

Recommendations adopted by the Thirty-ninth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Asia and the Pacific

1. Prior to making the recommendations below, the participants in the Thirty-ninth Meeting of HONLEA, Asia and the Pacific:

(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 by the General Assembly in its resolution 64/182, in which Member States decided, among other things, that the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, at its fifty-seventh session, in 2014, should conduct a high-level review of the implementation by Member States of the Political Declaration and its Plan of Action; recommended that the Economic and Social Council should devote a high-level segment to a theme related to the world drug problem; and also 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, 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;

(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) Also welcomed in that regard the adoption by the Commission of its resolutions 57/5 and 58/8 on the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem to be held in 2016, in which the Commission, inter alia, decided to take all possible measures to ensure an adequate, inclusive and effective preparatory process, with the active participation of all relevant stakeholders;

(f) 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;

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

1. Current trends in the manufacture, trafficking and consumption of amphetamine-type stimulants and new psychoactive substances

2. The following recommendations were made with regard to current trends in the manufacture, trafficking and consumption of amphetamine-type stimulants and new psychoactive substances:

(a) Governments should be encouraged to develop national prevention strategies against amphetamine-type stimulants that aim to reduce demand, strengthen social policies and deliver targeted interventions that support vulnerable and at-risk individuals;

(b) With a view to encouraging the coordination of operational responses in combating the cross-border trafficking of amphetamine-type stimulants, Governments are urged to support their drug enforcement authorities and cooperate in the timely exchange of actionable information that will lead to effective interventions against syndicates and their operatives;

(c) Governments should support the establishment of inter-agency task forces that bring together the specialist skills of their interdiction agencies, organized crime investigators, forensic accounting experts and prosecutors, in response to the dynamic strategies adopted by trafficking syndicates and in order to be better prepared to dismantle and prosecute the transnational organizations that are involved in trafficking amphetamine-type stimulants across the region.

2. Successful solutions and practices in the area of forensics

3. The following recommendations were made with regard to successful solutions and practices in the area of forensics:

(a) Governments are encouraged to invest in their forensic laboratories, including the training of staff involved in the identification, collection and securing of forensic evidence, and ensure that their country's legislation adequately supports the valuable contribution that forensics services provide to drug law enforcement and the handling of related offences;

(b) Governments should support regional cooperation in the forensic science sector as a means of enhancing the professional knowledge and skills of forensic practitioners, promoting the sharing of good practices and facilitating the exchange of information, such as drug profiling data, for drug law enforcement purposes;

(c) Governments should facilitate the availability of reference standards for new psychoactive substances for use by their forensic science laboratories to aid in the detection and identification of these substances.

3. Harmonization of legislation and practices at the international level

4. The following recommendations were made with regard to harmonization of legislation and practices at the international level:

(a) Governments should take steps to review their procedures upon receipt of formal requests for mutual legal assistance from the drug enforcement authorities of other countries in order to ensure a timely response with minimal delays that might otherwise jeopardize an active investigation;

(b) Participating Governments are encouraged to use the Safe Mekong Initiative as a platform for strengthening closer operational collaboration;

(c) Governments are encouraged to actively support the Asset Recovery Inter-Agency Network for Asia and the Pacific in the investigation, tracking and tracing efforts to launder the proceeds of drug trafficking.
