

Resolution 54/14

Measures to support African States in their efforts to combat the world drug problem

The Commission on Narcotic Drugs,

Recalling the commitments made in the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem⁶⁷ to overcome the world drug problem through national and international strategies,

Recalling also the provisions of the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961 as amended by the 1972 Protocol,⁶⁸ the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971⁶⁹ and the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988,⁷⁰

Acknowledging the commitment made at the fourth session of the African Union Conference of Ministers for Drug Control and Crime Prevention, held in Addis Ababa from 28 September to 2 October 2010, to fight the illicit cultivation and abuse of cannabis, actively address the control of precursor chemicals and develop adequate monitoring and regulatory systems for ensuring the availability of drugs for medical purposes while curbing the availability of drugs on unregulated markets,

Taking note with appreciation of the revised African Union Plan of Action on Drug Control and Crime Prevention (2007-2012) and the mechanism for its implementation, follow-up and evaluation,

Welcoming the efforts and progress made by African countries in the fight against the world drug problem, including in concluding the memorandum of understanding between the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the Commission of the African Union, in which the two organizations agreed to work towards enhancing the complementarities of their activities, as well as linking the efforts of the Office and the African Union,

Reaffirming the importance of programmes and strategies of African countries to fight the world drug problem as a contribution to regional and international efforts,

Recalling its resolution 45/8 of 15 March 2002, in which it noted that cannabis was by far the most widely and most frequently abused of the drugs listed in the international drug control treaties,

Recalling its resolution 51/18 of 14 March 2008, in which it invited Member States and relevant international organizations to intensify their efforts in support of those West African States most affected by the problem of drug trafficking,

⁶⁷ General Assembly resolution S-20/2, annex.

⁶⁸ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 976, No. 14152.

⁶⁹ *Ibid.*, vol. 1019, No. 14956.

⁷⁰ *Ibid.*, vol. 1582, No. 27627.

Recalling its resolution 52/3 of 20 March 2009, in which the Commission stressed the magnitude and complexity of new trends in smuggling illicit drugs through the region and noted the challenges faced by African States along new international drug trafficking routes,

Recalling also its resolution 53/8 of 12 March 2010, in which the Commission recognized the importance of strengthening international, transregional and regional cooperation to counter the world drug problem and other criminal activities related to drugs,

Welcoming the work carried out by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and other partners in countering drug trafficking and organized crime, in particular in the area of capacity-building and assisting Member States,

Mindful of the need for ownership by African Member States in the development and implementation of programmes of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in their subregions, in close cooperation with other partners, to ensure the long-term sustainability of those activities,

Mindful also of the importance of the work of the regional meetings of heads of national drug law enforcement agencies, as subsidiary bodies of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs,

Welcoming the outcomes of the Twentieth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Africa, in particular the recommendation on the facilitation of the implementation of programmes for demand and supply reduction in the region,

Deeply concerned by the lack of adequate resources to address the world drug problem,

Reaffirming that addressing the world drug problem remains a common and shared responsibility,

1. *Acknowledges* that international cooperation must be effective, and urges Member States to ensure that their supply and demand reduction policies are integrated, multidisciplinary, mutually reinforcing and balanced;

2. *Encourages* the ongoing efforts of Member States in addressing the world drug problem, including by fighting drug trafficking and drug abuse and by preventing the diversion of precursor chemicals, and in continuing to ensure the availability of controlled substances for medical and scientific purposes, while preventing their diversion and abuse;

3. *Encourages* Member States to strengthen cooperation in the areas of exchange of information and mutual legal assistance;

4. *Invites* Member States in close consultation with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, donors and other relevant international organizations:

(a) To mobilize resources to enhance the effective implementation of regional programmes, including the revised African Union Plan of Action on Drug Control and Crime Prevention (2007-2012) and regional programmes of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, as well as national strategies of African countries, in order to support African States in their efforts to combat the world drug problem, with particular emphasis on the areas of laboratories, the judiciary,

drafting of legislation, law enforcement, data collection systems and services involved in prevention, treatment and rehabilitation;

(b) To assist African States in addressing health problems and raising awareness of the dangers associated with the abuse of all drugs, including cannabis, which, according to the report of the International Narcotics Control Board for 2010,⁷¹ continues to be the drug most widely trafficked and abused throughout Africa;

5. *Requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to continue to support the African Union in the implementation of the revised African Union Plan of Action on Drug Control and Crime Prevention (2007-2012);

6. *Calls upon* the Governments of the region to take effective measures to continue raising awareness among the population, in particular among youth, of the dangers of drug abuse;

7. *Urges* African national authorities to strengthen their legal systems, administrative procedures, training and technical support to exercise effective control over illicit drugs and the precursor chemicals used in the illicit manufacture of drugs;

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

⁷¹ *Report of the International Narcotics Control Board for 2010* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.11.XI.7).