
Economic and Social Council

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1176th Meeting
25 March 1999

CND Res.42/2. Control of illicit trafficking in and diversion of potassium permanganate

The Commission on Narcotic Drugs,

Deeply concerned by the continuing abuse of and traffic in cocaine worldwide,

Recognizing that the traffic in cocaine is an international criminal activity that must be curbed in order to prevent its harmful effects on the socio-economic systems and political institutions of all societies,

Taking note of resolution S-20/4 B of 10 June 1998, on control of precursors, adopted by the General Assembly at its twentieth special session,

Reaffirming that measures involved in effectively preventing the diversion of chemicals have to form an integral part of the development of national drug control strategies,

Aware that the diversion of chemicals occurs in countries that import, export and serve as transit States for those substances, and that it is therefore necessary for all States to cooperate in the prevention of such unlawful activity,

Aware also that potassium permanganate, a chemical included in Table II of the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988,^{1/} is an essential oxidizing agent in the processing of cocaine,

Determined to prevent producers of illicit drugs from having access to potassium permanganate,

Decides to adopt the temporary measures for the control of potassium permanganate that are set out below:

TEMPORARY MEASURES FOR THE CONTROL OF POTASSIUM PERMANGANATE

1. In conjunction with paragraph 8 below, Governments are encouraged to adopt, as soon as possible, special measures to prevent the diversion to illicit activities of potassium permanganate, an essential substance for the processing of cocaine, which is included in Table II of the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988.

A. Legislative aspects

2. Governments are encouraged to take, in accordance with the provisions of General Assembly resolution S-20/4 B and the Guidelines of the International Narcotics Control Board, the necessary steps to strengthen the monitoring and control of potassium permanganate, including penal, civil and administrative sanctions, in order to prevent the illicit trafficking in and diversion of that substance for the illicit manufacture of drugs.

B. Information exchange

3. Governments of countries exporting potassium permanganate, consistent with their domestic

legislation, may notify on a voluntary basis the competent authorities in the transit or final importing countries, where these are known, of any shipment of that substance, sending a copy of the relevant communication to the International Narcotics Control Board.

4. With regard to paragraph 3 above, in accordance with their domestic legislation, Governments should use the voluntary form circulated by the International Narcotics Control Board with its note of 12 March 1998.^{2/}

5. Governments are encouraged to strengthen cooperation measures aimed at establishing precisely the origin and final destination of shipments of potassium permanganate. In that connection, Governments are called upon to collect data on seizures of potassium permanganate carried out at points of origin or transit or at centres for the processing of cocaine for the purpose of determining the country of origin of substances that have been or may have been diverted to illicit activities and the company producing such substances. Studies on licit requirements should be carried out by Governments of importing countries and studies on actual production of potassium permanganate by Governments of producing countries.

C. Operational aspects

6. Governments should consider the possibility of establishing special joint teams comprising relevant and competent law enforcement authorities, such as police and customs, as well as the competent regulatory authorities, with a view to increasing the monitoring and control of commercial transactions involving potassium permanganate. Governments are called upon to undertake additional efforts to increase cooperation with the chemical industry and to inform it of any illicit movements and use of potassium permanganate in the manufacture of cocaine.

D. Follow-up

7. Governments are invited to collect data on trends in the market for potassium permanganate, including, to the extent possible, the market for its substitutes, and forward such information to the International Narcotics Control Board.

8. The International Narcotics Control Board is requested to prepare, in accordance with its mandate under the 1988 Convention, a report on the effects of the measures described above, based on the information submitted by Governments pursuant to the present resolution, and to submit that report to the Commission on Narcotic Drugs at its forty-third session as part of its general report on the implementation of article 12 of the Convention.

1176th meeting
3 March 1983

^{1/} *Official Records of the United Nations Conference for the Adoption of 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/} PRE/C.L.416.
