

and 2023, and indicating the work to be done to accelerate the implementation in the period from 2024 until 2029 of all those existing commitments;

6. *Encourages* all Member States and relevant entities of the United Nations system, relevant international and regional organizations, as well as relevant non-governmental organizations, in line with the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council, to participate actively in the discussions of the Commission in preparation for the high-level segment in 2024, in order to foster an in-depth exchange of information and expertise on efforts, achievements, challenges and good practices to address and counter the world drug problem, and to make available relevant information to the Commission in order to facilitate its work;

7. *Requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to continue providing technical and substantive support to the Commission on Narcotic Drugs in preparing for, conducting and providing follow-up to the midterm review.

## **Resolution 66/2**

### **Safe handling and disposal of synthetic drugs, their precursors and other chemicals used in the illicit manufacture of drugs**

*The Commission on Narcotic Drugs,*

*Recognizing* that the world drug problem continues to constitute a serious threat to public health and safety and to the well-being of humanity, and in particular the significant dangers posed by the illicit manufacture of and trafficking in synthetic drugs,

*Recalling* article 14, paragraph 5, of the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988,<sup>12</sup> in which it is provided that the parties to the Convention may also take necessary measures for early destruction or lawful disposal of the narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and substances in Table I and Table II which have been seized or confiscated and for the admissibility as evidence of duly certified necessary quantities of such substances,

*Recalling also* the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem<sup>13</sup> of 2009, in which Member States recognized that scientific and forensic support in the identification and safe disposal of precursors was still inadequate in many countries, and in which it is stated that Member States should develop practical procedures for the safe handling and disposal of seized precursors in cooperation with competent international and regional bodies and share experiences in that area, as well as training and related activities,

*Reaffirming* its resolution 62/2 of 22 March 2019, in which it encouraged Member States, within their national contexts, to, inter alia, develop frameworks to ensure that persons on the front line of drug control efforts were adequately trained and equipped to safely handle synthetic drugs, including measures for the disposal of those drugs as described in the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime *Guidelines for the Safe Handling and Disposal of Chemicals Used in the Illicit Manufacture of Drugs*,<sup>14</sup>

*Recalling* its resolution 58/9 of 17 March 2015 on promoting the role of drug analysis laboratories worldwide and reaffirming the importance of the quality of the analysis and results of such laboratories, and noting that the accurate identification of

---

<sup>12</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1582, No. 27627.

<sup>13</sup> See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2009, Supplement No. 8 (E/2009/28)*, chap. I, sect. C.

<sup>14</sup> United Nations publication, Sales No. E.11.XI.14.

substances contributes to their safe handling and the selection of appropriate disposal methods,

*Reiterating* that efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and to effectively address the world drug problem are complementary and mutually reinforcing, and more specifically that efforts to enhance capacity to safely handle and dispose of synthetic drugs, their precursors and other chemicals used in the illicit manufacture of drugs, including those that have been seized or confiscated, among others, contribute to the environmentally sound management of chemicals and all wastes throughout their life cycle, in accordance with agreed international frameworks, and to significantly reducing their release into air, water and soil in order to minimize their adverse impacts on human health and the environment,

*Bearing in mind* that the improper disposal of synthetic drugs, their precursors and other chemicals used in the illicit manufacture of drugs, including those encountered in drug control efforts, in particular through waste management and wastewater systems, may have detrimental and long-lasting effects on the environment,

*Noting with concern* the risk of exposure of persons working on the front line of drug control, which may include, among others, police and other law enforcement personnel, customs and border control officers, counter-narcotics officers and other relevant personnel, who may come into contact with synthetic drugs, precursors and other chemicals used in their illicit manufacture, especially during and after seizure or confiscation,

*Noting with concern also* the risk of exposure of relevant personnel providing related public services, including health service providers and emergency response personnel, as well as other relevant personnel, who may come into contact with synthetic drugs, their precursors and other chemicals used in their illicit manufacture,

*Noting* the importance of having appropriate and adequate scientific evidence-based practical procedures that support good health and safety practices among persons handling and disposing of synthetic drugs, their precursors and other chemicals used in their illicit manufacture in their work,

*Emphasizing* the need to encourage the sharing of best practices and information on the safe handling and disposal of synthetic drugs, their precursors and other chemicals used in the illicit manufacture of drugs among Member States, including in cases of seizure or confiscation, as well as with industry and the private sector, on a voluntary basis,

*Recalling* the commitments contained in 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,<sup>15</sup> in which Governments are encouraged to work more closely with the International Narcotics Control Board and industry,

*Emphasizing* the need to promote the provision of technical assistance to States, upon request, including, where necessary, the provision of appropriate and adequate equipment and technology, according to their needs and priorities, along with the necessary training and maintenance support to assist with the safe handling and disposal of synthetic drugs, their precursors and other chemicals used in the illicit manufacture of drugs,

*Recognizing* the need to ensure that technical guidance and other resources on the safe handling and disposal of synthetic drugs, their precursors and other chemicals used in the illicit manufacture of drugs are developed, implemented and updated

---

<sup>15</sup> See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2014, Supplement No. 8 (E/2014/28)*, chap. I, sect. C.

regularly and are responsive to new and emerging trends related to such drugs, including changes in the methods used in their illicit manufacture and trafficking,

*Taking note with appreciation* of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime Synthetic Drug Strategy 2021–2025,

*Recognizing* that the safe handling and disposal of plant-based drugs and chemicals used in the illicit production and manufacture of such drugs, including during and after seizure or confiscation, pose significant risks and challenges, and thus also require the provision of technical assistance and capacity-building to requesting Member States and the sharing of best practices and lessons learned in this regard,

*Mindful*, for the purposes of the present resolution, of the relevant experience and practices of United Nations entities, such as the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, in waste management in relation to chemicals,

1. *Encourages* Member States to establish and implement, in accordance with their domestic law, adequate practical procedures for the safe handling and disposal of synthetic drugs, their precursors and other chemicals used in the illicit manufacture of drugs, including those encountered in drug control efforts, that are informed and guided by scientific evidence, are environmentally responsible and ensure the health and safety of persons, especially those on the front line of drug control and response, as well as other relevant personnel, bearing in mind the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime Synthetic Drug Strategy 2021–2025;

2. *Recommends* that Member States consider, where relevant, including in such practical procedures for the safe handling and disposal of synthetic drugs, their precursors and other chemicals used in the illicit manufacture of drugs, measures for monitoring and the safe storage of such material pending its disposal;

3. *Encourages* Member States, where appropriate and in accordance with domestic law, to ensure sufficient capacity of persons on the front line of drug control, including law enforcement, customs and border control officers and other relevant personnel, to safely handle and dispose of synthetic drugs, their precursors and other chemicals used in their illicit manufacture, especially during and after seizure or confiscation, in a manner consistent with their respective national practical procedures, including by providing the necessary technical support and making use of United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime scientific and technical assistance, expertise and training programmes;

4. *Also encourages* Member States, where appropriate and in accordance with domestic law, to ensure sufficient capacity of relevant personnel providing related public services, including health service providers and emergency response personnel, as well as other relevant personnel, who may come into contact with synthetic drugs, precursors and other chemicals used in their illicit manufacture to safely handle and dispose of these substances, including by providing the necessary technical support and making use of United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime scientific and technical assistance, expertise and training programmes;

5. *Further encourages* Member States, where appropriate and in accordance with domestic law, to ensure sufficient capacity of relevant national agencies, including laboratories, to identify and characterize substances in order to support the appropriate selection of disposal methods and personal protective equipment and the assessment, elimination or mitigation of risks in handling, storage, transportation and disposal, with the support of relevant national agencies responsible for synthetic drugs and their precursors, and requests the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime Laboratory and Scientific Services to continue to provide support in this regard;

6. *Recommends* that Member States make use of available training tools on the safe handling and disposal of drugs, their precursors and other chemicals used in the illicit manufacture of drugs, in particular the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime e-learning modules available in the United Nations Toolkit on Synthetic Drugs

and the International Narcotics Control Board E-learning Individual Training Environment modules;

7. *Requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to continue to assist Member States in enhancing capacity for the safe handling and disposal of synthetic drugs, their precursors and other chemicals used in the illicit manufacture of drugs, including during and after seizure or confiscation;

8. *Encourages* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to continue to provide, upon request, scientific and technical assistance and expertise, training programmes and capacity-building related to the safe handling and disposal of plant-based drugs and chemicals used in their illicit production and manufacture, including during and after seizure or confiscation;

9. *Invites* the International Narcotics Control Board, within its treaty-based mandate, to continue to provide guidance to Member States, including, as appropriate, on enhancing their capacity for the safe handling of synthetic drugs, their precursors and other chemicals used in the illicit manufacture of drugs, in particular those which have been seized or confiscated;

10. *Invites* Member States to continue to make use of training, guidance and expertise from the International Criminal Police Organization to enhance their capacity for the safe handling and disposal of synthetic drugs, their precursors and other chemicals used in the illicit manufacture of drugs;

11. *Invites* Member States, as appropriate, and other relevant stakeholders, including the private sector, to share, on a voluntary basis, according to their domestic legislation, including through the Commission, their best practices, challenges, lessons learned and relevant scientific advances on the safe handling and disposal of synthetic drugs, their precursors and other chemicals used in the illicit manufacture of drugs, and requests the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to support efforts of Member States in this regard;

12. *Encourages* Member States, industry, academia and other relevant stakeholders, as appropriate, to continue their research and development to improve the methods available for the safe handling and disposal of synthetic drugs, their precursors and other chemicals used in the illicit manufacture of drugs;

13. *Encourages* Member States to consider voluntarily establishing and strengthening partnerships or cooperation with private sector entities, where relevant and in accordance with domestic law, in support of the safe handling and disposal of synthetic drugs, their precursors and other chemicals used in the illicit manufacture of drugs, in particular those which have been seized or confiscated, including in situations where relevant private sector entities are engaged to undertake disposal operations, or where disposal involves repurposing and reuse by legitimate industries;

14. *Encourages* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, in close cooperation with Member States and in consultation with other relevant stakeholders, to regularly review and, as appropriate, update its *Guidelines for the Safe Handling and Disposal of Chemicals Used in the Illicit Manufacture of Drugs* and to make that publication and other relevant tools available, including through the United Nations Toolkit on Synthetic Drugs;

15. *Also encourages* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to continue to engage with relevant entities, including those intergovernmental organizations that participate in the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals, for the purposes of inter-agency cooperation and coordination, information-sharing and obtaining feedback on new and ongoing activities, to ensure that the work of the Office on the safe handling and disposal of synthetic drugs, their precursors and other chemicals used in the illicit manufacture of drugs, in particular those which have been seized or confiscated, is well informed and to keep Member States informed about those activities;

16. *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 66/3**

#### **Strengthening information-sharing to increase scientific evidence-based support for international scheduling and the effective implementation of international scheduling decisions**

*The Commission on Narcotic Drugs,*

*Reaffirming* the commitment of States parties to achieving the goals and objectives of and the obligations contained in the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961 as amended by the 1972 Protocol,<sup>16</sup> the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971<sup>17</sup> and the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988,<sup>18</sup> in which States parties expressed concern for the health and welfare of humankind,

*Recognizing* 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,

*Recognizing also* that a key objective of the international drug control system is to ensure the availability of and access to internationally controlled narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances for medical and scientific purposes while preventing their abuse and diversion into illicit channels,

*Deeply concerned* that synthetic drugs and the non-medical use of prescription drugs pose increasing risks to health and safety, as well as scientific, legal and regulatory challenges, including with regard to the scheduling of substances,

*Underscoring* that in order to address the international challenges posed by the non-medical use of synthetic drugs, intensified action at the national level, as appropriate and within domestic law, may be required, including national efforts to implement international scheduling decisions, as well as domestic efforts to raise public awareness such as carrying out national campaigns that, in particular, as appropriate, address their negative public health consequences, prevention, treatment and recovery options, and stressing that capacity-building at the national level is required for the international community to effectively respond to those multifaceted challenges and that such action should promote scientific evidence-based, balanced, comprehensive and multidisciplinary approaches that incorporate both supply and demand reduction responses in line with the international drug control conventions and the international drug policy commitments,

*Reaffirming* its resolve to accelerate, based on the principle of common and shared responsibility, the full implementation of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem<sup>19</sup> 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<sup>20</sup> and the outcome document of the thirtieth special session of the General Assembly, on the world drug problem,<sup>21</sup> held

---

<sup>16</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 976, No. 14152.

<sup>17</sup> *Ibid.*, vol. 1019, No. 14956.

<sup>18</sup> *Ibid.*, vol. 1582, No. 27627.

<sup>19</sup> See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2009, Supplement No. 8 (E/2009/28)*, chap. I, sect. C.

<sup>20</sup> *Ibid.*, 2014, *Supplement No. 8 (E/2014/28)*, chap. I, sect. C.

<sup>21</sup> General Assembly resolution S-30/1, annex.