

Resolution 56/16

Enhancing international cooperation to strengthen efforts in West Africa to counter illicit drug trafficking

The Commission on Narcotic Drugs,

Recalling the provisions of the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961 as amended by the 1972 Protocol,⁶⁸ in particular its article 35, the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971⁶⁹ and the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988,⁷⁰ as well as the provisions of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized

⁶⁷ E/CN.7/2013/8, annex.

⁶⁸ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 976, No. 14152.

⁶⁹ *Ibid.*, vol. 1019, No. 14956.

⁷⁰ *Ibid.*, vol. 1582, No. 27627.

Crime and the Protocols thereto,⁷¹ the United Nations Convention against Corruption⁷² and all other relevant international instruments,

Reaffirming that the world drug problem has to be addressed in full conformity with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, international law and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights⁷³ and, in particular, with full respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of States, the principles of non-intervention in the internal affairs of States, all human rights, fundamental freedoms, the inherent dignity of all individuals and the principles of equal rights and mutual respect among States,

Recalling the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem,⁷⁴ taking into account the principle of common and shared responsibility,

Concerned that illicit drug traffic in West Africa, including transit to international markets, has a negative impact on the region and on the international community,

Recalling its resolution 54/14 of 25 March 2011 on measures to support African States in their efforts to combat the world drug problem, and, in follow-up, its resolution 55/9 of 16 March 2012,

Recalling also its resolution 51/18 of 14 March 2008, in which it invited Member States and relevant international organizations to intensify their efforts in support of those West African States most affected by the problem of drug trafficking, and its resolution 53/8 of 12 March 2010, in which it recognized the importance of strengthening international, transregional and regional cooperation to counter the world drug problem and other criminal activities related to drugs,

Welcoming the adoption of the African Union Plan of Action on Drug Control (2013-2017) at the fifth session of the African Union Conference of Ministers of Drug Control, held in Addis Ababa from 8 to 12 October 2012, acknowledging the progress made by African States in combating the world drug problem, and reaffirming the importance of viable and sustainable alternative development programmes aimed at contributing to the fight against the trafficking of illicit drugs,

Taking note of the report of the Secretariat on action taken by the subsidiary bodies of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs,⁷⁵ and welcoming the draft resolution on the Accra declaration recommended for adoption to the Commission by the Twenty-second Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Africa, held in Accra from 25 to 29 June 2012,⁷⁶

Recognizing the importance of the programmes and initiatives developed and/or implemented by the African Union, the Economic Community of West

⁷¹ Ibid., vols. 2225, 2237, 2241 and 2326, No. 39574.

⁷² Ibid., vol. 2349, No. 42146.

⁷³ General Assembly resolution 217 A (III).

⁷⁴ See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2009, Supplement No. 8 (E/2009/28)*, chap. I, sect. C.

⁷⁵ E/CN.7/2013/5.

⁷⁶ See UNODC/HONLAF/22/5.

African States and African States, including in partnership with the United Nations, in particular the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in the framework of its regional programme for West Africa for the period 2010-2014, and other international partners, and welcoming the contributions undertaken by the international community to support the implementation of those programmes and initiatives,

Concerned that the progress made by the States in West Africa in the areas of safety, stability, governance and socioeconomic development may be undermined by the flow of illicit drug traffic,

Mindful that the threats to safety and stability generated by ongoing crises in the region increase the importance of addressing the problem of drug trafficking in West Africa,

Recognizing the need to take measures to prevent illicit drug use and abuse and to address their health and social consequences, as well as to prevent and combat the illicit cultivation, production, manufacturing and trafficking of drugs and the diversion of their chemical precursors, and the importance of continued international cooperation to that end,

Welcoming in this regard the decision of the Authority of Heads of State and Government of the Economic Community of West African States at its forty-first ordinary session, held in Yamoussoukro on 28 and 29 June 2012, to renew their political commitment to the fight against drug trafficking and to support the implementation of the Regional Action Plan to Address the Growing Problem of Illicit Drug Trafficking, Organized Crime and Drug Abuse in West Africa (2008-2011), adopted at the Economic Community of West African States Ministerial Conference on Drug Trafficking as a Security Threat to West Africa, held in Praia in October 2008, and also welcoming the reaffirmation by the Authority of Heads of State and Government of the Economic Community of West African States at its forty-second ordinary session, held in Yamoussoukro on 27 and 28 February 2013, of its political commitment to the Political Declaration on the Prevention of Drug Abuse, Illicit Drug Trafficking and Organized Crime in West Africa, prepared at Praia and adopted by the Authority of Heads of State and Government of the Economic Community of West African States at its thirty-fifth ordinary session, held in Abuja in December 2008, the above-mentioned Regional Action Plan and the decision to extend the period of the Regional Action Plan by two years in order to sustain the fight against this scourge and to consolidate the base of financial support for its effective implementation,

Recognizing that most States in West Africa require technical and financial support to respond effectively to the problems of illicit cultivation, production, manufacturing, abuse and trafficking of drugs, in line with the principle of common and shared responsibility,

1. *Encourages* the Economic Community of West African States to pursue the implementation of the Regional Action Plan to Address the Growing Problem of Illicit Drug Trafficking, Organized Crime and Drug Abuse in West Africa, and requests the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to further strengthen its efforts to support the Economic Community of West African States through its regional programme for West Africa for the period 2010-2014;

2. *Welcomes* the contributions by the European Union to provide assistance, including efforts to strengthen institutions in the fight against drug trafficking, and to further cooperate with the Economic Community of West African States and the African Union, especially to mobilize resources to partner with the Economic Community of West African States in the implementation of the Political Declaration, and the regional programme for West Africa for the period 2010-2014, and invites the international community, in particular the European Union, to take all appropriate measures in order to ensure further support, including financing and burden-sharing;

3. *Urges* Member States to continue and step up their efforts to combat drug trafficking, including through the implementation of the Political Declaration and Regional Action Plan, to strengthen cooperation among themselves and especially to support their national agencies and other relevant actors in working together and intensifying their international cooperation to counter the world drug problem and criminal activities related to drugs, and stresses in this regard the need to strengthen the transnational cooperation of law enforcement agencies, information exchange and mutual legal assistance, in particular in West Africa;

4. *Invites* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and Member States to continue to provide technical assistance, upon request, to support the Economic Community of West African States and Member States in these efforts;

5. *Urges* Member States to further strengthen efforts to reduce the illicit supply and demand of drugs, in line with the principle of common and shared responsibility;

6. *Invites* Member States and other donors to provide extrabudgetary resources for these purposes, in accordance with the rules and procedures of the United Nations;

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