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World situation with regard to drug trafficking and recommendations of the subsidiary bodies of the Commission

Action taken by the subsidiary bodies of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs

Report of the Secretariat

I. Introduction

1. Five meetings of subsidiary bodies of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs were held in 2013: the Tenth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies (HONLEA), Europe, held in Vienna from 2 to 5 July; the Twenty-third Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Africa, held in Addis Ababa from 16 to 20 September; the Twenty-third Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Quito from 30 September to 4 October; the Thirty-seventh Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Asia and the Pacific, held in Bangkok from 21 to 24 October; and the forty-eighth session of the Subcommittee on Illicit Drug Traffic and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East, held in Vienna from 25 to 28 November.

2. Following a review of trends in drug trafficking and regional and subregional cooperation, each of the subsidiary bodies addressed drug law enforcement issues of priority in its region. They also considered follow-up to the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem.¹ Consideration of those issues was facilitated by the discussions that had been held during informal meetings of the

* E/CN.7/2014/1.

¹ See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2009, Supplement No. 8 (E/2009/28)*, chap. I, sect. C.



working groups established for that purpose. In addition, the implementation of previous recommendations was reviewed by each of the subsidiary bodies.

3. The recommendations set out below were made by the subsidiary bodies at the above-mentioned meetings. Pursuant to Commission on Narcotic Drugs resolutions 56/10 and 56/12, the participants of the meetings agreed to submit the recommendations — which had been made on the basis of the deliberations of their respective working groups — to the Commission at its fifty-seventh session as regional recommendations aimed at moving forward in the implementation of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action.

4. The reports of the Tenth Meeting of HONLEA, Europe (UNODC/HONEURO/10/6), the Twenty-third Meeting of HONLEA, Africa (UNODC/HONLAF/23/5), the Twenty-third Meeting of HONLEA, Latin America and the Caribbean (UNODC/HONLAC/23/5), the Thirty-seventh Meeting of HONLEA, Asia and the Pacific (UNODC/HONLAP/37/5), and the forty-eighth session of the Subcommission (UNODC/SUBCOM/48/5) will be made available to the Commission in the working languages of the respective subsidiary bodies. The reports are also available on the website of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC).

II. Recommendations of the subsidiary bodies

A. Tenth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Europe

5. Prior to making the recommendations below, the Tenth Meeting of HONLEA, Europe:

(a) Recalled the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem, adopted by the General Assembly at its sixty-fourth session, in which Member States had decided 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 Political Declaration and Plan of Action;

(b) Also recalled General Assembly resolution 67/193, in which the Assembly had decided to convene, early in 2016, a special session on the world drug problem to review the progress in the implementation of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action, including an assessment of the achievements and challenges in countering the world drug problem, within the framework of the three international drug control conventions and other relevant United Nations instruments;

(c) Bore in mind the request made by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, in its resolution 56/10, to the meetings of the subsidiary bodies of the Commission, on the basis of their deliberations, to submit regional recommendations aimed at moving forward in the implementation of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action;

(d) Recalled Commission on Narcotic Drugs resolution 56/12, in which the Commission had decided that the medium-term review, including intersessional

meetings, should take into account, among others, relevant studies and reports from the subsidiary bodies of the Commission, and had called upon the participants in the high-level review to take account of the work of the regional meetings of heads of national drug law enforcement agencies, in particular initiatives that could further cooperation with regard to drug law enforcement;

(e) Bore in mind the recommendations adopted by the Eighth Meeting of HONLEA, Europe, held in 2009, and the Ninth Meeting of HONLEA, Europe, held in 2011, after the adoption of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action.

1. Demand reduction and related measures

6. The following recommendations were made with regard to the topic entitled “Demand reduction and related measures”:

(a) Governments should develop, review and strengthen integrated drug demand reduction policies and programmes that offer effective, science-based prevention and care in health-care and social services across the spectrum, from primary prevention to early intervention, treatment, rehabilitation and social reintegration;

(b) Governments should ensure that national drug demand reduction strategies deliver comprehensive policies and programmes using a multi-agency approach that includes health-care, social care, criminal justice, employment and education agencies working together to effectively reach persons at risk and persons already engaging in illicit drug use;

(c) Governments should be encouraged to consider, within their legal frameworks and in compliance with applicable international laws, enabling their criminal justice systems to provide treatment and rehabilitation as alternatives to prosecution and prison for drug-using offenders;

(d) Governments should also be encouraged to provide specialized training for prison officers working with drug-dependent inmates.

2. Responding to changing trends in drug use, including new psychoactive substances

7. The following recommendations were made with regard to the topic entitled “Responding to changing trends in drug use, including new psychoactive substances”:

(a) Governments are encouraged to be proactive in contributing information to the UNODC early warning advisory on new psychoactive substances so as to benefit from timely warnings regarding new psychoactive substances, analysis of developing trends in trafficking, current *modi operandi* and legislation developed to curb their abuse;

(b) Governments should conduct information and education campaigns to alert the general public to the dangers of the use of new psychoactive substances and so reduce demand for their availability;

(c) Governments must ensure that their legislation is adequate and that their drug law enforcement officials are informed, aware, well trained and capable of

recognizing new psychoactive substances in order to act effectively against the threat posed by such substances.

3. Developing an effective response to illicit drug trafficking using sea containers

8. The following recommendations were made with regard to the topic entitled “Developing an effective response to illicit drug trafficking using sea containers”:

(a) Governments are encouraged to consider assessing the vulnerability of ports and terminal operations to the “rip-off” technique of importing illicit drugs in sea containers and to take action, as appropriate, to support the effectiveness of the actions taken by their authorities to address that growing challenge;

(b) As part of their support to the international response to disrupt drug trafficking, Governments are encouraged to invite their law enforcement authorities to consider undertaking investigations following the interception of illicit drug consignments in sea freight, including through the use of controlled deliveries, the exchange of information with authorities involved along the route of the consignment and the gathering of evidence from, and exchange of evidence with, authorities in other jurisdictions that may be able to contribute to the successful dismantling and prosecution of an organized criminal network;

(c) Governments are encouraged to invite their drug law enforcement agencies working at ports and container terminals to consider joining the Container Control Programme of UNODC and the World Customs Organization and engaging with the joint port control units established under the Programme in order to effectively combat drug trafficking using maritime routes by sharing information and coordinating in targeting sea containers suspected to contain drugs and other prohibited goods.

B. Twenty-third Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Africa

9. Before they agreed to make the recommendations below, the participants in the Twenty-third Meeting of HONLEA, Africa:

(a) Recalled the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem, adopted by the General Assembly at its sixty-fourth session, in which Member States had decided 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 Political Declaration and Plan of Action;

(b) Also recalled General Assembly resolution 67/193, in which the Assembly had decided to convene, early in 2016, a special session on the world drug problem to review the progress in the implementation of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action, including an assessment of the achievements and challenges in countering the world drug problem, within the framework of the three international drug control conventions and other relevant United Nations instruments;

(c) Bore in mind the request made by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs in its resolution 56/10, to the meetings of the subsidiary bodies of the Commission, on the basis of their deliberations, to submit regional recommendations aimed at moving forward in the implementation of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action;

(d) Recalled Commission on Narcotic Drugs resolution 56/12, in which the Commission had decided that the medium-term review, including intersessional meetings, should take into account, among others, relevant studies and reports from the subsidiary bodies of the Commission, and had called upon the participants in the high-level review to take account of the work of the regional meetings of heads of national drug law enforcement agencies, in particular initiatives that could further cooperation with regard to drug law enforcement;

(e) Bore in mind the recommendations adopted by the Twentieth, Twenty-first and Twenty-second Meetings of HONLEA, Africa, held in 2010, 2011 and 2012, following the adoption of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action in 2009.

1. Developing effective law enforcement responses to illicit drug trafficking

10. The following recommendations were made with regard to effective law enforcement responses to illicit drug trafficking:

(a) Where they have not already done so, Governments are encouraged to evaluate the applicability of the Container Control Programme of UNODC and the World Customs Organization and the Airport Communication Project (AIRCOP) of UNODC, the World Customs Organization and the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL), as part of their border management response;

(b) Governments should ensure that the joint inter-agency teams established at their air and sea borders as part of AIRCOP and the Container Control Programme are adequately supported by the judicial system in the investigation of, gathering of evidence against and prosecution of those involved in trafficking in drugs;

(c) Governments should be encouraged to review the support provided to the drug-detecting dog programmes of their police and customs services to ensure that they have adequate resources to perform the valuable service they offer;

(d) In order to better identify air passengers engaged in drug trafficking and containers used for the carriage of scheduled drugs and precursors, Governments of African countries should proactively support their competent authorities in the exchange of information about persons of interest, risk indicators, *modi operandi* used in smuggling and emerging trafficking trends.

2. Maintaining controls on the abuse of amphetamine-type stimulants and pharmaceutical preparations

11. The following recommendations were made with regard to maintaining control over the abuse of amphetamine-type stimulants and pharmaceutical preparations:

(a) Governments should take urgent steps to ensure that adequate regulations are in place to prevent the illicit manufacture of, trafficking in and distribution of

tramadol into or through their territories and to actively engage in cooperation with the competent authorities of other States to combat its illicit manufacture and illicit domestic and international distribution;

(b) Governments are encouraged to form partnerships with their chemical and pharmaceutical industries with a view to educating them on the adverse effects of irresponsible transactions that do not comply with the relevant regulations and to properly regulate the import, export and distribution of precursor chemicals and prescription drugs;

(c) Governments should be encouraged to review their national drug strategies so as to ensure that their legislation and response strategies (covering both supply and demand reduction) are sufficient to meet the new challenges from the illicit manufacture of, trafficking in and abuse of amphetamine-type stimulants.

3. Responding to the challenges of access to HIV prevention and treatment services for illicit drug users

12. The following recommendations were made with regard to responding to the challenges of access to HIV prevention and treatment services for illicit drug users:

(a) Governments should ensure that adequate resources are made available to provide for and facilitate the development and operation of treatment and rehabilitation facilities, programmes and standards for persons suffering from substance-use disorders;

(b) Where they have not already done so, Governments are encouraged to ensure that there is close collaboration between their law enforcement authorities and their national HIV/AIDS councils so as to ensure that the challenge of HIV/AIDS among injecting drug users is properly addressed;

(c) Governments are encouraged to assess alternatives to imprisonment for drug-dependent persons so as to reduce their exposure to HIV/AIDS and other infectious diseases and offer access to supervised treatment programmes that will increase the likelihood of such persons being successfully reintegrated into their communities.

C. Twenty-third Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Latin America and the Caribbean

13. Before they adopted the recommendations below, the participants in the Twenty-third Meeting of HONLEA, Latin America and the Caribbean:

(a) Recalled the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem, in which Member States had decided 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 Political Declaration and Plan of Action;

(b) Also recalled General Assembly resolution 67/193, in which the Assembly had decided to convene, early in 2016, a special session on the world drug problem to review the progress in the implementation of the Political

Declaration and Plan of Action, including an assessment of the achievements and challenges in countering the world drug problem, within the framework of the three international drug control conventions and other relevant United Nations instruments;

(c) Bore in mind the request of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs in its resolution 56/10, for the meetings of the subsidiary bodies of the Commission, on the basis of their deliberations, to submit regional recommendations aimed at moving forward in the implementation of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action;

(d) Recalled Commission on Narcotic Drugs resolution 56/12, in which the Commission had decided that the medium-term review, including intersessional meetings, should take into account, among other things, relevant studies and reports from the subsidiary bodies of the Commission, and had called upon the participants in the high-level review to take account of the work of the regional meetings of heads of national drug law enforcement agencies, in particular initiatives that could further cooperation with regard to drug law enforcement;

(e) Recognized that the principle of common and shared responsibility guided the individual and joint actions of all States and ensured their equal commitment to countering the world drug problem, in all its dimensions, encouraging ever greater international cooperation in strengthening national capacities on the basis of a comprehensive, balanced and multidisciplinary approach.

Issue 1. Demand reduction, prevention measures and drug dependence treatment

14. With regard to issue 1, entitled “Demand reduction, prevention measures and drug dependence treatment”, the following recommendations were made:

(a) Governments should adopt inter-agency approaches to the drug problem that balance demand and supply reduction, with appropriate regard for harm reduction policies and practices;

(b) Governments are encouraged to recognize illicit drug use and drug dependence as a public health problem in order to facilitate the prevention, early identification and treatment of drug users in various social and public health services, and to allocate sufficient resources to prevention, treatment and rehabilitation;

(c) Governments should foster the development of scientific, evidence-based national monitoring mechanisms that make it possible to identify current trends in drug use and should consider adopting response policies based on that evidence;

(d) Governments should focus on community-based approaches to demand reduction, such as community policing, educational programmes and programmes focusing on youth and the family, which are concepts that have been successfully implemented in Latin America and the Caribbean and can serve as models for replication.

Issue 2. Trafficking trends

15. With regard to issue 2, entitled “Trafficking trends”, the following recommendations were made:

(a) Governments are encouraged to further strengthen their national response for the detection, investigation and seizure of the proceeds of money-laundering and to increase resources and the capacities of law enforcement agencies to undertake those tasks;

(b) Governments should take steps to ensure that the drug law enforcement agencies operating at their national border entry points (land crossings, seaports and airports) are adequately supported with the technical assistance required to identify any element, substance and material suspected of being impregnated, diluted or mixed with cocaine hydrochloride or its derivatives;

(c) Where they have not already done so, Governments are encouraged to take steps to strengthen inter-agency coordination of human resources and technical support in order to improve the management and effectiveness of their national counter-narcotics strategies;

(d) Governments are encouraged to increase support to transit countries to fight against criminal organizations making use of territories where State access is limited, including through the sharing of operational intelligence and other information, the undertaking of joint simultaneous and coordinated operations, training and support for the investigation of those directing the trafficking organizations.

Issue 3. Manufacture of cocaine and amphetamine-type stimulants and precursor control

16. With regard to issue 3, entitled “Manufacture of cocaine and amphetamine-type stimulants and precursor control”, the following recommendations were made:

(a) Governments are encouraged to focus on preventive measures to control precursor chemicals and essential chemicals by strengthening the administrative procedures they exercise over the commercial use of those chemicals through such initiatives as a national registry of authorized precursor exporters, importers and end users; enhanced capacity for analysis and the inspection of authorized dealers, which will in turn provide information to further guide the application of effective controls to prevent the diversion of such chemicals;

(b) Governments are encouraged to adopt a proactive approach to establishing a collaborative relationship with the domestic chemical industry, together with strengthening the capacity, and enhancing the knowledge, of their national competent authorities and drug law enforcement agencies with respect to scheduled and non-scheduled precursors and essential chemicals that may be diverted for use in the illicit manufacture of drugs;

(c) Governments should, under the principle of common and shared responsibility, develop their technical capacity to identify new psychoactive substances as they emerge, and collaborate in that area by sharing information about assay development and practice;

(d) Governments are encouraged to strengthen their legal frameworks to ensure effective cooperation in their efforts to prevent the diversion of precursor chemicals from international trade.

D. Thirty-seventh Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Asia and the Pacific

17. Prior to making the recommendations below, the participants in the Thirty-seventh Meeting of HONLEA, Asia and the Pacific:

(a) Recalled the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem, adopted by the General Assembly at its sixty-fourth session, in which Member States had decided 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 Political Declaration and Plan of Action;

(b) Also recalled General Assembly resolution 67/193, in which the Assembly had decided to convene a special session on the world drug problem in 2016 to review the progress in the implementation of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action, which would include an assessment of the achievements and challenges in countering the world drug problem, within the framework of the three international drug control conventions and other relevant United Nations instruments;

(c) Bore in mind 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 submit regional recommendations, on the basis of their deliberations, aimed at advancing the implementation of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action;

(d) Recalled Commission on Narcotic Drugs resolution 56/12, in which the Commission had decided that the medium-term review, including intersessional meetings, should take into account, among other things, relevant studies and reports from the subsidiary bodies of the Commission, and had called upon the participants in the high-level review to consider the work of the regional meetings of heads of national drug law enforcement agencies, in particular initiatives that could further cooperation with regard to drug law enforcement;

(e) Bore in mind the recommendations adopted by the Thirty-fourth, Thirty-fifth and Thirty-sixth Meetings of HONLEA, Asia and the Pacific, held in 2010, 2011 and 2012, following the adoption of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action in 2009.

Issue 1. Measures to counteract new trends in the use of technology by drug trafficking and organized criminal groups

18. The following recommendations were made with regard to the impact of modern technology on drug trafficking:

(a) Governments of countries in Asia and the Pacific should review and amend accordingly their existing legislation to ensure that it supports the investigation of, gathering of electronic evidence against and prosecution of those

involved in drug trafficking and related offences facilitated by information and communications technology;

(b) Governments should take steps to ensure that their law enforcement agencies, prosecution services and judiciary are aware of the need — and are adequately trained, supported and funded — to undertake the investigation of, gathering of evidence against and prosecution of those involved in cyber-related drug trafficking and money-laundering offences;

(c) To meet the challenges of Internet-based pharmacies and similar websites illegally offering controlled drugs and pharmaceutical preparations, Governments should take steps to ensure close cooperation between national law enforcement and regulatory authorities, such as drug law enforcement agencies, the postal services and other relevant actors, to enable them to develop their responses to these crimes.

Issue 2. The role of law enforcement authorities in developing and implementing strategies for preventing drug trafficking and abuse

19. The following recommendations were made with regard to the role of law enforcement authorities in developing and implementing strategies for preventing drug trafficking and abuse:

(a) Governments are encouraged to provide specific training to their drug law enforcement officials on HIV/AIDS, illicit drug use and effective approaches to interacting with people who inject drugs and who may be at higher risk of exposure to HIV/AIDS;

(b) Governments are encouraged to review the methodology they use for the collection of data on drug use, patterns and trends, to obtain a more accurate assessment of the actual situation and to better assist in the design and implementation of effective interventions to reduce demand;

(c) Governments are encouraged to assess alternatives to imprisonment programmes for drug-dependent persons in order to reduce their exposure to HIV/AIDS and other blood-borne infectious diseases, where necessary.

Issue 3. Controlling precursors and the illicit manufacture of heroin and amphetamine-type stimulants

20. The following recommendations were made with regard to controlling precursors and the illicit manufacture of heroin and amphetamine-type stimulants:

(a) Governments should ensure that their competent national authorities register, support and actively participate in the Pre-Export Notification Online system supported by the International Narcotics Control Board, to reduce opportunities for traffickers to divert precursor chemicals for use in illicit manufacture;

(b) Governments should be encouraged to raise public awareness of the dangers of new psychoactive substances, while at the same time taking steps to review and amend legislation in order to ensure that enforceable controls are in place to control their importation, manufacture and distribution;

(c) Governments are encouraged to collaborate in the sharing of information on the detection and toxicological properties of new psychoactive substances

through the UNODC Synthetics Monitoring: Analyses, Reporting and Trends (SMART) initiative.

E. Subcommittee on Illicit Drug Traffic and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East at its forty-eighth session

21. Before agreeing on the recommendations below, the Subcommittee at its forty-eighth session:

(a) Recalled the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem, adopted by the General Assembly at its sixty-fourth session, in which Member States had decided 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 Political Declaration and Plan of Action;

(b) Recalled also that the Commission on Narcotic Drugs in its resolution 56/9 had stressed the importance of strengthening the principle of common and shared responsibility as the basis for guiding international action in combating the world drug problem with a comprehensive and balanced approach;

(c) Also recalled General Assembly resolution 67/193, in which the Assembly had decided to convene, early in 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;

(d) Bore in mind the request made by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs in its resolution 56/10, to the meetings of the subsidiary bodies of the Commission, on the basis of their deliberations, to submit regional recommendations aimed at moving forward in the implementation of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action;

(e) Recalled Commission on Narcotic Drugs resolution 56/12, in which the Commission had decided that the medium-term review, including intersessional meetings, should take into account, among others, relevant studies and reports from the subsidiary bodies of the Commission, and had called upon the participants in the high-level review to take account of the work of the regional meetings of heads of national drug law enforcement agencies, in particular initiatives that could further cooperation with regard to drug law enforcement.

1. Opiate flows from Afghanistan and regional countermeasures

22. The following recommendations were made with regard to opiate flows from Afghanistan and regional countermeasures:

(a) States are encouraged to support cross-border and interregional cooperation along heroin trafficking routes through regular communication between their competent authorities and the convening of regular meetings between counterparts so as to strengthen operational responses to combat trafficking;

(b) States are encouraged to support regional coordination centres such as the Central Asian Regional Information and Coordination Centre (CARICC), the Southeast European Law Enforcement Center, the Criminal Information Center to Combat Drugs, the joint planning cell and the Triangular Initiative, which have been established to facilitate operational cooperation to combat organized crime and drug trafficking;

(c) States are encouraged to consider, if they have not already done so, posting liaison officers in other Member States and regional coordination centres to enhance communication and speed up the exchange of operational information. Such liaison officers can act as focal points for the exchange of information;

(d) States are encouraged to consider taking steps to accurately assess their domestic illicit demand for opiates by undertaking research, conducting surveys and commissioning studies in order to better understand the demand dynamic and so contribute to the development and implementation of effective supply and demand reduction strategies.

2. Maintaining control over precursor chemicals, pharmaceutical products and the challenge of new psychoactive substances

23. The following recommendations were made with regard to maintaining control over precursor chemicals, pharmaceutical products and the challenge of new psychoactive substances:

(a) States are encouraged, upon request, to be proactive in contributing information to the UNODC early warning advisory so as to benefit from timely warnings about new and emerging psychoactive substances, the analysis of developing trends in trafficking, current *modi operandi* and legislation developed to curb the abuse of such substances;

(b) It is recommended that States implement information and education campaigns to alert the general public to the dangers of the use of new psychoactive substances and so reduce demand for those substances;

(c) In working to apply effective controls, States are encouraged to consider, as appropriate, introducing legislation providing for the regulation of generic groups of substances that lend themselves to the manufacture of new psychoactive substances;

(d) States are encouraged to adopt, as appropriate, measures aimed at preventing and reducing the non-medical use and abuse and illicit supply of tramadol, in accordance with their legislation.

3. Meeting the challenges of technology and tactics used by traffickers

24. The following recommendations were made with regard to meeting the challenges of technology and tactics used by traffickers:

(a) States in the Near and Middle East are encouraged to consider reviewing, as appropriate, their existing substantive and procedural criminal legislation to ensure that it supports the investigation of, gathering of evidence against and prosecution of those involved in drug trafficking and related offences that have an element of modern information and communication technology;

(b) If they have not already done so, States are encouraged to take steps to ensure that their law enforcement agencies, prosecution services and judiciary are aware of and adequately trained in handling electronic evidence and are supported and funded to undertake all necessary measures with regard to the prevention, investigation and prosecution of technology-facilitated drug trafficking and money-laundering;

(c) To meet the challenges of Internet-based transactions involving websites that promote and illegally offer controlled drugs and pharmaceutical preparations and to identify those involved in placing the orders, States are encouraged to take steps to ensure that there is close cooperation and coordination between national drug law enforcement agencies and all other actors concerned, such as regulatory authorities, customs, courier and postal services, and Internet service providers;

(d) In full conformity with its mandate, UNODC is requested to strengthen initiatives to provide technical assistance to States in the Near and Middle East, at their request and according to their needs and priorities, including expertise and training courses needed to react to the emerging challenges of technology-facilitated crime involving drug trafficking.

III. Follow-up to the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem

25. Participants in the Tenth Meeting of HONLEA, Europe, the Twenty-third Meeting of HONLEA, Africa, the Twenty-third Meeting of HONLEA, Latin America and the Caribbean, the Thirty-seventh Meeting of HONLEA, Asia and the Pacific, and the forty-eighth session of the Subcommittee each considered an agenda item entitled, "Follow-up to the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem". For their consideration of the item, the participants had before them the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem (A/64/92-E/2009/98, sect. II.A), as well as Commission resolutions 56/10 and 56/12.

26. Pursuant to the request made by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs in its resolutions 56/10 and 56/12, the participants of the meetings agreed to submit to the Commission their recommendations (see chapter II above) — made on the basis of the deliberations of their respective working groups — as regional recommendations aimed at moving forward in the implementation of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action.

27. Attention was drawn to part II of the Plan of Action, in particular the subsections on enhancing cooperation, coordination and law enforcement operations to reduce supply; addressing new trafficking trends; and addressing supply and demand reduction together. It was also emphasized that the General Assembly, in its resolution 67/193, had encouraged the meetings of heads of national drug law enforcement agencies and the Subcommittee to continue to contribute to the strengthening of regional and international cooperation.

28. Regarding the implementation of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action, the Twenty-third Meeting of HONLEA, Africa, considered the revised African Union Plan of Action on Drug Control and Crime Prevention (2013-2017), which had the goal of improving the health, security and socioeconomic well-being of the people of Africa by reducing illicit drug use, drug trafficking and associated crimes. It followed a balanced and integrated approach to drug control, providing a solid framework to address both supply and demand reduction. It paid particular attention to capacity-building for research, information collection and the development of monitoring systems with a view to increasing the monitoring of changing and emerging trends, the implementation of evidence-based responses and the ability to assess the effectiveness of those responses. The African Union Commission called upon UNODC and other partners to use that framework as a basis for technical cooperation and collaboration involving African Union member States to avoid duplication of efforts; and when working within the identified priority of areas of the revised African Union Plan of Action, to inform the African Union Commission and regional economic communities and involve them in the technical cooperation.

29. At the Twenty-third Meeting of HONLEA, Latin America and the Caribbean, the representative of Argentina referred to the Plan of Action, section F (entitled "Judicial cooperation"), stressing the importance of providing mutual legal assistance with regard to the world drug problem and transnational organized crime. The representative of Mexico emphasized that international judicial cooperation was a clear expression of the common and shared responsibility, as set out in the Political Declaration. The setting up of networks of exchange had led to the building of confidence between institutions and countries in that area. With respect to the high-level review by the Commission of the implementation of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action, scheduled for 2014, the review should not be conducted in isolation from regional and national processes. The representative further reiterated Mexico's commitment to multilateralism as the best means of solving the world drug problem.

30. At the Thirty-seventh Meeting of HONLEA, Asia and the Pacific, the representative of Thailand reiterated that country's commitment to the balanced approach contained in the Political Declaration and Plan of Action. Several priority areas were identified that should be addressed at the forthcoming high-level review by the Commission and special session of the General Assembly. Those areas included greater focus on precursor control, including by addressing the issue of production sites; measures to reduce drug abuse among young people, as well as demand; enhanced international law enforcement cooperation, including greater attention to information-sharing; and alternative development as outlined in the Lima Declaration on Alternative Development, including the International Guiding Principles on Alternative Development (E/CN.7/2013/8, annex), which was vital and complementary to effective law enforcement. The Meeting was informed that Thailand planned to host a second international workshop on alternative development in early 2014. The representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran reiterated that country's commitment to the balanced approach contained in the Political Declaration and Plan of Action, and stated that other countries should also commit themselves to the principle of shared responsibility in order to solve the world drug problem.

31. The representative of Japan emphasized that no agency could undertake effective drug law enforcement in isolation. Mutual assistance agreements and information exchange were essential. An example of an interregional law enforcement operation was Operation WESTERLIES, organized by the World Customs Organization and Japan Customs, with the support of INTERPOL. The regional customs laboratory programme was another example of international cooperation. That initiative, to be launched in 2014 by the World Customs Organization, would be sponsored by Japan Customs and would provide an opportunity for members of the World Customs Organization to update their knowledge and skills in chemical analysis and to enhance their tariff classification abilities, particularly in the area of agricultural and chemical products.

32. At the forty-eighth session of the Subcommission, speakers reiterated the commitment of their Governments to implement the Political Declaration and Plan of Action and reported on measures taken in that respect. It was noted that India had amended its national legislation in relation to money-laundering and judicial cooperation, to align it with the Political Declaration and Plan of Action and provide for forfeiture of the property of drug traffickers. Curbing the illicit financial flows resulting from drug-related offences, as well as the cooperation of competent authorities, was vital to addressing drug trafficking effectively. In that respect, the role of financial intelligence units in the Near and Middle East was crucial.

33. The representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran reported on the signing of memorandums of understanding and on cooperation with regional and international organizations and initiatives. Other national policies included developing intelligence, treatment and rehabilitation, and post-treatment support. The representative of the United Arab Emirates reported on a strategic initiative focusing on countering money-laundering. The representative of Egypt reported on the successful eradication of illicitly cultivated crops and the provision of alternative livelihoods in cooperation with banks and through incentives for farmers. The signing of memorandums of understanding was also part of the international cooperation efforts of Egypt. The representative of Yemen reported on the amendment of legislation to comply with the Political Declaration and Plan of Action. The representative of Afghanistan reported on major illicit opium cultivation in four provinces in the south of the country, promoted by insurgents. While there were not enough alternative livelihood programmes, Afghanistan had made progress in law enforcement, drug demand reduction, public awareness and judicial cooperation. Measures to implement the Political Declaration and Plan of Action also included rehabilitation and treatment centres. The representative of Jordan noted that that country had introduced tighter border controls to combat drug trafficking. Further measures included controlled deliveries in cooperation with other countries, the training of officials, and investment in modern equipment. Cooperation had been established with UNODC and the European Union for drug demand reduction, including through HIV/AIDS-related prevention and treatment in prisons. The representative of Turkey reported on that country's expanding scope of cooperation through bilateral and multilateral channels, including the application of Turkey for membership in CARICC. Other measures included the sharing of expertise and cooperation in the field of demand reduction, as well as awareness-raising.

IV. Organization of future meetings of the subsidiary bodies

34. Possible topics for the meetings of the subsidiary bodies to be held in 2014 and for the Eleventh Meeting of HONLEA, Europe, to be held in 2015, were discussed and identified at the respective meetings.

35. The attention of the Commission and the members of its subsidiary bodies is drawn to Economic and Social Council resolution 1988/15, entitled “Meetings of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies: Asia and the Pacific, Africa, and Latin America and the Caribbean”, in which the Council had requested the Secretary-General to convene those three regional meetings at the capitals of States in the respective regions that might wish to act as host or at the headquarters of the regional commission concerned, annually, beginning in 1988. Accordingly, the Commission should encourage member States in the different regions to consider hosting forthcoming meetings of heads of national drug law enforcement agencies where no host had been identified and to coordinate with the Secretariat as soon as possible to allow sufficient time for the organizational arrangements to be made.
