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Commission on Narcotic Drugs
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Item 4 (c) of the provisional agenda*
Implementation of the international drug control treaties: international cooperation to ensure the availability of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances for medical and scientific purposes while preventing their diversion

Hungary and Iceland: draft resolution**

Ensuring the availability of reference and test samples of controlled substances at drug testing laboratories for scientific purposes

The Commission on Narcotic Drugs,

Recognizing the important role entrusted to the International Narcotics Control Board to ensure, in cooperation with Governments, the availability of narcotic drugs for medical and scientific purposes and prevent illicit trafficking in drugs, and prevent the use of illicit drugs as set out in article 9, paragraph 4, of the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961 as amended by the 1972 Protocol,[1]

Recalling the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971,[2] in which it is recognized that the use of psychotropic substances for medical and scientific purposes is indispensable and that their availability for such purposes should not be unduly restricted,

Recalling also its resolution 53/4, in which the Commission stressed the importance of promoting adequate availability of internationally controlled licit drugs for medical and scientific purposes while preventing their diversion and

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** On behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the European Union.
[1] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 976, No. 14152.
[2] Ibid., vol. 1019, No. 14956.

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abuse, and affirmed that the international drug control conventions sought to achieve that balance,

Noting the requirements to meet the medical and scientific needs for internationally controlled substances worldwide within a regulatory and legal framework that prevents their diversion and abuse,

Recognizing, in accordance with its resolutions 50/4 and 52/7, the important role of drug analysis laboratories as part of drug control systems and the value of laboratory results and data to criminal justice systems, law enforcement and health authorities and policymakers,

Also recognizing that the reliability of the analysis and results of such laboratories has significant implications for the justice system, law enforcement and preventive health care, as well as for the international harmonization and worldwide exchange and coordination of drug information and data, and that access to reference samples of controlled substances is an essential quality assurance requirement for achieving such reliability,

Stressing the importance of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime quality assurance programme for drug analysis laboratories, through which minimal and only sufficient amounts of reference samples are distributed to participating laboratories of Member States, enabling continuous monitoring and improvement of their performance,

Concerned that costs and complex administrative procedures for obtaining required import/export certification and making available reference materials of controlled substances are disrupting routine analytical laboratory work,

1. *Encourages* the International Narcotics Control Board to continue its efforts to ensure the adequate availability of internationally controlled substances for scientific purposes;

2. *Requests* Member States, in consultation with the International Narcotics Control Board and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, to review procedures within their policy and legislative frameworks, as appropriate and in accordance with the provisions of the Conventions, in order not to impair access to reference and test samples of internationally controlled substances for scientific purposes;

3. *Invites* the International Narcotics Control Board and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to work closely on feasible mechanisms that will facilitate the provision of minimal amounts of reference and test samples of controlled substances to drug testing laboratories in order to support their analytical and quality assurance work, and notes that such mechanisms may include the designation of national contact points, measures regulating the transmission of samples, means of transportation and quantitative requirements for reference samples.