

ECOSOC Resolution 2004/29

Strengthening international cooperation and technical assistance in combating money-laundering

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 United Nations Convention against Corruption,⁴

Taking into account the activities of the Financial Action Task Force on Money Laundering, in particular its Forty Recommendations and eight Special Recommendations on Terrorist Financing, and those of similar regional bodies, such as the Egmont Group of Financial Intelligence Units,

Considering that multilateral action against the contemporary global phenomenon of transnational organized crime and its unlawful activities, including in particular trafficking in drugs, arms and human beings, money-laundering, corruption and the financing of terrorism, is important and involves shared responsibility and coordinated action by States in order to obtain greater coherence in conformity with relevant multilateral instruments,

Recognizing that the laundering of the proceeds of crime has spread internationally and in that way has become a worldwide threat to the stability and security of financial and commercial systems, including governmental structures, and that finding a solution to the problems stemming from organized crime and the proceeds of crime requires joint measures on the part of the international community,

Stressing the need for sufficient harmonization of the legislation of States as to allow for a satisfactory level of coordination of their efforts for the prevention, control, investigation and suppression of money-laundering, including money-laundering related to the financing of terrorism and other criminal activities,

Recognizing that effective action against money-laundering requires strengthened international cooperation and the use of systems that facilitate collaboration and the exchange of information among the competent authorities in the States concerned,

Recognizing also the strategic need for States to possess an infrastructure suited to the conduct of financial analyses and investigations for a coordinated fight against money-laundering and the financing of transnational organized crime and of terrorism, using national, regional and international strategies,

¹ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1582, No. 27627.

² General Assembly resolution 54/107, annex.

³ General Assembly resolution 55/25, annex I.

⁴ General Assembly resolution 58/4, annex.

Recognizing further the work carried out by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, especially the Global Programme against Money-Laundering, as a centre for coordination and provision of technical assistance in that regard,

Reiterating the importance of establishing national plans or strategies for combating the laundering of the proceeds of crime,

1. *Urges* Member States that have not yet done so to strengthen their capacity to prevent, control, investigate and suppress serious crimes related to money-laundering, including money-laundering related to the financing of terrorism and, in general, any criminal action connected with transnational organized crime;

2. *Also urges* Member States that have not yet done so to establish financial intelligence units or to strengthen those already in existence and to provide them with the administrative, legal and technical resources needed to make progress in their work, with a view to enhancing their capacity to prevent, detect and control money-laundering, including money-laundering related to the financing of terrorism;

3. *Recommends* to Member States that they hold consultations with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and other relevant bodies when drafting legislation against money-laundering in order to ensure that it is in conformity with applicable international instruments and relevant standards;

4. *Requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to continue its work against money-laundering, subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources and in cooperation with relevant regional and international organizations participating in activities designed to give effect to applicable international instruments and relevant standards for combating money-laundering, through the provision to Member States, upon request, of training, advisory assistance and long-term technical assistance, bearing in mind, inter alia, the Forty Recommendations and eight Special Recommendations on Terrorist Financing of the Financial Action Task Force on Money Laundering and the work of similar regional bodies;

5. *Encourages* Member States and the relevant international organizations to contribute to the mobilization of resources in order to strengthen the capacity of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to provide technical assistance.

*47th plenary meeting
21 July 2004*