

Resolution 62/1

Strengthening international cooperation and comprehensive regulatory and institutional frameworks for the control of precursors used in the illicit manufacture of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances

The Commission on Narcotic Drugs,

Recalling the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988,¹ in particular its article 12, which lays down the principles and mechanisms for international cooperation and control regarding substances frequently used in the illicit manufacture of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances,

Recalling also all commitments related to the prevention of the illicit trafficking in and diversion of precursors, as contained in the 2009 Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem,² 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 Action³ and the outcome document of the thirtieth special session of the General Assembly, held in 2016, entitled “Our joint commitment to effectively addressing and countering the world drug problem”,⁴

Underscoring the need to take appropriate measures to address the diversion and illicit manufacturing of and trafficking in, as well as the misuse of, precursors under international control and to tackle the misuse of pre-precursors and substitute or alternative precursors for illicit drug manufacturing,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 59/162 of 20 December 2004, in which the Assembly recommended that Member States develop or further adapt their regulatory and operational control procedures to counter the diversion of chemical substances into illicit drug production or manufacture, and reaffirmed the importance of using all available legal means or measures to prevent the diversion of chemicals from legitimate trade to illicit drug manufacture as an essential component of comprehensive strategies against drug abuse and trafficking and of preventing access to chemical precursors by those engaged in or attempting to engage in the processing of illicit drugs,

Taking note of the outcome document of the Third International Conference on Precursor Chemicals and New Psychoactive Substances, held in Bangkok on 21–24 February 2017,

Recalling all United Nations resolutions in which Member States were called upon to increase international and regional cooperation in order to counter the illicit production and manufacture of and trafficking in drugs, including by strengthening the control of international trade in precursor chemicals frequently used in the illicit manufacture of drugs and preventing attempts to divert those substances from licit international trade for illicit use,

¹ Ibid., vol. 1582, No. 27627.

² See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2009, Supplement No. 8 (E/2009/28)*, chap. I, sect. C.

³ See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2014, Supplement No. 8 (E/2014/28)*, chap. I, sect. C.

⁴ General Assembly resolution S-30/1, annex.

Reaffirming its concern at the alarming scale of the illicit production and manufacture of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, including heroin, cocaine and synthetic drugs, worldwide, as well as the associated diversion of and illicit demand for precursor chemicals used in the illicit manufacture of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances,

Noting with concern the increased number of incidents of attempted diversion of such chemicals, in particular acetic anhydride, since 2016,

Noting the most recent trends and challenges in precursor control, including the misuse of information and communication technologies by criminal groups,

Recognizing the legitimate need, in particular of the industry and trade sectors, to have access to precursor chemicals frequently used in the illicit manufacture of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, and the important role of the private sector in preventing diversion from the licit manufacture of and trade in such substances,

Recognizing also the important work of the International Narcotics Control Board within its treaty-based mandate as the global focal point for the international control of precursor chemicals frequently used in the illicit manufacture of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances,

Taking note with appreciation of the work of the Paris Pact initiative in coordinating efforts to counter illicit trafficking of opiates and in preventing the diversion of precursors used in the illicit manufacture of heroin,

Taking note with appreciation also of the positive results achieved thus far through Project Prism and Project Cohesion, launched by the International Narcotics Control Board in cooperation with States to stem the diversion of precursors used in the illicit manufacture of, respectively, amphetamine-type stimulants, and heroin and cocaine,

1. *Urges* all States parties that have not yet done so to take the necessary steps, in accordance with the provisions of article 12, paragraph 10 (a), of the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988;¹²

2. *Encourages* Member States to continue contributing to the efforts of the International Narcotics Control Board within its treaty-based mandate, especially through the Pre-Export Notification Online system for pre-export notification of precursor chemicals;

3. *Invites* Member States to take appropriate measures to strengthen international cooperation and the exchange of information regarding the identification of new routes and the *modi operandi* of criminal organizations involved in the diversion or smuggling of precursor chemicals frequently used in the illicit manufacture of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, including by registering with and using the Precursors Incident Communication System of the International Narcotics Control Board as a means of systematically sharing information on incidents involving precursor chemicals;

4. *Also invites* Member States to enhance cooperation among their regulatory and law enforcement authorities in sharing information on precursor incidents as soon as practically possible and, in particular, to provide actionable operational details that enable follow-up investigations;

5. *Urges* Member States to further strengthen national legislation, administrative measures and institutional frameworks relating to the control of precursors used in the illicit manufacture of narcotic drugs and

psychotropic substances, pursuant to the 1988 Convention, and emphasizes the need for Member States to strengthen monitoring and control systems, including at the domestic distribution level and at the points of entry and exit of precursor chemicals, and to adopt measures to promote the secure transport of such substances;

6. *Invites* the International Narcotics Control Board, in cooperation with Member States and within its treaty-based mandate, to convene an expert working group comprised of public and private stakeholders from appropriate disciplines to explore the possibility, practicability and effectiveness, with a view to cost and proportionality, of innovative methods to track precursor chemicals, in particular acetic anhydride, as appropriate, to prevent their diversion, and which is to submit a report to the Commission at its sixty-third session;

7. *Requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to continue to assist Member States in their efforts to fulfil all commitments related to precursor control, as set out in the 2009 Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem,¹³ 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 Action¹⁴ and the outcome document of the thirtieth special session of the General Assembly, held in 2016, entitled “Our joint commitment to effectively addressing and countering the world drug problem”;¹⁵

8. *Invites* Member States to consider establishing and strengthening partnerships with business-to-business and business-to-customer web-based platforms in order to prevent those platforms from being used for trafficking in precursors for the illicit manufacture of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances;

9. *Encourages* Member States to promote voluntary codes of conduct for the chemical industry, taking into consideration the International Narcotics Control Board’s *Guidelines for a Voluntary Code of Practice for the Chemical Industry*, in order to promote responsible commercial practices and sale of chemicals, and to prevent the diversion of chemicals into illicit drug manufacturing channels;

10. *Invites* Member States and other donors to consider providing extrabudgetary resources for the purposes described above, in accordance with the rules and procedures of the United Nations.