

Resolution 54/3

Ensuring the availability of reference and test samples of controlled substances at drug testing laboratories for scientific purposes

The Commission on Narcotic Drugs,

Recognizing the important role entrusted to the International Narcotics Control Board, in accordance with article 9, paragraph 4, of the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961 as amended by the 1972 Protocol,⁶

Recalling the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971,⁷ in which it is recognized that the use of psychotropic substances for scientific purposes is indispensable and that their availability for such purposes should not be unduly restricted,

Recalling also its resolution 53/4 of 12 March 2010, in which the Commission stressed the importance of promoting adequate availability of internationally controlled drugs for scientific purposes while preventing their diversion and abuse,

Noting the requirements to meet the scientific needs for internationally controlled substances worldwide within a regulatory and legal framework that prevents their diversion and abuse,

Recognizing the important role of drug analysis laboratories as part of drug control systems and the value of laboratory results, in accordance with Commission resolutions 50/4 of 16 March 2007 and 52/7 of 20 March 2009,

Recognizing also that the reliability of the analysis and results of such laboratories has significant implications for the justice system, law enforcement and preventive health care, as well as for the international harmonization of data and worldwide exchange and coordination of drug information, and that access to reference samples of controlled substances is an essential quality assurance requirement for achieving such reliability,

Stressing the importance of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime quality assurance programme for drug analysis laboratories, through which minimal but sufficient amounts of reference samples are distributed to participating laboratories of Member States, enabling continuous monitoring and improvement of their performance,

Concerned that costs and complex administrative procedures for obtaining required import/export certification and making available reference materials of controlled substances are disrupting routine analytical laboratory work,

1. *Encourages* the International Narcotics Control Board to continue its efforts to ensure the adequate availability of internationally controlled substances for scientific purposes, and encourages the United Nations Office on Drugs and

⁶ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 976, No. 14152.

⁷ *Ibid.*, vol. 1019, No. 14956.

Crime to consider providing adequate specifications of their quality, as far as they are available;

2. *Requests* Member States, in consultation with the International Narcotics Control Board and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, to review national procedures within their policy and legislative frameworks, as appropriate and in accordance with the provisions of the Conventions, in order not to impair access to reference and test samples of internationally controlled substances for scientific purposes;

3. *Invites* the International Narcotics Control Board and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to work closely on feasible mechanisms that will facilitate the provision of minimal but sufficient amounts of reference and test samples of controlled substances to drug testing laboratories, including through the reinforcement of existing national programmes, as appropriate, in order to support their analytical and quality assurance work, and notes that such mechanisms may include the designation of national contact points, preferably the laboratories that are part of the Office's International Collaborative Exercise programme, and the implementation of efficient administrative procedures governing access to reference and test samples of controlled substances;

4. *Recommends* that the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime continue to support Member States in enhancing the analytical work of laboratories and the training of experts.