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Commission on Narcotic Drugs

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Item 6 (d) of the provisional agenda*

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

Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Niger and Sudan: draft resolution

Responding to the threat posed by the distribution of medicines, including counterfeit medicines, on the unregulated market

The Commission on Narcotic Drugs,

Considering that the illicit distribution of medicines, including medicines containing internationally controlled substances, on the unregulated market continues to be a serious problem in many countries, in particular in developing countries,

Noting that the International Narcotics Control Board, in its report for 2006,¹ highlighted, inter alia, the problems relating to internationally controlled drugs and the unregulated market,

Considering that some medicines containing internationally controlled substances are diverted from the legitimate, official market and are sold on the unregulated market or are counterfeit medicines,

Noting that such medicines containing internationally controlled substances are of substandard quality or ineffective and that their use can lead to dependence and, in some cases, can even have fatal consequences,

Recalling the current extent of the problem of the distribution of medicines on the unregulated market, which is increasingly characterized by smuggling networks operating in an organized and structured illicit market and by the expansion of the

* E/CN.7/2008/1.

¹ *Report of the International Narcotics Control Board for 2006* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.07.XI.11).



range of products containing narcotic drugs or psychotropic substances available on that market,

Noting that the causes of the phenomenon of medicines being sold on the unregulated market are linked primarily to poverty and economic stagnation,

Being aware that many States affected by the illicit distribution of medicines and the deleterious use of medicines obtained on the unregulated market have taken a number of prevention and control measures to combat that global scourge,

Noting the efforts made by international organizations such as the World Health Organization, the World Customs Organization and Interpol and by relevant regional organizations to combat the problem more effectively and to protect populations,

1. *Requests* partner States to continue to offer their full cooperation and support through the provision of human and material resources, including the organization of training programmes, to States affected by the distribution of medicines, including counterfeit medicines, on the unregulated market, with a view to eradicating that problem;

2. *Encourages* States affected by that scourge to envisage adopting measures to facilitate the swift detection of new forms of illicit distribution of medicines, including those containing internationally controlled substances, and the use of medicines obtained on the unregulated market;

3. *Requests* Member States to give consideration to implementing the recommendations of the International Narcotics Control Board as set out in its annual report for 2006,² in particular with a view to:

(a) Strictly applying the provisions of the international drug control treaties to prevent internationally controlled substances from being diverted to the unregulated market;

(b) Implementing effective policies to combat the manufacturing and distribution of counterfeit medicines;

(c) Providing a comprehensive legal framework to make trading in counterfeit products a serious criminal offence; and

(d) Ensuring that the States concerned regulate the export of pharmaceutical preparations in order to prevent the export of products that are counterfeit or of poor quality;

4. *Requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to assist Member States in combating the illicit distribution and use of medicines, including counterfeit medicines, containing internationally controlled substances.

² Ibid., para. 38.