



# Economic and Social Council

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## Commission on Narcotic Drugs

### Sixty-second session

Vienna, 14–22 March 2019

Item 11 of the provisional agenda\*

**Follow-up to the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem held in 2016, including the seven thematic areas of the outcome document of the special session**

### Australia: draft resolution

### Enhancing forensic detection capability for synthetic drugs by increasing international collaboration

*The Commission on Narcotic Drugs,*

*Recognizing* that the world drug problem, in particular the significant dangers posed by the illicit production and manufacture of and trafficking in synthetic drugs, including new psychoactive substances, synthetic opioids and amphetamine-type stimulants, continues to constitute a serious threat to public health and safety and to the well-being of humanity,

*Gravely concerned* by the increasing threat posed to public health and safety by synthetic drugs, including new psychoactive substances, synthetic opioids and amphetamine-type stimulants, and by the growing complexity and sophistication of the methods employed by transnational criminal groups, drug traffickers and other criminal groups to expand the illicit markets for those substances, including the use of the Internet and the distribution of those substances through the international mail system and express consignment carrier shipments,

*Recalling* its resolution 54/6 of 25 March 2011, in which it encouraged Member States to ensure the achievement of an appropriate balance between access to and availability of internationally controlled drugs for medical and scientific purposes and the prevention of their diversion and abuse,

*Recognizing* the significant challenges for law enforcement and public health authorities posed by the rapid development of new types of synthetic drugs that have been illicitly produced, illicitly manufactured or otherwise obtained for illicit purposes, including new psychoactive substances, synthetic opioids and amphetamine-type stimulants, and the risks posed when authorities cannot accurately detect, identify, analyse and prevent trafficking in those substances, including the health risk posed when persons are exposed to dangerous substances that cannot be identified,

\* E/CN.7/2019/1.



*Noting* the risk posed to persons working on the front line of drug control efforts, including law enforcement and border control officers, who may come into contact with such dangerous substances, and the importance of having appropriate frameworks to support good health and safety practices among persons who may be exposed to those substances in their work,

*Recalling* 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”,<sup>1</sup> in particular the following operational recommendations:

(a) The recommendations on supply reduction and related measures, including the recommendation to strengthen the capacity of border control, law enforcement and prosecutorial agencies in order to prevent, monitor and counter trafficking in drugs and their precursors,

(b) The recommendations on cross-cutting issues in addressing and countering the world drug problem, including the recommendations on addressing new psychoactive substances, amphetamine-type stimulants, the diversion of precursors and pre-precursors and the non-medical use and misuse of pharmaceuticals containing narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances,

*Recalling also* the recommendation in that outcome document on enhancing the capacity of relevant agencies in forensic science in the context of drug investigations, including the quality and capacity of drug analysis laboratories to gather, preserve and present forensic evidence to effectively prosecute drug-related offences,<sup>2</sup>

*Recalling also* its resolutions 60/4 of 17 March 2017 on preventing and responding to the adverse health consequences and risks associated with the use of new psychoactive substances, 60/9 of 17 March 2017 on enhancing the capacity of law enforcement, border control and other relevant agencies to counter illicit drug trafficking through training and 61/8 of 16 March 2018 on enhancing and strengthening international and regional cooperation and domestic efforts to address the international threats posed by the non-medical use of synthetic opioids,

*Emphasizing* the need to promote the provision of technical assistance to States, including in the form of support and training, to detect, identify and forensically test synthetic drugs and to enhance the capability of law enforcement and border control authorities to detect, identify and prevent trafficking in synthetic opioids,

*Reaffirming* the outcomes and benefits of approaches to combating drug and precursor trafficking that involve the cooperation and coordination of competent authorities, including cooperation and coordination between law enforcement and border control authorities,

*Encouraging* collaboration and the exchange of data on synthetic drugs and their precursors between the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the International Narcotics Control Board and Member States, and noting with concern the report of the International Narcotics Control Board for 2018,<sup>3</sup> which highlighted the growing risks to public health posed by the emergence of new synthetic opioids with high potency, as evidenced by, inter alia, increased rates of opioid abuse and the increased number of opioid overdose deaths,

*Recalling* Economic and Social Council resolution 2003/32 of 22 July 2003, in which the Council urged relevant international organizations, in consultation with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, to provide financing for the training of experts in various subjects related to addressing and countering the world drug problem, with particular emphasis on preventive measures and areas such as precursor control, drug-testing laboratories and laboratory quality assurance,

<sup>1</sup> General Assembly resolution [S-30/1](#), annex.

<sup>2</sup> General Assembly resolution [S-30/1](#), annex, para. 3 (h).

<sup>3</sup> E/INCB/2018/1.

*Reiterating* the importance of ensuring that both a human rights perspective and a gender perspective are incorporated in training for law enforcement, border control and other relevant authorities on countering the illicit production and manufacturing of and trafficking in synthetic opioids and preventing the diversion of precursors to illicit trade,

1. *Calls upon* Member States to take additional steps to foster regional and international efforts to support law enforcement, border control and other authorities involved in drug control, including by providing technical assistance and training to enhance forensic detection and border management capability in relation to illicit drugs and precursors with a view to identifying and preventing the illicit production and manufacture of and trafficking in synthetic drugs, including new psychoactive substances, synthetic opioids and amphetamine-type stimulants;

2. *Encourages* Member States, within their national contexts, to develop frameworks for persons on the front line of drug control efforts, including law enforcement and border control officers, to ensure that such officers safely handle synthetic drugs, in order to safeguard such officers against the adverse effects of being exposed to those substances;

3. *Calls upon* Member States, in cooperation with regional and international organizations, to promote regional and international cooperation, including the sharing of best practices, to develop and deliver law enforcement and border control capability relating to illicit drugs and precursors;

4. *Welcomes* approaches to combating drug and precursor trafficking that involve the cooperation and coordination of competent authorities, including cooperation and coordination between law enforcement and border control authorities, while acknowledging the current International Narcotics Control Board platforms for real-time information exchange, specifically the Project Ion Incident Communication System and the Pre-Export Notification Online system;

5. *Encourages* Member States, where appropriate, to share information through inter-agency, bilateral, regional and international mechanisms, in relation to preventing and disrupting global trafficking in illicit drugs and precursors, in a manner consistent with international and domestic law;

6. *Welcomes* the continued efforts of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the International Narcotics Control Board to work with Member States to enhance regional and international capacity, capability and coordination;

7. *Invites* Member States and other donors to consider providing extrabudgetary resources for the purposes described above, in accordance with the rules and procedures of the United Nations.