

ECOSOC Resolution 2006/30

Baku Accord on Regional Cooperation against Illicit Drugs and Related Matters: a Vision for the Twenty-first Century

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling the Political Declaration adopted by the General Assembly at its twentieth special session,¹ the Action Plan for the Implementation of the Declaration on the Guiding Principles of Drug Demand Reduction² and the measures to enhance international cooperation to counter the world drug problem,³

Recalling also General Assembly resolutions 53/115 of 9 December 1998, 54/132 of 17 December 1999, 55/65 of 4 December 2000, 56/124 of 19 December 2001 and 57/174 of 18 December 2002, in which the Assembly stressed the importance of the Subcommission on Illicit Drug Traffic and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, as well as the other subsidiary bodies of the Commission,

Recalling further General Assembly resolutions 53/115, 54/132, 55/65, 56/124, 57/174, 58/141 of 22 December 2003 and 59/163 of 20 December 2004, in which the Assembly encouraged the Subcommission, as well as the other subsidiary bodies of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, to continue to contribute to the strengthening of regional and international cooperation, taking into account the outcome of the twentieth special session of the Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 1997/39 of 21 July 1997, entitled “Baku Accord on Regional Cooperation against Illicit Cultivation, Production, Trafficking, Distribution and Consumption of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances and Their Precursors”,

Convinced that the Baku Accord on Regional Cooperation against Illicit Drugs and Related Matters: a Vision for the Twenty-first Century will enhance cooperation against drug trafficking in the Near and Middle East,

1. *Takes note* of the Baku Accord on Regional Cooperation against Illicit Drugs and Related Matters: a Vision for the Twenty-first Century, the text of which is annexed to the present resolution;

2. *Urges* Member States to take appropriate measures to combat the traffic in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances in accordance with the Baku Accord on Regional Cooperation against Illicit Drugs and Related Matters and the relevant resolutions of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly and consistent with their national legislation and the provisions of the international drug control treaties;

¹ General Assembly resolution S-20/2, annex.

² General Assembly resolution 54/132, annex.

³ General Assembly resolutions S-20/4 A to E.

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to inform all Member States, relevant specialized agencies and other entities of the United Nations system and other intergovernmental organizations of the Baku Accord on Regional Cooperation against Illicit Drugs and Related Matters.

*41st plenary meeting
13 July 2006*

Annex

Baku Accord on Regional Cooperation against Illicit Drugs and Related Matters: a Vision for the Twenty-first Century

We, the representatives of States members of the Subcommission on Illicit Drug Traffic and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East,

Having gathered at the fortieth session of the Subcommission, held in Baku from 12 to 16 September 2005, to consider the Baku Accord on Regional Cooperation against Illicit Drugs and Related Matters: a Vision for the Twenty-first Century,

Bearing in mind the Political Declaration adopted by the General Assembly at its twentieth special session,¹ the Action Plan for the Implementation of the Declaration on the Guiding Principles of Drug Demand Reduction² and the measures to enhance international cooperation to counter the world drug problem,³

Recalling Economic and Social Council resolution 1997/39 of 21 July 1997, entitled “Baku Accord on Regional Cooperation against Illicit Cultivation, Production, Trafficking, Distribution and Consumption of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances and Their Precursors”,

Recalling also Economic and Social Council resolution 2005/24 of 22 July 2005, entitled “Providing support to Afghanistan with a view to ensuring the effective implementation of its Counter-Narcotics Implementation Plan”,

Recalling further Economic and Social Council resolution 2005/26 of 22 July 2005, entitled “International assistance to States affected by the transit of illicit drugs”,

Bearing in mind the Joint Ministerial Statement and further measures to implement the action plans emanating from the twentieth special session of the General Assembly, adopted during the ministerial segment of the forty-sixth session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs,⁴

Recalling various other United Nations resolutions and recommendations, including General Assembly resolution 59/161 of 20 December 2004 and the recommendations of the International Narcotics Control Board in its report for 2004,⁵ requesting the international community to support the Government of Afghanistan in its fight against the illicit cultivation of opium poppy and trafficking in narcotic drugs,

⁴ A/58/124, sect. III.A.

⁵ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.05.XI.3.

Taking note of the third biennial report of the Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime on the implementation of the outcome of the twentieth special session of the General Assembly⁶ and other relevant reports submitted to the Commission on Narcotic Drugs at its forty-eighth session, including the report on the world situation with regard to drug trafficking⁷ and the report on the world situation with regard to drug abuse,⁸

Deeply concerned about the spread of drug abuse in the Near and Middle East and its effects on youth and on future generations,

Deeply concerned also about the increasing illicit cultivation of narcotic drug crops and illicit production of and trafficking in drugs, which threaten the political, economic and social structure and stability of the region,

Alarmed at the serious and growing threat posed by organized criminal groups involved in drug trafficking, money-laundering and various other forms of organized crime and their potential and, in some cases, actual links with terrorist groups,

Aware that in a number of countries illicit drug production represents a major obstacle to sustainable economic, social and political development,

Taking into account the multifaceted challenges faced by States situated along international trafficking routes and the effects of trafficking in drugs, including related crime and drug abuse, resulting from the transit of illicit drugs through the territory of transit States,

Recognizing the need to take further urgent measures against the illicit cultivation of narcotic drug crops and the illicit production of and trafficking in drugs in regions where drug traffickers and organized criminal groups take advantage of territories affected by conflict, war, foreign occupation or other situations to engage in illicit activities,

Mindful of the essential need to strengthen international, regional and subregional cooperation aimed at enhancing the capacity of States to tackle drug trafficking effectively and to meet the goals and targets for the year 2008 set by the General Assembly at its twentieth special session,

Reiterating the principle of shared responsibility and the need for all States to promote and implement the action necessary to counter the world drug problem in all its aspects,

Convinced that specific action and comprehensive, well-coordinated national plans are the most effective means by which to combat problems involving illicit drugs and related crime,

Have agreed on the following:

Cooperation between drug law enforcement agencies

⁶ E/CN.7/2005/2 and Add.1-6.

⁷ E/CN.7/2005/4.

⁸ E/CN.7/2005/3.

1. We reaffirm our commitment to promoting coordinated drug control strategies and unified responses to drug trafficking and, in that context, encourage the development, effective implementation and further strengthening of measures for the prevention and suppression of drug trafficking and the reduction of illicit drug demand in transit States, as well as cooperation in areas such as border control, mutual legal assistance, law enforcement, including controlled delivery, and exchange of information between transit States, countries of destination and countries of origin.

2. In promoting a unified response to combating drug trafficking in the region, States members of the Subcommittee on Illicit Drug Traffic and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East should promote closer coordination between drug law enforcement agencies of neighbouring States, such as through joint training, through the establishment of effective systems to promote the sharing of operational experience to facilitate the identification and arrest of drug traffickers and the dismantling of criminal groups and through the facilitation of regular meetings of drug law enforcement agencies with their cross-border counterparts.

3. Drug law enforcement agencies in the region should establish specific mechanisms for the regular exchange of information between national drug law enforcement agencies and their counterparts in neighbouring States and beyond on drug trafficking networks active in the region.

4. We emphasize the importance of coordinating law enforcement activities, in particular the exchange of information at the international level, which can benefit greatly by the establishment of coordination centres, such as the Central Asian Regional Information and Coordination Centre of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime.

5. Governments should designate national law enforcement authorities to be responsible for dealing with requests for mutual legal assistance, as provided for in article 7 of the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988,⁹ as well as cooperating closely with other authorities with a view to enhancing the effectiveness of law enforcement action, as provided for in article 9 of that Convention.

6. In order to expand their operational capacities, States members of the Subcommittee should consider implementing coordinated operations at border stations, through coordinated mobile patrols and by strengthening joint drug law enforcement efforts at land and sea borders involving neighbouring States.

7. States members of the Subcommittee should work towards greater harmonization of their criminal justice systems and national drug control legislation in order to expedite the taking of appropriate measures and other action against drug traffickers and related offenders.

8. States members of the Commission should work to support the efforts of the international community to provide the necessary

⁹ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1582, No. 27627.

support to the counter-narcotics objectives of the Government of Afghanistan, by continued technical assistance and financial commitment, in particular, to all eight pillars of the Counter-Narcotics Implementation Plan of Afghanistan.

9. The Subcommittee should continue to meet on an annual basis in the capital city of one of its member States.

Drug demand reduction

10. States members of the Subcommittee should promote awareness, in particular among young people, of the health, social and psychological problems that may result from the abuse of illicit drugs.

11. States members of the Subcommittee should consider amending their national legislation, where necessary, to facilitate the treatment and rehabilitation of drug abusers through, for example, the introduction of drug courts, police referral to voluntary treatment programmes and other recognized alternative approaches to treatment.

12. States members of the Subcommittee should strengthen their political commitment to implement drug abuse prevention policies and strategies effectively and to continue their drug demand reduction programmes, paying attention to early intervention, rehabilitation and social reintegration of drug users, in order to prevent the transmission of HIV/AIDS and other blood-borne diseases in the context of drug abuse.

13. States members of the Subcommittee should continue to incorporate substance abuse prevention, treatment and health care into their national drug control strategies, as well as into their socio-economic development programmes, especially programmes designed to enhance the social and economic empowerment of women, and child welfare, including in relation to preventing and reducing the spread of HIV/AIDS and other blood-borne diseases in the context of drug abuse.

14. States members of the Subcommittee are also encouraged to ensure that substance abuse treatment is accessible and affordable to drug abusers living with HIV/AIDS and other blood-borne diseases and to work to eliminate barriers to access for drug abusers in need of HIV/AIDS care and support.

Assistance to transit States

15. We welcome the follow-up of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to the Paris Pact initiative that emerged from the Paris Statement, which was issued at the end of the Conference on Drug Routes from Central Asia to Europe, held in Paris on 21 and 22 May 2003,¹⁰ and encourage the development of similar strategies in other regions for countries affected by the transit of illicit drugs through their territory.

16. International financial institutions and other potential donors are encouraged to provide financial assistance to States affected by the transit of illicit drugs through their territory, including for empowering and building the capacity of locally available human resources, so that

¹⁰ See S/2003/641, annex.

those States may intensify their efforts to combat drug trafficking and drug abuse and deal with their consequences.

17. States members of the Subcommittee should integrate projects, where appropriate, for illicit drug demand reduction and strengthen treatment and rehabilitation services for drug abusers in the programmes for international assistance to those transit States which are affected by drug abuse as a result of the transit of illicit drugs through their territory, to enable them to deal effectively with the problem.

Control of precursors

18. States members of the Subcommittee should cooperate closely with the International Narcotics Control Board to further strengthen international cooperation in the implementation of article 12 of the 1988 Convention, in accordance with the measures to control precursors adopted by the General Assembly at its twentieth special session.¹¹

19. States members of the Subcommittee should support international operations aimed at preventing diversion of chemical precursors used in the illicit manufacture of cocaine, heroin and amphetamine-type stimulants, in particular Operation Topaz, Operation Purple and Project Prism coordinated by the International Narcotics Control Board, by exchanging information with other States and conducting timely joint law enforcement operations, including the use of controlled deliveries and backtracking investigations into the sources and origins of seizures.

20. States members of the Subcommittee are urged to take immediate steps to ensure that the substances listed in Tables I and II of the 1988 Convention are placed under the control of their regulatory authorities.

Money-laundering

21. States members of the Subcommittee should strengthen action to prevent and combat money-laundering, including by enhancing international cooperation, adopting legislation that makes money-laundering a criminal and extraditable offence, establishing financial intelligence units to support the effective investigation and prosecution of money-laundering offences and removing any impediments to criminal investigation linked to bank secrecy.

International cooperation in illicit crop eradication and alternative development

22. The international community should be requested to assist and cooperate in the development of illicit crop eradication programmes and to promote alternative development programmes and, in particular, support should be given to Afghanistan in this respect.

United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto and the United Nations Convention against Corruption

¹¹ General Assembly resolution S-20/4 B.

23. States members of the Subcommittee welcome the entry into force of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime¹² and its Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children,¹³ the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air¹⁴ and the Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Their Parts and Components and Ammunition.¹⁵

24. States members of the Subcommittee that have not yet done so should become parties to and implement the Organized Crime Convention and the Protocols thereto, as well as the universal conventions and protocols related to terrorism, as soon as possible and, where appropriate, request assistance to that end from the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, in coordination with other relevant United Nations bodies, such as the Counter-Terrorism Committee.

25. States members of the Subcommittee should also consider signing and ratifying the United Nations Convention against Corruption¹⁶ as soon as possible in order to allow its early entry into force and subsequent implementation.

26. States members of the Subcommittee and relevant regional economic integration organizations should take all necessary measures to improve international cooperation in criminal matters, especially in the form of extradition and mutual legal assistance, in accordance with the relevant conventions.

¹² General Assembly resolution 55/25, annex I.

¹³ General Assembly resolution 55/25, annex II.

¹⁴ Ibid., annex III.

¹⁵ General Assembly resolution 55/255, annex.

¹⁶ General Assembly resolution 58/4, annex.