



## Economic and Social Council

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### Commission on Narcotic Drugs

Forty-seventh session

Vienna, 15-22 March 2004

Agenda item 7 (d)

**Implementation of the international drug control  
treaties: other matters arising from the international  
drug control treaties**

**Australia, Austria, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark,  
Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Luxembourg, Netherlands,  
Poland, Slovakia, Slovenia, Sweden and United Kingdom of Great Britain and  
Northern Ireland: revised draft resolution**

### **Minimum requirements for psychosocially assisted pharmacological treatment of persons dependent on opioids**

*The Commission on Narcotic Drugs,*

*Recognizing* the existence of a large number of persons dependent on opioids,<sup>1</sup>  
who are either receiving or in need of treatment for their opioid dependence,

*Respecting* the sovereign right of Member States to establish and implement  
effective treatment strategies,

*Noting* the evidence on the effectiveness of various treatments, inter alia,  
abstinence therapy,

*Recognizing* the existence of a wide range of evidence-based treatment options,

*Emphasizing* that psychosocially assisted pharmacological treatment is one of  
the treatment options available for improving the health, well-being and social  
functioning of persons dependent on opioids, and for preventing the transmission of  
HIV and other blood-borne diseases,

*Acknowledging* that the present resolution may be applicable only to Member  
States that are providing or planning psychosocially assisted pharmacological  
treatment for opiate addiction,

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<sup>1</sup> "Dependent" is used in the present resolution to mean addicted.



*Recalling* the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961 as amended by the 1972 Protocol,<sup>2</sup> in particular article 38, on measures against the abuse of drugs,

*Recalling also* the Declaration on the Guiding Principles of Drug Demand Reduction,<sup>3</sup> adopted by the General Assembly at its twentieth special session,

*Taking into account* the conclusions and recommendations adopted by the World Health Organization in 1993 after the twenty-eighth meeting of the Expert Committee on Drug Dependence, on the need to increase access to effective treatment,

*Taking note* of the report of the International Narcotics Control Board for 2003,<sup>4</sup> in particular paragraphs 222 and 328 of that report,

*Taking note also* of the position paper of the World Health Organization, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS on substitution maintenance therapy in the management of opioid dependence and HIV/AIDS prevention,

*Acknowledging* that work has been undertaken on psychosocially assisted pharmacological treatment in different regions,

*Requests* the World Health Organization, in collaboration with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and relevant regional organizations, to develop and publish minimum requirements and international guidelines on pharmacological treatment of persons dependent on opioids,<sup>5</sup> taking into account regional initiatives in this field, in order to assist the Member States concerned.

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<sup>2</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 976, No. 14152.

<sup>3</sup> General Assembly resolution S-20/3, annex.

<sup>4</sup> *Report of the International Narcotics Control Board for 2003* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.04.XI.1).

<sup>5</sup> See, for example, M. Gossop, M. Grant and A. Wodak, eds., *The Uses of Methadone in the Treatment and Management of Opioid Dependence*, WHO/MNH/DAT/89.1 (Geneva, World Health Organization, 1989).