

**1996/20. Strengthening of the role of the International Narcotics Control Board and development of a unified information system for the collection and analysis of data concerning the nature, patterns and trends of the global problem of drug abuse**

*The Economic and Social Council,*

*Recalling* General Assembly resolutions S-17/2 of 23 February 1990, 47/99 of 16 December 1992, 48/12 of 28 October 1993 and 50/148 of 21 December 1995, Economic and Social Council resolutions 1991/48 of 21 June 1991 and 1994/3 of 20 July 1994 and Commission on Narcotic Drugs resolutions 7 (XXXVII) of 20 April 1994<sup>71</sup> on the role of the International Narcotics Control Board and 12 (XXXVIII) of 23 March 1995<sup>66</sup> on scientific and technical cooperation in the control of drug abuse and illicit trafficking,

*Reaffirming* the global nature of the problem of drug abuse and the principles of shared responsibility and solidarity accepted by the international community that have characterized the action taken by the United Nations to deal with that problem,

*Reaffirming also* the principles of sovereignty, equality of States, non-intervention in internal affairs and territorial integrity as the basis for individual and collective action to deal with drug abuse,

*Taking into account* that, in order to achieve the objectives of the international drug control treaties, there must be effective international cooperation between countries in combating the illicit consumption, production, traffic and distribution and in controlling the licit manufacture and marketing of narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and precursors, as well as in preventing their diversion,

*Concerned* about the increasing magnitude and extent of the drug problem worldwide and the fact that the international community needs a comprehensive, dynamic and continuously updated statistical system which would enable it to monitor global illicit demand, supply, traffic and distribution of drugs, whether of plant origin or synthetic, and the diversion of chemical substances that are frequently used in the illicit manufacture of such drugs, as well as the trends in, and evolution of, the situation, and which would assist the International Narcotics Control Board and the United Nations International Drug Control Programme in their periodic analysis of the problem and in preparing recommendations,

*Considering* that, in the context of the globalization of the drug problem and the principle of shared responsibility, the International Narcotics Control Board is the competent independent international authority, as specified in the international drug control treaties, for the evaluation, in an objective and balanced manner, of the efforts of States to

facilitate the consolidation of a worldwide policy on drug control and the development of effective international cooperation,

*Acknowledging* the fundamental role of the Board as the control organ, recognized as such by the international community, for restricting the cultivation, production, manufacture and use of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances to medical and scientific needs and also for preventing the illicit cultivation, production, manufacture, traffic and use of such substances, in accordance with the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971,<sup>32</sup> the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961,<sup>30</sup> as amended by the 1972 Protocol,<sup>31</sup> the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988<sup>33</sup> and other relevant instruments,

*Highlighting* the work done by the Board to achieve the objectives set out in the international drug control treaties, by indicating the gaps and deficiencies in the control system and recommending solutions to improve control nationally and internationally, including the strengthening of international cooperation,

*Noting* the Report of the International Narcotics Control Board for 1995<sup>70</sup> and *Precursors and Chemicals Frequently Used in the Illicit Manufacture of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances: Report of the International Narcotics Control Board for 1995 on the Implementation of Article 12 of the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988*,<sup>72</sup>

1. *Encourages* the International Narcotics Control Board to continue to ensure the more effective implementation of the international drug control treaties, and in so doing, to evaluate the global drug problem and to cooperate with Governments in an ongoing dialogue;
2. *Invites* the Board, when monitoring the implementation of the international drug control conventions, also to take into account the related elements of the Global Programme of Action adopted by the General Assembly at its seventeenth special session,<sup>69</sup> on 23 February 1990;
3. *Requests* States that have not already done so to accede to the international drug control treaties and to adopt the necessary measures to ensure their implementation and the strengthening of international cooperation;
4. *Encourages* the Executive Director of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme to support the Board in its efforts to hold periodic consultations with Governments and to provide the Board with information on progress achieved and deficiencies noted in programmes to

<sup>71</sup> See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1994, Supplement No. 10 (E/1994/30 and Add.1)*, chap. XI.

<sup>72</sup> United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.XI.4.

reduce the illicit demand for and supply of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, as well as in control measures governing their transit, in order to focus efforts and to promote the development of a more effective global drug-control strategy;

5. *Requests* the Executive Director to report to the Commission on Narcotic Drugs at its fortieth session on current efforts to collect and analyse information on the nature and patterns of, and trends in the illicit consumption, cultivation, manufacture, traffic and distribution of drugs, whether of natural or synthetic origin, to improve the formulation of prevention and control policies both nationally and internationally in those fields, to enhance public awareness of the international drug control situation and to ensure that the activities of the Programme are based on comprehensive and relevant information and knowledge, with a view to unifying and simplifying the collection system for use by the Governments and the Programme, including the Board;

6. *Also requests* the Executive Director, when presenting the report referred to in paragraph 5 above, to take into account the experience gained by other information networks and the knowledge developed in this field by other international agencies and governmental and non-governmental organizations;

7. *Further requests* the Executive Director, in consultation with the Board, to present the information needs of the Programme, including the Board, to the Commission at its fortieth session;

8. *Encourages* the Board to intensify its programme of country missions, the objective of which is to monitor the implementation of the international drug control conventions, with the agreement of Governments, in order to gain a more comprehensive and direct awareness of the drug-control policies and programmes being carried out in the countries concerned, as well as to improve consultation with the national drug control authorities;

9. *Requests* the General Assembly to allocate sufficient resources, within the regular budget, to enable the Board to carry out the functions assigned to it, in accordance with the international drug control conventions;

10. *Requests* the Committee for Programme and Coordination and the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions to take note of the present resolution when considering programme 17 (International drug control) of the medium-term plan for the period 1998-2001.

*45th plenary meeting  
23 July 1996*