



Resolution on Effective Cooperation in Combating Illicit Drug Trafficking in Asia

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23 November 2017

We, the Members of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly,

Recalling the report of the Standing Committee meeting on Social and Cultural Affairs held in Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran, on 13-14 September 2011;

Mindful of the fact that illicit drug trafficking and its negative impact on health, safety, public order, governance, economic development and social health constitutes a prime concern in Asia and deserves a comprehensive consideration by the APA;

Stressing the need to continue to take concentrated measures within the framework of the Paris Pact in order to strengthen cross-border cooperation and information exchanged with a view to countering illicit cultivation, production and trafficking of narcotic drugs in Asia;

Emphasizing that the danger of illicit drug trafficking is so pervasive that may undermine international peace, security, and stability and there is an urgent need to mobilize efforts of all countries to curb the production of opium and heroin in Afghanistan and to dismantle networks of illicit drug trafficking from that country;

Acknowledging that the States most affected by the transit of drugs, especially the developing countries among them, have made important contributions to and sacrifices in countering illicit drug trafficking and preventing illicitly trafficked substances from region and markets;

Emphasizing afresh the continuing need to provide concrete, sufficient and sustainable technical and capacity- building support to the States most affected by the transit of drugs, especially the developing countries among them, in their efforts to curb illicit drug trafficking and deal with associated challenges;

Recognizing that production and illicit trafficking of narcotics drugs can be utilized for financing of other organized crimes, including terrorism;

Expressing the need to explore ways and means to intensify regional coordination among legislators to combat drug trafficking and make anti-drug policies a priority in programs of co-

operation with, and of assistance to, the Asian countries which are affected by illicit drug trafficking;

Recognizing the interconnected challenges facing Asian countries, including continued illegal cultivation, production and trafficking of narcotic drugs that pose a serious threat to the region;

Expressing the need to increase international and regional support for the capacity building of law-enforcement agencies in Afghanistan, and to intensify training programs for Afghan law-enforcement staff;

Further recognizing the importance of “Alternative Development” program as an approach to reducing the cultivation of plants containing drug substances through rural development measures that has been strongly endorsed by UN Commission on Narcotic Drug;

Stressing the need to enhance joint operations with the relevant Afghan law-enforcement agencies focusing on clandestine heroin-producing laboratories and organized criminal groups involved in the illicit drugs trade, emphasizing the urgent need to increase efforts by the relevant UN Stakeholders aimed at integrated rural development, building infrastructure and supporting farmers engaged in alternative production;

Recognizing the need for more cooperation and intelligence sharing with a result-oriented approach between the law enforcement agencies of the Member States in and including customs and border authorities in order to better tackle smuggling of narcotics and psychotropic substances within the region and beyond;

Supporting regional and international efforts to improve law enforcement in combating the production and trafficking of narcotic drugs and curtailing drug related financial activities;

Emphasizing the need to assist Afghanistan in developing its economy and diversifying agriculture so as to reduce dependence on revenues from the illicit drugs trafficking, in line with the Lima Declaration and International Guiding Principles on Alternative Development (November 2012);

Stressing the need to share best practices and take adequate measures in preventing, treatment and rehabilitation of drug addicts;

Expressing the need for more active and efficient international cooperation in combating illicit drug trafficking in Asia;

Attaching great importance to the efforts made by international and regional organizations including the United Nations (UN), office of drugs and crimes (UNODC) and the Asian Parliamentary Assembly (APA) to combat the threats of international terrorism, illicit drug trafficking, transnational organized crime and legalization of income derived from criminal activity;

1. **Call upon** Asian Parliaments to coordinate among themselves to review relevant legislation to address different aspects of combating illicit drug trafficking by harmonizing laws and making minimum punishment stronger;
2. **Call upon** Asian Parliaments to adopt laws on extradition of convicted persons on terrorism and illicit drug trafficking to their countries of origin for fair trial based on national legislations
3. **Stress** the need to exchange information and best practices within APA Member Parliaments on combating illicit drug trafficking;
4. **Reiterate** the need to coordinate and improve law enforcement activities to combat the production and trafficking of narcotic drugs and curtailing the flow of illicit drug more effectively;
5. **Underline** the importance of effectively using international financial assistance for the creation of alternative economic opportunities in order to ensure a sustainable anti-drug policy;
6. **Call upon** APA Asian Parliaments to enable civil society as an effective partner of parliaments and to enhance the role of mass media in combating drug trafficking in Asia;
7. **Encourage** all APA member Parliaments to support their respective governments in order to coordinate with international and regional organizations including the United Nations (UN) to combat the threats of international terrorism, illicit drug trafficking, transnational organized crime and legalization of income derived from criminal activity;
8. **Urge** that a regular dialogue on supporting joint actions of Asian governments against abovementioned threats within APA could become an effective supplement for addressing the challenges of international illicit drug trafficking and transnational organized crime in the region;
9. **Express** our commitment to encourage and enhance cooperation with all relevant states and international and regional organizations, on matters of common interest in the spirit of this resolution on rendering assistance to combat illicit drug trafficking;
10. **Encourage** networking of the relevant national agencies or organizations in Asia dealing with transnational crimes to further enhance information dissemination and intelligence exchange;
11. **Request** the Secretary General to seek the views of all Member parliaments on ways and means for effective implementation of this resolution.