

requests the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to prepare information to guide member States of the Commission in their deliberations.

D. Matters brought to the attention of the Economic and Social Council

4. The following resolutions and decisions adopted by the Commission are brought to the attention of the Economic and Social Council:

Resolution 16/1

International cooperation in preventing and combating illicit international trafficking in forest products, including timber, wildlife and other forest biological resources

The Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice,

Recalling Economic and Social Council resolutions 2001/12 of 24 July 2001 and 2003/27 of 22 July 2003, concerning illicit trafficking in protected species of wild flora and fauna, and resolutions 2000/35 of 18 October 2000 and 2006/49 of 28 July 2006, concerning the international arrangement on forests,

Recognizing the complementary interests of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, in combating transnational organized crime, and the United Nations Forum on Forests, in promoting sustainable forest management, with respect to forest law enforcement and governance, and wishing to enhance synergies between the two bodies in that regard,

Aware that forest products, including timber, wildlife and other forest biological resources, harvested in contravention of national laws are the object of illicit international trafficking, and concerned that such activities have an adverse environmental, social and economic impact in many countries,

Also aware that illicit international trafficking in forest products, including timber, wildlife and other forest biological resources, is often perpetrated by individuals and groups, including organized criminal groups that may operate transnationally and that may also be engaged in other illicit activities, and convinced that international cooperation and mutual legal assistance can help prevent, combat and eradicate such trafficking,

Recognizing the important potential role in this regard of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime⁶⁸ and the United Nations Convention against Corruption,⁶⁹

1. *Strongly encourages* Member States to take appropriate measures, consistent with their domestic legislation and legal frameworks, to strengthen law enforcement and related efforts to combat individuals and groups, including organized criminal groups, operating within their borders, with a view to preventing, combating and eradicating illicit international trafficking in forest

⁶⁸ General Assembly resolution 55/25, annex I.

⁶⁹ General Assembly resolution 58/4, annex.

products, including timber, wildlife and other forest biological resources, harvested in contravention of national laws;

2. *Strongly encourages* Member States to cooperate at the bilateral, regional and international levels to prevent, combat and eradicate such illicit international trafficking in forest products, including timber, wildlife and other forest biological resources, where appropriate, through the use of international legal instruments such as the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime⁷⁰ and the United Nations Convention against Corruption;⁷¹

3. *Encourages* Member States to provide information to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime regarding their use of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the United Nations Convention against Corruption for those purposes and to share that information with interested Member States with a view to identifying the areas and scope of such cooperation;

4. *Urges* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, subject to extrabudgetary resources, to invite interested Member States to an open-ended meeting of an expert group:

(a) To exchange information, including law enforcement information, on individuals and groups, including organized criminal groups, and their activities involving illicit international trafficking in forest products, including timber, wildlife and other forest biological resources, as well as on domestic regulations and forest law enforcement;

(b) To identify ways of improving national capabilities to prevent and combat such trafficking;

(c) To identify the needs of Member States for international cooperation and/or technical assistance in order to enhance national capabilities to prevent and combat such trafficking;

5. *Requests* the secretariats of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and the United Nations Forum on Forests to exchange relevant information on matters related to forest law enforcement and governance and explore ways, as appropriate, to increase synergies;

6. *Requests* the Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to report on the implementation of the present resolution to the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice at its seventeenth session.

⁷⁰ General Assembly resolution 55/25, annex I.

⁷¹ General Assembly resolution 58/4, annex.