
Resolution 56/2

Accra declaration

The Commission on Narcotic Drugs,

Recalling the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem,¹⁶ in which it was recognized that the world drug problem remained a common and shared responsibility that required effective and increased international cooperation and demanded an integrated, multidisciplinary, mutually reinforcing and balanced approach to supply and demand reduction strategies,

Recalling also the provisions of the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1953 as amended by the 1972 Protocol,¹⁷ the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971¹⁸ and the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988,¹⁹

Welcoming the outcomes of the Twenty-second Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Africa, held in Accra from 25 to 29 June 2012,

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

Recalling General Assembly resolution 66/183 of 19 December 2011, on international cooperation against the world drug problem, in which the Assembly invited Member States, in close consultation with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, donors and other relevant international organizations, to continue assisting African States in addressing health problems and raising awareness of the dangers associated with the abuse of all drugs, in accordance with Commission on Narcotic Drugs resolution 54/1,

1. *Takes note* of the Accra declaration, which is annexed to the present resolution;

2. *Urges* Member States to take appropriate measures to combat traffic in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances in accordance with the Accra declaration and relevant resolutions of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly, consistent with their national legislation and the provisions of the international drug control treaties.

Annex

Accra declaration

We, the representatives of States assembled in a spirit of trust and cooperation at the Twenty-second Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Africa, held in Accra from 25 to 29 June 2012,

Gravely concerned about the growing threat posed by the drug problem in Africa,

Very concerned about the emergence of problems related to the illicit manufacture of amphetamine-type stimulants and the proliferation of psychotropic substances, e.g. tramadol,

¹⁶ See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2009, Supplement No. 8 (E/2009/28)*, chap. I, sect. C.

¹⁷ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 976, No. 14152.

¹⁸ *Ibid.*, vol. 1019, No. 14956.

¹⁹ *Ibid.*, vol. 1582, No. 27627.

Recalling the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem,^a in which it is recognized that the world drug problem remains a common and shared responsibility that requires effective and increased international cooperation and demands an integrated, multidisciplinary, mutually reinforcing and balanced approach to supply and demand reduction strategies,

Noting that the African drug problem poses multifaceted challenges, including insufficient treatment and rehabilitation services to adequately respond to the magnitude of the need for interventions, as well as insufficient equipment, including state-of-the-art screening machines and closed-circuit television cameras at major airports and border points to address drug trafficking, and inadequate measures to address corruption as a major driver of drug trafficking,

Noting also that drug trafficking is a multifaceted issue that can be effectively tackled only by reducing both supply and demand, and that drug trafficking is on the increase in Africa,

Reaffirming our unwavering commitment to the principle of common and shared responsibility in addressing the world drug problem,

Convinced that concrete action and comprehensive, well-coordinated national plans are the most effective means to combat illicit drugs and related crime,

1. Have agreed to make the following recommendations on effective responses to meeting the challenges of illicit cultivation of, and trafficking in, cannabis:

(a) Governments should be encouraged to undertake surveys and in-depth studies of the threat that cannabis cultivation, trafficking and abuse pose in order to support the development of national strategies that act effectively to combat their damaging impact;

(b) Governments must consider alternative development strategies that invest in the infrastructure and equipment needed to support the social and human development of rural populations whose livelihoods are dependent upon the illicit cultivation of cannabis;

(c) Governments should ensure that their law enforcement authorities are well trained, equipped and coordinated with other national actors in their response to regional trafficking in cannabis.

2. Have agreed to make the following recommendations on good practices and strategies in the treatment and rehabilitation of drug abusers:

(a) Governments should be encouraged to gather factual, reliable and comprehensive information concerning the situation in their countries with respect to both drug trafficking and illicit drug use, so as to develop and implement strategies that are effective to combat drug abuse and reduce its impact on their communities;

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

(b) Governments should review their current strategies to ensure that affordable treatment and prevention services that cover a broad range of addictions are available to their citizens affected by illicit drug use and drug dependence;

(c) Governments should be encouraged to introduce within their criminal justice systems appropriate procedures to enable drug abusers to be provided treatment and rehabilitation as a supplement to prison terms.

3. Have agreed to make the following recommendations on awareness-raising, training, and building and enhancing the region's law enforcement capacity to successfully counter drug trafficking:

(a) As a part of their national strategy to combat drug trafficking and cross-border crime, Governments should be encouraged to actively support the Airport Communication Project of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and establish joint airport interdiction task forces at their international airports;

(b) Governments should review the training, equipment and preparedness of their law enforcement authorities to be able to respond to the threat posed by amphetamine-type stimulants and their illicit manufacture;

(c) Governments should commit their chemical control authorities to registering with, supporting and actively participating in the Pre-Export Notification Online system offered by the International Narcotics Control Board so as to be able to confirm the legitimacy of commercial parties and their transactions of precursor chemicals;

(d) States participating in meetings of heads of national drug law enforcement agencies, Africa, should review relevant domestic legislation with a view to aligning it with the international drug conventions and in order to strengthen harmonization at the subregional and regional levels;

(e) States participating in meetings of heads of national drug law enforcement agencies, Africa, should commit themselves to increasing resources for public education for demand reduction, including the use of resources resulting from seizures.

4. Have also agreed to make the following recommendations, after consideration by the working groups of the issues set out in the agenda of the Twenty-second Meeting:

(a) States participating in meetings of heads of national drug law enforcement agencies, Africa, should continue the implementation of the recommendations made by the Twentieth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Africa, held in Nairobi from 13 to 17 September 2010, to ensure the effectiveness of the fight against the threat posed by illicit drugs;

(b) States participating in meetings of heads of national drug law enforcement agencies, Africa, should strengthen their mechanisms for the monitoring of licit manufacture, import, distribution, export and use of narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and chemical precursors, in line with the provisions of the three international drug control conventions (the Single Convention on

Narcotic Drugs of 1961 as amended by the 1972 Protocol,' the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971⁰ and the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988),^d as well as related resolutions of the Economic and Social Council and the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, to prevent the diversion of those substances into illicit channels while ensuring that they are available for legitimate purposes, and work with or request the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, in close collaboration and consultation with the International Narcotics Control Board, to provide training to competent national authorities in that regard;

(c) States participating in meetings of heads of national drug law enforcement agencies, Africa, should cooperate with the International Narcotics Control Board and submit all mandatory and voluntary reports in accordance with the above-mentioned conventions and related resolutions of the Economic and Social Council and the Commission on Narcotic Drugs;

(d) States participating in meetings of heads of national drug law enforcement agencies, Africa, are encouraged to continue to pursue the establishment of a common platform for the sharing of secure information and joint investigations of cross-border crimes, building upon experience gained through successful subregional joint operational initiatives;

(e) Bilateral agreements between competent national authorities should be promoted to facilitate the fight against the threat posed by illicit drugs;

(f) States participating in meetings of heads of national drug law enforcement agencies, Africa, should commit themselves to considering ways to further strengthen domestic action in respect of drug-related issues, including continued capacity-building and increased human and budgetary resources for law enforcement agencies;

(g) The competent national authorities of States participating in meetings of heads of national drug law enforcement agencies, Africa, should register with and/or continue to share real-time information on legitimate trade in precursor chemicals through the Pre-Export Notification Online system and should make active use of the new Precursors Incident Communication System to share real-time intelligence on precursor seizures, thefts, shipments stopped in transit, diversions and diversion attempts, and illicit laboratories;

(h) The competent national authorities of States participating in meetings of heads of national drug law enforcement agencies, Africa, should share information on the amphetamine-type stimulants phenomenon with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime through, inter alia, its global Synthetics Monitoring: Analysis, Reporting and Trends programme.

5. Call on the international community to continue to recognize the efforts undertaken by Africa in the global fight against illicit drugs and to seize the opportunity thus provided to enhance support for national drug law enforcement initiatives and capacity-building efforts on the continent.

⁰ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 976, No. 14152.

C Ibid., vol. 1019, No. 14956.

^d Ibid., vol. 1582, No. 27627.