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Commission on Narcotic Drugs

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Item 6 of the provisional agenda*

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

Germany, Peru and Thailand: draft resolution

Promoting alternative development as a development-oriented drug control strategy that is sustainable and inclusive

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,¹ the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971² and the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988,³ 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,

Expressing concern that illicit cultivation of crops and illicit manufacture, distribution and trafficking remain serious challenges in addressing and countering the world drug problem, and recognizes the need for strengthening sustainable crop control strategies that may include, inter alia, alternative development, eradication and law enforcement measures, for the purpose of preventing and reducing

* E/CN.7/2023/1.

¹ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 976, No. 14152.

² *Ibid.*, vol. 1019, No. 14956.

³ *Ibid.*, vol. 1582, No. 27627.

significantly and measurably the illicit cultivation of crops, and the need for intensifying joint efforts at the national, regional and international levels in a more comprehensive manner, in accordance with the principle of common and shared responsibility, including by means of appropriate preventive tools and measures, enhanced and better-coordinated financial and technical assistance and action oriented programmes, in order to tackle those challenges in timely and efficient manner,

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 Human Rights⁴ 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 Political Declaration adopted by UNGA at its twentieth Special Session in 1998 to counter the WDP, as well as 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 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, 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”, 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, 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,

Recalling also 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

⁴ General Assembly resolution 217 A (III).

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,

Reiterating its commitment to strengthen regional and international cooperation to support sustainable alternative development programmes, including, as appropriate, preventive alternative development, in close collaboration with all relevant stakeholders at the local, national and international levels, and to develop and share best practices towards implementing the United Nations Guiding Principles on Alternative Development, taking into account all the lessons learned and good practices, in particular by countries with extensive expertise in alternative development,

Recognizing that alternative development programmes can contribute to the efforts of Member States to address human vulnerabilities, including poverty, 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 for Sustainable Development,⁵

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,

Recalling the 2030 Agenda, 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 Goals and to effectively address the world drug problem are complementary and mutually reinforcing,

Recalling also the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and recognizing the importance of promoting sustainable and viable livelihoods for the indigenous peoples and local communities affected by or vulnerable to the illicit cultivation of crops used for the illicit production, manufacture and trafficking of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances,

Recognizing the importance of engagement of Indigenous Peoples and local communities in alternative development programmes, taking into consideration the United Nations Guiding Principles on Alternative Development, while also taking into account their traditions, knowledge and culture,

Recalling further its resolution 59/5 of 22 March 2016, entitled “Mainstreaming a gender perspective in drug-related policies and programmes”,

Noting the findings of booklet 5, on drugs and the environment, of the *World Drug Report 2022*⁶ aimed at providing a comprehensive overview of current state of research on direct and indirect impact of drug crop cultivation, drug manufacture and drug policy responses on the environment,

Expressing concern that aspects of the world drug problem associated with illicit drug production can cause serious harm to the environment, including deforestation, soil erosion and degradation, the loss of endemic species, contamination of the soil, groundwater and waterways, and the release of greenhouse gases, (agreed COW)

Aware of 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 and the work conducted under the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa,

⁵ General Assembly resolution 70/1.

⁶ *World Drug Report 2022*, booklet 5, *Drugs and the Environment* (United Nations publication, 2022).

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 local communities can improve and preserve their livelihoods and mitigate negative environmental impacts,

Noting the holding of the expert group meeting on alternative development, on the theme “Towards more inclusive alternative development”, that took place from 28 November to 1 December 2022 and its contributions on alternative development,

1. *Encourages* Member States to increase efforts in promoting alternative development programmes, and, as appropriate, preventive 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 crops used for the production of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances 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. *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 sustainable rural and socioeconomic development, that empower women and girls and that include measures to protect the environment;

4. *Recognizes* the fundamental role of effective international cooperation in preventing and combating drug-related crime, particularly through alternative development programmes, and to this end, underline the importance of addressing, tackling and effectively responding to international challenges and barriers, in particular measures, that hinder such cooperation, and which are not consistent with the Charter of the United Nations and obligations under international law, and in this regard urges States, consistent with their international obligations, to refrain from applying such measures;

5. *Encourages* Member States to also consider the development of viable economic alternatives, particularly for communities affected by or at risk of illicit cultivation of drug crops and other illicit drug-related activities in urban and rural areas, including through comprehensive alternative development programmes, and to this end consider development-oriented interventions, while ensuring that both men and women benefit equally from them, including through job opportunities, improved infrastructure and basic public services and, as appropriate, access and legal titles to land for farmers and local communities, which will also contribute to preventing, reducing or eliminating illicit cultivation and other drug-related activities;

6. *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;

7. *Encourages* Member States, within their efforts to achieve SDGs and within their alternative development policies and programmes, to undertake reforms to give women equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to ownership and control over land and other forms of property, financial services, inheritance and natural resources, in accordance with national laws,

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

9. *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;

10. *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;

11. *Also 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 in a properly sequenced manner and, as appropriate, preventive alternative development programmes in the context of long-term, comprehensive and sustainable development-oriented and balanced drug control policies;

12. *Further encourages* Member States to design and implement alternative development programmes and, as appropriate, preventive alternative development programmes, 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 crops used for the illicit production and manufacture of narcotic drugs, as appropriate, to access public and private investment, climate finance, as well as carbon credit schemes and payments for ecosystem services, in accordance with domestic legislation;

13. *Encourages* Member States, within the framework of their alternative development programmes, to implement measures, within their means, to prevent, control and mitigate the environmental damage caused by illicit crop cultivation and other drug-related illicit activities, to continue providing assistance to developing countries, upon request, and to make efforts to prevent, through sustainable development strategies, the illicit cultivation and the expansion of illicit crops into protected and conserved areas and the lands and territories of Indigenous Peoples and local communities, in accordance with their domestic legislation;

14. *Also encourages* Member States, as appropriate, to engage Indigenous Peoples and local communities affected by illicit drug crop cultivation in the development and implementation of policies and actions aimed at promoting sustainable alternative development, taking into account their culture, knowledge and traditions,

15. *Further encourages* Member States to take into account land rights and other related land management resources when designing, implementing, monitoring and evaluating alternative development programmes and, as appropriate, preventive alternative development programmes, including those of Indigenous Peoples and local communities, in accordance with domestic law;

16. *Encourages* Member States to ensure that measures to prevent the illicit cultivation of and to eradicate plants containing narcotic and psychotropic substances respect fundamental human rights, take due account of traditional licit uses, where there is historical evidence of such use, and of the protection of the environment, in accordance with the three international drug control conventions, and also take into account, as appropriate, and in accordance with national legislation, the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples;

17. *Also encourages* the development of strategies consistent with domestic legal frameworks, with the participation of the beneficiary communities and the utilization of local expertise, capacity-building and entrepreneurship, to develop products through alternative development programmes identified on the basis of market demand and value added production chains, as well as secure and stable markets with fair prices for producers, in accordance with international trade rules, including the required infrastructure and a conducive environment, including roads, the establishment of farmer associations and the use of special marketing regimes, for example, those based on fair trade principles and commercialization of organic products;

18. *Encourages* Member States, in accordance with their domestic legislation and consistent with applicable multilateral trade rules and treaties, to consider developing voluntary marketing tools, such as an alternative development certification, for products stemming from alternative development, including, as appropriate, preventive alternative development to support the sustainability of alternative development projects;

19. *Invites* relevant international financial institutions, United Nations entities, regional and international organizations, non-governmental organizations and the private sector, as appropriate, to increase their support for sustainable alternative development programmes including through fair and transparent 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 crops used for illicit production and manufacture of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, with a view to its prevention, reduction and elimination, and *encourages* States to stay strongly committed, to the extent possible, to financing such programmes;

20. *Requests* UNODC to increase its cooperation with relevant United Nations entities and other relevant international organizations working in the field of development, within their respective mandates, in implementing alternative development programmes, particularly with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), bearing in mind, among others, the commitment of Member States contained in UNGASS 2016 to consider elaborating and implementing comprehensive and sustainable alternative development programmes, including preventive alternative development, as appropriate, that support sustainable crop control strategies to prevent and significantly, durably and measurably reduce illicit crop cultivation and other illicit drug-related activities, ensuring the empowerment, ownership and responsibility of affected local communities, including farmers and their cooperatives;

21. *Encourages* Member States to strengthen subregional, regional and international cooperation to support comprehensive and sustainable alternative development programmes, including, as appropriate, preventive alternative development, as an essential part of successful prevention and crop control strategies to increase the positive outcome of such programmes, especially in the areas affected by and at risk of illicit cultivation of crops used for the production of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, taking into account the United Nations Guiding Principles on Alternative Development;

22. *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, communities affected by illicit drug crop cultivation, and financial institutions, for the implementation of alternative development projects and programmes;

23. *Calls upon* UNODC to commemorate adequately the tenth Anniversary of the adoption of the UN Guiding Principles on Alternative Development by organizing a special meeting during 2023;

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

25. *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.

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