



## Economic and Social Council

Distr.: Limited  
3 March 2000

Original: English

---

### Commission on Narcotic Drugs

Forty-third session

Vienna, 6-15 March 2000

Agenda item 6

**Implementation of the international drug control treaties**

### **Colombia, Japan, South Africa, Thailand, Turkey and United States of America: draft resolution**

#### **Control of precursor chemicals**

*The Commission on Narcotic Drugs,*

*Reaffirming* that the control of precursor chemicals to prevent diversion of chemicals from licit commerce to illicit drug manufacture is an essential component of a comprehensive counter-narcotics strategy,

*Noting* that the vast international commerce in precursor chemicals makes multilateral cooperation essential to prevent chemical diversion,

*Recognizing* that article 12 of the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988<sup>1</sup> provides the foundation for multilateral cooperation in chemical control,

*Recognizing also* the many Commission on Narcotic Drugs resolutions providing guidance to Governments in the implementation of national regimes for the control of precursor chemicals in accordance with article 12 of the 1988 Convention,

*Noting* in particular the measures to control precursors adopted by the General Assembly, in resolution S-20/4 B, at its twentieth special session devoted to countering the world drug problem together,

*Calling attention* to paragraph 7 (a) (i) of resolution S-20/4 B, which stresses the need to monitor trade in potassium permanganate and acetic anhydride by ensuring the provision of pre-export notification to competent authorities of importing countries of all transactions involving these substances, in addition to those listed in Table I of the 1988 Convention,

---

<sup>1</sup> *Official Records of the United Nations Conference for the Adoption of a Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, Vienna, 25 November-20 December 1988, vol. I (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.94.XI.5).*

*Reiterating* the central role of the International Narcotics Control Board in international control of diversion of chemicals,

1. *Commends* the initiative of countries that play a major role in producing, trading and importing potassium permanganate, and of the International Narcotics Control Board, in developing and implementing a detailed action plan for potassium permanganate, including a special initiative, known as “Operation Purple”, involving a cooperative programme to monitor and control commerce in potassium permanganate;

2. *Applauds* the success of the participating producing, trading and importing countries in implementing the action plan, and particularly applauds the results of Operation Purple, which has monitored 252 shipments of potassium permanganate since its inception on 1 April 1999, and stopped or seized 27 of those shipments as suspect and liable to diversion to illicit drug manufacture;

3. *Notes* the success of chemical control initiatives targeting key precursor chemicals as exemplified by Operation Purple;

4. *Appreciates* that Operation Purple directly supports the objectives to be achieved through the measures to control precursors adopted by the General Assembly, in resolution S-20/4 B, at its twentieth special session devoted to countering the world drug problem together;

5. *Stresses* that participation in Operation Purple is completely voluntary;

6. *Urges* other Governments to benefit from and participate in Operation Purple;

7. *Encourages* interested Governments, and the International Narcotics Control Board, to consider appropriate initiatives targeting acetic anhydride, also identified for particular attention in the measures to control precursors adopted by the General Assembly in resolution S-20/4 B.

---