

ECOSOC Resolution 2003/41

Efforts to counter the trend towards the legalization of drugs for non-medical use

The Economic and Social Council,

Taking into account the policies adopted by organizations of the United Nations system concerning the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961,¹ that Convention as amended by the 1972 Protocol,² the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971,³ the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988⁴ and the Convention on the Rights of the Child,⁵ in particular article 33 thereof,

Recalling the Political Declaration adopted by the General Assembly at its twentieth special session,⁶ devoted to countering the world drug problem together, the Declaration on the Guiding Principles of Drug Demand Reduction⁷ and the Action Plan for the Implementation of the Declaration on the Guiding Principles of Drug Demand Reduction,⁸

Recalling also that narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances are controlled under the 1961 Convention, that Convention as amended by the 1972 Protocol and the 1971 Convention, which call for the States parties to those conventions to adopt all possible measures to limit the production, manufacture, export, import and distribution of, trade in and use and possession of those drugs for medical and scientific purposes if those States consider that to be the most appropriate means of protecting health and public welfare,

Conscious that increased availability of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, without the appropriate controls, could facilitate the diversion of those drugs,

Taking into account the reports of the International Narcotics Control Board for 2001⁹ and 2002,¹⁰

Bearing in mind that countering the world drug problem is a shared responsibility calling for coordinated action in conformity with the relevant multilateral instruments in force at the international level,

¹ Ibid., vol. 520, No. 7515.

² Ibid., vol. 976, No. 14152.

³ Ibid., vol. 1019, No. 14956.

⁴ *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).

⁵ General Assembly resolution 44/25, annex.

⁶ General Assembly resolution S-20/2, annex.

⁷ General Assembly resolution S-20/3, annex.

⁸ General Assembly resolution 54/132, annex.

⁹ *Report of the International Narcotics Control Board for 2001* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.XI.1).

¹⁰ *Report of the International Narcotics Control Board for 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.XI.1).

Concerned about the increasing levels of illicit drug consumption, in particular among children, young people and groups at risk of abusing narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances,

Also concerned about the trend towards the development of lenient policies relating to cannabis and other drugs that are not in accordance with international drug control treaties and about the fact that such trends may have a negative impact on efforts being made to eradicate cannabis cultivation and to combat drug trafficking,

1. *Invites* the International Narcotics Control Board to continue to monitor and report on the application of the international drug control treaties by Member States with regard to cannabis and other drugs;

2. *Requests* the United Nations International Drug Control Programme, in collaboration with the World Health Organization, to report on new trends with regard to cannabis.

*44th plenary meeting
22 July 2003*