

Recommendations adopted by the Twenty-fourth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Africa

1. Participants in the Twenty-fourth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies (HONLEA), Africa:

(a) Recalled the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem,¹ adopted 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 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) Took note with appreciation of the Joint Ministerial Statement of the 2014 high-level review by the Commission of the implementation by Member States of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action,² adopted by the Commission at its fifty-seventh session, in which achievements, challenges and priorities for further action were identified within the framework of the three international drug control conventions and other relevant United Nations instruments;

(d) Acknowledged, in accordance with the assessment contained in the Joint Ministerial Statement, that many challenges relating to the world drug problem had persisted and that new ones had emerged in some parts of the world, and that those new challenges needed to be taken into account in the implementation of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action;

(e) Emphasized the importance of a broad, transparent and inclusive discussion among Member States held in multilateral settings and based on scientific evidence. The discussion should take on board input from other relevant stakeholders as appropriate, focus on the most effective ways to counter the world drug problem in a manner consistent with the three international drug control conventions and other relevant international instruments, and further the implementation of the commitments and targets set out in the Political Declaration and Plan of Action;

(f) Welcomed the adoption by the Commission of its resolution 57/5 on the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem to be held in 2016. In the resolution the Commission underlined the importance of the special session as a milestone on the way to 2019,

¹ See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2009, Supplement No. 8 (E/2009/28)*, chap. I, sect. C.

² See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2014, Supplement No. 8 (E/2014/28)*, chap. I, sect. C.

the target date set in the Political Declaration and Plan of Action for achieving targets and goals set out therein; recognized the leading role of the Commission as the central policymaking body within the United Nations system dealing with drug-related matters in the preparations for the special session; and decided to take all possible measures to ensure an adequate, inclusive and effective preparatory process with the active involvement of all relevant stakeholders;

(g) Resolved to continue to support and contribute to the preparatory process for a special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem in 2016 pursuant to resolution 56/10 of the Commission, in which it requested the meetings of its subsidiary bodies 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 the progress made and by submitting regional recommendations aimed at moving forward in the implementation of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action;

(h) Agreed to make the recommendations presented below.

1. Trends and developments regarding new psychoactive and other substances not currently under international control

2. The following recommendations were made with regard to new psychoactive and other substances not currently under international control:

(a) In the face of a growing trend in the abuse of amphetamine-type stimulants and psychoactive substances, Governments must ensure that they provide adequate investment in and support for treatment facilities for stimulant abuse and initiatives to raise awareness of related public health issues to meet the needs of their communities;

(b) Governments are encouraged to undertake a study of the illicit use of plant-based stimulants and hallucinogenics, such as khat and datura, taking into consideration the extent of their abuse in their communities and the effect on public health;

(c) Governments are encouraged to focus on preventive measures to control precursor chemicals, essential chemicals and pharmaceutical preparations by strengthening the administrative procedures regulating their commercial use, sale and distribution.

2. Addressing challenges posed by the cultivation and abuse of cannabis

3. The following recommendations were made with regard to challenges posed by the cultivation and abuse of cannabis:

(a) In combating cannabis trafficking, Governments should encourage their law enforcement officials, prosecutors and judiciaries to work closely with their neighbours and with countries throughout the region to share information, conducting joint operations and improving communication channels;

(b) Governments are encouraged to review their legislation with a view to harmonizing offences and sanctions related to cannabis trafficking;

(c) Governments are encouraged to promote sustainable alternative development initiatives as an effective means of addressing the dependence of rural communities on the illicit cultivation of cannabis for their livelihoods.

3. Responding to the current threat posed by trafficking of heroin, including by sea

4. The following recommendations were made with regard to the current threat posed by trafficking of heroin, including by sea:

(a) Given the threat to public health, the harm to the environment caused by illicit cultivation, the adverse economic effects and the negative impact on the rule of law, Governments are strongly encouraged to keep illicit drug trafficking and related organized criminal offences at the forefront of their political agendas;

(b) Governments are encouraged to strengthen collaboration, professional networking, information-sharing mechanisms and communication between their drug law enforcement authorities in order to improve the regional response to heroin trafficking;

(c) To be effective against groups and individuals engaged in heroin trafficking and related criminal activities, Governments should review their existing bilateral agreements to ensure that they meet the needs of their law enforcement and judicial authorities tasked with investigating and prosecuting such cross-border offences;

(d) Governments should consider making better use of the provisions on international cooperation contained in the three international drug control treaties.