

Considering that this social scourge is nevertheless continuing to grow and spread to a large number of countries,

Considering that action by Governments and international organs and organizations must be taken simultaneously on all fronts: prevention of abuse, repression of illicit traffic, control of production, manufacture, distribution and consumption, development of training and education, scientific research, treatment and rehabilitation,

Considering that such multidisciplinary action calls for a better co-ordination of all efforts in order to avoid duplication, wastage and overlapping that might impair the effectiveness of the struggle against this social scourge,

Considering that it has not proved possible to achieve this co-ordination adequately during the past two years, as demonstrated by the increasing number of international meetings held on the subject, sometimes on the same dates,

Having regard to the urgent need to improve the co-ordination of the measures taken on this subject, so that the knowledge and experience gained can be widely disseminated and utilized in the best interests of all,

Requests the Secretary-General to study the problem of co-ordination and attempt to solve it in the light of the considerations set out above and the views expressed at the twenty-fifth session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and at the fifty-fourth session of the Economic and Social Council, and to report on the subject.

1858th plenary meeting
18 May 1973

1778 (LIV). Periodicity of sessions of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs

The Economic and Social Council,

Noting with concern the gravity of the drug problem in all its numerous manifestations,

Bearing in mind the obligations imposed on the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and the International Narcotics Control Board by the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, 1961,⁷⁴

Bearing in mind also that biennial sessions do not permit the Commission to fulfil certain of its responsibilities,

Bearing in mind also the urgent matters referred to under the heading "Programme of work and priorities" in the report of the Commission on its twenty-fifth session,⁷⁵

Recalling its resolution 1156 (XLI) of 5 August 1966 concerning the review and reappraisal of the Council's role and functions, by which it decided that the functional commissions should meet biennially,

1. Decides that, pending further study by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs of the question of holding its regular sessions annually with a view to carrying out its functions and fulfilling its responsibilities more effectively, the Commission shall hold a special ses-

⁷⁴ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 520, p. 151.

⁷⁵ See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Fifty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 3 (E/5248)*, chap. X.

sion in 1974, if possible after February, in addition to its session scheduled for 1975;

2. Recommends that the special session be convened at Geneva at a time when it will not overlap with other meetings, in order to minimize its costs.

1858th plenary meeting
18 May 1973

1779 (LIV). 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 1972,⁷⁶

Recalling its resolution 1662 (LII) of 1 June 1972,

Noting with concern the Board's conclusion that abusive consumption of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances is still increasing in volume and in geographical extent, and its warning about the seriousness of the problem of multi-drug abuse,

Noting with satisfaction the Board's assessment that co-operation received by it from national administrations has been perceptibly enhanced,

Noting further that the Board has sent missions to several countries in 1972 and plans similar missions to other countries in 1973,

1. Urges Governments to continue to co-operate with the International Narcotics Control Board and with one another, with a view to bringing under control illicit production, manufacturing and distribution of, and traffic in, narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances;

2. Requests Governments, in particular those mentioned in the Board's report to bring that report to the attention of the competent authorities in their administration for their information and for remedial action where recommended;

3. Calls attention to the Board's offer to assist Governments that request help in assembling the information required to be transmitted to the Board under the international treaties;

4. Commends the Board for a most useful and constructive report and for the contribution that the Board has made during 1972 to international drug control.

1858th plenary meeting
18 May 1973

1780 (LIV). Ad Hoc Committee for the Far East Region of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs

The Economic and Social Council,

Aware of the importance of regional co-operation in the campaign against illicit production and traffic in drugs,

Taking note of resolution 8 (XXV) of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs⁷⁷ by which the Commission established an Ad Hoc Committee for the Far East Region,

⁷⁶ E/INCB/17 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.73.XI.5).

⁷⁷ See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Fifty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 3 (E/5248)*, para. 497.