



# Economic and Social Council

Distr.: Limited  
14 March 2012

Original: English

## Commission on Narcotic Drugs

### Fifty-fifth session

Vienna, 12-16 March 2012

## Draft report

*Rapporteur:* Simona **Marin** (Romania)

### Addendum

## Implementation of the international drug control treaties

1. At its 3rd and 4th meetings, on 13 and 14 March, the Commission considered agenda item 4, which read as follows:

“Implementation of the international drug control treaties:

“(a) Changes in the scope of control of substances;

“(b) International Narcotics Control Board;

“(c) International cooperation to ensure the availability of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances for medical and scientific purposes while preventing their diversion;

“(d) Other matters arising from the international drug control treaties.”

2. For its consideration of item 4, the Commission had before it the following:

(a) Report of the Executive Director on promoting adequate availability of internationally controlled narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances for medical and scientific purposes while preventing their diversion and abuse (E/CN.7/2012/9);

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on international cooperation in countering the covert administration of psychoactive substances related to sexual assault and other criminal acts (E/CN.7/2012/13);

(c) Report of the International Narcotics Control Board for 2011 (E/INCB/2011/1);

(d) Precursors and Chemicals Frequently Used in the Illicit Manufacture of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances: Report of the International Narcotics



Control Board for 2011 on the Implementation of Article 12 of the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988 (E/INCB/2011/4);

(e) Competent National Authorities under the International Drug Control Treaties (ST/NAR.3/2011/1).

3. Introductory statements were made by the President of the International Narcotics Control Board (under items 4 (b) and (c)), and a representative of the Secretariat (under item 4 (c)). Statements were made by the representative of Denmark (on behalf of States members of the European Union) and by the observer for Ecuador (on behalf of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States). Statements were also made by the representatives of Japan, China, the United States of America, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Thailand, Belgium, the Republic of Korea, Mexico, India, the Russian Federation, Iran (Islamic Republic of) and Australia.

4. Statements were also made by the observers for Slovakia, Switzerland, Cuba, Indonesia, Finland and Sri Lanka, as well as by the observers for the European Commission, the World Health Organization, the Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network, Harm Reduction International and the Union for International Cancer Control.

## **Deliberations**

### **1. Changes in the scope of control of substances**

5. Some speakers expressed particular concern with regard to the increasing abuse of ketamine and noted that the substance should be placed under international control. Many speakers noted the challenge of addressing emerging psychoactive substances of abuse that are not under international control and called for further efforts, while noting national and regional measures that had been put in place.

### **2. International Narcotics Control Board**

6. Many speakers expressed appreciation and support for the work of the International Narcotics Control Board, noting its critical role in monitoring and promoting the implementation of the international drug control conventions. Many speakers expressed appreciation for the ongoing dialogue between Member States and the Board, including through the missions of the Board.

7. Many speakers expressed appreciation for the reports of the International Narcotics Control Board. Noting the thematic chapter of the Board's report for 2011, which addresses the drug problem faced in some marginalized communities, several speakers called for further attention to be paid to that issue. Two speakers requested clarification on specific aspects of the Board's report for 2011.

8. The Commission noted the Board's work in providing countries with timely information on imports and exports of internationally controlled substances and the key role it played in facilitating the availability of such substances for licit purposes while preventing diversion. The Commission also encouraged Governments to ensure that they furnished the Board with information pursuant to the drug control

conventions in a timely manner. Many speakers acknowledged the progress achieved by the Board and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), in collaboration with Member States, in developing an electronic import and export authorization system for substances under international control. Many speakers expressed their support for the further development and early implementation of the system, as it would expedite the exchange of electronic import and export authorizations between the competent national authorities of importing and exporting countries and would also facilitate mandatory reporting by Governments to the Board.

9. Reference was made to the increasing abuse of substances not under international control, and the challenge posed by illegal Internet pharmacies.

10. Some speakers drew attention to the increasing abuse of prescription drugs as well as the use of controlled substances in the commission of sexual assault and other crimes.

11. The role of the Board as a global focal point for the facilitation of precursor control initiatives was recognized and the Commission noted the need for increased utilization of Pre-Export Notification Online (PEN Online) and encouraged countries not yet using the system to do so. Some speakers noted the increasing use of pre-precursors and the manufacture of precursor chemicals using substances not under international control. Some speakers noted trends in the diversion of pharmaceutical preparations containing pseudoephedrine or ephedrine and called for further measures by the international community to prevent such diversion.

12. Examples of national efforts in drug control were presented and some speakers noted the need for technical assistance. Many speakers reaffirmed the importance of adherence to, and implementation of, the international drug control conventions as the cornerstone of the international drug control system and called for enhanced international cooperation in drug control, recognizing the relevance of the principle of shared responsibility.

### **3. International cooperation to ensure the availability of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances for medical and scientific purposes while preventing their diversion**

13. Many speakers expressed appreciation for the valuable work of the Board and UNODC on ensuring the availability of drugs for medical and scientific purposes. Some speakers noted with concern that, in many countries, patients requiring pain treatment had no access or insufficient access to analgesics and called for further action in that regard. Reference was made to examples of countries that had implemented successful policies to improve the availability of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances as presented in the report of the International Narcotics Control Board for 2011. The publication of a guide on estimating requirements for internationally controlled substances by the Board and the World Health Organization was noted. The importance of ensuring the availability of test and reference samples for forensic laboratories was also mentioned and the recommendations of the Board in that regard were noted. Attention was drawn to the obstacles facing those in need of pain medication. It was felt that further information-gathering on that subject was needed; the draft questionnaire proposed by UNODC for assessing obstacles to access to pain medication was a welcome

initiative in that regard. An invitation was offered to all Member States to provide feedback on it.

**4. Other matters arising from the international drug control treaties**

14. The representative of the World Health Organization referred to its Expert Committee on Drug Dependence, which had not been convened since 2006 to assess substances for possible scheduling under the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961 and the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971. The representative informed the meeting that WHO would convene the 35th session of the Expert Committee in June 2012 to discuss urgent issues relating to the scheduling of substances such as ketamine. WHO was intending to hold the 36th session of the Expert Committee in 2013, in order to address other outstanding issues.

---