

Strengthening international support for States in West Africa in their efforts to combat drug trafficking

The Commission on Narcotic Drugs,

Recalling the provisions of the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961,⁹¹ that Convention as amended by the 1972 Protocol,⁹² the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971⁹³ and the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988,⁹⁴

Recalling also the Political Declaration adopted by the General Assembly at its twentieth special session,⁹⁵ in which Member States reaffirmed their unwavering determination and commitment to overcoming the world drug problem through domestic and international strategies to reduce both the illicit supply of and the demand for drugs, and recognized that action against the world drug problem was a common and shared responsibility requiring an integrated and balanced approach with full respect for the sovereignty of States,

Concerned that West Africa is emerging as a major transit area for consignments of illicit drugs, especially cocaine from Latin America, destined for international markets, mainly in Europe,

Fully aware of the threat that drug trafficking poses to peace, stability, development, the rule of law and public health in countries in West Africa and of the possibility that other organized criminal activities and threats, closely linked with drug trafficking, may affect the subregion,

Aware of the adverse consequences that the transit traffic in illicit drugs is likely to have for the population of States in West Africa, especially with regard to public health as a result of the use of illicit drugs,

Concerned that the progress made by States in West Africa in the areas of peace and stability may be undermined by the flow of illicit drugs and the proceeds of drug trafficking,

Recognizing that the problem of the transit traffic in illicit drugs may aggravate the development challenges facing States in the subregion and requires the adoption and implementation of a holistic approach, including closely linking drug control policies with wider development programmes, such as the efforts to attain the Millennium Development Goals, the provision of alternative means of earning a livelihood and the strengthening of criminal justice and security systems,

Realizing that most States in West Africa require technical and financial support to deal effectively with the problem of drug trafficking, in particular those States emerging from conflict and those most affected by the problem,

⁹¹ Ibid., vol. 520, No. 7515.

⁹² Ibid., vol. 976, No. 14152.

⁹³ Ibid., vol. 1019, No. 14956.

⁹⁴ Ibid., vol. 1582, No. 27627.

⁹⁵ General Assembly resolution S-20/2, annex.

Recognizing the need for a coordinated and sustainable response to address the problem of the transit traffic in illicit drugs through West Africa, in particular donor coordination, as well as the development of local capacity and ownership of the process by the States in the subregion,

Acknowledging the ongoing efforts of the States in West Africa, the African Union and the Economic Community of West African States to address the drug problem in Africa, including the development of an action plan by the Economic Community of West African States to address the problem at the subregional level and the emergency plan against drug trafficking presented by the Government of Guinea-Bissau on 3 August 2007,

Welcoming the initiative by the Economic Community of West African States to convene a subregional conference to discuss how to tackle the drug trafficking problem more effectively within the framework of its action plan,

Recalling the statement made by the President of the Security Council, at its 5762nd meeting, in October 2007, in which he stated that the Council had noted that the danger posed by drug trafficking in Guinea-Bissau could have negative implications for the region and for other regions, and called for urgent consideration of how the United Nations system might improve its support to Guinea-Bissau for its fight against international drug trafficking and organized crime,⁹⁶

Aiming to provide an effective response to the new and growing phenomenon of smuggling of illicit drugs through West Africa, with full participation of States in West Africa and the support of the international community,

1. *Reaffirms* its determination and commitment to confronting the world drug problem in all its manifestations, using a common, coordinated and balanced approach and following the principle of shared responsibility, including in the area of new emerging trends, such as the increasing use of West Africa as a transit area for cocaine consignments destined for international markets, mainly in Europe;

2. *Calls upon* Member States and relevant international organizations, in coordination with the Economic Community of West African States, to strengthen ongoing initiatives and programmes, in particular those designed and developed by States in West Africa and the Economic Community of West African States, and to facilitate the development of other relevant programmes considered appropriate by the States concerned, in order to combat drug trafficking through West Africa by providing technical and financial assistance, including strengthening support for existing subregional drug law enforcement initiatives, such as the West African Joint Operations initiative and the interregional initiative financed by the European Union for the sharing of intelligence among States in the Caribbean, Latin America and West Africa;

3. *Invites* Member States and relevant international organizations to intensify their efforts in support of those West African States most affected by the problem of drug trafficking, particularly Guinea-Bissau, bearing in mind the specific dimension of the problem in those States and the urgent need to confront the problem;

⁹⁶ S/PRST/2007/38.

4. *Also invites* Member States and relevant international organizations, in collaboration with the Economic Community of West African States and other stakeholders, to strengthen their coordination in support of the efforts of the Governments of West African States in order to achieve maximum results;

5. *Invites* the Commission of the Economic Community of West African States to maintain and intensify its efforts, in consultation and collaboration with other stakeholders, to finalize and implement its subregional action plan against drug trafficking;

6. *Calls upon* Member States, especially those that are the main countries of destination of illicit consignments of drugs, particularly cocaine, smuggled through West Africa, to continue their efforts to reduce the demand for illicit drugs in line with the provisions of the international drug control treaties;

7. *Urges* States in West Africa to continue their efforts to combat drug trafficking and to adopt effective demand reduction measures, including the provision of treatment and rehabilitation for drug abusers, and to continue to address the drug problem in a balanced and integrated manner within their development priorities;

8. *Calls upon* Member States and relevant international organizations to accord adequate attention, in a balanced and integrated manner, to both supply and demand reduction measures in providing assistance to States in West Africa and, in the case of demand reduction, especially to treatment and rehabilitation;

9. *Requests* the Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to facilitate the coordination of efforts, in consultation with the States in West Africa and international partners, to address the problem of the smuggling of cocaine through West Africa, within the framework of the drug control component of the Programme of Action, 2006-2010, emanating from the Round Table for Africa held in Abuja on 5 and 6 September 2005, pursuant to Economic and Social Council resolution 2005/248 of 22 July 2005;

10. *Also requests* the Executive Director to report to the Commission at its fifty-third session on the implementation of the present resolution.