

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).