

changes in format as may be appropriate to achieve optimum acceptability and to facilitate its use;

6. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to allocate adequate resources from existing regular budget appropriations, as of the biennium 1992-1993, to implement the International Drug Abuse Assessment System and to ensure its continued viability;

7. *Invites* the specialized agencies, as well as other relevant intergovernmental and regional organizations, to contribute to the provision of data to the International Drug Abuse Assessment System and to collaborate with the United Nations International Drug Control Programme in its implementation;

8. *Encourages* all Governments to support and to participate actively in the implementation of the International Drug Abuse Assessment System.

*15th plenary meeting  
21 June 1991*

#### 1991/46. Reduction of the demand for narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances

*The Economic and Social Council,*

*Recognizing* the crucial importance of demand reduction as part of a balanced approach to combat the drug problem,

*Welcoming* the work currently being undertaken in demand reduction by the United Nations International Drug Control Programme and the specialized agencies and the establishment by the World Health Organization of its Programme on Substance Abuse,

*Recognizing* the important role that regional and intergovernmental organizations can play in the development of demand reduction programmes adapted to specific regional conditions,

*Noting* the results being achieved by the Declaration<sup>99</sup> and the Comprehensive Multidisciplinary Outline of Future Activities in Drug Abuse Control<sup>93</sup> adopted by the International Conference on Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, the Global Programme of Action<sup>94</sup> adopted by the General Assembly at its seventeenth special session and the Declaration adopted at the World Ministerial Summit to Reduce the Demand for Drugs and to Combat the Cocaine Threat, held in London from 9 to 11 April 1990,<sup>100</sup>

*Recalling* its earlier resolutions on the subject, especially resolution 1989/14 of 22 May 1989,

*Welcoming* the analysis of the replies to the questionnaire on the implementation of the seven targets set out in chapter I of the Comprehensive Multidisciplinary Outline, as contained in the report of the Secretary-General on the review of drug abuse and measures to reduce illicit demand,<sup>101</sup>

*Recognizing* the benefits of sharing information on demand reduction strategies and their effectiveness,

*Welcoming* the establishment of mechanisms such as

<sup>99</sup> 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.

<sup>100</sup> A/45/262, annex.

<sup>101</sup> E/CN.7/1991/19.

the United Kingdom demand reduction task force announced at the World Ministerial Summit,

*Noting* the development in some countries of needle exchange schemes as a means of harm reduction, particularly the containment of the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infection, and the claims of some countries that this approach is of value,

*Considering* the importance of education in helping young people and others to resist the pressures to take drugs and the fact that such education is best set in the context of continuing progressive programmes of preventive health education and health promotion,

*Recognizing* the major role that non-governmental organizations continue to play in the development and implementation of demand reduction strategies,

1. *Urges* all Governments, particularly Governments of countries where serious problems of drug misuse exist, to consider adopting or further developing national strategies for demand reduction and to give such strategies at least the same priority as those to combat the illicit traffic in drugs;

2. *Recognizes* the importance of giving due attention to the underlying causes of the demand for drugs, in particular the disadvantages that youth and other groups at risk often experience in inner-city areas;

3. *Encourages* all Governments to continue to develop education through schools, colleges and youth organizations and, in the wider community, to enable young people and others to acquire the necessary information, skills and attitudes to resist pressures to take drugs, and to live healthy lives;

4. *Urges* all Governments to provide or support preventive education and training opportunities for teachers, youth leaders and other professionals who work with young people in order to equip them to educate and otherwise help young people who are at risk because of current or likely drug use;

5. *Emphasizes* the importance of providing information and education materials to encourage and to help parents to understand their own influence as role models and to help promote the health of their children;

6. *Emphasizes also* the grave impact of drug-taking on health, safety and costs in the workplace;

7. *Invites* all Governments to encourage employers and employees to develop joint action programmes which publicize information in the workplace, warning of the risks of drug use, and which help employees to obtain advice and appropriate treatment;

8. *Emphasizes* the importance of coordinated and consistent action between governmental and non-governmental organizations at the local and national levels in fostering education, training and treatment initiatives;

9. *Stresses* the need to develop comprehensive treatment, rehabilitation and social reintegration options, including services tailored to the specific needs of different groups of drug users;

10. *Urges* all Governments to reflect in education campaigns the serious implications of drug-injecting for the spread of HIV infection and acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS);

11. *Encourages* Governments, in the light of the spread of HIV infection, to work strenuously to bring greater numbers of drug abusers, particularly those who inject, into contact with treatment services and agencies;

12. *Urges* Governments that have chosen to make available sterile syringes and needles to conduct such schemes under close monitoring and, to the extent possible, to evaluate the efficacy of those schemes in reducing the spread of HIV infection, as well as their usefulness as contact opportunities to encourage drug-dependent persons to enter or remain in treatment;

13. *Encourages* Governments with appropriate expertise to consider establishing mechanisms to share with interested States knowledge and expertise on the development and evaluation of demand reduction strategies, in coordination with the United Nations International Drug Control Programme and the specialized agencies and utilizing the experience of relevant non-governmental organizations where appropriate;

14. *Encourages* the United Nations International Drug Control Programme to continue to develop the work undertaken by the former United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control, in particular by elaborating master plans that give due attention to demand reduction activities tailored to regional and local needs and by providing a greater proportion of extrabudgetary resources for related intervention programmes;

15. *Urges* States that are able to do so to increase substantially their voluntary contributions to the United Nations International Drug Control Programme to enable it to expand further its operational and technical assistance programmes, especially in the demand reduction sector;

16. *Requests* the United Nations International Drug Control Programme to utilize the database of its International Drug Abuse Assessment System to disseminate the demand reduction information received from Governments, specialized agencies, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations in such a way that it helps Governments and those organizations to develop their demand reduction policies;

17. *Encourages* non-governmental organizations to continue to develop their work on demand reduction in coordination with the United Nations International Drug Control Programme;

18. *Invites* the New York Non-Governmental Organization Committee on Narcotics and Substance Abuse and the Vienna Non-Governmental Organization Committee on Narcotic Drugs to coordinate the preparation of an annual report, for submission to the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, on activities of international non-governmental organizations within the relevant terms of reference of the Commission;

19. *Requests* the Executive Director of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme to continue the analytical work on progress achieved in implementing targets 1 to 7 of the Comprehensive Multidisciplinary Outline of Future Activities in Drug Abuse Control and to prepare a succinct report for consideration by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs at its thirty-fifth session on progress achieved at the national and

international levels in implementing targets 29 to 35 of the Comprehensive Multidisciplinary Outline;

20. *Requests* the Secretary-General to transmit the text of the present resolution to all Governments, specialized agencies and relevant non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council for consideration and implementation as appropriate.

*15th plenary meeting  
21 June 1991*

#### **1991/47. United Nations International Drug Control Programme**

*The Economic and Social Council,*

*Reaffirming* that the new dimensions of illicit production, abuse and traffic in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances in all regions of the world necessitate a more comprehensive and integrated approach to international drug control and an efficient structure in order to enable the United Nations to play a central and greatly enhanced role in that field,

*Mindful* of General Assembly resolution 45/179 of 21 December 1990, entitled "Enhancement of the United Nations structure for drug abuse control", in which the Secretary-General was requested to create a single drug control programme, to be called the United Nations International Drug Control Programme, and to appoint a senior official who would execute the integration process and head the new Programme,

*Recalling* that the General Assembly, in its resolution 45/179, invited the Secretary-General to ensure that adequate financial and other resources from within the regular budget were allocated to the Programme to enable it to discharge its functions effectively,

*Bearing in mind* Commission on Narcotic Drugs resolutions 1 (XXXIV), 2 (XXXIV) and 3 (XXXIV) of 9 May 1991,<sup>87</sup> concerning, respectively, the strengthening of the role of the Programme as the main focus for concerted international action for drug abuse control, the development of proposals to address priority themes, and the provision of support to the Programme,

1. *Welcomes* the prompt appointment of a senior official, at the level of Under-Secretary-General, in the position of Executive Director of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme with exclusive responsibility for coordinating and providing effective leadership for all the United Nations drug control activities, in order to ensure coherence of actions within the Programme as well as coordination, complementarity and non-duplication of such activities across the United Nations system;

2. *Commends* the Executive Director for his ongoing efforts to fully integrate the structures and functions of the Division of Narcotic Drugs of the Secretariat, the secretariat of the International Narcotics Control Board and the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control into the new Programme;

3. *Strongly urges* all Governments to provide the fullest possible financial and political support to the Programme in order to enable it to fulfil all of its mandates and functions deriving from the Global Pro-