

Resolution 53/5

Strengthening regional cooperation between Afghanistan and transit States and the contribution of all affected countries to counter-narcotics efforts, based on the principle of common and shared responsibility

The Commission on Narcotic Drugs,

Reaffirming the commitments assumed by Member States in the Political Declaration adopted by the General Assembly at its twentieth special session¹ and the measures to enhance international cooperation to counter the world drug problem,²

Also reaffirming the commitments assumed by Member States in the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem,³ adopted during the high-level segment of its fifty-second session,

Recalling Economic and Social Council resolutions 2001/16 of 24 July 2001, 2002/21 of 24 July 2002, 2003/34 and 2003/35 of 22 July 2003, 2005/27 of 22 July 2005 and 2008/27 of 23 July 2008 and other relevant resolutions on international assistance to States affected by the transit of illicit drugs,

Also recalling its resolution 52/2, entitled “Strengthening the law enforcement capacity of the main transit States neighbouring Afghanistan, based on the principle of shared responsibility”,

Aware that the illicit cultivation and production of and trafficking in drugs originating in Afghanistan, as part of the world drug problem, have an impact on political stability, democratic institutions, security and the rule of law,

Welcoming the crucial work and leading role of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in mobilizing and coordinating international efforts to counter the threat posed by illicit drugs originating in Afghanistan,

Noting with concern that in the *Afghanistan Opium Survey 2009*, published by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, it is stated that opium production in Afghanistan in 2009 amounted to 6,900 tons, representing 95 per cent of total opium production in major producing countries,

Acknowledging that the cultivation and production of opium in Afghanistan have declined over the past two years and that, as noted in the *Afghanistan Opium Survey 2009*, the number of opium poppy-free provinces increased from eighteen to twenty, resulting in a reduction of 22 per cent in opium poppy cultivation, owing to stronger governance, more aggressive counter-narcotics action and the promotion of legitimate farming,

¹ General Assembly resolution S-20/2, annex.

² General Assembly resolutions S-20/4 A to E.

³ A/64/92-E/2009/98, sect. II.A.

Noting with concern that, as reflected in the annual report of the International Narcotics Control Board for 2009,⁴ Afghanistan remains the main supplier of illicit opiates, in quantities far greater than global demand, and that the ongoing market correction should be consolidated by sufficient levels of support in accordance with the Afghanistan national development strategy and the national drug control strategy,

Acknowledging that transit States are faced with multifaceted challenges related to the increasing amount of illicit drugs transiting through their territory as a result of the increasing supply of and demand for illicit drugs in some markets,

Concerned that the bulk of the illicit drugs originating in Afghanistan is smuggled into and through countries neighbouring Afghanistan before reaching other countries of destination,

Also concerned about the smuggling of precursor chemicals into Afghanistan, bearing in mind the relevant instruments of the United Nations,

Emphasizing that, based on the principle of common and shared responsibility, all countries, including countries of destination, should play a role in assisting, in an effective and efficient manner, Afghanistan and the most affected transit States neighbouring Afghanistan,

Bearing in mind that the international community has progressively acknowledged the importance of a regional approach in tackling the illicit production of and trafficking in drugs originating in Afghanistan,

Acknowledging that the principle of common and shared responsibility in promoting cross-border cooperation in countering narcotics has been highlighted by the Paris Pact initiative and the Rainbow Strategy, for both of which stronger regional and international support is sought,

Welcoming the third phase of the Paris Pact initiative and the operational outcome it is to deliver,

Commending the activities carried out in the framework of the Triangular Initiative, involving Afghanistan, Iran (Islamic Republic of) and Pakistan, to promote, as a regional effort, cooperation to counter trafficking in narcotic drugs originating in Afghanistan,

Also commending the positive results that have already been achieved by States in the region through the relevant international structures, in particular, the Targeted Anti-trafficking Regional Communication, Expertise and Training (TARCET) initiative, resulting in concrete intelligence exchange and seizures of precursor chemicals,

Taking note of the decisions taken by the Governments of Afghanistan, Iran (Islamic Republic of) and Pakistan at the third ministerial meeting of the Triangular Initiative, held in Vienna on 27

⁴ *Report of the International Narcotics Control Board for 2009* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.10.X.1).

October 2009, including on strengthening the role of the joint planning cell established in Tehran for the exchange of relevant information and intelligence, on establishing border liaison offices and on conducting joint operations against drug traffickers, which have led to significant seizures of illicit drugs and arrests of traffickers,

Also taking note of positive decisions taken at the eighth meeting of the States of the memorandum of understanding on subregional drug control cooperation, held in Almaty, Kazakhstan, on 9 December 2009, to tackle the problem of illicit drugs originating in Afghanistan,

Welcoming the announcement by the Government of Pakistan that it will host the fourth ministerial meeting of the Triangular Initiative in 2010,

1. *Invites* financial institutions and requests relevant international organizations and all countries concerned to provide technical and financial assistance, facilities and other needed support to Afghanistan and the most affected transit States, including by improving the law enforcement capacity of those States, taking into account the seriousness of the problem;

2. *Commends* the achievements made within the framework of the Triangular Initiative, involving Afghanistan, Iran (Islamic Republic of) and Pakistan, which have resulted in the establishment of a joint planning cell for the exchange of law enforcement information and the planning of joint operations against drug trafficking networks operating across the region, the establishment of border liaison offices and the conduct of joint operations;

3. *Also commends* the achievements of the Central Asian Regional Information and Coordination Centre, located in Almaty, Kazakhstan, in combating trafficking in narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and their precursors, and encourages closer cooperation between the Centre and the joint planning cell of the Triangular Initiative, located in Tehran, in combating trafficking in narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and their precursors, as such cooperation would enable the wider region to undertake regional law enforcement information exchange and counter-narcotic operations to dismantle criminal networks, without compromising the ability of the two entities to freely share law enforcement information among their respective members;

4. *Encourages* Member States to enhance coordination through existing regional mechanisms, in particular through the Paris Pact initiative, in order to strengthen cross-border cooperation and information exchange with a view to countering trafficking in illicit drugs originating in Afghanistan;

5. *Urges* all Member States and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to provide technical assistance to support the Triangular Initiative and the Central Asian Regional Information and Coordination Centre in their efforts to combat trafficking in narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and their precursors, including within the framework of the Paris Pact initiative and the Rainbow Strategy;

6. *Calls upon* Member States to make contributions to activities aimed at reducing illicit opium poppy cultivation in Afghanistan, including alternative development, support for good governance, interdiction, eradication and demand reduction activities, and to provide financial and technical assistance to the States most affected by drug trafficking, subject to the appropriate controls;

7. *Requests* the Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to report to the Commission, at its fifty-fourth session, on the implementation of the present resolution.

*10th Plenary Meeting
12 March 2010*