



## Economic and Social Council

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### Commission on Narcotic Drugs

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Agenda item 7 (d)

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

**Australia, Japan and Thailand: revised draft resolution**

#### **Promoting a consistent approach to the treatment of safrole-rich oils**

*The Commission on Narcotic Drugs,*

*Recognizing* the importance of international cooperation in combating drug abuse and trafficking in narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and their precursors,

*Noting* that trafficking in and diversion of precursors essential to the illicit manufacture of narcotic drugs or psychotropic substances constitute a problem that deserves the full attention of all States and the United Nations,

*Recalling* the Political Declaration adopted by the General Assembly at its twentieth special session,<sup>1</sup> in which Member States established 2008 as a target date for States to eliminate or considerably reduce the diversion of precursors,

*Recalling also* General Assembly resolution S-20/4 B of 10 June 1998, in section II of which the Assembly sought to promote the exchange of experience relating to police, customs and other administrative investigation, interception, detection and control of diversion of precursors,

*Concerned* that the illicit manufacture of amphetamine-type stimulants is a worldwide problem,

*Noting* that amphetamine-type stimulants are of increasing concern in East and South-East Asia, North America and Oceania, with significant quantities of

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<sup>1</sup> General Assembly resolution S-20/2, annex.



methylenedioxymethamphetamine continuing to be seized by law enforcement agencies and evidence of increased manufacture of that substance,

*Acknowledging* the emphasis placed by the International Narcotics Control Board on the need for effective administrative, legislative and regulatory controls and structures for the legitimate trade in precursor chemicals within national borders as a means of implementing article 12 of the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988,<sup>2</sup>

*Mindful* that safrole, a principal precursor chemical used in the manufacture of methylenedioxymethamphetamine, can be extracted from safrole-rich oils,

*Recalling* that the International Narcotics Control Board has recommended that sassafras oil, because of its high safrole content and because it may be readily used in illicit drug manufacture, should be considered as safrole itself and referred to as “safrole in the form of sassafras oil” and should be controlled in the same way as safrole in its pure form,<sup>3</sup>

*Noting* that, in addition to sassafras oil, other safrole-rich oils are traded in multi-ton consignments, but that there is no unique customs code for safrole rich oils under the Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System,

*Recognizing* the legitimate use of safrole-rich oil in some industries, although not all end-user industries are known,

*Recognizing also* the need for the international community to monitor closely legitimate trade in safrole-rich oils and to take steps to prevent the diversion of those oils for use in the illicit manufacture of methylenedioxymethamphetamine,

1. *Calls upon* Member States to continue to collaborate on approaches to prevent, at the international and national levels, the diversion of precursors;

2. *Encourages* Member States, to the extent possible under their national laws and regulations and in collaboration with the relevant industries, to continue to strengthen cooperation with associations, persons or companies engaged in activities involving precursors, for example, by encouraging importers and exporters to disclose fully to regulatory authorities consignments that contain safrole-rich oils, and by utilizing the pre-export notification system;

3. *Calls upon* Member States to control all safrole-rich oils in the same manner as safrole;

4. *Requests* the International Narcotics Control Board to provide a definition of “safrole-rich oils” for the purpose of controlling such substances in the same manner as safrole under the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988;<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1582, No. 27627.

<sup>3</sup> *Precursors and Chemicals Frequently Used in the Illicit Manufacture of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances: Report of the International Narcotics Control Board for 2005 on the Implementation of Article 12 of the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.06.XI.5), para. 137.

<sup>4</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1582, No. 27627.

5. *Urges* Member States to ensure that mechanisms are in place to collect information on safrole-rich oils and to use Form D to provide to the International Narcotics Control Board information on licit trade and trafficking in safrole-rich oils;

6. *Invites* all States and relevant international organizations to cooperate closely with the International Narcotics Control Board, in particular its Project Prism, in order to enhance the success of its international initiatives.

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