

Economic and Social Council

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49th Plenary Meeting
24 July 1995**1995/16. Integration of demand reduction initiatives into a cohesive strategy to combat drug abuse**

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling the Comprehensive Multidisciplinary Outline of Future Activities in Drug Abuse Control adopted by the International Conference on Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking⁴⁸ and its resolution 1991/46 of 21 June 1991,

Acknowledging the Political Declaration and Global Programme of Action adopted by the General Assembly at its seventeenth special session,⁴⁹ on 23 February 1990,

Reaffirming the importance of its resolution 1993/35 of 27 July 1993, on demand reduction as part of balanced national strategic plans to combat drug abuse, and the need to ensure its implementation,

Recognizing that demand reduction encompasses prevention, treatment and rehabilitation as well as social reintegration,

Also recognizing the particularly important role of prevention within demand reduction,

Reminding Governments of article 22, paragraph 1 (b), of the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971,⁵⁰ of article 36, paragraph 1 (b), of the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961, as amended by the 1972 Protocol⁵¹ and of the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for Non-custodial Measures (the Tokyo Rules) adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 45/110 of 14 December 1990, which offer the possibility of applying to drug abusers, in appropriate cases of a minor nature, alternatives to, or measures in addition to, conviction and punishment, such as treatment,

Stressing the importance of a long-term global commitment to alleviating the serious consequences of drug abuse for the health and the social, economic, political and cultural fabric of communities,

Believing that optimum effectiveness in drug abuse control would best be achieved through a balanced approach, applying the appropriate emphasis and resources to initiatives involving both demand and supply reduction, and integrating such initiatives into a cohesive and comprehensive strategy,

Also believing that effectiveness in combating drug abuse is enhanced by cooperation and the combined efforts of all sectors of society, including those of voluntary and non-governmental organizations, in the recognition of problems and the quest for solutions,

Stressing the importance of evaluating programmes for drug abuse control and sharing information on their effectiveness,

1. *Requests* the Executive Director of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme, in consultation with Governments, appropriate United Nations agencies and non-governmental organizations, to define clearly their global strategy for demand reduction, specifying their aims, priorities and responsibilities, and to report to the Commission on Narcotic Drugs at its thirty-ninth session;

2. *Also requests* the Executive Director of the Programme to develop, in consultation with Governments and organizations represented in the Commission by observers, a draft declaration on the guiding principles of demand reduction, for submission to the Commission at its thirty-ninth session and subsequently, through the Economic and Social Council, to the General Assembly for adoption;

3. *Further requests* the Executive Director of the Programme, in preparing such a draft declaration, to take into account the relevant recommendations contained in the Global Programme of Action⁴⁹ and the Comprehensive Multidisciplinary Outline of Future Activities in Drug Abuse Control,⁴⁸ with due regard to flexibility in approach and

cost-effectiveness;

4. *Requests* the Executive Director of the Programme to report to the Commission at its thirty-ninth session on the implementation of Economic and Social Council resolution 1994/3 of 20 July 1994, with particular attention to progress made in the development of innovative methods of data collection and analysis, the identification of reliable and comparable data regarding the nature, extent and consequences of drug abuse, and the revision of the annual reports questionnaire;

5. *Requests* that demand reduction be a permanent item of the agenda at each session of the Commission;

6. *Encourages* Governments, regional organizations and multilateral agencies to work together in developing knowledge of the social and economic costs of drug abuse as a contribution towards the objective assessment of the cost benefits of policy and programme options, so as to achieve established goals or aims of strategies to reduce the supply of and demand for drugs;

7. *Also encourages* Governments to adopt comprehensive national strategies that reflect the reality and necessity of a balance between supply and demand reduction efforts, with operational linkages between those two areas, taking into account the social, economic and cultural conditions of individual countries;

8. *Encourages* the Executive Director of the Programme to continue to facilitate and promote the dissemination of information and the sharing of the benefits of experience gained in the development and implementation of balanced national strategies integrating comprehensive initiatives aimed at supply and demand reduction;

9. *Invites* the International Narcotics Control Board to continue to report on progress and deficiencies in demand reduction programmes at the national level, in a manner that will provide a more comprehensive understanding of the illicit drug problem;

10. *Encourages* intergovernmental cooperation regarding demand reduction at the regional and international levels through various means, including meetings for the exchange of information and experiences;

11. *Stresses* the need for cooperation among all Governments and the importance of involving and assisting voluntary and non-governmental organizations as well as mobilizing community participation in demand reduction;

12. *Requests* the United Nations International Drug Control Programme to update, in consultation with other United Nations agencies, the *Resource Book on Measures to Reduce Illicit Demand for Drugs*⁵² and to develop a glossary of terms to ensure a common understanding of terms;

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

48 See *Report of the International Conference on Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, Vienna, 17-26 June 1987* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.87.I.18), chap. I, sect. A.

49 General Assembly resolution S-17/2, annex.

50 United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1019, No. 14956.

51 *Ibid.*, vol. 976, No. 14152.

52 NAR/INF/1982/5.