



## Economic and Social Council

Distr.: Limited  
14 March 2007

Original: English

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### Commission on Narcotic Drugs

#### Fiftieth session

Vienna, 12-16 March 2007

Agenda item 7 (c)

**Implementation of the international drug control treaties:  
follow-up to the twentieth special session of the General  
Assembly**

**Germany,\* India, Japan, Peru\*\* and Republic of Korea: revised draft resolution**

### **Improving the quality and performance of drug analysis laboratories**

*The Commission on Narcotic Drugs,*

*Recognizing* the important role of drug analysis laboratories as part of national drug control systems, and the value of laboratory results and data to criminal justice systems, law enforcement and health authorities and policymakers,

*Noting* that law enforcement and other clients of drug analysis laboratories need results that are reliable, valid, based on standard procedures, compatible with results in other laboratories that meet the evidentiary standards of the respective judicial, administrative and legal systems and obtained in an effective and efficient manner within the required timescale and that provide value for money,

*Recognizing* that the quality of the analysis and results of such laboratories has significant implications for the justice system, law enforcement and prevention and health, as well as for the international harmonization and worldwide exchange and coordination of drug information and data,

*Recognizing also* that the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime has an essential role in facilitating the development of drug-testing facilities and scientific support services worldwide and in improving the quality and performance of drug analysis laboratories, that it has expertise in implementing laboratory-related

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\* On behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the European Union.

\*\* On behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States.



projects and that it must make the most effective use of its limited resources to fulfil that role,

*Reaffirming* General Assembly resolution 49/168, section II, of 23 December 1994 and resolution 52/92, section II, of 12 December 1997, in which the Assembly requested the United Nations International Drug Control Programme, now called the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, to continue providing assistance to Member States requesting support in establishing or strengthening national drug detection laboratories,

*Acknowledging* the added value of the international quality assurance support of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in providing means for the continued monitoring of the situation of laboratories throughout the world, identifying factors affecting laboratory performance and where improvements can be made, including how to best target support, thus providing an evidence base for technical assistance projects and for the monitoring of their effectiveness,

*Recognizing* the cost-effectiveness of having a sustainable international network of laboratories and scientific support services allowing the transfer of specialized technical and forensic expertise from States with adequate resources to those in need of assistance, in order to promote equality and reduce gaps between Member States,

*Recalling* Economic and Social Council resolution 2003/32 of 22 July 2003, in which the Council urged relevant international organizations, in consultation with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, to provide financing and other support for the training of experts in various subjects related to the fight against the world drug problem, with particular emphasis on, among other things, drug-testing laboratories and laboratory quality assurance,

*Concerned* about the increasing gap between Member States in terms of the technical level of their laboratory and scientific services,

[1. *Recommends* that the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime should continue supporting the analytical work of laboratories by providing reference samples of controlled substances, by identifying best practices and encouraging the use of guidelines, subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources, by developing manuals on standard methods including relevant research, by offering training opportunities and by promoting and facilitating the exchange of information, material and data;]

2. *Requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to support the integration of laboratories and scientific support into drug control frameworks and the use of analytical data as a primary source of information worldwide, for example, for systems giving early warning on new drug trends;

[3. *Also requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to build on its corporate knowledge and, subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources, to conduct in-depth analyses in order to identify competency requirements, training needs and other areas where assistance could be provided;]

4. *Requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, in cooperation with Member States, to devote attention to drug analysis laboratories, including forensic laboratories and other laboratories, developing project proposals, as

appropriate, for capacity-building, providing services to drug abuse treatment and toxicology, on the priorities recommended and requested in the present resolution;

5. *Encourages* Member States to give higher priority to the development of sustainable laboratory and scientific services, and recommends that national laboratories participate in the external quality assurance programme offered by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime;

6. *Invites* Member States to secure and broaden their support to United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, including funding for activities related to improving the performance of national laboratories, support for quality assurance and support for the establishment of sustainable scientific services worldwide;

7. *Calls upon* Member States and international, regional and subregional institutions to contribute to the work of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime set out in the present resolution by providing expertise as a resource for the development of cooperative networks among laboratories and scientists and to explore innovative ways to ensure more effective exchange of expertise and information worldwide.

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