

Resolution 52/7

Proposal concerning quality evaluation of the performance of drug analysis laboratories

The Commission on Narcotic Drugs,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 49/168, section II, of 23 December 1994 and 52/92, section II, of 12 December 1997, in which the Assembly requested the United Nations International Drug Control Programme, now called the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, to continue providing assistance to Member States requesting support in establishing or strengthening national drug detection laboratories,

Recalling also 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, inter alia, drug-testing laboratories and laboratory quality assurance,

Recognizing, in accordance with its resolution 50/4, 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, and recognizing that the quality of the analysis and results of such laboratories has significant implications for the justice system, law enforcement and preventive health care, as well as for the international harmonization and worldwide exchange and coordination of drug information and data,

Acknowledging, in accordance with its resolution 50/4, 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 and in identifying factors affecting laboratory performance and areas where improvements can be made, including how best to target support, thus providing an evidence base for technical assistance projects and for monitoring 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,

Concerned about the growing need for laboratories, including forensic and other laboratories, to be certified with respect to good laboratory practices in drug analysis and about the lack of an international certification programme and certification authority,

Also concerned about the differences between Member States in terms of the technical level of their scientific and laboratory services, which prevent the comparison of expert results between laboratories,

1. *Recommends* that the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime continue to support the analytical work of laboratories and the training of experts;

2. *Requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to continue to evaluate, upon request, the performance of laboratories through its quality assurance programme for drug analysis laboratories and to

provide such services at a reasonable cost to Member States participating in the programme, thus ensuring, to the extent possible, the sustainability and self-sufficiency of the quality assurance programme;

3. *Invites* Member States to consider a certification process coordinated by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, and requests the Office to report to the Commission, at its fifty-third session, on progress made in that regard, taking into account, inter alia, the results of the quality assurance programme;

4. *Calls upon* Member States and subregional, regional and international entities to contribute, in all areas within their purview, to the work of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime set out in the present resolution, in particular by providing expertise for the development of cooperative networks among laboratories and scientists and by exploring innovative ways to ensure the more effective exchange of expertise and information worldwide.