

WRITTEN REMARKS
by the Russian Federation
on the Agenda Item 3(q) Drugs and Drugs Use Statistics

6 March 2019

The Russian Federation commends the work on drugs and drug use statistics done by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the report on recent activities on drugs statistics at the international level submitted as doc/E/CN.3/2019/20.

We support further cooperation between the Statistical Commission and the Commission on Narcotic Drugs on this important issue within their respective mandates.

To this end, we propose several amendments to the draft decision the Commission is to adopt on this agenda item and invite the Members, the representative of the UNODC as reporting agency and the rapporteur to consider them.

The amendments to the Recommendations contained in the report are listed below with the added text highlighted:

27. The Statistical Commission may wish to

(a) Affirm its renewed availability to collaborate with the Commission on Narcotic Drugs on statistical matters relating to drugs **in conformity with UNODC mandate to convene expert consultations on drug statistics (Commission on Narcotic Drugs Resolution 60/1)** and consider ways to further strengthen such a partnership with a view to improving the quality and availability of statistics on drugs. In particular, the Statistical Commission might consider ways to participate in the annual report questionnaire revision process and in the definition of a renewed plan to improve the quality and availability of drugs statistics;

(b) **pursuant to Statistical Commission Resolution 48/100** invite national statistical offices to strengthen their participation in the production and dissemination of drugs statistics and in the improvement of related methodological standards, including on drug use surveys, illicit financial flows related to drugs, and drug-related morbidity and mortality **bearing in mind that the Commission on Narcotic Drugs is the United Nations policymaking body with the primary responsibility for drug control matters, and therefore any decisions related to drug statistics must follow the principles approved by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs;**

(d) Invite UNODC, in partnership with other international agencies, to conduct a survey to better understand the functioning, capacities and outputs of national statistical systems on drugs, the availability and quality of drugs statistics and the implementation of the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics **focusing on improving the quality and the geography of the drug and drug use data provided by the Member States, as well as on the provision of related technical assistance to the Member States upon their requests;**

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