

Recommendations adopted by the Subcommission on Illicit Drug Traffic and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East at its forty-ninth session

1. Participants in the forty-ninth session of the Subcommission on Illicit Drug Traffic and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East:

(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 at its sixty-fourth session, in which Member States recommended that the General Assembly 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) Welcomed the adoption by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs of resolution 57/5, entitled “Special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem to be held in 2016”, in which the Commission recognized its leading role, as the central policymaking body within the United Nations for drug-related matters, in the preparations for the special session to be held in 2016;

(d) 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 on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem, adopted by the Commission at its fifty-seventh session, in which achievements, challenges and priorities for further action, in full conformity with the three international drug control conventions and the Political Declaration and Plan of Action, were identified;

(e) Acknowledged that, in accordance with the assessment contained in the Joint Ministerial Statement, many challenges of the world drug problem have persisted and new ones have emerged in some parts of the world, and that those new trends need to be taken into account in the implementation of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action, within the framework of the three international drug control conventions;

(f) 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 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 by submitting regional recommendations aimed at moving forward in the implementation of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action, and in that context emphasized the importance of including, in the agenda of the special session, discussions on regional experiences, realities, challenges and approaches, within the framework of the three international drug control conventions;

(g) Agreed to make the recommendations set out below.

1. Misuse of sea containers for the trafficking of illicit drugs, and possible investigative techniques

2. The following recommendations were made with regard to the misuse of sea containers for the trafficking of illicit drugs, and possible investigative techniques:

(a) Governments are encouraged to review their national response strategies covering, inter alia, maritime borders to ensure that they adequately reflect current needs and that their border enforcement agencies are adequately equipped, trained and prepared to act effectively against illicit trafficking by sea;

(b) Member States should provide adequate resources and equipment to border management agencies and provide technical assistance to requesting States in that regard, without conditionality;

(c) Governments of the region should be encouraged to utilize their investment in training, technology and manpower to establish an inter-agency response for container control at seaports and container terminals through the establishment of specialist units dedicated to the review, selection and search of suspect containers of interest.

2. Emerging challenges for Afghanistan and the region in relation to drug trafficking

3. The following recommendations were made with regard to emerging challenges for Afghanistan and the region in relation to drug trafficking:

(a) Governments are encouraged to contribute to the accurate assessment of global drug consumption through undertaking national drug use surveys and to update and regularly report their data on national drug consumption to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), through either the annual report questionnaire or other mechanisms;

(b) Governments are encouraged to adopt a proactive approach to strengthening the capacity of their law enforcement authorities to stop the diversion of precursor chemicals, through awareness-raising and training in the identification of scheduled precursors such as acetic anhydride, so as to prevent their use in the illicit manufacture of drugs;

(c) Governments should encourage their law enforcement agencies to engage in regional coordination agencies, such as the Central Asian Regional Information and Coordination Centre, the Criminal Information Centre to Combat Drugs of the Gulf Cooperation Council and the joint planning cell, that support their efforts to increase cross-border, regional and international cooperation in intelligence-sharing and operational cooperation against criminal organizations trafficking in illicit drugs.

3. Demand reduction responses, including to reduce the abuse of amphetamine-type stimulants and the non-therapeutic use of pharmaceutical preparations

4. The following recommendations were made with regard to demand reduction responses, including to reduce the abuse of amphetamine-type stimulants and the non-therapeutic use of pharmaceutical preparations:

(a) Governments are encouraged to share with neighbouring countries and other States in the region information related to demand reduction activities, including training programmes, educational materials, treatment methods and awareness-raising campaigns to encourage the development of culturally appropriate responses to demand reduction and treatment;

(b) Governments should support their treatment professionals, facilitate their engagement in peer-to-peer networking and encourage opportunities for them to cooperate in joint training and the exchange of professional practices;

(c) If they have not already done so, Governments are encouraged to review their legislation that empowers law enforcement and health authorities to respond speedily to the challenges posed by the introduction of new psychoactive substances onto the recreational drugs market;

(d) Governments are encouraged to gather and share information on the emerging threat to the communities of the region of the non-medical use of tramadol and to take appropriate measures to address the trends of its misuse, as well as its trafficking, its supply from illicit sources and its diversion;

(e) The controversial concepts of harm reduction and legalization of illicit drugs in some parts of the world should be avoided.

Other recommendations

5. The following additional recommendations were made by the Subcommission:

(a) The Commission on Narcotic Drugs should continue to undertake all the organizational and substantive arrangements for the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem to be held in 2016, in its capacity as the central preparatory body for that purpose;

(b) The recommendations of the subsidiary bodies of the Commission should constitute the basis of the outcome document of the special session;

(c) The outcome document of the special session should be based on regional perspectives on and approaches to addressing the world drug problem with full respect for the cultural, religious and regional sensitivities of each region;

(d) The deliberations and outcome document of the special session should be based on full respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of States, the principle of non-intervention in the internal affairs of States, the principles of equal rights and mutual respect among States and commitment to unconditional international cooperation;

(e) The special session should be a milestone on the way to achieving the goals and targets set in the Political Declaration and Plan of Action to be achieved by 2019, in full conformity with the three international drug control conventions;

(f) The special session should address the emerging threats posed by the non-medical use and abuse of tramadol, as well as its trafficking, its supply from illicit sources and its diversion. Furthermore, the special session should address the threats posed by the legalization of drugs in some parts of the world;

(g) The special session should address the need for the prohibition of international trade in poppy seeds derived from sources of illicit cultivation of opium poppy, and encourage Member States to import poppy seeds derived from licitly grown opium poppies;

(h) While expressing concern that the representation of States members of the Subcommission within UNODC, including at the senior and policymaking levels, continues to be inadequate, and reaffirming the

availability of qualified candidates from those Member States who could be considered and selected for different positions at the professional and executive levels, the Subcommission recommends that the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, at its fifty-eighth session, examines that aspect and takes appropriate corrective action, with a view to enhancing overall efforts to counter the world drug problem;

(i) At its fiftieth session, the Subcommission should include an agenda item entitled “Improving the role and representation of States members of the Subcommission at United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime headquarters and field offices”, and the Secretariat is requested to brief the Subcommission, at its fiftieth session, on the current situation and implementation of the recommendation above, within existing resources, keeping in mind that it is to be a one-time item, pending a decision on whether it will be discussed further at future sessions.