
Economic and Social Council

Distr.
GENERAL

May/June 1949

CND Dec.15(IV). CND Decision

The Commission decided

- (1) To express its general approval of the preliminary work already done by the Secretariat towards the elaboration of a single convention on narcotic drugs, and of the principles to be followed in that elaboration as outlined in the documentation on the subject submitted to it;
- (2) To request the Secretariat to translate all documents prepared by it on the single convention into the five official languages of the United Nations, the extent of the Chinese translations to be the subject of agreement with the representative of China, and to distribute copies in the appropriate languages to the members of the Commission in advance of the opening of the fifth session;
- (3) To request the Secretary-General eventually to publish the general preparatory documentation on the single convention in printed form, in view of its permanent value and interest to scholars and officials;
- (4) To request the Secretariat to investigate the possibility of circulating to the members of the Commission as soon as possible the minutes of the Preparatory Committee for a conference to examine the possibility of limiting and controlling the cultivation of the opium poppy and the production of raw opium, which met in 1938 and 1939, and of the minutes of the Opium Advisory Committee of the League of Nations which are concerned with the Preparatory Committee's report;
- (5) To request the Secretariat to produce a skeleton of the single convention taking into account the opinions expressed on the subject by the members of the Commission during its present session, to be drafted in due legal form and comparatively annotated, the annotation to take the form of quotations, in respect of each article in the draft instrument, of the texts of relevant articles of existing instruments and, where necessary, of references to the documents referred to in decision 4 above;
- (6) To request the Secretariat, when drafting the skeleton of the single convention, to take into account the resolution adopted by the World Health Organization regarding the interest of the World Health Organization in appointing a technical member or members to the administrative control body, which had been transmitted to the Commission by the Economic and Social Council;
- (7) To request the Secretariat to circulate, if possible not later than January 1950, copies of the skeleton of the single convention in one of the working languages to the members of the Commission, and to send to the members as soon as may be possible thereafter translations of the skeleton (but not of the annotations) in the other official languages;
- (8) To request the Expert Committee on Habit-Forming Drugs of the World Health Organization to furnish the Commission, at its fifth session, with definitions of the terms "drug addiction", "addiction-forming drugs", "habit-forming drugs" and "fundamental structure of an addiction-forming drug", and to illustrate such definitions by references to appropriate drugs;
- (9) To request the Secretary-General to bring to the notice of the Interim Committee of the Economic and Social Council on Programme of Meetings the desire of the Commission that its fifth session should open during the third week of April 1950, and last for approximately five weeks, the first three weeks to be devoted by the Commission, sitting as a Committee of the whole, to the study of the single convention, and the remaining two weeks to the business normally undertaken by the Commission at its

annual session;

(10) That after consideration of the skeleton of the single convention by the Committee of the Whole during April-May 1950, a draft convention should be transmitted to the Economic and Social Council for communication to all Members of the United Nations and non-member States parties to the existing conventions on narcotics with a request that their observations thereon be transmitted to the Secretary-General in time to enable him to prepare the necessary documentation for the Commission's annual session in 1951;

(11) To convey to the Permanent Central Board and to the Supervisory Body its appreciation of document E/OB/W.78 (E/DSB/W.33), prepared by their joint secretariat.

(12) To record its appreciation of the glossary of technical terms prepared by the Translation Division (Bulletin No. 25), to request its extension to cover the translation of the terms contained therein into Chinese and Spanish, and to request that its compass should be restricted to official terminology only.

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