

ECOSOC Resolution 2003/36

Establishment of national networks to counter money-laundering in the framework of national and international drug control plans

The Economic and Social Council,

Bearing in mind the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988,¹ the International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism,² the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime³ and the Inter-American Convention against Terrorism,⁴

Taking into account the Financial Action Task Force on Money Laundering and its regional groups,

Taking into account also the Political Declaration adopted by the General Assembly at its twentieth special session,⁵ devoted to countering the world drug problem together, which called for Member States to make special efforts against the laundering of money linked to drug trafficking and recommended that States adopt by the year 2003 national money-laundering legislation and programmes in accordance with the 1988 Convention, as well as the measures for countering money-laundering adopted at the twentieth special session,⁶

Considering that multilateral action against the modern global phenomenon of transnational organized crime and the illicit activities connected with it, in particular drug trafficking, money-laundering, corruption and the financing of terrorism, represents a commitment by States that calls for shared responsibility and coordinated activities with a view to achieving a coherent global approach in accordance with multilateral instruments,

Recognizing that the laundering of proceeds derived from drug trafficking and other serious offences has increased throughout the world to become a global threat to the stability and security of the financial and commercial system, and even to government structures, and that concerted efforts by the international community are required in order to deal with the problems posed by organized crime and the proceeds derived from it,

Emphasizing the need for States to harmonize their legislation in order to ensure adequate coordination of their policies for preventing, monitoring, controlling and suppressing money-laundering and the financing of terrorism,

¹ *Official Records of the United Nations Conference for the Adoption of a Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, Vienna, 25 November-20 December 1988*, vol. I (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.94.XI.5).

² General Assembly resolution 54/109, annex.

³ General Assembly resolution 55/25, annex I.

⁴ A/56/1002-S/2002/745, annex.

⁵ General Assembly resolution S-20/2, annex, para. 15.

⁶ General Assembly resolution S-20/4 D.

Recognizing that effective action to counter the problem of money-laundering will be possible only through international cooperation and the utilization of networked information systems that facilitate collaboration and the exchange of information between the relevant authorities of the States concerned,

Recognizing also the strategic necessity for States to have the appropriate infrastructure for analysis and financial investigation in order to combat money-laundering and the financing of transnational organized crime in a coordinated manner, using national, regional and international strategies,

Reiterating the importance of establishing and implementing national plans or strategies to combat the laundering of the proceeds of crime,

1. *Recommends* that States, in conformity with their legislation and in accordance with their capabilities, set up national networks to supplement existing regional and international networks dealing with money-laundering;

2. *Calls upon* States to consider including provisions in their national drug control plans for the establishment of national networks to enhance their respective capabilities to prevent, monitor, control and suppress serious offences connected with money-laundering and the financing of terrorist acts and in general to counter all transnational organized criminal acts;

3. *Requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, subject to the availability of resources and the Commission on Narcotic Drugs guidelines for the use of general-purpose funds,⁷ together with international financial institutions and the organizations involved in preventing and suppressing money-laundering and drug trafficking, to facilitate the provision of training and advice through technical cooperation in States, when requested, taking into account, inter alia, the recommendations on money-laundering and the financing of terrorism formulated by the Financial Action Task Force on Money Laundering and its regional groups.

44th plenary meeting
22 July 2003

⁷ *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2001, Supplement No. 8, Part Two (E/2001/28/Rev.1 (Part II)), chap. I, resolution 44/20, annex.*