

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

1. Participants in the Thirty-eighth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, 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, in the framework of the three international drug control conventions and other relevant United Nations instruments, were identified;

(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, which 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, 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;

(f) Welcomed in that regard 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 which the Commission, *inter alia*, underlined the importance of the special session as a milestone on the way to 2019, which had been set as the target date in the Political Declaration and Plan of Action to achieve 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) Welcomed and expressed support for the request to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), as the leading entity in the United Nations system for countering the world drug problem, to continue providing substantive expertise and technical support to the preparatory process for the special session of the General Assembly to be held in 2016, in line with Commission resolution 57/5;

(h) 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 and submitting regional recommendations aimed at moving forward in the implementation of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action;

(i) Agreed to make the recommendations presented below.

Issue 1. Responding to trafficking in synthetic drugs and new psychoactive substances and preventing the diversion of chemical precursors

2. The following recommendations were made with regard to responding to trafficking in synthetic drugs and new psychoactive substances and preventing the diversion of chemical precursors:

(a) Governments are encouraged to strengthen their domestic controls over the availability of new psychoactive substances and to make available to their foreign law enforcement counterparts their national lists of controlled substances used in the manufacture of such substances;

(b) Governments should encourage their law enforcement authorities and chemical industry regulatory authorities to regularly update and widely circulate details of the manufacture and marketing of and trends in substances used in the manufacture of new psychoactive substances on secure platforms such as the UNODC early warning advisory system, the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB) Precursors Incident Communication System and Project Ion, the World Customs Organization network of Regional Intelligence Liaison Offices, and other trusted communication and information-sharing networks;

(c) Governments should take steps to ensure that staff in their public health services and national drug analysis laboratories are familiar with the range of new psychoactive substances on their local markets in order to enable them to correctly identify such substances and respond appropriately.

Issue 2. Measures to amend legislation, agency practices and procedures that may improve the responses of national authorities to challenges posed by drug trafficking and related organized criminal offences

3. The following recommendations were made with regard to measures to amend legislation, agency practices and procedures that may improve the responses of national authorities to challenges posed by drug trafficking and related organized criminal offences:

(a) Governments are encouraged to review their national drug control legislation regularly so as to ensure that it meets the needs of their enforcement agencies and the community they serve;

(b) Governments are encouraged to review their drug law enforcement and related legislation with a view to harmonizing their provisions with those of other countries in the region;

(c) Governments should encourage and support UNODC to step up efforts to provide technical assistance to Member States to review and support the reform of national laws, regulations and other measures with a view to fully implementing the international drug control treaties;

(d) Governments should consider sharing, with other Governments in the region, information on similarities and differences between their legislation and should make such information available to law enforcement authorities.

Issue 3. Collaboration and coordination among drug law enforcement agencies

4. The following recommendations were made with regard to collaboration and coordination among drug law enforcement agencies:

(a) To address the increasing complexity of drug trafficking and facilitate the expeditious exchange of intelligence between lead law enforcement agencies, Governments are encouraged to establish operational joint agency teams to target trafficking syndicates;

(b) Governments must ensure that their law enforcement agencies responsible for drug law enforcement and related organized crime are adequately funded so as to meet the increasing need for cross-border cooperation and multi-jurisdictional investigations;

(c) Where they have not already done so, Governments are encouraged to review their existing bilateral and multilateral cooperation agreements to ensure that they support the needs of their drug enforcement agencies with regard to the exchange of information, requests for assistance and evidence-gathering.