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REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

Launching of a programme of international drug  
abuse control strategy and policies

Note by the Secretariat

1. At its first regular session of 1979, the Economic and Social Council adopted decision 1979/17 of 9 May 1979, in which it decided to bring to the attention of the General Assembly, at its thirty-fourth session, the text of resolution 8 (XXVIII) of 23 February 1979 of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, 1/ together with the principles annexed thereto and the comments made at the first regular session of 1979 of the Council. 2/

2. The text of the draft resolution and annex is set forth below:

8 (XXVIII). Launching of a programme of international drug abuse  
control strategy and policies 3/

The Commission on Narcotic Drugs,

Recalling paragraph 5 of General Assembly resolution 32/124 of 16 December 1977, in which the Assembly requested the Commission to study the possibility of launching a meaningful programme of international drug abuse control strategy and policies, its own decision 7 (S-V) in this respect, and General Assembly resolution 33/168 of 20 December 1978, concerning several aspects of international drug control,

Bearing in mind that drug abuse is growing, that its ill-effects are apparent in many parts of the world and that the fight against drug abuse should be conceived

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1/ Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1979, Supplement No. 5 (E/1979/35), chap. XIV.

2/ See E/1979/SR.13; E/1979/C.2/SR.2-6.

3/ See Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1979, Supplement No. 5 (E/1979/35), chap. IX.

as a collective endeavour in which all States concerned, whether producers, manufacturers or consumers, and the international community as a whole should be required to play due and respective roles in this fight by complementing each other's efforts.

Recognizing that the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, 1961, its amending Protocol of 1972 and the 1971 Convention on Psychotropic Substances are the cornerstones of the international drug control system,

Noting the experience acquired by the world community in combating the drug menace over the past 70 years, and in particular over the past decade, and the successes achieved despite the emergence of new and more complex problems,

Taking note of the "Working paper with guidelines for a programme on international drug abuse control strategy and policies", prepared by the officers of the Commission, 4/

1. Wishes to propose the principles annexed to the present resolution as a guide to future international drug abuse control activities;

2. Requests the Secretary-General:

(a) To have elaborated promptly by the Division of Narcotic Drugs, in collaboration with other bodies, agencies and organizations concerned, a practical and dynamic drug abuse control programme, taking into account the annexed principles;

(b) To provide that regular statutory activities of the Division of Narcotic Drugs are implemented by using the regular budget and that extrabudgetary activities are implemented by means of extrabudgetary resources;

(c) To give appropriate encouragement to the allocation of more financial resources from the regular budgets of other bodies, agencies and organizations in support of drug-related activities which they undertake;

(d) To provide also for the monitoring by the Commission of the implementation of the programme;

3. Further requests the Secretary-General to report to the Commission on Narcotic Drugs at its next session on what has been done to give effect to the present resolution;

4. Invites the Economic and Social Council to bring the text of the present resolution and of the annexed principles to the attention of the General Assembly at its thirty-fourth session, together with any comments the Council may deem appropriate.

877th meeting  
23 February 1979

ANNEX

Principles to form the basis for a programme of international  
drug abuse control strategy and policies

1. Strengthening of the treaty system through:

- (a) Early accessions and ratifications of the treaties by all Governments;
- (b) Application of the provisions of the treaties through the enactment of comprehensive national laws and regulations;
- (c) Implementation and enforcement of those laws and regulations;
- (d) Continual review of the Schedules of the treaties so as to reschedule the drugs listed therein or add new drugs whenever necessary;
- (e) The study of the adequacy of the reporting and control systems provided for in the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, 1961, and in that Convention as amended by the 1972 Protocol, and the examination of the advisability of subjecting the cultivation and export of all narcotic raw materials and the manufacture and export of alkaloids extracted therefrom to such restrictions and controls as may be deemed appropriate in each case and as would ensure a reasonable balance between licit supply and demand;
- (f) Study and consideration of the advisability of merging, if possible, the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, 1961, as amended by the 1972 Protocol, and the 1971 Convention on Psychotropic Substances into one single treaty at some time in the future in order to avoid duplication and overlapping.

2. Improvement of international, regional and bilateral co-operation in the three major fields of the fight against drug abuse, namely, illicit production, control of illicit traffic and reduction of demand.

3. Eradication of illicit production of narcotic materials, in particular of the opium poppy, but also of the cannabis plant and coca bush, by the implementation of crop replacement programmes (see No. 6 below).

4. Reduction of illicit demand through:

- (a) The taking of necessary demand reduction measures by the countries concerned themselves;
- (b) The implementation of country primary health care, educational, socio-economic and rehabilitation programmes in developing countries;
- (c) Implementation of an international action programme for demand reduction, incorporating the use of the "Resource Book on Measures to Reduce Illicit Demand for Drugs", prepared by the Division of Narcotic Drugs;

(d) The extension and intensification of research in the field of epidemiology and of knowledge concerning reasons and motives, effects and consequences of drug abuse in all its aspects;

(e) The promotion of the dissemination of positive information programmes based on the fundamental social values of each country, aimed at creating an appropriate climate of public opinion against drug abuse, in order to counteract the social harm it causes;

(f) Evaluation of the results of measures and methods of prevention, treatment and social reintegration.

5. The pursuit of the fight against the international illicit drug traffic through:

(a) Improvements in the exchange of information and in multilateral and bilateral co-operation, particularly at the regional and interregional levels with agencies such as International Criminal Police Organization and the Customs Co-operation Council;

(b) The establishment of a more effective system of extradition treaties between countries concerned;

(c) The identification of financial transactions connected with the illicit drug traffic.

6. Strengthening of the work of the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control through:

(a) Generous and sustained contributions by all countries which are able to contribute;

(b) Concentration on cost effective projects, including multisectoral country programmes;

(c) The implementation of programmes of drug abuse prevention, treatment, rehabilitation and social reintegration, as well as of crop replacement;

(d) Its action as a catalyst with other funding agencies and Governments to obtain the financing of large-scale crop replacement programmes after termination of the pilot projects;

(e) Encouragement of developing countries to give the highest priority to rural development programmes in areas of illicit narcotic plants cultivation, when applying for development aid;

(f) The elaboration of evaluation reports on important projects;

(g) Guidance and supervision by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs.

7. The achievement of a balance between demand and supply in narcotic drugs for legitimate purposes through:

(a) The prevention of poppy cultivation for the production for export of both opium and poppy straw for the extraction of alkaloids in countries other than those in which production is traditionally established, except for research purposes:

(b) The limitation of poppy cultivation as stated in (a) above and of the manufacture of alkaloids for export to quantities required to meet the legitimate world demand for opiates, as estimated by the International Narcotics Control Board on the basis, inter alia, of information furnished by Governments:

(c) The limitation of the sale of seized illicit opiates as a normal or regular source of income for Governments:

(d) The protection of the legitimate interests of the traditional producers, who are making heavy sacrifices to guarantee effective control;

(e) The study of the advisability of introducing a system of estimates for the future demand for psychotropic substances.

8. Appropriate co-ordination of research activities and exchange of information in order to avoid unnecessary work and waste of financial resources and also to ensure the continuation of the work of the United Nations Narcotics Laboratory, in particular:

(a) Its liaison work in relation to the research undertaken by national and international institutions on drugs of abuse, particularly those derived from the opium poppy and the cannabis plant.

(b) The technical assistance it provides to Governments through training in methods for the identification of drugs seized in the illicit traffic and through the furnishing of equipment, reference samples and scientific literature on drugs of abuse for national laboratories;

(c) Its work on the establishment of a multilingual list of psychotropic substances under international control and the combination of such a list with the multilingual list of narcotic drugs.

9. The identification of clear areas of responsibility for each United Nations body and specialized agency involved in international drug abuse control, with a view to achieving co-ordination, avoiding duplication and overlapping of activities, effecting economies and streamlining administration and management, without detracting from the responsibilities assigned to each of them under the relevant treaties or charters.

10. The achievement of above-average priority for international drug abuse control in the regular budget of the United Nations, in order to secure adequate personnel and financial resources for all the bodies dealing with international drug control within the United Nations system.