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Commission on Narcotic Drugs

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Items 12-14 of the provisional agenda**

General debate of the high-level segment: review of the progress achieved and the difficulties encountered by Member States in meeting the goals and targets set out in the Political Declaration adopted by the General Assembly at its twentieth special session; challenges for the future

Round-table discussions of the high-level segment

Outcome of the high-level segment

Draft Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem

I. Political Declaration

One decade after the commitments made at the twentieth special session of the General Assembly¹ to address the world drug problem,² notwithstanding the ever-increasing efforts and progress made by States, relevant international organizations and civil society, the drug problem continues to pose a serious threat to the health, safety and well-being of all humanity, in particular youth, our most precious asset. Furthermore, the world drug problem undermines sustainable development, political stability and democratic institutions, including efforts to eradicate poverty, and threatens national security and the rule of law. Drug trafficking and abuse pose a major threat to the health, dignity and hopes of millions of people and their families

* Reissued for technical reasons.

** E/CN.7/2009/1.

¹ See General Assembly resolutions S-20/2, S-20/3 and S-20/4 A to E.

² The illicit cultivation, production, manufacture, sale, demand, trafficking and distribution of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, including amphetamine-type stimulants, the diversion of precursors and related criminal activities.



and lead to the loss of human lives. We are determined to tackle the world drug problem and to actively promote a society free of drug abuse in order to ensure that all people can live in health, dignity and peace, with security and prosperity; therefore:

We, the States Members of the United Nations,

Gravely concerned about the growing threat posed by the world drug problem, having assembled, in a spirit of trust and cooperation, at the high-level segment of the fifty-second session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs to decide on future priorities and urgent action to counter the world drug problem beyond 2009, and mindful of the important lessons learned from the implementation of the Political Declaration, action plans and guidelines adopted by the General Assembly at its twentieth special session with the aim of achieving measurable results,

Fully aware that the world drug problem remains a common and shared responsibility that requires effective and increased international cooperation and demands an integrated, multidisciplinary, mutually reinforcing and balanced approach to supply and demand reduction strategies,

1. *Reaffirm* our unwavering commitment to ensure that all aspects of demand reduction, supply reduction and international cooperation are addressed in full conformity with the purposes and the principles of the Charter of the United Nations, international law and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights³ and, in particular, with full respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of States, the principle of non-intervention in the internal affairs of States, all human rights, fundamental freedoms, the inherent dignity of all individuals and the principles of equal rights and mutual respect among States;

2. *Reaffirm also* that the ultimate goal of both demand and supply reduction strategies and sustainable development strategies is to minimize and eventually eliminate the availability and use of illicit drugs and psychotropic substances in order to ensure the health and welfare of humankind and encourage the exchange of best practices in demand and supply reduction, and emphasize that each strategy is ineffective in the absence of the other;

3. *Assert* that the world drug problem is most effectively addressed in a multilateral setting and that the three international drug control conventions⁴ and other relevant international instruments remain the cornerstone of the international drug control system, and urge all Member States that have not yet done so to consider taking measures to ratify or accede to those instruments;

4. *Support* the traditional and established supplier countries in maintaining a balance between the licit supply of and demand for opioids and opiate raw materials used for medical and scientific purposes;

³ General Assembly resolution 217 A (III).

⁴ The Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961 as amended by the 1972 Protocol (United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 976, No. 14152), the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971 (ibid., vol. 1019, No. 14956) and the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988 (ibid., vol. 1582, No. 27627).

5. *Reaffirm* the Political Declaration adopted by the General Assembly at its twentieth special session,⁵ the Declaration on the Guiding Principles of Drug Demand Reduction,⁶ the Action Plan on International Cooperation on the Eradication of Illicit Drug Crops and on Alternative Development,⁷ the Action Plan for the Implementation of the Declaration on the Guiding Principles of Drug Demand Reduction⁸ and the Joint Ministerial Statement adopted during the ministerial segment of the forty-sixth session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs;⁹

6. *Recall also* the United Nations Millennium Declaration,¹⁰ the provisions of the 2005 World Summit Outcome¹¹ addressing the world drug problem, the Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS¹² and other relevant United Nations resolutions, including resolution 63/197 of 18 December 2008 and those on regional and international cooperation to prevent the diversion and smuggling of precursors;

7. *Note* the commemoration, in Shanghai, China, on 26 and 27 February 2009, of the centennial of the convening of the International Opium Commission;

8. *Express deep concern* at the high price paid by society and by individuals and their families in the fight against the world drug problem, and pay special tribute to the law enforcement and judicial personnel who have sacrificed their lives and to the health-care and civil society personnel who have dedicated themselves to addressing this scourge;

9. *Acknowledge* the important contribution made by women in curbing the world drug problem, commit ourselves to ensuring that drug control policies, measures and interventions take into account the specific needs and circumstances that women face with regard to drug problems, and decide to undertake effective measures to ensure that women, as well as men, have access to, and benefit equally and without discrimination from, drug control policies and strategies by involving them actively in all stages of programme and policy development and implementation;

10. *Welcome* the important role played by civil society, in particular non-governmental organizations, in addressing the world drug problem, and note with appreciation their important contribution to the review process, also noting that representatives of affected populations and civil society entities, where appropriate, should be enabled to play a participatory role in the formulation and implementation of drug demand and supply reduction policy;

11. *Welcome also* the reports of the Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime on the world drug problem, the annual *World Drug Report* and the annual report of the International Narcotics Control Board and, on the basis of those reports, recognize that some progress has been made, through

⁵ General Assembly resolution S-20/2, annex.

⁶ General Assembly resolution S-20/3, annex.

⁷ General Assembly resolution S-20/4 E.

⁸ General Assembly resolution 54/132, annex.

⁹ A/58/124, sect. II.A.

¹⁰ See General Assembly resolution 55/2.

¹¹ See General Assembly resolution 60/1.

¹² General Assembly resolution 60/262, annex.

positive achievements, at the local, regional and international levels in implementing the Political Declaration adopted by the General Assembly at its twentieth special session but also recognize that there are still considerable challenges, as well as emerging challenges, to efforts to sustainably reduce, or at least effectively contain, illicit drug production, trafficking and consumption;

12. *Acknowledge* the continuing efforts made and progress achieved in countering the world drug problem, note with great concern the unprecedented surge in illicit opium production and trafficking, the continuing illicit cocaine manufacture and trafficking, the increasing illicit cannabis production and trafficking and the increasing diversion of precursors, as well as the related distribution and use of illicit drugs, and stress the need to strengthen and intensify joint efforts at the national, regional and international levels to tackle those global challenges in a more comprehensive manner, in accordance with the principle of a common and shared responsibility, including by means of enhanced and better coordinated technical and financial assistance;

13. *Agree* that amphetamine-type stimulants and psychotropic substances continue to pose a serious and constantly evolving challenge to international drug control efforts, which threatens the security, health and welfare of the population, especially youth, and requires a focused and comprehensive national, regional and global response, based on scientific evidence and experience, in an international and multisectoral setting;

14. *Decide* to continue to raise public awareness of the risks and the threats posed to all societies by the different aspects of the world drug problem;

15. *Take account* of the need for indicators and instruments for the collection and analysis of accurate, reliable and comparable data on all relevant aspects of the world drug problem and, where appropriate, the enhancement or development of new indicators and instruments, and recommend that the Commission on Narcotic Drugs take further measures to address that issue;

16. *Reaffirm* the principal role of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and its subsidiary bodies, together with the International Narcotics Control Board, as the United Nations organs with prime responsibility for drug control matters, and decide to promote and facilitate the effective implementation of and follow-up to the present Political Declaration and its Plan of Action;

17. *Reaffirm also* our support and appreciation for the efforts of the United Nations, including those of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime as the leading entity in the United Nations system for countering the world drug problem, reiterate our intention to continue to improve the governance and financial situation of the Office, stressing the need for adequate and stable financial resources to enable the Office to fulfil its mandates effectively, and request the Office to continue its efforts to carry out all its mandates under the international drug control conventions, as well as other relevant international instruments, and to continue to cooperate with relevant regional and international institutions and Governments by providing, inter alia, technical assistance to Member States that request it;

18. *Reaffirm further* the leading role of the International Narcotics Control Board, as an independent treaty-based body, in monitoring the implementation of the international drug control conventions, in accordance with its mandate,

including the control of substances frequently used in the illicit manufacture of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, welcome the annual reports of the Board and support the Board in implementing all its mandates under those conventions;

19. *Call for* continued cooperation between Member States, the International Narcotics Control Board and the World Health Organization to ensure the adequate availability of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances under international control, including opiates, for medical and scientific purposes, while concurrently preventing their diversion into illicit channels, pursuant to the international drug control conventions;

20. *Note with great concern* the adverse consequences of drug abuse for individuals and society as a whole, reaffirm our commitment to tackle those problems in the context of comprehensive, complementary and multisectoral drug demand reduction strategies, in particular such strategies targeting youth, also note with great concern the alarming rise in the incidence of HIV/AIDS and other blood-borne diseases among injecting drug users, reaffirm our commitment to work towards the goal of universal access to comprehensive drug abuse prevention programmes and treatment, care and related support services, in full compliance with the international drug control conventions and in accordance with national legislation, taking into account all relevant General Assembly resolutions and, when applicable, the *WHO, UNODC, UNAIDS Technical Guide*,¹³ and request the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to carry out its mandate in this area in close cooperation with relevant organizations and programmes in the United Nations system, such as the World Health Organization, the United Nations Development Programme and the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS;

21. *Reiterate* our commitment to promote, develop, review or strengthen effective, comprehensive, integrated drug demand reduction programmes, based on scientific evidence and covering a range of measures, including primary prevention, early intervention, treatment, care, rehabilitation, social reintegration and related support services, aimed at promoting health and social well-being among individuals, families and communities and reducing the adverse consequences of drug abuse for individuals and society as a whole, taking into account the particular challenges posed by high-risk drug users, in full compliance with the three international drug control conventions and in accordance with national legislation, and commit ourselves to investing increased resources in ensuring access to those interventions on a non-discriminatory basis, including in detention facilities, bearing in mind that those interventions should also consider vulnerabilities that undermine human development, such as poverty and social marginalization;

22. *Reaffirm*, consistent with the objective of promoting a society free of drug abuse, our determination, within the framework of national, regional and international strategies, to counter the world drug problem and to take effective measures to emphasize and facilitate healthy, productive and fulfilling alternatives to the illicit consumption of drugs, which must not become accepted as a way of life;

¹³ *WHO, UNODC, UNAIDS Technical Guide for Countries to Set Targets for Universal Access to HIV Prevention, Treatment and Care for Injecting Drug Users* (World Health Organization, Geneva, 2009).

23. *Reaffirm also* our commitment to invest in and work with youth in a range of settings, including in families, schools, workplaces and communities, by raising public awareness and providing youth with information, skills and opportunities to choose healthy lifestyles, taking into account the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond, and working in coordination with the United Nations Programme on Youth of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat;

24. *Recognize that:*

(a) Sustainable crop control strategies targeting the illicit cultivation of crops used for the production of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances require international cooperation based on the principle of shared responsibility and an integrated and balanced approach, taking into account the rule of law and, where appropriate, security concerns, with full respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of States, the principle of non-intervention in the internal affairs of States and all human rights and fundamental freedoms;

(b) Such crop control strategies include, inter alia:

(i) Alternative development and, where appropriate, preventive alternative development programmes;

(ii) Eradication;

(iii) Law enforcement measures;

(c) Such crop control strategies should be in full conformity with article 14 of the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988,¹⁴ appropriately coordinated and phased in accordance with national policies in order to achieve the sustainable eradication of illicit crops, noting furthermore the need for Member States to undertake to increase long-term investment in such strategies, coordinated with other development measures, in order to contribute to the sustainability of social and economic development and poverty eradication in affected rural areas, taking due account of the traditional licit uses of crops where there is historical evidence of such use and giving due consideration to the protection of the environment;

25. *Reiterate* our commitment to promote and implement balanced policies and strategies on precursor control with a view to preventing the diversion of precursors used in the illicit manufacture of drugs while ensuring that the legitimate trade in and use of those precursors are not adversely affected;

26. *Emphasize* that continued and persistent national, regional and international efforts based on improved understanding of the problem through the examination of scientific evidence and the sharing of experiences, forensic data and information are essential to preventing the diversion of precursors and other substances under international control that are used in the illicit production and manufacturing of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, including amphetamine-type stimulants;

27. *Express deep concern* at the growing violence resulting from activities of criminal organizations involved in drug trafficking, and call for urgent measures to

¹⁴ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1582, No. 27627.

prevent those organizations from acquiring the means, in particular firearms and ammunition, to pursue their criminal activities;

28. *Stress* the urgent need to respond to the serious challenges posed by the increasing links between drug trafficking, corruption and other forms of organized crime, including trafficking in humans, trafficking in firearms, cybercrime and, in some cases, terrorism and money-laundering, including money-laundering in connection with the financing of terrorism, and to the significant challenges faced by law enforcement and judicial authorities in responding to the ever-changing means used by transnational criminal organizations to avoid detection and prosecution;

29. *Recognize* that, despite our past efforts, illicit crop cultivation and illicit drug production, manufacturing, distribution and trafficking have been increasingly consolidated into a criminally organized industry generating enormous amounts of money, laundered through the financial and non-financial sectors and, therefore, commit ourselves to strengthening the effective and comprehensive implementation of regimes for countering money-laundering and to improving international cooperation, including judicial cooperation, in order to prevent, detect and prosecute such crimes, dismantle criminal organizations and confiscate their illicit proceeds, and also recognize the need to train law enforcement and judicial personnel to utilize the tools available in the international framework, as well as the need to encourage the development of such training;

30. *Acknowledge* the entry into force of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto¹⁵ and the United Nations Convention against Corruption,¹⁶ recognize that those conventions and other relevant international instruments constitute valuable tools for confronting the world drug problem, and urge Member States that have not yet done so to consider taking measures to ratify or accede to those instruments;

31. *Acknowledge also* the importance of promoting, in order to enhance the effectiveness of drug control measures, an integrated approach in drug policies, including addressing comprehensively the impact and consequences of such measures and strengthening their coordination and the assessment of their implementation;

32. *Recognize* that transit States are faced with multifaceted challenges resulting from illicit drugs being trafficked through their territory, and reaffirm our willingness to cooperate with those States and to assist them in progressively enhancing their capacity to counter the world drug problem;

33. *Undertake* to promote bilateral, regional and international cooperation, including through intelligence-sharing and cross-border cooperation, aimed at countering the world drug problem more effectively, in particular by encouraging and supporting such cooperation by those States most directly affected by illicit crop cultivation and the illicit production, manufacture, transit, trafficking, distribution and abuse of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances;

34. *Call for* increased technical and financial assistance to Member States, in particular those most directly affected by the world drug problem, in order to ensure

¹⁵ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vols. 2225, 2237, 2241 and 2326, No. 39574.

¹⁶ *Ibid.*, vol. 2349, No. 42146.

that they have the capacity to prevent and respond to that threat in all its forms and manifestations;

35. *Commit ourselves* to increasing cooperation at the regional and international levels, taking due account of situations where States are significantly affected by the illicit cultivation of crops used for the production of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances and illicit trafficking in drugs and precursors, in order to counter the world drug problem and its impact on political stability, democratic institutions, security, the rule of law and sustainable development, including efforts to eradicate poverty;

36. *Decide* to establish 2019 as a target date for States to eliminate or reduce significantly and measurably:

- (a) The illicit cultivation of opium poppy, coca bush and cannabis plant;
- (b) The illicit demand for narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances; and drug-related health and social risks;
- (c) The illicit production, manufacture, marketing and distribution of, and trafficking in, psychotropic substances, including synthetic drugs;
- (d) The diversion of and illicit trafficking in precursors;
- (e) Money-laundering related to illicit drugs;

37. *Recognize* the need to increase investment in research and evaluation in order to properly implement and assess, based on evidence, effective policies and programmes for countering the world drug problem;

38. *Adopt* the Plan of Action, set out below, which constitutes an integral part of the present Political Declaration and complements the Political Declaration adopted by the General Assembly at its twentieth special session, the Action Plan on International Cooperation on the Eradication of Illicit Drug Crops and on Alternative Development and the Action Plan for the Implementation of the Declaration on the Guiding Principles of Drug Demand Reduction;

39. *Commit ourselves* to implementing effectively the present Political Declaration and its Plan of Action through resolute international cooperation, in collaboration with relevant regional and international organizations, with the full assistance of the international financial institutions and other relevant agencies and in cooperation with civil society, including non-governmental organizations, as well as the private and public sectors, and to reporting biennially to the Commission on Narcotic Drugs on the efforts to fully implement the Political Declaration and the Plan of Action, and also consider it necessary for the Commission to include on its agenda a separate item on follow-up to the Political Declaration and its Plan of Action;

40. *Decide* 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 present Political Declaration and its Plan of Action, recommend that the Economic and Social Council devote a high-level segment to a theme related to the world drug problem, and also recommend that the General Assembly hold a special session to address the world drug problem.