

738 (XXVIII). Report by the Secretary-General on the United Nations programmes of technical assistance

The Economic and Social Council

Takes note with appreciation of the report by the Secretary-General on the United Nations programmes of technical assistance.³¹

*1088th plenary meeting,
30 July 1959.*

739 (XXVIII). Technical assistance in public administration

The Economic and Social Council,

Having taken note of the statement made by the Secretary-General³² on the experimental programme for the provision of operational, executive or administrative personnel to Governments requesting assistance in this form,

Noting that the large number of requests received from Governments in many parts of the world provides evidence of the widespread need for this kind of aid,

³¹ *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Twenty-eighth Session, Annexes, agenda item 7, document E/3236.*

³² *Ibid.*, document E/3230/Add.1.

Recognizing, however, that the time that has elapsed since the beginning of the experiment has been too brief, and the range of the experiment has been too narrow, to justify the drawing of final conclusions,

Recommends to the General Assembly:

(a) That the experiment started in 1959 be continued on the basis of General Assembly resolution 1256 (XIII), of 14 November 1958;

(b) That, in deciding upon the question of continuing the experimental programme, it take into account the views expressed in the Technical Assistance Committee³³ on the present status of the programme and the desirability of allowing the Secretary-General adequate scope in the carrying out of the experiment within the limits of the resources it makes available;

(c) That the Secretary-General be requested to present a report analysing in detail the progress of the experiment together with recommendations based thereon at the thirtieth session of the Council.

*1088th plenary session,
30 July 1959.*

³³ E/TAC/SR.190, 192, 195, 196.

SOCIAL QUESTIONS

725 (XXVIII). Annual report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

The Economic and Social Council,

Having considered the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees with the annexed reports of the Executive Committee of the High Commissioner's Programme on its first and first special sessions,³⁴

Takes note of the report prepared by the High Commissioner for transmission to the General Assembly at its fourteenth session.

*1084th plenary meeting,
20 July 1959.*

730 (XXVIII). International control of narcotic drugs

A

REPORT OF THE COMMISSION ON NARCOTIC DRUGS

The Economic and Social Council

Takes note of the report of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (fourteenth session)³⁵ and endorses the work programme and priorities contained therein.

*1088th plenary meeting,
30 July 1959.*

³⁴ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fourteenth Session, Supplement No. 11 (A/4104/Rev.1), and Appendices I and II.*

³⁵ *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Twenty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 9 (E/3254).*

B

REPORT OF THE PERMANENT CENTRAL OPIUM BOARD

The Economic and Social Council

Takes note of the report of the Permanent Central Opium Board on the work of the Board in 1958.³⁶

*1088th plenary meeting,
30 July 1959.*

C

PARTICIPATION IN THE PROTOCOL OF 19 NOVEMBER 1948

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its resolution 548 H (XVIII) of 12 July 1954 calling upon all States to become parties to the Protocol signed at Paris on 19 November 1948, bringing under international control drugs outside the scope of the Convention for Limiting the Manufacture and Regulating the Distribution of Narcotic Drugs signed at Geneva on 13 July 1931 as amended by the Protocol signed at Lake Success on 11 December 1946,

Noting with satisfaction that four States became bound by the Protocol during 1958,

Considering, however, that a large number of States are still outside the scope of this instrument and that in the

³⁶ E/OB/14 and E/OB/14/Addendum. United Nations publications, Sales No. : 1958.XI.5 and 1958.XI.5.Addendum.

Americas only four States out of twenty-two are parties to it,

Being of the opinion that so long as the Protocol is not universally adhered to, the international control of narcotic drugs is thereby impaired,

Urges Governments which have not yet done so to adhere to the Protocol of 1948 within the shortest possible time.

*1088th plenary meeting,
30 July 1959.*

D

PROVISIONAL CONTROL OF NEW NARCOTIC DRUGS

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its resolutions 436 G (XIV) of 27 May 1952 and 548 H I (XVIII) of 12 July 1954,

Noting that certain new drugs liable to produce addiction have been marketed in and exported from some countries for considerable periods before controls have been applied to them, and that in other countries there has sometimes been a considerable lapse of time between the receipt of a communication from the Secretary-General of the United Nations notifying a decision of the World Health Organization that a drug should be controlled, and the giving of effect to that decision by national measures, with the result that the drug has for a period been in use in those countries without any control,

Considering that in order to prevent abuse of new addiction-producing drugs it is essential that in any country in which they are produced they should be subjected, before trade in them, whether internal or export, takes place, to the control measures prescribed in the International Opium Convention signed at Geneva on 19 February 1925, the Convention for Limiting the Manufacture and Regulating the Distribution of Narcotic Drugs signed at Geneva on 13 July 1931, as amended by the Protocol signed at Lake Success on 11 December 1946 and the Protocol signed at Paris on 19 November 1948 bringing under International Control Drugs outside the Scope of the Convention of 13 July 1931,

Considering further that all countries should take steps to subject to such control measures without delay any new drug as soon as they are notified of a decision that it is addiction-producing,

Urges Governments to ensure the effective control of new narcotic drugs by taking the following action :

(a) The Government of a country in which any new drug for which its inventors claim powerful analgesic or anti-tussive properties is produced should, before the drug is marketed, examine the possibility of subjecting it provisionally, and until the World Health Organization has pronounced upon its liability to cause addiction, to the control measures prescribed by the above-mentioned Conventions, including the application of the system of import certificates and export authorizations;

(b) Where a Government has notified the Secretary-General of the United Nations, in accordance with article 1 of the Protocol signed at Paris on 19 November 1948, that it considers a drug to be liable to produce

addiction, all other Governments, on being informed by the Secretary-General of this notification, should examine the possibility of the immediate and provisional application to the drug of the control measures prescribed in the above-mentioned Conventions, even, in the case of a notification under the 1948 Protocol, in advance of a decision as to provisional control by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, and should equally bear in mind the application of similar measures of control provided for in the 1931 Convention where the notification is made under article 11 of that Convention and relates to a product obtained from the phenanthrene alkaloids of opium or from the ecgonine alkaloids of the coca leaf;

(c) All Governments should, on the communication to them by the Secretary-General of the United Nations of a finding of the World Health Organization, or of a decision of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs for provisional control, relating to a particular drug, impose the necessary controls as a matter of urgency, and with the least possible delay after the communication has been received.

*1088th plenary meeting,
30 July 1959.*

E

THE QUESTION OF CANNABIS : MEDICAL USE OF CANNABIS DRUGS

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its resolution 548 F I (XVIII) of 12 July 1954, and the opinion ³⁷ expressed by the World Health Organization's Expert Committee on Addiction-Producing Drugs on the medical use of cannabis drugs,

Considering that certain pharmacodynamic properties, in particular antibiotic qualities of resinous parts of the cannabis plant, have been recently investigated in several countries,

Recalling that the third draft of the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs contains an express provision for the prohibition of the medical use of cannabis drugs except in certain systems of indigenous medicine,

1. *Invites* the World Health Organization to prepare, in the light of recent research on the subject, a report on the use of cannabis for the extraction of useful drugs, particularly of the antibiotic type, and if possible to make the report available in sufficient time for the fifteenth session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs;

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General, if the report cannot be presented to the Commission at its fifteenth session, to put it at the disposal, in sufficient time, of the countries and organizations participating in the plenipotentiary conference which will be called in accordance with Council resolution 689 J (XXVI) of 28 July 1958 for the adoption of the Single Convention, with a view to a possible modification of the provisions of the Single Convention in order to permit the use of cannabis for the extraction of useful drugs.

*1088th plenary meeting,
30 July 1959.*

³⁷ See *World Health Organization : Technical Report Series, No. 57, p. II.*

F

SYMBOL FOR IDENTIFICATION OF PACKAGES CONTAINING NARCOTIC DRUGS

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling operative paragraph 3 (e) of its resolution 436 G (XIV) of 27 May 1952,

Having considered draft resolution E concerning the use of a symbol for identification of packages containing narcotic drugs set forth in the report of the fourteenth session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs,³⁸

Noting that the Plenipotentiary Conference on the Single Convention, which will be convened in 1960 or early 1961, will have before it the provisions proposed for paragraph 5 of article 41 of the third draft of the Single Convention,

Decides to take no action at this time on the above-mentioned draft resolution.

*1088th plenary meeting,
30 July 1959.*

G

CARRIAGE OF NARCOTIC DRUGS IN FIRST-AID KITS OF AIRCRAFT ENGAGED IN INTERNATIONAL FLIGHT

The Economic and Social Council,

Taking into consideration the opinion of the International Civil Aviation Organization³⁹ and the report and the legal opinion⁴⁰ furnished by the Secretary-General under operative paragraphs 3 and 5 of Council resolution 689 F (XXVI) of 28 July 1958,

Taking note of the study prepared by the International Criminal Police Organization,⁴¹

Noting that, after consultation with the World Health Organization⁴² the Commission on Narcotic Drugs is of the opinion⁴³ that narcotic drugs in limited quantities are necessary in first-aid kits on board aircraft engaged in international flight for use in emergencies,

Considering that to ensure proper application and to prevent misuse or misappropriation, such drugs should be carried and used under adequate controls and safeguards, also taking into account the need for interfering as little as possible with the expeditious handling of air traffic on the ground,

Invites the Secretary-General, in co-operation with the International Civil Aviation Organization and the World Health Organization and in consultation with the International Criminal Police Organization, to prepare and to distribute to Governments in sufficient time for consideration at the fifteenth session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, a set of requirements essential to ensure proper use of narcotic drugs and to

³⁸ *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Twenty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 9 (E/3254), chap. XIV.*

³⁹ See E/CN.7/SR.423.

⁴⁰ E/CN.7/367.

⁴¹ E/CN.7/363.

⁴² See E/CN.7/L.208.

⁴³ *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Twenty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 9 (E/3254), para. 362.*

prevent their abuse and diversion for illicit purposes, such requirements to be recommended to Governments as a basis for the control of the carriage of narcotic drugs in first-aid kits on board aircraft engaged in international flight.

*1088th plenary meeting,
30 July 1959.*

H

CONTROL AND LIMITATION OF NARCOTICS DOCUMENTATION : QUINQUENNIAL SUMMARY OF LAWS AND REGULATIONS

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling that under article 21 of the 1931 Convention for Limiting the Manufacture and Regulating the Distribution of Narcotic Drugs parties are required to communicate to one another, through the Secretary-General, their national laws and regulations,

Recalling further that by resolution 626 C III (XXII) of 2 August 1956 it requested the Secretary-General :

“(a) To circulate annually to Governments a cumulative multi-purpose index relating to these laws and regulations;

“(b) To prepare a summary annual tabulation for the Commission on Narcotic Drugs of changes in the scope of control contained in the laws and regulations;

“(c) To prepare, as the need arises, summaries, analyses or studies of the material contained in the laws and regulations relating to particular aspects of international control;

“(d) In the light of the above, to prepare a summary of laws and regulations every five years in lieu of the annual summary authorized by Council resolution 49 (IV) of 28 March 1947 ”,

Having noted the view of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs that the main purposes of the summaries called for under sub-paragraph (d) above have so far in fact been served by the documents prepared and circulated under sub-paragraphs (a) to (c) above,

Taking account of the fact that the quinquennial summary for the years 1955 to 1959 inclusive could not be prepared for 1960 out of present resources and would require an extra provision in the budget for 1960,⁴⁴

Endorsing the opinion of the Commission that the extra effort and expenditure required for this quinquennial summary would not be justified in the light of the considerations set forth above and in view of other more important claims on the available resources,

Recalling its resolution 693 B (XXVI) of 31 July 1958, General Assembly resolution 1272 (XIII) of 14 November 1958 and other earlier relevant resolutions on the control and limitation of documentation,

Decides to rescind paragraph 2 (d) of its resolution 626 C III (XXII) which requested the Secretary-General to prepare every five years a summary of national laws and regulations in the field of narcotics control.

*1088th plenary meeting,
30 July 1959.*

⁴⁴ See E/CN.7/L.207, para. 14.

I

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE IN THE FIELD OF NARCOTICS CONTROL

The Economic and Social Council,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General⁴⁵ presented in accordance with its resolution 688 (XXVI) of 28 July 1958, and the sections of the report of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs on its fourteenth session⁴⁶ concerning technical assistance in the field of narcotics control,

Recognizing the desirability of facilitating increased co-operation on a regional level for narcotics control,

Noting that in spite of extensive efforts on the part of Governments and other authorities concerned, illicit traffic in drugs remains at a high level, and that in many cases narcotics control projects would benefit the international community as much as or more than the country receiving technical assistance,

1. Approves the recommendation of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs that a continuing programme for technical assistance in narcotics control should be established within the regular budget of the United Nations;

2. Recommends that the General Assembly adopt the following draft resolution :

The General Assembly,

Considering that under Chapter IX of the Charter and under the international narcotic treaties the United Nations exercises responsibilities in the field of narcotic drugs,

Considering that technical assistance is a means by which countries may be helped to increase the effectiveness of their measures to control the production, distribution and use of narcotic drugs, to reduce and eliminate drug addiction, and to combat the illicit traffic,

Recognizing the particular usefulness of technical assistance for those countries which have an important problem of drug addiction or illicit traffic, or both,

Taking account of the arrangements previously established by the Assembly concerning the regular technical assistance programmes and the advisory services of the United Nations, and concerning the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance,

Noting that in many cases narcotics control projects would benefit the international community as much or more than the country receiving technical assistance; and that the effectiveness of the control system embodied in the international narcotic treaties would be increased if technical assistance were available to countries which require it,

Noting that the specialized agencies concerned, the World Health Organization and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, are rendering

⁴⁵ *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Twenty-eighth Session, Annexes, agenda item 14, document E/3268.*

⁴⁶ *Ibid., Twenty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 9 (E/3254).*

valuable services to their members in matters within their competence touching questions of narcotics control,

1. Decides to establish a continuing programme of technical assistance in narcotics control with the regular budget of the United Nations;

2. Requests the Secretary-General to provide technical assistance in its various forms in the field of narcotics control, subject to the direction of the Economic and Social Council and in accordance with approved policies in so far as they are applicable; and at the request of and in agreement with Governments; and with the co-operation of the specialized agencies, where appropriate, and without duplication of their existing activities;

3. Authorizes the Secretary-General to take into account the programme established by the present resolution in preparing the budgetary estimates of the United Nations;

4. Invites the specialized agencies concerned, the World Health Organization and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, to continue to maintain and develop their technical assistance activities touching the field of narcotics control;

5. Expresses the hope that non-governmental organizations, including foundations and universities, will also give assistance in this respect within their fields of interest;

6. Requests the Secretary-General to report regularly to the Economic and Social Council and to the Commission on Narcotic Drugs on technical assistance in the field of narcotics control, including action taken under this and other relevant resolutions of the Assembly and the Economic and Social Council.

*1088th plenary meeting,
30 July 1959.*

731 (XXVIII). World social situation

A

REPORT OF THE SOCIAL COMMISSION

The Economic and Social Council

Takes note of the report of the Social Commission (twelfth session)⁴⁷ and endorses the work programme and priorities contained therein.

*1088th plenary meeting,
30 July 1959.*

B

LONG-RANGE PROGRAMME OF CONCERTED INTERNATIONAL ACTION IN THE FIELD OF HOUSING

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling Annex A I to its resolution 664 (XXIV) of 1 August 1957, and its resolution 694 C (XXVI) of 31 July 1958 concerning the drawing up of a long-

⁴⁷ *Ibid., Supplement No. 11 (E/3265/Rev.1).*