

Joint Statement

High-level International Conference on Consolidation of Efforts of International Anti-Drug Cooperation

(Dushanbe, 27 May 2015)

We, the participating delegations at the “High-level International Conference on Consolidation of Efforts of International Anti-Drug Cooperation”, held in Dushanbe/Tajikistan on 27 May 2015, discussed the drug situation at the regional and international level as well as aspects of effective coordination to strengthen efforts to better address drug related problems:

Recalling 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 of 18 December 2009,

Emphasizing that illicit trafficking of drugs, psychotropic substances and their abuse not only undermines human health and well-being, but also threatens the socio-economic and political stability of individual States and the international community as a whole,

Being concerned that an increased level of production of drugs in Afghanistan (mainly due to insecurity and insurgency) poses an additional challenge to Afghanistan, the region and beyond that requires enhanced cooperation and comprehensive measures to counter the trafficking in drugs and the smuggling of precursors at the regional and international level, based on the relevant international legal instruments,

Taking Note of the UN Security Council presidential statement of 25 June 2014 in which the Council called on the United Nations to support the Government of Afghanistan’s national priority programmes and called upon all States to strengthen international and regional cooperation to counter the threat to the international community posed by the production, trafficking and consumption of illicit drugs originating in Afghanistan,

Confirming the obligations in regard to compliance with the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs (1961), as amended by the 1972 Protocol, the Convention on Psychotropic Substances (1971), the United Nations Convention Against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (1988) and the Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (2000),

Underlining that global drug threat is a common concern, thus requiring joint, interdisciplinary and balanced regional and international approach towards a comprehensive strategy aimed at both supply and demand reduction,

Acknowledging that increase in drug supply requires new comprehensive measures and cooperation to better address drug trafficking originating in Afghanistan as well as smuggling of precursors to Afghanistan from manufacturing countries through various transit routes,

Affirming that close cooperation at the national and international level among experts from the criminal justice, health, social and drug control sectors is a critical element of devising effective responses to drugs and HIV,

Reaffirming that strengthening of international cooperation to prevent and counter drug trafficking and its related organized crime should be promoted including by intelligence-sharing and the exchange of best practices; implementation of effective law enforcement and judicial cooperation mechanisms in addressing drug trafficking and related crimes; improving the technical capacity of judges, public prosecutors and law enforcement officials in the field of drugs as well as creating, strengthening and developing the mechanisms for the identification, freezing, seizure and confiscation of illicit assets obtained through or derived from drug trafficking and related crimes,

Stressing the importance of enhanced international and regional cooperation to better counter trafficking of illicit drugs and related illicit financial flows and **Supporting** in this regard the technical cooperation programmes of UNODC at the national, regional and global level,

Taking Note of the CND resolution 57/5, entitled "Special Session of the General Assembly on the World Drug Problem to be held in 2016" (UNGASS), in which the Commission decided to ensure an adequate, inclusive and effective preparatory process for the UNGASS,

Noting with concern that a high prevalence of HIV among people who inject drugs has emerged as a serious social issue in many countries, posing new public health challenges, such as spread of HIV and viral hepatitis and, support promoting strategies and measures addressing specific needs of women in the context of comprehensive and integrated drug demand reduction programmes and strategies,

Reaffirming our commitments aimed at strengthening international and regional cooperation in combating illicit drug production and trafficking and in this regard:

1. Welcome the decision made by the UN General Assembly to discuss “International cooperation against the world drug problem” at its special session in early 2016 to review the progress made in the implementation of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem (2009) including an assessment of the achievements and challenges in countering the world drug problem;

2. Also Welcome the decision of the UN General Assembly in its resolution 69/200 that the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, as the central Policy making body within the United Nations system dealing with drug-related matters, should lead the preparatory process for the Special Session of the General Assembly on the World Drug Problem to be held in 2016;

3. Request the Special Session of the UN General Assembly on the World Drug Problem (to be held in 2016) to pay special attention to the importance of issues such as: i) Demand reduction and related measures, including prevention and treatment, as well as health-related issues, including HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment and care with a particular focus on vulnerable groups, ii) Supply reduction and related effective measures, iii) National, regional and international responses to drug-related crimes, iv) Countering money-laundering, including, where appropriate, in connection with the financing of terrorism, v) Promoting judicial cooperation in drug related crimes , vi) Addressing emerging issues/crimes, including new psychoactive substances, precursors and the misuse of the Internet, vii) Addressing new challenges, threats and realities in preventing and addressing the world drug problem in compliance with relevant international law, including the three drug control conventions, viii) Strengthening the principle of common and shared responsibility and enhancing international and regional cooperation, including with a focus on delivering technical assistance to the countries most effected by illicit drug production and trafficking, ix) Alternative development and related socioeconomic matters, x) Address measures to reach an effective balance between supply and demand reduction as well as address the key causes and consequences of the world drug problem; and xi) Establish a special multidisciplinary expert group under the auspices of the UN for a comprehensive study of specific, feasible and alternative directions of economy recovery and development of agriculture for the reduction and subsequent elimination of opium cultivation in the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan.

4. Express confidence that development of cooperation among the States of the region with the support of international organizations and donor countries, in accordance with the principle of common and shared responsibility, will promote effective measures against drug trafficking to create a solid shield against their spread;

5. Reaffirm commitments to strengthen regional collaboration and cooperation among the law enforcement and dedicated drug enforcement agencies in the field of detection and prevention of drug trafficking as well as liaising and conducting joint operations including within “control delivery” methods;

6. *Strengthen* measures to control over manufacture, import, export and transit of chemical precursors which are stimulating production of the illicit narcotic drugs;

7. *Also Emphasize* the importance of promoting cooperation in better addressing money laundering and illicit financial flows at the regional and international level;

8. *Support* the efforts of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan aimed at eradication of poppy fields, dismantling of drug laboratories, seizure of drugs and precursors as well as investigation and prosecution of the criminal groups facilitating drug trafficking;

9. *Also Support* the increase in social-economic aid provided to the people of Afghanistan, particularly for recovery of economy and reform of the agricultural sector;

10. *Underline* the importance of supporting a regional approach aimed at strengthening coordination of activities and measures against drug trafficking and organized crime, and in this regard ***Welcome*** the Declaration of the Second Moscow Anti-Drug Ministerial Conference adopted on 23 April 2015 and the Declaration on “Strengthening of cooperation in countering the illicit trafficking of drugs and precursors, and abuse of drugs and psychotropic substances”, which was adopted at the Ninth Ministerial meeting of the States parties to the Memorandum of Understanding on Sub-Regional Drug Control Cooperation (1996) on 5th May 2015 in Ashgabat;

11. *Emphasize* the need to enhance collaboration in the field of capacity building and advanced training for drug-enforcement agencies to better respond to the emerging challenges;

12. *Outline* the importance of strengthening efforts in the area of prevention of drug addiction and promoting of healthy lifestyle among population, particularly youth and in this regard, request UNGASS to support the initiative of the President of the Republic of Tajikistan to declare the next five years (2016-2020) as the years for “Global measures towards prevention of drug addiction and promotion of healthy lifestyle”.

13. *Encourage* the UN General Assembly and the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND) to take note of the content of this “Joint Statement” in preparation for the UNGASS.