

Resolution 63/2

Promoting and improving the collection and analysis of reliable and comparable data to strengthen balanced, integrated, comprehensive, multidisciplinary and scientific evidence-based responses to the world drug problem

The Commission on Narcotic Drugs,

Recalling the outcome document of the thirtieth special session of the General Assembly, held in 2016, entitled “Our joint commitment to effectively addressing and countering the world drug problem”,¹ in which Member States recognized that the world drug problem remains a common and shared responsibility that should be addressed in a multilateral setting through effective and increased international cooperation and demands an integrated, multidisciplinary, mutually reinforcing, balanced, scientific evidence-based and comprehensive approach,

Recalling also the Ministerial Declaration on Strengthening Our Actions at the National, Regional and International Levels to Accelerate the Implementation of Our Joint Commitments to Address and Counter the World Drug Problem,² adopted at its sixty-second session, in 2019, in which Member States committed to safeguarding our future and ensuring that no one affected by the world drug problem is left behind by enhancing efforts to bridge the gaps in addressing the persistent and emerging trends and challenges through the implementation of balanced, integrated, comprehensive, multidisciplinary and scientific evidence-based responses to the world drug problem, placing the safety, health and well-being of all members of society, in particular youth and children, at the centre of their efforts,

Recalling further that in the Ministerial Declaration, Member States committed to ensuring that the Commission-led follow-up on the implementation of all commitments to address and counter the world drug problem made since 2009 is done in a single track, which includes ensuring that the collection of reliable and comparable data, through a strengthened and streamlined annual report questionnaire, reflects all commitments,

Recalling the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem³ of 2009, 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 of new indicators and instruments, recommended that the Commission on Narcotic Drugs take further measures to address that issue, and recommended the establishment, through the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and in coordination with the Statistical Commission of the Economic and Social Council, of clear and measurable indicators in the area of supply reduction in order to accurately assess the achievement of any goals and targets that might be set by the international community beyond 2009,

Welcoming the expert-level consultations on strengthening and streamlining the existing annual report questionnaire that were convened by

¹ General Assembly resolution [S-30/1](#), annex.

² See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2019, Supplement No. 8 (E/2019/28)*, chap. I, sect. B.

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

the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, in close consultation with Member States, in an inclusive manner,

Recalling the commitment of Member States to promoting and improving the collection, analysis and sharing of quality and comparable data, in particular through targeted, effective and sustainable capacity-building, in close cooperation with the International Narcotics Control Board and the World Health Organization, as well as with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and other relevant partners, including through the cooperation between the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and the Statistical Commission, with a view to strengthening national data-collection capacity in order to improve the response rate and expand the geographical and thematic reporting of related data in accordance with all commitments,

Reaffirming its resolution 58/7 of 17 March 2015, on strengthening cooperation with the scientific community, including academia, and promoting scientific research in drug demand and supply reduction policies in order to find effective solutions to various aspects of the world drug problem, in which it recognized the need to increase investment in scientific evidence-based research and evaluation in order to properly implement and assess effective drug demand and supply reduction policies and related programmes,

Acknowledging the participatory role that other relevant stakeholders, including civil society, affected populations and their families, community members and local organizations, may play in the development and implementation of data collection and the monitoring and evaluation of drug policies and programmes,

Acknowledging also that strengthening data collection and scientific research is essential for the development and evaluation of effective drug policies, that this requires comprehensive, timely, objective and reliable information on trends in drug use and their impact on health, as well as on developments in drug supply and the dynamics of the drug market, and that more research and scientific evidence-based knowledge is therefore needed for effective and efficient responses and interventions on all aspects of the world drug problem, taking into account that understanding and assessing changes in the drug phenomenon requires a common effort, coordinated action and knowledge that no country can achieve alone,

Emphasizing the importance of presenting persistent and emerging trends and challenges of the world drug problem and their possible policy implications in the annual *World Drug Report*,

Noting that despite considerable efforts made over the years to improve the data presented in the *World Drug Report*, which rely to a large extent on information submitted by Member States through the annual report questionnaire, challenges remain in producing such data because several Member States lack the monitoring systems necessary to produce objective, reliable and internationally comparable data,

Encouraging the work of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime on collecting, analysing and presenting data on the global drug situation, which is essential to better substantiate our actions at the national, regional and international levels and to be able to assess areas where we need to accelerate the implementation of our joint commitments to address and counter the world drug problem, and requesting the Office to continue to support Member States, at their request, in their efforts to collect and analyse data, including in the areas where data are scarce,

Taking note of the efforts of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to coordinate and ensure effective United Nations inter-agency collaboration to support the implementation of international drug control policies and to promote the scientific evidence-based implementation of international commitments, in particular through improved and coordinated data collection,

Welcoming its close cooperation with the Statistical Commission, while also noting that the methodological challenges of collecting data in the area of drugs also requires appropriate methods and expertise,

Recalling its resolution 60/4 of 17 March 2017, on preventing and responding to the adverse health consequences and risks associated with the use of new psychoactive substances, and recognizing the progress made by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in the collection of toxicological and pharmacological data on new psychoactive substances to inform scientific evidence-based responses and drug policy decisions,

Underscoring the need for Member States to enhance, where appropriate, their cooperation through the sharing of scientific information, best practices and lessons learned, in order to improve our balanced, integrated, comprehensive, multidisciplinary and scientific evidence-based responses to the world drug problem,

1. *Calls upon* Member States to analyse their policies and responses, including regarding demand and supply reduction, alternative development, international cooperation, access to and availability of controlled substances for medical and scientific purposes and cross-cutting issues such as drugs and human rights, youth, women, children, vulnerable members of society and communities, by gathering scientifically robust data on their effectiveness and efficiency in addressing and countering the world drug problem;

2. *Encourages* Member States to collect and share quantitative and qualitative data, disaggregated by age and sex, related to the world drug problem, including when providing information through the annual report questionnaire as well as when reporting to the Commission, as mandated by the three international drug control conventions, and to mainstream a gender perspective in the research and analysis on the various aspects of the world drug problem, with a view to addressing the knowledge gap on women and drug use;

3. *Calls upon* Member States to cooperate with one another, including through their competent national authorities and national statistical entities, and to invest in and share scientific information, best practices and lessons learned with the aim of increasing our capacity and collective knowledge regarding the effectiveness and efficiency of our responses to address and counter the world drug problem;

4. *Invites* all parties to analyse how the collection of reliable and comparable data to strengthen balanced, integrated, comprehensive, multidisciplinary and scientific evidence-based responses to the world drug problem can contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals;

5. *Invites* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the International Narcotics Control Board, the World Health Organization and other relevant United Nations entities, as well as regional and intergovernmental organizations, to streamline the international and regional collection of data and improve data-sharing between organizations, thereby strengthening inter-agency cooperation and avoiding duplication of work;

6. *Invites* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to continue to strengthen its cooperation with the Statistical Commission as well as the scientific community, including academia, on the specific challenge of collecting and analysing data on the world drug problem, including on persistent and emerging challenges;

7. *Requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, in cooperation with the International Narcotics Control Board, the World Health Organization, other relevant international organizations and also Member States, to develop and promote internationally recognized standards for collecting reliable, valid and comparable data on addressing the world drug problem, including through the improved and streamlined annual report questionnaire, in order to appropriately meet the needs of countries with different data-collection capacities and needs;

8. *Also requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to continue promoting and strengthening regional capacity in data collection, analysis and reporting, which can allow Member States facing similar problems to share experiences and best practices and also, within the international system, avoid duplication of efforts and maximize the benefit gained from the expertise that exists within regional networks, such as the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction and its European information network on drugs and drug addiction, the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission, the African Union, the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, the Central Asian Regional Information and Coordination Centre and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations;

9. *Further requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to continue to convene an informal international scientific network as mandated in its resolution 58/7 and to consider the input of that network to the efforts of the Office to promote and improve the collection and analysis of reliable, valid and comparable data;

10. *Requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, and invites the International Narcotics Control Board, the World Health Organization and other United Nations entities, to continue to provide, within their mandates, upon request, advice and assistance, based on scientific evidence-based knowledge, to States that are reviewing and updating their drug policies or responses;

11. *Requests* the Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to brief Member States on a regular basis on the efforts of the Office to coordinate and ensure effective United Nations inter-agency collaboration to support the implementation of international drug control policies and to promote the scientific evidence-based implementation of international commitments, in particular through improved and coordinated data collection;

12. *Encourages* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, in close cooperation with Member States, pertinent United Nations entities and intergovernmental and regional organizations, to develop and support the implementation of an approach for targeted capacity-building appropriate to the needs and conditions of different countries in order to facilitate the collection of reliable, valid and comparable data and the reporting of data required by the annual report questionnaire;

13. *Also encourages* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to continue to facilitate, upon request, the exchange between Member States of best practices and lessons learned on the effects of their efforts in working

towards balanced, integrated, comprehensive, multidisciplinary and scientific evidence-based responses to the world drug problem;

14. *Invites* Member States and other donors to consider providing extrabudgetary resources for the purposes of the present resolution, in accordance with the rules and regulations of the United Nations.