

analytical reports of the Secretary-General at five-year intervals,

Having considered the report submitted by the Secretary-General under the aforementioned resolution,⁷⁸

Sharing the views expressed in the report that:

(a) Since the issuance of the United Nations reports of 1962 and 1967 on capital punishment a majority of Member States have gradually shifted from a concern about the issue of the death penalty to one favouring the eventual abolition of this punishment,

(b) The total number of offences for which the death penalty can be imposed has been progressively declining in many parts of the world,

Noting with satisfaction that in the period 1969-1973 further progress has been made in some countries by abolishing capital punishment either totally or for ordinary crimes, or by suspending it, or by restricting the number of capital offences,

Noting with interest that a certain number of retentionist countries provided information on death sentences and the execution of the death penalty, thus co-operating fully in the study undertaken by the Secretary-General, and that the death sentences of a considerable number of convicted persons have been commuted to life imprisonment or that pardon was granted,

Noting also with interest that in some countries studies concerning capital punishment are being undertaken within the context of the drafting of new penal legislation,

1. *Reaffirms* the principle established in Council resolutions 1574 (L) of 20 May 1971 and 1745 (LIV) of 16 May 1973 that the main objective to be pursued in the field of capital punishment is that of progressively restricting the number of offences for which the death penalty might be imposed, with a view to the desirability of abolishing this punishment;

2. *Requests* the Committee on Crime Prevention and Control to study, with the co-operation of the United Nations Social Defence Research Institute and other research centres:

(a) Appropriate ways to analyse existing trends not only in the position of Member States on this matter at a given moment but also in the progress made towards the restriction of the number of capital offences, so that the attitudes of Member States in the field of capital punishment may be fully reflected;

(b) Ways and means to stimulate the carrying out of studies concerning capital punishment, especially in countries where new penal legislation is being elaborated;

3. *Invites* Member States which have not yet done so to reply to the questionnaire provided by the Secretary-General for the preparation of the aforementioned report, so that the 1980 report may provide a global picture of the use and trends of capital punishment;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 2857 (XXVI) of 20 December 1971, to proceed with the report on practices and statutory rules which may govern the right of a person sentenced to capital punishment to petition for pardon, commutation or reprieve, and to report on these questions to the Economic and Social

⁷⁸ E/5616 and Corr.1 and 2 and Add.1.

Council at the latest at its sixty-eighth session, together with the basic 1980 report on capital punishment.

1948th plenary meeting
6 May 1975

1931 (LVIII). Report of the International Narcotics Control Board

The Economic and Social Council,

Having considered the report of the International Narcotics Control Board on its work in 1974,⁷⁹

Recalling its resolution 1843 (LVI) of 15 May 1974,

1. *Expresses its appreciation* for the contribution to international drug control made by the International Narcotics Control Board during 1974;

2. *Commends* the Board on its comprehensive and informative report for 1974;

3. *Recommends* that report to the urgent and serious attention of all Member States.

1948th plenary meeting
6 May 1975

1932 (LVIII). Illicit traffic in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances

The Economic and Social Council,

Noting the variety of means used by international traffickers to try to conceal drugs travelling from the places of production or processing to the illicit consumer markets from discovery by the national law enforcement agencies,

Considering the difficulties for the services concerned of detecting persons engaged in the illicit traffic in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances,

Believing that close international co-operation is required if the development of this traffic is to be combated with the best chances of success,

Noting the agreements worked out under the auspices of the competent international bodies, such as the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) and the Customs Co-operation Council,

1. *Invites* States to take into consideration the pertinent recommendations and resolutions as adopted by the organs of the United Nations as well as by other competent international bodies;

2. *Further recommends* States to co-operate closely in a co-ordinated campaign providing for an exchange of information likely to facilitate the detection and suppression of the international illicit traffic in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances.

1948th plenary meeting
6 May 1975

1933 (LVIII). Cannabis problem

The Economic and Social Council,

Referring to the provision of the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, 1961,⁸⁰ in particular to article 2, paragraphs 1 and 5, article 4 (b) and (c) and article 35 (b) and (c),

⁷⁹ E/INCB/25 (United Nations publication, Sales No.: E.75.XI.3).

⁸⁰ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 520, No. 7515, p. 151.

Recalling that cannabis and cannabis resin, in addition to being listed in schedule I of that Convention, are also included in its schedule IV,

Reaffirming that, in view of the numerous findings of scientific research on cannabis, there can be no doubt as to the harmful nature of cannabis,

Noting with concern the recent increased availability in many parts of the world of new concentrated forms of cannabis, such as the so-called "liquid cannabis", "liquid hashish" or "oil of cannabis",

Considering that cannabis and drugs derived from cannabis have lost their original medical role and are the most frequently abused drugs, and that this fact requires joint action by all countries parties to the international conventions on narcotic drugs,

Realizing that a reduced control regarding cannabis and drugs derived from cannabis in one area might create an important source of supply of, and illicit traffic in, the same substances in other areas,

1. *Recommends* to all countries and competent international organs and organizations not to lose momentum in taking appropriate measures against cannabis abuse, the supply of cannabis and cannabis resin and, in particular, the illegal trade and traffic in cannabis and drugs derived from cannabis, in order not to endanger the success of global and regional efforts in this field;

2. *Draws the attention* of Governments to the desirability of taking all practicable measures for the treatment, rehabilitation and education of abusers of cannabis;

3. *Urges* that scientific research in relation to cannabis should be continued and accelerated;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to inform all Governments of the present resolution, inviting them to take action for its effective implementation in accordance with the pertinent provisions of the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, 1961.

*1948th plenary meeting
6 May 1975*

1934 (LVIII). Measures to reduce illicit demand for drugs

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling article 38 of the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, 1961,⁸¹ and World Health Assembly resolutions WHA23.42 of 21 May 1970, WHA24.57 of 20 May 1971, WHA25.62 of 26 May 1972 and WHA26.52 of 22 May 1973 relating to the treatment of drug addicts,

Convinced that measures to reduce the illicit supply of drugs cannot be effective in the long run unless measures are also taken concurrently to reduce the illicit demand for drugs,

Recognizing the humanitarian necessity of helping victims of drug abuse by their treatment as a first step, followed by their rehabilitation into society,

1. *Recommends* that Governments take all appropriate measures to prevent drug abuse as well as to provide treatment facilities for addicts;

⁸¹ *Ibid.*

2. *Requests* that the World Health Organization, with the aid of the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control and other appropriate sources, assist Governments financially or technically, within the limits of available resources, according to their requests, to apply treatment and rehabilitation measures;

3. *Further recommends* that Governments incorporate measures for the prevention and treatment of drug abuse into their integrated public health programmes;

4. *Recommends* that the appropriate international bodies promote world-wide exchange of information and expertise on prevention and treatment and on research in these fields;

5. *Further recommends* that, in view of the need for new methods of prevention and treatment and the need for additional knowledge concerning the processes of prevention and treatment, Governments pursue further research in these fields.

*1948th plenary meeting
6 May 1975*

1935 (LVIII). Co-ordination of activities of international organs and organizations in the struggle against the abuse of drugs

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its resolution 1777 (LIV) of 18 May 1973,

Convinced that the increasing multidisciplinary action taken by Governments and international organs and organizations calls for continuous co-ordination of all these commendable efforts in the struggle against the abuse of drugs,

Recognizing with appreciation the report of the Secretary-General on this subject⁸² and his attempts to find solutions,

1. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue his efforts for the best possible co-ordination in this field and to report again on the subject;

2. *Further requests* the Secretary-General to inform all Governments and all international organs and organizations concerned of the present resolution, with the invitation to assist him in his co-ordination efforts to the fullest extent possible, so as to achieve the maximum results and to avoid the overlapping and duplication of efforts.

*1948th plenary meeting
6 May 1975*

1936 (LVIII). Report of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs

The Economic and Social Council

Takes note of the report of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs on its twenty-sixth session.⁸³

*1948th plenary meeting
6 May 1975*

⁸² E/CN.7/570/Add.1.

⁸³ *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Fifty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 5 (E/5639).*