

Noting also the efforts made to discuss in international forums on drug law enforcement held in Asia and the Pacific the placing of ketamine on the list of substances controlled under the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971,³⁹ in order to better control and limit abuse of and trafficking in that substance,

1. *Encourages* Member States to pay particular attention to the emerging problem of widespread abuse and diversion of ketamine, in particular in East and South-East Asia and South America, which also affects States in other regions;

2. *Also encourages* Member States to consider adopting a system of precautionary measures for use by their government agencies to facilitate the timely detection of the diversion of ketamine;

3. *Requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to share the concerns of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs with the Expert Committee on Drug Dependence of the World Health Organization, and, in that regard, looks forward to the updated review of ketamine in the report of the Expert Committee.

Resolution 50/4

Improving the quality and performance of drug analysis laboratories

The Commission on Narcotic Drugs,

Recognizing the important role of drug analysis laboratories as part of national drug control systems, and the value of laboratory results and data to criminal justice systems, law enforcement and health authorities and policymakers,

Noting that law enforcement authorities and other clients of drug analysis laboratories need results that are reliable, valid, based on standard procedures, compatible with results in other laboratories that meet the evidentiary standards of the respective judicial, administrative and legal systems and obtained in an effective and efficient manner within the required timescale and that provide value for money,

Recognizing that the quality of the analysis and results of such laboratories has significant implications for the justice system, law enforcement and prevention and health, as well as for the international harmonization and worldwide exchange and coordination of drug information and data,

Recognizing also that the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime has an essential role in facilitating the development of drug-testing facilities and scientific support services worldwide and in improving the quality and performance of drug analysis laboratories, that it has expertise in implementing laboratory-related projects and that it must make the most effective use of its limited resources to fulfil that role,

Reaffirming General Assembly resolution 49/168, section II, of 23 December 1994 and resolution 52/92, section II, of 12 December 1997, in which the Assembly requested the United Nations International Drug Control Programme, now called the

³⁹ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1019, No. 14956.

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, to continue providing assistance to Member States requesting support in establishing or strengthening national drug detection laboratories,

Acknowledging the added value of the international quality assurance support of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in providing means for the continued monitoring of the situation of laboratories throughout the world, identifying factors affecting laboratory performance and where improvements can be made, including how to best target support, thus providing an evidence base for technical assistance projects and for the monitoring of their effectiveness,

Recognizing the cost-effectiveness of having a sustainable international network of laboratories and scientific support services allowing the transfer of specialized technical and forensic expertise from States with adequate resources to those in need of assistance, in order to promote equality and reduce gaps between Member States,

Recalling Economic and Social Council resolution 2003/32 of 22 July 2003, in which the Council urged relevant international organizations, in consultation with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, to provide financing and other support for the training of experts in various subjects related to the fight against the world drug problem, with particular emphasis on, among other things, drug-testing laboratories and laboratory quality assurance,

Concerned about the increasing gap between Member States in terms of the technical level of their laboratory and scientific services,

1. *Recommends* that the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime should continue supporting the analytical work of laboratories by providing reference samples of controlled substances, by identifying best practices and encouraging the use of guidelines, subject to extrabudgetary resources, by developing manuals on standard methods including relevant research, by offering training opportunities and by promoting and facilitating the exchange of information, material and data;

2. *Requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to support the integration of laboratories and scientific support into drug control frameworks and the use of analytical data as a primary source of information worldwide, for example, for systems giving early warning on new drug trends;

3. *Also requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to build on its corporate knowledge and, subject to extrabudgetary resources, to conduct in-depth analyses in order to identify competency requirements, training needs and other areas where assistance could be provided;

4. *Further requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, in cooperation with Member States, to devote attention to drug analysis laboratories, including forensic laboratories and other laboratories, developing project proposals, as appropriate, for capacity-building, providing services to support drug abuse treatment and toxicology, on the priorities recommended and requested in the present resolution;

5. *Encourages* Member States to give higher priority to the development of sustainable laboratory and scientific services, and recommends that national

laboratories participate in the external quality assurance programme offered by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime;

6. *Invites* Member States to secure and broaden their support to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, including funding for activities related to improving the performance of national laboratories, support for quality assurance and support for the establishment of sustainable scientific services worldwide;

7. *Calls upon* Member States and international, regional and subregional institutions to contribute to the work of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime set out in the present resolution by providing expertise as a resource for the development of cooperative networks among laboratories and scientists and to explore innovative ways to ensure more effective exchange of expertise and information worldwide.

Resolution 50/5

Identifying sources of precursors used in illicit drug manufacture

The Commission on Narcotic Drugs,

Recalling the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988,⁴⁰

Reaffirming the Political Declaration adopted by the General Assembly at its twentieth special session,⁴¹ in which Member States decided to establish 2008 as a target date for States to eliminate or reduce significantly, among other things, the diversion of precursors,

Appreciating the efforts by Member States to regulate precursors with a view to preventing their diversion,

Acknowledging the efficacy of international precursor control operations such as Project Cohesion and Project Prism in preventing diversions,

Recognizing that the ultimate objective of precursor control is to stop or significantly reduce the availability of precursors for illicit drug manufacture,

Appreciating the initiatives taken pursuant to the Paris Pact initiative⁴² to tackle, among other things, the illicit supply of acetic anhydride,

Recognizing that precursors have a number of legitimate uses and that there is a need not to adversely affect legitimate trade in precursor chemicals while preventing their diversion,

Recognizing also that a large proportion of the precursors produced is used for legitimate purposes, that a fraction of the total production is used for the illicit manufacture of drugs and that there is thus a need to concentrate efforts on identifying the sources of the illicit supply of precursors,

⁴⁰ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1582, No. 27627.

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

⁴² Emerging from the Paris Statement (S/2003/641, annex), issued at the end of the Conference on Drug Routes from Central Asia to Europe, held in Paris on 21 and 22 May 2003.