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Item 8 of the provisional agenda*

**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 the subsidiary bodies of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs were convened in 2019: the Thirteenth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Europe, held in Lisbon from 2 to 5 July; the Twenty-ninth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Africa, held in Balaclava, Mauritius, from 16 to 20 September; the fifty-fourth session of the Subcommission on Illicit Drug Traffic and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East, held in Tashkent from 23 to 27 September; the Twenty-ninth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Lima from 7 to 11 October; and the Forty-third Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Asia and the Pacific, held in Bangkok from 22 to 25 October.

2. Following a review of the current situation with respect to regional and subregional cooperation in addressing and countering the world drug problem, each of the subsidiary bodies discussed drug law enforcement issues of priority in its region and formulated a set of recommendations. Consideration of the issues was facilitated by the discussions that had been held during informal meetings of the working groups established for that purpose. In addition, each subsidiary body reviewed the implementation of previous recommendations. The follow-up to the implementation at the national, regional and international levels of all commitments, as reflected 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 of 2019, was also discussed by the subsidiary bodies.

3. The recommendations set out below were made by working groups during the aforementioned meetings of the subsidiary bodies. Pursuant to Commission on Narcotic Drugs resolution 56/10, the participants in the meetings agreed to submit the recommendations, which were made on the basis of the deliberations of their respective working groups, to the Commission at its sixty-third session.

* E/CN.7/2020/1.



4. The reports of the Thirteenth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Europe ([UNODC/HONEURO/13/6](#)), the Twenty-ninth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Africa ([UNODC/HONLAF/29/6](#)), the fifty-fourth session of the Subcommission on Illicit Drug Traffic and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East ([UNODC/SUBCOM/54/6](#)), the Twenty-ninth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Latin America and the Caribbean ([UNODC/HONLAC/29/6](#)), and the Forty-third Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Asia and the Pacific ([UNODC/HONLAP/43/6](#)) are available on the website of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC).

II. Recommendations of the subsidiary bodies

5. The recommendations below were transmitted by the subsidiary bodies for consideration and action by the Commission at its sixty-third session.

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

1. Misuse of new technologies and communication modes for drug-related activities

6. The following recommendations were made with regard to the misuse of new technologies and communication modes for drug-related activities:

(a) Governments are encouraged to strengthen cooperation between law enforcement agencies, financial intelligence units, financial supervision agencies, judicial authorities and the private sector to prevent the misuse of new technologies and combat the illegal drug trade in the darknet, including with the use of cryptocurrencies. Such cooperation should take place at both the national and international levels;

(b) Governments should use the regional meetings of heads of national drug law enforcement agencies and other relevant regional and international forums for the exchange, systematization and sharing of good practices in the area of combating the illegal drug trade, including trade involving the misuse of new technologies;

(c) Governments should ensure system-wide basic training for law enforcement officers, including through the UNODC cryptocurrency training courses, with a focus on the key skills related to new communication tools, the darknet and cryptocurrencies.

2. New modi operandi in trafficking and trends in concealment methods and transport, and the role of customs authorities in effective border management strategies

7. The following recommendations were made with regard to new modi operandi in trafficking and trends in concealment methods and transport, and the role of customs authorities in effective border management strategies:

(a) Governments should encourage strong cooperation between police, customs and other law enforcement and specialized agencies at the national and international levels. In addition, cooperation with the private sector, including shipping companies, exporters and postal and express courier services, should be strengthened;

(b) Platforms for regional and international law enforcement cooperation organizations and centres, including the European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Cooperation (Europol), the European Border and Coast Guard Agency (Frontex), the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) and the World Customs Organization, should be actively used for regional and international cooperation, as in the elaboration of regional and international threat assessments, and for facilitating the investigations of specific cases and post-seizure investigations;

(c) Governments should consider the use of artificial intelligence for the purposes of analysis, profiling, cross-checking of information, targeting the trafficking of drugs through the mail and parcels and other customs-related activities, including with a view to adapting to the changing criminal environment.

3. Addressing the illicit manufacture and diversion of and trafficking in precursors

8. The following recommendations were made with regard to addressing the illicit manufacture and diversion of and trafficking in precursors:

(a) Governments should consider optimizing the use of international provisions, such as provisions established by the European Commission, including the “catch all” clause, which allows for the seizure of non-controlled chemicals that can be used for the illicit manufacture of drugs on the basis of grounded suspicion;

(b) Governments should develop and enhance cooperation with the private sector on a constant basis, with a view to enhancing the regulation of substances, both controlled and non-controlled, that could be used for the illicit manufacture of drugs;

(c) Governments should consider enhancing the exchange of information and strengthening cooperation in conducting joint investigations and carrying out controlled deliveries in cases of trafficking of precursors.

4. Ensuring holistic national responses through improved cooperation among domestic authorities, in particular, the law enforcement, health and justice sectors

9. The following recommendations were made with regard to ensuring holistic national responses through improved cooperation among domestic authorities, in particular, the law enforcement, health and justice sectors:

(a) Governments are encouraged to promote multisectoral collaboration in the development, implementation and evaluation of drug demand and supply reduction programmes and services, including through the establishment of national coordination mechanisms;

(b) Governments are encouraged to strengthen cooperation and effective coordination among national authorities, in particular in the health, education, social, justice and law enforcement sectors, in order to ensure that the specific needs of affected individuals are appropriately met;

(c) Governments are encouraged to enhance the effective coordination of investigations at the national and international levels, including through the centralization of information- and intelligence-sharing;

(d) Governments are encouraged to regularly update the directory of competent national authorities, in line with the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988.

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

1. Effective national and regional strategies in addressing drug trafficking by sea, including transatlantic cocaine trafficking and heroin trafficking in the Indian Ocean

10. The following recommendations were made with regard to effective national and regional strategies in addressing drug trafficking by sea, including transatlantic cocaine trafficking and heroin trafficking in the Indian Ocean:

(a) Governments are encouraged to strengthen efforts in conducting post-seizure investigations in relation to drug trafficking cases by strengthening cooperation among judicial and law enforcement authorities and making the best use of existing regional, bilateral and international mechanisms, including the network of

foreign law enforcement liaison officers, with the aim of disrupting drug trafficking and other activities of organized criminal groups;

(b) Governments should consider intensifying the exchange of information and actionable intelligence and strengthening law enforcement cooperation between authorities in Latin American and West African countries, as well as between Asian countries on the southern heroin trafficking route and countries in East Africa, and also with destination countries in Europe;

(c) Governments are encouraged to consider the possibility of enhancing legislation to allow for investigations and prosecutions relating to drug seizures made in international waters.

2. New modi operandi in trafficking and trends in concealment methods and transport, and effective investigative techniques in response thereto

11. The following recommendations were made with regard to new modi operandi in trafficking and trends in concealment methods and transport, and effective investigative techniques in response thereto:

(a) Governments are encouraged to strengthen the capacities of the relevant law enforcement bodies in identifying new trends in drug trafficking and in profiling and detecting high-risk consignments under various modi operandi;

(b) Governments should increase their efforts to make the best use of the existing platforms of international and regional law enforcement cooperation organizations, such as INTERPOL and the African Police Cooperation Organization (AFRIPOL), to ensure the exchange of information and coordination of operations. Additional efforts should be undertaken to make AFRIPOL more operational;

(c) Governments are encouraged to further strengthen inter-agency cooperation at the national level among police, customs and drug control agencies, border control authorities, coastguard authorities and other competent law enforcement agencies, including through the establishment of joint port control units and joint airport interdiction task forces, with the support of the Global Container Control Programme and the Airport Communication Project (AIRCOP) of UNODC.

3. Countering money-laundering, illicit financial flows and the use of the darknet and cryptocurrencies in relation to the drug trade

12. The following recommendations were made with regard to countering money-laundering, illicit financial flows and the use of the darknet and cryptocurrencies in relation to the drug trade:

(a) Governments are encouraged to further strengthen cooperation at the national and international levels among law enforcement agencies (e.g., police and customs authorities), financial intelligence units, prosecutorial bodies, tax authorities and the banking and private sectors to ensure successful investigations of drug-related money-laundering;

(b) Governments should take the steps necessary to study the best practices of other countries in investigating drug-related money-laundering and the use of the darknet and cryptocurrencies in the drug trade and for money-laundering, and best practices in asset forfeiture and asset management;

(c) Governments should take the steps necessary to provide training to front-line officers on the basics of money-laundering and on the use of the darknet and cryptocurrencies for that purpose to achieve a critical mass of knowledge, ensuring that adequate actions are taken and relevant evidence is collected and duly secured. For those purposes, training tools developed by the UNODC Global Programme against Money-Laundering, Proceeds of Crime and the Financing of Terrorism could be considered.

4. Specific needs of children and youth in contact with the justice system for drug-related offences

13. The following recommendations were made with regard to the specific needs of children and youth in contact with the justice system for drug-related offences:

(a) Governments should integrate children's issues into health, rule of law and development agendas. Those strategies should be based on adequate data and scientific evidence and foster cooperation between the different agencies involved, as well as with non-governmental organizations;

(b) In line with the UNODC *International Standards on Drug Use Prevention*, Governments should adopt drug abuse prevention strategies based on scientific evidence, working with families, schools, communities and media, that are tailored for children and youth, especially the most marginalized and those living in poverty;

(c) Governments should orient their juvenile justice systems towards the reintegration of child offenders into society and towards preventing children and youth from entering the criminal justice system and diverting them away from it. Governments are encouraged to develop, adopt and implement alternative or additional measures with regard to the conviction or punishment of children and youth, such as care, guidance and supervision orders, counselling, probation, foster care, education and vocational training programmes.

C. Fifty-fourth session of the Subcommittee on Illicit Drug Traffic and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East

1. Importance of exchange of actionable intelligence and the role of regional cooperation platforms in facilitating that exchange

14. The following recommendations were made with regard to the importance of exchange of actionable intelligence and the role of regional cooperation platforms in facilitating that exchange:

(a) Governments should be encouraged to further strengthen cooperation at the national level among law enforcement bodies (police, customs, border protection services and specialized agencies, among others) to ensure the swift completion of internal procedures for the timely exchange of actionable intelligence;

(b) Governments should encourage their law enforcement agencies to regularly use the platforms of regional cooperation centres, such as the Central Asian Regional Information and Coordination Centre, the Joint Planning Cell and the Criminal Information Centre to Combat Drugs of the Gulf Cooperation Council, for the collection, analysis and exchange of criminal intelligence and the coordination of multilateral operations. Governments should be encouraged to make better use of the network of law enforcement liaison officers for those purposes;

(c) Governments should take the steps necessary to support face-to-face meetings of the law enforcement officials involved in ongoing investigations to ensure the exchange of specific information and facilitate further post-seizure investigations.

2. Trafficking in synthetic opioids and synthetic cannabinoids and measures to counter such trafficking

15. The following recommendations were made with regard to trafficking in synthetic opioids and synthetic cannabinoids and measures to counter such trafficking:

(a) Governments should consider allocating more resources to modernizing their drug-testing laboratories, enhancing the skills of scientists and providing adequate tools and equipment to front-line law enforcement officers;

(b) Governments should be encouraged to make full use of the United Nations Toolkit on Synthetic Drugs, which includes a wide range of resources, such as guidelines, technical information and links to useful resources, instruments and training to assist Member States in designing effective countermeasures to contain the threats posed by synthetic drugs;

(c) Governments should take advantage of the information available in the UNODC early warning advisory on new psychoactive substances and should be encouraged to provide information to UNODC on new psychoactive substances when they are identified by national drug-testing laboratories to enhance the understanding of patterns and trends in their emergence;

(d) Governments should be encouraged to allow national forensic laboratories to participate in the UNODC international collaborative exercises programme, which is aimed at assisting drug-testing laboratories worldwide in assessing their own performance and taking corrective actions, when appropriate;

(e) UNODC should be encouraged to provide financial and technical assistance, including specialized drug control equipment and training, to national drug-testing laboratories.

3. Record levels of opiate production and related challenges

16. The following recommendations were made with regard to the record levels of opiate production and related challenges:

(a) Governments should be encouraged to introduce and/or further develop profiling techniques to ensure the targeting of trafficking in drugs and precursors while facilitating legal trade. The UNODC Global Container Control Programme is instrumental in providing training in those techniques in relation to container shipments;

(b) Governments should undertake appropriate measures at the national level and cooperate at the international level to identify and investigate the diversion of precursor chemicals (specifically acetic anhydride) and the subsequent trafficking thereof;

(c) Governments should be encouraged to further support the efforts of Afghanistan to reduce opium poppy cultivation, counter trafficking in opiates, dismantle clandestine laboratories and implement alternative development programmes.

4. Practical measures tailored to the specific needs of children and youth to prevent and treat drug abuse among them

17. The following recommendations were made with regard to practical measures tailored to the specific needs of children and youth to prevent and treat drug abuse among them:

(a) Governments should be encouraged to implement a system of prevention at the national level that incorporates a number of integrated prevention interventions that are based on science, aligned with the *International Standards on Drug Use Prevention*, and take cultural factors into consideration;

(b) Governments should recognize that drug use and drug use disorders are a multifactorial health disorder and ensure that quality drug use disorder treatment is available to all persons in need of services;

(c) Governments should be encouraged to use established platforms and networks for collecting data and sharing best practices in prevention and treatment among countries in the region;

(d) Governments should place a value on youth empowerment and the inclusion of young people in policy discussions around the issues of risk behaviours, including substance use.

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

1. Intelligence-led policing based on criminal intelligence collection, collation, analysis and sharing at the national, regional and international levels

18. The following recommendations were made with regard to intelligence-led policing based on criminal intelligence collection, collation, analysis and sharing at the national, regional and international levels:

(a) Governments are encouraged to develop or update training materials and tools on criminal intelligence analysis and practice regular training in this area, specifically by the specialized law enforcement training and education institutions. Training programmes might be focused on various levels, namely, for managers, front-line officers and intelligence analysts;

(b) Governments should regularly take the steps necessary to support trust-building initiatives between law enforcement agencies at the national, regional and international levels, to facilitate exchanges of actionable criminal intelligence;

(c) Governments should support the efforts of law enforcement agencies in strengthening criminal intelligence analysis capacities and in promoting and practising intelligence-led policing.

2. Understanding the *modi operandi* and activities of organized criminal groups involved in drug trafficking

19. The following recommendations were made with regard to understanding the *modi operandi* and activities of organized criminal groups involved in drug trafficking:

(a) Governments should develop and further strengthen the capacities of their competent authorities to intercept, investigate and prosecute significant multinational illicit drug trafficking cases to enable the disruption of illicit drug trafficking channels and the dismantling of criminal groups involved;

(b) Governments should encourage their law enforcement agencies to use special investigative techniques, including controlled deliveries, infiltration and other undercover operations to identify major illicit drug trafficking groups and drug supply chains, as well as related financial flows, and consequently to undertake needed countermeasures;

(c) Governments should ensure the regular exchange of information with counterparts on *modi operandi*, concealment methods, trafficking routes, criminal groups and their members, as well as best practices and effective countermeasures in tackling illicit drug trafficking.

3. Improving the capacity of countries to detect emerging drug threats through early warning

20. The following recommendations were made with regard to improving the capacity of countries to detect emerging drug threats through early warning:

(a) Governments should continue to encourage the development of their early warning systems on new emerging drugs and new psychoactive substances;

(b) Governments should continue to invest in training their forensic technical staff in the detection of synthetic drugs and new psychoactive substances;

(c) Governments must strengthen the capacities of national forensic laboratories for the detection of newly emerging drugs and new psychoactive substances by modernizing their equipment and analytical capabilities;

(d) Governments should continue to stimulate inter-agency and information-sharing work on emerging drugs and new psychoactive substances, both

nationally and internationally. They should also strengthen training in their law enforcement agencies in the recognition and detection of synthetic drugs and new psychoactive substances, and provide them with detection and protection equipment for the management of synthetic drugs.

4. Expanding the scope of national illicit crop monitoring systems: experiences and opportunities

21. The following recommendations were made with regard to expanding the scope of national illicit crop monitoring systems – experiences and opportunities:

(a) Governments should establish comprehensive national monitoring systems that are based on scientific evidence. This requires coordination of and joint analysis by national agencies at the technical level, as well as coordination at the highest political level to ensure that the resulting analysis feeds into programming and policymaking;

(b) Governments should make the best use of existing structures and mechanisms for regional and international cooperation, including for the exchange of experiences and expertise on national monitoring tools, including for illicit crop monitoring;

(c) The international community should provide support to address the issue of illicit cultivation, production and trafficking, as well as the establishment of national monitoring mechanisms, through the provision of specialized technical support and financial resources.

E. Forty-third Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Asia and the Pacific

1. Regional and international cooperation to reduce the illicit cultivation and production of drugs, including alternative development

22. The following recommendations were made with regard to regional and international cooperation to reduce the illicit cultivation and production of drugs, including alternative development:

(a) Governments are encouraged to actively share experience and expertise in regional and international cooperation aimed at reducing the illicit cultivation and production of drugs and at dismantling clandestine laboratories, as well as best practices in alternative development;

(b) Governments should recognize the recent exponential increase in methamphetamine production and adjust countermeasures accordingly. International and regional cooperation to prevent and dismantle supply chains for precursors and distribution channels for final products should be prioritized;

(c) Governments should undertake sustainable alternative development measures based on innovative and evidence-based approaches to enable target groups to build a sustainable livelihood, in both rural and urban areas.

2. New modi operandi in trafficking and trends in concealment methods and transport, and effective investigative techniques in response thereto

23. The following recommendations were made with regard to new modi operandi in trafficking and trends in concealment methods and transport, and effective investigative techniques in response thereto:

(a) Governments should further encourage their law enforcement agencies to coordinate and cooperate with each other to ensure the timely exchange of criminal intelligence and to conduct more effective operations at both the national and international levels;

(b) Governments should encourage their law enforcement agencies to share their experiences in developing and implementing standard operational procedures for conducting controlled deliveries and other specialized techniques with partners in other countries as a means of ensuring international cooperation through the exchange of best practices;

(c) Governments should continue to regularly exchange information on trafficking routes, concealment methods and *modi operandi* used by criminal groups involved in drug trafficking with a view to undertaking timely preventive law enforcement measures;

(d) Governments are encouraged to increase cooperation with and support for important regional organizations, such as the Joint Planning Cell and others.

3. Countering money-laundering, illicit financial flows and the use of the darknet and cryptocurrencies in relation to the drug trade

24. The following recommendations were made with regard to countering money-laundering, illicit financial flows and the use of the darknet and cryptocurrencies in relation to the drug trade:

(a) Governments should encourage their law enforcement agencies, tax and prosecutorial authorities, financial intelligence units and other relevant agencies to cooperate more closely with the banking sector and formal and informal money or value transfer service providers in undertaking anti-money laundering activities;

(b) Governments should ensure that adequate training is provided to front-line law enforcement officials to ensure that evidence related to the online drug trade, including on the darknet, is properly secured during the early stages of investigations. Training should also be provided on the use of cryptocurrencies for the online drug trade and money-laundering. Measures should be undertaken to exchange training tools and materials developed by Member States, UNODC and other partners to ensure the widest possible coverage;

(c) Governments should carry out financial investigations aimed at freezing criminal assets when investigating drug cases with potential links to illicit financial flows.

4. Alternatives to conviction or punishment for drug-related offences and enhanced cooperation between the health, social and criminal justice sectors

25. The following recommendations were made with regard to alternatives to conviction or punishment for drug-related offences and enhanced cooperation between the health, social and criminal justice sectors:

(a) Governments are encouraged to consider, as appropriate, alternatives to conviction and punishment for minor drug-related offences, pursuant to the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for Non-Custodial Measures (the Tokyo Rules) and the international drug control conventions;

(b) Governments should ensure the effective coordination of and cooperation among all relevant government agencies involved in drug control in order to facilitate the provision of health and social services to people with drug use disorders in contact with the criminal justice system;

(c) Governments should strengthen community-based services, including prevention, treatment, care and social support, for people who use drugs, to prevent drug-related crime and recidivism.

III. Follow-up to the implementation at the national, regional and international levels of all commitments, as reflected in the Ministerial Declaration of 2019, to address and counter the world drug problem

26. An item on the follow-up to the implementation at the national, regional and international levels of all commitments, as reflected in the Ministerial Declaration of 2019, to addressing and countering the world drug problem was on the agendas of the Thirteenth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Europe, the Twenty-ninth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Africa, the fifty-fourth session of the Subcommittee on Illicit Drug Traffic and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East, the Twenty-ninth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Latin America and the Caribbean, and the Forty-third Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Asia and the Pacific.

27. For their consideration of the item, the participants in the meetings 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), 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 on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem ([A/69/87-E/2014/80](#), annex I), 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” (resolution S-30/1, annex), and 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 ([E/2019/28-E/CN.7/2019/13](#), chap. I, sect. B).

28. Participants were asked to consider the actions taken and challenges faced by the States in their regions with regard to the implementation of all commitments made.

29. During the consideration of the item at the Thirteenth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Europe, participants were informed of the multi-year workplan for the period 2019–2023 adopted by the Commission at its fourth intersessional meeting, on 24 June 2019, as a follow-up to the Ministerial Declaration, with a view to accelerating the implementation of all international drug policy commitments through the organization of thematic discussions aimed at fostering a dialogue and exchanging good practices, challenges and lessons learned.

30. Participants were encouraged to join the thematic discussions to bring their operational perspectives to the Commission and to exchange views with practitioners and experts from all over the world on how the implementation of all international drug policy commitments could be accelerated, addressing the challenges identified in the Ministerial Declaration, among others.

31. Participants also discussed the importance of streamlining data-gathering mechanisms, including through enhanced cooperation among regional and international organizations, with a view to avoiding the duplication of reporting efforts.

32. During the consideration of the item at the Twenty-ninth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Africa, many speakers highlighted the strong commitment of their Governments to addressing the world drug problem in a comprehensive and balanced manner, including through law enforcement and health-related responses. It was mentioned that holistic approaches should involve not only governmental agencies, but also families and community structures.

33. Several speakers reaffirmed the commitment of their Governments to fully implementing the Political Declaration and Plan of Action of 2009, the Joint Ministerial Statement of 2014 and the outcome document of the special session of the General Assembly held in 2016. It was noted that the three documents were complementary and mutually reinforcing. One speaker underlined that the three policy documents were to be treated equally and that none should be given preference over the others. One speaker mentioned that his Government would strive to implement a ruling of the constitutional court concerning cannabis which was in line with the international drug control conventions and other international obligations.

34. The Ministerial Declaration was welcomed, as it facilitated the streamlining of the implementation of all existing commitments by building upon all three policy documents and by introducing a standing agenda item for the Commission on Narcotic Drugs on the implementation of all commitments.

35. Several speakers highlighted that cooperation and coordination among countries were crucial in addressing the world drug problem, but that solutions needed to take into account national situations, in particular with regard to socioeconomic factors.

36. The support provided by UNODC in addressing and countering the world drug problem, in particular its youth drug use prevention initiatives, was commended by some speakers.

37. During the consideration of the item at the fifty-fourth session of the Subcommission, several speakers reiterated the willingness of their Governments to implement all commitments, as reflected in the Ministerial Declaration, based on the principle of common and shared responsibility. They also stressed the value and importance of the Subcommission sessions in contributing to the follow-up to the implementation of those commitments at the national and regional levels. Some speakers reported on measures taken by their Governments to implement the Political Declaration and Plan of Action, the operational recommendations contained in the outcome document of the thirtieth special session of the General Assembly and the Ministerial Declaration.

38. On the supply-reduction side, measures taken by Governments had included the promulgation of legislation to combat drug-related money-laundering, the implementation of measures to control precursor chemicals, including by using the Pre-Export Notification Online system and the Precursors Incident Communication System, and cooperation with neighbouring States for border control. Other measures included the training of staff in investigation techniques, the exchange of information and container control at seaports and airports. Those actions had resulted in the seizure of significant quantities of heroin, opium, amphetamine-type stimulants and new psychoactive substances. One speaker reported on efforts to combat cybercrime and the sale of narcotics over the Internet.

39. On the demand-reduction side, several speakers reported establishing treatment and rehabilitation centres and providing services in line with international standards. The use of methadone under medical supervision for the treatment of drug-dependence disorders was mentioned by one speaker. Some speakers indicated that, since the adoption of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action and the outcome document of the thirtieth special session of the General Assembly, the number of drug users in their countries had diminished, mainly as a result of prevention and treatment efforts. Among the prevention measures that had been taken were workshops, round tables, sporting events, awareness-raising activities and the involvement of non-governmental organizations in demand-reduction activities. One speaker referred to the successful use of YouTube channels and Instagram for prevention activities.

40. Several speakers reported on the signing of memorandums of understanding and on cooperation with regional and international organizations and initiatives, such as the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, the Central Asian Regional Information and Coordination Centre, the Triangular Initiative and the Paris Pact initiative. Operation

“Spider Web”, conducted under the auspices of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, was mentioned as a successful example of such cooperation. International cooperation efforts also included participation in international meetings and conferences and the posting of law enforcement liaison officers abroad.

41. Reference was made to new psychoactive substances as an emerging threat. Countries needed to be proactive rather than reactive, and technical assistance was needed, including the provision of the necessary equipment and training for countries to identify amphetamine-type stimulants and new psychotropic substances.

42. Speakers reported on action taken to ensure the availability of controlled substances for medical and scientific purposes and to prevent the diversion and abuse of such substances. Some speakers also reported on measures to prevent the abuse of pharmaceutical products and analogues of narcotic substances. Reference was also made to the medical use of cannabis, which was being studied by the World Health Organization and would require the introduction by countries of specific legislative and regulatory measures.

43. During the consideration of the item at the Twenty-ninth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Latin America and the Caribbean, one speaker emphasized that the Ministerial Declaration did not represent a new policy document but rather the reaffirmation of the commitments made by the international community over the preceding decade to addressing and countering the world drug problem. The speaker underlined her country’s commitment to actively promoting a society free of drug abuse in which all people could live in security and prosperity. Her country also recognized that the Political Declaration and Plan of Action, the Joint Ministerial Statement and the outcome document of the thirtieth special session of the General Assembly were complementary and mutually reinforcing. It reiterated the goals set in the Political Declaration and Plan of Action to work towards the elimination of illicit crop cultivation and the production and manufacture of, trafficking in and abuse of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, as well as the elimination of the diversion of and illicit trafficking in precursors, and money-laundering linked to drug-related crimes.

44. It was highlighted that, in the face of the increase in drug demand, and the resulting increase in coca production, alternative development remained an essential tool to change the socioeconomic fabric of areas affected by illicit coca cultivation and reduce their dependence on illicit crops.

45. Another speaker made a presentation on a statistical yearbook prepared by his country pursuant to a recommendation of the Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Latin America and the Caribbean, based on data provided by countries across the region on natural and synthetic drugs and new psychoactive substances, their seizures, the numbers of individuals detained and cases shared by participating countries. He stressed the importance of the yearbook and requested continued support and input for the compilation of the data. He also proposed that the publication be reviewed to make it more reliable and dynamic. Another representative indicated that, in accordance with the Constitution of his country, drug control was a matter of public health, and he mentioned the importance of addressing and countering the world drug problem in the framework of the Sustainable Development Goals. One representative stated that the drug problem continued to be among the main threats to social progress in his country, as it threatened legality and the exercise of freedom and represented an obstacle to achieving standards of equality, especially in rural areas. At the international level, he noted a lack of convergence, coordination and synergy in the efforts of different countries and reiterated the need to promote enhanced cooperation in all sectors of drug control, in the framework of a revitalization of the principle of common and shared responsibility. His country remained committed to the implementation of all international drug policy commitments.

46. During the consideration of the item at the Forty-third Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Asia and the Pacific, several speakers

reaffirmed the commitment of their Governments to addressing and countering the world drug problem, and to fully implementing the Ministerial Declaration, as well as all commitments made in the Political Declaration and Plan of Action, the Joint Ministerial Statement and the outcome document of the thirtieth special session of the General Assembly. It was noted that the three documents were complementary and mutually reinforcing.

47. Some speakers highlighted the strong commitment of their Governments to addressing the world drug problem in a comprehensive and balanced manner, including through law enforcement and health-related responses, and in full compliance with the international drug control conventions. Several speakers highlighted that cooperation and coordination among countries were crucial in addressing the world drug problem, as both drug abuse and drug trafficking required multilateral responses. Some delegations invited the international community to dedicate more attention to the challenging situation in the Golden Triangle.

48. It was mentioned that implementation efforts were needed to protect the rights of vulnerable populations in a national context, while at the same time taking into account the rights of all families and community structures.

49. Some speakers provided information on their countries' efforts to implement the Ministerial Declaration and to address the challenges noted therein, providing concrete examples of law enforcement assistance and international inter-agency cooperation.

IV. Organization of future meetings of the subsidiary bodies

50. Possible topics for the meetings of the subsidiary bodies to be held in 2020 were discussed and identified at the respective meetings.

51. 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 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. Attention is also drawn to Economic and Social Council resolution 1990/30, entitled "Establishment of a Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, European Region", in which the Council established the convening of regional meetings along the lines of those already established in other regions. Further attention is drawn to Commission on Narcotic Drugs resolution 6 (XXV), entitled "Establishment of a subcommission on illicit traffic in the Near and Middle East", in which the Commission decided that meetings of the Subcommission and its working groups would be held in the territory of the States of regional members of the Subcommission. Accordingly, the Commission should encourage member States in the different regions to consider hosting forthcoming meetings of heads of national drug law enforcement agencies and sessions of the Subcommission where no host has yet been identified and to coordinate with the Secretariat as soon as possible to allow sufficient time for the organizational arrangements to be made.

52. At the Twenty-ninth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Latin America and the Caribbean, the representatives of both Guatemala and Paraguay announced the interest of their Governments in hosting the Thirtieth Meeting, in 2020.

53. At the Forty-third Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Asia and the Pacific, the delegation of the Republic of Korea announced the intention of its Government to host the Forty-fourth Meeting, in 2020.