

Resolution 56/13

Precursors: raising awareness on the diversion in international trade of non-scheduled substances for use as alternatives to scheduled substances 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 1988,⁵⁵ in particular 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 the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem,⁵⁶ in which it was decided to establish 2019 as a target date for States to eliminate or reduce significantly and measurably the diversion of and trafficking in substances frequently used in the illicit manufacture of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances,

Recalling further its resolution 54/8 of 25 March 2011, in which the Commission recalled United Nations resolutions calling on Member States to increase international and regional cooperation in order to counter the illicit manufacture of and trafficking in drugs, including by strengthening the control of international trade in substances frequently used in the illicit manufacture of drugs and preventing attempts to divert those substances from licit international trade to illicit use,

Concerned that efforts to reduce the illicit supply of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances and maintain effective control of scheduled substances are being undermined by drug traffickers, who are increasingly using non-scheduled substances as substitutes for scheduled substances in the illicit manufacture of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances,

Mindful of the increasing quantities of non-scheduled substances seized, intercepted or interdicted worldwide,

Re-emphasizing that the prevention of diversion of non-scheduled substances is a key element in reducing the illicit manufacture and supply of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances,

Recognizing the legitimate need of industry to have access to non-scheduled substances and the important role that industry plays in preventing the diversion of those substances from the licit trade,

⁵⁵ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1582, No. 27627.

⁵⁶ See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2009, Supplement No. 8 (E/2009/28)*, chap. I, sect. C.

Recalling article 12, paragraph 9 (a), of the 1988 Convention, which underlines the importance of cooperation between competent authorities and industries in the identification of suspicious transactions,

Recognizing the important work of the International Narcotics Control Board as the principal body and global focal point for the international surveillance of non-scheduled substances,

Reiterating the importance of further strengthening existing international cooperation mechanisms for the control of precursors and the need for States to participate in international operations, such as Project Prism and Project Cohesion, with a view to gathering intelligence on the licit trade patterns and diversion of targeted non-scheduled substances in relation to specific geographical areas,

Recalling its resolution 51/16 of 14 March 2008, aimed at promoting the sharing of information regarding the use of non-scheduled substances as substitutes for scheduled substances frequently used in the illicit manufacture of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances and new methods of manufacture of illicit drugs,

Noting that the International Narcotics Control Board has urged Member States to improve the extent, frequency and level of detail of shared information in relation to non-scheduled substances, as a basis for devising adequate responses,

Emphasizing that it is critical that Member States and relevant organizations implement and use existing measures and work in a cooperative manner to prevent the diversion and use of non-scheduled substances for the illicit manufacture of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances,

Recalling the provisions of article 13 of the 1988 Convention, which could provide a basis for national responses to the illicit manufacture of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances involving non-scheduled substances,

Aware of the difficulties in countering the diversion of non-scheduled substances worldwide, and believing that their diversification and increased use as substitutes for scheduled substances require the urgent attention of the international community,

1. *Requests* the International Narcotics Control Board, in close cooperation with Member States, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and other relevant organizations, to take a leading role in devising new approaches and appropriate measures to better address the issue of non-scheduled substances used in the illicit manufacture of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances;

2. *Invites* Member States to acknowledge the growing trend of specific non-scheduled substances being targeted by criminal groups for the illicit manufacture of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances as a consequence of stringent control over scheduled substances;

3. *Also invites* Member States to reiterate to all stakeholders the importance of cooperation between authorities, industries and related sectors to facilitate the identification of suspicious transactions of non-scheduled substances in order to prevent their diversion to the illicit manufacture of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances;

4. *Encourages* Member States to raise the awareness of competent authorities, industries and related sectors regarding the risk of non-scheduled substances being utilized for the illicit manufacture of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances by improving understanding of the use of non-scheduled substances and the related diversion methods;

5. *Invites* Member States and relevant regional and international organizations to communicate, to the extent possible, legitimate needs for the use of non-scheduled substances, as identified by the International Narcotics Control Board, in accordance with its mandate, to one another and to the Board, in addition to operational information, in order to promote cooperation and effective coordination;

6. *Encourages* Member States to make better use of the *Guidelines for a Voluntary Code of Practice for the Chemical Industry*,⁵⁷ the limited international special surveillance list of the International Narcotics Control Board and any similar list maintained by Member States, as appropriate, in order to further strengthen their partnership with industries and related sectors;

7. *Invites* Member States to exercise increased vigilance over imports, exports and transit, in particular through their customs and border control authorities, in order to identify suspicious consignments of non-scheduled substances;

8. *Recommends* that competent authorities register and use the Precursors Incident Communication System as a means of systematically sharing information about incidents involving not only scheduled substances but also non-scheduled substances;

9. *Requests* the International Narcotics Control Board to maintain and further develop the Precursors Incident Communication System and the Pre-Export Notification Online system;

10. *Encourages* Member States that are in a position to do so to consider sending pre-export notifications, to the extent possible, by using the Pre-Export Notification Online system, for consignments of selected non-scheduled substances, as identified by the International Narcotics Control Board, in accordance with its mandate, in order to enable authorities in the country of destination to verify the licit purpose of transactions and to react adequately;

11. *Encourages* Member States and relevant international organizations to cooperate closely with the International Narcotics Control Board, in particular through its Project Prism and Project Cohesion, in order to enhance the effectiveness of those international initiatives.

⁵⁷ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.09.XI.17.