

Resolution 55/4

Follow-up on the proposal to organize an international workshop and conference on alternative development

The Commission on Narcotic Drugs,

Bearing in mind the provisions of the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961,¹ that Convention as amended by the 1972 Protocol,² the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971³ and the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988,⁴

Recalling the Political Declaration adopted by the General Assembly at its twentieth special session,⁵ the Action Plan on International Cooperation on the Eradication of Illicit Drug Crops and on Alternative Development,⁶ the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,⁷ the United Nations Millennium Declaration⁸ and, in particular, the Millennium Development Goals referring to extreme poverty and hunger (goal 1) and ensuring environmental sustainability (goal 7),⁹

Stressing the commitments contained in the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem,¹⁰

Recalling its resolution 52/6 of 20 March 2009, entitled “Promoting best practices and lessons learned for the sustainability and integrality of alternative development programmes”, in which it requested the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, in collaboration with relevant international bodies, to continue promoting best practices and lessons learned from alternative development programmes in various countries, including by organizing an international conference on that topic in 2010,

Recalling also its resolution 53/6 of 12 March 2010, entitled “Follow-up to the promotion of best practices and lessons learned for the sustainability and integrality of alternative development programmes and the proposal to organize an international workshop and conference on alternative development”, in which it welcomed the proposal of Peru and Thailand to jointly host an international workshop, back to back with an international conference, in close collaboration with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, and its resolution 54/4 of 25 March 2011, entitled “Follow-up on the proposal to organize an international workshop and conference on

¹ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 520, No. 7515.

² *Ibid.*, vol. 976, No. 14152.

³ *Ibid.*, vol. 1019, No. 14956.

⁴ *Ibid.*, vol. 1582, No. 27627.

⁵ General Assembly resolution S-20/2, annex.

⁶ General Assembly resolution S-20/4 E.

⁷ General Assembly resolution 217/A (III).

⁸ General Assembly resolution 55/2.

⁹ A/56/326, annex.

¹⁰ See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2009, Supplement No. 8 (E/2009/28)*, chap. I, sect. C.

alternative development”, in which it noted with appreciation that Peru and Thailand remained committed to jointly organizing the above-mentioned events, while also taking into account that close collaboration with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime was needed to share information and best practices and increase efforts in promoting that sustainable alternative to the illicit cultivation of drug crops,

Reaffirming the role played by developing countries in sharing best practices and promoting and strengthening cooperation on integral and sustainable alternative development, which includes in some cases preventive alternative development, including cross-continental and interregional cooperation and subregional and regional technical cooperation, as expressed in its resolution 53/6,

Recognizing the ongoing discussion within the framework of the Coordination and Cooperation Mechanism on Drugs between the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States and the European Union on the implementation of a mechanism that encourages international market dynamics by facilitating and protecting the production, commercialization and consumption of products of licit origin with added value from vulnerable and affected areas through the use of a global stamp on “alternative development and preventive alternative development”, in conformity with the multilateral trade rules,

1. *Acknowledges* that alternative development¹¹ is an important, lawful, viable and sustainable alternative to the illicit cultivation of drug crops, that it is one of the key components of policies and programmes for reducing illicit drug production and that it is an integral part of the efforts made by Governments to achieve sustainable development within their societies;

2. *Expresses appreciation* to the Government of Thailand for the organization of the International Seminar Workshop on Sustainable Alternative Development, held in the provinces of Chiang Rai and Chiang Mai from 6 to 11 November 2011, in close collaboration with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, with the aim of sharing best practices and lessons learned in alternative development, gathering inputs and contributions and assessing past and ongoing efforts for the future endeavour of developing a set of international guiding principles to serve as guidelines for more effective alternative development programmes in drug-producing areas;

3. *Welcomes* the note by the Secretariat on the follow-up to the promotion of best practices and lessons learned for the sustainability and integrality of alternative development programmes and the proposal to organize an international workshop and conference on alternative development,¹² in particular its annex

¹¹ In accordance with Economic and Social Council resolutions 2006/33, 2007/12 and 2008/26, the concept of alternative development includes preventive alternative development in a manner focusing on the sustainability and integrality of uplifting people’s livelihood.

¹² E/CN.7/2012/8 and Add.1.

containing inputs for the draft international guiding principles on alternative development, which were unanimously agreed by participants at the International Workshop on Alternative Development;

4. *Emphasizes* that the inputs for the draft international guiding principles are to be considered by the high-level representatives attending the International Conference on Alternative Development, to be held in Lima on 15 and 16 November 2012, and in that regard requests the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to invite Member States to provide their comments on the above-mentioned inputs, with a view to submitting them to that conference for its consideration;

5. *Looks forward* to the above-mentioned International Conference on Alternative Development, to be hosted by the Government of Peru;

6. *Urges* Member States, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, international financial institutions, donors, international organizations, non-governmental organizations and other stakeholders involved in development-oriented drug policies to send high-level representatives, accompanied by relevant experts, as appropriate, to actively participate in the International Conference on Alternative Development to be held in Peru;

7. *Requests* the Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to report to the Commission at its fifty-sixth session on the outcome of the Conference and the international guiding principles on alternative development, including the deliberations and recommendations of the conference.

*9th Plenary Meeting
16 March 2012*