

ECOSOC Resolution 2007/10

Improvement of drug abuse data collection by Member States in order to enhance data reliability and the comparability of information provided

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling that, in the preamble to the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961,¹ the parties to the 1961 Convention considered that effective measures against abuse of narcotic drugs required coordinated and universal action and understood that such action called for international cooperation guided by the same principles and aimed at common objectives,

Recalling also the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971,²

Recalling further that the General Assembly at its twentieth special session recognized the importance of comprehensive and objective information for the control of drugs,

Recalling that the World Health Organization has developed guidelines for the collection of data on prevalence, trends and patterns of drug abuse and problems related to drug use, with the aim of supporting Member States in developing assessments that are internationally comparable and based on valid, reliable and timely data,

Recalling also that the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime has developed a toolkit for monitoring drug abuse, which provides a pragmatic approach for Member States to use to assess the drug abuse situation,

Considering that the World Health Organization published in 2000 the *Guide to Drug Abuse Epidemiology*³ with the objective of updating the methodology for the collection of data incorporating technical advances of the previous twenty years,

Considering also that, as the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime pointed out in its *World Drug Report 2006*, some States lack the monitoring systems required to produce reliable, comprehensive and internationally comparable data,⁴ and stressing the importance of more Member States submitting their replies to the annual reports questionnaire and the biennial reports questionnaire, thereby ensuring better global representation in the assessment of all aspects of the drug problem,

Recalling the Declaration on the Guiding Principles of Drug Demand Reduction, which called for demand reduction programmes

¹ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 520, No. 7515.

² *Ibid.*, vol. 1019, No. 14956.

³ WHO/MSD/MSB/00.3.

⁴ *World Drug Report 2006* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.06.XI.10), vol. 1, "Analysis", p. 3.

to be based on a regular assessment of the nature and magnitude of drug use and abuse and drug-related problems in the population,⁵

Recalling also the Action Plan for the Implementation of the Declaration on the Guiding Principles of Drug Demand Reduction,⁶

1. *Stresses* the importance of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and other relevant intergovernmental organizations carrying out, at the request of Member States, training programmes to support the adoption of sound methods and the harmonization of indicators used for statistics on drug use, which have already been considered by the Statistical Commission, with a view to the collection and analysis of comparable data on drug abuse;

2. *Reaffirms* the importance of all Member States submitting to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, including through the annual reports questionnaire and the biennial reports questionnaire, data that are reliable and internationally comparable;

3. *Encourages* Member States to use, to that end, the *Guide to Drug Abuse Epidemiology*,⁷ published by the World Health Organization and the toolkit for monitoring drug abuse developed by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime;

4. *Also encourages* Member States to provide information to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime pursuant to Commission on Narcotic Drugs resolution 43/1,⁸ in which the Commission took note of the consensus reached by technical experts at a meeting, held in Lisbon in January 2000, on the principles, structures and indicators for drug information systems, and pursuant to Commission resolution 44/3.⁹

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⁵ General Assembly resolution S-20/3, annex, para. 9.

⁶ General Assembly resolution 54/132, annex.

⁷ WHO/MSD/MSB/00.3.

⁸ *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2000, Supplement No. 8* (E/2000/28), chap. I, sect. C.

⁹ *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2001, Supplement No. 8* (E/2001/28), chap. I, sect. C.