

Resolution 56/9

Strengthening of the principle of common and shared responsibility as the basis for guiding international action in combating the world drug problem with a comprehensive and balanced approach

The Commission on Narcotic Drugs,

Recalling the commitments undertaken by States within the framework of the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961 as amended by the 1972 Protocol,⁴⁴ the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971⁴⁵ and the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988,⁴⁶

⁴⁴ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 976, No. 14152.

⁴⁵ *Ibid.*, vol. 1019, No. 14956.

⁴⁶ *Ibid.*, vol. 1582, No. 27627.

Reaffirming resolutions S-20/2, S-20/3 and S-20/4 A to E of 10 June 1998, adopted by the General Assembly at its twentieth special session, in which the Assembly adopted, respectively, the Political Declaration, the Declaration on the Guiding Principles of Drug Demand Reduction and the measures to enhance international cooperation to counter the world drug problem,

Reaffirming also the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem,⁴⁷ adopted by the Commission at the high-level segment of its fifty-second session and by the General Assembly in its resolution 64/182 of 18 December 2009,

Bearing in mind that in its resolution 54/12 of 25 March 2011, entitled “Revitalization of the principle of common and shared responsibility in countering the world drug problem”, the Commission called upon the international community to engage in effective cooperation and practical action aimed at addressing the world drug problem on the basis of the principle of common and shared responsibility and reaffirmed that Member States should strengthen their mechanisms for cooperation and coordination in order to achieve results in countering the world drug problem more effectively,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 67/193 of 20 December 2012, 66/183 of 19 December 2011, 65/233 of 21 December 2010 and 64/182 of 18 December 2009, on international cooperation against the world drug problem, in which the importance of coordinated, comprehensive and balanced action by all States to address that phenomenon was reiterated and it was reaffirmed that the phenomenon remained a matter of common and shared responsibility,

Reaffirming the guiding principles of existing treaties in the field of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances and the system of control they embody,

Aware that the world drug problem, including its political, economic, social and environmental costs, is a complex and dynamic phenomenon with many causes that poses a challenge to States and their Governments, and that, far from being a local or regional concern, the problem must be addressed in a comprehensive, balanced and multidisciplinary manner and therefore requires that all States assume common and shared responsibility,

Considering that the world drug problem, in its many aspects, affects almost all countries and must therefore be countered effectively with firm political will, on the basis of equal responsibilities and with international cooperation and coordination between all relevant actors at all levels,

Reiterating that, in order to be effective, measures to tackle the world drug problem require concerted and universal action and that such action requires international cooperation oriented by shared principles and common objectives as a basis for a comprehensive and balanced approach,

Recognizing, therefore, that the principle of common and shared responsibility is a pillar of international cooperation in countering the world drug problem,

⁴⁷ See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2009, Supplement No. 8 (E/2009/28)*, chap. I, sect. C.

Recognizing also that any weakening of international cooperation in the fight against the world drug problem could affect the sustainability of the results achieved at the national level in reducing illicit drug supply and demand,

Welcoming the efforts of countries that have worked for decades to counter the world drug problem and have acquired knowledge, experience and institutional capacities that enable them to afford cooperation to other countries, in application of the principle of common and shared responsibility,

Welcoming also the important efforts and experience of civil society, including non-governmental organizations, in addressing the world drug problem,

Recognizing that the illicit cultivation of drug crops and the production, manufacture and distribution of, and in particular the traffic in, drugs of natural and synthetic origin and the diversion of medications for the purpose of drug abuse have come to form an industry that is in the hands of transnational criminal organizations, and also recognizing that substance abuse poses a serious threat to the health, dignity and hopes of millions of people and that the world drug problem therefore requires effective responses by all States,

1. *Recognizes* that common and shared responsibility is the principle that guides the individual and joint actions of all States and ensures their equal commitment to countering the world drug problem, in all its dimensions, encouraging ever greater international cooperation in strengthening national capacities on the basis of a comprehensive, balanced and multidisciplinary approach;

2. *Calls upon* Member States to continue, on the basis of the principle of common and shared responsibility, to strengthen their bilateral, regional, interregional and international cooperation mechanisms to address the world drug problem, in a universal manner and using a comprehensive and balanced approach;

3. *Urges* all Member States, on the basis of the comprehensiveness and balance required in addressing the world drug problem, to strengthen operational cooperation and the exchange of experiences that make it possible, within the framework of the three international drug control conventions, while enabling representatives of affected populations and civil society entities, where appropriate, to play a participatory role in the formulation and implementation of drug demand and supply reduction policy, to:

(a) Formulate more effective evidence-based drug demand reduction policies and programmes, with a focus on education, prevention, treatment and care and with a view to the social reintegration of persons addicted to drugs;

(b) Define comprehensive, evidence-based drug supply reduction policies that lead to more effective results in combating the illicit production, manufacture, trafficking, marketing and sale of drugs and the diversion of precursors for the manufacture of drugs of natural and/or synthetic origin;

4. *Invites* Member States to continue to provide the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, preferably in response to the annual report questionnaire, with information on their cooperation activities to address the world drug problem with a view to identifying priority areas in which such cooperation may be strengthened;

5. *Requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to continue to facilitate the exchange of experiences and good practices among Member States with respect to strategies to reduce illicit drug supply and demand and with respect to the international cooperation necessary to promote technical assistance projects and multilateral mechanisms aimed at addressing the world drug problem effectively;

6. *Encourages* Member States and relevant international and regional organizations, and invites financial institutions, to continue assistance to States to counter the world drug problem;

7. *Requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to include information on the progress made with regard to international cooperation and the work carried out by the Office in the implementation of the present resolution in the annual report of the Executive Director on the activities of the Office.