

1996/19. Demand for and supply of opiates for medical and scientific needs

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its resolutions 1979/8 of 9 May 1979, 1980/20 of 30 April 1980, 1981/8 of 6 May 1981, 1982/12 of 30 April 1982, 1983/3 of 24 May 1983, 1984/21 of 24 May 1984, 1985/16 of 28 May 1985, 1986/9 of 21 May 1986, 1987/31 of 26 May 1987, 1988/10 of 25 May 1988, 1989/15 of 22 May 1989, 1990/31 of 24 May 1990, 1991/43 of 21 June 1991, 1992/30 of 30 July 1992, 1993/37 of 27 July 1993, 1994/5 of 20 July 1994 and 1995/19 of 24 July 1995,

Emphasizing that the need to balance the global licit supply of opiates against the legitimate demand for opiates for medical and scientific purposes is central to the international strategy and policy of drug abuse control,

Noting the fundamental need for international cooperation and solidarity with the traditional supplier

countries in drug-abuse control in general and in the universal application of the provisions of the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961⁷⁰ in particular,

Having considered the *Report of the International Narcotics Control Board for 1995*,⁷⁰ in which it is stated that in 1994 global consumption of opiates exceeded the production of opiate raw materials, and that in 1995 increased licit production in the two traditional producing countries, India and Turkey, maintained, together with the other producing countries, the balance between supply and demand,

Noting the importance of opiates in pain relief therapy as advocated by the World Health Organization,

1. *Urges* all Governments to continue contributing to the maintenance of a balance between the licit supply of and demand for opiates for medical and scientific needs, the achievement of which would be facilitated by maintaining, in so far as their constitutional and legal systems permit, support to the traditional supplier countries, and to cooperate in preventing the proliferation of sources of production and manufacture for export;

2. *Urges* Governments of all producing countries to adhere strictly to the provisions of the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961 and to take effective measures to prevent illicit production or diversion of opiate raw materials to illicit channels;

3. *Urges* consumer countries to assess and communicate to the International Narcotics Control Board their real needs for opiates to ensure easy supply;

4. *Commends* the International Narcotics Control Board for its efforts in monitoring the implementation of the relevant resolutions of the Economic and Social Council and, in particular:

(a) In urging the Governments concerned to adjust global production of opiate raw materials to a level corresponding to the actual licit needs and to avoid any proliferation of production;

(b) In convening meetings during sessions of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs to enable the main States importing and producing opiate raw materials to discuss maintaining a balance between licit demand for and supply of opiates;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to transmit the present resolution to all Governments for consideration and implementation.

*45th plenary meeting
23 July 1996*

⁷⁰ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.XI.1.