

ECOSOC Resolution 2003/37

Strengthening alternative development through trade and socio-environmental preservation

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling the Action Plan on International Cooperation on the Eradication of Illicit Drug Crops and on Alternative Development, adopted by the General Assembly at its twentieth special session, which states that alternative development is an important component for generating and promoting lawful, viable and sustainable economic options to illicit drug crop cultivation, that States with illicit drug crops will need continued funding to support national efforts to eliminate drug crops and that the success of alternative development programmes depends, inter alia, on the long-term political and financial commitment of the Governments of the affected countries and the international community,¹

Reaffirming Commission on Narcotic Drugs resolution 45/14, in which the Commission invited Member States to make more comprehensive and determined efforts in the area of financial and technical cooperation aimed at promoting alternative development, including, where appropriate, preventive alternative development, and urged the United Nations International Drug Control Programme to enlarge its base of donors and to use available voluntary resources to increase the financial and technical assistance that it provided to alternative development programmes, including, where appropriate, preventive alternative development,

Aware of the importance of programmes promoting alternative development, including, where appropriate, preventive alternative development,

Urging Member States to consider that the presence of illicit drug crops and illicit cultivation and production leads to the degradation of the environment,

Noting with concern that the existence of illicit crops and illicit cultivation and production seriously damages the environment and causes severe socio-economic problems, in particular for highly vulnerable populations, and that effective crop control strategies require an integrated and balanced approach, in particular alternative development, including, where appropriate, preventive alternative development,

1. *Urges* the United Nations International Drug Control Programme and all Member States to continue to cooperate effectively on programmes to promote alternative development, including, where appropriate, preventive alternative development, in accordance with the provisions of Commission on Narcotic Drugs resolution 45/14;

2. *Calls upon* the international community and Member States to promote an economic environment that is favourable to products from alternative development and that facilitates the access of such

¹ General Assembly resolution S-20/4 E, paras. 8 and 9.

products to international markets as an effective and efficient means of eliminating the illicit economy;

3. *Reiterates* the necessity to encourage access to international markets for products, including produce from alternative development areas;

4. *Urges* Member States, in accordance with the principle of shared responsibility and as a sign of their commitment to the fight against illicit drugs, to extend cooperation in the area of alternative development to include technical assistance, support for the protection of the environment, sustainable development of forest resources, creation of social and productive infrastructure and promotion of private investment and agro-industry, as well as facilitation of the access of alternative development products to markets;

5. *Calls upon* Member States to share their experience in programmes to eliminate or reduce illicit crop cultivation, thereby taking into account common socio-economic and environmental factors, and to encourage the participation of local inhabitants in such programmes;

6. *Encourages* Member States, multilateral financial institutions, regional development banks and non-governmental organizations to focus attention on measures designed to protect society, in particular, highly vulnerable populations, and the environment from the harmful effects of illicit drugs;

7. *Resolves* to promote the implementation of programmes of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, subject to the availability of voluntary funds, which might be from general-purpose funds, in accordance with guidelines adopted by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs,² or from earmarked funds, and programmes of other relevant organizations for alternative development, including, where appropriate, preventive alternative development, through an integrated approach to the development of vulnerable areas that includes strategies for the preservation of the environment, security, monitoring, education, health, sanitation and community development.

*44th plenary meeting
22 July 2003*

² *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2001, Supplement No. 8, Part Two (E/2008/26/Rev.1 (Part II)), chap. I, resolution 44/20, annex.*