
Economic and Social Council

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1994/3. Development of information systems on drugs and their abuse

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling the obligations of Member States under the international drug conventions to provide information on narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and precursors,

Aware of the practical difficulties of producing reliable and valid information,

Recognizing the need to rationalize international information systems concerned with drug issues and the importance of cooperation between international organizations to achieve that aim,

Welcoming the useful work done by the United Nations International Drug Control Programme in developing the International Drug Abuse Assessment System in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolutions 1988/13 of 25 May 1988 and 1991/45 of 21 June 1991,

Emphasizing the need for cost-effectiveness in the compilation and analysis of information on demand and supply reduction and for alleviating the burden on Member States in supplying information to the Secretariat,

Recognizing the need for information on prevalence and trends in drug abuse and the diversion of precursors as a prerequisite for an effective drug policy at the national level,

Recognizing that there are considerable costs associated with the compilation of information by both Member States and international organizations,

Noting that previous Council resolutions have led to a multiplicity of reporting requirements that are in need of rationalization,

Recalling the need to harmonize and improve the compilation and analysis of information within the United Nations system in order to make it more accessible, as recommended by the Council in its resolution 1993/56 of 29 July 1993,

1. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in his capacity as Chairman of the Administrative Committee on Coordination and with the assistance of the Executive Director of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme:

(a) To review, within existing resources, information systems within the ambit of the information strategy requested by the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 1988/9 of 25 May 1988, in order to make such drug-related information systems more clearly focused and prioritized to meet the needs of policies aimed at combating the illicit demand for and supply of drugs;

(b) To review and integrate all annual report questionnaires, using modern communication and presentation techniques to make such changes in format as may be appropriate to achieve optimum acceptability and to facilitate their use;

2. *Recommends in particular* that the principles of simplicity and efficiency should be paramount in the compilation and dissemination of information;

3. *Requests* the United Nations International Drug Control Programme and the International Narcotics Control Board to continue to develop their information systems in such a way as to enable them to complement each other most effectively;

4. *Encourages* the Programme and the Board, together with other international organizations, to further develop

their collaboration in the joint use of relevant information;

5. *Requests* the Executive Director of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme, on the basis of consultations with the Board and other relevant organizations, to report to the Commission on Narcotic Drugs at its thirty-eighth session on the implementation of the present resolution.