

## **Resolution 53/12**

### **Strengthening systems for the control of the movement of poppy seeds obtained from illicitly grown opium poppy crops**

*The Commission on Narcotic Drugs,*

*Recalling* Economic and Social Council resolution 1999/32 of 28 July 1999, on the international regulation and control of trade in opium poppy seeds,

*Recalling also* its resolution 51/15, pursuant to which the International Narcotics Control Board sent a questionnaire to Governments concerned with a view to collecting information on measures taken by Member States to implement Economic and Social Council resolution 1999/32,

*Considering* article 22 of the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961,<sup>1</sup> on the prohibition of the illicit cultivation of the opium poppy, and the Action Plan on International Cooperation on the Eradication of Illicit Drug Crops and on Alternative Development,<sup>2</sup> adopted by the General Assembly at its twentieth special session,

*Emphasizing* the need to fight the illicit cultivation of opium poppy by all possible means,

*Aware* that, according to the provisions of the 1961 Convention, trade in poppy seeds is not subject to international control,

*Recognizing* that there is a need to prohibit the international trade in opium poppy seeds obtained from illicitly grown opium poppy plants,

*Noting* that poppy seeds derived from illicit cultivation are available on a large scale from countries where the cultivation of opium poppy is prohibited,

*Acknowledging* that the import, export and transit of opium poppy seeds are prohibited in many countries where opium poppy is illicitly cultivated,

*Noting with concern* the information contained in the report of the International Narcotics Control Board for 2009, according to which drug traffickers continued to smuggle opium poppy seeds from countries where the cultivation of opium poppy was not permitted and to attempt to sell those seeds on the world market,<sup>3</sup>

*Also noting with concern* that in some countries opium poppy seeds obtained from illicitly grown opium poppy are used to camouflage and conceal shipments of poppy straw,

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<sup>1</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 520, No. 7515.

<sup>2</sup> General Assembly resolution S-20/4 E.

<sup>3</sup> *Report of the International Narcotics Control Board for 2009* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.10.XI.1), para. 65.

*Resolving* to consider measures that may be taken to prevent the international movement of poppy seeds obtained from illicitly grown opium poppy, in line with recommendation 28 of the International Narcotics Control Board contained in its report for 2009,

1. *Requests* the International Narcotics Control Board and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to continue to assist Member States in taking appropriate measures to ensure the full implementation of article 22 of the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961<sup>4</sup> by Member States concerned;

2. *Encourages* all Member States to endeavour, consistent with their national laws and regulations and applicable international regulations, to import opium poppy seeds derived from licitly grown opium poppy crops;

3. *Encourages* the Governments of countries that permit the importation of poppy seeds to put in place, if they have not already done so, the procedures envisaged in Economic and Social Council resolution 1999/32 of 28 July 1999;

4. *Encourages* Member States to continue to inform the International Narcotics Control Board of measures taken to implement Economic and Social Council resolution 1999/32, in line with Commission resolution 51/15;

5. *Urges* Member States to inform the International Narcotics Control Board of any suspicious transactions involving opium poppy seeds and seizures of poppy seeds derived from illicitly cultivated opium poppy, consistent with their national laws and regulations;

6. *Invites* Member States that are licit producers of opium poppy seeds and importing countries to share available information on the movement of opium poppy seeds and on their experiences in dealing with the movement of opium poppy seeds in conjunction with the fifty-fourth session of the Commission, consistent with their national laws and regulations;

7. *Encourages* Member States where opium poppy is illicitly cultivated to cooperate closely with the Governments of neighbouring countries in order to prevent smuggling of poppy seeds;

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to transmit the text of the present resolution to all Governments for their consideration and implementation.

*10<sup>th</sup> Plenary Meeting  
12 March 2010*

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<sup>4</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 520, No. 7515.