
Economic and Social Council

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1999/30. Review of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme: strengthening the United Nations machinery for international drug control within the scope of the existing international drug control treaties and in accordance with the basic principles of the Charter of the United Nations

The Economic and Social Council,

Noting that the General Assembly, at its twentieth special session, conferred additional mandates on the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, and strengthened both its role as the global forum for international cooperation in combating the world drug problem and its functions as the governing body of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme and as a treaty organ,

Stressing the need to enhance the functioning of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs to enable it to discharge its new mandates emanating from the twentieth special session of the General Assembly, at which Member States were called upon to report biennially to the Commission on their efforts to meet the goals and targets for the years 2003 and 2008 set out in the Political Declaration adopted by the Assembly at the special session,^{1/} on 10 June 1998,

Noting that the twentieth special session of the General Assembly has been designated as a major global conference within the framework of the United Nations system and that follow-up will be reviewed in that context,

Recognizing the crucial role of the International Narcotics Control Board in monitoring the implementation of the international drug control treaties,

Noting with concern that the low level of contributions to the Fund of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme has adverse consequences for the ability of the Programme to fulfil its mandates and to respond to emerging priority needs,

Reiterating the need to strengthen inter-agency cooperation and coordination within the United Nations system to counter the world drug problem,

Recalling its resolution 1997/37, in which the Secretary-General was requested to convene a high-level expert group to review the United Nations International Drug Control Programme and to strengthen the United Nations machinery for international drug control,

Commending the work carried out by the high-level expert group and expressing appreciation for its report and comprehensive recommendations.^{2/}

I

ENHANCING THE FUNCTIONING OF THE COMMISSION ON NARCOTIC DRUGS

1. *Decides* that the normative functions of the Commission should be made distinct from its role as governing body of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme, and that, to that end, the

agenda of the Commission should be structured in two distinct segments, as follows:

(a) A normative segment, during which the Commission would discharge its treaty-based and normative functions, including mandates received from the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council, and deal with emerging drug control issues;

(b) An operational segment, during which the Commission would exercise its role as the governing body of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme and consider issues related to the provision of policy guidance to the Programme;

2. *Recommends* that the Commission convene, whenever appropriate, ministerial-level segments of its sessions to focus on specific themes related to the follow-up to the twentieth special session of the General Assembly, and requests the Commission at its forty-third session to consider the timing of and theme for any such ministerial-level segment;

3. *Decides* that, with effect from the year 2000, the Commission should, at the end of its session, elect its bureau for the subsequent session and encourage it to play an active role in the preparations of the regular as well as the informal inter-sessional meetings of the Commission, so as to enable the Commission to provide continuous and effective policy guidance to the Programme. The Chairman should, whenever appropriate, invite the chairmen of the five regional groups to participate in the meetings of the bureau.

II

ENHANCING THE FUNCTIONING OF THE INTERNATIONAL NARCOTICS CONTROL BOARD

1. *Invites* the Secretary-General to provide the International Narcotics Control Board with resources commensurate with its mandates emanating from the international drug control treaties and from the twentieth special session of the General Assembly;

2. *Encourages* the Executive Director of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme and the President of the International Narcotics Control Board to continue their mutual efforts to develop closer cooperation in order to take full advantage of the potential synergies between the Board and the Programme;

3. *Invites* Member States and the World Health Organization, when selecting candidates for the International Narcotics Control Board, to ensure the necessary multidisciplinary expertise and the required independence and impartiality for the effective discharge of the responsibilities of the Board.

III

STRENGTHENING THE FINANCING OF THE UNITED NATIONS INTERNATIONAL DRUG CONTROL PROGRAMME

1. *Recommends* that a sufficient share of the regular budget of the United Nations be allocated to the United Nations International Drug Control Programme to enable it to fulfil its mandates;

2. *Urges* all Governments to provide the fullest possible financial support to the Programme by widening its donor base and increasing voluntary contributions, in particular general-purpose contributions;

3. *Requests* the Executive Director, in pursuance of Commission resolution 10 (XXXIX), to continue his efforts to broaden the donor base and increase voluntary contributions to the Fund of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme;

4. *Invites* Member States, as beneficiaries of technical assistance provided by the Programme, to contribute through an agreed cost-sharing mechanism to the financing of that assistance;

5. *Encourages* the Executive Director to explore ways and means to obtain additional funds from the private sector and non-governmental organizations;

6. *Requests* the Executive Director to analyse the implications of instituting a results-based budget for

the Fund of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme, including the identification of possible performance indicators, taking into account the practices of other funds and programmes of the United Nations system, and to report to the Commission at its reconvened forty-second session;

7. *Recommends* that the budget of the Fund of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme continue to be harmonized with the budgets of other funds and programmes of the United Nations system;

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General and the Executive Director, with the assistance of the Chairman of the High-level Expert Group to review the United Nations International Drug Control Programme and to strengthen the United Nations Machinery for Drug Control, to continue to explore innovative means of increasing the resources for drug control programmes, including the creation of a global drug facility, for example, along the lines of the Global Environment Facility, and to report thereon to the Commission at its forty-third session.

IV

FRAMEWORK FOR INTER-AGENCY COOPERATION AND COORDINATION

1. *Recommends* that the Administrative Committee on Coordination ensure that the United Nations System-Wide Action Plan on Drug Abuse Control^{3/} develops into a strategic planning tool, and that drug issues are considered in the formulation of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework;

2. *Recommends* also that Member States report on the implementation of measures arising from the twentieth special session of the General Assembly in line with the Political Declaration adopted at the special session and consider the world drug problem as a cross-cutting issue in the context of the integrated and coordinated follow-up to major United Nations conferences and summit meetings;

3. *Recommends* further also that Member States ensure that drug issues-especially demand reduction-are regularly included in the agenda of the governing bodies of the Joint and Co-sponsored United Nations Programme on Human Immunodeficiency Virus/Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome, the United Nations Children's Fund, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Population Fund, the International Labour Organization, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the World Health Organization and other interested agencies;

4. *Invites* the United Nations International Drug Control Programme to increase its cooperation with United Nations agencies working in the field of development in implementing alternative development programmes;

5. *Calls for* a significant increase in cooperation between the United Nations International Drug Control Programme and the United Nations Development Programme, in view of the special role of the latter body as a coordinator for development activities within the United Nations system, and to that effect recommends that:

(a) Drug-related indicators be jointly developed by the United Nations International Drug Control Programme and the United Nations Development Programme for inclusion in the human development report of the United Nations Development Programme;

(b) United Nations resident coordinators, in close consultation with Governments, give higher priority to the reduction of the demand for and supply of illicit drugs;

6. *Requests* the Executive Director to continue his efforts, in cooperation with Member States, to forge closer cooperation with regional and international financial institutions engaged in the field of development, in order to secure increased funding for drug-related activities as proposed by the High-level Expert Group to Review the United Nations International Drug Control Programme and to Strengthen the United Nations Machinery for Drug Control, and to encourage those institutions, in particular the World Bank, to accord higher priority to funding such activities.

V

OPERATIONS OF THE UNITED NATIONS INTERNATIONAL DRUG CONTROL PROGRAMME

1. *Encourages* the Executive Director to further strengthen the information strategy of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme along the lines suggested by the High-level Expert Group to review the United Nations International Drug Control Programme and to strengthen the United Nations Machinery for Drug Control;

2. *Requests* the United Nations International Drug Control Programme to strengthen its evaluation capacity, as proposed by the High-level Expert Group, so as to focus more on the medium-and long-term impact of projects rather than on the completion of the project process.

28 July 1998

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

2/ E/CN.7/1999/5.

3/ E/1990/39 and Corr.1 and 2 and Add.1.
