

Resolution 61/6

Promoting the implementation of the United Nations Guiding Principles on Alternative Development and related commitments on alternative development and regional, interregional and international cooperation on development-oriented, balanced drug control policy addressing socioeconomic issues

The Commission on Narcotic Drugs,

Reaffirming that drug policies and programmes, including in the field of development, should be undertaken in accordance with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, international law and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights³⁶ and, in particular, with full respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of States, the principle of non-intervention in the internal affairs of States, all human rights, fundamental freedoms, the inherent dignity of all individuals and the principles of equal rights and mutual respect among States, as well as the principle of common and shared responsibility and the Sustainable Development Goals,³⁷ and taking into account the specific situations of countries and regions,

Reaffirming also that the world drug problem must be addressed in accordance with the provisions of the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961 as amended by the 1972 Protocol,³⁸ the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971³⁹ and the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988,⁴⁰ which, together with other relevant international instruments, constitute the cornerstone of the international drug control system,

Reaffirming further the Political Declaration adopted by the General Assembly at its twentieth special session⁴¹ and the Action Plan on International Cooperation on the Eradication of Illicit Drug Crops and on Alternative Development,⁴²

Reaffirming the commitments contained in the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem,⁴³ adopted at the high-level segment of the fifty-second session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and by the General Assembly in its resolution 64/182 of 18 December 2009, and the Joint Ministerial Statement of the 2014 high-level review by the Commission of the implementation by Member States of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action, adopted at the high-level segment of the fifty-seventh session of the Commission,⁴⁴

Recalling General Assembly resolution 68/196 of 18 December 2013, in which the Assembly adopted the United Nations Guiding Principles on Alternative Development and encouraged Member States, international organizations, international financial institutions, entities and other relevant stakeholders to take them into account when designing and implementing alternative development programmes, including, as appropriate, preventive alternative development programmes,

Reaffirming the outcome document of the thirtieth special session of the General Assembly, entitled “Our joint commitment to effectively addressing and countering the world drug problem”,⁴⁵ in its entirety, and reiterating that the operational recommendations contained therein are integrated, indivisible, multidisciplinary and

³⁶ General Assembly resolution 217 A (III).

³⁷ See General Assembly resolution 70/1.

³⁸ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 976, No. 14152.

³⁹ *Ibid.*, vol. 1019, No. 14956.

⁴⁰ *Ibid.*, vol. 1582, No. 27627.

⁴¹ General Assembly resolution S-20/2, annex.

⁴² General Assembly resolution S-20/4 E.

⁴³ See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2009, Supplement No. 8 (E/2009/28)*, chap. I, sect. C.

⁴⁴ *Ibid.*, 2014, *Supplement No. 8 (E/2014/28)*, chap. I, sect. C.

⁴⁵ General Assembly resolution S-30/1, annex.

mutually reinforcing and are aimed at a comprehensive, integrated and balanced approach to addressing and countering the world drug problem,

Emphasizing that alternative development should also be considered for implementation in the context of a sustainable crop control strategy, which may, inter alia, include eradication and law enforcement, according to the national context, in the light of the 2009 Political Declaration and Plan of Action and the outcome document of the thirtieth special session of the General Assembly, and taking into consideration the United Nations Guiding Principles on Alternative Development,

Reaffirming its commitment to addressing drug-related socioeconomic issues related to the illicit cultivation of narcotic plants and the illicit manufacture and production of and trafficking in drugs through the implementation of long-term, comprehensive and sustainable development-oriented and balanced drug control policies and programmes, including alternative development and, as appropriate, preventive alternative development programmes, which are part of sustainable crop control strategies,

Recalling its resolutions 52/6 of 20 March 2009, 53/6 of 12 March 2010, 54/4 of 25 March 2011, 55/4 of 16 March 2012, 57/1 of 21 March 2014 and 58/4 of 17 March 2015, and General Assembly resolutions [71/210](#) of 19 December 2016 and [72/197](#) of 19 December 2017,

Recalling also the commitment to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,⁴⁶ and stressing that the implementation of the United Nations Guiding Principles on Alternative Development should be aligned with the efforts to achieve those objectives within the Sustainable Development Goals that are related to the work of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, and that the efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and to effectively address the world drug problem are complementary and mutually reinforcing,

Expressing its concern at the global increase in the illicit cultivation of narcotic plants,

Recognizing the efforts of Member States to promote the implementation of the United Nations Guiding Principles on Alternative Development, including through international seminars and workshops, such as the international conferences on alternative development,

Reaffirming that alternative development is an important, lawful, viable and sustainable alternative to the illicit cultivation of drug crops and an effective measure to counter the world drug problem and other drug-related crime challenges, as well as a choice in favour of societies free of drug abuse, that it is one of the key components of policies and programmes for reducing illicit drug production and that it is an integral part of efforts made by Governments to achieve sustainable development within their societies,

1. *Calls upon* Member States to apply the United Nations Guiding Principles on Alternative Development⁴⁷ and to take into due consideration the section entitled “Operational recommendations on alternative development; regional, interregional and international cooperation on development-oriented balanced drug policy; addressing socioeconomic issues” of the outcome document of the thirtieth special session of the General Assembly, entitled “Our joint commitment to effectively addressing and countering the world drug problem”,⁴⁵ when designing, implementing and evaluating alternative development programmes and projects, including, as appropriate, preventive alternative development programmes and projects;

2. *Encourages* Member States to continue sharing lessons learned, best practices and expertise, and enhancing dialogues on development-oriented drug

⁴⁶ General Assembly resolution [70/1](#).

⁴⁷ General Assembly resolution [68/196](#), annex.

control policies and programmes and on the implementation of the United Nations Guiding Principles on Alternative Development;

3. *Urges* relevant international financial institutions, United Nations entities, non-governmental organizations and the private sector, as appropriate, to consider increasing their support, including through long-term and flexible funding, for the implementation of comprehensive and balanced development-oriented drug control programmes and viable economic alternatives, in particular alternative development, including, as appropriate, preventive alternative development programmes, based on identified needs and national priorities, for areas and populations affected by or vulnerable to the illicit cultivation of drug crops, with a view to its prevention, reduction and elimination, and encourages States, to the extent possible, to stay strongly committed to financing such programmes;

4. *Encourages* the development of viable economic alternatives, particularly for communities affected by or at risk of illicit cultivation of drug crops and other illicit drug-related activities in urban and rural areas, including through comprehensive alternative development programmes, and to this end encourages the consideration of development-oriented interventions, while ensuring that both men and women benefit equally from them, including through job opportunities, improved infrastructure and basic public services and, as appropriate, access and legal titles to land for farmers and local communities, which will also contribute to preventing, reducing or eliminating illicit cultivation and other drug-related activities;

5. *Also encourages* Member States to intensify efforts in the context of long-term and sustainable development programmes to address the most pressing drug-related socioeconomic issues, including unemployment and social marginalization, conducive to subsequent exploitation by criminal organizations involved in drug-related crime;

6. *Requests*, to that end, that the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime convene an expert group meeting, to be held in Vienna in 2018, to further the dialogue on alternative development, including preventive alternative development, as appropriate, and the implementation of the United Nations Guiding Principles on Alternative Development and related commitments on alternative development and regional, interregional and international cooperation on development-oriented, balanced drug control policy addressing socioeconomic issues, as stipulated in the outcome document of the thirtieth special session of the General Assembly, with the aim of contributing to the high-level ministerial segment of the sixty-second session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, to be held in 2019;

7. *Encourages* Member States, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, international financial institutions, donors, regional and international organizations, civil society and other relevant stakeholders involved in alternative development to actively participate in and share input at the meeting, at the expert level;

8. *Invites* Member States and other donors to provide extrabudgetary resources for the purposes described above, in accordance with the rules and procedures of the United Nations;

9. *Requests* the Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to report to the Commission at its sixty-second session on the implementation of the present resolution.