development and the promotion of the rule of law by individuals and communities, as well as on the wide range of challenges affecting the livelihoods and well-being of people, in order to further develop measures to address the root causes of such challenges;

8. *Encourages* Member States to ensure the proper and coordinated sequencing of development interventions when designing alternative development programmes;

²⁸ General Assembly resolution 68/196, annex.

9. *Stresses* that access to productive land and land rights, such as legal titles to land for farmers and local communities, should be promoted and protected in the implementation of comprehensive and sustainable alternative development programmes, in a manner that is consistent with domestic law and regulations as well as with the full participation of and in consultation with local communities;

10. *Emphasizes* that the marketability of products stemming from alternative development programmes should be assessed before implementing such programmes and, where applicable, alternative development products should be aimed at creating value-added chains to enable target communities to obtain higher incomes in order to support sustainable livelihoods and substitute the income generated from illicit crop cultivation;

11. *Encourages* the international community, including civil society, the scientific community and academia, to work with affected communities to develop recommendations focusing on specific alternative development strategies that take into account demographic, cultural, social and geographical conditions and include ideas on supporting and promoting new products;

12. *Calls upon* Member States to apply the United Nations Guiding Principles on Alternative Development when designing, implementing and evaluating alternative development programmes and projects, including preventive alternative development programmes and projects, as appropriate, and calls upon Member States with experience in this area to share outcomes, assessments of implemented projects and lessons learned, thereby contributing to the dissemination and application of the Guiding Principles;

13. *Urges* Member States to sustain political will and a long-term commitment with regard to implementing alternative development programmes and strategies, and to continue engaging in awareness programmes and in dialogue and cooperation with all relevant stakeholders;

14. *Urges* relevant international financial institutions, United Nations organizations, non-governmental organizations and the private sector to increase their rural development support for regions and populations affected by or at risk of the illicit cultivation of drug crops through long-term and flexible funding, and encourages States, to the extent possible, to remain strongly committed to financing alternative development programmes, including preventive alternative development, as appropriate;

15. *Encourages* Member States to strengthen intragovernmental coordination when designing and implementing alternative development projects and programmes;

16. *Encourages* all relevant United Nations entities and specialized agencies to further increase their interaction with the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in order to support Member States in effectively implementing alternative development programmes, including preventative alternative development programmes, as appropriate, with a view to further enhancing coherence and coordination within the United Nations system;

17. *Encourages* development agencies, donors and financial institutions, the private sector, civil society and academia to share information, experiences and best

practices, promote research and increase efforts on the promotion of alternative development, including preventive alternative development, as appropriate;

18. *Recognizes* that more research is needed to better understand and identify factors contributing to the emergence of illicit crop cultivation and to improve impact assessments of alternative development programmes;

19. *Affirms* that, in addition to estimates of illicit cultivation and other illicit activities related to the world drug problem, indicators related to human development, socioeconomic conditions, rural development and the alleviation of poverty, as well as institutional and environmental indicators, should be used when assessing alternative development programmes in order to ensure that the outcomes are in line with national and international development objectives, including the Sustainable Development Goals, and that they reflect accountable use of donor funds and truly benefit affected communities;

20. *Calls upon* Member States and other donors to consider providing long-term support to alternative development programmes and projects, including preventive alternative development programmes and projects, as appropriate, that target the illicit cultivation of crops, in order to contribute to the sustainability of social and economic development and poverty eradication, including through enhanced development-oriented approaches that implement measures for rural development, strengthen local governments and institutions, improve infrastructure, including the provision of public services such as water, energy, health and education in areas acutely impacted by the illicit cultivation of crops, promote the participation of local communities, enhance the empowerment of people and strengthen communities' resilience;

21. *Encourages* Member States to maintain and strengthen international cooperation to support comprehensive and sustainable alternative development programmes, including, as appropriate, preventive alternative development programmes, as an essential part of successful crop control strategies, in order to increase the positive outcomes of such programmes, especially in areas affected by or at risk of the illicit cultivation of crops used for the production of narcotic drugs, taking into account the United Nations Guiding Principles on Alternative Development;

22. *Encourages* Member States with extensive expertise in alternative development, including preventive alternative development, as appropriate, to continue sharing best practices, upon request, promoting research to better understand factors contributing to illicit crop cultivation and fostering and strengthening international cooperation, including cross-continental, interregional, subregional and regional technical cooperation on integral and sustainable alternative development, which includes in some cases preventive alternative development;

23. *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.

C. Draft decisions for adoption by the Economic and Social Council

3. The Commission recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft decisions:

Draft decision I

Report of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs on its fifty-ninth session and provisional agenda for its sixtieth session

The Economic and Social Council:

- (a) Takes note of the report of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs on its fifty-ninth session;
- (b) Also takes note of Commission decision 55/1 of 7 December 2012;
- (c) Approves the provisional agenda for the sixtieth session set out below.

Provisional agenda for the sixtieth session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.

Operational segment

3. Policy directives to the drug programme of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and strengthening the drug programme and the role of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs as its governing body, including administrative, budgetary and strategic management questions:
 - (a) Work of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and policy directives;
 - (b) Role of the Commission as the governing body of the drug programme of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime:
 - (i) Strengthening the drug programme of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime;
 - (ii) Administrative, budgetary and strategic management questions;
 - (c) Staff composition of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and other related matters.

Normative segment

4. Round-table discussions/thematic debate.
5. Implementation of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem:
 - (a) Demand reduction and related measures;
 - (b) Supply reduction and related measures;

- (c) Countering money-laundering and promoting judicial cooperation to enhance international cooperation.
 6. Follow-up to the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem held in 2016.
 7. Preparations for the sixty-second session of the Commission, in 2019.
 8. Implementation of the international drug control treaties:
 - (a) Challenges and future work of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and the World Health Organization in the review of substances for possible scheduling recommendations;
 - (b) Changes in the scope of control of substances;
 - (c) International Narcotics Control Board;
 - (d) International cooperation to ensure the availability of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances for medical and scientific purposes while preventing their diversion;
 - (e) Other matters arising from the international drug control treaties.
 9. Recommendations of the subsidiary bodies of the Commission.
 10. Contributions by the Commission to the work of the Economic and Social Council, in line with General Assembly resolution 68/1, including follow-up, review and implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
- * * *
11. Provisional agenda for the sixty-first session of the Commission.
 12. Other business.
 13. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its sixtieth session.

Draft decision II

Report of the International Narcotics Control Board

The Economic and Social Council takes note of the report of the International Narcotics Control Board for 2015.²⁹

D. Matters brought to the attention of the Economic and Social Council

4. The following resolutions adopted by the Commission are brought to the attention of the Economic and Social Council:

²⁹ E/INCB/2015/1.

Resolution 59/2

Outcomes of the meetings of the subsidiary bodies of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, including the Abu Dhabi declaration

The Commission on Narcotic Drugs,

Recalling the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem,³⁰ adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 64/182 of 18 December 2009, in which Member States recommended that the General Assembly should hold a special session to address the world drug problem,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 67/193 of 20 December 2012, in which the Assembly decided to convene, in early 2016, a special session on the world drug problem to review the progress in the implementation of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action, including an assessment of the achievements and challenges in countering the world drug problem, within the framework of the three international drug control conventions and other relevant United Nations instruments,

Welcoming the decision made by the General Assembly in its resolution 69/200 of 18 December 2014 that the Commission on Narcotic Drugs should lead the preparatory process for the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem to be held in 2016 by addressing all organizational and substantive matters in an open-ended manner,

Resolving to continue to support and contribute to the preparatory process for the special session of the General Assembly to be held in 2016, in view of the request made by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, in its resolution 56/10 of 15 March 2013, to the meetings of the subsidiary bodies of the Commission to contribute to the monitoring of the implementation by Member States of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action at the regional level by discussing regional views on progress made in that regard,

Noting the meetings of the subsidiary bodies of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs that were held in 2015, namely the Eleventh Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Europe, held in Brussels from 22 to 25 June, the Twenty-fifth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Africa, held in Algiers from 14 to 18 September, the Twenty-fifth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Latin America and the Caribbean, held in San Pedro Sula, Honduras, from 5 to 9 October, the Thirty-ninth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Asia and the Pacific, held in Bangkok from 19 to 22 October, and the fiftieth session of the Subcommittee on Illicit Drug Traffic and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East, held in Abu Dhabi from 8 to 12 November,

³⁰ See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2009, Supplement No. 8 (E/2009/28)*, chap. I, sect. C.

1. *Takes note* of the outcomes adopted by those meetings of the subsidiary bodies;³¹

2. *Also takes note* of the Abu Dhabi declaration of the States members participating in the fiftieth session of the Subcommittee on Illicit Drug Traffic and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East, held in Abu Dhabi from 8 to 12 November, which is annexed to the present resolution.

Annex

Abu Dhabi declaration

We, the representatives of States members of the Subcommittee on Illicit Drug Traffic and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East gathered at the fiftieth session of the Subcommittee on Illicit Drug Traffic and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East, held in Abu Dhabi from 8 to 12 November 2015,

Recalling the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem,³² in which it was recognized that the world drug problem remained a common and shared responsibility that required effective and increased international cooperation and demanded an integrated, multidisciplinary, mutually reinforcing and balanced approach to supply and demand reduction strategies,

Gravely concerned about the growing threat posed by the drug problem to the region,

Recalling that the three international drug conventions are the cornerstone of international drug control policy,

Also recalling that the use and possession, including possession for personal consumption, of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances shall be limited to medical and scientific purposes, in accordance with the international drug control framework,

Reaffirming the principles of sovereignty, territorial integrity of States and non-intervention, as well as the principle of common and shared responsibility, when addressing the world drug problem,

Have agreed to make the following recommendations:

(a) Governments should take into account regional perspectives on and approaches to addressing the world drug problem, with full respect for the cultural and religious specificities of each region;

(b) Governments are encouraged to oppose any form of legalization of drugs, in accordance with the three international drug conventions, and to gain an in-depth understanding of the causes and various aspects of the world drug problem, to ensure an efficient way of addressing it;

³¹ See E/CN.7/2016/10.

³² See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2009, Supplement No. 8 (E/2009/28)*, chap. I, sect. C.

(c) The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and its field offices should maintain their leading role in providing capacity-building coordination and technical assistance to Member States in countering the world drug problem at the national, regional and interregional levels;

(d) In the Near and Middle East, priority attention should be given to addressing the production of, trafficking in and consumption of illicit drugs affecting the region, in particular opiates, cocaine, amphetamine-type stimulants, including new psychoactive substances and Captagon, and tramadol;

(e) Coordination among regional law enforcement information centres, such as the Criminal Information Centre to Combat Drugs of the Gulf Cooperation Council, the Central Asian Regional Information and Coordination Centre and the Turkish International Academy against Drugs and Organized Crime, should be encouraged under the “networking the networks” initiative of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime;

(f) Governments are encouraged to improve access to quality drug dependence treatment services and ensure access to essential psychotropic and narcotic drugs for medical purposes while preventing their diversion and abuse;

(g) In addressing money-laundering and illicit financial flows stemming from illicit drug trafficking, Governments are encouraged to strengthen national coordination between their counter-narcotics law enforcement agencies and financial intelligence units in responding to international requests for mutual legal assistance.

Resolution 59/3

Promoting informal networking within the scientific community and the sharing of scientific evidence-based findings that may inform policies and practices to address the world drug problem

The Commission on Narcotic Drugs,

Reaffirming the commitments of Member States in the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem³³ to ensuring that measures are based on an integrated and balanced approach to drug demand reduction and supply reduction and other related matters and on the principle of common and shared responsibility and scientific evidence-based assessments of the nature and extent of the world drug problem,

Bearing in mind 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 Problem,³⁴ in which the need to scientifically evaluate drug supply and demand reduction measures in

³³ Ibid.

³⁴ See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2014, Supplement No. 8 (E/2014/28)*, chap. I, sect. C.

order to direct government resources to initiatives that have proved to be successful in tackling the causes of the world drug problem was acknowledged,

Bearing in mind also the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem, in which Member States reiterated their commitment to promoting, developing, reviewing or strengthening effective, comprehensive, integrated drug demand reduction programmes, based on scientific evidence, as part of a comprehensive, integrated and balanced approach to demand and supply reduction strategies,

Mindful of the need to respect internationally accepted standards for scientific research,

Reaffirming the commitments undertaken by the parties to the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988³⁵ to facilitate the exchange of scientific information and the conduct of research on the eradication of illicitly cultivated narcotic plants, and noting the need to enhance the effectiveness of these supply reduction measures, considering their social, health, safety, economic and environmental consequences and sustainability,

Recalling its resolution 58/7 of 17 March 2015, in which it underlined the need for Member States to cooperate closely with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the World Health Organization, the International Narcotics Control Board and other international and regional organizations, as well as with the scientific community, including academia, in contributing to the scientific assessment of drug demand and supply reduction policies, drug markets and drug-related crime,

Acknowledging the efforts of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, in collaboration with the World Health Organization, the International Narcotics Control Board and other relevant regional and international organizations, to support Member States in promoting informal cooperation and the sharing of scientific evidence-based findings that may inform policies and practices to address the world drug problem,

Emphasizing the need to promote collaboration between scientific experts, policymakers and other relevant stakeholders in scientific research and to promote the appropriate sharing of scientific evidence-based findings that may inform policies and practices to address the world drug problem,

Welcoming the role of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in convening informal, international, scientific networking meetings in the areas of prevention, treatment and rehabilitation with respect to drug dependence and in facilitating the sharing of scientific evidence-based findings that may inform policies and practices to address the world drug problem,

1. *Invites* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to continue convening informal, international, scientific networking meetings of scientists selected by the Office, based upon recommendations by Member States and other relevant stakeholders, and facilitating the sharing of scientific evidence-based findings that may inform policies and practices to address the world drug problem;

³⁵ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1582, No. 27627.

2. *Invites* Member States to support the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in its activities to promote informal networking within the scientific community and the sharing of scientific evidence-based findings that may inform policies and practices to address the world drug problem, including by facilitating, on a voluntary basis, the participation of appropriate experts in such activities;

3. *Invites* Member States and other donors to consider providing extrabudgetary resources for the purposes of the present resolution, in accordance with the rules and procedures of the United Nations;

4. *Requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to report on progress made in implementing the present resolution to the Commission at its sixty-first session.

Resolution 59/4

Development and dissemination of international standards for the treatment of drug use disorders

The Commission on Narcotic Drugs,

Recalling the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961 as amended by the 1972 Protocol,³⁶ the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971³⁷ and the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988,³⁸

Stressing, in particular, article 38 of the 1961 Convention as amended, according to which parties to the Convention shall take all practicable measures for the prevention of the abuse of drugs, and for the provision of early identification, treatment, education, aftercare, rehabilitation and social reintegration of the persons involved and shall coordinate their efforts and promote the training of personnel in drug treatment, aftercare, rehabilitation and social reintegration of abusers of drugs,

Bearing in mind the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem,³⁹ in which Member States reiterated their commitment to promoting, developing, reviewing or strengthening effective, comprehensive, integrated drug demand reduction programmes, based on scientific evidence, as part of a comprehensive, balanced and integrated approach to both supply and demand reduction,

Recalling the Declaration on the Guiding Principles of Drug Demand Reduction,⁴⁰

³⁶ Ibid., vol. 976, No. 14152.

³⁷ Ibid., vol. 1019, No. 14956.

³⁸ Ibid., vol. 1582, No. 27627.

³⁹ See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2009, Supplement No. 8 (E/2009/28)*, chap. I, sect. C.

⁴⁰ General Assembly resolution S-20/3, annex.

Welcoming the outcome document of the United Nations summit for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda, entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”,⁴¹

Acknowledging that drug use dependence and disorders are a complex, multifactorial health disorder of a chronic and relapsing nature with psychosocial causes and consequences, which can be prevented and treated,

Convinced of the importance of a multisectoral and fully coordinated approach under which government agencies, non-governmental organizations and other relevant stakeholders cooperate, as appropriate and in accordance with national legislation, to support the development of policies and programmes that promote psychosocial, behavioural and medication-assisted treatment, as appropriate and in accordance with national legislation, as well as rehabilitation, social reintegration and recovery support programmes, including for people in the prison system and those recently released from prison, giving special attention to the specific needs of women, children and young people,

Stressing that, as with any other health disorder, the development of standards for the treatment of drug use disorders should be consistent with applicable human rights obligations,

Emphasizing the need to ensure non-discriminatory access to adequate, effective and scientific evidence-based treatment of drug use disorders, including for people affected by such disorders in the prison system and other closed settings, in accordance with national legislation,

Convinced of the importance of providing comprehensive, integrated treatment therapies aimed at preventing relapse to those affected by substance use dependence and disorders, in order to ensure that all people have access to effective treatment and supportive services that promote their recovery, and also convinced of the effectiveness of holistic approaches under which services and support are provided that are tailored to fit individuals’ and families’ needs, and of promoting the active participation and involvement of those affected by substance use disorders,

Welcoming the ongoing work of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the World Health Organization in raising awareness of drug use disorders as a public health concern and in providing technical assistance to Member States to improve the quality and ensure the availability of and increase access to effective practices for the treatment of drug use disorders,

Noting with appreciation the work of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the World Health Organization in developing the international standards for the treatment of drug use disorders, which is a compendium of scientific evidence-based recommendations that reflect best treatment practices for possible use in Member States, as appropriate, and which is to be updated and improved as additional scientific data is collected, including through field testing,

1. *Encourages* all Member States to consider expanding the coverage and improving the quality of drug treatment systems, interventions and policies based on scientific evidence, using the scientific evidence-based international standards for the treatment of drug use disorders developed by the United Nations Office on

⁴¹ General Assembly resolution 70/1.

Drugs and Crime and the World Health Organization, as appropriate and in accordance with national legislation and the international drug control conventions;

2. *Requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, in collaboration with the World Health Organization and other relevant stakeholders, as appropriate, to develop initiatives to support the dissemination of the international standards for the treatment of drug use disorders;

3. *Also requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, in collaboration with the World Health Organization and other relevant stakeholders, as appropriate, to provide Member States, upon request, with technical and capacity-building assistance in support of their efforts to implement practices consistent with those international standards for the treatment of drug use disorders, as appropriate and in accordance with national legislation;

4. *Encourages* Member States to consider initiating systematic processes of national adaptation of the international standards for the treatment of drug use disorders and the adoption of national standards for the accreditation of services, in accordance with national legislation, to ensure a qualified and effective response to drug use disorders, and requests the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, in collaboration with the World Health Organization and other relevant stakeholders, as appropriate, to assist Member States in those processes, upon request;

5. *Invites* the World Health Organization, within its mandate, to support the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in assisting Member States, upon request, in the process of national adaptation of those international standards for the treatment of drug use disorders to ensure effective responses to drug use disorders as part of a comprehensive approach;

6. *Invites* Member States, through bilateral, regional and international cooperation, as appropriate, to collaborate in the implementation of practices, consistent with the international standards for the treatment of drug use disorders through the exchange of information and the provision of assistance, including technical assistance, upon request, with a view to enhancing their ability to implement the international standards for the treatment of drug use disorders, as appropriate and in accordance with national legislation;

7. *Encourages* Member States to provide input to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the World Health Organization on a regular basis, in accordance with national legislation, based on consultations with relevant stakeholders such as scientists, drug treatment practitioners and non-governmental organizations, and invites the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the World Health Organization to use that input, in the context of their respective procedures, to regularly update the international standards for the treatment of drug use disorders, in close collaboration with Member States, to reflect the most effective practices;

8. *Invites* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to support Member States, upon request, in improving the knowledge of their policymakers, as well as the capacity of their practitioners and researchers working in the area of treatment of drug use disorders, through the use of the international standards for the treatment of drug use disorders, where appropriate and applicable and consistent with national legislation;

9. *Also invites* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to continue coordinating efforts with other relevant United Nations organizations, in particular the World Health Organization, to disseminate the international standards for the treatment of drug use disorders;

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

Resolution 59/5

Mainstreaming a gender perspective in drug-related policies and programmes

The Commission on Narcotic Drugs,

Reaffirming the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961 as amended by the 1972 Protocol,⁴² the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971⁴³ and the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988,⁴⁴ and welcoming the efforts made by Member States to achieve the aims and objectives of those conventions and comply with their provisions,

Welcoming the adoption of General Assembly resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development” and containing the Sustainable Development Goals, in which Member States resolved, inter alia, to end poverty and hunger everywhere, to combat inequalities within and among countries, to build peaceful, just and inclusive societies to protect human rights and achieve gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls to ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages and to ensure the lasting protection of the planet and its natural resources, as well as to create conditions for sustainable, inclusive and sustained economic growth, shared prosperity and decent work for all, taking into account different levels of national development and capacities,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 70/182 of 17 December 2015, entitled “International cooperation against the world drug problem”, in which the Assembly called upon Member States to actively promote the mainstreaming of a gender perspective into the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies and programmes related to the world drug problem,

Recalling also Commission on Narcotic Drugs resolution 52/1 of 20 March 2009, entitled “Promoting international cooperation in addressing the involvement of women and girls in drug trafficking, especially as couriers”, as well as all relevant resolutions of the Commission that underscore the need to take gender into account when developing and implementing drug-related policies and programmes,

⁴² United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 976, No. 14152.

⁴³ *Ibid.*, vol. 1019, No. 14956.

⁴⁴ *Ibid.*, vol. 1582, No. 27627.

Recalling further its resolution 55/5 of 16 March 2012, entitled “Promoting strategies and measures addressing specific needs of women in the context of comprehensive and integrated drug demand reduction programmes and strategies”,

Recalling its resolution 58/5 of 17 March 2015, entitled “Supporting the collaboration of public health and justice authorities in pursuing alternative measures to conviction or punishment for appropriate drug-related offences of a minor nature”,

Taking note of the twentieth anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action adopted at the Fourth World Conference on Women,⁴⁵ held in 1995, and the associated Global Leaders’ Meeting on Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment: A Commitment to Action, held in September 2015 in conjunction with the United Nations summit for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda, the United Nations System-wide Action Plan on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, as well as the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development⁴⁶ adopted in 1994,

Recalling the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem,⁴⁷ in which Member States acknowledged the important contribution made by women in curbing the world drug problem, committed themselves to ensuring that drug control policies, measures and interventions took into account the specific needs and circumstances that women face with regard to drug problems, and decided to undertake effective measures to ensure that women, as well as men, had access to, and benefited equally and without discrimination from, drug control policies and strategies by involving them actively in all stages of programme and policy development and implementation,

Gravely concerned about the social barriers, including poverty, that continue to hinder the access of women to treatment for drug use and, in some cases, a lack of sufficient resources allocated for removing those barriers, and fully aware that women are acutely affected by particular consequences of drug abuse, such as sexually transmitted diseases and by the consequences of domestic violence and drug-facilitated crime,

Aware that enhanced educational and employment opportunities for women significantly decrease the risk of their drug abuse and dependence and their involvement in drug-related crimes,

Bearing in mind the great contribution of women to the development of society and the family, and that many women are heads of household and the sole or primary caretakers for children and others such as senior citizens and persons with disabilities,

Reaffirming its role as the central policymaking body within the United Nations system dealing with drug-related matters,

⁴⁵ *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

⁴⁶ *Report of the International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo, 5-13 September 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.95.XIII.18), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

⁴⁷ See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2009, Supplement No. 8 (E/2009/28)*, chap. I, sect. C.

Recognizing the important role played by civil society in addressing and countering the world drug problem, in particular its gender-related aspects,

Reaffirming the commitment undertaken in the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women⁴⁸ to end all discrimination against women, in particular by achieving equal access for women to health-care services,

1. *Calls upon* Member States to develop, as needed, and implement national drug policies and programmes in full conformity with the international drug control conventions that take into account the specific needs of women and girls, including the need for access to health services developed specifically for their needs, and the needs of women who are the sole or primary caretakers of minors and others, and to exchange information and best practices in this regard;

2. *Encourages* Member States to collect and share quantitative and qualitative data, disaggregated by age and sex, related to the world drug problem, including when providing information through the annual report questionnaire as well as when reporting to the Commission on Narcotic Drugs as mandated by the three international drug control conventions, and to mainstream a gender perspective in their research and analysis on the various aspects of the world drug problem, with a view to addressing the knowledge gap on women and drug use;

3. *Takes note* of the important role that women and girls play in addressing the various aspects of the world drug problem, and encourages their contributions to the development and implementation of national drug-related policies and programmes;

4. *Encourages* Member States to take into consideration the specific needs and circumstances of women subject to arrest, detention, prosecution, trial or the implementation of a sentence for drug-related offences when developing gender-specific measures as an integral part of their policies on crime prevention and criminal justice, including appropriate measures to bring to justice perpetrators of abuse of women in custody or in prison settings for drug-related offences, and to draw, as appropriate, on the United Nations Rules for the Treatment of Women Prisoners and Non-custodial Measures for Women Offenders (the Bangkok Rules),⁴⁹ the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for Non-custodial Measures (the Tokyo Rules)⁵⁰ and the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (the Nelson Mandela Rules);⁵¹

5. *Urges* Member States to implement broad-based programmes aimed at preventing women and girls from being used as couriers for trafficking in drugs, and requests the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to assist States in developing such programmes to counter the use and participation of women in the illicit drug trade and to take proper penal measures against organized criminal groups that use women and girls as couriers;

6. *Emphasizes* that, without prejudice to the principle of equality of all before the law, when sentencing or deciding on pretrial measures for a pregnant

⁴⁸ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1249, No. 20378.

⁴⁹ General Assembly resolution 65/229, annex.

⁵⁰ General Assembly resolution 45/110, annex.

⁵¹ General Assembly resolution 70/175, annex.

woman or a woman who is a child's sole or primary caretaker, non-custodial measures should be preferred where possible and appropriate, with custodial sentences being considered when the offence is serious or violent, and, in this regard, invites Member States to draw on the *Guidelines for Identification and Management of Substance Use and Substance Use Disorders in Pregnancy*, produced by the World Health Organization and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, where appropriate and in conformity with national legislation;

7. *Invites* Member States, through collaboration among health and social services and law enforcement and justice authorities, to take into account the specific needs and circumstances of women, including by taking measures to provide safe environments for women, and to use a wide range of alternative measures to conviction or punishment for appropriate drug-related offences of a minor nature, in accordance with national legislation, in order to improve public health and safety for individuals, families and societies;

8. *Encourages* Member States to provide scientific evidence-based substance use disorder treatment and care services that take into account a public health and safety perspective and that are sensitive to the needs of women and girls, and also encourages Member States to increase the coverage of existing programmes and to ensure access to those programmes while providing training and supervision for all relevant health and social care professionals working with women, including in prison settings, in accordance with national legislation;

9. *Requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to continue to support Member States, upon request, in mainstreaming a gender perspective in their policies and programmes related to the world drug problem, and invites other relevant United Nations entities, within their mandates, to cooperate in this regard;

10. *Also requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to continue to mainstream a gender perspective in all its practices, policies and programmes related to the world drug problem and to contribute appropriately, within its mandate, to the goals and targets of Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,⁵² realizing that gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls will make a crucial contribution to progress across all the Sustainable Development Goals and targets;

11. *Reaffirms* its request to the Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, made in its resolution 58/12 of 11 December 2015, to intensify the efforts of the Office to achieve the goal of a 50/50 gender balance within the Professional and higher categories, including for field representatives, while upholding Article 101 of the Charter of the United Nations, by, inter alia, intensifying outreach efforts;

12. *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.

⁵² General Assembly resolution 70/1.

Resolution 59/6

Promoting prevention strategies and policies

The Commission on Narcotic Drugs,

Recalling the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961,⁵³ that Convention as amended by the 1972 Protocol,⁵⁴ the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971⁵⁵ and the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988,⁵⁶

Recalling also the Political Declaration adopted by the General Assembly at its twentieth special session⁵⁷ and the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem,⁵⁸ adopted during the high-level segment of the fifty-second session of the Commission and by the General Assembly in its resolution 64/182 of 18 December 2009,

Recalling further its resolution 53/1 of 12 March 2010, entitled “Promoting community-based drug use prevention”, resolution 53/2 of 12 March 2010, entitled “Preventing the use of illicit drugs within Member States and strengthening international cooperation on policies of drug abuse prevention”, resolution 55/10 of 16 March 2012, entitled “Promoting evidence-based drug prevention strategies and policies”, and resolution 57/3 of 21 March 2014, entitled “Promoting prevention of drug abuse based on scientific evidence as an investment in the well-being of children, adolescents, youth, families and communities”,

Welcoming the outcome document of the United Nations summit for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda, entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”,⁵⁹

Gravely concerned that the world drug problem continues to pose a serious threat to the health, safety and well-being of all humanity, in particular children and youth,

Fully aware that the world drug problem remains a common and shared responsibility that requires effective and increased international cooperation and demands an integrated, multidisciplinary, mutually reinforcing and balanced approach to supply and demand reduction strategies,

Recognizing that substance use disorder is a chronic, relapsing but preventable and treatable multifactorial health disorder with psychosocial causes and consequences, and stressing the need to provide a full range of policies and programmes that promote the prevention of drug use,

⁵³ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 520, No. 7515.

⁵⁴ *Ibid.*, vol. 976, No. 14152.

⁵⁵ *Ibid.*, vol. 1019, No. 14956.

⁵⁶ *Ibid.*, vol. 1582, No. 27627.

⁵⁷ General Assembly resolution S-20/2, annex.

⁵⁸ See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2009, Supplement No. 8 (E/2009/28)*, chap. I, sect. C.

⁵⁹ General Assembly resolution 70/1.

Recognizing also that preventing the illicit use of drugs is essential to reducing demand for drugs and ensuring social welfare, as part of a balanced approach to drug control,

Bearing in mind the need to adopt a comprehensive approach to drug use prevention that takes into account a gender perspective and focuses on individuals, families, communities and societies as a whole, in order to reduce and effectively address the negative consequences of the illicit use of drugs,

Convinced that prevention that is based on scientific evidence and on a rigorous process of adaptation to socioeconomic circumstances can be a cost-effective approach to preventing the illicit use of drugs and other risk behaviours and is therefore a cost-effective investment in the well-being of all, including children, adolescents, youth, women, families, communities and societies,

Convinced also that international cooperation on the prevention of the illicit use of drugs, taking into account the principle of common and shared responsibility, can assist Member States, upon request, in the establishment of more comprehensive and scientific evidence-based strategies and policies,

Recognizing the important role that relevant stakeholders, including civil society, can play by contributing to a complete picture of the drug situation and by identifying emerging trends at an early stage and providing planners and decision makers, as appropriate, with information that can assist in designing national and regional drug use prevention strategies,

Recognizing also the important role of the media in informing the public and disseminating knowledge on prevention measures through different modalities, such as social media,

Stressing the importance of taking into account applicable human rights obligations, such as the rights of children, in accordance with the Convention on the Rights of the Child,⁶⁰ in the implementation of drug prevention programmes and policies,

Emphasizing the importance of implementing the *International Standards on Drug Use Prevention*, which constitute a relevant tool by summarizing the currently available scientific evidence and describing interventions and policies and their characteristics that have been found to result in positive prevention outcomes,

1. *Encourages* Member States to continue developing, updating and evaluating national policies for the prevention of the illicit use of drugs, in particular among families, children and youth, taking into account the best available scientific evidence;
2. *Also encourages* Member States to implement population-wide, targeted and indicated prevention measures to strengthen resilience among youth and children;
3. *Invites* Member States to share their advances in prevention policies and strategies and information on their effectiveness, to promote international cooperation and dialogue;

⁶⁰ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1577, No. 27531.

4. *Urges* Member States to provide political support, and appropriate resources, to efforts relating to the prevention of the illicit use of drugs and its adverse consequences;

5. *Invites* Member States to promote the collection of data on drug use and epidemiology and to promote the use of international standards, such as the *International Standards on Drug Use Prevention*, to formulate effective prevention strategies and programmes;

6. *Encourages* Member States to develop and implement prevention-specific policies and interventions aimed at the healthy and safe development of children and youth, who are particularly vulnerable to individual or environmental risks;

7. *Also encourages* Member States to take into account gender and age when providing related services in the development of drug prevention strategies and activities;

8. *Urges* Governments to address the misuse of pharmaceuticals by formulating and implementing effective, scientific evidence-based prevention strategies, as appropriate, in accordance with the three international drug control conventions;

9. *Calls upon* Member States to implement comprehensive measures to prevent the illicit use of drugs from a perspective that considers the individual as well as the community and society as a whole, including through public health interventions;

10. *Encourages* Member States to promote healthy lifestyles, such as through physical activity, sport and recreation programmes, to develop social skills and other protective factors, to promote education and awareness programmes in multiple settings, involving families, teachers, students, health professionals, community leaders and social workers, and to share good practices with the international community, and encourages the dissemination of such practices;

11. *Emphasizes* the need to develop and implement comprehensive drug use prevention programmes, using a multi-agency approach, such as through health, education and law enforcement authorities, as appropriate;

12. *Encourages* Member States to include new psychoactive substances within the scope of prevention programmes and, if deemed necessary, to design specific prevention initiatives targeting this problem;

13. *Also encourages* Member States to develop tailored prevention policies for new psychoactive substances, when appropriate, and to actively share information and expertise on effective interventions;

14. *Further encourages* Member States to promote the development of scientific evidence-based interventions and policies to prevent and counter the illicit sale and purchase of internationally or nationally controlled substances and new psychoactive substances over the Internet, paying specific attention to the protection of specific groups, such as youth and indigenous peoples, and taking into account the *International Standards on Drug Use Prevention*;

15. *Urges* Member States to be aware that social exclusion could contribute to the illicit use of drugs, poor health, poverty and inequality and that it is important to attend to the basic well-being of individuals in need, respecting their human rights and dignity, in order to effectively prevent the illicit use of drugs;

16. *Encourages* Member States to take practical preventive measures to protect their populations from the illicit use of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances by providing them with opportunities to develop life skills, such as through vocational training, to enjoy equal positive and productive opportunities and to learn about supportive parenting;

17. *Encourages* cooperation with universities, schools, other educational institutions, subject to domestic legislation, and civil society, as well as with relevant international organizations and programmes within the United Nations system, in accordance with their mandates, to develop prevention programmes that include guidance on effective prevention strategies in communities and various school settings;

18. *Requests* the Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to report to the Commission at its sixty-first session on the measures taken and on the progress achieved in the implementation of the present resolution;

19. *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.

Resolution 59/7

Promotion of proportionate sentencing for drug-related offences of an appropriate nature in implementing drug control policies

The Commission on Narcotic Drugs,

Recalling the concept of proportionate sentencing provided for under article 3 of the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988⁶¹ and the importance of promoting proportionate sentencing for drug offences, so as to ensure a just, humane and effective criminal justice response to the drug problem,

Recognizing that the 1988 Convention requires States parties to ensure that the commission of the offences established pursuant to the Convention are liable to sanctions which take into account their degree of gravity and distinguish between offences that are “particularly serious” and offences of a minor nature,

Reaffirming the principle that it is the responsibility of States to define crimes and determine appropriate sentencing with due regard to, inter alia, the need to deter the commission of drug-related offences,

Recalling the principle enshrined in all three international drug control conventions that the description of offences is reserved to the domestic law of States

⁶¹ Ibid., vol. 1582, No. 27627.

parties and that such offences shall be prosecuted and punished in conformity with that law,

Recognizing that the 1988 Convention requires States parties to ensure that their courts and competent authorities can take into account factual circumstances,

Taking note of Commission on Narcotic Drugs resolution 58/5 of 17 March 2015,

Noting that the three international drug control conventions presuppose the concept of proportionate sentencing in criminal law, which provides that the severity of penalties is proportionate to the gravity of the crimes,

Recalling the appropriate United Nations standards and norms on crime prevention and criminal justice,

Recalling also the principle of sovereign equality and territorial integrity of States and that of non-intervention in the domestic affairs of other States,

Recalling further that the three international drug control conventions establish that States may provide, either as an alternative to conviction or punishment or in addition to conviction or punishment, that drug-using offenders should be offered measures such as treatment, education, aftercare, rehabilitation or social reintegration,

Noting that some Member States may provide alternative measures to prosecution or imprisonment which do not entail any impunity, in accordance with their national legislation,

Recognizing that the application of proportionate sentencing to drug-related offences can enable States parties to better achieve the aims and objectives of the three international drug control conventions,

Bearing in mind the importance of maintaining the integrity of applicable national legislation, in particular criminal law,

1. *Encourages* Member States to take appropriate measures to ensure that, subject to their constitutional principles and the basic concepts of their legal system, their national law satisfies the requirements set forth in the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988⁶¹ that sentencing for drug-related offences is proportionate to the severity of the offence and takes into account the facts and circumstances of each case, and also takes into consideration, as appropriate, the relevant United Nations standards and norms on crime prevention and criminal justice;

2. *Invites* Member States, subject to their constitutional principles and basic concepts of their legal system, to promote proportionate national sentencing policies, practices and guidelines for drug-related offences, where the severity of sentence is proportionate with the gravity of the offences and both mitigating and aggravating factors are taken into account, including the circumstances enumerated in article 3 of the 1988 Convention and other relevant and applicable international law, and in accordance with national legislation;

3. *Also invites* Member States to consider, subject to the basic principles of their legal systems, to develop or adopt measures such as education, treatment, rehabilitation or social reintegration, as an alternative or in addition to conviction or

punishment for drug-related offences, in full compliance with the appropriate provisions of article 3 of the 1988 Convention;

4. *Further invites* Member States, on a voluntary basis and through the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, to share information, lessons learned, experiences and best practices on the design, implementation and results of appropriate domestic practices on proportionate sentencing pursuant to the three international drug control conventions, including article 3 of the 1988 Convention;

5. *Invites* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to provide, upon request, technical assistance for the implementation of the present resolution, and encourages the Office to assist Member States in sharing information, as appropriate;

6. *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.

Resolution 59/8

Promotion of measures to target new psychoactive substances and amphetamine-type stimulants

The Commission on Narcotic Drugs,

Deeply concerned about the combination of the diversity of new psychoactive substances and the speed with which such substances emerge and spread, which often requires the swift adaptation of national regulatory frameworks and subjecting the most prevalent, persistent and harmful new psychoactive substances to international control,

Noting that drug traffickers are exploiting the market to make available an increasing number of new psychoactive substances as alternatives to internationally controlled drugs for purposes of abuse,

Recognizing that new psychoactive substances can have effects similar to those of internationally controlled drugs and that there are still gaps in knowledge of the negative consequences and risks to public health and safety of such substances,

Underscoring the common challenge of reducing the diversion of chemicals that are used in the production of both new psychoactive substances and amphetamine-type stimulants, including methamphetamine, and that an effective response requires a balanced and integrated approach, while also ensuring that legitimate trade is not adversely affected,

Recognizing that illicit manufacture, trafficking and abuse of amphetamine-type stimulants, including methamphetamine, continue to adversely affect regions of the world to different degrees,

Concerned that non-scheduled precursor chemicals are being used in the manufacture of illicit drugs and may be used in the manufacture of new psychoactive substances and as substitutes for internationally scheduled precursor chemicals,

Recognizing that a comprehensive global response to new psychoactive substances requires distinct but complementary approaches at the national, regional and international levels, including international scheduling of the most persistent, prevalent and harmful substances,

Recognizing also that Member States face different challenges in reducing the supply of and demand for new psychoactive substances and amphetamine-type stimulants while ensuring that the legitimate use of amphetamine-type stimulants, including methamphetamine, is not adversely affected,

Recognizing further the importance of having in place appropriate national legislative, regulatory and administrative policies that can respond to emerging new psychoactive substances in a timely and effective manner,

Recognizing the importance of applying national precursor controls and of bilateral and multilateral cooperation, with the goal of avoiding shifts in diversion patterns across borders,

Emphasizing the need to promote technical and financial assistance to countries, especially to developing countries, in effectively addressing the challenge of new psychoactive substances, including by providing equipment and training for the detection and identification of new psychoactive substances,

Recalling its resolutions 55/1 of 16 March 2012, 56/4 of 15 March 2013, 57/9 of 21 March 2014 and 58/11 of 17 March 2015, on enhancing international cooperation on new psychoactive substances, in particular relating to sharing information on supply reduction and demand reduction strategies, including emerging scientific evidence about effective treatment models, and by supporting the international drug scheduling system to meet the challenges posed by these substances,

Highlighting the important role of the International Narcotics Control Board in the ongoing success of the Project Ion Incident Communication System in improving understanding of the problem of new psychoactive substances, and the role of the global Synthetics Monitoring: Analysis, Reporting and Trends programme of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in the collection of information on new psychoactive substances,

Recognizing the value of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime early warning advisory on new psychoactive substances and of the World Health Organization in supporting the development of an international response to the challenge of new psychoactive substances through the provision of scheduling recommendations regarding new psychoactive substances to the Commission, as noted in its resolution 57/9,

Noting the efforts of the World Health Organization to regularly review new psychoactive substances for potential control under the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961⁶² and the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971,⁶³

⁶² Ibid., vol. 520, No. 7515.

⁶³ Ibid., vol. 1019, No. 14956.

Welcoming the relevant assessments of precursor chemicals conducted, as necessary, by the International Narcotics Control Board under article 12 of the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988⁶⁴ and the role that the Precursors Incident Communication System plays in facilitating communication among competent authorities,

Taking note of the outcomes of the international conference on precursor chemicals and new psychoactive substances jointly convened by the International Narcotics Control Board and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in Bangkok from 21 to 24 April 2015,

Recognizing that voluntary industry cooperation is an effective measure to address the diversion of non-scheduled precursors for their use in the illicit manufacture of drugs and new psychoactive substances,

Deeply concerned about the exploitation or misuse of the Internet and social media by drug traffickers in the sales and promotion of illicit drugs, new psychoactive substances and precursors, as well as the increasing use of communication technologies, including the Internet, online payment systems and virtual currencies, for purchasing these substances and laundering the proceeds of the sale thereof,

Welcoming the placing of selected precursors and new psychoactive substances under international control, including the 10 substances placed under control by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs at its fifty-eighth session, while recognizing that the international scheduling of priority substances could be complemented by enhanced domestic and international action to develop a balanced and integrated response,

1. *Encourages* Member States to develop effective, scientific evidence-based, balanced and integrated domestic programmes for prevention, treatment and rehabilitation that are relevant to the problems associated with new psychoactive substances and amphetamine-type stimulants, including health and psychosocial aspects, and to share those programmes and evaluations of their effectiveness through appropriate bilateral and multilateral channels;

2. *Urges* continued focus, in the context of national legislation, on amphetamine-type stimulants, including methamphetamine, and the negative consequences these substances have on people, families, communities and societies, and the environmental damage caused by their illegal manufacture;

3. *Encourages* Member States to consider the central role of precursor chemicals in the illegal production of all synthetic drugs, especially new psychoactive substances and amphetamine-type stimulants, including methamphetamine;

4. *Urges* Member States to support research on and analysis of patterns of use, public health harms, including evidence of acute toxicity and dependence resulting from the use of new psychoactive substances and amphetamine-type stimulants, and forensic data and regulatory responses, and to share findings through bilateral, regional and multilateral channels;

⁶⁴ Ibid., vol. 1582, No. 27627.

5. *Urges* Member States, as well as regional organizations, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the World Health Organization, the International Narcotics Control Board and other relevant organizations, to continue to collect data and share information, in line with their respective mandates, so as to build a collective global understanding of the movement and trafficking of precursor chemicals, amphetamine-type stimulants, including methamphetamine, and new psychoactive substances and better inform evidence-based policymaking and operational cooperation;

6. *Invites* Member States to respond swiftly and effectively to the emergence of new psychoactive substances by considering a variety of controls and regulatory, legislative and administrative initiatives as part of a timely, effective, comprehensive, balanced and integrated domestic response, including legislation on controlled substance analogues, generic laws based on chemical structures of substances, full regulatory approaches, temporary, provisional or emergency control measures, rapid scheduling procedures and other national legislative or regulatory approaches, including those relating to therapeutic drug products, consumer protection and hazardous substances;

7. *Calls upon* Member States to exchange information through bilateral and multilateral channels on legislative, regulatory, administrative, law enforcement and border control responses, including those that address promotion, distribution and sales through the Internet, in order to effectively manage the challenge posed by new psychoactive substances and, where appropriate, amphetamine-type stimulants, including methamphetamine;

8. *Invites* the World Health Organization, with the support of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, relevant regional organizations and Member States, to continue conducting regular, efficient, transparent and timely reviews of the most harmful, prevalent and persistent new psychoactive substances and to use the potential impact of toxicity at both the population and individual levels as the primary factor in prioritizing substances for review;

9. *Also invites* the World Health Organization, with the support of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, relevant regional organizations and Member States, to disseminate its surveillance list of substances of concern, to proactively collect evidence on these substances that supports future evidence-based reviews and to issue voluntary public health alerts where there is sufficient evidence that a new psychoactive substance poses a risk to public safety;

10. *Invites* the International Narcotics Control Board to systematically collect relevant information and, as necessary, to conduct assessments of non-scheduled precursor chemicals used in the manufacture of illicit drugs and new psychoactive substances, with support from the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, relevant regional organizations and Member States;

11. *Invites* the International Narcotics Control Board and its Project Ion, in consultation with Member States, the World Health Organization, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and relevant regional organizations, to maintain and disseminate the newly created limited international special surveillance lists of new psychoactive substances for which sufficient information exists on their public health harms, prevalence and absence of currently recognized medical or industrial use in order to support border control, law enforcement and regulatory efforts;

12. *Invites* all Governments to explore, where appropriate, the full potential of cooperation between competent and other relevant national authorities and relevant industries and trades of all sizes and at all levels in order to prevent the diversion of internationally scheduled and non-scheduled precursor chemicals and the supply of new psychoactive substances to markets for illicit or harmful purposes;

13. *Encourages* Governments to make use of the International Narcotics Control Board *Guidelines for a Voluntary Code of Practice for the Chemical Industry*,⁶⁵ as appropriate and in accordance with national legislation, to develop voluntary mechanisms of cooperation, such as memorandums of understanding with all relevant industrial sectors, and to incorporate the principles of such cooperation into the concept of corporate social responsibility;

14. *Encourages* all Member States to establish arrangements, whether voluntary, administrative or legislative, in accordance with national legislation, whereby their domestic operators involved in the trade of the substances included in the international special surveillance lists of non-scheduled precursor chemicals and new psychoactive substances, or any similar list maintained by Member States, will report suspicious orders of those chemicals and substances, where appropriate, and cooperate with relevant national enforcement, regulatory and control authorities with regard to those chemicals and substances;

15. *Invites* Member States to voluntarily inform the authorities of transit and destination countries, in accordance with national legislation, when they are made aware of suspicious shipments, duly corroborated by the relevant national authorities, of new psychoactive substances and non-scheduled precursors that are generally believed to be used in the illicit manufacture of drugs and new psychoactive substances included in international surveillance lists, so that those authorities may take action, as appropriate, with regard to incoming shipments;

16. *Reminds* Member States, subject to their constitutional principles and legal systems, to take civil, criminal or administrative action against unlawful actions by suppliers of and traders in controlled substances;

17. *Encourages* Governments, in accordance with their national legislation, to make full use of existing tools, including those provided by the International Narcotics Control Board, in particular Pre-Export Notification Online, the Precursors Incident Communication System, the Project Ion Incident Communication System and the mechanisms and operations under Project Prism, Project Cohesion and Project Ion, for the exchange of information and common investigations, in order to address the sourcing of, movement of and trafficking in non-scheduled precursors and new psychoactive substances;

18. *Invites* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to consider providing technical assistance to Member States, in particular to developing countries, upon request, to develop timely and effective legislative, regulatory, administrative and operational responses to emerging new psychoactive substances;

19. *Invites* Member States to promote technical and financial assistance, especially to developing countries, upon request, in effectively addressing the

⁶⁵ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.09.XI.17.

challenge of new psychoactive substances, including by providing equipment and training for the detection and identification of new psychoactive substances;

20. *Urges* Member States, in consultation with the International Narcotics Control Board, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and other relevant regional and international organizations, to provide support for the training of experts and officials in various aspects of regulatory controls, with particular emphasis on the monitoring and control of substances, and effective voluntary cooperation with relevant industries, bearing in mind that such training may often be best delivered on a regional basis;

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

Decision 59/1

Inclusion of acetylfentanyl in Schedules I and IV of the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961 as amended by the 1972 Protocol

At its 10th meeting, on 18 March 2016, the Commission on Narcotic Drugs decided to include acetylfentanyl in Schedules I and IV of the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961 as amended by the 1972 Protocol.⁶⁶

Decision 59/2

Inclusion of MT-45 in Schedule I of the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961 as amended by the 1972 Protocol

At its 10th meeting, on 18 March 2016, the Commission on Narcotic Drugs decided to include MT-45 in Schedule I of the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961 as amended by the 1972 Protocol.⁶⁷

Decision 59/3

Inclusion of *para*-methoxymethylamphetamine (PMMA) in Schedule I of the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971

At its 10th meeting, on 18 March 2016, the Commission on Narcotic Drugs decided by 48 votes to none to include *para*-methoxymethylamphetamine (PMMA) in Schedule I of the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971.⁶⁸

⁶⁶ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 976, No. 14152.

⁶⁷ *Ibid.*

⁶⁸ *Ibid.*, vol. 1019, No. 14956.

Decision 59/4

Inclusion of α -pyrrolidinovalerophenone (α -PVP) in Schedule II of the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971

At its 10th meeting, on 18 March 2016, the Commission on Narcotic Drugs decided by 48 votes to none, with 1 abstention, to include α -pyrrolidinovalerophenone (α -PVP) in Schedule II of the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971.⁶⁹

Decision 59/5

Inclusion of *para*-methyl-4-methylaminorex (4,4'-DMAR) in Schedule II of the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971

At its 10th meeting, on 18 March 2016, the Commission on Narcotic Drugs decided by 48 votes to none, with one abstention, to include *para*-methyl-4-methylaminorex (4,4'-DMAR) in Schedule II of the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971.⁷⁰

Decision 59/6

Inclusion of methoxetamine (MXE) in Schedule II of the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971

At its 10th meeting, on 18 March 2016, the Commission on Narcotic Drugs decided by 48 votes to none, with 1 abstention, to include methoxetamine (MXE) in Schedule II of the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971.⁷¹

Decision 59/7

Inclusion of phenazepam in Schedule IV of the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971

At its 10th meeting, on 18 March 2016, the Commission on Narcotic Drugs decided by 46 votes to 2, with no abstentions, to include phenazepam in Schedule IV of the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971.⁷²

⁶⁹ Ibid.

⁷⁰ Ibid.

⁷¹ Ibid.

⁷² Ibid.