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## Seventy-fourth session

Item 110 of the preliminary list\*

### International drug control

## International cooperation against the world drug problem

### Report of the Secretary-General

#### *Summary*

The present report has been prepared pursuant to General Assembly resolution [73/192](#), in which the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to submit to it at its seventy-fourth session a report on the implementation of that resolution. The report provides an overview of the world drug situation and the implementation of the mandates relating to international drug control, taking into account the Ministerial Declaration on Strengthening Our Actions at the National, Regional and International Levels to Accelerate the Implementation of Our Joint Commitments to Address and Counter the World Drug Problem, adopted at the ministerial segment of the sixty-second session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, in March 2019. The report also provides information on action taken by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and its subsidiary bodies and on technical support provided by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, in close cooperation with other United Nations entities, to assist Member States in addressing and countering the world drug problem.

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\* [A/74/50](#).



## I. Introduction

1. The present report, prepared pursuant to General Assembly resolution [73/192](#), provides an overview of the current world drug situation and information on the work undertaken in assisting Member States towards advancing the implementation of the international drug control conventions, the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem, 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 and the outcome document of the thirtieth special session of the General Assembly, entitled “Our joint commitment to effectively addressing and countering the world drug problem”, in line with the commitment made by Member States in the Ministerial Declaration on Strengthening Our Actions at the National, Regional and International Levels to Accelerate the Implementation of Our Joint Commitments to Address and Counter the World Drug Problem, to focus beyond 2019 on the practical implementation of existing policy documents.
2. The report showcases action taken by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), in close cooperation and coordination with other entities of the United Nations system, as well as other relevant stakeholders, towards improving the normative, institutional and operational capacity of Member States at the national, regional and global levels, within the broader framework of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
3. Pursuant to the request in paragraph 111 of General Assembly resolution [73/192](#), this report includes a chapter on collaboration and coordination across the United Nations system in the global efforts to implement the recommendations contained in the outcome document of the thirtieth special session of the General Assembly.

## II. Extent of the world drug problem

4. According to the *World Drug Report 2018*, both the range of drugs and drug markets are continuing to expand and diversify. About 275 million people worldwide, roughly 5.6 per cent of the global population aged 15–64 years, used drugs at least once during 2016. Some 31 million people who use drugs suffer from drug use disorders. The highest prevalence rates of drug use are found among the youth population.
5. Opioids continued to cause the most harm, accounting for 76 per cent of deaths in which drug use disorders were implicated. People who inject drugs – some 10.6 million worldwide in 2016 – face the greatest health risks. More than half of them live with hepatitis C and one in eight lives with HIV.
6. While the headline figures for drug users have changed little in recent years, this stability masks ongoing changes in drug markets. The global area under coca cultivation doubled from 2013 to 2017 and the global area under opium poppy cultivation continued to be at a historically high level, despite the decline in 2018 (by 17 per cent compared with 2017) to about 345,900 hectares. Drugs such as heroin and cocaine that have been available for a long time increasingly coexist with new psychoactive substances, and there has been an increase in the non-medical use of prescription drugs. The use of substances of unclear origin supplied through illicit channels, sold as purported medicines but destined for non-medical use, is also on the increase. The range of substances and combinations available has never been wider.
7. The non-medical use of pharmaceutical opioids is of increasing concern for both law enforcement authorities and public health professionals in several parts of the world. Different pharmaceutical opioids are misused in different regions. In North America, illicitly sourced fentanyl, mixed with heroin or other drugs, is driving the unprecedented number of overdose deaths. In West and North Africa and the Near and

Middle East, the non-medical use of tramadol, a pharmaceutical opioid that is not under international control, is emerging as a concern.

8. East and South-East Asia and North America remain the main regions for methamphetamine trafficking worldwide. In North America, the availability of methamphetamine was reported to have increased between 2013 and 2016 and, in 2016, the drug was reported to be the second-greatest drug threat in the United States of America, after heroin. Based on qualitative assessments, increases in consumption and in manufacturing capacity and increases in the amounts seized point to a growing market for methamphetamine in East and South-East Asia and Oceania, where the use of crystalline methamphetamine in particular has become a key concern.

### **III. International cooperation against the world drug problem**

#### **A. Follow-up to the implementation of international commitments to address and counter the world drug problem, including follow-up to the thirtieth special session of the General Assembly: action taken by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and its subsidiary bodies**

##### **1. Action taken by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs**

9. During its sixty-second session, the Commission convened a two-day high-level ministerial segment to take stock of the implementation of the commitments made to jointly address and counter the world drug problem, in particular in the light of the 2019 target date. At the opening of the ministerial segment, Ministers and government representatives adopted by consensus the Ministerial Declaration on Strengthening Our Actions at the National, Regional and International Levels to Accelerate the Implementation of Our Joint Commitments to Address and Counter the World Drug Problem.

10. In that Ministerial Declaration, Member States, while acknowledging that tangible progress had been achieved over the previous decade, noted with concern the persistent and emerging challenges posed by the world drug problem and committed to accelerating, based on the principle of common and shared responsibility, the full implementation of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action, the Joint Ministerial Statement and the outcome document of the thirtieth special session of the General Assembly, with the aim of achieving all commitments, operational recommendations and aspirational goals set out therein.

11. Also in that Declaration, Member States reiterated the principal policymaking role of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and committed to continuing to support, through the Commission, broad, transparent and inclusive discussions, involving all relevant stakeholders. Member States also encouraged the contributions of all relevant United Nations entities, within their mandates, to the work of the Commission and underscored the importance of strengthening international and inter-agency cooperation to facilitate the work of the Commission and to enhance coherence within the United Nations system.

12. Preceding the ministerial segment, the Commission on Narcotic Drugs continued the intensive follow-up process devoted to the practical implementation of the recommendations contained in the seven thematic chapters of the outcome document of the thirtieth special session of the General Assembly. Thematic discussions continued in the second half of 2018 (following the discussions in 2016 and 2017) and offered opportunities for all relevant stakeholders, including

United Nations entities<sup>1</sup> and specialized agencies, as well as international, regional and non-governmental organizations, to share experiences, good practices and lessons learned in the practical implementation of the recommendations. Stakeholders participated in person or by videoconference or sent video messages.

13. At its sixty-second session, on the recommendation of the World Health Organization (WHO) Expert Committee on Drug Dependence, the Commission decided to include parafluorobutyrylfentanyl, orthofluorofentanyl, methoxyacetylfentanyl and cyclopropylfentanyl in Schedule I of the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961 as amended by the 1972 Protocol. The Commission also included ADB-FUBINACA, FUB-AMB (MMB-FUBINACA, AMB-FUBINACA), CUMYL-4CN-BINACA, ADB-CHMINACA (MAB-CHMINACA) and *N*-ethylnorpentylone (ephylone) in Schedule II of the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971. The Commission further decided to include “3,4-MDP-2-P methyl glycidate” (“PMK glycidate”) (including all stereoisomers), 3,4-MDP-2-P methyl glycidic acid “PMK glycidic acid” (including all stereoisomers) and *alpha*-phenylacetoacetamide (APAA) (including its optical isomers) in Table I of the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988. On the recommendation of the International Narcotics Control Board, the Commission decided not to include hydriodic acid in the tables of the 1988 Convention.

14. Also at its sixty-second session, the Commission decided to postpone the voting on the recommendations of WHO regarding the critical review of cannabis and cannabis-related substances, which were transmitted to the Secretary-General after the three-month period established pursuant to Commission resolution 2 (S-VII), to provide Member States with more time to consider the recommendations.

15. At the same session, the Commission adopted the following resolutions: 62/1, entitled “Strengthening international cooperation and comprehensive regulatory and institutional frameworks for the control of precursors used in the illicit manufacture of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances”; 62/2, entitled “Enhancing detection and identification capacity for synthetic drugs for non-medical use by increasing international collaboration”; 62/3, entitled “Promoting alternative development as a development-oriented drug control strategy”; 62/4, entitled “Advancing effective and innovative approaches, through national, regional, and international action, to address the multifaceted challenges posed by the non-medical use of synthetic drugs, particularly synthetic opioids”; 62/5, entitled “Enhancing the capacity of Member States to adequately estimate and assess the need for internationally controlled substances for medical and scientific purposes”; 62/6, entitled “Promoting measures to prevent transmission of HIV attributable to drug use among women and for women who are exposed to risk factors associated with drug use, including by improving access to post-exposure prophylaxis”; 62/7, entitled “Promoting measures to prevent and treat viral hepatitis C attributed to drug use”; and 62/8, entitled “Supporting the International Narcotics Control Board in fulfilling its treaty-mandated functions in cooperation with Member States and in collaboration with the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and the World Health Organization”.

## 2. Action taken by the subsidiary bodies

16. Four meetings of the subsidiary bodies of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs were held in 2018: (a) the Twenty-eighth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Africa, held in Dar es Salaam, United Republic of Tanzania, from 17 to 21 September 2018; (b) the Forty-second Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Asia and the Pacific, held in Bangkok from 2 to 5 October 2018; (c) the Twenty-eighth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law

<sup>1</sup> Including the World Health Organization (WHO), the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the International Narcotics Control Board and the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs of the Secretariat.

Enforcement Agencies, Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Santiago from 22 to 26 October 2018; and (d) the fifty-third session of the Subcommission on Illicit Drug Traffic and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East, held in Baku from 19 to 23 November 2018.

17. The subsidiary bodies addressed priority issues in their regions and discussed the regional implementation of the recommendations contained in the outcome document of the thirtieth special session of the General Assembly, including through workshops on cross-cutting topics, such as alternatives to imprisonment for drug-related offences, the role of the Internet in drug trafficking and awareness-raising on drug-related issues in educational settings.

## **B. Collaboration and coordination across the United Nations system**

18. In the outcome document of the thirtieth special session of the General Assembly, Member States reiterated the principal role of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs as the United Nations policymaking body with prime responsibility for drug-related matters, and the role of UNODC as the leading entity in the United Nations system for addressing the world drug problem. They encouraged the Commission and UNODC to further increase cooperation and collaboration with all relevant United Nations entities and international financial institutions, within their respective mandates. In the Ministerial Declaration on Strengthening Our Actions at the National, Regional and International Levels to Accelerate the Implementation of Our Joint Commitments to Address and Counter the World Drug Problem, Member States reaffirmed the leading roles of the Commission and UNODC and encouraged further contributions of relevant United Nations entities, international financial institutions and relevant regional and international organizations, within their respective mandates, to the work of the Commission and the efforts of Member States to address and counter the world drug problem.

19. As mentioned above, the Commission on Narcotic Drugs continued its series of interactive, inclusive thematic sessions focused on policy implementation and facilitated remote participation to allow all interested stakeholders to contribute. At the sixty-second session of the Commission, UNODC submitted for consideration by the Commission a conference room paper on inter-agency cooperation and coordination of efforts in addressing and countering the world drug problem (E/CN.7/2019/CRP.5).

20. In April 2017, UNODC was tasked by the Secretary-General with leading coordination among relevant United Nations entities. Through a network of focal points, UNODC, in its role as secretariat to the Commission, maintained a close dialogue with the relevant United Nations entities and provided regular updates on progress made in the follow-up to the outcome document of the thirtieth special session of the General Assembly, led by the Commission. A number of system-wide activities have been initiated since April 2017, including the development of a matrix of action at headquarters and in the field and a joint calendar of events. Both working tools have been updated regularly to ensure a comprehensive overview of joint and individual activities undertaken in support of the practical implementation of the recommendations contained in the outcome document. In addition, UNODC has worked closely with United Nations entities on unified United Nations-wide messaging and on ways of integrating ongoing efforts into a system-wide strategy across the three pillars.

21. In November 2018, the Chief Executives Board endorsed the United Nations common system position supporting the implementation of the international drug control policy through effective inter-agency collaboration, in which members of the United Nations system committed to supporting each other's activities to deliver truly balanced, comprehensive, integrated, evidence-based, human rights-based, development-oriented and sustainable support to Member States in implementing joint

commitments to address the world drug problem, including the recommendations contained in the outcome document.

22. With a view to ensuring the implementation of the United Nations common system position and, in particular, coordinated data collection to promote scientific, evidence-based implementation of international commitments, the United Nations system coordination task team, led by UNODC, developed a research paper containing a summary of knowledge acquired and produced by the United Nations system on drug-related matters, which was submitted by the Secretary-General for consideration by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs at its sixty-second session. The conference room paper contains a collection of successful experiences in the law enforcement, prevention, health care, human rights and development fields over the last 10 years (E/CN.7/2019/CRP.10).

23. Information on programmatic work undertaken by United Nations entities relating to specific thematic areas is provided below.<sup>2</sup>

#### **IV. Support for Member States in thematic areas**

24. The Department of Global Communications of the Secretariat, including through its global network of United Nations information centres, has supported the overall implementation of policy commitments, including through regular news coverage across its multilingual, multimedia news platforms, highlighting issues, trends and developments pertaining to the work of the United Nations in addressing and countering the world drug problem, including on International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking. In addition, the Department provides strategic communications advice, media and public outreach support to Vienna-based United Nations entities, including the International Narcotics Control Board and UNODC.

##### **A. Demand reduction and related measures, including prevention and treatment, as well as other health-related issues**

25. UNODC continued the dissemination of the *International Standards on Drug Use Prevention* and the successful piloting of evidence-based prevention programmes for families and schools in 12 countries, as well as the advocacy campaign for evidence-based prevention, “Listen first”.

26. The Office continued to raise awareness among young people through the Youth Initiative and reached 14,700 young people in 45 countries directly and 15,700 indirectly, through social networks and specific activities. UNODC also provided young people with the opportunity to share their views with international policymakers through the Youth Forum at the sixty-second session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs.

27. UNODC and WHO continued to support the informal scientific network. During the sixty-second session of the Commission, a representative of the network delivered a statement in the plenary on the impact of inequality on the prevalence and tackling of drug use disorders. Moreover, UNODC promoted a health-centred approach to drug prevention, treatment, care and rehabilitation through a series of seminars involving 290 policymakers from 22 countries.

28. Also during the sixty-second session of the Commission, UNODC launched a discussion paper entitled “Treatment of stimulant use disorders: current practices and promising perspectives”, which had been developed on the basis of a technical consultation in 2018.

<sup>2</sup> Additional information on activities undertaken by United Nations entities in the implementation of the recommendations contained in the outcome document of the thirtieth special session of the General Assembly can be found on the UNODC website ([www.unodc.org/postungass2016/en/implementation.html](http://www.unodc.org/postungass2016/en/implementation.html)).

29. Through their joint global programme, UNODC and WHO continued to expand and improve drug treatment, care (including overdose prevention) and rehabilitation services, including special services for children, women and pregnant women, in 27 countries, reaching an estimated 34,000 patients. A new family-therapy model for adolescents, specifically tailored to the needs of low- and middle-income countries, was developed with the involvement of leading researchers. It was piloted in South-East Asia, South Asia and Central Asia.

30. The UNODC quality-assurance tools developed and piloted in Afghanistan are being merged with other existing tools, particularly those developed by the Cooperation Programme between Latin America and the European Union on Drug Policies, with a view to producing a globally relevant tool.

31. UNODC, WHO and the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) continued to provide advice on overall global policies and strategies related to the global response to HIV/AIDS among people who use drugs. UNODC continued the implementation of the UNAIDS 2016–2021 Strategy towards ending the AIDS epidemic as a public health threat by 2030 through the promotion of human rights, public health, justice and equality of access to HIV services for people who use drugs and people in prisons.

32. UNODC assisted in developing, adopting and implementing strategies and programmes on HIV/AIDS related to drug use, particularly for people who inject drugs, in line with the *WHO/UNODC/UNAIDS Technical Guide for Countries to Set Targets for Universal Access to HIV Prevention, Treatment and Care for Injecting Drug Users* in 24 countries, and on HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment, care and support policies and programmes in the criminal justice system in 34 countries.

33. The Office disseminated normative guidance on HIV prevention, treatment and care among women who use drugs and provided training on gender mainstreaming of HIV services, including monitoring and evaluation, to over 1,000 HIV service providers in 15 countries.

34. UNODC developed a training package to facilitate the rolling out of the implementation guide for the provision of HIV prevention, treatment and care services for people who inject drugs; finalized an implementation guide on HIV prevention, treatment, care and support for people who use stimulant drugs; developed a training module on gender mainstreaming monitoring and evaluation of HIV services for women who use drugs; and prepared a technical guide on prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV in prisons, in consultation with experts nominated by Member States and jointly with WHO, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) and UNAIDS.

35. UNODC strengthened partnerships among the law enforcement and health sectors and civil society and built the capacity of over 2,100 law enforcement officers, 200 members of civil society and community-based organizations, 120 parliamentarians and representatives of the health, education and social sectors in eight countries.

36. UNODC advocated for the alignment of prison health sector plans with a comprehensive package of HIV prevention, treatment and care services and helped build the capacity of senior prison officials with regard to HIV, viral hepatitis, sexually transmitted infections and tuberculosis prevention, treatment and care. Together with WHO, UNICEF and UNFPA, UNODC supported the delivery of HIV prevention and related health services in prisons in 13 countries.

## **B. Ensuring the availability of and access to controlled substances exclusively for medical and scientific purposes, while preventing their diversion**

37. To ensure the availability of and access to controlled substances for medical and scientific purposes while preventing their diversion, UNODC continued to work closely with WHO and the Union for International Cancer Control. This work has also involved partnerships with the International Narcotics Control Board, the International Atomic Energy Agency and civil society partners such as the International Association for Hospice and Palliative Care, Human Rights Watch and Indiana University (United States).

38. Under the UNODC, WHO and Union for International Cancer Control joint global programme on access to controlled drugs for medical purposes while preventing diversion and abuse, technical guidance continued to be provided in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Nigeria, Panama and Timor-Leste. Work focused on three areas: (a) analysis of legislation and development of comprehensive national policies and regulations; (b) building the capacity of the existing and new health-care workforce to screen, assess and care for persons living in pain; and (c) strengthening the regulatory system with a supply chain that is responsive to the needs of patients.

39. Two regional meetings were held on increasing access to and the availability of controlled medicines to develop priority focus at the national level on the medicines required to appropriately manage pain in patients. In December 2018, UNODC hosted a regional meeting in Uzbekistan, with participants from Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. In March 2019, a regional meeting was held in Panama with representatives from Belize, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Panama.

40. UNODC continued to be actively involved in the work of the United Nations Inter-Agency Task Force on the Prevention and Control of Non-Communicable Diseases. Issues related to pain management for cancer patients, particularly patients with cervical cancer, were discussed during conferences and regular meetings. During the third high-level meeting on non-communicable diseases, held in September 2018, UNODC co-organized a side event on the importance of accessing quality health care, including access to controlled medicines for pain management. During the sixty-second session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, UNODC co-organized a special event entitled “Increasing access to controlled medicines: addressing the global disparity in pain relief”.

## **C. Supply reduction and related measures; effective law enforcement; responses to drug-related crime, countering money-laundering and promoting judicial cooperation**

### **1. Prevention of drug-related crime**

41. To promote effective crime prevention, UNODC continued to implement “Line Up, Live Up”, an evidence-informed life-skills training programme through which sports coaches, teachers and other stakeholders working with at-risk youth in sports settings teach valuable life skills that increase resilience to violence, crime and drug use. To date, a total of 604 sports coaches have been trained across nine countries; they, in turn, have trained approximately 4,800 young people using the “Line Up, Live Up” methodology.

42. In addition, UNODC provided grants to non-governmental organizations working on youth crime prevention through sports in Brazil, Kyrgyzstan and South Africa, reaching a total of 4,907 direct beneficiaries. To explore the potential of using sports for the prevention of violent extremism, UNODC organized an expert meeting in December 2018, which resulted in a set of recommendations.



43. The Office also advised Member States on the development and implementation of crime prevention strategies. At the national level, UNODC is supporting the Dominican Republic in the development of a national policy on criminality. At the local level, UNODC supported city governments in Colombia and Mexico in conducting participatory safety audits to better understand crime trends at the micro level, including in relation to drug trafficking, and to design evidence-based, people-centred policies on crime and drug use prevention.

44. UNDP, WHO, UNAIDS, OHCHR, the International Centre on Human Rights and Drug Policy and the University of Essex (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland) jointly developed a set of international standards in the form of international guidelines on human rights and drug policy, which was launched at the sixty-second session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs. It is expected that an extended version of the guidelines will be finalized in late 2019.

## **2. Countering illicit traffic in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances**

45. UNODC, through its Global Programme on Building Effective Networks against Transnational Organized Crime, continued to support regional and interregional cooperation in the framework of the “networking the networks” initiative, thereby enhancing networking between existing regional and international law enforcement cooperation organizations and promoting the exchange of criminal intelligence and the coordination of multilateral operations targeting drug-related organized crime and related illicit financial flows. Following the meeting hosted by the Central Asian Regional Information and Coordination Centre in Almaty, Kazakhstan, in November 2018, work started on developing informal operating procedures. Saudi Arabia hosted a meeting under the Law Enforcement Training Network initiative in November 2018.

46. The UNODC Global Programme for Strengthening the Capacities of Member States to Prevent and Combat Organized and Serious Crime continued to act as a global facilitator for international cooperation in criminal matters, including mutual legal assistance and extradition in drug trafficking cases. In 2018, through the West African Central Authorities and Prosecutors against Organized Crime, and as part of the project on strengthening criminal investigation and criminal justice cooperation along the cocaine route in Latin America, the Caribbean and West Africa and the UNODC project on the response to drugs and related organized crime in Nigeria, UNODC provided training to criminal justice practitioners in Ghana, Liberia and Nigeria in the investigation and prosecution of transnational drug trafficking cases.

47. As part of the Global Programme for Strengthening the Capacities of Member States to Prevent and Combat Organized and Serious Crime, activities were conducted in consultation with countries of Central Asia and the Southern Caucasus to establish new operational structures and working procedures for the Network of Prosecutors and Central Authorities from Source, Transit and Destination Countries in response to Transnational Organized Crime in Central Asia and the Southern Caucasus. Eighteen ongoing cases of extradition and mutual legal assistance were considered and 90 per cent of them were resolved.

48. Through the UNODC-World Customs Organization (WCO) Container Control Programme, UNODC continued to support Member States in establishing port control units and air cargo control units at seaports, dry ports, land borders, railways and airports. Training was provided to staff on profiling and inspecting cargo containers suspected of containing illicit goods. To date, over 700 tons of various drugs have been seized by Container Control Programme operations.

49. UNODC also continued implementation of the UNODC-WCO Airport Communication Project to strengthen law enforcement capacities at international airports. In 2018, about 18 tons of drugs and about 7 tons of other smuggled goods were seized. In addition, victims of human trafficking and a person wanted for terrorism and drug trafficking were identified, and a network for the smuggling of migrants into Europe was dismantled.

50. Under its Global Maritime Crime Programme, UNODC continued to assist Member States to strengthen their capacity to combat maritime crime and the smuggling of illicit substances on the high seas. The UNODC Triangular Initiative continued to support operational cooperation between the Governments of Afghanistan, Iran (Islamic Republic of) and Pakistan.

51. In several regions, UNODC implements a border liaison offices programme to promote cross-border cooperation through the regular exchange of information and practical cooperation.

52. Legislative support on drug control was provided to Cambodia, Côte d'Ivoire, the Dominican Republic, the Gambia, Guinea, Mozambique and Senegal through the relevant UNODC regional offices. Assistance was also provided to Fiji on drafting a drug control strategy. UNODC continued to work on the updating of the Drug Control Repository, an information management portal on the implementation of the international drug control treaties.

53. UNODC, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations of the Secretariat, the United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel (UNOWAS), the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs of the Secretariat and the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) continued activities in support of the implementation of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) Action Plan to Address Illicit Drug Trafficking, Organized Crime and Drug Abuse in West Africa (2016–2020) through the Presidential Advisory Committee on the Elimination of Drug Abuse in Nigeria, inaugurated in December 2018, and the twelfth Ministerial Meeting of the Inter-Ministerial Drug Coordinating Committee of ECOWAS member States and Mauritania, held in Abuja in April 2019.

54. The United Nations Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia contributed to the efforts of Central Asian States through monitoring the overall drug situation in the region and undertaking regular exchanges on related strategies and activities with UNODC, the Central Asian Regional Information and Coordination Centre, the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, the Central Asia Drug Action Programme and other relevant partners. The United Nations Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia also liaised with the mini-Dublin Group to support the exchange of information.

55. In the Sahel region, the UNODC Regional Office for West and Central Africa, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs, the Danish Demining Group and the Group of Five for the Sahel continued activities to strengthen national and regional capacities and cooperation to combat drug trafficking and transnational organized crime, implemented in partnership with the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali, UNOWAS and the Group of Five for the Sahel.

### **3. Addressing links with other forms of organized crime, including money-laundering, corruption and other criminal activities**

56. In cooperation with the Colombian Tax and Customs Authority, a booklet entitled “How can we prevent corruption? A proposal to identify possible typologies that can lead to corruption acts” was developed, identifying typologies and modalities of corruption and a guide to using the reporting channels available to public servants of the Authority and society.

57. UNODC and the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) continued, through their joint programme “Evidence-based policies for improved community safety in Latin American and African cities”, to promote stronger national cooperation in undertaking local safety audits to identify and prevent urban crime in cities in Colombia, Mexico and South Africa.

58. Under the project on strengthening criminal investigation and criminal justice cooperation along the cocaine route in Latin America, the Caribbean and West Africa, an international workshop was held in February 2019 on drug production and illicit

laboratory identification and dismantling. The participants were law enforcement officers from Argentina, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Ghana and Nigeria. In addition, law enforcement agencies from Argentina, Colombia and Peru received technical assistance on the financial disruption of criminal networks, resulting in the establishment of a network of experts in that field.

59. In Afghanistan, UNODC implemented numerous activities to promote and strengthen regional law enforcement cooperation, including capacity-building activities in precursor control, countering narcotics and forensics. In addition, two region-wide operations were undertaken in 2018 to identify and intercept synthetic drugs, new psychotropic substances, precursors and non-controlled chemicals. Further assistance was provided in the form of information technology and detection equipment, as well as drug- and precursor-testing kits.

60. Through the Global Firearms Programme, UNODC continued to provide support to Member States to effectively address illicit firearms as a critical link in anti-drug trafficking responses, inter alia, through the establishment of a community of practitioners. The support was aimed at promoting parallel investigations and strengthening efforts to successfully prosecute those involved in the supply of illicit firearms to drug traffickers.

61. UNODC provided capacity-building to over 70 Member States to counter online criminality and associated money-laundering and terrorist financing. With the majority of transnational organized drug criminality facilitated by electronic evidence and illicit financial flows, the work of UNODC to counter these key enablers helps Member States to reduce risks and increase international cooperation.

## **D. Cross-cutting issues: drugs and human rights, youth, children, women and communities**

### **1. Drugs and human rights, youth, women, children, vulnerable members of society and communities**

62. To promote gender-sensitive criminal justice responses, UNODC launched a multi-year initiative under its Global Programme on Addressing Prison Challenges, supported by the Thailand Institute of Justice, to promote women's access to gender-sensitive non-custodial measures and social reintegration services after release from prison. UNODC conducted research in three countries and started developing a technical tool for awareness-raising among and capacity-building of criminal justice officials on non-custodial measures for women in conflict with the law and the gender-sensitive application of criminal laws, policies and procedures, in line with the United Nations Rules for the Treatment of Women Prisoners and Non-custodial Measures for Women Offenders (the Bangkok Rules) and related international standards.

63. UNODC promoted the Bangkok Rules and related United Nations standards and norms at an international conference on women's incarceration held in Bogotá in September 2018. The conference was organized by Penal Reform International and the Cyrus R. Vance Centre for International Justice and attended by over 40 experts from international organizations, civil society and academia.

64. In December 2018, UNODC, together with UNICEF, organized an international conference on the theme "Prevention of crimes related to illegal drug and psychoactive substance trafficking committed by children and improvement of national legislation" in Minsk at the request of the Supreme Court. At the conference, the need for national legislation and policy to be in conformity with the Convention on the Rights of the Child and international human rights law was highlighted.

**2. Proportionate and effective policies and responses, as well as legal guarantees and safeguards pertaining to criminal justice proceedings and the justice sector**

65. UNODC undertook a stocktaking study focusing on existing alternatives to imprisonment in eight countries in the Middle East and North Africa and in Asia. It was concluded, inter alia, that several legal and practical obstacles existed to using existing non-custodial measures effectively in appropriate cases of drug-related offences.

66. UNODC started rolling out training based on the UNODC/WHO publication *Treatment and Care for People with Drug Use Disorders in Contact with the Criminal Justice System: Alternatives to Conviction or Punishment*. In December 2018, UNODC brought together over 40 justice and health practitioners from Kenya to discuss non-custodial options to provide treatment and care at different stages of the criminal justice process. Participants included prosecutors, judges, probation officers, legal aid providers, representatives from the ministries of health and labor, drug use disorder treatment experts, county governments and civil society organizations.

**E. Cross-cutting issues in addressing and countering the world drug problem: evolving reality, trends and existing circumstances, emerging and persistent challenges and threats, including new psychoactive substances, in conformity with the three international drug control conventions and other relevant international instruments**

**1. Addressing new psychoactive substances, amphetamine-type stimulants, including methamphetamine, the diversion of precursors and pre-precursors and the non-medical use and misuse of pharmaceuticals containing narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances**

67. At the fifth UNODC-WHO expert consultation on new psychoactive substances, held on 24 and 25 September 2018, focus was placed on the emergence of fentanyl analogues, which have been associated with a rising number of overdose events, including fatal intoxications. The intergovernmental expert group meeting on international challenges posed by the non-medical use of synthetic opioids, organized by UNODC together with INCB and WHO in December 2018, enabled Member States to share experiences and identify core elements and innovative approaches for an international response. At the second UNODC regional meeting on new psychoactive substances in the western hemisphere, also held in 2018, participants called for national early warning mechanisms to be strengthened and regional information-sharing to be improved. Information on the prioritization of the most harmful, prevalent and persistent new psychoactive substances was provided to WHO for the review of substances at the fortieth meeting of its Expert Committee on Drug Dependence.

68. The global Synthetics Monitoring: Analyses, Reporting and Trends (SMART) programme continues to support existing research, collection and scientific analysis of data related to synthetic drugs, including amphetamine-type stimulants and new psychoactive substances. The UNODC early warning advisory on new psychoactive substances continues to provide the basis for effective evidence-based policy responses and collaboration with national, regional and international partners, including the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA), WCO and WHO and its Expert Committee on Drug Dependence.

69. UNODC continued its efforts to enhance the capacity and effectiveness of national laboratories and promote collaboration for the detection and identification of drugs, including new psychoactive substances, through, inter alia, the development of guidelines to assist law enforcement and forensic personnel in the use of modern handheld Raman devices for the detection of controlled substances and precursors in the field; the provision of such devices to 17 countries; the use of UNODC reference standards; assistance activities including international collaborative exercises; and a proficiency test for national laboratories in which 284 laboratories from 86 Member

States participated in 2018. Scientific support was also provided by UNODC to law enforcement agencies in Central and South America, the Caribbean, Central Asia and West Africa.

70. In order to collect information on the most harmful, prevalent and persistent new psychoactive substances for international action, UNODC launched the toxicology module of its early warning advisory, utilizing data from post-mortem, clinical and other toxicology case work to identify recent developments in health threats posed by new psychoactive substances. Information from 2018 was published in the first of its biannual threat reports on current new psychoactive substances.

71. In March 2019, UNODC launched the United Nations Toolkit on Synthetic Drugs, a joint effort of UNODC, WHO and the International Narcotics Control Board, offering information on key challenges presented by synthetic drugs, including in relation to prevention, treatment and rehabilitation, access to medicine, regulation, detection and interdiction. The resources are offered in an interactive way and include guidelines, technical information, training, e-learning courses and data.

## **2. Evolving reality, trends and existing circumstances, emerging and persistent challenges and threats**

72. In the *World Drug Report 2018*, UNODC highlighted emerging and persistent trends in the world drug problem in terms of cultivation, production, trafficking, consumption and health consequences in different regions and globally.

73. UNODC continued assisting Member States in the monitoring of illicit cultivation and production of drugs. In 2018, technical support was provided to Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Colombia and Peru for monitoring coca bush cultivation, to Afghanistan, Mexico and Myanmar for monitoring opium poppy cultivation and to Nigeria for monitoring cannabis plant cultivation.

74. In the framework of the Afghan Opiates Trade Project, UNODC provided technical assistance to the Government of Pakistan through face-to-face training on research methodology and, in collaboration with the Paris Pact initiative, updated the Drug Monitoring Platform. As part of the regional programme for Central Asia, UNODC provided training in the region on the annual report questionnaire.

75. UNODC assisted the Government of Nigeria in finalizing and publishing the first scientific national survey on drug use. It also provided support for the design and implementation of a new national drug use survey in Pakistan and a drug use survey among young people in Afghanistan and neighbouring countries.

76. UNODC, in collaboration with WHO and with the involvement of many partners, including UNAIDS, EMCDDA, the African Union and the Organization of American States, continued to collaborate within the Inter-Agency Technical Working Group on Drug Epidemiology to review international data collection and standards in drug epidemiology and to develop common standards and synergies, including those for the monitoring of target 3.5 of the Sustainable Development Goals.

77. As requested by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs in its resolution 60/1 and by Member States in the Ministerial Declaration on Strengthening Our Actions at the National, Regional and International Levels to Accelerate the Implementation of Our Joint Commitments to Address and Counter the World Drug Problem, UNODC continued to prepare a strengthened and streamlined annual report questionnaire on the basis of the recommendations made at the expert consultations held in early 2018, with a view to identifying specific ways to strengthen national and international data-collection tools.

## **F. Strengthening international cooperation based on the principle of common and shared responsibility**

78. In line with the commitments made in the Ministerial Declaration on Strengthening Our Actions at the National, Regional and International Levels to Accelerate the Implementation of Our Joint Commitments to Address and Counter the World Drug Problem to focus on the practical implementation of existing commitments, UNODC has developed implementation workshops to raise awareness of existing policy commitments, including the provisions of the outcome document of the thirtieth special session of the General Assembly, thereby supporting the identification of technical assistance needs as well as facilitating self-assessment of progress made in national implementation. Those updated workshops build upon the experiences gained with the national workshops on the implementation of the outcome document of the thirtieth special session of the General Assembly, held from May 2017 to December 2018 in Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Fiji, Trinidad and Tobago and Pakistan. In addition to the Commission website dedicated to follow-up to the thirtieth special session ([www.ungass2016.org](http://www.ungass2016.org)), UNODC continued to update the good practice portal ([www.postungass2016.org](http://www.postungass2016.org)) to ensure the retention and sharing of the valuable information gathered through the follow-up process and the thematic sessions of the Commission.

79. In contributing to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, in 2019, the Commission on Narcotic Drugs submitted its annual substantive contribution, on the theme “Empowering people and ensuring inclusiveness and equality”, for consideration by the high-level political forum on sustainable development.<sup>3</sup>

80. The Commission further continued efforts to enhance horizontal cooperation with other functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council, including the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, the Commission on the Status of Women, the Statistical Commission and the Commission on Science and Technology for Development. In March 2019, prior to its sixty-second session, the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, together with the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, participated in a high-level interactive dialogue on the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action during the sixty-third session of the Commission on the Status of Women.

81. Immediately preceding the high-level political forum on sustainable development held in July 2018, a round table on the theme “Transformation towards sustainable and resilient societies” was held, during which Chairs and members of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, the Statistical Commission, the Commission on Science and Technology for Development, the Commission on the Status of Women and the United Nations Forum on Forests discussed how their commissions, within their specific mandates and fields of expertise, could jointly contribute to the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.

## **G. Alternative development; regional, interregional and international cooperation on development-oriented balanced drug control policy; addressing socioeconomic issues**

### **1. Socioeconomic issues and alternative development**

82. UNODC continued research on the links between illicit cultivation and sustainable development, peace and stability, using relevant indicators, in line with the Sustainable Development Goals. Socioeconomic surveys conducted in different countries where illicit crop cultivation occurs show that the availability of

<sup>3</sup> Contributions by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice relating to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development are available from [www.unodc.org/unodc/en/commissions/commissions-2030.html](http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/commissions/commissions-2030.html).

infrastructure and services are important determinants of illicit crop cultivation and that factors such as income inequality, food insecurity, weak governance and insecurity are both causes and consequences of illicit cultivation. An in-depth study on the number of households involved in coca bush and opium poppy cultivation, as well as on the beneficiaries of alternative development interventions, is currently being carried out.

83. Throughout its field-based interventions in Afghanistan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Colombia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Myanmar and Peru, UNODC has strengthened its outreach to the private sector, thereby identifying markets to provide livelihood opportunities for small farmer households with a view to reducing dependence on illicit crop cultivation. This is reinforced by the UNODC model promoting proper sequencing of eradication and development interventions, as defined in the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem, ensuring the establishment of a conducive investment environment and the strengthening of farmer cooperatives.

84. Environmental considerations are a fundamental element of the Office's alternative development programmes, with sustainable use and management of forests and forest products being an integral part of the discussions with communities and considered in programme design and implementation.

## **2. Technical and financial cooperation for comprehensive and balanced development-oriented drug policies and viable economic alternatives**

85. The Office's alternative development interventions continue to be oriented towards addressing the social and economic factors driving illicit cultivation of opium poppy, coca bush and cannabis. Field-based programmes are designed and implemented based on detailed assessments of household socioeconomic level and market potential. Sustainable funding and cooperation at all levels are critical to meeting community and donor expectations and related requirements.

86. Additional financial support to complement private sector in-kind technical assistance was provided for the UNODC country project for Myanmar, resulting in increased market access for coffee produced as part of alternative development programmes. Longer-term funding is required to ensure sustainable policy development and field-based interventions.

87. To increase and demonstrate the effectiveness of interventions, UNODC has conducted baseline surveys and needs assessments for three UNODC and UNDP alternative development projects in Afghanistan, allowing for a statistically valid impact assessment of the projects.

# **V. Governance and financial situation of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime**

## **1. Information on the work of the standing open-ended intergovernmental working group on improving the governance and financial situation of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime**

88. The standing open-ended intergovernmental working group on improving the governance and financial situation of UNODC continued to play an important role as a forum for discussions in areas including strategic and budgetary matters, evaluation, oversight, programme development and implementation, the financial situation of the Office and strengthening human resources management, and mainstreaming a gender perspective into the practices, policies and programmes of UNODC.

## **2. Information on strategic planning**

89. In line with the United Nations system management reform, UNODC has been implementing the Secretariat-wide initiative to streamline its programming and budgeting processes. As of 2020, the new programme plan and performance document will present the work of the organization over a three-year period, featuring results for 2018 and expected results for 2020, in line with lessons learned and recommendations of past evaluations. In addition, UNODC is working to strengthen administrative systems to allow for a more effective and pragmatic delivery of technical cooperation and normative support services.

90. UNODC continued to promote results-based management to showcase links between its work and the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. In 2018, UNODC launched a new handbook on results-based management to support a new generation of programmes that meet Member States' development priorities, in line with the United Nations development system reform.

## **3. Information on integrated programming**

91. UNODC is implementing the ongoing reform of the United Nations development system that encourages strong field-based partnerships and joint programmes with other United Nations entities. UNODC expanded its technical assistance delivery under integrated global, regional and country programmes. At the time of reporting, 17 country and regional programmes were being implemented, of which many were in their second programme cycle, covering the period up to 2021. The scope of several global programmes managed centrally in Vienna was expanded and new field-based components were developed and implemented, together with UNODC field offices. In 2018, one new regional programme became operational in South Asia, and two new global programmes, on maritime crime and on criminal justice responses to violence against women, were launched.

## **4. Information on evaluation**

92. United Nations reforms and the complexity of countering drugs, crime and terrorism increase the demand for evaluation to inform policy dialogue and decision-making. UNODC responds by conducting independent evaluations at a strategic level. Programmes evaluated include global research programmes, law enforcement assistance in Central Asia, the Integrative Internal Security Governance mechanism in the western Balkans, the regional programme for South-East Asia and alternative development in Colombia.

93. Moreover, UNODC invests in innovative information technology systems, such as Unite Evaluation, to fulfil the demand for aggregate evaluation results with regard to the Sustainable Development Goals and fosters partnerships and invests in evaluation capacity development, in line with United Nations Evaluation Group guidance.

## **5. Information on fundraising and private sector cooperation initiatives**

94. Dialogue with several donors has evolved to more structured policy discussions at the capital level. This approach has resulted in increasing the number of national stakeholders interested in UNODC mandate areas and reflects continued strong support. Approximately \$300 million was committed in 2018.

95. UNODC is enhancing its outreach to the private sector with the objective of forging mutually beneficial partnerships by targeting umbrella organizations of chambers of commerce and industry and professional associations.

## **6. Information on the financial situation of UNODC**

96. UNODC is actively engaged in the United Nations reform streams, including the United Nations development system reform and management reform.



97. Despite efforts to increase fundraising and partnership efforts, the financial situation of UNODC remains vulnerable. The decline in unearmarked funds persists, with general-purpose income predicted to reach 1.0 per cent of total income in the biennium 2018–2019. The low levels of unearmarked or soft-earmarked funding are a key challenge to the effective implementation of the mandates and programmes of UNODC and put a strain on its management, coordination and normative functions. UNODC continues to count on the support of Member States to ensure predictable funding for activities under the general-purpose funds.

98. In the biennium 2018–2019, the programme delivery of UNODC is expected to grow from \$450.4 million in the biennium 2016–2017 to \$648.9 million, representing a 44.1 per cent increase. The growth in programme delivery relates mainly to the expansion of programmes on alternative livelihoods in Colombia; the implementation of the Doha Declaration on Integrating Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice into the Wider United Nations Agenda to Address Social and Economic Challenges and to Promote the Rule of Law at the National and International Levels, and Public Participation; alternative development in Afghanistan; and counter-terrorism efforts in Pakistan.

## VI. Concluding observations

99. In the Ministerial Declaration on Strengthening Our Actions at the National, Regional and International Levels to Accelerate the Implementation of Our Joint Commitments to Address and Counter the World Drug Problem, Member States committed to accelerating the implementation of existing policy commitments, including those contained in the outcome document of the thirtieth special session of the General Assembly. The United Nations stands ready to support Member States in developing and implementing balanced, comprehensive, integrated, evidence-based, human rights-based, development-oriented and sustainable responses to the world drug problem, within the framework of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. I have no doubt that, together, we can reduce supply and demand, protect health and human rights and contribute to sustainable development, as envisaged in the outcome document of the thirtieth special session.

100. I call on Member States to advance the implementation of the commitments made over the past decade, including those contained in the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem, 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 and the outcome document of the thirtieth special session of the General Assembly, in line with the Ministerial Declaration on Strengthening Our Actions at the National, Regional and International Levels to Accelerate the Implementation of Our Joint Commitments to Address and Counter the World Drug Problem, and to strengthen the work of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs as the principal policymaking body of the United Nations in drug-related matters, with a view to accelerating progress in addressing the world drug problem in the comprehensive way that our experience proves yields the most effective results.

101. I decided to establish an inter-agency task team of interested United Nations system entities, led by UNODC, within the framework of the Secretary-General's Executive Committee to identify actions to translate the United Nations common position into practice and, in particular, ensure cooperation and coordination in research, data collection and analysis across the system in order to best support Member States in making informed and evidence-based policy decisions in tackling drug-related challenges.

102. Drug policy directly affects people's lives, and we need to ensure that all voices are heard and all perspectives are considered. To jointly address the challenges faced by the international community, I urge Member States to provide UNODC with

adequate, predictable and stable resources to enable the Office to implement its mandated work in a sustainable manner and to effectively respond to the increasing demand by the multilateral system for technical assistance and capacity-building, in close coordination with partner countries and all other relevant stakeholders within the United Nations system and outside, at the national, regional and international levels, and to strengthen accountability, evaluation and learning.

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