

Chapter IV.

Recommendations to Governments, the United Nations and other relevant international and regional organizations

685. The present chapter builds upon the most significant conclusions in the previous chapters. As always, the Board would appreciate receiving feedback from Governments about their experiences and any difficulties in implementing the international drug control treaties.

A comprehensive, integrated and balanced approach to the world drug problem

686. A comprehensive and balanced approach remains at the heart of the international drug control conventions. In their implementation of the treaties, Governments are invited to implement the below recommendations.

Recommendation 1: The Board invites Governments to encourage cooperation among all stakeholders at the national, regional and international levels. To that end, Governments should ensure the participation of all relevant actors in the strategic planning, implementation and monitoring of drug control policies.

Recommendation 2: The Board invites Governments to place equal emphasis on supply and demand reduction, taking into consideration the socioeconomic, sociocultural, security and stability aspects that have an impact on the drug problem. Such an approach would require comprehensive measures, some of which do not fall squarely under the immediate authority or mandate of any single one of the various United Nations institutions concerned with drug control. Therefore, the Board invites all other relevant international organizations, in accordance with their mandates, to lend their expertise in this effort and to support Governments in the implementation of this approach.

Recommendation 3: The Board invites Governments to ensure that all aspects of the drug problem are addressed in a balanced and comprehensive manner. National and local specificities in the manifestation of the drug control problem should be taken into account, while making use of updated scientific evidence. In particular, Member States should provide political support, and appropriate resources, to efforts relating to prevention, treatment and rehabilitation; law enforcement; and countering money-laundering.

Recommendation 4: The Board invites Governments to address all factors that fuel the world drug problem in an effective and sustainable manner by including drug issues in the broader socioeconomic development agenda, and to incorporate all relevant human rights norms into drug-related policies, including as they relate to particularly vulnerable populations such as children.

Recommendation 5: The Board invites Governments to use the opportunity provided by the upcoming special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem to be held in 2016 to make a critical assessment of existing drug control policies and of the extent to which the principle of a balanced, integrated and comprehensive approach is reflected in practice, including with regard to political support and funding patterns.

Availability

687. The dual aim of the international drug control system is to ensure the availability and rational use of controlled substances for medical and scientific purposes while preventing the trafficking in and abuse of such

substances. There continues, however, to be a severe imbalance globally in the consumption of drugs for pain relief and other medical conditions, with consumption concentrated primarily in industrialized countries.

Recommendation 6: The Board reminds Governments of their obligation to ensure the availability of controlled substances for medical and scientific purposes. Member States should enhance their cooperation with the Board, WHO and other relevant stakeholders in this area, and make full use of the Board's 2010 special report entitled *Availability of Internationally Controlled Drugs: Ensuring Adequate Access for Medical and Scientific Purposes* and the 2012 *Guide on Estimating Requirements for Substances under International Control*, developed by the Board and WHO.

Recommendation 7: The Board invites countries to take all necessary measures to facilitate access to opioid analgesics and psychotropic substances for those who need them, including through the provision of training to health professionals and the streamlining of administrative procedures regulating prescriptions, adequate domestic distribution and importation practices.

Cannabis

688. The 1961 Convention allows States parties to use cannabis for medical purposes. Reflecting concerns about abuse and diversion, the Convention establishes an additional set of control measures which should be implemented in order for programmes for the use of cannabis for medical purposes to be compliant with the Convention. In that connection, the Board reiterates its invitation to WHO to evaluate the potential medical utility of cannabis and the extent to which cannabis poses a risk to human health.

Recommendation 8: All Governments that have established programmes for the use of cannabis for medical purposes, or are considering such initiatives, are reminded of their reporting and licensing obligations under the international drug control treaties. Importantly, such programmes must ensure that the prescription of cannabis for medical purposes is performed with competent medical knowledge and supervision, and that such prescription is based on sound medical practice. States parties to the 1961 Convention in which such research is ongoing are invited to share their research results and any other data on the medical usefulness or otherwise of cannabis with WHO, INCB and all relevant international organizations.

Opium poppy cultivation

689. The Board's review of the demand for and supply of opiate raw material for medical and scientific purposes indicates that the amount of opiate raw material available for the manufacturing of narcotic drugs for medical purposes, including for pain relief, is more than sufficient to satisfy the current level of demand, as estimated by Governments, with both production and stocks continuing to increase.

Recommendation 9: Cultivating and producing countries are urged to take into consideration article 29, paragraph 3, and article 30, paragraph 2, of the 1961 Convention, in which parties are required to prevent the accumulation of poppy straw in excess of quantities required for the normal conduct of business, taking into account the prevailing market conditions.

Psychotropic substances

690. The voluntary submission of data on the consumption of psychotropic substances is requested pursuant to Commission on Narcotic Drugs resolution 54/6, entitled "Promoting adequate availability of internationally controlled narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances for medical and scientific purposes while preventing their diversion and abuse". The provision of such data is a prerequisite for accurate analysis of consumption levels worldwide and for identifying any unusual indicators at an early stage.

Recommendation 10: All Governments that have not yet done so should put in place the necessary legislative and administrative mechanisms that will allow them to collect data on the consumption of psychotropic substances for medical and scientific purposes and to furnish those data to the Board, in the same manner as for narcotic drugs. This will also promote the adequate availability of such substances.

Licit international trade

691. Over the past few years, the Board has spearheaded efforts to develop an electronic tool to facilitate and expedite the work of competent national authorities and to reduce the risks of diversion of those substances. This new tool, the International Import and Export System (I2ES), will assist competent national authorities

by functioning in a way that ensures full compliance with the requirements set out in the international drug control conventions and safeguards the data therein.

Recommendation 11: The Board invites all Governments to provide both political and financial support to I2ES and to consider utilizing it as soon as possible. Only through its wide and early utilization will Governments be able to fully benefit from the advantages that the system provides.

Precursors

692. Over the past 25 years, international cooperation in precursor control has brought about significant results in preventing the diversion of scheduled chemicals from international trade, but there is also a need to fine-tune the system to make it fit for the future. The 2014 report of the Board on the implementation of article 12 of the 1988 Convention contains further details on that subject.

Recommendation 12: Governments and relevant regional and international organizations are invited to use the upcoming special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem in 2016 to work with each other and with INCB to address the challenges identified in the 2014 report of the Board on precursors. The Board considers the following measures critical: preventing diversion; enhanced private-public partnerships which also address non-scheduled chemicals and designer precursors; and comprehensive and systematic application of all available tools, such as the PEN Online system, PICS, the international special surveillance list of non-scheduled substances, and the guidelines and model memorandums of cooperation with the chemical industry.

Recommendation 13: Governments should work closely with each other and with the Board in targeted operations under Project Prism and Project Cohesion, with a view to identifying and addressing trends in the illicit sourcing and trafficking of precursor chemicals. In these types of activities, seizures of precursors should not be considered the end, but rather the beginning, of investigations aimed at preventing similar incidents in the future.

Non-scheduled substances

693. Many Governments have reported a rapidly increasing number of detected non-scheduled new psychoactive substances, and the abuse and trafficking of

such substances is growing throughout the world. There is, however, a paucity of reliable information related to these substances.

Recommendation 14: Pursuant to Commission on Narcotic Drugs resolution 57/9, the Board calls on Member States to actively support WHO in critically assessing new psychoactive substances and in providing scheduling recommendations to the Commission; the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, so that it may collect comprehensive data through its early warning system; and INCB to enable its task force on new psychoactive substances to receive, coordinate and communicate operational information and intelligence to Project Ion focal points in order to support the identification and dismantling of key sources and distribution networks of new psychoactive substances.

Promoting the consistent application of the international drug control treaties

694. In March 2014, at the high-level segment of the fifty-seventh session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, Government representatives adopted by consensus a joint ministerial statement, in which they underscored that the three international drug control conventions constituted the cornerstone of the international drug control system. The Board is concerned about initiatives, inconsistent with these conventions, that have legalized cannabis for non-medical purposes in Uruguay and some states of the United States.

Recommendation 15: The Board reiterates its position with regard to the legalization of non-medical use of scheduled substances and again urges all States to ensure full compliance with the treaties to which they are parties and to refrain from policies and actions that could undermine the integrity of the international drug control system and may put their citizens at an increased health risk.

695. The Board notes the cooperation of the Government of Afghanistan with INCB, as well as the measures taken and the commitment expressed by that Government to effective drug control. Nevertheless, the deteriorating drug control situation in Afghanistan, particularly the recent increase in the area of illicit poppy cultivation, constitute a significant challenge in the country and globally.

Recommendation 16: The Government of Afghanistan should continue to strengthen its capacity in the areas of

drug interdiction, promotion of alternative livelihoods, and prevention and treatment of drug abuse in the country. The Board encourages the Government to continue

seeking international assistance in addressing the drug problem and to strengthen its cooperation at the regional and international levels.

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