

## Resolution 56/14

### **Strengthening international cooperation in addressing the non-medical use and abuse, the illicit manufacture and the illicit domestic and international distribution of tramadol**

*The Commission on Narcotic Drugs,*

*Recalling* the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961 as amended by the 1972 Protocol,<sup>58</sup> the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971<sup>59</sup> and the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988,<sup>60</sup>

*Recognizing* that tramadol is a centrally acting, synthetic opioid analgesic not under international control, is available in many countries as a medicine and is used as an effective treatment for moderate to severe pain,

*Concerned* at the expansion of the illicit manufacture and the illicit domestic and international distribution of tramadol in some countries,

*Deeply concerned* about the growing non-medical use and abuse of tramadol in many Member States, as evidenced by large seizures of such preparations in Africa and other regions, as referred to in the report of the International Narcotics Control Board for 2012,<sup>61</sup>

*Concerned* about the potential opportunities for transnational organized criminal groups to profit from the non-medical sale and illicit domestic and international distribution of tramadol,

*Recalling* its resolution 48/1 of 11 March 2005, on promoting the sharing of information on emerging trends in the abuse of and trafficking in substances not controlled under the international drug control conventions,

*Acknowledging* the importance of early warning mechanisms and rapid and global dissemination of information on drugs, drug combinations and drug abuse patterns, as well as the efforts made by States members of the European Union, together with the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction, in this area,

*Recalling* its resolution 53/4 of 12 March 2010 on promoting adequate availability of internationally controlled narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances for medical and scientific purposes while preventing their diversion and abuse,

*Reaffirming* that ensuring access to controlled narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances for medical and scientific purposes is one of the fundamental objectives of the international drug control conventions,

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<sup>58</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 976, No. 14152.

<sup>59</sup> *Ibid.*, vol. 1019, No. 14956.

<sup>60</sup> *Ibid.*, vol. 1582, No. 27627.

<sup>61</sup> *Report of the International Narcotics Control Board for 2012* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.13.XI.1).

*Noting* that a number of countries have taken steps to place tramadol under national control in order to limit its non-medical use and abuse,

*Emphasizing* that systematic research is crucial to the assessment of the broader health and social implications associated with the non-medical use and abuse of tramadol,

*Noting* that reducing, in a comprehensive and proactive manner, both demand for and supply of tramadol for non-medical purposes requires strong political commitment,

1. *Encourages* Member States, in particular those that have not taken any measures of national control over tramadol, to monitor emerging trends in the unauthorized importation, exportation and distribution of tramadol, as well as patterns in the non-medical use and abuse of that substance within their own national borders, in accordance with national legislation;

2. *Urges* Member States, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the World Health Organization, the International Narcotics Control Board and other relevant organizations to share and exchange, through bilateral and multilateral channels, information on those emerging trends, in particular with regard to patterns of non-medical use and abuse, risks to public health, forensic analysis data and drug regulations, as appropriate;

3. *Encourages* Member States to adopt appropriate comprehensive measures aimed at preventing and reducing the non-medical use and abuse and illicit supply of tramadol, in accordance with their national legislation;

4. *Urges* Member States to adopt appropriate comprehensive measures to ensure the adequate availability of substances for medical and scientific purposes, while simultaneously preventing their abuse, diversion and trafficking;

5. *Also urges* Member States, on the basis of the principle of common and shared responsibility, to strengthen international cooperation, in accordance with their national laws, in law enforcement activities to combat the illicit manufacture and illicit domestic and international distribution of tramadol;

6. *Invites* the International Narcotics Control Board to consider incorporating in its report for 2013, to be submitted to the Commission on Narcotic Drugs at its fifty-seventh session, information on global developments in the non-medical use and abuse, illicit manufacture and illicit domestic and international distribution of tramadol;

7. *Requests* the Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to report to the Commission at its fifty-seventh session on progress made with respect to the activities described in the present resolution.