

Resolution 52/5

Exploration of all aspects related to the use of cannabis seeds for illicit purposes

The Commission on Narcotic Drugs,

Recalling the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961,¹ that Convention as amended by the 1972 Protocol,² the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971³ and the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988,⁴

Considering the Action Plan on International Cooperation on the Eradication of Illicit Drug Crops and on Alternative Development,⁵ adopted by the General Assembly at its twentieth special session,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 59/160 of 20 December 2004,

Noting that the International Narcotics Control Board, in its report for 2008,⁶ drew attention to the problem of the misuse of postal and courier services for the purpose of drug trafficking, including the shipment of cannabis seeds,

Stressing that cannabis is one of the most widely produced, trafficked and abused illicit drugs worldwide,

Noting that a number of Member States have reported an increase in the availability of cannabis plant, notably of cannabis plant cultivated indoors, and an average overall increase in the tetrahydrocannabinol content of some varieties of cannabis plant,

Stressing the health effects of cannabis as reported by the World Health Organization in *Cannabis: a Health Perspective and Research Agenda*, published in 1997, which is the only international assessment of cannabis,

Deeply concerned about the abuse of cannabis, especially among young people, often leading to risk-taking behaviour, and about the health and social consequences associated with the abuse of cannabis, in particular the abuse of varieties of cannabis plant with a high content of tetrahydrocannabinol,

Also deeply concerned about trafficking in cannabis,

Concerned that there is a trend in some regions for illicit opium poppy crops to be replaced with cannabis crops,

Emphasizing the primary importance of international cooperation in combating trafficking in and the abuse of cannabis, paying attention to trafficking in cannabis seeds derived from illicitly cultivated cannabis plants,

Noting that the focus of the present resolution is the use of cannabis seeds for the illicit cultivation of cannabis plants,

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

² *Ibid.*, vol. 976, No. 14152.

³ *Ibid.*, vol. 1019, No. 14956.

⁴ *Ibid.*, vol. 1582, No. 27627.

⁵ General Assembly resolution S-20/4 E.

⁶ *Report of the International Narcotics Control Board for 2008* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.09.XI.1).

Recognizing that cannabis seeds are tradable goods not controlled by the international drug control conventions,

1. *Urges* all Member States to take strong measures against the illicit cultivation of cannabis plant, in compliance with the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961;⁷

2. *Requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to share information regarding the health risks posed by cannabis with the Expert Committee on Drug Dependence of the World Health Organization, and, in that regard, looks forward to an updated report on cannabis by the Expert Committee, subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources;

3. *Requests* the International Narcotics Control Board, within its mandate under the international drug control treaties and, as appropriate, in cooperation with other competent international bodies, to gather from Member States regulatory information on cannabis seeds, including on the sale of cannabis seeds through the Internet, and to share that information with Member States;

4. *Requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to conduct a global survey on cannabis seeds, starting with a market survey, and to report to the Commission, at its fifty-third session, on the results of that survey, and invites Member States and other donors to provide extrabudgetary contributions for those purposes in accordance with the rules and procedures of the United Nations;

5. *Urges* all Member States to consider not allowing trade in cannabis seeds for illicit purposes;

6. *Requests* the Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to report to the Commission, at its fifty-third session, on the implementation of the present resolution.

⁷ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 520, No. 7515.