

Resolution 54/11

Improving the participatory role of civil society in addressing the world drug problem

The Commission on Narcotic Drugs,

Recalling the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem,⁵² in which Member States welcomed the important role played by civil society, in particular non-governmental organizations, in addressing the world drug problem, and noted that representatives of affected populations and civil society entities, where appropriate, should be enabled to play a participatory role in the formulation and implementation of drug demand and supply reduction policy,

Recognizing that the responsibility for addressing the world drug problem rests with Member States, while civil society has an important participatory role in addressing the multidimensional aspects of this problem,

Acknowledging that civil society in all its manifestations, undertakes numerous activities that make a substantial contribution to addressing the world drug problem, including in some countries by highlighting issues related to community-based prevention, access to internationally controlled substances for medical purposes, law enforcement, treatment at the local level, health-care, recovery and social services and protection of vulnerable populations,

Recalling its resolution 49/2 of 17 March 2006, in which it acknowledged with satisfaction the contribution made by civil society, including non-governmental organizations, in curbing drug abuse, in particular with regard to the reduction of demand,

Recalling also Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31 of 25 July 1996, in which the Council called upon the governing bodies of the relevant organizations, bodies and specialized agencies of the United Nations system to examine the principles and practices relating to their consultations with non-governmental organizations and to take action, as appropriate, to promote coherence in the light of the provisions of that resolution,

1. *Encourages* Member States to ensure that civil society plays a participatory role, where appropriate, through consultation, in the development and implementation of drug control programmes and policies, in particular with regard to aspects of demand reduction;

2. *Also encourages* Member States to cultivate an environment that promotes innovation and to take into account promising approaches taken by civil society to assist Governments in their efforts to address the world drug problem, provided that such approaches are in conformity with the international drug control conventions, are based on scientific evidence, are in accordance with relevant human rights obligations and are carried out with full respect for the sovereignty

⁵² A/64/92-E/2009/98, sect. II.A.

and territorial integrity of Member States, including the principle of non-intervention in the internal affairs of States;

3. *Further encourages* Member States to provide to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, in the context of the fifty-fifth session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, their experiences in working with civil society in United Nations forums and to provide suggestions, consistent with the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council, Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31 and the three international drug control conventions, with a view to improving the participatory role of civil society in addressing the world drug problem, and requests the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to make that information, including suggestions, available to Member States, upon their request.