

Resolution 8 (XXXVIII)

Endorsement of the report of the meeting of the
Working Group on Maritime Cooperation*

The Commission on Narcotic Drugs,

Recognizing the increasing prevalence of illicit traffic by sea related to narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances,

Reaffirming that full respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity and the principles of the international law-of-the-sea regime should govern international cooperation in the fight against illicit traffic by sea of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances,

Bearing in mind that the unique nature of illicit trafficking by sea requires maximum cooperation by Governments in its suppression as called for in article 17 of the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988,^{1/}

Noting various bilateral, regional and multilateral agreements and mechanisms entered into by Governments pursuant to article 17 of the 1988 Convention,

Recalling its resolution 9 (XXXVII) of 21 April 1994, in which it requested the Executive Director of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme to establish and convene a working group on maritime cooperation, with the mandate to develop a comprehensive set of principles and specific recommendations to enhance, on a global basis, the implementation of article 17 of the 1988 Convention,

1. Welcomes and endorses the report of the meeting of the Working Group on Maritime Cooperation, held at Vienna from 19 to 23 September 1994 and from 20 to 24 February 1995, including the recommendations adopted by the Working Group, which are contained in the report;^{2/}

2. Commends the Executive Director of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme, the Chairman of the Working Group on Maritime Cooperation and the Governments participating in the Working Group for the quality of the report;

3. Urges Governments to consider carefully the report, including the recommendations, of the Working Group on Maritime Cooperation as they implement the provisions of article 17 of the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988;

4. Also urges Governments, pursuant to the recommendation contained in paragraph 12 of the report, to provide information to the Secretary-General, in accordance with article 20 of the 1988 Convention, on their implementation of article 17 of that Convention;

5. Recommends that, pursuant to the recommendations contained in paragraph 23 of the report, Governments should encourage commercial carriers and professional groups active in maritime transport to become involved in the fight against illicit drug traffic, on the basis of voluntary cooperation and through memoranda of understanding at the national and international levels, through training to increase the awareness of maritime transport personnel with regard to illicit drug trafficking;

6. Encourages, as recommended in paragraph 4 of the report, the international organizations concerned to provide to the United Nations International Drug Control Programme descriptions of their information systems and mechanisms and invites the Programme, within available resources, to disseminate that information for use by States;

7. Requests the United Nations International Drug Control Programme to convene, within available resources, a meeting of experts to develop training and technical assistance programmes in maritime drug law enforcement, pursuant to the recommendations contained in paragraph 9 of the report;

8. Encourages Governments to inform the United Nations International Drug Control Programme of their training and technical assistance requirements in the field of maritime drug law enforcement;

9. Also encourages Governments to consider providing voluntary contributions to enable the Programme to undertake the activities described in the present resolution;

10. Requests the Executive Director of the Programme to report on the status of the activities described in the present resolution to the Commission on Narcotic Drugs at its thirty-ninth session;

11. Requests the Secretary-General to transmit the present resolution to all Governments for consideration and implementation.

1/ Official Records of the United Nations Conference for the Adoption of a Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, Vienna, 25 November-20 December 1988, vol. I (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.94.XI.5).

2/ E/CN.7/1995/13.