

## Economic and Social Council

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**1999/31. Lucknow accord on the adoption of uniform measures to control international trade in precursors and other chemicals used in the illicit manufacture of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances**

*The Economic and Social Council,*

*Convinced* that the Lucknow accord on the adoption of uniform measures to control international trade in precursors and other chemicals used in the illicit manufacture of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, adopted by the Subcommission on Illicit Drug Traffic and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East at its thirty-fourth session, held in Lucknow, India, from 1 to 5 February 1999, will contribute to the enhancement of the struggle against illicit drug trafficking in the region,

1. *Takes note* of the Lucknow accord on the adoption of uniform measures to control international trade in precursors and other chemicals used in the illicit manufacture of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, annexed to the present resolution;
2. *Invites* the Secretary-General to inform all Member States, relevant specialized agencies and other entities of the United Nations system and other intergovernmental organizations of the adoption of the Lucknow accord by the Subcommission on Illicit Drug Traffic and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East at its thirty-fourth session, held in Lucknow, India, from 1 to 5 February 1999;
3. *Invites* Member States to consider the Lucknow accord when implementing article 12 of the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988, [1/](#) in accordance with their existing national legislation;
4. *Also invites* Member States to promote awareness within the chemical industry concerning the provisions of the Lucknow accord;
5. *Requests* the International Narcotics Control Board to consider the necessary measures, in accordance with article 12 of the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988, for the transfer of acetic anhydride and potassium permanganate from Table II to Table I of the Convention.

**ANNEX****Lucknow accord on the adoption of uniform measures to control international trade in precursors and other chemicals used in the illicit manufacture of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances**

*We, representatives of the States members of the Subcommission on Illicit Drug Traffic and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East and observers attending the thirty-fourth session of the Subcommission, held in Lucknow, India, from 1 to 5 February 1999,*

*Having considered* the Lucknow accord on the adoption of uniform measures to control international trade in precursors and other chemicals used in the illicit manufacture of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances,

*Deeply concerned* about the diversion of precursors and other chemicals from licit to illicit channels, especially in the course of international trade, for the manufacture of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances,

*Deeply concerned* also about the lack of uniformity in monitoring the international trade among various States parties to the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988,

*Reaffirming* our commitment to combat the diversion of precursors and other chemicals used in the illicit manufacture of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances,

*Deciding* to take practical measures to implement General Assembly resolution S-20/4 B of 10 June 1998, entitled "Control of precursors", adopted by the Assembly at its twentieth special session,

*Have agreed* on the following:

1. In accordance with General Assembly resolution S-20/4 B, adopted by the Assembly at its twentieth special session, and considering the problems being faced on account of different control mechanisms being adopted by Member States, there should be uniformity in the control of international trade in precursors, and a minimum uniform procedure, in conformity with the domestic law of each country, should be adopted to effect such control. The following steps should be taken to achieve those objectives:

(a) International trade in all substances in Table I of the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988, as well as international trade in acetic anhydride and potassium permanganate, substances in Table II, should be subject to control by the competent authorities in all States, irrespective of whether those substances are prone to being diverted;

(b) The competent authorities may require all importers and exporters to notify them about each transaction prior to shipment and to furnish the particulars of the trading party in the other country, such as the name of the trading party, the mode of payment and proof of authorization by the competent authority of that country;

(c) On receipt of such a notification, the competent authority of the exporting country should send a pre-export notification to the competent authority of the importing country;

(d) Each Government should clearly identify and make known its competent authority responsible for international trade;

(e) On receipt of the pre-export notification, the competent authority of the importing country should investigate and assure itself of the legitimacy of the transaction and should inform the competent authority of the exporting country;

(f) If, fifteen days after having sent the pre-export notification, the competent authority of the export country has received no reply from the competent authority of the importing country, it will be presumed that there is no objection to the proposed export. In the case of a specific request by the competent authority of the importing country related to a particular consignment, however, the time-limit of fifteen days will not apply;

(g) Each State should establish a system of penalizing companies in its territory that do not comply with the condition of notification. Timely notification will ultimately help such trade, as it will be easy for the competent authorities to verify the legitimacy of the transactions and provide timely responses to the competent authorities of other countries;

(h) For a select percentage of imports of precursors in a country, the competent authorities should verify the ultimate use of the precursors. This step is necessary to ensure that the chances of precursors being diverted to illicit channels are minimized and that the companies do not resort to recording inflated figures for precursors used for legitimate purposes. Competent authorities may consider carrying out such an investigation at levels up to and including the level of wholesale trade and, in some cases, even at levels up to and including the level of retail trade.

2. In respect of substitute chemicals, which were discussed and identified by the Subcommittee at its thirty-fourth session using, as a basis, the limited international special surveillance list of substances

currently not in Table I and II of the 1988 Convention and for which substantial information exists of their use in illicit drug trafficking, established by the International Narcotics Control Board pursuant to Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/29 of 24 July 1996, a procedure for monitoring the international trade of substitute chemicals and the format to be used for such monitoring should be approved by the parties to the 1988 Convention. States may also consider notifying the Secretary-General with a view to including such substances in Table I and Table II of the 1988 Convention where appropriate;

3. The International Narcotics Control Board is urged to take the immediate measures necessary to transfer acetic anhydride and potassium permanganate from Table II to Table I of the 1988 Convention.

28 July 1998

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)*

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