

Resolution 58/8

Special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem to be held in 2016

The Commission on Narcotic Drugs,

Recalling the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem,⁵² adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 64/182 of 18 December 2009,

Recalling also General Assembly resolutions 67/193 of 20 December 2012, 68/197 of 18 December 2013 and 69/201 of 18 December 2014, entitled “International cooperation against the world drug problem”,

Recalling further General Assembly resolution 69/200 of 18 December 2014, entitled “Special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem to be held in 2016”,

Recalling its resolution 57/5 of 21 March 2014, entitled “Special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem to be held in 2016”,

Recalling also its decision 57/2 of 4 December 2014, entitled “Preparations for the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem to be held in 2016”,

1. *Welcomes* the decision made by the General Assembly in its resolution 69/200 that the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, as the central policymaking body within the United Nations system dealing with drug-related matters, should lead the preparatory process for the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem to be held in 2016 by addressing all organizational and substantive matters in an open-ended manner;

2. *Decides*, in response to the request made by the General Assembly in its resolution 69/200, to continue to take all possible measures to ensure an adequate, inclusive and effective preparatory process for the special session by using its existing meeting and reporting entitlements in the most efficient manner;

3. *Also decides* that, in preparation for the special session, it will hold formal meetings following its fifty-eighth session, including two formal meetings during its reconvened fifty-eighth session in December 2015, and up to eight meetings during its fifty-ninth session, to be held in March 2016, and that it will hold intersessional meetings with a view to preparing for those formal meetings;

4. *Recalls* the invitation by the General Assembly to the President of the Assembly to support, guide and stay involved in the preparatory process, notes with appreciation the ongoing coordination with the President of the Assembly, and looks forward to continuing close cooperation with the President of the Assembly in the preparations for the special session;

⁵² Ibid.

5. *Resolves* to inform the General Assembly regularly about the work it is undertaking in preparation for the special session, including by presenting a report on the progress made in the preparations to the Assembly during the consideration by the Assembly, at its seventieth session, of the agenda item on international cooperation to address the world drug problem;

6. *Decides* to recommend to the Economic and Social Council the approval of the following draft resolution for adoption by the General Assembly:

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 67/193 of 20 December 2012, entitled “International cooperation against the world drug problem”, in which it decided to convene, in early 2016, a special session on the world drug problem to review the progress made in the implementation of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem,⁵³ including an assessment of the achievements and challenges in countering the world drug problem, within the framework of the three international drug control conventions and other relevant United Nations instruments,

Recalling also its resolutions 68/197 of 18 December 2013 and 69/201 of 18 December 2014, entitled “International cooperation against the world drug problem”,

Recalling further its resolution 69/200 of 18 December 2014, entitled “Special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem to be held in 2016”,

1. *Welcomes* Commission on Narcotic Drugs resolution 58/8 of 17 March 2015;

2. *Decides* that the special session on the world drug problem will be convened for three days, from 19 to 21 April 2016, at United Nations Headquarters in New York, following the fifty-ninth session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, scheduled to be held in March 2016;

3. *Also decides* that the organizational arrangements for the special session will be as follows:

(a) The special session shall consist of a general debate and interactive, multi-stakeholder round tables conducted in parallel to the plenary;

(b) The opening of the special session shall include statements by the Secretary-General, the President of the General Assembly, the Chair of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, the Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the President of the International Narcotics Control Board and the Director General of the World Health Organization;

(c) The general debate shall include statements by the regional groups, Member States, observer States and observers, relevant international organizations and representatives of non-governmental organizations;

⁵³ Ibid.

(d) Representatives of non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council are invited to participate in the special session in accordance with the rules of procedure and established practices of the General Assembly;

(e) In accordance with the rules of procedure and practices developed for other special sessions of the General Assembly, the President of the General Assembly, in consultation with the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, which will take into consideration inputs from other relevant stakeholders, including civil society, shall draw up a list of representatives of relevant non-governmental organizations, representatives of civil society and the scientific community, academia, youth groups and other relevant stakeholders that may participate in the special session, with due regard to geographical balance;

(f) The Commission on Narcotic Drugs, as the entity leading the preparations for the special session, shall address in an open-ended manner, supported and guided by the President of the General Assembly, the organizational arrangements, including chairing arrangements, speakers and participation, for the following round tables, while considering the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem,⁵⁴ in line with General Assembly resolutions 67/193 and 69/201:

Round table 1: Demand reduction and related measures, including prevention and treatment, as well as health-related issues; and ensuring the availability of controlled substances for medical and scientific purposes, while preventing their diversion (“drugs and health”):

- (i) Demand reduction and related measures, including prevention and treatment, as well as health-related issues, including HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment and care;
- (ii) Ensuring the availability of controlled substances for medical and scientific purposes, while preventing their diversion;

Round table 2: Supply reduction and related measures; responses to drug-related crime; and countering money-laundering and promoting judicial cooperation (“drugs and crime”):

- (i) Domestic, regional and cross-regional responses to drug-related crime; and countering money-laundering, including, where appropriate, in connection with the financing of terrorism, and promoting judicial cooperation in criminal matters;
- (ii) Addressing emerging issues, including new psychoactive substances, precursors and the misuse of the Internet;

Round table 3: Cross-cutting issues: drugs and human rights, youth, women, children and communities:

- (i) Addressing drug-related issues in full conformity with the purposes and the principles of the Charter of the United Nations,

⁵⁴ Ibid.

international law and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights⁵⁵ and other relevant international law, including the three drug control conventions;

(ii) Drugs and youth, women, children and communities;

Round table 4: Cross-cutting issues: new challenges, threats and realities in preventing and addressing the world drug problem in compliance with relevant international law, including the three drug control conventions; strengthening the principle of common and shared responsibility and international cooperation:

(i) New challenges, threats and realities in preventing and addressing the world drug problem in compliance with relevant international law, including the three drug control conventions;

(ii) Strengthening the principle of common and shared responsibility and enhancing international cooperation, including technical assistance, leading up to 2019;

Round table 5: Alternative development; regional, interregional and international cooperation on development-oriented balanced drug control policy; addressing socioeconomic issues:

(i) Drugs, addressing socioeconomic issues and fostering alternative development, including preventive alternative development;

(ii) Enhancing regional, interregional and international cooperation on development-oriented, balanced drug control policy;

(g) A summary of the salient points raised during the round tables will be prepared by the Chairs of those round tables, to be presented at the plenary;

4. *Requests* the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, as the entity leading the preparations for the special session by addressing all organizational and substantive matters in an open-ended manner, to report to the General Assembly at its special session on the preparations that have been undertaken for the session, through the Chair of the Board tasked by the Commission with the preparations for the special session, which was established by the Commission in its decision 57/2 of 4 December 2014;

5. *Also requests* the Commission on Narcotic Drugs to produce a short, substantive, concise and action-oriented document comprising a set of operational recommendations, based upon a review of the implementation of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action, including an assessment of the achievements as well as ways to address long-standing and emerging challenges in countering the world drug problem, within the framework of the three international drug control conventions and other relevant United Nations instruments, and decides that the document, to be recommended for adoption at the plenary of the special session, should, inter alia, address measures to reach an effective balance between supply and demand reduction and address the key causes and consequences of the world

⁵⁵ General Assembly resolution 217 A (III).

drug problem, including those in the health, social, human rights, economic, justice and security fields, in line with the principle of common and shared responsibility;

6. *Reiterates* the importance of an inclusive preparatory process, including extensive substantive consultations, and encourages organs, entities and specialized agencies of the United Nations system, relevant international and regional organizations, civil society, academia, the scientific community and other relevant stakeholders to continue to fully contribute to the process by actively participating in the preparations by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, in accordance with the relevant rules of procedure and established practice;

7. *Encourages* all Member States, observer States and observers to consider being represented at the special session at the highest possible level;

8. *Also encourages* all Member States, observer States and observers to consider the possible participation of youth representatives at the special session;

9. *Reaffirms* its decision in resolution 67/193 to conduct the special session and its preparatory process from within existing regular budget resources;

10. *Invites* Member States and other donors to provide extrabudgetary resources for the purposes set out in the present resolution, in accordance with the rules and procedures of the United Nations.