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Draft report

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Addendum

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

1. At its 5th, 7th and 8th meetings, on 4 and 5 March 2020, the Commission considered agenda item 6, which reads as follows:

“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:

(a) Consideration of the improved and streamlined annual report questionnaire, as reflected in the Ministerial Declaration of 2019.¹”

2. For its consideration of item 6, the Commission had before it the following:

(a) Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem of 2009;²

(b) 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;³

(c) Outcome document of the thirtieth special session of the General Assembly, entitled “Our joint commitment to effectively addressing and countering the world drug problem” (General Assembly resolution [S-30/1](#), annex);

¹ 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, eleventh paragraph of the section entitled “Way forward”.

² See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2009, Supplement No. 8 (E/2009/28)*, chap. I, sect. C.

³ See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2014, Supplement No. 8 (E/2014/28)*, chap. I, sect. C.



(d) Report of the Executive Director on the activities of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime ([E/CN.7/2020/2-E/CN.15/2020/2](#));

(e) Report of the Secretariat on the world situation with regard to drug abuse ([E/CN.7/2020/4](#));

(f) Report of the Secretariat on the world situation with regard to drug trafficking ([E/CN.7/2020/5](#));

(g) Report of the Executive Director on action taken by Member States to implement the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem ([E/CN.7/2020/6](#));

(h) Report of the Executive Director on responding to the prevalence of HIV/AIDS and other blood-borne diseases among drug users ([E/CN.7/2020/8](#));

(i) Note by the Secretariat on the improved and streamlined annual report questionnaire ([E/CN.7/2020/12](#));

(j) Chair's summary by Ambassador Mirghani Abbaker Altayeb Bakhet (Sudan), Chair of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs at its sixty-second session, on the thematic discussions on the implementation of all international drug policy commitments, following up the 2019 Ministerial Declaration (16–18 October 2019) ([E/CN.7/2020/CRP.1](#));

(k) Note by the Secretariat on the implementation of all international drug policy commitments, following up the 2019 Ministerial Declaration ([E/CN.7/2020/CRP.2](#));

(l) Guidelines for the completion of the annual report questionnaire ([E/CN.7/2020/CRP.3](#), as reissued);

(m) Strengthening international cooperation in combating illicit opiates originating in Afghanistan through continuous and reinforced support to the Paris Pact initiative ([E/CN.7/2020/CRP.8](#)).

3. Introductory statements were made by the Chief of the Research and Trend Analysis Branch, the Chief of the Drug Prevention and Health Branch, the Chief of the Organized Crime and Illicit Trafficking Branch and the Chief of the Sustainable Livelihoods Unit of UNODC, and by a representative of the secretariat of the Commission. A representative of the scientific community made a statement, and the Commission also viewed a video message by another representative of the scientific community. A statement was also made by representatives of the UNODC Youth Forum.

4. Statements were made by the representatives of Croatia (on behalf of the European Union and its member States, as well as Albania, Andorra, Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Iceland, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Norway, the Republic of Moldova, Serbia and Ukraine), Japan, Nigeria, South Africa, China, Egypt, Canada, India, the United States of America, Mexico, Pakistan, Thailand, Kenya and Peru.

5. Statements were also made by the observers for Indonesia, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Zambia and the United Republic of Tanzania.

6. The observer for the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights made a statement. Statements were also made by the observers for the International Federation of Non-Governmental Organizations for the Prevention of Drug and Substance Abuse, FORUT – Campaign for Development and Solidarity, Association nationale Al Hidn, Frontline AIDS, Harm Reduction International, the Vienna NGO Committee on Drugs, the Slum Child Foundation and the International Association for Hospice and Palliative Care.

A. Deliberations

7. Several speakers reiterated the commitment made in the 2019 Ministerial Declaration to accelerate the implementation of all international drug policy commitments made in the past decade, with a number of speakers underlining that the three international drug control conventions and other relevant international instruments constituted the cornerstone of the international drug control system. Several speakers reiterated their commitment to a balanced, integrated, comprehensive, multidisciplinary and evidence-based approach to the world drug problem, while respecting, protecting and promoting human rights and fundamental freedoms in the development and implementation of drug policies.

8. A number of speakers reaffirmed the principal role of the Commission as the United Nations policymaking body for drug-related matters. In addition, several speakers highlighted the important roles played by United Nations entities, in particular by UNODC, WHO and INCB, and underscored the importance of cooperation at all levels. Many speakers emphasized the importance of increased cooperation at the national, regional and international levels and of the enhanced provision of capacity-building, technical assistance and targeted training to support Member States in the effective implementation of all international drug policy commitments, in line with the 2019 Ministerial Declaration.

9. Many speakers underlined the need for a comprehensive, public health- and rights-based, integrated and holistic approach to the world drug problem. In this context, several speakers shared examples of programmes and interventions implemented at the national level, including awareness-raising in the community and prevention programmes in families, schools and communities.

10. Some speakers underlined the need to address the root causes of drug use, underscoring the importance of implementing multisectoral approaches for the treatment of drug use disorders. Some speakers reported on treatment services and interventions offered in their countries, including specialized drug treatment services and treatment in prison settings. Some speakers also underlined the importance of strengthening rehabilitation, recovery and social reintegration efforts for people with drug use disorders, including vocational training, livelihood support and the provision of recovery programmes. Some speakers reported high HIV and hepatitis C prevalence among people who inject drugs and shared information on national policies and programmes to minimize the adverse public health consequences of drug use as part of a comprehensive approach.

11. Some speakers emphasized the need to take measures to increase access to controlled substances for medical and scientific purposes, in particular for pain management and palliative care, including by, for example, placing certain medicines on the essential medicine list, expanding national coverage of distribution networks, improving online import and export processes, and enhancing the provision of training, in particular sensitization, for health care workers and other stakeholders.

12. Several speakers referred to both persistent and emerging challenges posed by the world drug problem. Many speakers highlighted the links between drug-related offences, transnational organized crime and corruption. Many speakers gave examples of activities undertaken at the national level in support of the 2019 Ministerial Declaration. These included strengthening international and inter-agency cooperation, strengthening border management and countering money-laundering, as well as developing, implementing and reviewing legislative, policy and administrative frameworks, enhancing the efficiency of adjudicating drug-related cases and streamlining mutual legal assistance processes.

13. A number of speakers reported on national initiatives to establish drug control and prevention strategies, multi-agency task forces and committees to address drug-related challenges. They referred to different governmental stakeholders involved in the implementation of relevant policies. Several speakers highlighted the

importance of engaging with civil society in national policies on the management of drug abuse.

14. Several speakers referred to the conclusion of bilateral agreements or arrangements to strengthen international cooperation, both of a judicial and a law enforcement nature, in countering drug trafficking and, in particular, to detect and disrupt the activities of transnational organized criminal groups in this area. Emphasis was placed on the need to simplify the process of extradition and mutual legal assistance with a view to further promoting international cooperation to counter drug-related offences and to further advance practices such as the exchange of personnel, information and experiences. Several speakers referred to the importance of regional and international cooperation in combating illicit drug flows, including the work of global and regional networks in the exchange of information and coordination of multi-jurisdictional anti-drug operations.

15. Police-to-police agreements on capacity-building and joint operations to address drug-related issues were reported by some speakers. The significance of training activities for enhancing the skills of competent authorities, including law enforcement and border management authorities, was stressed. Several speakers expressed their gratitude to UNODC for providing technical assistance on countering drug trafficking and encouraged further assistance in this regard, in particular to developing countries.

16. A number of speakers underscored the importance of including alternative development in broader supply reduction programmes and national development strategies. Speakers reiterated the importance of promoting alternative development as a development-oriented drug control strategy and highlighted good practices and regional and national initiatives in this area. A number of speakers reaffirmed their commitment to addressing drug-related socioeconomic and environmental issues related to illicit crop cultivation in the framework of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including through initiatives on skills development and livelihood support.

17. Many speakers welcomed the adoption of the multi-year workplan in June 2019, during the sixty-second session of the Commission, and the holding of the interactive meetings in the fourth quarter of each year in the period leading up to 2024, to discuss how to address the challenges identified in the 2019 Ministerial Declaration through the implementation of all international drug policy commitments made over the past decade. Appreciation was expressed to the Secretariat to the Governing Bodies for the organization of the thematic discussions, which served as a mechanism for the exchange of good practices and the discussion of trends at the national, regional and global levels. One speaker proposed that more time be allowed for national experts to exchange national good practices and lessons learned in the implementation of the policy commitments and that the thematic session be held back to back with other meetings of the Commission, such as the reconvened session.

18. One speaker gave a report on a national workshop on the implementation of all international drug policy commitments, following up on the 2019 Ministerial Declaration, organized with the support of the secretariat of the Commission, and underscored that the workshop enhanced the understanding of the international drug policy commitments contained in the 2009 Political Declaration and Plan of Action, the 2014 Joint Ministerial Statement and the 2016 outcome document of the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem, and strengthened inter-agency collaboration among national authorities involved in the design, implementation and evaluation of national drug policies.

19. While highlighting the importance of balanced and comprehensive evidence-based policies addressing the various aspects of the world drug problem, many speakers welcomed the adoption of the revised and streamlined annual report questionnaire and expressed appreciation for the work of UNODC undertaken since 2017. Appreciation was also expressed to the Chair of the Commission at its sixty-third session for guiding the informal consultations on the draft decision through which the revised and streamlined annual report questionnaire was adopted.

20. Several speakers emphasized that the revision of the annual report questionnaire needed to be followed by significant investment in technical assistance and capacity-building in order to enhance the ability of Member States to generate and report on data related to the drug situation in its many facets, with the aim of improving the response rate and geographical and thematic coverage in accordance with all commitments. The importance of providing e-learning tools to guide the completion of the annual report questionnaire was emphasized, and some speakers also highlighted the importance of synergy and cooperation with international partners in implementing those capacity-building efforts.

21. Several speakers illustrated recent and ongoing efforts of their countries to improve the national data-collection infrastructure, including inter-agency coordination, as well as specific drug-related data-collection initiatives in their countries. Some speakers welcomed the request in the decision on the improved and streamlined annual report questionnaire for Member States to appoint a national focal point, as appropriate in their respective national contexts, to facilitate the completion of the annual report questionnaire, working in consultation with their permanent missions accredited to the United Nations in Vienna. One speaker emphasized the importance of shareability of the questionnaire among relevant national institutions in order to ensure efficiency in the data-collection process and to safeguard the quality of collected data.

22. Several speakers noted the existence of different national data-collection practices and approaches to drug-related matters, as well as of different national societal contexts in the process of data collection, and expressed satisfaction that those aspects were recognized in the decision on the revised and streamlined annual report questionnaire. Some speakers also recalled that the adoption of the annual report questionnaire did not entail an endorsement by the Commission of the technical guidelines contained in the related conference room paper (E/CN.7/2020/CRP.3, as reissued). A number of speakers expressed support for the decision to include a footnote in that paper explaining that neither the Commission nor the experts had endorsed the technical guidelines for the revised and streamlined annual report questionnaire.

23. The importance of regional and global networks of professionals and practitioners as a means to improve data generation, collection and reporting capacities was also highlighted, and a call was made for further efforts to build and strengthen such networks.

B. Action taken by the Commission

24. At its 7th meeting, on 4 March 2020, the Commission adopted the draft decision (E/CN.7/2020/L.7) on the improved and streamlined annual report questionnaire. (For the text of the decision, see chap. I, sect. C, decision 63/[...].)