



## Economic and Social Council

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### Commission on Narcotic Drugs

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#### Draft report

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#### Addendum

### Implementation of the international drug control treaties

1. At its 1249th meeting, on 7 March, the Commission considered agenda item 7 (b), entitled “Implementation of the international drug control treaties: International Narcotics Control Board”. The Commission had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the International Narcotics Control Board for 2004 (E/INCB/2004/1);

(b) Precursors and Chemicals Frequently Used in the Illicit Manufacture of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances: Report of the International Narcotics Control Board for 2004 on the Implementation of Article 12 of the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988 (E/INCB/2004/4).

2. An introductory statement was made by the President of the International Narcotics Control Board. Statements were made by the representatives of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Japan, India, Indonesia, Spain, the United Arab Emirates, Sweden, Turkey, Switzerland, the Netherlands, the United States, Thailand, Germany, Australia and China. Statements were also made by the observers for Canada, Azerbaijan, the Republic of Korea, Luxembourg (on behalf of the members of the European Union (the candidate countries Bulgaria, Croatia, Romania and Turkey, as well as the Countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidates Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia and Montenegro and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (and the EFTA members Iceland and Norway, members of the European Economic Area), associated themselves with that statement)), Denmark and the Republic of Moldova (on behalf of the members of



the GUUAM (Azerbaijan, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova, Ukraine and Uzbekistan)). The observers for the Council of Arab Ministers of the Interior and for the European Commission also made statements.

## **A. Deliberations**

### **1. Report of the International Narcotics Control Board for 2004**

3. The President of the International Narcotics Control Board introduced the report of the Board for 2004.<sup>1</sup> Referring to the first chapter of the report, dealing with the integration of supply and demand reduction strategies, he called on Governments to develop and implement integrated strategies, combining components of supply reduction and demand reduction in multidisciplinary programmes. Noting that the overall drug control situation in Afghanistan had seriously deteriorated over the past year, the President called on the Government of Afghanistan to fulfil its obligations under the international drug control treaties and ensure that its people were protected from the scourge of illicit drugs. The Commission was informed of the outcome of a study on the relative merits of different methods of producing opiate raw materials; the study had been carried out by the Board pursuant to Economic and Social Council resolution 2002/20 of 24 July 2002. The President underlined the Board's concern at the misuse of the Internet by illicit drug traffickers, pointing out that several billion doses of medicine containing internationally controlled substances were illicitly sold over the Internet every year.

4. Appreciation was expressed to the International Narcotics Control Board and its secretariat for the preparation of its report for 2004. It was noted that the supply of and demand for illicit drugs were inextricably linked components of a single phenomenon. The mutual interdependence between those two elements therefore necessitated a balanced and integrated approach, aimed at reducing both supply and demand. While measures to curtail the supply of illicit drugs might be effective in the short term, in the long term the drug problem could only be addressed effectively by reducing the demand for such drugs. Governments were requested to give full attention to the views and recommendations of the Board. The representative of Indonesia, speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, called on the Secretariat to allocate more resources to the Board.

5. The Commission welcomed the continued efforts by the International Narcotics Control Board to promote the maintenance of a global balance between the supply of and demand for opiate raw materials used for medical and scientific purposes, as required under the provisions of the 1961 Convention as amended by the 1972 Protocol.<sup>2</sup> The Board was commended for arranging informal meetings with the main States importing and producing opiate raw materials. Concern was expressed at the fact that some States used seized material for the licit manufacture of pharmaceuticals, despite several Economic and Social Council resolutions cautioning against that practice. Proliferation of the sources of opiate raw materials had the potential to disturb the delicate balance between supply of and demand for

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<sup>1</sup> *Report of the International Narcotics Control Board for 2004* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.05.XI.3).

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

opiate raw materials. Reference was made to Council resolution 2004/43 of 21 July 2004, in which it urged all Governments to continue to contribute to maintaining such a balance.

6. The importance of adherence to and full implementation of the provisions of the international drug control treaties, the foundation of the international drug control system, was stressed. States that had not yet become parties to one or more of those treaties were urged to adhere to them as soon as possible. The International Narcotics Control Board and UNODC were requested to provide assistance to States whose national systems for controlling drugs and substances used in illicit drug manufacture were in need of improvement. Governments should fulfil their reporting requirements and submit information to the Board in a timely manner. The representative of Switzerland informed the Commission that the 1988 Convention had been submitted to the Parliament of Switzerland for ratification.

7. The Commission noted with deep concern the overall drug control situation, in particular the increase in the illicit cultivation and production of, and trafficking in, opiates in Afghanistan. It was agreed that adequate support should be provided to that State; in addition, support should be provided to assist its neighbouring States and transit States in their fight against the production of and trafficking in illicit drugs originating in Afghanistan.

8. The Commission expressed concern at the increasing number of illegal Internet pharmacies that were illicitly selling pharmaceuticals containing internationally controlled narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances. The Board was commended for organizing expert group meetings on ways to address that problem. Governments were urged to intensify their cooperation with each other in that area, as such cooperation could facilitate the investigation and subsequent prosecution of such cases.

9. Several representatives informed the Commission of a number of notable developments and achievements in addressing the issue of drug abuse and illicit trafficking. Representatives also reported on their national strategies to reduce illicit drug supply and demand. Large quantities of illicit drugs had been seized and important measures had been implemented to prevent money-laundering, further judicial cooperation and improve drug control.

10. Several Governments informed the Commission of the results of missions of the International Narcotics Control Board and action taken to implement the recommendations of the Board. Country missions undertaken by the Board were welcomed as a valuable opportunity for the exchange of information, ideas and views on matters of mutual importance.

## **2. Report of the International Narcotics Control Board for 2004 on the implementation of article 12 of the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988**

11. The President of the International Narcotics Control Board introduced the 2004 report of the Board on the implementation of article 12 of the 1988 Convention.<sup>3</sup> The Commission commended the Board on the report, noting that the report provided a comprehensive overview of the current status of precursor control

<sup>3</sup> United Nations publication, Sales No. E.05.XI.6.

worldwide. The report also provided an analysis of trends in seizures, illicit trafficking and diversions involving precursors, thereby assisting Governments in their efforts to prevent the diversion of those substances for use in illicit drug manufacture.

12. The Commission emphasized the importance of universal adherence to the 1988 Convention and of taking action at the regional and international levels to implement more effectively article 12 of that convention, including the timely provision of information to the Board every year. The information provided by Governments on seizures enabled the Board to prepare an analysis of recent trends in illicit trafficking in and the diversion of precursors used in illicit drug manufacture, while the analysis of data on licit trade was an essential tool for use in the identification of suspicious transactions and possible diversions involving such precursors.

13. To supplement the information presented in the report on the implementation of article 12 of the 1988 Convention, a number of representatives provided the Commission with updated information on legislation and control measures that were either in place or planned to enable their Governments to tackle trafficking in precursors more effectively. Several representatives also reported on regional initiatives and bilateral agreements in the areas of law enforcement, capacity-building and training, and monitoring of precursors and substitute chemicals currently not under international control, as well as information exchange.

14. The Commission noted the recent successes achieved by Project Prism in addressing the diversion of precursors used in the illicit manufacture of amphetamine-type stimulants. The Board was commended for its efforts as the international focal point for the exchange of information under the Project. The Commission noted that, because of the flexible approach used in Project Prism, it had been possible to deal with threats posed by precursors of amphetamine-type stimulants that varied significantly from region to region. Diversion of pharmaceutical preparations containing pseudoephedrine continued to be cited as a source of the precursors used in the illicit manufacture of methamphetamine in certain regions and Project Prism provided a means to address the diversion of such precursors.

15. With regard to Operation Purple and Operation Topaz, the international initiatives for tracking shipments of potassium permanganate and acetic anhydride, the Commission noted that the monitoring of international trade in those substances, as a result of participating countries providing and responding to pre-export notifications, had continued to function well. It called upon Governments to continue to provide the necessary support to those initiatives.

16. In view of the increasing illicit heroin manufacture in Afghanistan, the Commission called upon the international community to further strengthen its support for Operation Topaz. In particular, the Commission recommended that the Steering Committee of that operation should identify specific action and explore ways to improve backtracking investigations of seized acetic anhydride, in order to track the substance back to its manufacturers; the Committee should also examine the feasibility of tagging products to determine at which points along the distribution chain diversions were taking place.