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Commission on Narcotic Drugs

Fifty-second session

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Item 7 of the provisional agenda*

Implementation of the international drug control treaties

Japan: draft resolution

Cannabis seeds as a global threat

The Commission on Narcotic Drugs,

Recalling the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961,¹ the Single Convention of 1961 as amended by the 1972 Protocol,² the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971³ and the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988,⁴

Considering article 22 of the 1961 Convention, on the prohibition of the illicit cultivation of the opium poppy, the coca bush or the cannabis plant, and the Action Plan on International Cooperation on the Eradication of Illicit Drug Crops and on Alternative Development,⁵ adopted by the General Assembly at its twentieth special session,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 59/160 of 20 December 2004,

Noting that the International Narcotics Control Board, in its report for 2008,⁶ drew attention to the problem of the misuse of postal and courier services for the purpose of drug trafficking, including the shipment of cannabis seeds,

Stressing that cannabis is one of the most widely produced, trafficked and abused illicit drugs worldwide,

* E/CN.7/2009/1.

¹ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 520, No. 7515.

² *Ibid.*, vol. 976, No. 14152.

³ *Ibid.*, vol. 1019, No. 14956.

⁴ *Ibid.*, vol. 1582, No. 27627.

⁵ General Assembly resolution S-20/4 E.

⁶ *Report of the International Narcotics Control Board for 2008* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.09.XI.1).



Noting that a number of Member States have reported an increase in the availability of cannabis plant cultivated indoors and an average overall increase in the tetrahydrocannabinol content of some varieties of cannabis plant,

Stressing the effects on health of cannabis as reported by the World Health Organization in *Cannabis: a Health Perspective and Research Agenda*,⁷ published in 1997, which is the only international assessment of cannabis,

Concerned that the abuse of cannabis, especially among young people, often leads to risk-taking behaviour,

Deeply concerned that the use of cannabis seeds with a high tetrahydrocannabinol content has been spreading all over the world and that such use results in an increase in cannabis abuse,

Emphasizing the primary importance of international cooperation in combating trafficking in and abuse of cannabis, paying special attention to the movement of cannabis seeds derived from illicitly cultivated cannabis plants,

1. *Urges* all Member States to be vigilant about the illicit cultivation of cannabis plant, in compliance with the Single Convention of 1961;⁸

2. *Also urges* all Member States to endeavour, consistent with their domestic laws and regulations and applicable international regulations, not to export cannabis seeds derived from illicitly grown cannabis plants;

3. *Requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to share its concern regarding the health risks posed by cannabis with the Expert Committee on Drug Dependence of the World Health Organization, and, in that regard, looks forward to an updated report on cannabis by the Expert Committee;

4. *Also requests* the International Narcotics Control Board, subject to the availability of existing resources, to gather regulatory information on cannabis seeds from Member States with a view to strengthening control over the international movement of cannabis seeds, to analyse the impact that cannabis seeds have on global drug abuse and to share that information with Member States;

5. *Requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources, to conduct a global survey on cannabis seeds, starting with a market survey, and to report to it on the implementation of the present resolution at its fifty-third session.

⁷ World Health Organization, *Cannabis: a Health Perspective and Research Agenda* (WHO/MSA/PSA/97.4) (Geneva, 1997).

⁸ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 520, No. 7515.