

SOCIAL QUESTIONS

1289 (XLIV). Report of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and final report of the Permanent Central Narcotics Board and of the Drug Supervisory Body

The Economic and Social Council

Takes note with appreciation of the report of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs on its twenty-second session²⁴ and of the final report of the Permanent Central Narcotics Board and the Drug Supervisory Body on their work in 1967.²⁵

*1520th plenary meeting,
23 May 1968.*

1290 (XLIV). Regional co-operation in the Near and Middle East in the campaign against the illicit traffic in narcotic drugs

The Economic and Social Council,

Recognizing the continuing seriousness of the illicit traffic in narcotic drugs in the Near and Middle East,

Noting that the efforts made individually by the Governments of the countries concerned are proving insufficient,

Conscious of the need for close co-operation between countries having a common frontier,

1. Recommends that the countries in the region which are concerned with the problem should convene a meeting of their qualified representatives to make an effective study of all aspects of the campaign against the illicit traffic in narcotic drugs in the region;

2. Invites the Secretary-General, within the limits of existing budgetary resources, to provide any necessary advice and assistance at such a meeting.

*1520th plenary meeting,
23 May 1968.*

1291 (XLIV). The abuse of cannabis and the continuing need for strict control

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling that the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, 1961,²⁶ obliges Parties to place cannabis under strict controls to prevent its abuse,

Considering that the problem of the traffic in and abuse of cannabis remains serious in many areas where it has long been encountered,

Observing that the traffic in and abuse of cannabis appears to be spreading to areas where it has not heretofore been encountered,

Noting that considerable publicity has been given to unauthoritative statements minimizing the harmful effects of cannabis and advocating that its use be permitted for non-medical purposes,

Recognizing that cannabis is known, inter alia, to distort perception of time and space, modify mood and impair judgement, which may result in unpredictable

²⁴ Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Forty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 2 (E/4455).

²⁵ E/OB/23 (United Nations publication, Sales No.: E.68.XI.3).

²⁶ United Nations publication, Sales No.: 62.XI.1.

behaviour, violence and adverse effects on health, and that it may be associated with the abuse of other drugs such as LSD, stimulants and heroin,

Convinced that inefficient controls over, apathy towards and lack of public awareness of the dangers of cannabis and its continued abuse contribute to drug dependence, create law enforcement problems, and injure national health, safety and welfare,

1. Recommends that all countries concerned increase their efforts to eradicate the abuse of and illicit traffic in cannabis;

2. Further recommends that Governments should promote research and advance additional medical and sociological information regarding cannabis, and effectively deal with publicity which advocates legalization or tolerance of the non-medical use of cannabis as a harmless drug.

*1520th plenary meeting,
23 May 1968.*

1292 (XLIV). Replacement of cannabis cultivation in Lebanon

The Economic and Social Council,

Considering that the problem of cannabis cultivation in Lebanon has engaged the attention of the competent international organs for several years,

Recognizing that if the Government of Lebanon succeeds in eradicating such cultivation, this will have a significant beneficial effect in fighting the illicit traffic in cannabis and cannabis resin in the region,

Having been informed of the project of the Government of Lebanon to introduce the subsidized cultivation of sunflower seeds and other crops as a substitute for cannabis cultivation,

1. Congratulates the Government of Lebanon on this promising and salutary initiative;

2. Expresses the hope that Lebanon will succeed in implementing the project to suppress cannabis cultivation;

3. Urges the Government of Lebanon to continue giving due priority to this project;

4. Recommends that the Government's effort should be supported by all possible technical assistance within the resources and criteria of the United Nations programmes of technical assistance and those of the specialized agencies, in particular the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations;

5. Requests the Secretary-General to maintain close liaison with the Government of Lebanon on the development of its effort and to report thereupon periodically to the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and to the Council, for such time as is necessary.

*1520th plenary meeting,
23 May 1968.*

1293 (XLIV). National legislative measures for the control of psychotropic substances not under international control

The Economic and Social Council,

Concerned at the continuing problem posed by the abuse of psychotropic substances not under interna-

tional control (amphetamines, barbiturates, hallucinogens, tranquillizers),

Recalling the recommendations adopted by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs at its twenty-first session on control measures for these substances,²⁷

Recalling also resolution WHA 20.43 of the Twentieth World Health Assembly on control measures for these dependence-producing drugs,²⁸

Learning with satisfaction that the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, with the co-operation of the World Health Organization and the International Narcotics Control Board, is advancing its work to determine the best form of treaty action by which to apply to these substances national controls by international agreement, together with a measure of international control,

Noting that, while this work progresses, it will still require time to implement the international action that is contemplated,

Recommends Governments to adopt legislation, if they have not already done so, to give effect to the following measures of national control over the above-mentioned psychotropic substances:

- (a) Availability on medical prescription only;
- (b) Supervision of all transactions from production to retail distribution;
- (c) Licensing of all producers;
- (d) Limitation of trade to authorized persons;
- (e) Prohibition of non-authorized possession for distribution.

*1520th plenary meeting,
23 May 1968.*

1294 (XLIV). Urgent control measures for LSD and similar hallucinogenic substances

The Economic and Social Council,

Convinced that the abuse of LSD and hallucinogenic substances having similar ill effects presents an increasingly serious problem that could have very dangerous consequences,

Recalling its resolution 1197 (XLII) of 16 May 1967 and resolution WHA 20.42 of the Twentieth World Health Assembly²⁹ urging Governments to apply strict control in the use of LSD and similar substances,

Being informed that twenty-two Governments have adopted legislation along the lines of these recommendations,

Deeply concerned at reports of serious damage to health being caused by LSD and similar hallucinogenic substances,

1. *Recommends* Governments which have already taken control measures to examine them with a view to making them more stringent if required;

2. *Urges* Governments:

(a) To prohibit all use of LSD and similar hallucinogenic substances except by research workers in medical or scientific institutions directly under their control or specifically approved by them;

²⁷ See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Forty-second Session, Supplement No. 2 (E/4294)*, para. 296 and annex II, para. 20.

²⁸ See World Health Organization, *Handbook of resolutions and decisions of the World Health Assembly and the Executive Board, 1948-1967* (Geneva, 1967), p. 109.

²⁹ *Ibid.*

(b) To restrict the use of such substances to approved medical or scientific purposes;

(c) To prohibit all import and export of such substances except between Governments or between authorities or organizations specifically approved by Governments for such import and export;

3. *Recommends* Governments to consider also appropriate measures to prevent the use of lysergic acid and other possible intermediate and precursor substances for the illicit manufacture of LSD or similar hallucinogenic substances.

*1520th plenary meeting,
23 May 1968.*

1295 (XLIV). Doping

The Economic and Social Council,

Concerned with the health and welfare of mankind,

Believing that sports activities have an important role in keeping individuals in physical and mental health,

Considering the influence exercised by the behaviour of champions upon a great many young people and even adults,

Noting with anxiety the resort in certain cases to practices known as doping, which consist in the use of psychotropes or other pharmaceutical substances and even of narcotic drugs, in sports competition, with the sole object of artificially improving performance,

Considering that these practices are dangerous to the health of sportsmen and are inconsistent with the proper medical and scientific use of these substances,

Believing that the time has come to take a stand in this matter in view of the special influence which sport is bound to have throughout the world and particularly during this year of the Olympic Games,

1. *Draws the attention* of Governments to the dangers of doping;

2. *Recommends* that Governments take, where necessary, all appropriate measure to prevent such practices.

*1520th plenary meeting,
23 May 1968.*

1298 (XLIV). Report of the Committee on Housing, Building and Planning

The Economic and Social Council

Takes note of the report of the Committee on Housing, Building and Planning on its fifth session.³⁰

*1526th plenary meeting,
28 May 1968.*

1299 (XLIV). World housing survey

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 2036 (XX) of 7 December 1965, which concerns, in part, the preparation of biennial progress reports on the measures taken by Member States towards the solution of their housing, building and planning problems,

Noting the decision of the International Labour Organisation to request its member States to supply in

³⁰ *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Forty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 7 (E/4440).*