

Resolution 55/3

One hundredth anniversary of the International Opium Convention

The Commission on Narcotic Drugs,

Highlighting the International Opium Commission, the first multilateral initiative in the field of drug control, which was convened in Shanghai, China, from 1 to 26 February 1909, and that representatives of thirteen States, namely, Austria-Hungary, China, France, Germany, Great Britain, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands, Persia,¹ Portugal, Russia, Siam² and the United States of America, participated in the deliberations,

Noting that as follow-up to the International Opium Commission, the first-ever multilateral drug control convention, the International Opium Convention signed at The Hague on 23 January 1912,³ formed the basis for the development of the international drug control system,

Underscoring that the international community, being concerned with the health and welfare of mankind, further recognized the importance of expanding controls to promote adequate availability of internationally controlled licit drugs for medical and scientific purposes while recognizing its duty to combat and prevent their diversion and abuse, including in the following conventions:

(a) The Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961 as amended by the 1972 Protocol,⁴ in which it is recognized that the medical use of narcotic drugs continues to be indispensable for the relief of pain and suffering and that adequate provision must be made to ensure the availability of narcotic drugs for such purposes, while at the same time limiting such use exclusively to scientific and medicinal purposes;

(b) The Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971,⁵ in which it is recognized that the use of psychotropic substances for medical and scientific purposes is indispensable and that their availability for such purposes should not be unduly restricted,

Recalling the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988,⁶ which recognizes the links between illicit traffic in narcotic drugs and psychoactive substances and other related organized criminal activities which undermine the legitimate economies and threaten the stability, security and the sovereignty of States,

Reaffirming the important role entrusted to the International Narcotics Control Board to ensure, in cooperation with Governments,

¹ Now referred to in the United Nations as the Islamic Republic of Iran.

² Now referred to in the United Nations as Thailand.

³ League of Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. VIII, No. 222.

⁴ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 976, No. 14152.

⁵ *Ibid.*, vol. 1019, No. 14956.

⁶ *Ibid.*, vol. 1582, No. 27627.

the availability of narcotic drugs for medical and scientific purposes and prevent illicit trafficking in and use of drugs,

Recognizing the great progress made by the international community in international drug control efforts,

Aware of the challenges that remain in the field of global drug control,

Stressing the importance of commitment, common and shared responsibility and international cooperation in efforts to fight the world drug problem,

Expressing the determination to strengthen action and cooperation at the national, regional and international levels towards the goals of those conventions, which remain the cornerstone of the international drug control system,

1. *Invites* all Member States to commemorate the centennial of the International Opium Convention signed at The Hague on 23 January 1912,⁷ including by calling attention to the common and shared responsibility of all States to address the world drug problem;

2. *Reaffirms* that the three international drug control conventions, as well as the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its three Protocols,⁸ the United Nations Convention against Corruption⁹ and other relevant international instruments, constitute the international framework for countering drug trafficking and transnational organized crime;

3. *Also reaffirms* its unwavering commitment to ensure that all aspects of demand reduction, supply reduction and international cooperation are addressed in full conformity with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, international law and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights¹⁰ and, in particular, with full respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of States, the principle of non-intervention in the internal affairs of States, all human rights, fundamental freedoms, the inherent dignity of all individuals and the principles of equal rights and mutual respect among States;

4. *Affirms* that the three international drug control conventions, which are moving towards universal adherence, seek to achieve a balance between ensuring the availability of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances under international control for medical and scientific purposes and preventing their diversion and abuse;

5. *Urges* all Member States that have not yet done so to consider taking measures to ratify or accede to those instruments and to adopt appropriate measures to effectively implement their provisions at the national level;

⁷ League of Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. VIII, No. 222.

⁸ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vols. 2225, 2237, 2241 and 2326, No. 39574.

⁹ *Ibid.*, vol. 2349, No. 42146.

¹⁰ General Assembly resolution 217 A (III).

6. *Urges* States to take effective measures at the national, regional and international levels to coordinate their actions and intensify and strengthen their cooperation in order to prevent and act against the world drug problem.

*9th Plenary Meeting
16 March 2012*