
Economic and Social Council

Distr.
GENERAL

E/RES/1996/17
45th Plenary Meeting
23 July 1996

1996/17. Special session of the General Assembly devoted to the combat against the illicit production, sale, demand, traffic and distribution of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances and related activities

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling Commission on Narcotic Drugs resolution 13 (XXXVIII) of 23 March 1995, [123/](#) in which the Commission decided to keep under consideration the proposal for the convening of an international conference to review progress made by Governments and the United Nations system in combating drug abuse and illicit trafficking,

Recalling its resolution 1995/40 of 27 July 1995, in which it recommended that the General Assembly and the Commission give priority consideration to the proposal to convene an international conference for the purpose of evaluating the international situation and the status of international cooperation against the illicit production, sale, demand, traffic and distribution of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances and related activities,

Taking into account General Assembly resolution 50/148 of 21 December 1995, in section IV of which the Assembly requested the Commission to discuss the proposal to hold a second international conference on drug abuse and illicit trafficking fully, as a matter of priority, at its thirty-ninth session, and to present its conclusions and suggestions through the Council to the Assembly at its fifty-first session,

Having considered the report of the Executive Director of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme containing recommendations regarding the implementation by the Commission of General Assembly resolution 48/12 of 28 October 1993, as requested in paragraph 7 of its resolution 13 (XXXVIII),

Having considered drug-control issues at its high-level segment of 1996 and having stressed the need for the United Nations International Drug Control Programme to take a leadership role in reaffirming the political commitment to the present resolution,

Conscious of the role of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs as the principal United Nations policy-making body on drug-control issues,

Reaffirming the leadership role of the Programme as the main focus for concerted international action for drug abuse control and as international coordinator for drug-control activities, especially within the United Nations system,

Fully sharing the deep concern expressed by the General Assembly in its resolution 50/148 about the magnitude of the rising trend in all manifestations of the drug problem despite the efforts of the international community,

Noting that in resolution 50/148, the General Assembly once again renewed its commitment to further strengthening international cooperation and substantially increasing efforts against the illicit production, sale, demand, traffic and distribution of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, based on the principle of shared responsibility and taking into account the experience gained,

Noting with satisfaction the support expressed in several regional and international conferences and

meetings for the convening of an international conference to strengthen international cooperation against the scourge of drug abuse and illicit trafficking,

Taking into account the opinions expressed by different Governments regarding the proposal to convene an international conference for that purpose,

Fully taking into account the fact that the General Assembly, in its resolution 50/148, stressed, inter alia, that when considering the proposal for holding an international conference, the Commission should take into account international drug-control priorities as well as ways and means to increase the implementation of existing international conventions and other international instruments for cooperation on drug control,

Stressing the importance of the General Assembly as the most democratic and representative organ of the United Nations, and, in this context, of the role that it is called upon to play in addressing global and interdependent questions of universal concern,

Convinced that the holding of a special session of the General Assembly devoted to the strengthening of international cooperation against the illicit production, sale, demand, traffic and distribution of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances and related activities could make a significant contribution to the effectiveness of the actions of the United Nations and its Member States in the fight against this global threat,

1. Decides to recommend that the General Assembly convene a special session in order to consider the fight against the illicit production, sale, demand, traffic and distribution of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances and related activities, and to propose new strategies, methods, practical activities and specific measures to strengthen international cooperation in addressing the problem of illicit drugs;

2. Recommends that the General Assembly, at its special session devoted to assessing the existing situation, within the framework of a comprehensive and balanced approach that includes all aspects of the problem, with a view to strengthening international cooperation to address the problem of illicit drugs, and within the framework of the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988,¹²⁴ and other relevant conventions and international instruments, should have the following objectives:

(a) To promote the adherence to and full implementation by all States of the 1988 Convention, the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961^{125/} and the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971;^{126/}

(b) To adopt measures to increase international cooperation to contribute to the application of the law;

(c) To adopt measures to avoid the diversion of chemicals used in illicit drug production, and to strengthen control of the production of and traffic in stimulants and their precursors;

(d) To adopt and promote drug abuse control programmes and policies and other measures, including those at the international level, to reduce the illicit demand for drugs;

(e) To adopt measures to prevent and sanction money laundering, in order to implement the 1988 Convention;

(f) To encourage international cooperation to develop programmes of eradication of illicit crops and to promote alternative development programmes;

(g) To adopt measures to strengthen coordination within the United Nations system in the fight against drug trafficking and related organized crime, against terrorist groups engaged in drug trafficking and against illicit arms trade;

3. Also recommends that the General Assembly, at its special session, review its resolution S-17/2 of 23 February 1990, in particular the progress made in implementing the Global Programme of Action on international cooperation against illicit production, supply, demand, trafficking and distribution of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances annexed thereto;

4. Recommends that the General Assembly, at its special session, address the issues on the basis of the principle of shared responsibility and with full respect for the principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and international law, particularly respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of States;
5. Decides to propose that the special session of the General Assembly be held for three days in 1998, immediately after all the necessary preparatory work has been done to ensure its success and ten years after the adoption of the 1988 Convention;
6. Requests that the Commission on Narcotic Drugs act as the preparatory body for the special session of the General Assembly, open to the participation of all States Members of the United Nations and of observers, in accordance with established practices;
7. Encourages the participation of developing countries and assistance to the least developed countries, in order to work actively towards the attainment of the objectives and goals of the special session;
8. Requests that the Commission, in its capacity as preparatory body for the special session of the General Assembly, be mandated to present proposals, through the Economic and Social Council, for consideration by the Assembly regarding all organizational matters, including the agenda, dates, expected outcomes and other issues relevant to the successful preparations for, outcome of and follow-up to the special session;
9. Recommends that the preparatory process for the special session of the General Assembly be funded through the regular budget of the United Nations, bearing in mind the need to keep the financial costs to a minimum, and that Governments be invited to make extrabudgetary contributions to meet those costs;
10. Recommends also that organs, organizations and specialized agencies of the United Nations system, as well as multilateral development banks, contribute fully to the preparations for the special session of the General Assembly, in particular by submitting to the Commission, through the Executive Director of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme, concrete recommendations on the issues to be addressed by the Assembly at that session;
11. Requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-first session a report containing recommendations on the possible outcome of and organizational matters relating to the proposed special session of the General Assembly.

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123/ Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1995, Supplement No. 9 and corrigendum (E/1995/29 and Corr.1).

124/ 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).

125/ United Nations, Treaty Series, vol. 520, No. 7515.

126/ Ibid., vol. 1019, No. 14956.
