

## 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,<sup>1</sup> 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

---

<sup>1</sup> 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.