CND Res.1 (XXXI). Initiation of the preparation of a draft Convention on illicit traffic in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances

The Commission on Narcotic Drugs,

Recognizing the concern of the international community with regard to the problem of illegal production of, illicit traffic in, and the abuse of, drugs,

Aware that the International Narcotics Control Board, the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control and the Division of Narcotic Drugs have made valuable contributions toward controlling and eliminating illicit drug traffic and drug abuse,

Bearing in mind that existing international instruments such as the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, 1961, that Convention as amended by the 1972 Protocol amending the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, 1961, and the 1971 Convention on Psychotropic Substances, have created, each in its special area, a legal framework for combating illicit drugs and drug abuse,

Concerned that, despite significant national efforts deployed for this purpose in various countries, the illicit traffic in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances has increased significantly,

Recognizing that the illegal production of, demand for, abuse of, and illicit traffic in, drugs are harmful to economic and social progress, constitute a grave threat to the security and development of many countries and people and should be combated by moral, legal and institutional means at the national, regional and international levels,

Convinced that States Members of the United Nations and other States, while utilizing the existing legal instruments against the illegal production of, illicit demand for, abuse of and illicit traffic in, drugs, should adopt additional measures to counter the new manifestations of the shameful and heinous crime of illicit drug trafficking,

Convinced also that the magnitude and complexity reached by the illicit drug traffic, and the consequences of that traffic, emphasize the urgent need to carry out the mandate given to the Commission on Narcotic Drugs by the General Assembly in its resolution 39/141 of 14 December 1984, i.e. to initiate the preparation of a draft Convention against illicit drug traffic as a matter of high priority,

Aware that such a Convention should accommodate the interests of all countries in order to become an effective, operative instrument in the struggle against illicit drug trafficking,

Conscious that combating the illegal production of, illicit demand for, abuse of, and illicit traffic in, drugs demands the most urgent attention and the accordance of maximum priority,
1. Requests the Secretary-General to seek from Member States of the United Nations and States Parties to the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, 1961, that Convention as amended by the 1972 Protocol amending the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, 1961, and the 1971 Convention on Psychotropic Substances, by 1 July 1985, comments and proposals on the elements they would like to have incorporated in a draft Convention to fulfill of the mandate established in General Assembly resolution 39/141 of 14 December 1984 requesting the Commission on Narcotic Drugs to initiate, as a matter of priority, the preparation of “a draft Convention against illicit traffic in narcotic drugs which considers the various aspects of the problem as a whole and in particular those not envisaged in the existing international instruments”, and, for this purpose, to circulate the following relevant documents, it being understood that Member States and other States may also refer, in their comments, to other texts and documents which they deem appropriate:

(a) Note by the Secretary-General on the initiation of a draft Convention (E/CN.7/1985/19)

(b) Report of two groups of experts on existing Conventions (E/CN.7/1983/2/Add.1 and 2)

(c) Note by the Secretariat on controlled delivery (E/CN.7/1983/13)

(d) Report on forfeiture of assets (MNAR/1984/13)

(e) General Assembly, thirty-ninth session, report of the Third Committee (A/39/710)

(f) General Assembly, thirty-ninth session, records of the 41st-44th, 47th and 53rd meetings of the Third Committee (A/C.3/39/SR.41-44, 47 and 53)

(g) Commission on Narcotic Drugs, report on the thirty-first session (E/1985/23 – E/CN.7/1985/22)


(i) Report on acetic anhydride and acetyl chloride (E/CN.7/657/Add.1)

(j) Economic and Social Council decision 1985/104 of 8 February 1985;

2. Requests the Secretary-General to compile and consolidate, within available resources, the comments received from Governments, as well as other relevant studies, and to prepare a report, to be circulated to Member States of the United Nations and other States not later than 1 November 1985, which will identify elements to be considered for inclusion in a draft Convention, in compliance with the mandate set out in General Assembly resolution 39/141; such a report would also identify other additional measures as may be deemed appropriate in compliance with resolution 39/141;

3. Requests the Economic and Social Council to include this item in the provisional agenda for the ninth special session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, in order that the Commission may consider, at that session, the report of the Secretary-General and reach decisions on those elements which could be included in a draft Convention, as well as on the modalities for preparing the text of the draft Convention for submission, if possible, to the General Assembly at its forty-first session; the Commission would also consider at its ninth special session the identification of such other measures as may need to be implemented in order to combat, more effectively, illicit drug trafficking;

965th meeting
20 February 1965