

29 July 2019

English only\*

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

Bangkok, 22–25 October 2019

**Annotated provisional agenda****Provisional agenda**

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.
3. Major regional drug trafficking trends and countermeasures.
4. Implementation of the recommendations adopted by the Forty-first Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Asia and the Pacific.
5. Consideration of topics by working groups:
  - (a) Regional and international cooperation to reduce illicit cultivation and production of drugs, including alternative development;
  - (b) New modi operandi in trafficking and trends in concealment methods and transport, and effective investigative techniques in response thereto;
  - (c) Countering money-laundering, illicit financial flows and the use of the darknet and cryptocurrencies in relation to the drug trade;
  - (d) Alternatives to conviction or punishment for drug-related offences and enhanced cooperation between the health, social and criminal justice sectors.
6. Follow-up on 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.
7. Organization of the Forty-fourth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Asia and the Pacific.
8. Other business.
9. Adoption of the report of the Forty-third Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Asia and the Pacific.

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\* Available only in English, which is the working language of the subsidiary body.



## **Annotations**

### **1. Election of officers**

Elections are held in accordance with rule 15 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council. Meetings of heads of national drug law enforcement agencies, Asia and the Pacific, have in the past elected a Chair, two Vice-Chairs and a Rapporteur.

### **2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters**

The provisional agenda for the Forty-third Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Asia and the Pacific was approved at the Forty-second Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Asia and the Pacific, held in Bangkok from 2 to 5 October 2018.

Following the adoption of the agenda, the Forty-third Meeting may wish to establish a timetable and agree on its organization of work. A proposed organization of work for the consideration of the Meeting is contained in the annex to the present document.

#### **Documentation**

Annotated provisional agenda (UNODC/HONLAP/43/1)

### **3. Major regional drug trafficking trends and countermeasures**

Governments were invited to submit to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) a three-page report on the most recent trends in drug-related matters in their countries. Participants are invited to inform the Meeting about the main observations made in their reports.

Participants are also invited to inform the Meeting about action taken by their Governments to enhance regional and subregional cooperation in areas such as joint investigations, law enforcement training and the sharing of information on and experiences in drug trafficking countermeasures, as well as about the challenges related thereto, and measures taken to overcome them.

#### **Documentation**

Note by the Secretariat transmitting the report of the Secretariat on the world situation with regard to drug trafficking (UNODC/HONLAP/43/2)

Report of the Secretariat on regional and subregional cooperation in Asia and the Pacific (UNODC/HONLAP/43/3)

### **4. Implementation of the recommendations adopted by the Forty-first Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Asia and the Pacific**

Participants are invited to inform the Forty-third Meeting about action taken by their Governments with regard to the implementation of the recommendations adopted at the Forty-first Meeting. For its consideration of item 4, the Forty-third Meeting will have before it a note prepared by the Secretariat on the basis of the replies submitted by Governments on action taken to implement those recommendations.

To enable the Secretariat to prepare a report on the status of implementation of those recommendations, a note verbale was transmitted to Governments on 4 June 2019, inviting them to return the completed questionnaire by 26 July 2019.

#### **Documentation**

Note by the Secretariat on the implementation of the recommendations adopted by the Forty-first Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Asia and the Pacific (UNODC/HONLAP/43/4)

## 5. Consideration of topics by working groups

Working groups will be established to review issues of regional importance and to facilitate informal discussions and a frank exchange of views on those issues. Speakers with relevant specialized knowledge will be invited to make introductory presentations on those issues to inform the working groups and facilitate discussion. Working groups are invited to present their observations, conclusions and recommendations to the plenary for endorsement and inclusion in the report on the Meeting. In preparing for the Meeting, delegates are invited to prepare material on the topics listed below.

### (a) Regional and international cooperation to reduce illicit cultivation and production of drugs, including alternative development

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, adopted in 2019, Member States reaffirmed their commitment to addressing drug-related socioeconomic issues related to illicit crop cultivation and the production and manufacture of and trafficking in drugs through the implementation of long-term, comprehensive and sustainable development-oriented and balanced drug control policies and programmes.

The task of the working group reviewing this issue will be to focus on the importance of comprehensive and sustainable alternative development programmes that support sustainable crop control strategies, as recommended in 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”. Participants will be encouraged to share national experiences in the promotion of alternative development and in addressing the consequences of illicit crop cultivation and the manufacture and production of narcotic drugs. A further aim of the working group will be to serve as a platform for sharing best practices and lessons learned regarding the implementation of the United Nations Guiding Principles on Alternative Development, adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution [68/196](#) and reaffirmed in resolutions [71/210](#) and [72/197](#).

### (b) New modi operandi in trafficking and trends in concealment methods and transport, and effective investigative techniques in response thereto

The working group reviewing this issue will discuss trends that national drug law enforcement agencies have observed in concealment methods and the transportation of drugs at the regional and interregional levels, including the role of customs authorities in facilitating the cross-border flow and security of goods, means of transport and, to a certain extent, people. Customs officers, working jointly with the police and other law enforcement agencies, prevent, detect and investigate criminal activities, including all kinds of trafficking. Moreover, customs authorities play a significant role in the collection and exchange of intelligence and cooperate in risk analysis, interdiction and investigative activities.

Participants will be invited to share information on practices in investigating complex drug trafficking cases and the use of effective investigative techniques, including controlled deliveries. They will also be invited to share their experiences of challenges faced in conducting such operations and investigating such cases, as well as to share their views on how those challenges are currently being or could be addressed.

Participants may also wish to discuss the effectiveness of existing regional and international law enforcement cooperation mechanisms and organizations in supporting such operations and investigations and make suggestions about how to improve that support. Participants are encouraged to highlight, in particular, actions and strategies that have proved to be effective and areas in which greater efforts should be made.

**(c) Countering money-laundering, illicit financial flows and the use of the darknet and cryptocurrencies in relation to the drug trade**

The working group established under sub-item (c) will discuss the challenges arising from drug-related money-laundering, including the laundering of proceeds using cryptocurrencies and the growing problem of the trade in drugs on black markets hosted on the darknet.

Because the darknet offers criminals relative anonymity, law enforcement agencies and financial intelligence units need to develop their capacity to trace cryptocurrency transactions to the owner and to conduct undercover operations on the darknet. The capacities of law enforcement agencies and financial intelligence units to trace illicit financial flows and transactions will be addressed.

Participants will be invited to share information on the latest trends observed by their agencies in the extent and nature of money-laundering related to drug trafficking, as well as best investigative practices in that regard. Participants will also be invited to discuss issues related to effective international cooperation in those matters, as well as to address challenges arising from the seizure of proceeds in the form of cryptocurrencies and ways to ensure efficient international cooperation in drug trafficking cases involving the darknet. The working group will conclude by proposing recommendations.

**(d) Alternatives to conviction or punishment for drug-related offences and enhanced cooperation between the health, social and criminal justice sectors**

The working group reviewing this issue will examine alternatives to conviction or punishment that are available, in line with the international drug control conventions, including for people with drug use disorders in contact with the criminal justice system.

Participants will be encouraged to share national experiences and challenges related to the use of alternatives at the pretrial, trial and post-trial stages, providing examples of options available and relevant criteria. Participants will be invited to reflect on the impact on public health and security of establishing alternative pathways to imprisonment.

The discussion will also be focused on the interface between the criminal justice system and essential health-care and social services, and promising practices in terms of coordination and cooperation between those sectors will be highlighted.

**6. Follow-up on 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**

At the opening of the ministerial segment of the sixty-second session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, held in March 2019, ministers and government representatives adopted by consensus the Ministerial Declaration on Strengthening Our Actions at the National, Regional and International Levels to Accelerate the Implementation of Our Joint Commitments to Address and Counter the World Drug Problem. In the Declaration, Member States made a commitment to accelerating, based on the principle of common and shared responsibility, the full implementation of the 2009 Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem, the Joint Ministerial Statement of the 2014 high-level review by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs of the implementation by Member States of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action and the outcome document of the thirtieth special session of the General Assembly, aimed at achieving all commitments, operational recommendations and aspirational goals set out therein.

The Political Declaration and Plan of Action, adopted at the high-level segment of the fifty-second session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs in 2009, focuses on measures to enhance international cooperation, identifies problems and areas

requiring further action and sets out goals and targets for countering the world drug problem. In its resolution 56/10, the Commission on Narcotic Drugs requested the meetings of its subsidiary bodies to contribute to the monitoring of the implementation by Member States of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action at the regional level by discussing regional views on progress made in that regard. In the same resolution, the Commission encouraged Member States to consider the expertise and composition of their delegations to the meetings of the subsidiary bodies, with a view to covering the various aspects of the world drug problem (demand, supply and international cooperation) in order to hold substantive discussions on the issue and to actively participate in the 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”. Furthermore, the Commission requested the meetings of the subsidiary bodies, 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.

In 2014, Member States undertook a high-level midterm review of the implementation by Member States of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action to determine the progress achieved and challenges faced in its implementation and adopted the 2014 Joint Ministerial Statement, identifying achievements, challenges and priorities for further action in the implementation of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action.

In 2016, the General Assembly held a special session on the world drug problem (thirtieth special session) and adopted an outcome document entitled “Our joint commitment to effectively addressing and countering the world drug problem” (General Assembly resolution S-30/1, annex). The outcome document contains a broad range of operational recommendations covering the following seven thematic areas: (a) demand reduction and related measures, including prevention and treatment, as well as other health-related issues; (b) ensuring the availability of and access to controlled substances exclusively for medical and scientific purposes, while preventing their diversion; (c) supply reduction and related measures, effective law enforcement, responses to drug-related crime, and countering money-laundering and promoting judicial cooperation; (d) cross-cutting issues: drugs and human rights, youth, children, women and communities; (e) cross-cutting issues in addressing and countering the world drug problem: evolving reality, trends and existing circumstances, emerging and persistent challenges and threats, including new psychoactive substances, in conformity with the three international drug control conventions and other relevant international instruments; (f) strengthening international cooperation based on the principle of common and shared responsibility; and (g) alternative development; regional, interregional and international cooperation on development-oriented balanced drug control policy and addressing socioeconomic issues.

Member States resolved to take the steps necessary to implement the operational recommendations, in close partnership with the United Nations and other intergovernmental organizations and civil society, and to share with the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, as the policymaking body of the United Nations with prime responsibility for drug control matters, timely information on progress made in the implementation of those recommendations. The Commission on Narcotic Drugs initiated the follow-up process to the special session, with a focus on implementing the operational recommendations. With a view to sharing good practices and lessons learned in the practical implementation of the joint commitments, thematic discussions were held by the Commission and focused, *inter alia*, on the operational recommendations contained in the seven thematic chapters of the outcome document. More information on the follow-up process can be found at [www.ungass2016.org](http://www.ungass2016.org).

Under agenda item 6, participants in the Meeting will be invited to consider the challenges posed to the States of the region with regard to the full implementation of the 2009 Political Declaration and Plan of Action, the Joint Ministerial Statement of

the 2014 high-level review by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs of the implementation by Member States of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action and the outcome document of the thirtieth special session of the General Assembly, aimed at achieving all commitments, operational recommendations and aspirational goals set out therein. Participants will also be invited to discuss how they could best contribute through the Commission on Narcotic Drugs to accelerating the implementation of all commitments made in the past decade, drawing on their technical expertise and their regional experiences.

#### **Documentation**

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 (see [E/2019/28](#), chap. I, sect. B)

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)

Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem (see [E/2009/28](#), chap. I, sect. C)

### **7. Organization of the Forty-fourth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Asia and the Pacific**

The Forty-third Meeting is to consider a draft provisional agenda for the Forty-fourth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Asia and the Pacific, including topics for discussion in working groups and possible venues for future meetings. A decision on the venue of the Forty-fourth Meeting and on the topics for the working groups would greatly facilitate the preparation and organization of that Meeting. A conference room paper prepared by the Secretariat on a standard letter of agreement and conference requirements for hosting a meeting of heads of national drug law enforcement agencies, Asia and the Pacific, will be made available to participants.

The Forty-third Meeting is invited to discuss any other matters related to the organization of its deliberations with a view to improving their substantive content and follow-up.

#### **Documentation**

Note by the Secretariat on the organization of the Forty-fourth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Asia and the Pacific (UNODC/HONLAP/43/5)

Standard letter of agreement and conference requirements for hosting a meeting of heads of national drug law enforcement agencies, Asia and the Pacific (UNODC/HONLAP/43/CRP.1)

### **8. Other business**

Under the item entitled “Other business”, the Forty-third Meeting may wish to address any other important issues, such as urgent matters reflected in the country reports.

### **9. Adoption of the report of the Forty-third Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Asia and the Pacific**

The Forty-third Meeting will adopt its report, including the findings and recommendations of the working groups, on the last day of the Meeting.

## Annex

## Proposed organization of work

<i>Date and time</i>		<i>Agenda item</i>	<i>Title or description</i>
Tuesday, 22 October	8.30 a.m.		Registration
	10 a.m.		Opening
		1	Election of officers
		2	Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters
	2 p.m.	3	Major regional drug trafficking trends and countermeasures
		4	Implementation of the recommendations adopted by the Forty-first Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Asia and the Pacific
6		Follow-up on 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	
Wednesday, 23 October	9 a.m.	5	Consideration of topics by working groups
	2 p.m.	5	Consideration of topics by working groups ( <i>continued</i> )
Thursday, 24 October	9 a.m.	5	Consideration of topics by working groups ( <i>continued</i> )
	2 p.m.	5	Consideration of topics by working groups ( <i>continued</i> )
Friday, 25 October	10 a.m.	7	Organization of the Forty-fourth Meeting
		8	Other business
	2 p.m.	9	Adoption of the report of the Forty-third Meeting