

Draft resolution recommended for adoption by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs

The Fiftieth session of the Subcommittee on Illicit Drug Traffic and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East, recommends to the Commission on Narcotic Drugs the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Abu Dhabi declaration

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, in which Member States recommended that the General Assembly should hold a special session to address the world drug problem;

Also recalling 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;

Welcoming the decision made by the General Assembly in its resolution 69/200 that the Commission on Narcotic Drugs should lead the preparatory process for the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem to be held in 2016, by addressing all organizational and substantive matters in an open-ended manner;

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;

Welcoming the outcomes of the Fiftieth session of the Subcommission on Illicit Drug Traffic and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East, held in Abu Dhabi from 8 to 12 November 2015,

1. *Takes note* of the Abu Dhabi declaration, which is annexed to the present resolution;

Annex

Abu Dhabi declaration

We, the representatives of States members of the Subcommission on Illicit Drug Traffic and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East, gathered at the fiftieth session of the Subcommission on Illicit Drug Traffic and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East, held in Abu Dhabi from 8 to 12 November 2015

recalling the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem, in which it was recognized that the world drug problem remained a common and shared responsibility that required effective and increased international cooperation and demanded an integrated, multidisciplinary, mutually reinforcing and balanced approach to supply and demand reduction strategies;

gravely concerned about the growing threat posed by the drug problem to the region;

recalling that the three international drug conventions are the cornerstone of international drug control policy;

also recalling that the use and possession, including possession for personal consumption, of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances shall be limited to medical and scientific purposes, in accordance with the international drug control framework;

reaffirming the principles of sovereignty, territorial integrity of States and non-intervention, as well as the principle of common and shared responsibility, when addressing the world drug problem;

Have agreed to make the following recommendations:

- a) Governments should take into account regional perspectives on and approaches to addressing the world drug problem with full respect for the cultural and religious specificities of each region;
- b) Governments are encouraged to oppose any form of legalization of drugs, in accordance with the three drug international conventions and to gain an in-depth understanding of the causes and various aspects of the world drug problem, to ensure an efficient way of addressing it;
- c) the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and its field offices should maintain their leading role in providing capacity building coordination and technical assistance to Member States in countering the world drug problem at national, regional and interregional levels;
- d) In the Near and Middle East priority attention should be given to addressing production, trafficking in and consumption of illicit drugs affecting the region, in particular opiates, cocaine, ATS including new psychoactive substances (NPS), Captagon and Tramadol.
- e) Coordination among regional law enforcement information centers such as GCC-CICCD, CARICC and TADOC should be encouraged under the UNODC and its offices' "Networking the Networks" initiative.
- f) Governments are encouraged to improve access to quality drug dependence treatment services, ensuring access to essential psychotropic and narcotic drugs for medical purposes while preventing their diversion and abuse.
- g) In addressing money laundering and illicit financial flows stemming from illicit drug trafficking, Governments are encouraged to strengthen national coordination between their counter narcotics law enforcement agencies and financial intelligence units in responding to international requests for mutual legal assistance.