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**COMMITTEE:** Drug Control

**QUESTION OF:** Disrupting the illicit production and global distribution of synthetic opioids

**SUBMITTED BY:** Croatia

**CO-SUBMITTED BY:** Germany, France, Finland, Poland, Mexico, Ghana, Thailand, USA

**SIGNATORIES:** Sierra Leone, Democratic Republic of Congo, Colombia, Australia, South Korea, Slovenia, Pakistan, Netherlands, Bahrain, Iran, Moldova,

The General Assembly,

*Aware* that in 2019, approximately 600,000 deaths were attributable to drug use worldwide, with close to 80% of these deaths related to opioids, and about 25% directly caused by opioid overdose, according to the World Health Organization,

*Recognizing* that countries across Asia, Europe, and Latin America have seen significant increases in synthetic opioid trafficking and overdose deaths, underscoring the transnational nature of the crisis,

*Noting* that according to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), illicit synthetic opioids such as fentanyl are manufactured in clandestine labs using precursor chemicals often diverted from legal supply chains,

*Acknowledging* the environmental impact of improperly disposed of precursor chemicals used in synthetic opioid production contaminated water sources and agricultural land, with long-term consequences for communities and ecosystems,

*Appreciating* the collaborative international efforts spearheaded by the UNODC through the Global SMART Program, as well as the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND) to monitor and counteract synthetic drug production and trafficking,

*Reaffirming* the need for enhanced international coordination to achieve Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly Goal 3 (Good Health and Well-being) and Goal 16 (Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions),

1. Calls for the establishment of two international databases under the supervision of the UNODC: one to track the trade of precursor chemicals used in synthetic opioid production, the other to share information regarding the production, and distribution of synthetic opioids, incorporating the drug and law enforcement agencies of individual nations to permit safer, more controlled, and better-planned cross border operations;  
Developing a blockchain-based international tracking system to monitor the trade of precursor chemicals, ensuring tamper-proof and transparent record-keeping;
  - a. *Blockchain* technology would allow authorized parties, such as chemical manufacturers, distributors, law enforcement agencies, and international

regulators, to record transactions and flag suspicious activities in real-time, it would allow agencies to report what is known and when, in a timeline format, the use of the aforementioned timeline structure would allow for foreign intelligence services to report information in order to fill in gaps of knowledge;

- b. *Provide* technical assistance to developing nations to implement the system, ensuring equitable access and participation in the global initiative
- c. *Ensure* data privacy by using encrypted ledgers accessible only to authorized personnel from participating member states and relevant international agencies,
- d. *Integrate* the blockchain database with existing international platforms, such as the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) and the World Customs Organization (WCO), to enhance global reach and efficiency,
- e. *Publish* annual reports summarizing findings from the blockchain system, highlighting trends in precursor chemical trade, and identifying gaps in enforcement;

2. Proposes the creation of an UN-led task force to enhance the capacity of law enforcement in detecting and dismantling clandestine labs(in collaboration with the pre-existing CCP),

- a. *Establish* a specialized task force under the UNODC with regional units to address local challenges and coordinate globally, including experts in law enforcement, chemical analysis, and drug trafficking,
- b. *Provide* law enforcement with training and advanced detection tools like portable chemical analyzers, AI-driven tracking systems, encouraging the use of drones to locate hidden labs to partner with manufacturing companies to lend or donate drones for this initiative, and with technology companies that specialize in drone software and analytics.and satellite imaging and predictive software to identify production hotspots,
- c. *Partner* with chemical manufacturers, shipping companies, and private tech firms to monitor and report suspicious activities,
- d. *Ensure* safe dismantling of labs and mitigate environmental damage;

3. Encourages enhanced international cooperation to disrupt the trafficking of synthetic opioids and precursor chemicals by strengthening cross-border coordination;

- a. *Establish* regional task forces to improve coordination between neighboring countries with focus on monitoring traffic routes and cross-border smuggling following the example of the recent Operation Azure carried out by the UNODC;
- b. *Create* joint border control initiatives to improve inspections, utilizing advanced scanning technology and an increase in canine units,
- c. *Negotiate* agreements among member states to standardize regulations for the trade of precursor chemicals, along with harmonizing legislative measures pertaining to the issue of synthetic opioids ensuring consistent enforcement globally,

- d. *Expand* existing platforms such as UNODC's Global SMART Program to include real-time updates on trafficking trends and suspect entities;
4. Recommends public awareness campaigns guided by credible information from the UNODC to reduce the demand for synthetic opioids,
- a. *Launch* campaigns to educate the public about the dangers of synthetic opioids, targeting at-risk populations such as youth and marginalized communities;
  - b. *Collaborate* with social media platforms and content creators to combat misinformation and promote accurate information about addiction risks;
  - c. *Encourage* local governments to partner with schools, NGOs, and healthcare providers to implement awareness initiatives;
  - d. *In* member states with a significant religious community, collaborate with the relevant religious institutions in those regions to promote education on the subject and reach even the most secluded of communities;
5. Suggests improving access to treatment and harm reduction strategies,
- a. *Work* with the World Health Organization (WHO) to make naloxone widely available in all member states, especially in underserved areas,
  - b. *Increase* funding for opioid addiction treatment facilities and programs, with an emphasis on affordable and accessible care for marginalized groups,
  - c. *Bring* the attention of PWUD to the dangers of "laced" drugs, e.g. such substances that the provider claims are pure whilst often intentionally providing a stronger, more addictive and dangerous analog;
  - d. *Promote* safe consumption sites where individuals can access medical supervision and resources, reducing the risk of overdose;
  - e. *Provide* clean syringes and disposal services to prevent the spread of infectious diseases such as HIV, especially in vulnerable regions;
6. Advocates for the adoption of environmentally safe practices in dismantling clandestine labs,
- a. *Develop* international standards for safely disposing of precursor chemicals and contaminated waste for dismantled labs,
  - b. *Provide* technical assistance and funding to member states for implementing these standards
  - c. *Establish* systems to monitor areas affected by synthetic drug production which ensures remediation of contaminated land and water supplies,
  - d. *Involve* local communities in clean-up efforts, offering education on safe practices and environmental stewardship;
7. Calls for research and development to create safer alternatives to opioids for medical use,

- a. *Establish* an UN-led research initiative to develop non-addictive pain management drugs, leveraging expertise from member states,
- b. *Encourage* governments and private companies to invest in opioid alternatives by providing funding and tax incentives,
- c. *Work* with healthcare providers to integrate safer pain management options into standard treatment protocols;

8. Proposes alternative livelihood programs for individuals involved in the production of synthetic drugs,

- a. *Offer* skills training in high-demand fields such as agriculture, manufacturing, and technology to provide viable employment opportunities,
- b. *Partner* with local NGOs and businesses to create apprenticeship programs and vocational training for former drug producers,
- c. *Provide* small loans to individuals transitioning out of the synthetic drug trade to start legal businesses, with a focus on industries suited to the local economy,
- d. *Invest* in infrastructure and social services in regions affected by synthetic drug production to improve living conditions and reduce reliance on illicit activities,
- e. *Promote* agriculture alternatives by funding sustainable farming programs and offering subsidies for legal cash crops;
- f. *Establish* UN and private oversight bodies to monitor the success of alternative livelihood programs and provide ongoing support to participants to ensure long-term sustainability;

9. Strongly advises introduction of regulatory bodies to monitor production & distribution of pharmaceutical chemicals such as N-phenethyl-4-piperidone (NPP) and 4-anilino-N-phenethylpiperidine (ANPP) which are misused to manufacture synthetic opioids.

- a. *These* will include members selected by individual national governments along with trained professionals in the UNODC led CCP (Container Control Programme)
- b. *Guidelines* and requirements for handling of these chemicals will be updated with stricter licences to be applied to businesses, corporations or individuals regardless of their status of licence, (approved/processing/trying to acquire)

10. Calls upon Member States to develop and implement sustainable disposal methods for seized synthetic opioids and precursor chemicals, utilizing environmentally safe technologies to prevent contamination of natural ecosystems, this includes but is not limited to;

- a. *Complete* destruction: high temperatures will breakdown the chemicals into non toxic byproducts
- b. *Emissions* controls: Specialized scrubbers and filters capture harmful emissions, reducing air pollution during incineration,

11. Calls for more surveillance as well as border control to prevent the distribution of synthetic opioids;
  - a. *Funding* from the UN for drones to aid full time surveillance across extended borders.