

ECOSOC Resolution 2002/20

Demand for and supply of opiates for medical and scientific needs

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its resolution 2001/17 of 24 July 2001 and previous relevant resolutions,

Emphasizing that the need to balance the global licit supply of opiates against the legitimate demand for opiates for medical and scientific purposes is central to the international strategy and policy of drug control,

Noting the fundamental need for international cooperation with the traditional supplier countries in drug control to ensure universal application of the provisions of the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961,¹

Considering that a balance between consumption and production of opiate raw materials has been achieved as a result of efforts made by the two traditional supplier countries, India and Turkey, together with other producer countries,

Considering also that application of technical methods of morphine production, including from unlaced poppy capsules, would contribute to the control and prevention from diversion to illicit channels of narcotic drugs,

Noting the importance of opiates in pain relief therapy as advocated by the World Health Organization,

1. *Urges* all Governments to continue to contribute to the maintenance of a balance between the licit supply of and demand for opiate raw materials for medical and scientific purposes, the achievement of which would be facilitated by maintaining, insofar as their constitutional and legal systems permit, support to the traditional and legal supplier countries, and to cooperate in preventing the proliferation of sources of production of opiate raw materials;

2. *Urges* Governments of all producer countries to adhere strictly to the provisions of the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961,² to take effective measures to prevent illicit production, or diversion of opiate raw materials to illicit channels, especially when increasing licit production, and to adopt, after due technical study by the International Narcotics Control Board of the relative merits of different methods, the best method in this respect;

3. *Urges* consumer countries to assess their licit needs for opiate raw materials realistically and to communicate those needs to the International Narcotics Control Board in order to ensure easy supply, and also urges the producer countries concerned and the Board to increase their efforts to monitor the available supply and to ensure sufficient stocks of licit opiate raw materials;

¹ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 520, No. 7515.

² *Ibid.*

4. *Requests* the Board to continue its efforts in monitoring the implementation of the relevant Economic and Social Council resolutions in full compliance with the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961;

5. *Commends* the Board for its efforts in monitoring the implementation of the relevant Economic and Social Council resolutions and, in particular:

(a) In urging the Governments concerned to adjust global production of opiate raw materials to a level corresponding to actual licit needs and to avoid unforeseen imbalances between licit supply of and demand for opiates caused by the exportation of products manufactured from seized and confiscated drugs;

(b) In inviting the Governments concerned to ensure that opiates imported into their countries for medical and scientific use do not originate in countries that transform seized and confiscated drugs into licit opiates;

(c) In arranging informal meetings, during sessions of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, with the main States that import and produce opiate raw materials;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to transmit the text of the present resolution to all Governments for consideration and implementation.

*37th plenary meeting
24 July 2002*