



# Economic and Social Council

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## Commission on Narcotic Drugs

### Sixty-fifth session

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Agenda item 6

### **Follow-up to the implementation at the national, regional and international levels of all commitments, as reflected in the Ministerial Declaration of 2019, to address and counter the world drug problem**

**Colombia, France,\* Guatemala, Peru, Singapore and Thailand: revised draft resolution**

### **Promoting alternative development as a development-oriented drug control strategy, taking into account measures to protect the environment**

*The Commission on Narcotic Drugs,*

*Recognizing* that the world drug problem continues to present challenges to the health, safety and well-being of all humanity, and resolving to tackle such challenges in order to help ensure that all people can live in health, dignity and peace, with security and prosperity,

*Underscoring* that the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961 as amended by the 1972 Protocol,<sup>1</sup> the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971<sup>2</sup> and the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988,<sup>3</sup> together with other relevant international instruments, constitute the cornerstone of the international drug control system,

*Underscoring also* that in accordance with the 1988 Convention, each party shall take appropriate measures to prevent illicit cultivation of and to eradicate plants containing narcotic or psychotropic substances, such as opium poppy, coca bush and cannabis plants, cultivated illicitly in its territory, and that the measures adopted shall respect fundamental human rights and shall take due account of traditional licit uses, where there is historic evidence of such use, as well as the protection of the environment,

*Reaffirming* that drug policies and programmes, including in the field of development, should be undertaken in accordance with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, international law and the Universal Declaration of

\* On behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the European Union.

<sup>1</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 976, No. 14152.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*, vol. 1019, No. 14956.

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*, vol. 1582, No. 27627.



Human Rights<sup>4</sup> and, in particular, with full respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of States, the principle of non-intervention in the internal affairs of States, all human rights, fundamental freedoms, the inherent dignity of all individuals and the principles of equal rights and mutual respect among States, as well as the principle of common and shared responsibility, recalling the Sustainable Development Goals, and taking into account the specific situations of countries and regions,

*Recalling* the commitments related to alternative development contained in the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem<sup>5</sup> of 2009 and the Joint Ministerial Statement of the 2014 high-level review by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs of the implementation by Member States of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action,<sup>6</sup> as well as the outcome document of the thirtieth special session of the General Assembly, held in 2016, entitled “Our joint commitment to effectively addressing and countering the world drug problem”,<sup>7</sup> in which Member States reiterated their commitment to addressing drug-related socioeconomic issues related to the illicit cultivation of narcotic plants and the illicit manufacture and production of and trafficking in drugs through the implementation of long-term, comprehensive and sustainable development-oriented and balanced drug control policies and programmes, including alternative development and, as appropriate, preventive alternative development programmes, which are part of sustainable crop control strategies,

*Recalling also* the Ministerial Declaration on Strengthening Our Actions at the National, Regional and International Levels to Accelerate the Implementation of Our Joint Commitments to Address and Counter the World Drug Problem,<sup>8</sup> adopted at the ministerial segment of the sixty-second session of the Commission, in 2019, in which Member States reiterated their resolve, in the framework of existing policy documents, inter alia, to address drug-related socioeconomic issues related to illicit crop cultivation and the production and manufacture of and trafficking in drugs, including through the implementation of long-term comprehensive and sustainable development-oriented and balanced drug control policies and programmes,

*Emphasizing* that the implementation of alternative development programmes should also be considered in the framework of sustainable crop control strategies, which may include, inter alia, eradication and law enforcement, in accordance with the national context, in the light of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem and the outcome document of the thirtieth special session of the General Assembly, and taking into consideration the United Nations Guiding Principles on Alternative Development,<sup>9</sup>

*Recalling* the United Nations Guiding Principles on Alternative Development, adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 68/196 of 18 December 2013,

*Reaffirming* that alternative development is an important, lawful, viable and sustainable alternative to the illicit cultivation of drug crops and an effective measure to counter the world drug problem and other drug-related crime challenges, as well as a choice in favour of promoting a society free of drug abuse, that it is one of the key components of policies and programmes for reducing illicit drug production and that it is an integral part of efforts made by Governments to achieve sustainable development within their societies,

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<sup>4</sup> General Assembly resolution 217 A (III).

<sup>5</sup> See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2009, Supplement No. 8 (E/2009/28)*, chap. I, sect. C.

<sup>6</sup> See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2014, Supplement No. 8 (E/2014/28)*, chap. I, sect. C.

<sup>7</sup> General Assembly resolution S-30/1, annex.

<sup>8</sup> See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2019, Supplement No. 8 (E/2019/28)*, chap. I, sect. B.

<sup>9</sup> General Assembly resolution 68/196, annex.

*Recalling* the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,<sup>10</sup> and stressing that the implementation of the United Nations Guiding Principles on Alternative Development should be aligned with the efforts to achieve those relevant objectives within the Sustainable Development Goals that are related to the issue of alternative development, which falls within the mandate of the Commission, and that the efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and to effectively address the world drug problem are complementary and mutually reinforcing,

*Recalling also* that alternative development programmes should include measures to protect the environment at the local level, according to national and international law and policies, through the provision of incentives for conservation, proper education and awareness programmes, so that the local communities can improve and preserve their livelihoods and mitigate negative environmental impacts,

*Recalling further* that the impact of alternative development programmes should be assessed by taking into account their contribution to the control of illicit crop cultivation, including the eradication of such crops, and through estimates based on human development indices, socioeconomic and environmental indicators and impartial and accurate evaluations,

*Recalling* the work of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the work conducted under the Convention on Biological Diversity,<sup>11</sup> and the work conducted under the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa,

*Noting that* the forthcoming edition of the *World Drug Report* of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime will contain a special booklet on drugs and the environment,

*Recalling* its resolution 63/4, on promoting the involvement of youth in drug prevention efforts, in which the Commission reaffirmed its determination to give priority attention to the promotion of youth and their interests, and calling for increased participation of youth and youth-based organizations in the formulation of, as appropriate, local, national, regional and international development strategies and policies, which is particularly relevant to youth engagement in the prevention of non-medical use of drugs,

*Reiterating* its commitment to respecting, protecting and promoting all human rights, fundamental freedoms and the inherent dignity of all individuals and the rule of law in the development and implementation of drug policies,

*Recognizing* the ongoing challenges posed by the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic at the international, regional and national levels, which may have increased unemployment, weakened social support systems, deepened inequality and affected the livelihoods of people vulnerable to the illicit cultivation of drug crops, as well as other illicit drug-related activities that may lead to increases in such illicit cultivation and in drug-related crimes, and may have impeded the progress of alternative development efforts, and stressing the importance of international cooperation to continue to comprehensively address and counter these challenges on the basis of common and shared responsibility,

*Welcoming* the holding of the virtual expert group meeting on alternative development, on the theme “Promoting sustainability in alternative development”, hosted by Germany, Peru, Thailand and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime on 26 and 27 January 2022, involving the participation of Member States, international organizations, representatives of civil society and academia,

*Recognizing* that alternative development programmes can contribute to the efforts of Member States to address human vulnerabilities, including poverty,

<sup>10</sup> General Assembly resolution 70/1.

<sup>11</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1760, No. 30619.

unemployment, a lack of opportunities, discrimination and social marginalization, as well as mutually reinforce endeavours to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, in accordance with the 2030 Agenda,

1. *Encourages* Member States to increase efforts in promoting alternative development programmes to support populations affected by or vulnerable to the illicit cultivation of drug crops, including through a market-driven approach, which may contribute to efforts to build back better from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, utilizing best practices and lessons learned from the United Nations Guiding Principles on Alternative Development, and reiterates in that regard that efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and to effectively address the world drug problem are complementary and mutually reinforcing;

2. *Recognizes* the need for increasing national, regional and international efforts to promote viable economic alternatives, in particular for communities affected by or at risk of the illicit cultivation of narcotic plants and the illicit manufacture and production of and trafficking in drugs, as well as other illicit drug-related activities in urban and rural areas, including through comprehensive alternative development programmes, and to this end encourages Member States to consider development-oriented interventions, while ensuring that all people benefit equally from them;

3. *Acknowledges* the importance of data collection, research and the exchange of information and expertise on efforts, achievements, challenges and best practices for identifying causes and factors driving illicit drug crop cultivation and addressing drug-related socioeconomic issues related to the illicit cultivation of narcotic plants and the illicit manufacture and production of and trafficking in drugs, including the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, and invites relevant stakeholders to make contributions in this regard;

4. *Encourages* Member States to develop policies and programmes that take into account an evidence- and science-based assessment of the potential impact of alternative development on the illicit cultivation of crops used for the illicit production and manufacture of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, and on rural and socioeconomic development, including the gender dimension related thereto, and the environment;

5. *Also encourages* Member States to examine and address, within the efforts of alternative development, the harmful impact of the illicit cultivation of crops used for the production of narcotic drugs on the environment, which may lead to deforestation and the pollution of soil and water, and to seize the opportunities offered by alternative development with regard to the conservation and sustainable use of the environment and the protection of biodiversity;

6. *Encourages* Member States to take into account and strengthen climate change mitigation and adaptation, biodiversity conservation and other policies and measures to protect the environment when implementing alternative development programmes and, as appropriate, preventive alternative development programmes in the context of long-term, comprehensive and sustainable development-oriented and balanced drug control policies;

7. *Also encourages* Member States to design and implement alternative development programmes, as appropriate, in ways that also reduce negative impacts on the environment and contribute to conservation efforts and to take note of opportunities for communities affected by or at risk of illicit cultivation of narcotic plants, as appropriate, to access public and private investment, climate finance, as well as of carbon credit schemes and payments for ecosystem services, in accordance with domestic legislation;

8. *Further encourages* Member States to improve the assessment of the impact of alternative development programmes, including preventive alternative development programmes, as appropriate, with a view to increasing the effectiveness of such programmes, including through the use of relevant human development

indicators, criteria related to environmental sustainability and other measurements in line with the Sustainable Development Goals;

9. *Invites* Member States, in implementing alternative development programmes, to consider the importance of community-based agreements that enable communities to sustain their development;

10. *Encourages* Member States to mainstream a gender perspective into and ensure the involvement of women in all stages of the development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of alternative development programmes, and to develop and disseminate gender-sensitive and age-appropriate measures that take into account the specific needs of and circumstances faced by women and girls with regard to the illicit cultivation of drug crops and other illicit drug-related activities in urban and rural areas;

11. *Recognizes* the important role and contribution of men and boys to gender equality in alternative development programmes, and encourages Member States to promote the active participation of men and boys in the implementation of policies aimed at mainstreaming a gender perspective in alternative development programmes;

12. *Encourages* Member States to support the empowerment and participation of local communities, including youth, in the design and implementation of alternative development programmes, including, as appropriate, preventive alternative development programmes, to contribute to the sustainability of communities;

13. *Invites* relevant international financial institutions, United Nations entities, non-governmental organizations and the private sector, as appropriate, to consider increasing their support, including through long-term and flexible funding, for the implementation of comprehensive and balanced development-oriented drug control programmes and viable economic alternatives, in particular alternative development, including, as appropriate, preventive alternative development programmes, based on identified needs and national priorities, for areas and populations affected by or vulnerable to the illicit cultivation of drug crops, with a view to its prevention, reduction and elimination, and encourages States, to the extent possible, to stay strongly committed to financing such programmes;

14. *Takes note* of the conference room paper submitted jointly by Germany, Peru and Thailand and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime entitled “Promoting sustainability in alternative development”, bearing in mind its non-binding nature and that it does not necessarily reflect the position of all participants;

15. *Encourages* Member States to continue sharing lessons learned, best practices and expertise, including through the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, and enhancing dialogues on development-oriented drug control policies and programmes, including on the implementation of the United Nations Guiding Principles on Alternative Development;

16. *Also encourages* Member States to engage in and promote partnerships with each other, as well as with all relevant stakeholders, including regional and international organizations, the private sector, civil society and financial institutions, in the implementation of alternative development projects and programmes;

17. *Requests* the Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to report to the Commission at its sixty-sixth session on the implementation of the present resolution;

18. *Invites* Member States and other donors to provide extrabudgetary resources for the purposes described above, in accordance with the rules and procedures of the United Nations.