

Economic and Social Council

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1999/32. International regulation and control of trade in poppy seed

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961,^{1/} article 22, on the prohibition of the illicit cultivation of the opium poppy, and the Action Plan on International Cooperation on the Eradication of Illicit Drug Crops and on Alternative Development, contained in resolution S-20/4 E adopted by the General Assembly at its twentieth special session, on 10 June 1998,

Recalling also that the International Narcotics Control Board, in its report for 1995,^{2/} expressed its concern about trade in seeds obtained from the *Papaver somniferum* (opium poppy) plant in countries where cultivation of the opium poppy is prohibited, and that the Board urged Governments to be vigilant in order to ensure that poppy seeds traded for food purposes are not derived from illicitly cultivated poppy plants,

Emphasizing the need to fight the illicit cultivation of the opium poppy by all possible means,

Noting that poppy seeds are still being exported on a large scale from countries where cultivation of the opium poppy is prohibited,

Aware that under the terms of the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961, trade in poppy seeds is not subject to international control,

Recognizing that there is a need to prohibit international trade in poppy seeds from sources of illicit cultivation of the opium poppy,

Recognizing also that the poppy plant of low morphine content that is used for food purposes is unsuitable for the production of opium or illicit use by drug abusers,

Resolving to fight the international trade in illicit poppy seeds by practical measures, such as attempting to ensure that export only be made from countries authorized to cultivate the opium poppy,

1. *Calls upon* Member States to take the following measures to fight the international trade in poppy seeds from countries where no licit cultivation of opium poppy is permitted:

(a) Poppy seeds should only be imported if they originate from those countries where opium poppy is grown licitly in accordance with the provisions of the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961;

(b) Encourages Governments to the extent possible, and where national circumstances so require, to obtain an appropriate certificate from the exporting countries on the country of origin of *Papaver somniferum* seeds as the basis for importation, and also to give notification of export *Papaver somniferum* seeds, as far as possible, to the competent authorities of the importing countries;

(c) Information on any suspicious transactions involving poppy seeds should be shared with other Governments concerned and with the International Narcotics Control Board;

2. *Urges* all Member States that have not already done so to prohibit the cultivation of the opium poppy

in accordance with article 22 of the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961, or to permit the cultivation of the opium poppy for purposes other than the production of opium, taking all the necessary measures as stipulated in article 25 of the 1961 Convention;

3. *Requests* the International Narcotics Control Board and the United Nations International Drug Control Programme to take appropriate measures to ensure the full implementation of article 22 of the 1961 Convention by concerned Member States;

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

28 July 1998

1/ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 520, No. 7515.

2/ *Report of the International Narcotics Control Board for 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.XI.1).
