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Zone of peace, trust and cooperation of Central Asia

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 4 June 2024

[without reference to a Main Committee ([A/78/L.68](#))]

78/284. Central Asia's unified resolve and cooperation to effectively address and counter drug-related challenges

The General Assembly,

Guided by the Charter of the United Nations,

Underscoring that the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961 as amended by the 1972 Protocol,¹ the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971,² the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988³ and other relevant instruments constitute the cornerstone of the international drug control system,

Reaffirming its commitment to the goals and objectives of the three international drug control conventions, including concern about the health and welfare of humankind as well as the individual and public health-related, social and safety problems resulting from the abuse of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, in particular among children and young people, and drug-related crime, and reaffirming its determination to prevent and treat the abuse of such substances and prevent and counter their illicit cultivation, production, manufacturing and trafficking,

Reaffirming its commitment also, based on the principle of common and shared responsibility, to accelerating the full implementation of existing drug policy commitments, including the 2009 Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem,⁴ the Joint Ministerial Statement of the 2014 high-level review by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs of the implementation by Member

¹ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 976, No. 14152.

² *Ibid.*, vol. 1019, No. 14956.

³ *Ibid.*, vol. 1582, No. 27627.

⁴ See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2009, Supplement No. 8* ([E/2009/28](#)), chap. I, sect. C.



States of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action⁵ and the outcome document of the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem held in 2016,⁶ aimed at achieving all drug policy commitments, operational recommendations and aspirational goals set out therein, as reaffirmed in the 2019 Ministerial Declaration on Strengthening Our Actions at the National, Regional and International Levels to Accelerate the Implementation of Our Joint Commitments to Address and Counter the World Drug Problem and the 2024 high-level declaration by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs on the 2024 midterm review, following up to the Ministerial Declaration of 2019,⁷

Reaffirming its unwavering commitment to effectively addressing and countering the world drug problem, which requires concerted and sustained action at the national and international levels, including accelerating the implementation of existing drug policy commitments, and ensuring that all aspects of demand reduction and related measures, supply reduction and related measures and international cooperation are addressed in full conformity with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, international law and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,⁸ with full respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of States, the principle of non-intervention in the internal affairs of States, all human rights, fundamental freedoms, the inherent dignity of all individuals and the principles of equal rights and mutual respect among States,

Reaffirming the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,⁹ and reiterating that efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and to effectively address the world drug problem are complementary and mutually reinforcing,

Welcoming the increasing bilateral and regional cooperation among the countries of the region at all levels towards creating a dynamic and reinvigorated Central Asia, which provides new opportunities for United Nations engagement,

Noting the determination of Central Asian countries to address and counter the world drug problem and to actively promote a society free of drug abuse in order to help to ensure that all people can live in health, dignity and peace, with security and prosperity, and to address public health, safety and social problems resulting from drug abuse,

Recalling relevant United Nations resolutions, including General Assembly resolutions related to addressing and countering the world drug problem, as well as relevant resolutions and decisions adopted by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs,

Reaffirming the principal role of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs as the policymaking body of the United Nations system with prime responsibility for drug control matters, and the support and appreciation of the General Assembly for the efforts of the relevant United Nations entities, in particular those of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime as the leading entity in the United Nations system for addressing and countering the world drug problem, and reaffirming also the treaty-mandated roles of the International Narcotics Control Board and the World Health Organization,

Noting the activities and contribution of the Central Asian Regional Information and Coordination Centre for combating the illicit trafficking of narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and their precursors in countering the illicit production of

⁵ Ibid., 2014, *Supplement No. 8* ([E/2014/28](#)), chap. I, sect. C.

⁶ Resolution [S-30/1](#), annex.

⁷ See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council*, 2024, *Supplement No. 8* ([E/2024/28](#)), chap. I, sect. B.

⁸ Resolution [217 A \(III\)](#).

⁹ Resolution [70/1](#).

and trafficking in narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and their precursors and coordinating efforts of the competent authorities of participating States in combating other drug-related crime,

Reaffirming the crucial role of Member States in developing an effective and comprehensive approach to addressing and countering all aspects of the world drug problem,

Underscoring the important role played by all relevant stakeholders, including law enforcement, judicial and health-care personnel, civil society, the scientific community and academia, as well as the private sector, in supporting the efforts of Member States to implement joint commitments at all levels, and underscoring also the importance of promoting relevant partnerships,

Reaffirming its commitment to a balanced, integrated, comprehensive, multidisciplinary and scientific evidence-based approach to the world drug problem, based on the principle of common and shared responsibility, and recognizing the importance of appropriately mainstreaming a gender and age perspective into drug-related policies and programmes and that appropriate emphasis should be placed on individuals, families, communities and society as a whole, with a particular focus on women, children and youth, with a view to promoting and protecting health, including access to treatment, safety and the well-being of all humanity,

Expressing concerns about the serious challenges to the States of Central Asia posed by illicit trafficking in drugs, including opiates and synthetic drugs, in particular methamphetamine,

Recognizing that transit States continue to face multifaceted challenges, and reaffirming the continuing need for cooperation and support, including the provision of technical assistance to, *inter alia*, enhance their capacities to effectively address and counter the world drug problem, in conformity with the 1988 Convention,

Concerned about the persistent and emerging challenges posed by the links between drug trafficking and other forms of organized crime, including money-laundering, trafficking in firearms and corruption and, in some cases, terrorism, including money-laundering in connection with the financing of terrorism,

Noting the existence of the ongoing cooperation processes among the States of Central Asia to counter the illicit trafficking in narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and their precursor chemicals and related illicit financial flows, and their commitment to addressing the regional drug-related challenges through a balanced, integrated, comprehensive, multidisciplinary and scientific evidence-based approach, in line with the principle of common and shared responsibility,

Recognizing the indispensable role of quality, timely, relevant, disaggregated, including geographically disaggregated, and reliable data in driving scientific evidence-based policies to better understand persistent, new and emerging trends, patterns and dynamics, and the commitment to sharing data, in particular through the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime annual report questionnaire and other tools of the Office, the International Narcotics Control Board and the World Health Organization, as appropriate and achievable,

Recognizing also the importance of benefiting from technological innovation and know-how to address persistent, new and emerging trends and challenges, and acknowledging the need for increased international cooperation aimed at addressing and overcoming effectively challenges, obstacles and impediments at all levels to leverage these advancements for joint efforts, as well as the importance of addressing existing technological gaps and the need to strengthen the capabilities of Member

States through specialized, targeted, effective and sustainable technical assistance to Member States, upon their request,

Reaffirming the need to address the key causes and consequences of the world drug problem, including those in the health, social, human rights, economic, justice, public security and law enforcement fields, in line with the principle of common and shared responsibility, and recognizing the value of comprehensive and balanced policy interventions, including those in the field of promotion of sustainable and viable livelihoods,

Recognizing that misperceptions of drug-related risks, along with other behavioural and socioeconomic factors, in societies can lead to increased or more harmful illicit drug use and require more scientific evidence-based evaluation and further systematic and sustainable preventive approaches to protect people, in particular children and youth, from illicit drug use,

1. *Acknowledges* the efforts of the States of Central Asia to actively promote a society free of drug abuse by considering the development, implementation and evaluation of comprehensive, balanced, scientific evidence-based and multidisciplinary strategies aligned with the obligations under applicable international law, including the three international drug control conventions, and the international drug policy commitments, and also acknowledges the ongoing joint efforts in the region to implement specific practical measures in this direction, while stressing the importance of respecting, protecting and promoting all human rights, fundamental freedoms and the inherent dignity of all individuals and the rule of law in the development and implementation of drug policies;

2. *Also acknowledges* the commitment of Central Asian States to continuing to fully comply with their obligations, achieve the goals and objectives and implement the provisions of the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961 as amended by the 1972 Protocol, the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971 and the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988;

3. *Acknowledges* the strong intention of the States of the Central Asian region to improve national and regional cooperation on drug-related matters, including an enhanced integrated border management, and cross-border information exchange, especially along the trade and transit corridors to prevent drug trafficking and related illicit financial flows, the development of unified approaches to scheduling of controlled substances as well as the introduction of a regional electronic database of results of forensic chemical examinations of amphetamine-type stimulants and new psychoactive substances, within the regional networks of interaction between law enforcement and judicial authorities and between them;

4. *Invites* Member States of the Central Asian region to consider enhancing cooperation among public health, education and law enforcement authorities when developing and implementing scientific evidence-based drug use prevention initiatives;

5. *Underscores* the importance of strengthening cooperation in Central Asia by considering and developing strategic initiatives and action plans to counter threats posed by illicit trafficking in opiates and synthetic drugs, including methamphetamine, as well as their precursor chemicals, at the regional and international levels;

6. *Welcomes* the efforts of Central Asian States to promote increased access to and availability of controlled substances for medical and scientific purposes, while preventing their diversion, misuse and trafficking, to achieve the goals and objectives as well as to implement provisions set out in the three international drug control conventions;

7. *Calls upon* the relevant United Nations institutions to assist the countries of the region, upon their request and within respective mandates, in countering the illicit production of and trafficking in narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and their precursors, and the laundering of proceeds of drug-related crime, in particular within the framework of the programmes of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, as well as sustained activities of the Central Asian Regional Information and Coordination Centre for combating the illicit trafficking of narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and their precursors, and to support the development of regional strategies and enhance regional cooperation through information-sharing and joint operational activities, using capabilities of regional organizations where feasible, and reinforcing national programmes in Central Asia aimed at providing non-discriminatory and voluntary access to drug-related prevention, treatment, education, care, sustained recovery, rehabilitation, social reintegration and related support services, in particular for people who may face obstacles when accessing those services, including, where relevant, those impacted by social marginalization, while mainstreaming a gender perspective into the development and implementation of those national programmes and services;

8. *Calls upon* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, in collaboration with the World Health Organization and other relevant United Nations entities, to support countries of the region in taking effective and practical scientific evidence-based measures, including interventions related to prevention, treatment, care and recovery support, as well as other public health interventions, to address harm associated with illicit drug use as part of comprehensive, systematic and sustainable demand reduction initiatives, and addressing challenges related to drug use disorders and co-occurring comorbidities;

9. *Encourages* Member States to promote bilateral, regional and international cooperation with and technical assistance to States, including in Central Asia, affected by illicit crop cultivation and illicit production, manufacture, transit, trafficking, distribution and abuse of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, including synthetic drugs, in developing and implementing comprehensive and integrated policies, including through intelligence-sharing and cross-border cooperation, and by reinforcing national programmes aimed at education, prevention, early intervention, treatment, care, rehabilitation and social reintegration;

10. *Encourages* Central Asian States, with the support of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and other relevant international and regional organizations and the donor community, subject to the availability of funds, to enhance data collection, research, the sharing of information and the scaling-up of studies on the impact of illicit drug trafficking and distribution on those affected by and vulnerable to illicit drug use, including youth and women, in support of the comprehensive scientific evidence-based and balanced decision-making and drug policies;

11. *Welcomes* the establishment of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime Information Centre for researching and analysing transnational threats in the region related to drugs and crime with a view to enhancing data collection and understanding of the drug-related trends and driving scientific evidence-based policies;

12. *Encourages* the Central Asian States to establish partnerships, with the support of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and other relevant United Nations entities, regional and international organizations, within their respective mandates, including the Information Centre for researching and analysing transnational threats in the region related to drugs and crime, as appropriate, other Member States and relevant stakeholders, including law enforcement, judicial and health-care personnel, by voluntarily establishing and strengthening partnerships or

cooperation with civil society, academia and private sector entities, where relevant and in accordance with domestic laws, to conduct research and surveys to address drug-related public health and public security challenges related to the illicit production of and trafficking in drugs and all other aspects of the regional drug problem in Central Asia;

13. *Also encourages* Central Asian States to consider, including in the context of comprehensive and balanced drug demand reduction efforts, relevant interventions that prevent the transmission of HIV, viral hepatitis and other blood-borne diseases associated with drug use, as well as consider ensuring access to such interventions, including in treatment and outreach services, prisons and other custodial settings, and promoting in that regard the use, as appropriate, of the technical guide for countries to set targets for universal access to HIV prevention, treatment and care for injecting drug users, issued by the World Health Organization, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS;

14. *Further calls for* strengthening common efforts of Central Asian countries on promoting the use of new technologies and means to counter illicit trafficking of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances and their precursor chemicals, including through the darknet, surface web and social networks as well as on preventing the use of electronic payment systems and virtual assets, including those provided by virtual asset service providers, and non-cash assets, for these purposes, in particular, through continued development and implementation of measures aimed at mitigating risks, associated with these assets, and preventing their misuse and abuse for illicit drug-related purposes;

15. *Invites* Member States, relevant United Nations entities, international financial institutions and other relevant stakeholders to enhance the provision of tailored, targeted, effective and sustainable technical assistance to the States of Central Asia, upon request, in the form of training, capacity-building, provision of equipment, sharing of knowledge, and transfer of technology on a voluntary and mutually agreed basis, through the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and other relevant specialized agencies and bodies of the United Nations system, within their respective mandates and existing resources, and international and regional mechanisms, to implement the provisions of the present resolution in Central Asia.

85th plenary meeting
4 June 2024
