



16 January 1980

EXECUTIVE BOARD

Sixty-fifth Session

Agenda item 21



ACTION IN RESPECT OF INTERNATIONAL CONVENTIONS  
ON NARCOTIC AND PSYCHOTROPIC SUBSTANCES

Increasing abuse of narcotic and psychotropic substances  
(Draft resolution proposed by Dr John Bryant)

The Executive Board,

Having examined the report of the Director-General regarding action in respect of international conventions on narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances;<sup>1</sup>

Noting the reports of the growing incidence of drug abuse and its negative impact on public health, necessitating urgent and increased action by national governments and international organizations;

Noting also the request of the United Nations General Assembly, in resolution 34/177 (1979),<sup>2</sup> that WHO and other specialized agencies make drug abuse control a regular item on the agendas of their governing bodies;

1. DECIDES to include the topic of this resolution on the agenda of the Thirty-third World Health Assembly;
2. RECOMMENDS to the Thirty-third World Health Assembly the adoption of the following resolution:

The Thirty-third World Health Assembly,

Noting with regret reports of the United Nations concerning the growing incidence of abuse of heroin and other opiates, cocaine, coca paste, cannabis, barbiturates and non-barbiturate sedative hypnotics, tranquilizers, and other harmful or dependence-producing drugs;

Noting the increase in drug-related deaths, particularly as a result of overdoses, combinations of drugs with other drugs and with alcohol, and drug impurities; the growth of abuse among young people, who are the leaders of future generations; the increased incidence of drug abuse among women; and the severe health and social problems related to drug abuse;

Recognizing that drug abuse is a serious obstacle to socioeconomic progress and has a particularly negative impact on public health;

Reaffirming resolutions WHA26.52 and WHA28.80 concerning, respectively, the epidemiology of drug dependence and the need for expanded programmes at the community level in prevention, treatment and rehabilitation in the field of drug dependence;

Noting with appreciation the work done by WHO in cooperation with the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control in particular regarding epidemiological research and reporting, the holding of seminars on the safe use of psychotropic and narcotic

<sup>1</sup> Document EB65/21.

<sup>2</sup> Resolution 34/177 (1979) attached.

substances, and the convening of an expert committee on the assessment of untoward consequences for public health of drug dependence and abuse;

Having noted the request of the United Nations General Assembly in resolution 32/124 (1977) that, in the effort to reduce drug abuse, WHO and other appropriate agencies and bodies of the United Nations design models for prevention, treatment and rehabilitation;

Acknowledging United Nations General Assembly resolution 34/177 (1979), urging greater action by WHO and other United Nations agencies to implement drug abuse control programmes within their mandates, and requesting that they make drug abuse control a regular item on the agendas of their governing bodies;

1. AFFIRMS that drug abuse constitutes a serious health hazard of steadily growing proportions in developing nations as well as industrialized countries;

2. URGES Member States to devote more attention to the incidence of drug abuse in their own societies, their regions and the world community, and particularly to the disruptive effect that drug abuse has on the lives and future careers of young people, its negative impact on socioeconomic well-being, and the increasing difficulties in enforcing the law;

3. ENCOURAGES Member States, as they develop their national strategies for health for all by the year 2000, and their biennial programmes of cooperation with WHO, to give serious consideration to the inclusion of components that can deal effectively with the growing incidence of drug abuse;

4. INVITES Member States to make voluntary contributions to support work in the field of drug abuse control by WHO and other international bodies, particularly the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control;

5. URGES Member States that have not done so to become parties to the international drug control treaties;

6. RECOMMENDS that WHO continue to stimulate efforts to improve primary health care in opium-producing countries and to reduce local dependence on opium as a panacea;

7. REQUESTS the Director-General:

(1) to foster the reporting and publication of information relating to the detrimental effects of drug abuse on health and social development;

(2) to assist Member States in integrating drug abuse control into their primary health care programmes and national strategies for health for all by the year 2000;

(3) to promote the initiation and strengthening of national programmes for the assessment, scheduling and control of narcotic and psychotropic substances;

(4) to seek additional funds from multilateral, governmental and nongovernmental sources for the support of new projects and expanded WHO programmes in drug abuse control;

(5) to maintain WHO's capacity to deal with this pressing health issue;

(6) to strengthen the collaboration between the WHO programmes relating to narcotic and psychotropic substances and those dealing with drug policy and management and other related programmes;

(7) to report to the Health Assembly whenever appropriate on progress in implementing the provisions of this resolution.

UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION  
International cooperation in drug abuse control<sup>1</sup>

The General Assembly,

Noting the continuing spread of drug abuse in many parts of the world and its harmful impact on developing and industrialized countries,

Viewing with concern the detrimental effects drug abuse can have on all societies and individuals, particularly young people,

Recognizing that illicit traffic in drugs and the profits accruing therefrom to traffickers and criminal organizations pose a threat to the social-economic well-being of many countries and should be addressed through development assistance programmes together with intensified law enforcement, education and demand reduction efforts,

Noting with satisfaction the positive results that have been attained in a number of countries, but at the same time expressing concern for the lack of realization of many of the objectives for drug abuse control set forth in the drug control treaties as well as in the resolutions and documents of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, the International Narcotics Control Board, the International Labour Organisation, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, and the World Health Organization,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 33/168 of 20 December 1978, in which the Assembly requested more extensive and co-ordinated cooperation between Governments and relevant bodies of the United Nations and specialized agencies in the designing and implementation of programmes aimed at the eradication of illicit demand for and illicit traffic in drugs,

Bearing in mind the necessity for international drug abuse control policies and strategy, as requested in General Assembly resolution 32/124 of 16 December 1977 and reiterated in Commission on Narcotic Drugs resolution 8 (XXVIII) of 23 February 1979,<sup>2</sup>

Having received the report of the Commission,<sup>3</sup> noted in Economic and Social Council decision 1979/19, proposing principles to guide future international drug abuse control activities,

1. Takes note of the report of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs<sup>3</sup> and requests all agencies and organizations concerned to implement operative paragraphs 2 and 3 of the aforementioned resolution of the Commission and to elaborate a practical and dynamic drug abuse control programme, noting these principles, and to provide within the existing regular budget for the monitoring of the implementation of the programme by the Commission;

2. Requests the Commission to finalize at its next special session, to be held in 1980, a meaningful drug abuse control strategy and policies aimed at eradicating illicit demand for, production of and traffic in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, and to report to the Economic and Social Council at its first regular session in 1980 on the progress achieved in this respect;

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<sup>1</sup> As document A/34/829 and adopted as resolution 34/177 (1979).

<sup>2</sup> Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1979, Supplement No. 5 (E/1979/35), chap. XIV.

<sup>3</sup> Ibid., Supplement No. 5 (E/1979/35).

Annex

3. Invites Member States to take into account the principles set forth by the Commission in allocating, within their capabilities, national resources to drug abuse control programmes - including programmes to combat the illicit production of and trafficking in narcotic and psychotropic substances and to reduce the demand for these drugs - and calls for greater technical and financial contributions to those developing countries which are constrained by limited national resources in their efforts to implement drug abuse control programmes;
4. Further invites Member States to take appropriate measures for the prevention of uncontrolled or illicit manufacture and export of psychotropic substances and the chemical precursors of drugs of abuse such as acetic anhydride;
5. Urges States which have not yet become parties to the international drug control treaties to adhere to them and to make maximum efforts to implement them;
6. Further urges greater action by the specialized agencies and programmes of the United Nations system - especially the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations, the International Labour Organisation, the World Health Organization and the United Nations Development Programme - in developing and implementing, within their mandates, programmes aimed at the reduction of illicit production and demand for drugs, and specifically requests these agencies to make this activity a regular item on the agendas of their governing bodies;
7. Requests the agencies and programmes of the United Nations system, the international financial institutions and member Governments within their bilateral and multilateral development assistance programmes to consider providing, when requested by a recipient State and if possible, appropriate assistance for the implementation of drug abuse prevention and control measures, particularly activities which promote new income sources that can substitute for illicit production of narcotics raw materials and which promote the reduction in demand for dangerous drugs;
8. Further requests the United Nations and the specialized agencies with programmes having an impact on narcotics, as a means of expediting a concerted international effort to substantially reduce illicit drug activities, to report annually to the General Assembly on their activities and proposed projects in this field;
9. Appeals to Member States, in accordance with their individual development goals, to consider within their national development programmes the inclusion of appropriate drug abuse control measures;
10. Reiterates its continued support for the initiatives of the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control in helping countries reduce the demand for, production of and traffic in illicit narcotics;
11. Expresses its disappointment at the low levels of financial support being provided to the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control and appeals to Member States to make new, sustained or increased cash contributions to the Fund as well as further financial or in-kind contributions in support of its projects and activities;
12. Requests the Secretary-General to report annually to the General Assembly on the progress being made in the implementation of the present resolution and the Commission on Narcotic Drugs resolution 8 of 23 February 1979, and to transmit the first-mentioned resolution to Governments and concerned international agencies.



21 January 1980

EXECUTIVE BOARD

Sixty-fifth Session

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ACTION IN RESPECT OF INTERNATIONAL CONVENTIONS  
ON NARCOTIC AND PSYCHOTROPIC SUBSTANCES

Abuse of narcotic and psychotropic substances  
(Draft resolution proposed by a drafting group)

The Executive Board,

Having examined the report of the Director-General regarding action in respect of international conventions on narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances;<sup>1</sup>

Noting the reports of the growing incidence of drug abuse and its negative impact on public health, necessitating urgent and increased action by national governments and international organizations;

Noting resolution WHA30.18 urging Member States not yet party to the Convention on Psychotropic Substances to take necessary steps to accede to it;

Noting also the request of the United Nations General Assembly, in resolution 34/177 (1979), that WHO and other specialized agencies make drug abuse control a regular item on the agendas of their governing bodies;

1. DECIDES to include the topic of this resolution on the agenda of the Thirty-third World Health Assembly;
2. RECOMMENDS to the Thirty-third World Health Assembly the adoption of the following resolution:

The Thirty-third World Health Assembly,

Acknowledging the role and responsibilities of WHO in relation to the abuse of narcotic and psychotropic substances;

Noting reports concerning the growing incidence of abuse of heroin and other opiates, cocaine, coca paste, cannabis, barbiturates and non-barbiturate sedative hypnotics, tranquillizers, and other psychoactive drugs;

Noting the increase in drug-related deaths, particularly as a result of overdoses, combinations of drugs with other drugs and with alcohol, and dangerous impurities; the increasing drug abuse especially among young people and women; and the severe health and social problems related to its abuse;

Recognizing that drug abuse is a serious obstacle to socioeconomic progress and has a particularly negative impact on public health;

Reaffirming resolutions WHA26.52 and WHA28.80 concerning, respectively, the epidemiology of drug dependence and the need for programmes of prevention, treatment and rehabilitation in the field of drug dependence at the community level;

\* Issued as EB65/Conf.Paper No. 2 Rev.2 in Chinese, Russian and Spanish.

<sup>1</sup> Document EB65/21.

Noting with appreciation the work done by WHO in cooperation with the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control in particular regarding epidemiological research and reporting, the holding of seminars on the safe use of psychotropic and narcotic substances, and the convening of an expert committee on the assessment of untoward consequences for public health of drug dependence and abuse;

Having noted the request of the United Nations General Assembly in resolution 32/124 (1977) that, in the effort to reduce drug abuse, WHO and other appropriate agencies and bodies of the United Nations design models for prevention, treatment and rehabilitation;

Acknowledging United Nations General Assembly resolution 34/177 (1979), urging greater action by WHO and other United Nations agencies to implement drug abuse control programmes within their mandates, and requesting that they make drug abuse control a regular item on the agendas of their governing bodies;

1. AFFIRMS that drug abuse constitutes a serious health hazard of steadily growing proportions in developing nations as well as industrialized countries;
2. URGES Member States to devote more attention to the incidence of drug abuse in their own societies, their regions and the world community, and particularly to the disruptive effect that drug abuse has on the lives and future careers of young people, to its negative impact on socioeconomic well-being, and to the increasing difficulties in enforcing the law;
3. ENCOURAGES Member States, as they develop their national strategies for health for all by the year 2000, and their biennial programmes of cooperation with WHO, to give serious consideration to the inclusion of components that can deal effectively with the growing incidence of drug abuse;
4. INVITES Member States to make voluntary contributions to support work in the field of drug abuse control by WHO and other international bodies, particularly the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control;
5. URGES Member States that have not done so to become parties to the international drug control treaties;
6. RECOMMENDS that WHO continue to assess the impact of primary health care on the reduction of local dependence on opium as a panacea, particularly in opium-producing countries;
7. REQUESTS the Director-General:
  - (1) to foster the reporting and publication of information relating to the detrimental effects of drug abuse on health and social development;
  - (2) to collaborate with Member States in integrating drug abuse control into their primary health care programmes and national strategies for health for all by the year 2000;
  - (3) to promote the initiation and strengthening of national and international programmes for the assessment, scheduling, control and appropriate use of narcotic and psychotropic substances including those of plant origin, and to support such programmes by the development of appropriate guidelines in consultation with the United Nations Division of Narcotic Drugs, International Narcotics Control Board and other United Nations organs concerned;

- (4) to seek additional funds from multilateral, governmental and nongovernmental sources for the support of new projects and expanded WHO programmes in drug abuse control;
- (5) to further develop activities concerned with prevention and control of health problems related to human behaviour such as those linked to drug abuse;
- (6) to strengthen the coordination between the WHO programmes relating to narcotic and psychotropic substances, those dealing with drug policy and management, and other related programmes, and to strengthen collaboration with interested nongovernmental organizations;
- (7) to report to the Health Assembly whenever appropriate on progress in implementing the provisions of this resolution.

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