

Resolution 56/5

Promoting the sharing of expertise in and knowledge on forensic drug profiling

The Commission on Narcotic Drugs,

Recalling article 9 of the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988,²⁶ which states that the parties to the Convention shall cooperate with one another with a view to enhancing the effectiveness of law enforcement action to suppress the commission of offences established in accordance with article 3, paragraph 1, of the Convention,

Recalling also its resolution 47/5 of 19 March 2004, in which the Commission recognized the value of illicit drug characterization and profiling in supporting law enforcement intelligence-gathering and operational work and the international fight against illicit drugs, and noted the need for the effective exchange of drug-profiling information between States to optimize the intelligence capacity of drug-profiling programmes and facilitate the identification of illicit drug sources, trafficking patterns and distribution networks,

Recalling further its resolution 50/9 of 16 March 2007 on the use of drug characterization and chemical profiling in support of law enforcement intelligence-gathering and operational work, as well as trend analysis,

Recalling its resolution 50/4 of 16 March 2007, in which the Commission recognized the important role of drug analysis laboratories as part of drug control systems, and the value of laboratory results and data to criminal justice systems, law enforcement and health authorities and policymakers,

Recalling also its resolution 52/7 of 20 March 2009, in which the Commission called upon Member States and subregional, regional and international entities to contribute to the work of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, by providing expertise for the development of cooperative networks among laboratories and by exploring innovative ways to ensure the more effective exchange of expertise and information worldwide,

²⁶ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1582, No. 27627.

Recalling further, in accordance with its resolution 52/7 and its resolution 54/3 of 25 March 2011, that the reliability of the analysis and the results of drug analysis laboratories have significant implications for, among others, law enforcement, as well as for the international harmonization of data and worldwide exchange and coordination of drug information, and that access to reference samples of controlled substances is an essential quality-assurance requirement for achieving such reliability,

Recognizing that the exchange of information and intelligence and the sharing of best practices are crucial to enable law enforcement authorities to successfully prevent, detect and investigate drug trafficking,

Acknowledging that forensic drug profiling based on chemical impurity profiling, the determination of overall chemical composition and the measurement of external characteristics or those of the packaging materials, depending on the type of illicit drug, can be used to establish links between different drug seizures,

Acknowledging also that information from drug profiling combined with law enforcement intelligence can be an effective tool to identify targets or groups involved in drug trafficking and the methods and chemicals used by such groups to manufacture drugs, and can be a powerful means to link seized drugs with targets or groups involved in drug trafficking,

Acknowledging further that forensic drug profiling combined with law enforcement intelligence can be an effective method of enhancing the capacity to contribute to a reduction in drug demand and, especially, in drug supply worldwide,

Noting with concern the differences in capacity of drug analysis laboratory services in Member States, which prevent the exchange of drug information and reduce the value of laboratory results to law enforcement authorities,

1. *Reaffirms* that drug trafficking and other drug-related crimes are a common challenge worldwide that requires increased international cooperation and sharing of expertise in and knowledge of ways and methods to address them more effectively;

2. *Calls upon* Member States, where appropriate, to facilitate and encourage cooperation between forensic experts and law enforcement officers and to promote the utilization in their work of information derived from law enforcement agencies and related forensic drug profiling;

3. *Also calls upon* Member States to share their expertise and knowledge in the field of forensic drug profiling at the global level, as well as their best practices in this field, including information on forensic profiling of drugs seized in clandestine laboratories and in large consignments;

4. *Invites* Member States to ensure that relevant samples, in particular samples taken in connection with international investigations and for intelligence purposes, of the most commonly used drugs, for example, synthetic drugs and their precursors, can be submitted to forensic laboratories that have the requisite expertise for profiling analyses to establish forensic links;

5. *Also invites* Member States to consider developing expertise in the field of forensic drug profiling, exploring innovative ways to ensure the more effective

exchange of information worldwide, and to contribute that expertise to the work of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime;

6. *Invites* international law enforcement organizations, such as the International Criminal Police Organization and the European Police Office, to cooperate with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and Member States in finding compatible and joint solutions for drug profiling and information-sharing;

7. *Encourages* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to consider the dissemination of forensic drug profiling, to the extent possible, in regional and national programmes;

8. *Invites* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, in cooperation with Member States, to identify current drug-profiling methods and best practices and to examine ways and means of sharing expertise in and knowledge on forensic drug profiling, combined with information derived from law enforcement agencies, and utilizing this tool at the international level, and encourages Member States and other donors to consider providing extrabudgetary resources for these purposes, in accordance with the rules and procedures of the United Nations;

9. *Also invites* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to include the theme of promoting the sharing of such expertise and knowledge in the annual report of the Secretariat on the world situation with regard to drug trafficking submitted to the Commission.