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Commission on Narcotic Drugs

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Agenda item 11

Follow-up to the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem held in 2016, including the seven thematic areas of the outcome document of the special session

Australia, Ecuador, El Salvador, Honduras and Russian Federation: revised draft resolution

Enhancing the capacity of Member States to adequately estimate and assess the need for internationally controlled substances for medical and scientific purposes

The Commission on Narcotic Drugs,

Recalling articles 1, 2, 12, 13, 19, 20, 25, 27 and 31 of the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961 as amended by the 1972 Protocol,¹ articles 1, 2, 3, 12 and 16 of the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971² and article 12 of the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988,³ which require States parties to report statistical data and furnish annual estimates to the International Narcotics Control Board and monitor international trade in controlled substances,

Recalling that the International Narcotics Control Board, within its treaty mandate, collects statistical data provided by Member States on the availability of internationally controlled substances for medical and scientific purposes,

Recalling all commitments related to ensuring the availability of and access to controlled substances exclusively for medical and scientific purposes, while preventing their diversion, as contained in the 2009 Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem,⁴ the Joint Ministerial Statement of the 2014 high-level review by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs of the implementation by Member States of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action⁵ and the outcome document of the thirtieth special session of the General Assembly, held in 2016,

¹ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 976, No. 14152.

² *Ibid.*, vol. 1019, No. 14956.

³ *Ibid.*, vol. 1582, No. 27627.

⁴ See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2009, Supplement No. 8 (E/2009/28)*, chap. I, sect. C.

⁵ See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2014, Supplement No. 8 (E/2014/28)*, chap. I, sect. C.



entitled “Our joint commitment to effectively addressing and countering the world drug problem”,⁶

Recalling the reports of the International Narcotics Control Board for 2016,⁷ 2017⁸ and 2018,⁹ in particular regarding the launch and implementation of the INCB Learning project, one of the Board’s main initiatives to assist Member States in implementing the three international drug conventions, and the recommendations of the outcome document of the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem held in 2016, as they relate to access to controlled substances for licit purposes, and noting that training provided through the INCB Learning project has effectively raised the awareness of participating Member States about the importance of adequately estimating and assessing, as well as reporting on, licit requirements and trade in controlled substances and has led to improvements in the quality of data submitted to the Board on a voluntary and mandatory basis,

Taking note of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime publication entitled “Technical guidance: increasing access and availability of controlled medicines”, as well as the *Guide on Estimating Requirements for Substances Under International Control*¹⁰ and the World Health Organization publication entitled *Ensuring Balance in National Policies on Controlled Substances: Guidance for Availability and Accessibility of Controlled Medicines*,¹¹ which serve to assist Member States in ensuring the availability and accessibility of controlled substances for medical and scientific purposes,

Recalling Economic and Social Council resolutions 1576 (L) of 20 May 1971, 1981/7 of 6 May 1981, 1985/15 of 28 May 1985, 1987/30 of 26 May 1987, 1991/44 of 21 June 1991, 1993/38 of 27 July 1993, 1995/20 of 24 July 1995 and 1996/30 of 24 July 1996, in which the Council requested Governments to provide to the International Narcotics Control Board relevant additional information on psychotropic substances and precursor chemicals,

Recalling also its resolution 53/4 of 12 March 2010, in which it stressed the importance of promoting adequate availability of internationally controlled drugs for medical and scientific purposes, and its resolution 54/6 of 25 March 2011, in which it encouraged Member States to report to the International Narcotics Control Board data on the consumption of psychotropic substances for medical and scientific purposes, on a voluntary basis,

Taking note of the report of the International Narcotics Control Board for 2018 and the supplement to that report, entitled *Progress in Ensuring Adequate Access to Internationally Controlled Substances for Medical and Scientific Purposes*,¹² in which attention is drawn to the fact that a significant number of States have encountered difficulties in submitting data on consumption of psychotropic substances, which is provided on a voluntary basis,

Reaffirming our strong commitment to improving access to controlled substances for medical and scientific purposes by appropriately addressing existing barriers in this regard, including those related to legislation, regulatory systems, health-care systems, affordability, the training of health-care professionals, education, awareness-raising, estimates, assessment and reporting, benchmarks for consumption of substances under international control, and international cooperation and coordination, while concurrently preventing their diversion, abuse and trafficking,

1. *Reaffirms* its commitment to implementing effectively all the commitments on ensuring the availability of and access to controlled substances

⁶ General Assembly resolution S-30/1, annex.

⁷ E/INCB/2016/1.

⁸ E/INCB/2017/1.

⁹ E/INCB/2018/1.

¹⁰ International Narcotics Control Board and World Health Organization (Vienna, 2012).

¹¹ World Health Organization (Geneva, 2011).

¹² E/INCB/2018/1/Supp.1.

exclusively for medical and scientific purposes while preventing their diversion that were established in the 2009 Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem,⁴ the Joint Ministerial Statement of the 2014 high-level review by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs of the implementation by Member States of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action⁵ and the outcome document of the thirtieth special session of the General Assembly, held in 2016, entitled “Our joint commitment to effectively addressing and countering the world drug problem”,⁶ including:

(a) The recommendation on strengthening the capacity of competent national authorities to adequately estimate and assess the need for controlled substances;

(b) The recommendation on taking measures, in accordance with national legislation, to provide capacity-building and training, including with the support of relevant United Nations entities, for competent national authorities on ensuring adequate access to and use of controlled substances for medical and scientific purposes;

2. *Reiterates* the importance of building and enhancing the capacity of competent national authorities to adequately estimate and assess the need for internationally controlled substances for medical and scientific purposes while preventing their diversion;

3. *Urges* Member States to facilitate the provision of capacity-building and training for their competent national authorities in the area of international drug control to adequately estimate and assess the need for internationally controlled substances for medical and scientific purposes;

4. *Welcomes* the ongoing work of the International Narcotics Control Board, in particular through the INCB Learning project and the regional training seminars conducted in cooperation with the World Health Organization and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America and Oceania, in which officials from many countries and territories have participated since 2016;

5. *Encourages* the secretariat of the International Narcotics Control Board to continue implementing capacity-building and training activities for competent national authorities through the INCB Learning project and its collaboration with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the World Health Organization, in accordance with their respective mandates;

6. *Encourages* the International Narcotics Control Board to continue supporting Member States in facilitating progress in the implementation of the relevant commitments and operational recommendations on ensuring the availability of and access to controlled substances exclusively for medical and scientific purposes, while preventing their diversion, contained in the outcome document of the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem held in 2016, and to share information on the progress made with other United Nations entities, including the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the World Health Organization.

7. *Welcomes* the initiative of Member States, the International Narcotics Control Board and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to facilitate, including by convening expert consultations of the staff of competent national authorities, the sharing of experiences and good practices on the submission of data on consumption of psychotropic substances, on a voluntary basis;

8. *Encourages* the International Narcotics Control Board to continue to develop, in close cooperation with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the World Health Organization, guidance to assist Member States in adequately estimating and assessing their needs and reporting their requirements for internationally controlled substances for medical and scientific purposes;

9. *Encourages* the International Narcotics Control Board and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, and invites the World Health Organization, within their respective mandates, to continue improving their cooperation and

providing, upon request, relevant training and technical support to competent national authorities and other relevant regulatory and health stakeholders, where appropriate and in accordance with national legislation, on ensuring adequate availability and access to controlled substances for medical and scientific purposes while preventing their diversion;

10. *Recognizes* the extrabudgetary contributions and in-kind contributions made towards the implementation of the INCB Learning project;

11. *Invites* Member States and other donors to provide extrabudgetary resources for the above-mentioned purposes, in accordance with the rules and procedures of the United Nations.
