

Resolution 63/1

Promoting efforts by Member States to address and counter the world drug problem, in particular supply reduction-related measures, through effective partnerships with private sector entities

The Commission on Narcotic Drugs,

Underscoring that the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961 as amended by the 1972 Protocol,¹ the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971,² the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988³ and other relevant international instruments constitute the cornerstone of the international drug control system,

Recalling that the Political Declaration adopted by the General Assembly at its twentieth special session, in 1998, devoted to countering the world drug problem together,⁴ the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem⁵ of 2009, 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,⁶ the outcome document of the thirtieth special session of the General Assembly, held in 2016, entitled “Our joint commitment to effectively addressing and countering the world drug problem”,⁷ and the Ministerial Declaration on Strengthening Our Actions at the National, Regional and International Levels to Accelerate the Implementation of Our Joint Commitments to Address and Counter the World Drug Problem,⁸ adopted during the ministerial segment of the sixty-second session of the Commission, in 2019, are the important milestones in addressing and countering the world drug problem,

Reaffirming 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 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, as well as the treaty-mandated roles of the International Narcotics Control Board and the World Health Organization,

Underscoring the important role played by relevant stakeholders, including private sector entities, in contributing to the efforts of Member States to address and counter the world drug problem,

Underscoring also that Member States and private sector entities are subject to a framework of national and international laws and regulations in their interactions with each other and in their respective activities,

¹ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 976, No. 14152.

² *Ibid.*, vol. 1019, No. 14956.

³ *Ibid.*, vol. 1582, No. 27627.

⁴ General Assembly resolution [S-20/2](#), annex.

⁵ See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2009, Supplement No. 8 (E/2009/28)*, chap. I, sect. C.

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

⁷ General Assembly resolution [S-30/1](#), annex.

⁸ See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2019, Supplement No. 8 (E/2019/28)*, chap. I, sect. B.

Recognizing that the scope and definition of private sector entities differs by country and that private sector entities may be involved in manufacturing, transportation, communications, commerce and other sectors,

Welcoming the contributions by private sector entities to support Member States, in accordance with relevant and applicable laws and regulations, in their efforts to counter the world drug problem by fostering innovative approaches, exchanging information and safeguarding supply chains, products and platforms from criminal exploitation,

Noting with concern that drug traffickers continue to exploit tools of modern commerce, including financial transfer services and platforms, to traffic in precursors, pre-precursor chemicals and synthetic drugs, and welcoming efforts by the private sector to safeguard their supply chains, products and platforms from such exploitation,

Recognizing the important role of cooperation between Governments and information and communications technology companies to prevent, interdict and reduce online illicit drug trafficking and prevent the diversion of precursors, including by advancing partnerships with those companies, such as business-to-business service providers, and by preventing the use of cryptocurrencies in those illicit transactions,

Welcoming the level of interaction already achieved between Member States and the private financial sector with regard to identifying trends and exchanging relevant information related to illicit financial flows linked to drug trafficking, and encouraging Member States, in accordance with their national legislation and, where necessary, with the support of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and other relevant regional and international organizations, to enhance that interaction, including in financial centres and vulnerable commercial sectors,

Reiterating the importance of approaches to countering illicit drug and precursor trafficking that involve the cooperation and coordination among competent authorities, as well as industry and the private sector,

Welcoming the United Nations Toolkit on Synthetic Drugs and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime opioid strategy, which provide Member States with resources to address challenges posed by synthetic drugs, including by fostering cooperation with private sector entities and enhancing collaboration with relevant international organizations, including the World Health Organization, the International Narcotics Control Board, the World Customs Organization and the Universal Postal Union,

Highlighting the importance of the International Narcotics Control Board global communications platforms that facilitate real-time information exchange, specifically the Project Ion Incident Communication System and the Precursors Incident Communication System,

Highlighting also the importance of the International Narcotics Control Board global Operational Partnerships to Interdict Opioids' Illicit Distribution and Sales project and the importance of close coordination with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime as it is implemented,

Welcoming initiatives by the International Narcotics Control Board, in partnership with Member States, of convening expert working group meetings comprised of relevant public and private sector entities to explore and implement practical cooperative approaches to counter illicit trafficking in new psychoactive substances, non-medical synthetic opioids and related precursors, and expressing appreciation for the efforts of the International

Narcotics Control Board to continue to provide updates to Member States on the outcomes of these meetings,

Concerned by the growing illicit trafficking and diversion of precursor chemicals, and recalling in this regard the *Guidelines for a Voluntary Code of Practice for the Chemical Industry*,⁹ issued by the International Narcotics Control Board,

Recognizing the legitimate need, in particular of the industry and trade sectors, to have access to precursor chemicals frequently used in the illicit manufacture of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances and the important role of the private sector in preventing diversion from the licit manufacture of and trade in such substances,

Recalling the lists of substances and precursors with no currently known legitimate medical or industrial uses, beyond limited research and analytical purposes, such as the limited international special surveillance list, which includes and highlights drug precursors with no known legitimate uses, developed by the International Narcotics Control Board, which are valuable tools used by relevant national authorities and other stakeholders, including the private sector, to help States and the private sector take appropriate measures to prevent the illicit manufacture of and trafficking in those substances and precursors,

Appreciating efforts by Member States in addressing challenges posed by synthetic drugs, including the scheduling of substances by class at the national level, where appropriate,

Concerned that the illicit use of materials and equipment used in the manufacture of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances facilitates the proliferation of new psychoactive substances and undermines the ability of the international community to effectively control those substances, and welcoming in this regard the guidelines to prevent and investigate the diversion of materials and equipment essential for illicit drug manufacture in the context of article 13 of the 1988 Convention, developed by the International Narcotics Control Board,

Recognizing that, where appropriate and in accordance with their domestic law, partnerships or cooperation between government and private sector entities may also be relevant and fruitful for addressing and countering other aspects of the world drug problem, such as demand reduction and related measures as well as the availability of and access to controlled substances exclusively for medical and scientific purposes,

1. *Encourages* Member States to establish and strengthen partnerships or cooperation with private sector entities to contribute to the efforts of Member States to address and counter the world drug problem, and reaffirms that such engagements must be in accordance with applicable domestic and international law, including the protection of personal or proprietary data, and respect human rights and fundamental freedoms, including rights concerning respect for privacy, bearing in mind also the principle of common and shared responsibility and the need to avoid the conflict of interest between supervising regulatory compliance and promoting voluntary cooperation;

2. *Encourages* partnering activities between countries with established voluntary public-private cooperation mechanisms and countries wishing to develop similar mechanisms, with a view to, inter alia,

⁹ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.09.XI.17.

exchanging best practices and information in accordance with national legislation;

3. *Also encourages*, in accordance with national legislation, cooperation between authorities involved in identifying and countering drug trafficking, the diversion of precursors and the trafficking of scheduled and non-scheduled precursors used in the illicit manufacture of drugs and related money-laundering, and encourages private sector entities, including financial institutions, designated non-financial businesses and professions, and providers of money or value transfer services, to identify suspicious transactions;

4. *Invites* Member States and private sector entities to consider approaches and partnerships which afford a commensurate level of assurances and legal protections for the private sector when taking action to safeguard its platforms, services and supply chains and enhance the identification and disruption of illicit drug trafficking, the diversion and illicit trafficking of precursors and related money-laundering, such as through the ability of private sectors to close or deny services to drug traffickers;

5. *Urges* Member States to take further steps to prevent the diversion of drugs, including synthetic drugs, including through measures and initiatives addressing the training of relevant professionals and, where appropriate, education and raising public awareness and engaging with private sector entities;

6. *Encourages* Member States to make use of the *Guidelines for a Voluntary Code of Practice for the Chemical Industry*,¹⁰ issued by the International Narcotics Control Board, and the Board's model memorandum of understanding between Governments and private sector partners;

7. *Recognizes* the important contribution of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime early warning advisory on new psychoactive substances in identifying new dangerous substances appearing on illicit markets, and encourages Member States to contribute to and benefit from the advisories emanating from that early warning system;

8. *Encourages* Member States to make use of lists of substances and precursors with no currently known legitimate medical or industrial uses, beyond limited research and analytical purposes, such as the limited international special surveillance list, which includes and highlights drug precursors with no known legitimate uses, developed by the International Narcotics Control Board;

9. *Also encourages* Member States to consider applying the guidelines to prevent and investigate the diversion of materials and equipment essential for illicit drug manufacture in the context of article 13 of the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988,³ developed by the International Narcotics Control Board;

10. *Requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, and invites the International Narcotics Control Board, within its treaty-based mandate, to assist Member States in their efforts to achieve the aims of the drug control conventions, as well as other regional and international organizations and other relevant stakeholders, as appropriate, in cooperation with Member States, to further develop practical tools and innovative methods of cooperation between Governments and relevant private sector entities, with the aim of preventing the exploitation of legitimate industries for purposes of the illicit manufacture of and trafficking in drugs, including synthetic drugs, and precursors;

11. *Invites* Member States to make use of the United Nations Toolkit on Synthetic Drugs to inform and implement national strategic interventions to address and counter the world drug problem, in particular supply reduction-related measures, through effective partnerships with private sector entities;

12. *Invites* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the International Narcotics Control Board and the World Health Organization, within their existing mandates and upon request, to provide technical assistance to Member States to support their efforts to address and counter the world drug problem, in particular supply reduction-related measures, through effective partnerships with private sector entities;

13. *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.