

Resolution 52/4

Progress made towards 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 1961,¹ that Convention as amended by the 1972 Protocol,² the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971³ and the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988,⁴

Recalling also its resolution 51/18, entitled “Strengthening international support for States in West Africa in their efforts to combat drug trafficking”, in which it called 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 by States in West Africa and the Economic Community of West African States, and to facilitate the development of other relevant programmes in order to combat drug trafficking through West Africa by providing technical and financial assistance,

Taking into consideration 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 its fifty-second session, in which Member States reaffirmed their unwavering determination and commitment to overcoming the world drug problem through national 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,

Bearing in mind that at the meeting of the Security Council held on 21 January 2009 at which the Council considered the report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Office for West Africa,⁵ speakers highlighted the critical situation related to drug trafficking and organized crime and the need for immediate action and a concerted response to that scourge, which posed a serious threat to security and stability in the subregion, and called for joint efforts to address the impact of drug trafficking and related crime through implementation of the Regional Response Action Plan, adopted, together with the Political Declaration on the Prevention of Drug Abuse, Illicit Drug Trafficking and Organized Crime in West Africa, by the Heads of State and Government of the Economic Community of West African States in Abuja on 19 December 2008,

Also bearing in mind that the Secretary-General, in his report to the Security Council on the United Nations Office for West Africa, reiterated his appeal to the international community to support the subregion in facing the formidable challenge posed by drug trafficking and stressed the critical importance of building capacity in the countries of the subregion

¹ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 520, No. 7515.

² *Ibid.*, vol. 976, No. 14152.

³ *Ibid.*, vol. 1019, No. 14956.

⁴ *Ibid.*, vol. 1582, No. 27627.

⁵ S/2009/39.

and mobilizing resources to help regional States in confronting the threat at the national and cross-border levels,⁶

Recalling that the Secretary-General, in his address to the African Union at its summit meeting on 2 February 2009, stated that drug trafficking posed a major challenge to security and governance in West Africa and that the United Nations and the Economic Community of West African States were working closely to roll back that dangerous phenomenon,

Fully aware of the threats that illicit drug trafficking can pose to safety, security, stability, development, the rule of law and public health in the countries of West Africa and of the risk that other organized criminal activities and threats closely linked with drug trafficking may affect the subregion,

Aware of the likely adverse consequences of trafficking in illicit drugs on the population of the countries in West Africa, especially the harm to public health resulting from the abuse of illicit drugs,

Concerned that the progress made in the subregion in the areas of safety, security and stability may be undermined by the flow of illicit drugs from other subregions and the proceeds derived from the illicit drug trade, often fuelled by the activities of organized criminal groups,

Acknowledging the ongoing efforts of the States of West Africa, the African Union and the Economic Community of West African States to address the problem of illicit drugs in Africa,

Welcoming the progress made in the implementation of the Guinea-Bissau programme entitled “Combating and preventing drug trafficking to and from Guinea-Bissau: promoting the rule of law and the effective administration of justice, 2007-2010” through the provision of equipment and specialized training in investigation and the strengthening of judicial police entities,

Aiming to provide an effective response to the growing phenomenon of drug trafficking through West Africa, with the full participation and involvement of the States of West Africa and with the support of the international community,

1. *Notes with appreciation* the convening by the Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime of an informal ministerial session on West Africa to discuss the growing threat of drug trafficking and related crimes in West Africa, with a special focus on the Sahel, held in parallel with the seventeenth session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, on 15 April 2008, and the report of the Office on drug trafficking as a security threat in West Africa;

2. *Welcomes* the organization and successful outcome of the Economic Community of West African States Ministerial Conference on Drug Trafficking as a Security Threat to West Africa, organized with the support of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the United Nations Office for West Africa and in partnership with the European Union, and held in Praia on 28 and 29 October 2008;

3. *Also welcomes* the adoption of the Political Declaration on the Prevention of Drug Abuse, Illicit Drug Trafficking and Organized Crime in West Africa and the Regional Response Action Plan, adopted by the Heads of State and Government of the Economic Community of West African States in Abuja on 19 December 2008, in which Heads of State and

⁶ Ibid., para. 32.

Government called for a concerted response to the challenges of drug trafficking and related crimes, directed the Commission of the Economic Community of West African States to prepare an implementation plan and called on development partners to support that plan;

4. *Takes note* of the commitments made by States members of the Economic Community of West African States in the Political Declaration and the Regional Response Action Plan as an expression of the political commitment of those States to confronting the threats of drug trafficking, other forms of organized crime and drug abuse in those States;

5. *Reaffirms* its determination and commitment to confronting the world drug problem in all its manifestations, with a common, coordinated and balanced approach by Member States and in accordance with the principle of shared responsibility, expresses the conviction that the world drug problem must be addressed in a multilateral setting and calls for the international community and development partners to provide assistance for the implementation of the Regional Response Action Plan;

6. *Calls upon* Member States, especially the main countries of origin, transit and destination of consignments of illicit drugs, in particular cocaine, that are smuggled through West Africa, to strengthen their efforts to reduce the supply of, trafficking in and demand for illicit drugs, in conformity with the provisions of the international drug control treaties;

7. *Encourages* Member States and multilateral organizations to collaborate with the States of West Africa on drug control measures, including, as appropriate, law enforcement cooperation, in order to enhance knowledge of drug trafficking operations and to facilitate and strengthen the prosecution of those involved in drug trafficking and the laundering of the proceeds of drug trafficking;

8. *Invites* Member States and relevant intergovernmental and international organizations and non-governmental organizations to provide financial and material assistance, including expertise, to support the Commission of the Economic Community of West African States and States members of the Community in their efforts to counter drug trafficking and prevent drug abuse through the Regional Response Action Plan;

9. *Calls on* Member States, and invites all donors and regional organizations, to strengthen their technical assistance programmes and cooperation with the Commission of the Economic Community of West African States and States members of the Community, within the framework of the implementation of the Regional Response Action Plan;

10. *Endorses* the integrated approach taken in the implementation of the Regional Response Action Plan, led by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in partnership with the Department of Peacekeeping Operations of the Secretariat, the United Nations Office for West Africa and the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL), with the support of the European Commission;

11. *Welcomes* the continued support of the European Union in the implementation of the Regional Response Action Plan;

12. *Invites* the Commission of the Economic Community of West African States to share with it the reports on the progress made towards implementation of the Political Declaration and Regional Response Action Plan, to be submitted to the ordinary summits of Heads of State of the Economic Community of West African States in 2009, 2010 and 2011;

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