

Chiang Rai Declaration

(Chiang Rai, 24 July 2003)

We, Ministers of the People's Republic of China, the Republic of India, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, the Union of Myanmar, and the Kingdom of Thailand participating in the Ministers' Meeting on Drug Control Cooperation held in Chiang Rai on 24 July 2003 (hereinafter referred to as "the five countries"),

Bearing in mind the Beijing Declaration adopted on 28 August 2001, a political commitment of the four governments namely China, Lao PDR, Myanmar and Thailand in addressing the drug issues;

Noting with satisfaction the great efforts and the progress achieved by the four participating countries through fruitful cooperation within various existing bilateral, sub-regional, regional and international drug control cooperation mechanisms;

Appreciating the positive role of the international community, in particular the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and other international organizations in the field of drug control in this region;

Deeply concerned by the rising trend of the illicit production of, demand for and trafficking in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, particularly Amphetamine-Type Stimulants (ATS) in this sub-region, as well as the dangerous consequences of the interlinkages between drug trafficking and transnational organized crime such as corruption, money laundering and human trafficking;

Aware that drug abuse and illicit trafficking are not only harmful to the stability and integrity of the countries in the region but also adversely affect the human and social security in these countries;

Recognizing that the drug situation in the sub-region requires immediate attention and that any single country cannot solve its drug problem in isolation, thus there is a need for collaboration at the sub-regional, regional and international levels to combat the drug problem;

Recognizing also that the key concept in the approach towards alternative development is to provide alternative livelihoods in response to the local needs;

Convinced that national efforts in the fight against production, trafficking and abuse of illicit drugs as well as diversion and trafficking of precursors and essential chemicals require intensified international and cross-border cooperation;

Recalling the various international declarations, resolutions and agreements pertaining to drug control, which are applicable to the five countries;

Hereby:

1. **Fully affirm** our strong determination and clear political commitment of our respective Governments in addressing the drug issues, as well as our resolve to contain the spread of illicit drugs through fruitful cooperation within the existing bilateral, sub-regional, regional and international drug control cooperation mechanisms;

2. **Reaffirm** our unwavering determination and commitment to strengthen cooperation in addressing the issues of illicit cultivation, production, manufacture, sale, abuse, trafficking and distribution of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, especially heroin and ATS, the diversion of precursor chemicals, and drug-related criminal activities, through a balanced, comprehensive and sustainable approach;

3. **Reaffirm further** our solemn resolve and commitment to continue the implementation of effective measures jointly to eradicate the scourge of illicit drugs;

4. **Agree** to work closely in forging our drug control partnership on the basis of the existing cooperation among the five countries and continue our mutual understanding, trust, coordination and support in addressing and solving drug problems;

5. **Decide** to intensify our cooperation for effective control of precursors used in the illicit production of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances;

6. **Decide** to further strengthen our cooperation at operational and expert levels within the existing drug control cooperation mechanisms, to conduct substantive cooperation and to provide mutual assistance and support in drug preventive education, law enforcement, information exchange, treatment and rehabilitation, precursor and essential chemical control and sustainable alternative development;

7. *Agree* to work towards an effective and integrated cross-border cooperation and to explore ways and means to promote market access for products from alternative development among the five countries and invite the international community to facilitate alternative development efforts

8. *Agree* that officers from the participating countries should meet in working groups to discuss measures to control the smuggling of precursor and essential chemicals for illicit drug production focusing on the heroin and (ATS) production;

9. *Pursue* the dialogue and cooperation among the five countries to develop and harmonize efforts in the fight against production, abuse and trafficking of drugs in the region;

10. *Contribute* through all relevant mechanisms and channels to the further development of international cooperation with other countries and international organizations in the common struggle against illicit drug production, abuse and trafficking;

11. *Invite* the international community, in particular the UNODC and other international organizations to continue to render concrete support in terms of technical and financial assistance to these cooperation efforts.