

1997/38. 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, 1995/19 of 24 July 1995 and 1996/19 of 23 July 1996,

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 1961¹⁹⁸ in particular,

Having considered the *Report of the International Narcotics Control Board for 1996*,¹⁹⁹ in which it is stated that in 1995 global consumption of opiates exceeded the production of opiate raw materials, and noting that efforts were made by the two traditional supplier countries, India and Turkey, to maintain, together with 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 to contribute 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, insofar 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 1961¹⁹⁸ and to take effective measures to prevent illicit production or diversion of opiate raw materials to illicit channels;

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

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

(a) In urging the Governments concerned to adjust global production of opiate raw materials to a level corresponding to actual licit needs and to avoid unforeseen imbalances between the licit supply of and demand for opiates caused by the sales of products manufactured from seized and confiscated drugs;

(b) In arranging informal meetings during sessions of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs with the main States importing and producing opiate raw materials;

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

*36th plenary meeting
21 July 1997*

¹⁹⁸ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 520, No. 7515.

¹⁹⁹ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.97.XI.3.