

Resolution 54/6

Promoting adequate availability of internationally controlled narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances for medical and scientific purposes while preventing their diversion and abuse

The Commission on Narcotic Drugs,

Recalling its resolution 53/4 of 12 March 2010, aimed at promoting adequate availability of internationally controlled drugs for medical and scientific purposes while preventing their diversion and abuse, in line with the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961 as amended by the 1972 Protocol²⁵ and the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971,²⁶

Acknowledging the special report of the International Narcotics Control Board entitled *Report of the International Narcotics Control Board on the Availability of Internationally Controlled Drugs: Ensuring Adequate Access for Medical and Scientific Purposes*²⁷ and the World Health Organization document entitled *Ensuring Balance in National Policies on Controlled Substances: Guidance for Availability and Accessibility of Controlled Medicines*,²⁸

Noting with appreciation the efforts of non-governmental organizations and civil society in continuing to highlight the importance of the issue of adequate availability of internationally controlled substances for medical and scientific purposes, as set out in the international drug control conventions,

1. *Requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, in consultation with the International Narcotics Control Board and the World Health Organization, to review and, where necessary, to update its model laws to ensure that they reflect an appropriate balance between ensuring adequate access to internationally controlled drugs and preventing their diversion and abuse, in line with the provisions of the international drug control conventions;

2. *Also requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to develop a technical guide explaining the revised model laws to support training and awareness-raising activities for its personnel in regional and country offices and to ensure that the model laws are accessible and readily understood by Member States;

3. *Further requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to conduct, for its personnel in regional and country offices, training and awareness-raising activities to promote adequate availability of internationally controlled drugs for medical and scientific purposes while preventing their diversion and abuse;

4. *Requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the International Narcotics Control Board to continue their efforts to ensure the adequate availability of internationally controlled drugs for medical and scientific purposes worldwide, cooperating as appropriate, through the Access to Controlled

²⁵ Ibid., vol. 976, No. 14152.

²⁶ Ibid., vol. 1019, No. 14956.

²⁷ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.11.XI.7.

²⁸ WHO/EDM/QSM/2000.4.

Medications Programme of the World Health Organization, while continuing their activities to prevent diversion and abuse;

5. *Encourages* the International Narcotics Control Board to continue its efforts, in cooperation with the World Health Organization, to develop guidelines to assist Member States in estimating their medical and scientific requirements for internationally controlled narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances;

6. *Encourages* Member States, as appropriate, to implement the recommendations contained in the special report of the International Narcotics Control Board entitled *Report of the International Narcotics Control Board on the Availability of Internationally Controlled Drugs: Ensuring Adequate Access for Medical and Scientific Purposes*;²⁹

7. *Also encourages* the International Narcotics Control Board, with the support of Member States, to continue to provide assistance to competent national authorities, with the aim of improving national reporting of statistical data, the estimation of licit requirements for narcotic drugs and the voluntary assessment of licit requirements for psychotropic substances;

8. *Reiterates its call upon* Member States to fulfil in a timely manner their reporting obligations to the International Narcotics Control Board and the Secretary-General, as appropriate, concerning the use in their countries of internationally controlled narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances for medical and scientific purposes and the diversion of, trafficking in and abuse of those drugs and substances, as required under the international drug control conventions;

9. *Encourages* Member States to report to the International Narcotics Control Board data on the consumption of psychotropic substances for medical and scientific purposes in the same manner as for narcotic drugs, in order to enable the Board to analyse levels of consumption of psychotropic substances in an accurate manner and to promote their adequate availability;

10. *Also encourages* Member States to ensure the involvement and coordinated action of their relevant bodies and agencies responsible, inter alia, for health care, justice, drug regulation and law enforcement, with a view to defining, updating and achieving, through their respective national laws, policies and programmes, an appropriate balance between access to and availability of internationally controlled drugs for medical and scientific purposes and the prevention of their diversion and abuse;

11. *Invites* Member States, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and relevant international organizations to facilitate the provision of technical assistance to developing countries, in particular developing countries seeking to improve the availability of internationally controlled drugs for medical and scientific purposes while preventing their diversion and abuse, including, where appropriate, through support for South-South cooperation;

12. *Invites* Member States and other donors to provide extrabudgetary resources for these purposes in accordance with the rules and regulations of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime;

²⁹ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.11.XI.7.

13. *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.