

Recommendations adopted by the Twenty-fifth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Latin America and the Caribbean

1. Before they adopted the recommendations below, the participants in the Twenty-fifth Meeting of HONLEA, Latin America and the Caribbean:

(a) Recalled the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem, adopted during 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, in which Member States recommended that the General Assembly should hold a special session to address the world drug problem;

(b) Also recalled General Assembly resolution 67/193, in which the Assembly decided to convene, early in 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;

(c) Took note with appreciation of 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, adopted by the Commission at its fifty-seventh session, in which achievements, challenges and priorities for action within the framework of the three international drug control conventions and other relevant United Nations instruments were identified;

(d) Welcomed the decision made by the General Assembly in its resolution 69/200 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;

(e) Resolved 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, 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;

(f) Submitted the following regional recommendations made by the working groups, aimed at moving forward in the implementation of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action.

1. Prevention, investigation and prosecution of microtrafficking and its links to transnational criminal networks

2. With regard to issue 1, "Prevention, investigation and prosecution of microtrafficking and its links to transnational criminal networks", the following recommendations were made:

(a) In developing an effective law enforcement response to microtrafficking, Governments should ensure that authorities apply all the specialist law enforcement responses available to them when investigating and prosecuting those who have been acting with impunity to profit from it;

(b) To be effective in combating microtrafficking, Governments must take steps to introduce demand reduction programmes, apply effective law enforcement controls and establish programmes for sustainable social development in those communities most at risk;

(c) Governments should be encouraged to address microtrafficking by adopting an integrated multi-agency response in which local government, criminal justice agencies, community organizations and youth organizations work with groups and communities at risk.

2. Border management

3. With regard to issue 2, “Border management”, the following recommendations were made:

(a) Growing trade volumes, passenger numbers and numbers of international vessel movements should encourage Governments to develop border management strategies that will support inter-agency cooperation and best utilize existing legislative powers, professional experience and operational resources of their law enforcement authorities;

(b) In response to the use of light aircraft to transport illicit drugs across the region’s international borders, Governments should take steps to develop a rapid response platform for operational cooperation with neighbouring States and regional counterparts to enable their law enforcement and security services to coordinate quickly and respond appropriately;

(c) Governments of the region are encouraged to develop closer cooperation and coordination in managing their maritime and land borders.

2. Acting effectively to address current trends in trafficking in cocaine, and curbing access to the supply of precursor chemicals

4. With regard to issue 3, “Acting effectively to address current trends in trafficking in cocaine, and curbing access to the supply of precursor chemicals”, the following recommendations were made:

(a) Where they have not already done so, Governments are encouraged to establish a collaborative relationship with their domestic chemical industry and associated distributors in order to foster the ready communication of information needed by authorities to maintain controls over precursor chemicals;

(b) Governments must encourage their drug law enforcement authorities to forge relationships of trust with their operational counterparts across the region and develop strategies and procedures with them, so as to better target the movement of cocaine and the persons responsible for its transport;

(c) Governments are encouraged to act to better fulfil their reporting obligations to the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB) and provide information on seizures and on stopped and suspicious shipments of chemicals

included in Tables I and II of the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988, and on seizures and on stopped and suspicious shipments of non-controlled substances, so as to identify the source of the chemicals and their point of diversion.

3. Other recommendations

5. The following additional recommendations were made:

(a) The efforts Member States have made to achieve the goals set by the Political Declaration and Plan of Action should be acknowledged, given that difficulties and challenges persist in fully reaching those goals and in eliminating or reducing significantly and measurably by the target date of 2019 the illicit cultivation of opium poppy, coca bush and cannabis plant, in full respect of traditional licit uses, as well as the illicit production, manufacture, marketing and distribution of psychotropic substances;

(b) Governments should develop clear and quantifiable indicators that show progress made and results achieved in the field of drug supply reduction; such indicators should not be limited to the quantity of drugs seized or the number of arrests made, and should be balanced by an evaluation related to demand reduction-related objectives;

(c) Governments should enhance their efforts to counter the use by drug traffickers of new technologies, including the Internet, in compliance with the Political Declaration and Plan of Action and 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;

(d) Governments should conduct additional studies to understand the structural causes underlying the world drug problem, including conditions of vulnerability and aggravating factors such as poverty, marginalization and violence that affect sustainable human development and have a negative impact on the social fabric;

(e) Governments should consider innovative approaches to the evolving challenge of new psychoactive substances and synthetic drugs, without prejudice to the availability of and access to controlled medicines;

(f) Governments should consider enhancing the balanced approach to demand and supply reduction referred to in the Political Declaration and Plan of Action, with regard to themes such as human rights, gender perspective, corruption, access to justice, and new forms of organized crime;

(g) Governments should strengthen their efforts to reduce violence related to illicit drug trafficking, by remedying the vulnerabilities that aggravate the structural causes of the world drug problem;

(h) A multidisciplinary and participatory approach should be followed that includes the input and participation of various international and regional organizations and specialized agencies of the United Nations system, such as the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the World Health Organization (WHO), the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) and the United Nations Entity

for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women), in order to reinforce coherence and synergies;

(i) In implementing the Political Declaration and Plan of Action, Governments should take into account the human rights, security and development pillars of General Assembly resolution 70/1 entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”. Doing so could also support the international strategy against drugs.
