

Resolution 63/5

Promoting alternative development as a development-oriented drug control strategy

The Commission on Narcotic Drugs,

Recognizing that the world drug problem continues to present challenges to the health, safety and well-being of all humanity, and resolving to tackle such challenges in order to help ensure that all people can live in health, dignity and peace, with security and prosperity,

Reaffirming that drug policies and programmes, including in the field of development, should be undertaken in accordance with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, international law and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights¹ 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, as well as the principle of common and shared responsibility, recalling the Sustainable Development Goals, and taking into account the specific situations of countries and regions,

Underscoring that the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961 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 together with other relevant international instruments, constitute the cornerstone of the international drug control system,

Recalling that the Political Declaration adopted by the General Assembly at its twentieth special session, in 1998, devoted to countering the world drug problem together,⁵ the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem⁶ of 2009, the Joint Ministerial Statement of the 2014 high-level review by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs of the implementation by Member States of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action,⁷ 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”,⁸ and 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,⁹ adopted during the ministerial segment of the sixty-second session of the Commission, in 2019, are the important milestones in addressing and countering the world drug problem,

¹ General Assembly resolution 217 A (III).

² United Nations, *Treaty Series*, 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 See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2009, Supplement No. 8 (E/2009/28)*, chap. I, sect. C.

⁷ See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2014, Supplement No. 8 (E/2014/28)*, chap. I, sect. C.

⁸ General Assembly resolution [S-30/1](#), annex.

⁹ See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2019, Supplement No. 8 (E/2019/28)*, chap. I, sect. B.

Emphasizing that alternative development should also be considered for implementation in the framework of a sustainable crop control strategy, which may include, inter alia, eradication and law enforcement, according to the national context, in the light of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem and the outcome document of the thirtieth special session of the General Assembly, held in 2016, and taking into consideration the United Nations Guiding Principles on Alternative Development, adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution [68/196](#) of 18 December 2013,

Reaffirming that alternative development is an important, lawful, viable and sustainable alternative to the illicit cultivation of drug crops and an effective measure to counter the world drug problem and other drug-related crime challenges, as well as a choice in favour of promoting a society free of drug abuse, 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 efforts made by Governments to achieve sustainable development within their societies,

Reiterating its commitment to respecting, protecting and promoting all human rights, fundamental freedoms and the inherent dignity of all individuals and the rule of law in the development and implementation of drug policies,

Recalling the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,¹⁰ and stressing that the implementation of the United Nations Guiding Principles on Alternative Development should be aligned with the efforts to achieve those relevant objectives within the Sustainable Development Goals that are related to the issue of alternative development, which falls within the mandate of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, and that the efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and to effectively address the world drug problem are complementary and mutually reinforcing,

Welcoming the holding of the expert group meeting on alternative development entitled “Advancing alternative development and development-oriented drug policies”, hosted by Germany, Peru, Thailand and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, in Chiang Rai Province, Thailand, from 15 to 17 December 2019, and the International Conference on Rising to the Challenge of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through Sustainable Highland Development: The Royal Project Model, held in Chiang Mai Province, Thailand, from 22 to 24 December 2019, with the participation of Member States, international organizations, representatives of civil society and academia, experts and representatives of affected communities,

Reaffirming its commitment to addressing drug-related socioeconomic issues related to the illicit cultivation of narcotic plants and the illicit manufacture and production of and trafficking in drugs through the implementation of long-term, comprehensive and sustainable development-oriented and balanced drug control policies and programmes, including alternative development and, as appropriate, preventive alternative development programmes, which are part of sustainable crop control strategies,

Recognizing that alternative development programmes can contribute to the efforts of Member States to address human vulnerabilities, including

¹⁰ General Assembly resolution [70/1](#).

poverty, unemployment, a lack of opportunities, discrimination and social marginalization,

1. *Encourages* Member States to apply the United Nations Guiding Principles on Alternative Development¹¹ when designing, implementing, monitoring and evaluating alternative development programmes and projects;

2. *Encourages* the development of viable economic alternatives, in particular for communities affected by or at risk of illicit cultivation of drug crops and other illicit drug-related activities in urban and rural areas, including through comprehensive alternative development programmes, and to this end encourages Member States to consider development-oriented interventions, while ensuring that both men and women benefit equally from them;

3. *Urges* Member States to promote development-oriented drug control strategies, including alternative development, with a view to implementing relevant international drug policy commitments, which are complementary to and mutually reinforcing with their efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals;

4. *Invites* Member States, while implementing alternative development programmes, to consider the importance of community-based agreements that enable communities to sustain their development;

5. *Takes note* of the conference room paper submitted jointly by Germany, Peru and Thailand and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, which contains a summary of the discussions and conclusions of the expert group meeting held in Chiang Rai Province, Thailand, from 15 to 17 December 2019, bearing in mind its non-binding nature and that it does not necessarily reflect the positions of all participants, and expresses its appreciation for the efforts of the co-sponsors of the expert group meeting;

6. *Encourages* Member States to continue sharing lessons learned, best practices and expertise and enhancing dialogues on development-oriented drug control policies and programmes, including on the implementation of the United Nations Guiding Principles on Alternative Development;

7. *Urges* Member States to continue to promote data collection, research and the sharing of information for identifying the causes of illicit drug crop cultivation and other illicit drug-related activities and providing evidence, in order to identify the factors driving illicit cultivation and to design better impact assessments;

8. *Invites* relevant international financial institutions, United Nations entities, non-governmental organizations and the private sector, as appropriate, to consider increasing their support, including through long-term and flexible funding, for the implementation of comprehensive and balanced development-oriented drug control programmes and viable economic alternatives, in particular alternative development, including, as appropriate, preventive alternative development programmes, based on identified needs and national priorities, for areas and populations affected by or vulnerable to the illicit cultivation of drug crops, with a view to its prevention, reduction and elimination, and encourages States, to the extent possible, to stay strongly committed to financing such programmes;

9. *Encourages* Member States to engage in and promote partnerships with each other, as well as with all relevant stakeholders,

¹¹ General Assembly resolution [68/196](#), annex.

including regional and international organizations, the private sector, civil society and financial institutions, in the implementation of alternative development projects and programmes;

10. *Requests* the Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to report to the Commission at its sixty-fourth session on the implementation of the present resolution;

11. *Invites* Member States and other donors to provide extrabudgetary resources for the purposes described above in accordance with the rules and procedures of the United Nations.