
Economic and Social Council

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1995/17. Enhanced regional cooperation to reduce the risks of drug abuse

The Economic and Social Council,

Alarmed at the escalation of drug abuse problems and at the increase in the range of substances being abused in all regions,

Recognizing that the negative implications of drug abuse have global, regional and national dimensions,

Also recognizing the negative consequences caused by the abuse of licit drugs,

Alarmed at the increasing rate of infection by the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), hepatitis C and other blood-borne viruses associated with injecting drug use,

Deeply concerned that illicit demand for, production of and trafficking in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances are taking on new dimensions that threaten public health and the social, economic and political conditions in affected countries and areas,

Reaffirming the determination of the international community to fight against drug abuse and illicit trafficking in accordance with international law and, in particular, with respect for the principle of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of States,

Recognizing that the Comprehensive Multidisciplinary Outline of Future Activities in Drug Abuse Control adopted by the International Conference on Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking⁴⁸ and the Global Programme of Action adopted by the General Assembly at its seventeenth special session,⁴⁹ on 23 February 1990, serve as useful guidelines for developing and implementing strategies to fight against the problems of drug abuse and illicit trafficking,

Recalling its resolution 1993/35 of 27 July 1993 on demand reduction as part of balanced national strategic plans to combat drug abuse,

Commending the initiatives and collaborative efforts of many countries as well as the establishment of regional coordinating bodies,

Recognizing the progress achieved by the United Nations International Drug Control Programme in the development and implementation of subregional strategies, and commending it for its efforts,

Noting the success of the Asia Pacific Conference on Drug Abuse: a Balanced Approach, held at Sydney, Australia, from 29 May to 2 June 1994, and the declaration adopted by that Conference, in which countries of the region reaffirmed their commitment to the following goals: coordinating and implementing comprehensive measures in both supply and demand reduction; a partnership between health, law enforcement and other relevant agencies, including non-governmental organizations; and effectively addressing the health and social consequences of substance abuse,

Aware of the need for a more comprehensive, integrated and collaborative approach to control the supply of, and demand for, all drugs of abuse, in close cooperation with relevant organizations of the United Nations system and other regional and international organizations,

Recognizing that the complexity of the drug problem requires all sections of the community and government to work together,

Also recognizing the importance of developing and implementing comprehensive national strategic plans that incorporate a range of supply and demand reduction measures and take into account the social, economic and cultural conditions of individual countries, of establishing national coordinating mechanisms with the involvement of personnel responsible for both law enforcement and demand reduction, of identifying national priorities and coordinating the implementation of strategic plans, and of providing mechanisms for evaluation and, where

necessary, redirection of strategies,

Further recognizing the need for countries to adopt a range of culturally appropriate prevention strategies, including treatment, education, information and rehabilitation, and to address the social and family problems that may lead to drug abuse and the transmission of infectious diseases, such as acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS) and hepatitis, through the use of shared injecting equipment,

1. *Urges* all States and relevant organizations to strengthen their efforts to cooperate with the United Nations International Drug Control Programme in the development and implementation of subregional strategies and to give meaning and substance to the United Nations Decade against Drug Abuse, 1991-2000;
2. *Also urges* all States to ratify or accede to and effectively implement the international drug control conventions or, until ratification or accession thereto, and to the extent that they are able to do so, to apply provisionally the terms of those conventions;
3. *Encourages* the investigation, at the regional level, of the need for, and cost benefits of, mechanisms designed to support multi-agency approaches, such as regional conferences that periodically bring together health, law enforcement and other relevant agencies, including non-governmental organizations;
4. *Also encourages* initiatives and projects designed to establish effective regional networking to combat drug abuse;
5. *Urges* those States with expertise to share their knowledge and experience with other States in their region, having particular regard to priorities in the field of drug abuse control in the States concerned;
6. *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.