

Resolution 54/9

Improving quality and building monitoring capacity for the collection, reporting and analysis of data on the world drug problem and policy responses to it

The Commission on Narcotic Drugs,

Bearing in mind the provisions of the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961,³⁷ that Convention as amended by the 1972 Protocol,³⁸ the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971³⁹ and the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988,⁴⁰

Aware of the need to establish adequate procedures to fulfil the mandates assigned to it with regard to the examination of reports submitted in accordance with the above-mentioned treaties,

Bearing in mind the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem,⁴¹ in which Member States took account of the need for indicators and instruments for the collection and analysis of accurate, reliable and comparable data on all relevant aspects of the world drug problem and, where appropriate, the enhancement or development of new indicators and instruments,

Bearing in mind also that, in the Political Declaration and Plan of Action, Member States committed themselves to report to the Commission on their efforts to fully implement the Political Declaration and Plan of Action,

Recalling its resolution 52/12 of 20 March 2009, in which it decided to convene an open-ended expert group on data collection to improve the collection, reporting and analysis of data to monitor the implementation of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action, which held two meetings, and its decision 53/2 of 10 March 2010, in which it reconvened the expert group convened pursuant to its resolution 52/12,

Noting with appreciation the efforts of the open-ended expert group on data collection to improve the collection, reporting and analysis of data to monitor the implementation of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action, as well as the reporting mandated by the three international drug control conventions,

Recalling its resolution 53/16 of 2 December 2010, in which it adopted the annual report questionnaire⁴² as submitted by the expert group on data collection, decided that it should be periodically reviewed in order to have a flexible international instrument allowing the reporting of national and emerging drug situations and responses, taking into account the needs and challenges of balancing the collection of qualitative and quantitative data and information, and requested the

³⁷ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 520, No. 7515.

³⁸ *Ibid.*, vol. 976, No. 14152.

³⁹ *Ibid.*, vol. 1019, No. 14956.

⁴⁰ *Ibid.*, vol. 1582, No. 27627.

⁴¹ A/64/92-E/2009/98, sect. II.A.

⁴² E/CN.7/2010/19, E/CN.7/2010/20, E/CN.7/2010/21 and E/CN.7/2010/22.

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to carry out such reviews, taking into consideration, among other things, the challenges identified and the recommendations made by the reconvened expert group on data collection,⁴³

Noting the importance of ensuring coherence among the annual report questionnaire and other reporting tools within the United Nations system and of other international and regional organizations,

Noting also regional efforts, such as the recent efforts in the region of Oceania, to improve data collection, and recognizing that lessons may be learned from these experiences,

Noting with concern the 2011 report of the Secretariat on the world situation with regard to drug abuse,⁴⁴ which raises concern about the fact that there is a lack of current information on most of the epidemiological indicators on drug use, caused by a lack of sustainable drug information and monitoring systems in some parts of the world, which hinders the monitoring of changing and emerging trends, the implementation of evidence-based responses and the ability to assess the effectiveness of those responses,

1. *Recognizes* that continuing efforts are needed to improve the accuracy, reliability, validity and comparability of data, analysis and reporting on all relevant aspects of the world drug situation, including in the field of drug demand reduction and drug supply reduction;

2. *Invites* Member States to invest, where necessary and taking into account specific needs and available resources, in capacity-building and quality-enhancing activities for the collection and reporting of information, with the aim of complying with the reporting mandates contained in the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961,⁴⁵ the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971,⁴⁶ the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988⁴⁷ and the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem,⁴⁸ and provide, on a yearly basis, timely, accurate and reliable data by completing all parts of the annual report questionnaire;

3. *Also invites* Member States to participate in joint cooperation efforts, organized by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and/or by other national, regional or international organizations and bodies, aimed at the exchange of technical knowledge of experts in the area of data collection, analysis and evaluation and of practical experience in the area of drug data;

4. *Invites* relevant international and regional organizations as well as Member States, upon the request of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, to provide and, where possible, share experiences and expertise in collecting, analysing and reporting drug-related information and data, in order to contribute to

⁴³ See E/CN.7/2010/24.

⁴⁴ E/CN.7/2011/2.

⁴⁵ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 520, No. 7515.

⁴⁶ *Ibid.*, vol. 1019, No. 14956.

⁴⁷ *Ibid.*, vol. 1582, No. 27627.

⁴⁸ A/64/92-E/2009/98, sect. II.A.

the gradual standardization of high-quality data collection methods, being sensitive to the national contexts in which they are implemented;

5. *Requests* the Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to prevent duplication of efforts by Member States to the extent possible by duly taking into account existing reporting procedures, including those of relevant regional and international bodies;

6. *Invites* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to work jointly with other organizations, bodies and specialized agencies of the United Nations, in particular the International Narcotics Control Board, the World Health Organization and the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS, to achieve system-wide coherence by exchanging data and information and by cooperating on the development of standards, methodologies and best practices, with the aim of enhancing quality and preventing overlap and duplication of efforts;

7. *Requests* the Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to examine ways and means of utilizing expertise and know-how on drug-related data collection from scientific institutions and networks at the national, regional and international levels, to inform quality assurance standards, capacity-building activities and a comprehensive understanding of the global drug situation, and to report thereon to the Commission at its fifty-fifth session;

8. *Also requests* the Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to implement the measures proposed in his programme proposal entitled “Programme on monitoring and information on drug supply statistics and epidemiology”;

9. *Invites* Member States and other donors to provide extrabudgetary resources for these purposes in accordance with the rules and procedures of the United Nations;

10. *Requests* the Executive Director to include, in the annual reports of the Secretariat on the world situation with regard to drug abuse and on the world situation with regard to drug trafficking submitted to the Commission, an overview of measures and activities undertaken by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to enhance the scientific quality of its reporting mechanisms and the support given to Member States in developing their capacity for data collection and analysis.