

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,¹⁶ the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971¹⁷ and the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988,¹⁸ 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 Problem¹⁹ 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 Action²⁰ and the outcome document of the thirtieth special session of the General Assembly, on the world drug problem,²¹ held

¹⁶ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 976, No. 14152.

¹⁷ *Ibid.*, vol. 1019, No. 14956.

¹⁸ *Ibid.*, vol. 1582, No. 27627.

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

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

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

in 2016, aimed at achieving all commitments, operational recommendations and aspirational goals set out therein, in particular those commitments relevant to the purposes of the present resolution,

Recognizing the important role of drug analysis laboratories as part of national drug control systems, and the value of laboratory results and data to criminal justice systems, law enforcement and health authorities and policymakers,

Acknowledging that drug analysis laboratories have an important role in the detection and identification of new precursor chemicals and the importance of sharing results, including by Member States through the Precursors Incident Communication System,

Recognizing the importance of detecting, identifying and monitoring emerging trends, the potential adverse impacts and risks to health and safety and the prevalence, availability, composition, production, manufacture, distribution and seizure of new psychoactive substances and new precursor chemicals, and acknowledging the challenges associated with, as well as the value of, sharing such information and data among domestic laboratories, as appropriate,

Acknowledging that there is still a growing need for laboratories to be supported in their analytical work, services and the training of experts,

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,

Recognizing the value of having a sustainable international network of laboratories and scientific support services allowing the transfer of specialized technical and forensic expertise from States with adequate resources to those in need of assistance in order to promote equality and reduce gaps between Member States,

Recalling its resolution 57/9 of 21 March 2014, in which it urged Member States to collect information on new psychoactive substances, as requested by the Commission in its resolution 55/1 of 16 March 2012, and to share, through bilateral and multilateral channels, as appropriate, while avoiding duplication of efforts, such information, particularly on current domestic legislation through existing mechanisms such as the global Synthetics Monitoring: Analysis, Reporting and Trends programme early warning advisory,

Recalling also its resolution 63/1 of 6 March 2020, in which it recognized 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 encouraged Member States to contribute to and benefit from the advisories emanating from that early warning system,

Recognizing the challenges that may exist when domestic drug analysis laboratories share with policymakers and relevant national authorities information on new psychoactive substances and new precursor chemicals in the context of scheduling considerations,

Underscoring the importance of the treaty-facilitated process for States parties to provide information relating to substances which are not yet under international control and which Member States believe may warrant an amendment to the schedules or tables of the conventions to the Secretary-General of the United Nations for consideration by the World Health Organization or the International Narcotics Control Board, as applicable, for scheduling recommendations made to the Commission on Narcotic Drugs,

Recognizing the important role played by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, together with the treaty-mandated roles of the International Narcotics Control Board and the World Health Organization, in collecting data to inform Member States about the latest trends relating to new psychoactive substances and new precursor chemicals,

Recalling its resolution 61/3 of 16 March 2018 on laboratory support for the implementation of the scheduling decisions of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, in which it called upon Member States to strengthen national drug analysis laboratories and to make efforts towards the effective exchange of forensic laboratory information on scheduled substances, including research and trend analysis, where possible,

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

Acknowledging with appreciation the efforts of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to organize, in collaboration with regional networks of forensic science institutions and other relevant scientific institutions, the international forensic science symposium,

1. *Encourages* Member States, with a view to detecting and identifying new psychoactive substances and new precursor chemicals, to establish and strengthen, as appropriate and within their means, drug analysis laboratories and provide resources to them;

2. *Also encourages* Member States to integrate scientific support, including from drug analysis laboratories, into their drug-related policies and programmes;

3. *Further encourages* Member States to strengthen the exchange of information among domestic drug analysis laboratories with a view to detecting, analysing and identifying new psychoactive substances and new precursor chemicals through a comprehensive, multidisciplinary, coordinated and integrated approach that incorporates, as appropriate and in accordance with domestic legislation, other government departments and relevant agencies and stakeholders;

4. *Encourages* Member States to continue to collect information on the adverse impacts and risks to public health and safety posed by new psychoactive substances, using chemical and toxicological data, data from hospitals and treatment and toxicology centres and data reported by individuals;

5. *Also encourages* Member States to take a proactive approach to the detection, forensic identification and toxicological testing of new psychoactive substances, including through interregional and intraregional collaboration, at points of entry and through postal systems or points of sale, including over the Internet, and to monitor emerging trends in the potential adverse impacts and risks to health and safety, prevalence, availability, composition, production, manufacture, distribution and seizure of new psychoactive substances;

6. *Invites* Member States to 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;

7. *Encourages* Member States to 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 to 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 established national, regional and international 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 programme of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and Project Ion of the International Narcotics Control Board;

8. *Calls upon* Member States to strengthen the 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 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 the Pre-Export Notification Online system;

9. *Encourages* Member States to develop and strengthen information-sharing processes between domestic drug analysis laboratories and national competent authorities, as appropriate, in order to facilitate the provision of information by Member States to the World Health Organization and the International Narcotics Control Board as part of the treaty-mandated scheduling process;

10. *Also encourages* Member States to make use of existing international, regional and subregional multidisciplinary networks to enable real-time information exchange among practitioners and technical experts on new psychoactive substances and new precursor chemicals;

11. *Calls upon* Member States to provide their best available data, including data from national drug analysis laboratories and other designated laboratories, as appropriate within national frameworks, to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the World Health Organization and other relevant organizations in order to support the review of the most prevalent, persistent and harmful new psychoactive substances by the Expert Committee on Drug Dependence of the World Health Organization and facilitate informed scheduling decisions by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs;

12. *Encourages* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, in the light of new analytical technologies and emerging challenges, to continue to support the analytical work of laboratories and ensure high quality standards by providing reference materials, identifying best practices, developing and updating relevant guidelines and research and facilitating the exchange of laboratory information and data so that Member States can ensure their preparedness for the implementation of scheduling decisions;

13. *Encourages* Member States to enhance their scientific capacity in support of the implementation of international scheduling decisions taken by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, to detect and identify substances and share best practices and challenges, and to provide reference samples of controlled substances and substances recommended to be kept under surveillance to relevant national institutions and/or drug analysis laboratories, including through the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime Laboratory and Scientific Services, in order to facilitate laboratory analysis;

14. *Requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to continue applying its expertise and engaging with national drug analysis laboratories, as appropriate, to conduct in-depth analyses in order to identify training needs, capacity-building opportunities and other areas where technical assistance interventions could support Member States in strengthening the identification and detection of synthetic drugs and precursor chemicals, upon request;

15. *Encourages* Member States to support their drug analysis laboratories, and other designated laboratories, as appropriate within national frameworks, in making use of accreditation programmes and international collaborative exercises, including the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime international collaborative exercises programme, to evaluate their own performance and take appropriate action;

16. *Requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, in accordance with its resolution 52/7 of 20 March 2009, to continue to evaluate, upon request, the performance of drug analysis laboratories through the international collaborative exercises programme and to provide assistance to develop and enhance their services, where appropriate;

17. *Encourages* Member States to support their forensic science institutions in actively participating in regional networks in order to advance international

cooperation among forensic services worldwide, to provide expertise, where appropriate, for the development and maintenance of cooperative networks among forensic science service providers and scientists and to endeavour to ensure the scientific independence of national forensic laboratories and promote their internal development and modernization, including through education and training, in order to strengthen technical and data analytics competencies;

18. *Requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to strengthen and expand its global network of drug analysis laboratories, and other designated laboratories, as appropriate within national frameworks, taking into consideration regional needs, by effectively utilizing its annual international forensic science symposium to advance international cooperation in the forensic field;

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 66/4

Promoting alternative development as a development-oriented drug control strategy that is sustainable and inclusive

The Commission on Narcotic Drugs,

Recognizing that the world drug problem continues to present challenges to the health, safety and well-being of all humanity, and resolving to tackle such challenges in order to help ensure that all people can live in health, dignity and peace, with security and prosperity,

Underscoring that the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961 as amended by the 1972 Protocol,²² the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971²³ and the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988,²⁴ together with other relevant international instruments, constitute the cornerstone of the international drug control system,

Underscoring also that in accordance with the 1988 Convention, each party shall take appropriate measures to prevent illicit cultivation of and to eradicate plants containing narcotic or psychotropic substances, such as opium poppy, coca bush and cannabis plants, cultivated illicitly in its territory, and that the measures adopted shall respect fundamental human rights and shall take due account of traditional licit uses, where there is historic evidence of such use, as well as the protection of the environment,

Expressing concern that the illicit cultivation of crops and illicit manufacture, distribution and trafficking remain serious challenges in addressing and countering the world drug problem, and recognizing the need to strengthen sustainable crop control strategies that may include, inter alia, alternative development, eradication and law enforcement measures, for the purpose of preventing and significantly and measurably reducing 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 in a timely and efficient manner,

Reaffirming that drug policies and programmes, including in the field of development, should be undertaken in accordance with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, international law and the Universal Declaration of

²² United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 976, No. 14152.

²³ *Ibid.*, vol. 1019, No. 14956.

²⁴ *Ibid.*, vol. 1582, No. 27627.