GA Res. 40/120. Preparation of a draft convention against illicit traffic in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances

The General Assembly,


Recalling also the Declaration on the Control of Drug Trafficking and Drug Abuse of 14 December 1984, 1/ in which it is stated, inter alia, that the eradication of trafficking in narcotic drugs is the collective responsibility of all States and that States shall utilize the legal instruments against the illicit production of and demand for, abuse of and illicit traffic in drugs and adopt additional measures to counter new manifestations of this crime.

Bearing in mind the Quito Declaration against Traffic in Narcotic Drugs of 11 August 1984, 2/ the New York Declaration against Drug Trafficking and the Illicit Use of Drugs of 1 October 1984 3/ and the Lima Declaration of 29 July 1985, 4/ in which profound alarm was expressed at the seriousness of the problem,

Noting the report entitled "Options for individual and collective action to intensify the fight against drug abuse" that emerged from the Bonn Summit held from 2 to 4 May 1985,

Noting also the joint statement on the international problem of drug abuse and drug trafficking issued on 9 July 1985 by the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the States members of the Association of South-East Asian Nations, which praised the ongoing efforts of the international community in preparing the draft of a new convention against illicit traffic in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances,

Taking into account the fact that, at the Conference of Foreign Ministers of the Non-Aligned Countries held at Luanda from 4 to 7 September 1985, the Ministers expressed deep concern over the growing problem of drug abuse and illicit trafficking in narcotic drugs and renewed their support for the efforts being undertaken by the international community to combat it, 5/

Taking into account also the paragraphs on drug abuse and illicit trafficking in drugs in the communiqué adopted at the meeting of Heads of Governments of Commonwealth States held at Nassau from 16 to 22 October 1985, in which the hope was expressed that action would be expedited on the related proposed new convention, 6/

Recalling with appreciation the thorough consideration given to drug abuse and trafficking issues by the Seventh United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, in particular its resolution 2, in which the Congress recommended that the preparation of a new international instrument against illicit drug traffic should be considered as an absolute priority, 7/ and the Milan Plan of Action, especially paragraph 5(g) thereof,
Deeply concerned by the constant upward trend in illicit traffic and drug abuse verified and reported by an increasing number of Member States, which poses serious dangers for individual human rights and for the economic, cultural and political structures of society,

Reaffirming its conviction that the magnitude and complexity reached in illicit drug trafficking and its grave consequences emphasize the urgent need to carry out the mandate given by the General Assembly, in its resolution 39/141, to the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, through the Economic and Social Council, 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, in particular those not envisaged in existing international instruments,

Welcoming the statement made by the Secretary-General before the Economic and Social Council on 24 May 1985, 8/ in which he proposed the convening in 1987 of a world conference at the ministerial level to deal with all aspects of drug abuse, and his note on drug abuse control of 22 October 1985, 9/

Recognizing the valuable contribution made by existing international legal instruments in their specialized areas, including the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961, as amended by the 1972 Protocol Amending the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961, 10/ and the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971, 11/

Expressing deep satisfaction with Commission on Narcotic Drugs resolution 1 (XXXI) of 20 February 1985, 12/ approved by the Economic and Social Council in its decision 1985/130 of 28 May 1985,

1. Expresses its appreciation to Member States for their response to the request made by the Secretary-General in accordance with paragraph 1 of Commission on Narcotic Drugs resolution 1 (XXXI) and urges those Member States that have not yet done so to comply with the request forthwith;

2. Commends the Secretary-General for his effective response to the request set forth in paragraphs 1 and 2 of Commission on Narcotic Drugs resolution 1 (XXXI) and for the preparation of his comprehensive report, 13/ which will contribute to the preparation of a draft convention against illicit traffic in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, as mandated by the General Assembly in its resolution 39/141;

3. Requests the Economic and Social Council, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 39/141 and resolution 1 (XXXI) of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, to instruct the Commission to decide, following consideration at its ninth special session of the report of the Secretary-General, on the elements that could be included in the convention and to request the Secretary-General to prepare a draft on the basis of those elements, and to submit a progress report, including completed elements of the draft, to the Commission for consideration at its thirty-second session;
4. Requests the Secretary-General to submit to the International Conference on Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, to be held in 1987, a report on progress made towards completing a new convention against drug trafficking;

5. Emphasizes the importance of resolution 2 adopted by the Seventh United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, approved by the General Assembly in its resolution 40/32 of 29 November 1985, in which the Congress recommended that absolute priority should be accorded to the preparation of a new international instrument against illicit drug traffic, as well as the importance of paragraph 5 (g) of the Milan Plan of Action;

6. Recommends that the new convention should take into account the interests of all countries in order that it may be an effective, operative instrument in the struggle against illicit drug trafficking;

7. Requests the Commission on Narcotic Drugs to report to the Economic and Social Council at its first regular session of 1986 on the results achieved in this respect during its ninth special session;

8. Urges once again all States that have not yet done so to adhere to and ratify the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961, the 1972 Protocol Amending the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961 and the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971;

9. Requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its forty-first session on the implementation of the present resolution.

116th plenary meeting
13 December 1985

1/ Resolution 39/142, annex.
4/ A/40/544, annex.
6/ See A/40/817, annex, para. 67.
8/ A/C.3/40/8, annex.


14/ See resolution 40/122.