
Economic and Social Council

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892nd Meeting
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CND Res.4(S-VI). Measures against the use of acetic anhydride or acetylchloride in the illicit manufacture of heroin

The Commission on Narcotic Drugs,

Recalling its resolutions 2 (S-V) of 22 February 1978 and 5 (XXVIII) of 21 February 1979, and paragraph 4 of General Assembly resolution 34/177 of 17 December 1979,

Further recalling article 2, paragraph 8, of the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, 1961, and the same paragraph of that Convention as amended, which call on all States Parties thereto to apply to substances which do not fall under that Convention, but which may be used in the illicit manufacture of drugs, such measures of supervision as may be practicable,

Reaffirming its deep concern with the serious and growing problem of heroin addiction in many parts of the world and its destructive effects on individuals and societies,

Noting that acetic anhydride or acetyl-chloride is an essential requirement for the manufacture of heroin,

Considering the lack of effective control over the manufacture, marketing, distribution and utilization of these substances in some countries for the manufacture of heroin,

1. Requests the Director of the Division of Narcotic Drugs to convene as soon as possible a meeting of experts of all interested countries to examine means of preventing the availability of acetic anhydride and acetyl-chloride for use in the illicit manufacture of heroin and to report their conclusions and recommendations to the Commission on Narcotic Drugs at its next session; the questions to be examined should include:

(a) Measures to bring acetic anhydride and acetyl-chloride under adequate control;

(b) The actual needs of the countries concerned;

2. Invites Governments to make available to the Division of Narcotic Drugs, for exclusive use by the experts, information on legislative, administrative and law enforcement measures applicable to the manufacture, marketing, distribution and utilization of acetic anhydride and acetyl-chloride for the manufacture of heroin;

3. Recommends that, if necessary, the expenses incurred in holding the meeting of experts envisaged in paragraph 1 above should be borne by the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control;

4. Requests the Secretary-General to transmit the text of the present resolution to all Governments for their consideration and appropriate action.

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