

## ECOSOC Resolution 2004/41

### Control of the manufacture of, trafficking in and abuse of synthetic drugs

*The Economic and Social Council,*

*Concerned* at the escalation of the problem of illicit supply of, trafficking in and diversion of synthetic drugs and the expansion of the illicit market for such drugs,

*Noting* that the supply of illicit drugs, including synthetic drugs, is harmful to public health and that the demand for such drugs is prevalent among young persons,

*Recognizing* that education and training are prerequisites for the efficient performance of the various tasks that institutions and their officials must carry out in order to deal with the world drug problem,

*Deeply concerned* that an increasing number of people are placing their health at risk by abusing amphetamine-type stimulants, because they do not recognize or are not aware of the health hazards associated with the abuse of such stimulants, in particular the abuse of methylenedioxymethamphetamine, commonly known as Ecstasy,

*Noting* that reducing both the illicit demand for and supply of amphetamine-type stimulants in a comprehensive and proactive manner requires strong political commitment,

*Noting also* that strategies to reduce the illicit demand for and supply of amphetamine-type stimulants require accurate information, including data on the manufacture of, trafficking in and abuse of such stimulants,

*Considering* that, in view of the extent of the abuse of amphetamine-type stimulants among young people and among persons in certain occupational groups, there is a need for more systematic research into the health hazards of the abuse of such stimulants that will contribute to improving the design of health education and prevention programmes, as well as treatment services, to meet the needs of all persons abusing amphetamine-type stimulants,

*Considering also* that systematic research into the health hazards of the abuse of amphetamine-type stimulants is crucial to assessments of the broader health and social implications of the specific patterns of abuse of such stimulants,

*Acknowledging* the importance of early warning mechanisms and rapid and global dissemination of information on new drugs, drug combinations and drug abuse patterns and more detailed information, such as the dyes, logos, machinery and other equipment used in the manufacture of amphetamine-type stimulants,

1. *Expresses its gratitude* to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime for the publication of *Ecstasy and Amphetamines: Global Survey 2003*,<sup>1</sup> which provides a quantitative assessment of the

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<sup>1</sup> United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.XI.15.

extent of manufacture of, trafficking in and abuse of amphetamine-type stimulants throughout the world;

2. *Requests* Member States to continue to develop programmes to reduce both the illicit supply of and demand for amphetamine-type stimulants;

3. *Urges* Member States to take the steps necessary to ensure that their national drug control agencies are aware of and well trained in the recognition of amphetamine-type stimulants and the current modi operandi used to smuggle such stimulants and are also well trained in the interdiction of consignments of illicitly manufactured amphetamine-type stimulants;

4. *Also urges* Member States to monitor changing patterns in the abuse and availability of synthetic drugs, including methylenedioxyamphetamine, commonly known as Ecstasy;

5. *Calls upon* Member States to include, in a multifaceted strategy, action against the illicit manufacture of, trafficking in and abuse of amphetamine-type stimulants and to identify and dismantle clandestine laboratories manufacturing such stimulants;

6. *Encourages* Member States to provide their full and active support to Project Prism, an initiative of the International Narcotics Control Board, to address the illicit manufacture of amphetamine-type stimulants by following the twofold approach of the Project, namely, by establishing mechanisms to prevent precursor chemicals from being diverted from licit international trade or domestic distribution channels and by launching backtracking investigations of seizures and interceptions to identify the illicit sources and the persons involved;

7. *Urges* Member States to provide accurate evidence-based information on the harmful effects of amphetamine-type stimulants, through education and information campaigns to increase public knowledge and awareness of those harmful effects, with a view to decreasing the demand for such stimulants, particularly among young people;

8. *Urges* States engaged in the licit manufacture, import, export and transit of precursor chemicals used in the illicit manufacture of amphetamine-type stimulants to implement fully the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988<sup>2</sup> and, where appropriate, to strengthen controls over those substances, in conformity with that Convention;

9. *Urges* relevant international organizations to consider providing support for training and other forms of technical assistance aimed at countering the threat of synthetic drugs, including by strengthening preventive measures;

10. *Encourages* the relevant international organizations and other entities, in particular the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, to continue to recognize the serious global threat posed by synthetic drugs and to pursue appropriate action to ameliorate the situation;

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<sup>2</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1582, No. 27627.

11. *Requests* the Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to report to the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, at its forty-eighth session, on the implementation of the present resolution.

*47th plenary meeting*  
*21 July 2004*