

regions that may wish to act as host or at the headquarters of the regional commission concerned, annually, beginning in 1988, except in years when an interregional meeting is held, to provide the financial resources required from available resources and, if necessary, to seek additional extrabudgetary resources;

3. *Also requests* the Secretary-General, at his discretion, to invite States outside the region that request observer status and that are actively involved in countering the illicit drug traffic in, through or from the region to send observers to the meetings, on the understanding that any expenses would be borne by the States concerned;

4. *Requests* the Commission on Narcotic Drugs to include in the agenda of its regular and special sessions a separate item entitled "Development and promotion of more effective action against illicit drug trafficking through regional co-operation in drug law enforcement", under which it should consider reports or recommendations of the meetings of heads of national drug law enforcement agencies and the Sub-Commission on Illicit Drug Traffic and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East and take appropriate action.

*13th plenary meeting  
25 May 1988*

**1988/16. Improved measures for reduction of the illicit demand for narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances**

*The Economic and Social Council,*

*Recalling* that the General Assembly, in its resolution 42/112 of 7 December 1987, welcomed the successful conclusion of the International Conference on Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking and, in particular, the adoption of the Declaration<sup>19</sup> and the Comprehensive Multidisciplinary Outline of Future Activities in Drug Abuse Control,<sup>20</sup>

*Concerned* about the growing abuse of drugs in most parts of the world,

*Recognizing* that measures for prevention, public awareness, treatment, rehabilitation and social reintegration are essential in curbing drug abuse,

*Aware* that existing strategies for the reduction of the illicit demand for narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances and conventional methods for the evaluation of preventive measures and methods of treatment have not always been effective owing to the complexity of the causes of the phenomenon,

1. *Urges* all Governments to foster, through national policies, the best possible conditions for the healthy development of, and a meaningful life for, all young people and to facilitate their integration into the community, so as to mitigate the social and economic circumstances that encourage abuse of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances;

2. *Recommends* that scientific research into the factors that might promote or prevent drug dependence should be strengthened and that the methodol-

ogies and results of such research should be made available to all States;

3. *Appeals* to all Governments to develop and implement comprehensive national strategies for drug abuse prevention and public awareness that are designed to meet the particular situations and needs of the target groups and provide for long-term and continuous measures;

4. *Also appeals* to all Governments to create a national network of counselling and treatment services to advise high-risk groups and help misusers by providing appropriate treatment, rehabilitation and social reintegration programmes aimed at reducing the harm associated with drug abuse and leading to a drug-free life;

5. *Calls upon* all Governments to engage non-governmental organizations as partners in the development and implementation of prevention strategies and the establishment of counselling and treatment services, in view of the importance of community commitment to demand reduction programmes;

6. *Requests* Governments to take suitable measures, as part of their national strategies in their campaigns against drug abuse, to reduce excessive and inappropriate use of medicinal products containing narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, including such measures as special education and training of medical, pharmaceutical and paramedical personnel on all aspects of the abuse problem and the rational use of such drugs;

7. *Calls upon* the Governments of countries facing problems of drug abuse to take, when appropriate, the necessary measures to reduce significantly the illicit demand for narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances;

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to invite all Governments to implement the present resolution in accordance with the Declaration of the International Conference on Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking and the Comprehensive Multidisciplinary Outline of Future Activities in Drug Abuse Control.

*13th plenary meeting  
25 May 1988*

**1988/17. Improvement of the status of women in the secretariats of the United Nations system**

*The Economic and Social Council,*

*Recalling* that the Charter of the United Nations provides that no restrictions shall be placed on the eligibility of women and men to participate in any capacity and under conditions of equality in the work of the principal and subsidiary organs of the United Nations,

*Noting* the importance attached to the appointment of women at senior decision-making and managerial levels in paragraphs 306, 315, 356 and 358 of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women,<sup>30</sup>

<sup>30</sup> See *Report of the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development, and Peace, Nairobi, 15-26 July 1985* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.85.IV.10), chap. I, sect. A.