

44/140. Implementation of the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 33/168 of 20 December 1978, 35/195 of 15 December 1980, 36/132 of 14 December 1981, 36/168 of 16 December 1981, 37/168 of 17 December 1982, 37/198 of 18 December 1982, 38/93 and 38/122 of 16 December 1983, 39/141 and 39/143 of 14 December 1984, 40/120, 40/121 and 40/122 of 13 December 1985, 41/125, 41/126 and 41/127 of 4 December 1986, 42/111, 42/112 and 42/113 of 7 December 1987 and 43/120 of 8 December 1988 and other relevant provisions,

Noting that these resolutions led to the adoption on 19 December 1988 of the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances¹⁵² by a conference of plenipotentiaries convened by the United Nations at Vienna from 25 November to 20 December 1988,

Reaffirming the importance of the Convention for improving international co-operation in that field and further strengthening the existing international instruments for the control of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, namely, the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961, as amended by the 1972 Protocol Amending the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961,¹⁵³ and the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971,¹⁵⁴

Noting with satisfaction the broad support granted to the Convention, including signature and ratification,

Encouraging the Commission on Narcotic Drugs to begin consideration of measures that could be recommended to Governments for the implementation of the Convention,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on the conclusions of the conference of plenipotentiaries,¹⁵⁵

1. Expresses its appreciation to the Secretary-General for the report on the conclusions of the conference of plenipotentiaries that adopted the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances at Vienna;

2. Also expresses its appreciation to the States that participated in the preparation and adoption of the Convention;

3. Urges States that have not yet done so to proceed rapidly to sign and to ratify the Convention, so that it may enter into force as early as possible;

4. Also urges States to establish the necessary legislative and administrative measures so that their internal juridical regulations may be compatible with the spirit and scope of the Convention;

5. Invites States, to the extent that they are able to do so, to apply provisionally the measures set forth in the Convention, pending its entry into force for each of them;

6. Requests the Secretary-General to modify the section of the annual reports questionnaire regarding the implementation of international treaties so that the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, at its regular and special sessions, may review the steps that States have taken to ratify, accept, approve or formally confirm the Convention;

7. Invites the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, as the principal United Nations policy-making body on the subject, to identify suitable measures to be taken prior to the entry into force of the Convention;

8. Requests the Secretary-General to assign the appropriate priority to providing the Division of Narcotic Drugs of the Secretariat and the secretariat of the International Narcotics Control Board with the necessary financial, technical and human resources that would enable them to carry out the additional responsibilities under the Convention for the biennium 1990-1991;

9. Urges the Secretary-General to provide assistance to States, at their request, to enable them to establish the legislative and administrative measures necessary for the implementation of the Convention;

10. Once again urges all States that have not yet done so to ratify or to accede to the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961, as amended by the 1972 Protocol Amending the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961, and the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971;

11. Requests the Secretary-General, within existing resources and drawing, in particular, on funds available to the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat, to provide for, facilitate and encourage public information activities relating to the Convention and also to disseminate the text of the Convention in the official languages of the United Nations;

12. Also requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its forty-fifth session on the implementation of the present resolution.

82nd plenary meeting
15 December 1989

44/141. Global programme of action against illicit narcotic drugs

The General Assembly,

Alarmed by the dramatic increase in drug abuse and illicit production and trafficking in narcotics, which is threatening the health and well-being of millions of people, in particular youth, in the majority of countries of the world,

Deeply concerned that the evolving drug problem is assuming new dimensions and is threatening the economic, social and political structures of affected countries, through acts of violence perpetrated against their democratic institutions and the extensive economic power of illicit drug organizations,

Commending the determined efforts of the Government of Colombia to stop drug trafficking and recognizing the importance of support for such efforts by the international community,

Welcoming the increasing international attention to these issues and the unflinching commitment demonstrated at the highest levels by heads of Government and State to increase their efforts and resources to achieve coordinated action in the international fight against production, trafficking and abuse of narcotic drugs,

Recognizing that the collective responsibility of States for the campaign against the demand for, production of and trafficking in illicit drugs requires intensified international co-operation and joint action, including the capability to provide, in appropriate forms, necessary support and assistance, if requested by affected States, in order to

¹⁵² E/CONF.82/15 and Corr.2.

¹⁵³ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 976, No. 14152.

¹⁵⁴ *Ibid.*, vol. 1019, No. 14956.

¹⁵⁵ A/44/572.

strengthen their capacity to deal with the problem in all its aspects,

Noting with appreciation the work carried out within the United Nations in the field of drug abuse control and the valuable knowledge and experience represented there,

Recognizing the important contributions made to the international campaign against drug abuse and illicit trafficking by the International Conference on Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, held at Vienna from 17 to 26 June 1987, and, in particular, by its adoption of the Declaration¹⁵⁶ and the Comprehensive Multidisciplinary Outline of Future Activities in Drug Abuse Control,¹⁵⁷ as well as by the conference of plenipotentiaries, held at Vienna from 25 November to 20 December 1988, which adopted the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances,¹⁵²

Deeply concerned that, owing to a lack of resources, it has not been possible for the United Nations organs concerned to execute several of the important steps and measures that were mandated for the biennium 1988-1989,

Acknowledging the recommendations made by the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination and the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination at their twenty-fourth series of Joint Meetings,¹⁵⁸ at which they concluded, *inter alia*, that the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination should prepare a system-wide action plan leading to specific activities to be undertaken by organizations of the United Nations system, individually and collectively, and that consideration could be given to the need for the establishment of additional mechanisms to enhance the effectiveness of the United Nations system in the field of drug abuse control,

Recognizing that the new dimensions taken on by the drug menace will necessitate a more comprehensive approach to international drug control and a more efficient and co-ordinated structure in this field in order to enable the United Nations to play the central and greatly increased role necessary for countering this threat,

Bearing in mind its decision, in resolution 44/16 of 1 November 1989, to hold a special session to consider the question of international co-operation against illicit production, supply, demand, trafficking and distribution of narcotic drugs, with a view to expanding the scope and increasing the effectiveness of such co-operation, and stressing the importance of this special session and of the need for Member States to make the fullest possible contributions to its preparatory work,

1. *Resolves* that action against drug abuse and illicit production and trafficking in narcotics should, as a collective responsibility, be accorded the highest possible priority by the international community and that the United Nations should be the main focus for concerted action against illicit drugs;

2. *Agrees* to strengthen the capability of the United Nations in order to achieve more efficient and co-ordinated co-operation at the international, regional and national levels against the threats posed by illicit narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in his capacity as Chairman of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination, to co-ordinate at the inter-agency level, the de-

velopment of a United Nations system-wide action plan on drug abuse control aimed at the full implementation of all existing mandates and subsequent decisions of inter-governmental bodies throughout the United Nations system, using as a guide the Declaration of the International Conference on Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking and the recommendations in the Comprehensive Multidisciplinary Outline of Future Activities in Drug Abuse Control, and for the attainment of this purpose:

(a) Calls upon the Division of Narcotic Drugs of the Secretariat, the International Narcotics Control Board and its secretariat, as well as the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control, to consult closely with and contribute their expertise to the other agencies represented on the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination in developing the action plan;

(b) Requests the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination to include in the action plan, *inter alia*:

- (i) A statement of purposes that defines the overall goal and denotes specific objectives;
- (ii) An outline of concrete activities that each agency should undertake, within its mandate, ensuring that there is no duplication or overlap;
- (iii) A reasonable time-frame for implementation of each portion of the action plan;
- (iv) A realistic cost estimate for implementing the action plan, being mindful that resources are limited and that it would be necessary for agencies to focus priorities, review deployment of resources or obtain, if necessary, from their governing bodies the authority needed to fulfil their part of the plan;

(c) Requests the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination to present the action plan to all Member States no later than 31 March 1990, in order to permit discussion by the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination at its thirtieth session and by the Economic and Social Council at its next regular session of 1990;

(d) Requests that the executive heads of United Nations bodies report annually to the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination on the progress made in implementing the action plan and that the Administrative Committee include the same information in its annual report, so as to enable the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination and the Economic and Social Council to consider it, within their respective mandates, and to make appropriate recommendations to the General Assembly;

(e) Requests the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination to make the necessary adjustments to the action plan annually and to ensure that each agency brings up to date and revises its related activities annually in order to meet changing circumstances;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to select a limited number of experts from developed and developing countries to advise and assist him for a maximum period of one year, in full co-operation with United Nations officials, in order to enhance the efficiency of the United Nations structure for drug abuse control, taking into account the ability of the United Nations to perform its increasing tasks in the light of existing mandates and of decisions adopted by the General Assembly at its special session, and to report to the Assembly at its forty-fifth session;

5. *Requests* States, without prejudice to the basic criteria that the General Assembly shall adopt at its special session, to consider in the preparatory work for that session, *inter alia*, the following areas, with the purpose of ensuring that all aspects of the problem are adequately ad-

¹⁵⁶ See *Report of the International Conference on Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, Vienna, 17-26 June 1987* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.87.I.18), chap. I, sect. B.

¹⁵⁷ *Ibid.*, sect. A.

¹⁵⁸ See E/1990/4, sect. III.

dressed in the elaboration of a global programme of action against illicit narcotic drugs for adoption at the special session:

(a) Giving increased attention to curbing the rising demand for narcotic drugs by intensified rehabilitative, legal and preventive measures, including public information and education;

(b) The possibility of declaring a United Nations decade against drug abuse, with the purpose of raising public awareness through a world-wide campaign against drug abuse;

(c) The expansion of the scope of international co-operation in support of rural development programmes and other economic development and technical assistance programmes aimed at reducing illicit production and drug trafficking through the strengthening of economic, judicial and legal systems;

(d) The full involvement of international, regional and national financial institutions within their respective areas of competence in the elaboration of measures to counteract the negative economic and social consequences of the drug problem in all its aspects, paying special attention to the characteristics and magnitude of the conversion and transference of drug-related monies in the economic systems of countries;

(e) The development of mechanisms to prevent the use of the banking system and other financial institutions for the processing or laundering of drug-related money;

(f) An examination of recommendations to enhance the efficiency of the United Nations structure for drug abuse control in the most appropriate way to enable the United Nations to perform its increasing tasks in the most effective and co-ordinated manner;

(g) The development of recommendations for generating increased financial resources to the United Nations drug effort and for ensuring sufficient regular budget resources for the United Nations drug bodies to carry out their mandates;

(h) The co-ordination of an expanded programme of training for national narcotics agents in investigative methods, interdiction and narcotics intelligence;

(i) The feasibility of establishing a reserve pool of experienced narcotics agents and experts pledged by other States, whose services States may request for specified periods of time;

(j) The establishment under the United Nations of a facility to gather and collate information on the financial flow from drug-related funds, to be made available to States at their request;

(k) The feasibility of a United Nations capability that, at the request of States, would provide training and equipment for the anti-drug operations of the States to inhibit the use, interdict the supply and eliminate the illicit trafficking of drugs;

(l) The elaboration of any other appropriate measures whereby the United Nations can contribute further to concerted international action against illicit narcotic drugs;

6. *Invites* States, at the special session of the General Assembly, to consider requesting the Secretary-General to appoint a limited number of experts, representing the various aspects of the drug problem with regard to both developed and developing countries, to develop further the global programme of action as adopted at the special session;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to give priority to narcotics control activities in his proposals for the medium-term plan for the period beginning in 1992;

8. *Urges* States to contribute to the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control;

9. *Also urges* States to consider giving financial or other support to enhance the efficiency of the United Nations structure for drug abuse control and to assist and promote a truly comprehensive global programme of action;

10. *Requests* the Secretary-General to transmit the present resolution to the Preparatory Committee of the Whole for the Seventeenth Special Session of the General Assembly, which the Assembly established by its decision 44/410 of 14 November 1989.

*82nd plenary meeting
15 December 1989*

44/142. International action to combat drug abuse and illicit trafficking

The General Assembly,

Deeply concerned that the illicit demand for, production of, traffic in and use of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances has become one of the most serious dangers to the health and welfare of populations, adversely affecting the political, economic, social and cultural structure of all societies,

Recognizing that the criminal activities of drug trafficking and its marketing network destabilize economies, adversely affect the development of many countries and pose a threat to the stability, national security and sovereignty of States,

Alarmed by the growing connection between drug trafficking and terrorism,

Reaffirming the principle of collective responsibility of the international community in combating drug abuse and illicit trafficking,

Recognizing the serious efforts being made by the Governments of some countries in their programmes for crop substitution, integrated rural development and interdiction, and that international economic and technical co-operation has so far proved inadequate to the task at hand and therefore should be substantially stepped up,

Considering that the necessary steps must be taken to preclude the illicit cultivation of plants containing narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, such as the opium poppy, coca bush and cannabis plant, together with the manufacture of psychotropic substances not used for industrial, scientific or traditional purposes,

Recalling that the International Conference on Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking adopted unanimously the Declaration¹⁵⁶ and the Comprehensive Multidisciplinary Outline of Future Activities in Drug Abuse Control,¹⁵⁷ which represent the proper framework for international co-operation in drug control,

Welcoming the efforts made by those countries that produce narcotic drugs for scientific, medicinal and therapeutic uses to prevent the channelling of such substances to illicit markets and to maintain production at a level consistent with licit demand,

Reiterating that the transit routes used by drug traffickers change constantly and that an ever-growing number of countries in all regions of the world, and even entire regions, are particularly vulnerable to illicit transit traffic on account, *inter alia*, of their geographical location,

Recognizing the need for greater international co-operation which would facilitate the marketing of crop