

Resolution 55/8

Follow-up to the Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem with respect to the development of strategies on special marketing regimes for alternative development, including preventive alternative development

The Commission on Narcotic Drugs,

Recalling the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988,¹ the Political Declaration adopted by the General Assembly at its twentieth special session² and the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem,³ adopted in 2009, including article 49 (b) of the Plan of Action, in which Member States were advised that they should develop strategies consistent with domestic legal frameworks, including the utilization of local expertise, capacity-building and entrepreneurship, to develop products through alternative development⁴ programmes identified on the basis of market demand and value-added production chains, as well as secure and stable markets with fair prices for producers, in accordance with international trade rules, including the required infrastructure and a conducive environment, including roads, the establishment of farmer associations and the use of special marketing regimes, for example, those based on fair-trade principles and commerce in organic products,

Reaffirming its resolution 45/14 of 15 March 2002, in which it invited Member States to make more comprehensive and determined efforts in the area of financial and technical cooperation aimed at promoting alternative development, including preventive alternative development, with the understanding that such cooperation, in the long term, may achieve positive results that not only satisfy economic criteria but also take into account social, political and environmental factors,

Reaffirming also Economic and Social Council resolution 2003/37 of 22 July 2003, entitled “Strengthening alternative development through trade and socio-environmental preservation”, in which the United Nations International Drug Control Programme and all Member States were urged to continue to cooperate effectively on programmes to promote alternative development, including, where appropriate, preventive alternative development, in accordance with the provisions of Commission resolution 45/14,

¹ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1582, No. 27627.

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

³ See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2009, Supplement No. 8 (E/2009/28)*, chap. I, sect. C.

⁴ In accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 2006/33 and 2007/12, the concept of alternative development includes preventive alternative development.

Considering that alternative development, including, where appropriate, preventive alternative development, constitutes an international policy founded on the principle of shared responsibility that seeks to discourage the cultivation of illicit crops in countries affected by that problem and those vulnerable to illicit activities relating to the chain of production and stockpiling of and trafficking in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances,

Taking into account the need to strengthen and renew international cooperation measures in order to be able to effectively address the changing dynamics of the world drug problem,

Noting with concern that there is a high risk that licit crops grown adjacent to areas of illicit crop cultivation will be displaced or replaced by illicit crop cultivation,

Recognizing the need to promote products of licit origin stemming from alternative development, including preventive alternative development programmes, including those products with added value from areas affected by and vulnerable to the world drug problem, thus creating and promoting licit economic options for populations and their territories,

Noting that the use of special marketing regimes, for example, those based on fair-trade principles and commerce in organic products, may be an effective strategy to increase the success of projects for alternative development, including preventive alternative development,

Taking note of the presentation made by the Government of Ecuador to participants at the fifty-fifth session of the Commission, entitled “The global stamp for alternative development and preventive alternative development”, describing a proposal for a global stamp for products of alternative development, including preventive alternative development, which had also been presented at the Thirteenth High-level Meeting of the Coordination and Cooperation Mechanism on Drugs between the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States and the European Union, held in Bogota on 28 and 29 June 2011,

1. *Invites* Member States, in accordance with the principle of common and shared responsibility, to promote legal options that are socially, economically and environmentally sustainable and that contribute comprehensively to alternative development, including, where appropriate, preventive alternative development, for populations being affected by or at risk of being affected by illicit drug crop cultivation and related activities;

2. *Encourages* Member States, when appropriate and in accordance with the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988,⁵ to undertake efforts to protect populations living in affected and vulnerable areas, including areas where licit crops are at risk of displacement by illicit crops because licit crops are grown adjacent to illicit crops;

⁵ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1582, No. 27627.

3. *Encourages* participatory approaches from all stakeholders, including groups at risk of starting to illicitly cultivate crops used for the production of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, in the identification, preparation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of alternative development;

4. *Encourages* Member States to reach out to States not affected by illicit drug crop cultivation and to the private sector with a view to providing greater access to markets for alternative development products, consistent with national and international obligations, and taking into account applicable multilateral trade rules;

5. *Encourages* Member States to engage in dialogue and share experiences and proposals on special marketing regimes in the field of alternative development, including preventive alternative development, such as a global stamp for products stemming from alternative development programmes, and invites Member States to consider these issues at the International Conference on Alternative Development, to be hosted by the Governments of Thailand and Peru in Lima on 15 and 16 November 2012, and other appropriate forums;

6. *Invites* Member States to share their experiences with and proposals on special marketing regimes, including a global stamp for products stemming from alternative development programmes, including, as appropriate, preventive alternative development, in connection with the report on the outcome of the International Conference on Alternative Development, to be prepared pursuant to Commission resolution 55/4 of 16 March 2012, entitled “Follow-up on the proposal to organize an international workshop and conference on alternative development”.

*9th Plenary Meeting
16 March 2012*