Resolution 52/1

Promoting international cooperation in addressing the involvement of women and girls in drug trafficking, especially as couriers

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 the Assembly set goals and targets to be met by all States by the years 2003 and 2008,

Recalling also that in the Political Declaration, Member States reaffirmed their determination to fight all aspects of the world drug problem and undertook to ensure that women and men benefit equally, and without any discrimination, from strategies directed against the world drug problem, through their involvement in all stages of programmes and policymaking,

Recalling further that in the Political Declaration, the General Assembly called upon communities, especially families, and their political, religious, educational, cultural, sports, business and union leadership, non-governmental organizations and the media worldwide actively to promote a society free of drug abuse, especially by emphasizing and facilitating healthy, productive and fulfilling alternatives to the use of illicit drugs, which must not become accepted as a way of life,

Aware that in the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem, adopted during the high-level segment of the fifty-second session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, Member States acknowledged the important contribution made by women in curbing the world drug problem and committed themselves to ensuring that drug control policies, measures and interventions take into account the specific needs and circumstances that women face with regard to drug problems,

Noting with concern the involvement of women and girls in drug trafficking as couriers and recognizing that such involvement poses a danger to the well-being and development of children, families and communities,

Recognizing the important role of women, as well as that of men, in the upbringing and education of children and in the development of the political, social and cultural life of their societies,

Noting that women and girls tend to be among the most vulnerable groups and have the least access to education and that women tend to have the least access to work and financial services while, at the same time, bearing the main responsibility for the well-being of their families,

Reaffirming that young people are the world’s most valuable asset,

1. Decides to devote particular attention to the involvement of women and girls in drug trafficking as couriers;

2. Resolves to devote particular attention to the worrying trend of the illicit use of drugs, as well as the involvement of women in drug abuse and their involvement in the cultivation of illicit drug crops and in the

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1 General Assembly resolution S-20/2, annex.
illicit manufacture, processing, smuggling, distribution and sale of narcotic
drugs and psychotropic substances;

3. Requests the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to carry
out scientific research and analysis based on existing information and
statistical data received from Member States on activities related to drug
trafficking involving women and girls at the national and international
levels;

4. Stresses the importance of collecting and analysing data
disaggregated by sex and age and of conducting research on gender issues
relating to drug trafficking, especially the use of women and girls as
couriers;

5. Encourages Member States to consider providing additional
reporting on and analysis of data relating to the use of women and girls as
couriers;

6. Requests the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to
ensure that gender issues, especially the use of women and girls as
couriers, are given appropriate attention in future reports on the world
situation with regard to drug trafficking;

7. Urges Member States to implement broad-based programmes
aimed at preventing women and girls from being used as couriers for
trafficking in drugs and requests the United Nations Office on Drugs and
Crime to assist States in developing such programmes and implementing
alternative development policies, including, inter alia, preventive
alternative development policies, to counter the use and participation of
women in the illicit drug trade and to take proper penal measures against
organized criminal groups that use women and girls as couriers;

8. Calls upon States to involve all affected communities and
individuals in the design and implementation of such policies;

9. Encourages States to consider establishing programmes of
financial assistance to support income-generating projects for the
educational, economic and social development and the rehabilitation of
women and girls involved in drug trafficking;

10. Requests the Executive Director of the United Nations Office on
Drugs and Crime to report to the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, at its
fifty-fourth session, on the implementation of the present resolution.