

Resolution 56/4

Enhancing international cooperation in the identification and reporting of new psychoactive substances

The Commission on Narcotic Drugs,

Recalling its resolution 48/1 of 11 March 2005, on promoting the sharing of information on emerging trends in the abuse of and trafficking in substances not controlled under the international drug control conventions,

Recalling also its resolution 53/11 of 12 March 2010, on promoting the sharing of information on the potential abuse of and trafficking in synthetic cannabinoid receptor agonists,

Recalling further its resolution 53/13 of 12 March 2010, on the use of “poppers” as an emerging trend in drug abuse in some regions,

Recalling its resolution 55/1 of 16 March 2012, on promoting international cooperation in responding to the challenges posed by new psychoactive substances,

Reiterating its concern at the number of potentially dangerous new psychoactive substances that continue to be marketed as legal alternatives to internationally controlled drugs, circumventing existing controls,

Concerned that emerging new psychoactive substances may have effects similar to those of internationally controlled drugs and may pose risks to public health and safety, and noting the need for additional data on the effects of these substances to be collected and shared,

Concerned also that transnational organized criminal groups in certain parts of the world create and exploit the increasingly lucrative market for these substances and take advantage of gaps in existing control and legal regimes,

Acknowledging that the adverse impacts and risks to public health and safety that some new psychoactive substances can cause, including harm to young people, are a global concern for which all Member States have a shared responsibility,

Recognizing the speed with which new psychoactive substances emerge and the role that the Internet and the media may play in the trade and promotion of these substances,

Recognizing also that the establishment of a global early warning system, taking advantage of existing regional mechanisms, as appropriate, and providing timely reporting on the emergence of new psychoactive substances, could benefit Member States’ understanding of and responses to the complex and changing market for these substances,

Noting that the detection and identification of emerging substances is the first step in assessing the potential health risks of new psychoactive substances, and therefore that scientific, epidemiological, forensic and toxicological information on these substances needs be collected, maintained and disseminated,

Acknowledging the valuable work of the global Synthetics Monitoring: Analysis, Reporting and Trends programme of the United Nations Office on Drugs

and Crime in the collection of information on new psychoactive substances, pursuant to Commission on Narcotic Drugs resolution 55/1, through a questionnaire sent to all Member States and, through them, to territories,

Welcoming the report of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime entitled “The challenge of new psychoactive substances”, published in March 2013, which provides a comprehensive overview of the nature and magnitude of the challenges posed by new psychoactive substances,

1. *Encourages* Member States to take a comprehensive, coordinated and integrated approach to the detection, analysis and identification of new psychoactive substances, incorporating health and consumer protection agencies, Government departments responsible for drug policies, law enforcement, border and customs agencies, the justice sector and other relevant stakeholders, as appropriate;

2. *Also encourages* Member States to continue to collect information on the adverse impacts and risks to public health and safety posed by new psychoactive substances, using chemical and toxicological data, data from hospitals and treatment and toxicology centres and data reported by individuals;

3. *Further encourages* Member States to take a proactive approach to the detection, forensic identification and toxicological testing of new psychoactive substances, including through interregional and intraregional collaboration, at points of entry and through postal systems or points of sale, including over the Internet, and to monitor emerging trends in the potential adverse impacts and risks to health and safety, prevalence, availability, composition, production, manufacture, distribution and seizure of new psychoactive substances;

4. *Urges* Member States to share with one another information on the identification of new psychoactive substances and on the adverse impacts and risks they pose to health and safety, and also to share that information with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, through, inter alia, its global Synthetics Monitoring: Analysis, Reporting and Trends programme, to enable timely analysis and dissemination of information to all Member States, using, where appropriate, existing national and regional early warning systems and networks;

5. *Also urges* Member States to include information on the potential adverse impacts and risks to public health and safety of new psychoactive substances through tailored prevention strategies, including awareness-raising, to counter public perceptions that new psychoactive substances not subject to drug control are safe;

6. *Encourages* Member States, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the World Health Organization, the International Narcotics Control Board and other relevant organizations to share and exchange ideas, efforts, good practices and experiences in adopting effective responses to address the unique challenges posed by new psychoactive substances, which may include, among other national responses, new laws, regulations and restrictions;

7. *Urges* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to continue to develop the voluntary electronic portal of the international collaborative exercises, a programme for national forensic and/or drug-testing laboratories to enable timely and comprehensive sharing of information on new psychoactive substances, including analytical methodologies, reference documents and mass spectra, as well

as trend-analysis data, with a view to providing a global reference point and early warning advisory on new psychoactive substances, subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources;

8. *Requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to consider including within its programmes the provision of technical assistance in the identification and reporting of new psychoactive substances, and requests Member States to consider the provision of bilateral technical assistance;

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

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.