

1659 (LII). Abuse of cannabis and multiple drug abuse: need to ensure strict control and to continue medical and social research

The Economic and Social Council,

Concerned by the increase in drug abuse and concerned in particular by the frequency of cases of cannabis abuse and the growth of illicit traffic in cannabis,

Noting that cannabis abuse is occurring more and more frequently in association with other drugs and alcohol and that multiple drug abuse makes it particularly difficult to treat such abusers,

Taking into account the progress made in research on the active principles and effects of cannabis,

Considering that, in addition to the great dangers of cannabis use as such, it has been demonstrated, in a number of scientific studies, notably that there is a positive correlation between the use of cannabis and the use, at least on an experimental basis, of other narcotic drugs, and that, in certain countries, the consumption of cannabis greatly increases the danger of being led into the use of hallucinogens and other drugs,

Considering that further scientific, medical and social research should be conducted in order to arrive at a better understanding of the aetiology of drug abuse and thus to ensure effective prevention and to improve treatment,

Recalling that the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, 1961,⁵ placed cannabis in schedules I and IV, which carry the most stringent control measures, to prevent its abuse,

Recalling also its resolution 1291 (XLIV) of 23 May 1968 on the abuse of cannabis and the continuing need for strict control,

1. *Regrets* that unfounded statements are being spread to the effect that cannabis is not a dangerous substance;

2. *Recommends* to Governments the application of the most severe control measures to prevent the abuse of and illicit traffic in cannabis;

3. *Invites* the Secretary-General, the World Health Organization and all competent institutions to co-ordinate and promote research on cannabis and to concentrate in particular on the problem of multiple drug abuse.

*1816th plenary meeting
1 June 1972*

1660 (LII). Ad Hoc Committee on Illicit Traffic in the Near and Middle East

The Economic and Social Council

Endorses resolution 3 (XXIV) of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs entitled "Ad Hoc Committee on Illicit Traffic in the Near and Middle East".⁶

*1816th plenary meeting
1 June 1972*

⁵ United Nations publication, Sales No.: 62.XI.1.

⁶ Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Fifty-second Session, Supplement No. 2 (E/5082), para. 369.

1661 (LII). Report of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs

The Economic and Social Council

Takes note of the report of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs on its twenty-fourth session.⁷

*1816th plenary meeting
1 June 1972*

1662 (LII). Report of the International Narcotics Control Board

The Economic and Social Council,

Having considered the report of the International Narcotics Control Board on its work in 1971,⁸

Noting with serious concern the Board's assessment that the drug abuse problem is intensely grave, in many countries, rapidly expanding, and amounts to a "virtual epidemic",

Endorsing the Board's view that the problem can only be resolved through close co-operation between States and by means of the consistent carrying out by Governments of national measures in that area,

1. *Notes with satisfaction* the mounting international concern with the problem of drug abuse which was manifested during the past year;

2. *Urges* Governments to continue to co-operate to the maximum extent possible with one another, utilizing bilateral, regional, interregional and multilateral approaches with a view to eliminating illicit production, consumption and traffic in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances;

3. *Calls upon* States to co-operate to the maximum extent possible with the International Narcotics Control Board in taking the remedial action recommended in the report;

4. *Supports* the appeal of the Board to States to improve their administrative machinery so that they may provide full and prompt information to the Board, thereby enabling it to perform effectively its functions under the relevant treaties.

*1816th plenary meeting
1 June 1972*

1663 (LII). Enlargement of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its resolution 1147 (XLI) of 4 August 1966 which established the present size of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs,

Noting that since the forty-first session the worldwide problem of drug abuse has reached crisis proportions,

Taking into consideration the seriousness with which the international community views this problem, the need for widespread international co-operation in searching for solutions, and the interest which States have in contributing to efforts in reaching solutions,

⁷ *Ibid.*, Supplement No. 2 (E/5082).

⁸ E/INCB/13 (United Nations publication, Sales No.: E.72.XI.2).

Decides to enlarge the Commission on Narcotic Drugs to 30 members, with effect from 1 January 1973, taking into account the special criteria used for election to that Commission as well as the principle of equitable geographical representation.

*1816th plenary meeting
1 June 1972*

1664 (LII). Concerted United Nations action against drug abuse and activities of the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control

The Economic and Social Council,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on the activities of the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control,⁹

Mindful of the important role that the United Nations can play in assisting Member States to reduce the supply of, and diminish the demand for, illicit drugs, and to suppress the illicit drug traffic,

Recognizing that an effective Fund requires a strong financial and organizational base from which to operate,

1. *Endorses* the work which the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control has thus far undertaken;

2. *Urges* States, institutions and individuals to contribute to the Fund in any form and according to their capacity;

3. *Calls upon* the Secretary-General, in co-operation with the appropriate specialized agencies, urgently to develop detailed plans for specific Fund projects which might be undertaken during the next two to four years and for which additional funds may be solicited;

4. *Requests* that a report be submitted to the Commission on Narcotic Drugs at its twenty-fifth session and to the Economic and Social Council at its fifty-fourth session detailing the progress made by the Fund in the interim period.

*1816th plenary meeting
1 June 1972*

1665 (LII). United Nations Conference to Consider Amendments to the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, 1961

The Economic and Social Council,

Noting the results of the United Nations Conference to Consider Amendments to the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, 1961, held from 6 to 24 March 1972,¹⁰

Recalling the resultant Protocol amending the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, 1961, and the major step it represents in carrying forward international co-operation against drug abuse,

Recognizing that, for maximum effectiveness, the treaty as amended should have the widest possible applicability, subject to the reservations recorded by States,

1. *Urges* States parties to the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, 1961, to ratify as soon as possible the Protocol amending the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, 1961, and those States not yet parties to the Single Convention to ratify or accede to the treaty and ratify the Protocol as soon as possible;

2. *Calls upon* parties to the treaty to take all measures necessary to adhere to the letter and spirit of the treaty provisions, subject to the reservations recorded by them;

3. *Calls upon* the International Narcotics Control Board to assume its newly strengthened mandate with a sense of urgency commensurate with the intense gravity of the drug abuse problem when the Protocol amending the Single Convention enters into force.

*1816th plenary meeting
1 June 1972*

1666 (LII). Implementation of the International Development Strategy and the role of the Commission for Social Development

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 2626 (XXV) of 24 October 1970 setting forth the International Development Strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade,

Reaffirming the need for a unified approach to economic and social planning in national development as set forth in General Assembly resolution 2681 (XXV) of 11 December 1970,

Recalling paragraph 5 of General Assembly resolution 2681 (XXV) requesting the Council to ensure the contribution of the Commission for Social Development to the aspects of the International Development Strategy directly related to matters within the Commission's competence,

Noting the machinery established for review and appraisal contained in General Assembly resolution 2801 (XXVI) of 14 December 1971 and Economic and Social Council resolutions 1621 C (LI) and 1625 (LI) of 30 July 1971,

Taking account of the discussion of the implementation of the International Development Strategy by the Commission for Social Development at its twenty-second session,¹¹

Reaffirming that the Commission for Social Development has an important role to perform in assisting the Council concerning review and appraisal of the International Development Strategy with respect to matters within its competence,

1. *Decides* that this role should be performed within the framework of machinery for review and appraisal contained in General Assembly resolution 2801 (XXVI) and Council resolutions 1621 C (LI) and 1625 (LI);

2. *Requests* the Committee for Development Planning and the Committee on Review and Appraisal to take fully into account the section of the International Development Strategy entitled "Human development";

3. *Invites* the Committee for Development Planning to utilize the expertise available in the Secretariat in the field of social development, when preparing comments for the Committee on Review and Appraisal;

⁹ E/5104.

¹⁰ See E/5105.

¹¹ See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Fiftieth Session, Supplement No. 3, chap. VII.*