

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

1. The participants in the Twenty-fourth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, 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 of 18 December 2009, 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 of 20 December 2012, 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) Acknowledged, in accordance with the assessment 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, that many challenges relating to the world drug problem had persisted, that new ones had emerged in some parts of the world, and that those new trends needed to be taken into account in the implementation of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action;

(d) Took note with appreciation of resolution AG/RES. 1 (XLVI-E/14), on reflections and guidelines on formulating and following up on comprehensive policies to address the world drug problem in the Americas, adopted on 19 September 2014 by the General Assembly of the Organization of American States at its forty-sixth special session;

(e) Reaffirmed that policies and strategies for countering the world drug problem must have as aims the well-being, dignity and social inclusion of the individual, taking into account that the world drug problem must be addressed from a comprehensive and balanced perspective, in full respect of international law and international human rights law and the three United Nations drug control conventions;

(f) Reiterated the importance of strengthening international cooperation to tackle the world drug problem, in conformity with the principle of common and shared responsibility;

(g) Emphasized the importance of a broad, transparent, inclusive and scientific evidence-based discussion among Member States, with inputs from other relevant stakeholders, as appropriate, in multilateral settings, on the most effective ways to counter the world drug problem, consistent with the three international drug control conventions and other relevant international instruments, in order to further implement the

commitments and targets set out in the Political Declaration and Plan of Action;

(h) Welcomed the decision that the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem to be held in 2016 would have an inclusive preparatory process that would include extensive substantive consultations, allowing organs, entities and specialized agencies of the United Nations system, relevant international and regional organizations, civil society and other relevant stakeholders to fully contribute to the process, in accordance with the relevant rules of procedure and established practice, and that the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, as the central policymaking body within the United Nations system dealing with drug-related matters, would lead that process by addressing all organizational and substantive matters in an open-ended manner, and in that regard, invited the President of the General Assembly to support, guide and stay involved in the process;

(i) Recognized the importance of advancing, at its upcoming meetings, substantive dialogue focused on strengthening commitments and achieving better results in response to challenges that have arisen in recent years, in order to increase the effectiveness of the struggle against organized crime and the prevention of social, economic and health harms produced by the world drug problem, as well as to identify new challenges and difficulties when implementing national policies and international cooperation, in order to produce specific input for preparations for the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem to be held in 2016;

(j) Resolved to continue to support and contribute to the preparatory process for the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem to be held in 2016, in view of the requests 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 and to submit regional recommendations aimed at moving forward in the implementation of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action;

(k) Observed the need to strengthen and ensure balance within comprehensive policies that include all elements of the strategy to counter the world drug problem, recognizing the different impacts, manifestations and realities of the problem, and strengthening dialogue with civil society;

(l) Agreed to make the recommendations presented below.

**Issue 1. Measures adopted to reduce the diversion of precursor chemicals, with reference to international cooperation and technical assistance**

2. With regard to issue 1, “Measures adopted to reduce the diversion of precursor chemicals, with reference to international cooperation and technical assistance”, the following recommendations were made:

(a) Where they have not already done so, Governments are encouraged to ensure their authorities are making full use of Pre-Export Notification Online (PEN Online) and the Precursors Incident Communication System, which are international initiatives of the International Narcotics Control Board, and are involved in the international intelligence-gathering operations under Project Prism, Project Cohesion and Project Ion to prevent the diversion of precursor chemicals

and contribute to the pool of current information on developing trends and modi operandi;

(b) Acknowledging the diverse range of precursor chemicals increasingly being diverted to illicit drug manufacture, Governments are encouraged to ensure that their national legislation empowers their drug enforcement authorities to place effective controls over precursor substances, non-controlled chemicals and the emergence of the new psychoactive substances that are procured by drug traffickers;

(c) Governments are encouraged to develop specific surveillance lists of non-scheduled substances that are used in the illegal manufacture of drugs as part of their operational response to the appearance of new psychoactive substances on the illicit drug markets in their countries;

(d) Governments of the region are encouraged to coordinate in the harmonization and application of their administrative controls over precursor chemicals and controlled substances so as to prevent and discourage circumvention of restrictions over their availability through the diversion of those substances into neighbouring jurisdictions. Governments acknowledge that the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988 can help in that regard.

## **Issue 2. Non-therapeutic use, diversion and abuse of medical preparations**

3. With regard to issue 2, “Non-therapeutic use, diversion and abuse of medical preparations”, the following recommendations were made:

(a) Where they are not already doing so, Governments are encouraged to undertake an annual survey to assess national pharmaceutical needs that not only informs and contributes to their health-care planning but also provides a baseline figure for identifying diversion attempts;

(b) Governments are encouraged to take measures to advance the monitoring of the abuse of pharmaceutical preparations, including the early identification of emerging trends, so as to be better prepared to develop and implement countermeasures and supportive public health strategies;

(c) Governments are encouraged to apply the same control measures to pharmaceutical preparations containing ephedrine or pseudoephedrine as to those substances as raw materials.

## **Issue 3. Demand reduction, prevention and treatment**

4. With regard to issue 3, “Demand reduction, prevention and treatment”, the following recommendations were made:

(a) Governments should support their health-care professionals working in drug treatment to engage in peer-to-peer networking and should encourage horizontal cooperation opportunities in the field of demand reduction, in particular with regard to training and the exchange of professional practices;

(b) Governments must encourage their authorities to develop innovative demand reduction initiatives and programmes that readily connect with their vulnerable populations, maintain engagement with such populations and promote the essential life skills needed to resist the abuse of psychoactive substances;

(c) Governments are encouraged to review their funding for demand reduction and treatment programmes so as to ensure that adequate funding is available to meet the needs of their at-risk communities;

(d) Governments are encouraged to adopt specific strategies against microtrafficking that would allow a combination of prevention and criminal prosecution of that activity;

(e) Governments are encouraged to consolidate a methodology that would allow for the collection of reliable data on current consumption and trends among their populations, for the purpose of sharing such data with other Member States.

#### **Other recommendations**

5. The following additional recommendations were made:

(a) All Meetings of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Latin America and the Caribbean, should consider all the pillars of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action that cover measures to reduce supply and demand, analysis of social and economic consequences and the structural causes of the drug problem and analysis of new challenges in international cooperation;

(b) Once adopted, the recommendations should be published on the Commission on Narcotic Drugs website dedicated to the preparations for the special session of the General Assembly to be held in 2016 ([www.ungass2016.org](http://www.ungass2016.org));

(c) In the framework of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, greater visibility should be given to the statistical yearbook on drug control produced by Mexico, and this publication should be regarded by the Secretariat as an input to the *World Drug Report*;

(d) Governments should establish or strengthen mechanisms for the exchange of information focused on research in the fight against drug trafficking, as well as for the exchange of experiences and good practices.