

Resolution 48/9

Strengthening alternative development as an important drug control strategy and establishing alternative development as a cross-cutting issue

The Commission on Narcotic Drugs,

Recalling the Political Declaration adopted by the General Assembly at its twentieth special session,¹ devoted to countering the world drug problem together, in which Member States recognized that action against the world drug problem was a common and shared responsibility, reaffirmed the need for a comprehensive approach to the elimination or significant reduction of illicit drug crops by the year 2008,

Recalling also that the Action Plan on International Cooperation on the Eradication of Illicit Drug Crops and on Alternative Development stresses that alternative development constitutes an important component in a balanced approach to illicit crop eradication, generating and promoting lawful, viable and sustainable economic options to illicit drug crop cultivation, and that the success of alternative development programmes depends on the long-term political and financial commitment of both the Governments of the affected countries and the international community,²

Recalling further General Assembly resolutions 58/141 of 22 December 2003 and 59/163 of 20 December 2004,

Recalling Economic and Social Council resolution 2003/37 of 22 July 2003,

Recalling also its resolutions 44/11 and 45/14,

Considering that alternative development should be regarded by the international community not only as a means of reducing illicit drug supply, but also as a means of consolidating sustainable development in those communities and territories affected by illicit crops and as a part of the strategy against poverty undertaken by States to fulfil the commitments of the United Nations Millennium Declaration,³

Recognizing that in a number of countries illicit drug production represents a major obstacle to sustainable economic, social and political development and adversely affects political and social stability, thus requiring special policies and greater cooperation efforts,

Conscious of the higher social and economic costs incurred by producer countries and their neighbouring countries, generated in the majority of those countries by illicit drug production and also as a result of the resources that must be allocated to the fight against illicit drugs by the Governments of those countries, many of which are least developed countries or developing countries,

Noting with concern the high environmental costs and the often irreversible impact of illicit crops on ecosystems, including

¹ General Assembly resolution S-20/2, annex.

² General Assembly resolution S-20/4 E.

³ General Assembly resolution 55/2.

tropical zones in strategic areas, with high biological diversity and abundant forests,

Considering that alternative development contributes to the sustainable reduction of poverty and consequently to illicit drug crop cultivation and also to crisis prevention, conflict management and good governance,

Stressing the potential of alternative development strategies, including preventive alternative development, to promote and consolidate models of sustainable land use that counter the deterioration caused by excessive and unplanned exploitation of forests and other natural resources,

Bearing in mind that the sustainable elimination of illicit drug crop cultivation and illicit drug production requires an integrated approach involving alternative development and interdiction and law enforcement measures, in compliance with human rights obligations, and that those measures must be well balanced, must be applied in the appropriate sequence and must be well coordinated with other development measures,

Emphasizing the importance of involving the private sector and civil society in alternative development programmes,

Bearing in mind that the participation of local communities in decision-making and in shaping local policy is essential to the planning, implementation and evaluation of alternative development measures,

Recognizing the need to develop alternative development programmes within the framework of national policies and international strategies on the basis of an integrated approach that should be accompanied by measures to strengthen the judicial system, the rule of law and good governance,

Reaffirming the political commitment of Member States to enhance the efforts made so far to counter the world drug problem,

Welcoming the report concerning the results and the recommendations of the rigorous and comprehensive thematic evaluation of alternative development called for in Commission on Narcotic Drugs resolution 45/14,

1. *Calls upon* Member States and international development organizations and institutions to take into consideration the negative impact of illicit drug crop cultivation on development efforts, social and political stability and the security situation and therefore to integrate drug issues into their work in relevant sectors in order to mainstream drug-related efforts and to improve the coordination of their work, thereby making alternative development a cross-cutting issue;

2. *Urges* Member States and international organizations, such as drug control agencies, development organizations and international financial institutions, to foster a strong political commitment to alternative development programmes, including preventive alternative development, and to provide greater support for them;

3. *Calls for* a comprehensive approach integrating alternative development programmes, including, where appropriate, preventive alternative development, into wider

economic and social development programmes, so that they may include:

(a) Environmental conservation and the recuperation of degraded ecosystems, for example, innovative programmes in reforestation and agroforestry;

(b) Access to financial mechanisms and micro-credits;

(c) Access to land ownership;

(d) Capacity-building of local communities, institutions and authorities;

4. *Calls upon* the international community and Member States, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 58/141 of 22 December 2003, to promote a favourable economic environment, in accordance with the principle of common and shared responsibility, and where appropriate, to provide greater access to their markets for products of alternative development programmes, which are necessary for the creation of employment and the eradication of poverty;

5. *Reiterates* that, in formulating and implementing drug control strategies, Member States and United Nations entities should ensure that measures of law enforcement, interdiction, eradication and alternative development are applied in a coherent and balanced manner and in the appropriate sequence and that there is optimal coordination between the various institutions involved;

6. *Calls upon* Member States and national and international development organizations to increase their efforts to empower local communities and authorities in project areas and to enhance their participation in the decision-making process in order to increase their ownership of the development measures undertaken in accordance with national legislation and the sustainability of those measures and to create a law-abiding and prosperous rural society;

7. *Calls upon* Member States and international organizations to strengthen their partnerships with the private sector and civil society, in accordance with national legislation, in order to support social and licit economic development in areas in which illicit drugs are produced, taking into account the role of the private sector and civil society in promoting social responsibility and in the production and marketing of products of alternative development programmes;

8. *Urges* Member States to review their policies and strategies in the light of the rigorous and comprehensive thematic evaluation of alternative development recently carried out on behalf of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime confirming the urgent need to improve knowledge management and capacity-building;

9. *Encourages* Member States to share and disseminate their experience with alternative development, including preventive alternative development, and with illicit crop eradication and to involve both the benefiting communities and academic and research institutions in that process, with a view to deepening the knowledge base;

10. *Urges* international financial institutions and other potential donors to consider providing financial assistance to States that are adopting and implementing measures to eradicate illicit drug crop cultivation, including for empowering and building the capacity of locally available human resources;

11. *Calls upon* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to identify means to strengthen its capacity in alternative development, including preventive alternative development, in order to provide leadership and technical guidance to States and relevant institutions, to play a major role in the analytical assessment of drug problems, to act as a coordinating body for activities related to drug control;

12. *Requests* the Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to devote part of a future session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs to alternative development, to be held before 2008;

13. *Also requests* the Executive Director to report to it at its forty-ninth session on the progress made in implementing the present resolution.