
Economic and Social Council

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GENERAL

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1999/33. Demand for and supply of opiates for medical and scientific needs

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its resolution 1998/25 of 28 July 1998 and previous relevant resolutions,

Emphasizing that the need to balance the global licit supply of opiates against the legitimate demand for opiates for medical and scientific purposes is central to the international strategy and policy of drug abuse control,

Noting the fundamental need for international cooperation and solidarity with the traditional supplier countries in drug abuse control in general, and in the universal application of the provisions of the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961¹ in particular,

*Having considered the Report of the International Narcotics Control Board for 1998*², in which the Board points out that in 1997 a balance between consumption and production of opiate raw materials was achieved, and noting that efforts were made by the two traditional supplier countries, India and Turkey, to maintain, together with other producing countries, the balance between supply and demand,

Noting the importance of opiates in pain relief therapy as advocated by the World Health Organization,

1. *Urges* all Governments to continue contributing to the maintenance of a balance between the licit supply of and demand for opiate raw materials for medical and scientific needs, the achievement of which would be facilitated by maintaining, in so far as their constitutional and legal systems permit, support to the traditional supplier countries, and to cooperate in preventing the proliferation of sources of production of opiate raw materials;
2. *Urges* Governments of all producing countries to adhere strictly to the provisions of the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961, and to take effective measures to prevent illicit production or diversion of opiate raw materials to illicit channels, especially when increasing licit production;
3. *Urges* consumer countries to assess their licit needs for opiate raw materials realistically, and to communicate those needs to the International Narcotics Control Board, in order to ensure easy supply, and further urges concerned producing countries and the Board to increase efforts to monitor the available supply and to ensure sufficient stocks of licit opiate raw material;
4. *Recommends* that, at the request of traditional suppliers, consumer countries provide continued or new support to efforts to estimate yields and supplies of licit opiate raw materials in future years;
5. *Commends* the Board for its efforts in monitoring the implementation of the relevant Economic and Social Council resolutions and, in particular:
 - (a) In urging the Governments concerned to adjust global production of opiate raw materials to a level corresponding to actual licit needs and to avoid unforeseen imbalances between licit supply of and demand for opiates caused by the exportation of products manufactured from seized and confiscated drugs;

(b) In inviting the Governments concerned to ensure that opiates imported into their countries for medical and scientific use do not originate from countries that transform seized and confiscated drugs into licit opiates;

(c) In arranging informal meetings, during sessions of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, with the main States importing and producing opiate raw materials;

6. *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/ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.99.XI.4.
