

31 October 2023

English only*

Report of the Forty-fifth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Asia and the Pacific, held in Kuta, Indonesia, from 24 to 27 October 2023

I. Matters calling for action by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs or brought to its attention

Recommendations adopted by the Forty-fifth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Asia and the Pacific

1. The participants in the Forty-fifth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Asia and the Pacific, adopted a number of recommendations made by its working groups. Those recommendations are presented below.

Issue 1. Regional and international cooperation to reduce illicit cultivation and production of drugs, including alternative development

2. The following recommendations were made with regard to the topic entitled “Regional and international cooperation to reduce illicit cultivation and production of drugs, including alternative development”:

(a) Governments should monitor and exchange information and data on the rapidly evolving drug situation in the region, specifically with respect to changes in opium poppy cultivation, cannabis and the production of semi-synthetic and synthetic drugs;

(b) Governments should strengthen their engagement and cooperation with relevant stakeholders, including international and regional organizations and platforms, to address the challenges of drug cultivation and drug production through streamlined law enforcement, prevention, treatment and alternative development initiatives;

(c) International and regional organizations and other cooperating partners are encouraged to continue funding alternative development, accompanied, where relevant, by technical assistance from the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and other relevant agencies.

* Available only in English, which is the working language of the subsidiary body.



Issue 2. Financial investigations in drug trafficking cases, and the role of cryptocurrencies in drug trafficking and related money-laundering

3. The following recommendations were made with regard to the topic entitled “Financial investigations in drug trafficking cases, and the role of cryptocurrencies in drug trafficking and related money-laundering”:

(a) Member States are encouraged to establish systems for the continuous professional development of practitioners with a remit to conduct financial investigations, in order to ensure that they maintain high professional standards and receive regular training on incipient money-laundering typologies related to drug trafficking, including the use of cryptocurrencies;

(b) Member States are encouraged to prioritize the seizure, freezing and confiscation of stolen assets and property emanating from drug and other criminal activities, as well as the allocation of resources for this purpose;

(c) As part of the broader regulatory requirements, Member States are encouraged to observe the implementation requirements of the Financial Action Task Force standard related to virtual asset service providers;

(d) Member States should conduct post-seizure and other backtracking investigations, including parallel financial investigations, to successfully identify and prosecute drug trafficking cases and related money-laundering.

Issue 3. Measures to counter the illicit manufacturing and diversion of precursor chemicals

4. The following recommendations were made with regard to the topic entitled “Measures to counter the illicit manufacturing and diversion of precursor chemicals”:

(a) Governments are encouraged to enhance monitoring capacities relating to the trade in non-controlled chemicals that are known to be used for the illicit manufacture of drugs in the region, as well as those that can be used for the synthesis of key precursors and, to this end, consider the development of regional cooperative mechanisms;

(b) Governments are encouraged to develop strategies to better engage with industrial sectors that require chemicals, specifically the chemical and pharmaceutical industries, to institute public-private partnerships as an important pillar for effective precursor control;

(c) Governments are encouraged to share intelligence and information related to precursors in a timely manner by fully utilizing existing international tools and mechanisms and strengthening forensic capacity to better identify seized chemicals.

Issue 4. The link between drugs and the environment

5. The following recommendations were made with regard to the topic entitled “The link between drugs and the environment”:

(a) Governments should streamline environmental protection across their drug policy responses and relevant legislation and legal frameworks to ensure that environmental best practices are considered throughout interventions such as alternative development;

(b) For a more holistic management of this intricate issue, Governments should ensure collaboration between all relevant national competent authorities, including those with mandates related to public security, environmental protection and health;

(c) Technical assistance, including from UNODC, should be provided to requesting Governments in order to enhance relevant capacities to effectively address issues pertaining to the identification, safe transportation and disposal of chemicals, as well as ensure the protection of front-line personnel.

II. Current situation with respect to regional and subregional cooperation in addressing and countering the world drug problem

6. At its 1st and 2nd meetings, on 24 October 2023, the Meeting considered agenda item 3, entitled “Current situation with respect to regional and subregional cooperation in addressing and countering the world drug problem”. For its consideration of the item, the Meeting had before it a note by the Secretariat transmitting the report of the Secretariat on the world situation with regard to drug trafficking (UNODC/HONLAP/45/2) and a report of the Secretariat on the current situation with respect to regional and subregional cooperation in addressing and countering the world drug problem (UNODC/HONLAP/45/3). In addition, country reports were submitted by Australia, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, China, France, India, Japan, New Zealand, Pakistan, the Philippines, the Russian Federation, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Türkiye (UNODC/HONLAP/45/CRP.1–15).

7. A representative of UNODC introduced the item, presenting the key findings of the report of the Secretariat on the current situation with respect to regional and subregional cooperation in addressing and countering the world drug problem.

8. The representatives of Bangladesh, China, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), New Zealand, Pakistan, Republic of Korea, Thailand and Viet Nam made statements or presentations.

9. Many speakers reported on the current drug trafficking trends in their countries and in the Asia and Pacific region, on the basis of seizure data and numbers of arrests, and provided information on other aspects relating to the situation regarding drugs, such as drug prevalence, trafficking routes, new methods of concealment and transport, organized crime, the diversion of precursor chemicals, the trade in drugs over the Internet, border control and money-laundering.

10. The alarming situation concerning the cultivation of opium poppy and the manufacture of synthetic drugs in Afghanistan, and the trafficking of drugs out of the country, were highlighted by some speakers.

11. Many speakers discussed the prevalence of specific drugs within their regions, including methamphetamine, 3,4-methylenedioxymethamphetamine (MDMA, commonly known as “ecstasy”), cocaine, cannabis, new psychotropic substances and synthetic opioids. In many countries, methamphetamine was considered the most widely used drug with the highest rates of substance use disorders. The increasing distribution of drugs through the Internet, Dark Web and cryptocurrencies was underscored. Some speakers shared information about the social harm, health risks and secondary crimes associated with the use of those drugs and overdose, contributing to a collective understanding of the drug landscape.

12. Some speakers expressed concern regarding the increasing challenges posed by drug trafficking networks whose resources exceeded those of law enforcement. One speaker emphasized the national financial challenges and security implications posed by drug trafficking. Factors attributed to those challenges included the diversion of precursors and chemicals, the activities of drug traffickers in neighbouring countries and the high demand for drugs.

13. Several speakers underlined the importance of robust legislation, effective law enforcement measures and technical assistance to effectively combat drug trafficking. Many speakers shared information on successful cases of national and international joint law enforcement efforts, which had led to a significant number of drug seizures and arrests of drug traffickers. Some speakers also referred to the challenges in the area of law enforcement encountered in relation to the high frequency of drug trafficking in the Golden Triangle, the expansion of transnational crime syndicates, and the sophisticated use of information and communications technologies by criminal groups.

14. Some speakers emphasized the importance of ratification of the three international drug control conventions and the implementation of international drug policy documents in addressing the world drug problem. The importance of resource mobilization and enhanced partnerships in combating drug trafficking was also noted by several speakers. Timely information-sharing and intelligence exchanges also emerged as critical themes in tackling drug trafficking. Many speakers reiterated the need for the real-time sharing of information and the importance of strengthening inter-agency cooperation to combat drug trafficking more effectively.

15. Several speakers reaffirmed their dedication to alternative development programmes as a means of addressing the root causes of illicit drug production. Such programmes were designed to provide legitimate economic opportunities and reduce dependency on drug cultivation.

16. Some speakers shared information on good practices, training programmes and mechanisms for international cooperation, such as the global network of police and customs liaison officers. Reference was also made to cooperation premised on bilateral memorandums of understanding, as well as at the regional level in the framework of the Mekong Memorandum of Understanding on Drug Control.

17. Many speakers stressed the importance of regional and international cooperation in addressing the world drug problem, in particular in the fight against drug trafficking. They emphasized the need for collaborative efforts among Member States and international organizations to effectively combat global drug trafficking and reaffirmed their readiness to cooperate with all interested Member States. The need for broad support in the area of capacity-building was highlighted in that regard.

III. Implementation of the recommendations adopted by the Forty-fourth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Asia and the Pacific

18. At its 2nd meeting on 24 October 2023, the Meeting considered agenda item 4, entitled “Implementation of the recommendations adopted by the Forty-fourth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Asia and the Pacific”. The Meeting had before it a note prepared by the Secretariat ([UNODC/HONLAP/45/4](#)) transmitting the replies by Member States to a questionnaire sent to all States participating in the Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Asia and the Pacific, which had been made available online on a dedicated web page to participants of the Forty-fifth Meeting. Replies to the questionnaire were received from the Governments of Australia, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Brunei Darussalam, China, France, India, Indonesia, Japan, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, New Zealand, Pakistan, the Philippines, the Russian Federation, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Türkiye.

19. The Secretary made an introductory statement.

20. The Chair of the Meeting shared an overview of the recommendations adopted at the Forty-fourth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Asia and the Pacific, under four issues: (a) trends in drug trafficking and concealment methods, and in intelligence-led international cooperation; (b) synthetic drug production and trafficking, including the safe handling and disposal of synthetic drugs and their precursors; (c) alternatives to conviction or punishment for drug-related offences; and (d) exchange of actionable intelligence and the role of regional cooperation platforms in facilitating such exchange.

21. During the discussion, statements and presentations were made by Bangladesh, China, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Japan and New Zealand.

22. The Meeting discussed action taken by Governments to implement the recommendations adopted by the Forty-fourth Meeting.

23. Many speakers emphasized the evolving trends in drug trafficking, the new and innovative methods of concealment and transport, and how law enforcement agencies

used drones to counter drug trafficking activities. Several speakers underscored the need for the timely exchange of information on the respective drug situation and the modus operandi of drug trafficking networks, as well as for enhancing intelligence-led international cooperation, to effectively address these challenges. Reference was also made to some domestic control measures, such as systems for verifying identity documents and drug identification training.

24. Several speakers also shared their approaches to counter these challenges, such as by enhancing partnerships with other Member States and international organizations, through cooperation among law enforcement agencies and by conducting bilateral meetings, attending international conferences and strengthening the existing cooperation mechanisms. The Commission on Narcotic Drugs; the Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Asia and the Pacific; the Association of Southeast Asian Nations Ministerial Meeting on Drug Matters; and the UNODC global Synthetics Monitoring: Analyses, Reporting and Trends (SMART) programme were referred to as good mechanisms or forums for enhancing international cooperation to combat drug trafficking.

25. Many speakers highlighted the importance of the safe disposal of synthetic drugs and their precursors. They stressed the significance of responsible waste management in dealing with narcotics, psychotropic substances and precursors. It was highlighted that drug laboratories played a critical role in monitoring and analysing the consumption of drugs. Direct engagement with suppliers of non-controlled chemicals, education and the ongoing reporting of all suspicious purchases were also referred to as methods to avoid the diversion of chemicals and equipment used in the production of illicit drugs. Additionally, the importance of early warning systems in keeping the public informed about emerging drug-related threats was emphasized.

26. In considering alternatives to conviction and punishment for drug-related offences, all speakers regarded rehabilitation as a viable option to help offenders reintegrate into society. It was recognized that rehabilitation, as outlined in the respective laws, played a pivotal role in offering offenders an opportunity for social reintegration. The alternative development initiatives and projects introduced by some speakers were aimed at addressing the root causes of drug-related offences and promoting lasting change. Some speakers reported changing approaches towards treating drug offences as public health issues and promoting rehabilitation and treatment over or alongside punitive measures.

27. Many speakers introduced their efforts to enhance the timely exchange of actionable intelligence to combat drug trafficking and related crimes. Participation in international and regional drug control mechanisms and cooperation projects illustrated their dedication to enhancing their information-sharing capacity. Several speakers expressed strong support for other Member States, emphasizing that combating drug trafficking was a shared responsibility. Reference was also made to the importance of domestic inter-agency cooperation in addressing the world drug problem, including conducting parallel financial investigations with banks and addressing cyber-enabled crime.

IV. Follow-up to the implementation at the national, regional and international levels of all commitments, as reflected in the Ministerial Declaration of 2019, to address and counter the world drug problem, and preparations for the midterm review in 2024

28. At its 2nd and 3rd meetings on 23 and 24 October 2023, the Meeting considered item 5 of its agenda, entitled “Follow-up to the implementation at the national, regional and international levels of all commitments, as reflected in the Ministerial Declaration of 2019, to address and counter the world drug problem”. For its consideration of the item, the Meeting had before it the Political Declaration and Plan

of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem; the outcome document of the thirtieth special session of the General Assembly, entitled “Our joint commitment to effectively addressing and countering the world drug problem”; and the 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.

29. The Secretary of the Meeting made a presentation to introduce the agenda item, informing participants of the work implemented by the Commission, focusing in particular on the outcome of its sixty-sixth regular session, held in March 2023, and the follow-up to the Ministerial Declaration of 2019 through the organization of thematic discussions on good practices, challenges and lessons learned.

30. Meeting participants were briefed on the 2023 thematic discussions, to be held from 23 to 25 October (first round) and from 4 to 6 December (second round). The two rounds would facilitate a comprehensive stocktaking of all 11 challenges related to the world drug problem identified in the Ministerial Declaration of 2019. Participants were encouraged to join the 2023 thematic discussions and bring their operational perspectives to the Commission.

31. Information was also shared on the preparations for the midterm review in 2024 to take stock of the implementation of all international drug policy commitments since 2019. Reference was made to Commission on Narcotic Drugs resolution 66/1, entitled “Preparations for the midterm review to be held during the sixty-seventh session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, in 2024”, which outlined the procedural arrangements for the 2024 midterm review.

32. Statements were made by representatives of Indonesia, Japan, the Russian Federation and Thailand.

33. Speakers noted the manifestations of the world drug problem shared by the Asia and Pacific region, including the growing production and distribution of synthetic drugs and new psychoactive substances, cyber-enabled drug trafficking and cyber-facilitated money-laundering. Several speakers emphasized the three international drug control conventions as the cornerstone of the international drug control system and reiterated the importance of fulfilling all the commitments made by Member States in the Ministerial Declaration of 2019, based on the principle of common and shared responsibility.

34. It was emphasized by some speakers that only through joint efforts can Member States address and counter the world drug problem in all its forms and manifestations. Some speakers also underscored the importance of strengthening national inter-agency cooperation; enhancing international and regional drug control mechanisms, such as the regional intelligence liaison office, joint practical law enforcement and preventive operations; and providing training for drug control personnel from other Member States. One speaker also highlighted the importance of information sharing in international and regional cooperation, referring to the national multi-layer system of scheduling new psychotropic substances.

35. National good practices were shared by one speaker in the areas of drug prevention, community empowerment through implementing alternative development programmes, and HIV/AIDS related to drug use. One speaker called for the intensification of security and technical measures to counter cyber-enabled drug crimes and the cyber-facilitated money-laundering of criminal proceeds.

36. One speaker shared the positive impacts of the decriminalization of drug use on improving the situation of prison overcrowding; it contributed to the reduction of prison overcrowding and related costs and minimized the detrimental health impacts imposed by imprisonment on inmates with drug use disorders. Another speaker noted that the promotion of liberal approaches to drug control would hamper global efforts to address the world drug problem and would lead to an increase in drug trafficking and use, and instead called for a strengthening of the existing international system on drug control.

V. Consideration of topics by working groups

37. On 25 and 26 October, the Meeting established working groups to examine four topics under agenda item 6, entitled “Consideration of topics by working groups”. The observations of the working groups are set out below. (For the recommendations made by the working groups and adopted by the Meeting, see sect. I above.)

Issue 1. Regional and international cooperation to reduce illicit cultivation and production of drugs, including alternative development

38. The working group held one meeting, on 25 October 2023. During its consideration of the issue, the working group made the following observations:

(a) Across the region, drug use and consumption are increasing, especially in the context of amphetamine-type stimulants and ketamine. It was noted that synthetic drug production poses specific risks owing to its higher scalability;

(b) Opium poppy cultivation has increased in traditional cultivating areas. Recent developments have increased the need to monitor the situation and to anticipate changes in cultivation areas and the related impact on drug economies;

(c) To be successful, alternative development projects must adopt a holistic development approach that is balanced, both empowering communities and keeping human rights at the centre. At the same time, reliable market access is key for the economic success and sustainability of alternative development projects;

(d) Responses to regional drug problems must be balanced between law enforcement, prevention, treatment and alternative development;

(e) Inter- and intra-regional (Latin America, Africa and Asia) and international cooperation are an effective gateway for the sharing of knowledge and information, and for the exchange of best practices, such as at regional learning centres;

(f) Alternative development is an evolving concept with new applications in non-traditional settings, including urban and preventive alternative development. This year marks the tenth anniversary of the United Nations Guiding Principles on Alternative Development, adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 68/196 in 2013, which continues to be a relevant policy document on best practices in alternative development;

(g) Support for alternative development should be continuous and there should be a long-term vision to break the vicious cycle of drug cultivation, including through continued technical and financial assistance.

Issue 2. Financial investigations in drug trafficking cases, and the role of cryptocurrencies in drug trafficking and related money-laundering

39. The working group held one meeting, on 25 October 2023. During its consideration of the issue, the working group made the following observations:

(a) The level of money-laundering cases filed alongside major proceeds-generating offences, such as drug trafficking, and the initiation of actions to freeze, seize and confiscate property remain low in the region;

(b) The use of virtual assets, specifically cryptocurrencies, by criminals to obfuscate their drug-related transactions presents a major challenge to law enforcement authorities, as there is limited capacity to trace, freeze, seize, confiscate and manage virtual assets;

(c) There is a need to enhance the financial investigation skills of law enforcement authorities, including understanding financial documents and financial patterns;

(d) Law enforcement authorities require specialized training on a regular basis to enable them to use advanced intelligence analysis tools for the detection, monitoring and investigation of illicit transactions using cryptocurrencies;

(e) The establishment of dedicated or specialized agencies or divisions to handle financial crime cases, including money-laundering related to drug trafficking, is a good practice;

(f) Inter-agency coordination at the national level and law enforcement cooperation at the regional and international levels need to be strengthened to effectively address cases of drug-related money-laundering, including in cases relating to the use of the darknet and cryptocurrencies;

(g) Some countries in the region are either black-listed or grey-listed by the Financial Action Task Force. Hence, there is a need to strengthen their frameworks with regard to anti-money-laundering and combating the financing of terrorism;

(h) There is a need to closely cooperate and partner with private sector banks and regulate virtual asset service providers, and non-bank financial institutions, in order to ensure the effective and timely investigation of cases involving digital assets;

(i) Governments can make use of the tools available for training by the Global Programme against Money-Laundering, Proceeds of Crime and the Financing of Terrorism and other training institutions;

(j) The UNODC *Practical Guide for Requesting Electronic Evidence Across Borders* is a useful tool for Governments to request electronic evidence, including from service providers, that is required for judicial proceedings.

Issue 3. Measures to counter the illicit manufacturing and diversion of precursor chemicals

40. The working group held one meeting, on 26 October 2023. During its consideration of the issue, the working group made the following observations:

(a) The Asia and the Pacific region recognizes the importance of establishing effective precursor control mechanisms as a pre-requisite for supply reduction of drugs;

(b) The scale of the illicit production of drugs, in particular synthetic drugs, in Asia and the Pacific continues to expand, which has exacerbated the diversion of and trafficking in substantial quantities of precursor chemicals;

(c) There are strong indications of an increase in the use of non-controlled chemicals and designer precursors, evidenced by recent seizure cases reported from countries in the region;

(d) Law enforcement and regulatory authorities in the region are facing challenges in the detection of diverted precursors owing to the large-scale and growing legitimate trade of the related chemicals;

(e) Compartmentalization among authorities relevant to precursor control is one of the challenges in establishing successful precursor control mechanisms at the national and regional levels;

(f) Enhanced precursor control and the legitimate trade of chemicals for industrial purposes require a balanced approach;

(g) There is a need to improve the understanding of the mechanics related to the diversion of precursor chemicals, and to the subsequent trafficking into major illicit drug manufacturing sites in the region;

(h) There is a need to understand the best ways to safely handle and dispose of seized chemicals in a proper manner;

(i) Despite many challenges in precursor control, there are examples of successful collaboration between countries in the region as a result of real-time

intelligence and information sharing, leading to the disruption of illicit supply chains of precursor chemicals;

(j) Existing international tools and mechanisms relevant to precursor control, including the Pre-Export Notification Online (PEN Online) system, the PEN Online Light system and the Precursors Incidents Communication System, are useful and can be better utilized for rapid intelligence sharing among countries.

Issue 4. The link between drugs and the environment

41. The working group held one meeting, on 26 October 2023. During its consideration of the issue, the working group made the following observations:

(a) The link between drugs and the environment is a complex and emerging issue that requires further scientific research and data collection, especially in the context of illicit drug cultivation and production hotspots. It has been addressed in the *World Drug Report 2022* and *World Drug Report 2023*, and in the *Practical Guide on Alternative Development and the Environment*;

(b) The environment can be negatively impacted by drug production, cultivation and consumption, and by responses to the world drug problem;

(c) The safe disposal of plant-based drugs, synthetic drugs and their precursors poses a challenge to drug law enforcement agencies;

(d) The high volume of chemicals destined for drug production that is seized in the region poses safety challenges to front-line officers;

(e) The negative impact of drugs on the environment is significant at the local level, for example through land use change and chemical waste, which is especially acute in the vicinity of vulnerable ecosystems and communities;

(f) The international and regional sharing of experiences and best practices is key to further understanding the nexus between drugs and the environment;

(g) Successful alternative development projects have helped address environmental protection, including through land-use planning to combine tree cover with productive agriculture, by involving local communities and by employing climate finance mechanisms such as carbon credit schemes;

(h) Currently, there is still a lack of awareness creation, knowledge and technical expertise on the impact of drugs cultivation, production and consumption on the environment;

(i) Law enforcement agencies can use wastewater analysis to understand local drug production and consumption dynamics.

VI. Organization of the Forty-sixth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Asia and the Pacific

42. At its 7th meeting, on 27 October, the Meeting considered agenda item 7, entitled “Organization of the Forty-sixth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Asia and the Pacific”. For its consideration of the item, the Meeting had before it a note by the Secretariat on the organization of the Forty-sixth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Asia and the Pacific ([UNODC/HONLAP/45/5](#)).

43. The Secretary informed the Meeting that the Forty-sixth Meeting was to be held in 2024. The Chair invited States interested in hosting the Meeting to contact the Secretariat so that the venue could be determined as early as possible.

44. During the discussion of the item, statements were made by the representatives of Iran (Islamic Republic of), New Zealand and Pakistan.

45. Participants were encouraged to suggest possible topics to be considered by the working groups at the Forty-sixth Meeting, under item 6 of the provisional agenda for that Meeting. Speakers proposed the following topics for possible discussion by the working groups at the Forty-sixth Meeting: cryptocurrency and illicit financial flows, drugs and the environment, and international cooperation to combat drug trafficking.

46. The Meeting approved the following provisional agenda for the Forty-sixth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Asia and the Pacific:

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.
3. Current situation with respect to regional and subregional cooperation in addressing and countering the world drug problem.
4. Implementation of the recommendations adopted by the Forty-fifth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Asia and the Pacific.
5. Follow-up to the implementation at the national, regional and international levels of all commitments, as reflected in the Ministerial Declaration of 2019, to address and counter the world drug problem.
6. Consideration of topics by working groups.
7. Organization of the Forty-seventh Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Asia and the Pacific.
8. Other business.
9. Adoption of the report of the Forty-sixth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Asia and the Pacific.

VII. Other business

47. Also at its 7th meeting, the Meeting considered agenda item 8, entitled “Other business”. No issues were raised under the agenda item.

VIII. Adoption of the report

48. At the same meeting, the Meeting adopted its draft report ([UNODC/HONLAP/45/L.1](#) and Add.1–7), including the reports of the working groups and the recommendations contained therein.

IX. Organization of the Meeting

A. Opening and duration of the Meeting

49. The Forty-fifth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Asia and the Pacific, organized by UNODC and hosted by the Government of Indonesia, was held in Kuta, Indonesia, from 24 to 27 October 2023.

50. Welcoming remarks were made by the Chair of the Meeting. Opening statements were made by the Executive Director of UNODC, the representative of the UNODC country office in Indonesia, and the Chair of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs at its sixty-sixth session. The Head of the National Narcotics Board of Indonesia delivered the keynote address.

B. Attendance

51. The following States were represented at the Forty-fifth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Asia and the Pacific: Australia, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Brunei Darussalam, China, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Japan, Kyrgyzstan, Malaysia, Mongolia, New Zealand, Pakistan, the Philippines, the Republic of Korea, the Russian Federation, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Viet Nam.

52. Hong Kong, China, and Macao, China, were represented as associate members of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific.

53. The following States were represented by observers: Germany, Italy and Qatar.

C. Election of officers

54. At its 1st meeting, on 24 October 2023, the Meeting elected the following officers by acclamation:

<i>Chair:</i>	Agus Irianto (Indonesia)
<i>Vice-Chair:</i>	Abdullah Al Masud Chowdhury (Bangladesh)
<i>Rapporteur:</i>	Pang Thong Ong (Singapore)

D. Adoption of the agenda

55. At the same meeting, the Forty-fifth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Asia and the Pacific, adopted the following agenda:

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.
3. Current situation with respect to regional and subregional cooperation in addressing and countering the world drug problem.
4. Implementation of the recommendations adopted by the Forty-fourth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Asia and the Pacific.
5. Follow-up to the implementation at the national, regional and international levels of all commitments, as reflected in the Ministerial Declaration of 2019, to address and counter the world drug problem, and preparations for the midterm review in 2024.
6. Consideration of topics by working groups:
 - (a) Regional and international cooperation to reduce illicit cultivation and production of drugs, including alternative development;
 - (b) Financial investigations in drug trafficking cases, and the role of cryptocurrencies in drug trafficking and related money-laundering;
 - (c) Measures to counter the illicit manufacturing and diversion of precursor chemicals;
 - (d) The link between drugs and the environment.
7. Organization of the Forty-sixth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Asia and the Pacific.
8. Other business.
9. Adoption of the report of the Forty-fifth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Asia and the Pacific.

E. Documentation

56. The documents before the Forty-fifth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Asia and the Pacific, are listed in the annex to the present document.

X. Closure of the Meeting

57. The Chair of the Meeting made closing remarks. Statements were made by the representatives of Bangladesh, China, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Pakistan, Thailand and Viet Nam. The representative of UNODC Country Office Indonesia also made a statement.

Annex

List of documents before the Forty-fifth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Asia and the Pacific

<i>Document number</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>	<i>Title or description</i>
UNODC/HONLAP/45/1	2	Annotated provisional agenda
UNODC/HONLAP/45/2	3	Note transmitting the report of the Secretariat on the world situation with regard to drug trafficking
UNODC/HONLAP/45/3	3	Report of the Secretariat on the current situation with respect to regional and subregional cooperation in addressing and countering the world drug problem
UNODC/HONLAP/45/4	4	Note by the Secretariat on the implementation of the recommendations adopted by the Forty-fourth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Asia and the Pacific
UNODC/HONLAP/45/5	7	Note by the Secretariat on the organization of the Forty-sixth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Asia and the Pacific
UNODC/HONLAP/45/L.1 and Add.1–7	9	Draft report of the Forty-fifth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Asia and the Pacific
UNODC/HONLAP/45/CRP.1–15	3	Country reports