

to the Economic and Social Council one draft resolution for adoption by the General Assembly, and four decisions for adoption by the Council. It adopted 16 decisions and 12 resolutions on topics such as alterna-

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of the United Nations. Guided by its governing bodies – the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND) and the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCJ) – the Office continued its work with Member States and civil society on pursuing a balanced and integrated approach to controlling drugs and combating crime as part of the UN's systemic effort to promote justice, human rights, development, health, peace and security. CCJ held its fifty-eighth session (5 December 2014; 9–17 March and 9–11 December 2015) [E/2015/28 & Add.1] and its twenty-fourth session (5 December 2014; 18–22 March and 10–11 December 2015) [E/2015/30 & Add.1], all in Vienna.

The Executive Director described the activities of the Office during the year in a report to the two Commissions [E/CN.7/2016/2-E/CN.15/2016/2]. In 2015, UNODC built on its mandates and expertise in crime prevention and criminal justice to contribute to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which promoted access to justice and the rule of law. UNODC was an integral part of the UN's system

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and North Africa; East, West, Central and Southern Africa; and Latin America. It assisted national

cooperation on development-oriented balanced drug control policies, addressing socioeconomic issues. The Chair informed the Commission that provisional agendas for subsequent special segments had been brought to the attention of its Extended Bureau, and it was agreed that the intersessional meetings on the preparations for the special session could be complemented by informal meetings and special events.

On 17 March [E/2015/28 (dec. 58/14)], the Commission approved the provisional agenda for the special segment to be held during its reconvened forty-eighth session, in December on preparations for the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem to be held in 2016.

On the same date [dec. 58/15], the Commission approved the provisional agenda for the special segment to be held during its forty-ninth session, in March 2016, on preparations for the special session of the Assembly on the world drug problem.

Also on 17 March [res. 58/8], the Commission welcomed the decision made by General Assembly resolution 69/200 [YUN 2014, p. 1383] that it should lead the preparatory process for the special session of the Assembly by addressing all organizational and substantive matters in an open-ended manner. It decided to take measures to ensure an adequate, inclusive and effective preparatory process for the special session.

reduction services remained at a low level, especially in those countries with the highest prevalence of people who injected drugs. Globally, there was an increasingly multifaceted picture of drug use, with an increase in the use of synthetic substances and the non-medical use of prescription drugs such as opioids, tranquillizers and prescription stimulants. Recent trends related to drug use in Europe showed a decrease or stabilization in cannabis, cocaine, heroin and amphetamine-type stimulants (ATS), but an increase in new psychoactive substances. Cannabis use increased in the United States and Mexico, as well as in Africa and parts of Asia. While heroin use stabilized overall, the non-medical use of prescription opioids increased in many regions. The use of ATS also increased, most noticeably in Asia and Africa. Globally, cannabis remained the most used drug, and its use was increasingly mentioned in relation to treatment demand and associated psychiatric disorders. Opioids continued to be the drugs that caused the most harm in terms of treatment demand, injecting drug use, infections and drug-related death. Globally, about 183,000 deaths were attributable to illicit drug use, and most of those which could have been prevented were fatal overdose cases that occurred among opioid users. It was estimated that nearly one in six problem drug users worldwide had received treatment and care for drug use disorders and dependence, but disparities remained in many regions.

The Secretariat reported a low rate of response to the annual report questionnaire and a lack of reliable information in many countries. The lack of sustainable drug information systems and

objectives as to demonstrate the results of increased collaboration among partners in the four pillars for intervention set out in the Vienna Declaration: strengthening regional initiatives; detecting and blocking financial flows linked to illicit trade in opiates; preventing the diversion of precursor chemicals used in illicit opiates manufacturing in Afghanistan; and reducing drug abuse and dependence through a comprehensive approach. Upon completion of the first year of phase four, UNODC had developed means to measure progress made in implementing the four pillars. Its approach included streamlining the strategic and expert-level dialogue process; tailoring the functions of the network of research and liaison officers to facilitate cooperation in the priority areas of intervention; and realigning the Automated Donor Assistance Mechanism to support the partnership's role as a hub for information on matters related to the Paris Pact. All targets for the first year of implementation were met: expert working group meetings related to each pillar were organized, and the eleventh Policy Consultative Group meeting was held in September 2014. The streamlining of the initiative culminated in the preparation of the first Paris Pact report, which focused on the implementation of priorities and recommendations from the expert working groups to create baselines for each pillar. During the reporting period, intensive collaboration with several interdepartmental UNODC specialist sections and programmes facilitated strategic and expert-level achievements. The Paris Pact research and liaison officer network assisted in the drafting of reports on key trafficking routes and demand reduction, and there was intensive training collaboration with the Afghan opiate trade programme, the regional programme for Afghanistan and neighbouring countries, and the UNODC Regional Office for Central Asia.

Concerned about the impact of drug use on children and young people, the General Assembly, on 17 March [E/2015/28 (res. 58/2)], invited Member States to encourage non-discriminatory attitudes towards children and young people with substance use disorders; to help reduce marginalization and discrimination; and to provide and

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their supply and demand; to develop prevention and treatment models relevant to the health and psychosocial aspects of drug use; to address current trends in trafficking in cocaine, and curbing access to the supply of precursor chemicals. The thirtieth Meeting of the High Level Panel of Experts, Asia and the Pacific (Bangkok, 19–22 October) [UNODC/HONLAP/39/6] adopted recommendations on current trends in the manufacture, trafficking and consumption of new psychoactive substances; successful solutions and practices in the area of forensics; and harmonization of legislation and practices at the international level. The fortieth session of the Subcommittee on Illicit Drug Trafficking and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East (Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, 8–12 November) [UNODC/SUBCOM/50/6] made recommendations on counteracting new trends in the use of technology by drug traffickers; the dynamics of and current trends in the region's illicit drug markets; and measures to counter money-laundering and illicit financial flows. It also recommended to encourage the adoption of the Abu Dhabi declaration, which contained recommendations for Governments and law enforcement agencies on addressing the world drug problem and stressed that, in the Near and Middle East, priority should be given to addressing the production, trafficking in and consumption of illicit drugs affecting the region, in particular opiates, cocaine and heroin, including new psychoactive substances, and Captagon and Tramadol.

International efforts to control narcotic drugs were consolidated by three global conventions: the 1961 Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs [YUN 1961, p. 382], which, with some exceptions of detail, replaced earlier narcotics treaties and was amended by the 1972 Protocol [YUN 1972, p. 397] to strengthen the role of the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB); the 1971 Convention on Psychotropic Substances [YUN 1971, p. 380]; and the 1988 United Nations Convention against Illicit Trafficking in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances [YUN 1988, p. 690].

As at 31 December, following the accession of Afghanistan on 1 November, the number of States parties to the 1961 Convention as amended by the 1972 Protocol increased to 187. Prior to that accession, Afghanistan had been a party to the 1961 Convention in its unamended form.

The number of parties to the 1971 Convention remained at 183 as at 31 December, and the number of parties to the 1988 Convention remained at 189.

On 17 March [E/2015/28 (res. 58/3)], the Commission encouraged

from China concerning the placement of ketamine in the same Schedule I of that Convention. The note contained comments by Governments on economic, social, legal, administrative and other factors relevant to the proposed scheduling of mephedrone and ketamine as well as recommendations by the Commission on the proposed scheduling. A February note by the Secretariat [E/CN.7/2015/7/Add.1] contained considerations of the notification from the United Kingdom concerning the recommendation for international control of mephedrone under the 1971 Convention, and of the notification from China concerning the recommendation for international control of ketamine under the same Convention.

Another February note by the Secretariat [E/CN.7/2015/8] contained recommendations for action by the Commission pursuant to the international drug control treaties. In accordance with article 3 of the 1961 Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs as amended by the 1972 Protocol, the Commission could take into consideration a proposal from the United Kingdom concerning the placement of AH-7921 in Schedule I of that Convention. In accordance with article 2 of the 1971 Convention, the Commission could take into consideration a proposal from the United Kingdom concerning the placement of the substances in Schedule I of that Convention: 3,4-methylendioxybutyrolactone (MDA), 1,4-butanediol, 25B-NBOMe (2C-B-NBOMe), 25C-NBOMe (2C-C-NBOMe) and 25I-NBOMe (2C-I-NBOMe). It could also consider a recommendation from the United Kingdom to place the substances in Schedule II of that Convention: 3,4-methylendioxybenzylpiperazine (MDA), JWH-018, AM-2201, 3,4-methylenedioxypropylamphetamine and methylenedioxypropylamphetamine (MDA). The note contained comments by Governments on economic, social, legal, administrative and other factors relevant to the proposed scheduling under the Conventions.

A further February note by the Secretariat [E/CN.7/2015/14] contained the request from the United Kingdom for legal advice on whether it could schedule a substance under the 1971 Convention if the Commission had recommended that the substance should not be placed under international control. It also transmitted a detailed analysis of the authority of the Commission that was annexed to an Inter-office memorandum, dated 18 February, from the Principal Legal Officer in charge of the Office of the Legal Counsel to the Secretary of the Commission. The Office of the Legal Counsel analysed the functions of the Commission under the Convention; the procedure for adding a substance to the Schedules of the Convention; the role of the Commission and the parties; and the relevant provisions and subsequent practice. It concluded that the Commission could schedule a substance under the 1971 Convention even if there was a recommendation from the United Kingdom that the substance should not be placed under

noted that States parties had implemented more cohesive and coherent drug control strategies as envisioned in the Conventions, and that the international drug control system provided a framework for ensuring the proper provision of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances to reduce pain and suffering while preventing their diversion into illicit use. However, about 75 per cent of the world population had limited or no access to proper pain relief treatment, and the availability of internationally controlled drugs could be improved within the framework of the international conventions. To ensure implementation of the import and export authorization system for licit international trade in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, the Board developed *INTRA*, an electronic tool to allow Governments to reduce the risk of drug consignments being diverted into illicit channels. The Board urged all competent national authorities to register and start using *INTRA* as soon as possible. The status of control in some countries for many psychotropic substances included in Schedules II, III and IV of the 1971 Convention remained unknown, and the Board urged Governments to review their laws and regulations to verify that they were in line with the relevant provisions of that Convention. It also reminded Governments of the treaty requirement of issuing import/export authorizations for Schedule II substances and urged them to submit the missing information regarding their national control over substances in Schedules III and IV. The Board noted that States had reduced the diversion of scheduled substances from international trade into illicit manufacture since the entry into force of the

ability of Governments to promote development. Cocaine continued to be trafficked from the border area between Colombia and Venezuela to airstrips in the region, in addition to the use of the more established sea routes via Haiti and the Dominican Republic. Trafficking by sea remained a problem. Significant levels of cannabis herb were produced in most countries in Central America and the Caribbean, but Jamaica remained the largest producer in the region. Jamaica was also increasingly used as a transit and destination country for smuggling drugs, firearms, ammunition and migrants. In the eastern Caribbean countries, South American drug cartels used the many uninhabited islands for trafficking and storing cocaine shipments destined for North America and Europe. Methamphetamine laboratories were being increasingly established in Central America, and new psychoactive substances were reported, particularly in Costa Rica. Cannabis abuse remained stable, co-

an increase of 44 per cent compared with 2013 and became once again the country with the largest area of coca bush cultivation in the world. Brazil is vulnerable to the transit of cocaine by air, land and rivers and is the largest cocaine market in the region. Heroin manufactured in South America is mainly destined for the United States but is also trafficked for consumption within the region. Various countries in the region reported seizures of drugs in 2014, including amphetamine, methamphetamine and ecstasy-type substances, as well as lysergic acid diethylamide. South America is also affected by the illicit cultivation of and trafficking in cannabis herb.

pharmaceutical industry, as well as their trafficking, including through illegal Internet pharmacies, continued. South Asia was increasingly used for the illicit manufacture of drugs, which were increasingly abused. India emerged as the main source. India and China were the major sources of various new psychoactive substances, one of which was mephedrone, brought under the control of the 1971 Convention by the Commission at its forty-eighth session in March (see p. 000). In Bangladesh, *aba* (methamphetamine) and codeine-based preparations were widely abused and, among street children, the abuse of glue and solvents by sniffing was common. In India, the diversion of ephedrine and pseudoephedrine from legal manufacture to illicit channels remained a major challenge for law enforcement agencies. Cannabis was the most common drug of abuse in the region.

10. The instability and climate of insecurity that prevailed in some parts of the Middle East continued to pose a challenge to drug control efforts in West Asia. The armed conflict and refugee crisis situations in the region gave rise to increased demands for emergency supplies, including internationally controlled substances for medical purposes, but delivery in certain areas was inadequate or severely limited. Drug trafficking and the illicit manufacture of heroin

Drug abuse as one of the major causes of mortality among European youth, both directly through overdose and indirectly through drug-related diseases, accidents, violence and suicide. The most commonly used drug in the EU was cannabis, followed by cocaine, ecstasy, and amphetamines. The main cannabis products were found on the European market: cannabis herb and cannabis resin. Cannabis herb was both illicitly cultivated in the region and trafficked from other regions, while most resin was smuggled from Morocco. Europe was a major illicit manufacturer of MDMA. Most of the amphetamine and methamphetamine manufactured was destined for national markets, but some was destined for other regions, particularly East and South-East Asia. In many countries of Western and Central Europe, the abuse of amphetamines remained stable, while the prevalence of cocaine abuse remained high. The diversification, availability and proliferation of new psychoactive substances increased, and by March, more than 450 new psychoactive substances were being monitored by the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA). Many of them were reportedly manufactured by chemical companies in China and India and shipped to Europe by air freight. In 2013, EMCDDA identified more than 600 websites selling new psychoactive substances to consumers in the EU. The abuse of heroin and synthetic opioids remained relatively low in the EU. In Eastern Europe, the high prevalence of opioid abuse was due to high levels of such abuse in the Russian Federation and Ukraine. In Eastern and South-Eastern Europe, 1.27 per cent of the general population aged 15–64 years was estimated to use drugs by injection, a rate nearly three times the global average). Approximately 40 per cent of the estimated global number of persons who abused drugs by injection and lived with HIV/AIDS in 2012.

islation Amendment (Psychoactive Substances and Other Measures) Act No. 12, laying down measures to help the Government respond to new and emerg-

rights to sustainable development. He pointed out that development and human rights depended on relevant legal frameworks and Governments that upheld the law. He also noted that international cooperation and coordination were critical elements of effective counter-responses in areas such as combating transnational organized crime and terrorism and addressing the links between them. He encouraged Member States to ratify or accede to relevant international drug, crime, corruption and terrorism instruments, and to support efforts towards the implementation of those instruments. He asked for enhanced efforts to address cybercrime, which had become a business of billions of dollars a year in online fraud, identity theft and lost intellectual property.

At the same time, the sixteenth Congress had before it a report of the Secretary-General [A/CONF.222/3], prepared in response to Assembly resolution 69/191 [YUN 2014, p. 1404], on the follow-up to the Salvador Declaration on Comprehensive Strategies for Global Challenges: Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Systems and their Development in a Changing World, adopted at the Twentieth Conference of the High Level Panel of Experts (2015) (A/CONF.222/3) (2015);

On 21 July 2015, the Economic and Social Council took note of the report on its reconvened tenth (2014) session [YUN 2014, p. 1403]. On the same date, the Council took note of the report on its tenth (2015) session, reaffirmed Commission decision 21/1 [YUN 2012, p. 1198], and approved the provisional agenda for its eleventh (2016) session.

At its tenth (2015) session [E/2015/30], the Council considered the report of the Executive Director [E/CN.7/2015/2-E/CN.15/2015/2] of the Office on the 2014 activities [YUN 2014, p. 1378] in the framework of its regional and thematic programmes, which included countering transnational organized crime and illicit drug trafficking; countering corruption; terrorism prevention; crime prevention and criminal justice; prevention, treatment and reintegration, and alternative development; research, trend analysis, and scientific and forensic support; and the strengthened

mission in ited States to foster international cooperation and intelligence- and data-sharing ith respect to the transnational crime of tra cking in cultural propret and the challenges in ol ed in combating it, and to further the pre ention of such crime b creating a areness-raising and information campaigns. It in ited Member States to further the protection of cultural propret against tra cking b de eloping and enacting appropriate legislation; to inform re b c of technical assistance needs; to use all rele ant instruments de eloped b re b c , the United Nations Educational, Scienti c and Cultural Organj ation and the competent international entities; and to deepen their understanding of the links bet een the destruction of cultural heritage and the tra cking of cultural propret in order to strengthen crime pre ention and criminal justice responses to such crimes. It also in ited Member States and other donors to provide e trabudgetar resources and requested the re b c Ecuti e Director to report to the Commission at its t ent - fth (2016) session on the implementation of the resolution.

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On 28 Ma [meeting 91], the General Assembl adopted **69/281** [draft: A/69/L.71 & Add.1] () ithout ote [agenda item 14].

Pursuant to General Assembl resolutions 64/293 [YUN 2010, p. 1111], 69/195 [YUN 2014, p. 1432], 69/197 [ibid., p. 1416] and 69/199 [ibid., p. 1426], the Secretar - General, in June, submitted a report [A/70/99] on implementation61mc7d 5tn4a7-19.8 2(i)-3 9-18.1 (r)0.6 m61

In another March note [E/CN.15/2015/18], the Secretary-General drew the attention of the Council to the nomination of Christine M. Cline (United States) to the Board of Trustees, which required action on the part of the Commission and the Economic and Social Council. On 21 March, the Commission unanimously recommended that Christine M. Cline be appointed to the Board of Trustees of the Institute. On 21 July, by resolution **2015/236**, the Council endorsed the appointment of Christine M. Cline (United States) to the Board of Trustees.

UN African Institute for the Prevention of Crime

In response to General Assembly resolution 69/198 [YUN 2014, p. 1424], the Secretary-General submitted a June report [A/70/121] on the activities of the Uganda-based United Nations African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders. The report also highlighted the Institute's work in the area of crime prevention and the treatment of offenders.

held meetings in 2015, all in Vienna. The Working Group on Firearms held its third session (9 June) [CTOC/COP/WG.6/2015/3]; the Working Group on International Cooperation held its sixth session (27–28 October) [CTOC/COP/WG.3/2015/4]; the Working Group on Trafficking in Persons held its sixth session (16–18 November) [CTOC/COP/WG.4/2015/6]; and the Working Group on the Smuggling of Migrants held its third session (18–20 November) [CTOC/COP/WG.7/2015/6]. The Open-ended Intergovernmental Meeting to Explore All Options Regarding an Appropriate and Effective Review Mechanism for the Convention and the Protocols thereto held its first session (Vienna, 28–30 September) [CTOC/COP/WG.8/2015/3].

UN Convention against Corruption

As at 31 December, 178 States and the European Union were parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption, adopted by the General Assembly in 2003 [YUN 2003, p. 1127].

The Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption, at its sixth session (St. Petersburg, Russian Federation, 2–6 November) [CAC/COSP/2015/10], adopted ten resolutions.

The Implementation Review Group held its sixth (Vienna, 1–5 June) [CAC/COSP/IRG/2015/5] and resumed sixth (St. Petersburg, 3–4 November) [CAC/CO(r)-710(s C)].

On 21 July [meeting 53], the Economic and Social Council, on the recommendation of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice [E/2015/30], adopted **2015/23** (

Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, timber and timber products and hazardous waste, as well as poaching, by strengthening legislation, international cooperation, capacity-building, criminal justice responses and law enforcement efforts aimed at dealing with transnational organized crime, corruption and money-laundering linked to such crimes.

During its tenth-fourth session in March [E/2015/30], the Commission discussed wildlife and forest crime as a form of transnational organized crime that affected not only countries but entire regions. For its consideration, the Commission had before it a conference room paper [E/CN.15/2015/CRP.4] on the outcome of the Expert Group Meeting on Timber Analysis (Vienna, 10–12 December 2014), hosted by the United States, jointly with its partners of the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime, to discuss the applicability of scientific methods for timber identification in support of law enforcement operations and to facilitate the development of international guidance on timber analysis. The Commission noted that wildlife and forest crime was linked to other crimes, such as money-laundering, smuggling of migrants and drug trafficking. Participants also highlighted marine living resources as a cross-cutting issue affecting sustainable economic and social development and the political stability of States that relied on fishing, and stressed that the depletion of fish stocks as a result of illegal fishing was a crime to be dealt with in a comprehensive manner.

On 30 July [meeting 100], the General Assembly adopted resolution **69/314** [A/69/L.80 & Add.1] (annex I) without a vote [agenda item 13].

The Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice [E/2015/30 & Add.1] had before it a March report [E/CN.15/2015/8 & Corr.1], in which the Secretary-General described progress made by the

Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners on its fourth meeting (see below) could be made available for consideration to the thirteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and to the twentieth-fourth session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice.

In March 2015 (E/CN.15/2015/30), the Commission had before it the report [E/CN.15/2015/17] of the Expert Group on the Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners on its fourth meeting (Cape Town, South Africa, 2–5 March), at which the Expert Group reached consensus on the revision of the Standard Minimum Rules and took account of the nine thematic areas and respective rules identified for revision at its previous meetings. It recommends (1)6.1

of the Open-ended Intergovernmental Expert Group on Gender-related Killing of Women and Girls (see above). The Secretary-General made recommendations, for consideration by the General Assembly, on practical measures for action by Member States to prevent, investigate, prosecute and punish gender-related killing of women and girls, drawing on the conclusions and recommendations endorsed by the Expert Group.

On 21 July [meeting 53], the Economic and Social Council, on the recommendation of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice [E/2015/30], adopted **2015/21** () without vote [agenda item 19 (f)].

On 17 December [meeting 80], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Third Committee [A/70/490], adopted **70/176** () **12.7 (2007)**.