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Commission on Narcotic Drugs

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Agenda item 6

Follow-up to the implementation at the national, regional and international levels of all commitments, as reflected in the Ministerial Declaration of 2019, to address and counter the world drug problem

Belgium, Brazil, China, Colombia, Croatia, Czechia, Denmark, Dominican Republic, France, Germany, Guatemala, Honduras, Italy, Malaysia, Malta, Netherlands (Kingdom of), Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden and Thailand: revised draft resolution

Celebrating the tenth anniversary of the United Nations Guiding Principles on Alternative Development: effective implementation and the way forward

The Commission on Narcotic Drugs,

Recalling the United Nations Guiding Principles on Alternative Development, adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 68/196 of 18 December 2013,

Underscoring that the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1953 as amended by the 1972 Protocol,^[1] the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971^[2] and the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988,^[3] together with other relevant international instruments, constitute the cornerstone of the international drug control system,

Underscoring that in accordance with the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988,¹ each party shall take appropriate measures to prevent illicit cultivation of and to eradicate, plants containing narcotic or psychotropic substances, such as opium poppy, coca bush and cannabis plants, cultivated illicitly in its territory, and that the measures adopted shall respect fundamental human rights and shall take due account of traditional licit uses, where there is historic evidence of such use, as well as the protection of the environment,

Underscoring the importance of taking into consideration the needs and local context of Indigenous Peoples and local communities when adopting alternative

¹ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1582, No. 27627.

development measures, including by substituting crops, where appropriate, and by promoting viable economic alternatives in all relevant settings,

Expressing concern that the illicit cultivation of crops and illicit manufacture, distribution and trafficking remain serious challenges in addressing and countering the world drug problem, and recognizing the need to strengthen sustainable crop control strategies and develop viable economic alternatives for the purpose of preventing and significantly and measurably reducing the illicit cultivation of crops, and the need to intensify joint efforts at the national, regional and international levels in a more comprehensive manner, in accordance with the principle of common and shared responsibility, including by means of enhanced, concrete and better-coordinated financial and technical assistance and action-oriented programmes, in order to tackle those challenges in a timely and efficient manner,

Reaffirming that drug policies and programmes, including in the field of development, should be undertaken in accordance with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, international law and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights² and, in particular, with full respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of States, the principle of non-intervention in the internal affairs of States, all human rights, fundamental freedoms, the inherent dignity of all individuals and the principles of equal rights and mutual respect among States, as well as the principle of common and shared responsibility, recalling the Sustainable Development Goals, and taking into account the specific situations of countries and regions,

Recalling 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”, in which Member States reiterated their commitment to address the drug-related socioeconomic issues related to the illicit cultivation of narcotic plants and the illicit manufacture and production of and trafficking in drugs through the implementation of long-term, comprehensive and sustainable development-oriented and balanced drug control policies and programmes, including alternative development and, as appropriate, preventive alternative development programmes, which are part of sustainable crop control strategies,

Recognizing the progress and contributions of alternative development programmes in addressing human vulnerabilities, including poverty, unemployment, a lack of opportunities, discrimination and social marginalization, as well as in mutually reinforcing endeavours to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, in accordance with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,³

Recalling all relevant United Nations resolutions on alternative development, including those adopted by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs,

Recalling the 2030 Agenda, and stressing that the implementation of the United Nations Guiding Principles on Alternative Development should be aligned with the efforts to achieve those relevant objectives within the Sustainable Development Goals that are related to the issue of alternative development, which falls within the mandate of the Commission, and that the efforts to achieve the Goals and to effectively address the world drug problem are complementary and mutually reinforcing,

Welcoming the holding of the expert group meeting on alternative development, on the theme “Joining international efforts on alternative development”, in Lima on 11 and 12 October 2023, and its contributions to alternative development, as well as the programme of events marking the tenth anniversary of the United Nations Guiding Principles on Alternative Development, held on the margins of the first intersessional meeting of the sixty-sixth session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, from 23 to 25 October 2023,

² General Assembly resolution 217 A (III).

³ General Assembly resolution 70/1.

Welcoming also the announcement by the Government of Thailand of the upcoming international conference on the theme “From alternative development to the Sustainable Development Goals: empowering alternative development to address global challenges”, to be held in Thailand from 2 to 4 December 2024, which will provide a platform, open to all interested parties, for furthering collaboration on alternative development,

Noting with concern the findings of the *World Drug Report 2022 on drugs and the environment*,⁴ aimed at providing a comprehensive overview of the current state of research on the direct and indirect impact on the environment of illicit drug, crop cultivation, drug manufacture and, drug policy responses, including regional variations, as well as the findings of the *World Drug Report 2023*⁵ on the nexus between drugs and crimes that affect the environment and convergent crime in the Amazon Basin,

1. *Welcomes* the commemoration of the tenth anniversary of the United Nations Guiding Principles on Alternative Development in 2023, and encourages Member States, relevant international organizations and other relevant stakeholders to continue and expand the implementation of the Guiding Principles, including through the promotion of partnerships with each other, enhancing technical and financial support, sharing of experiences, best practices and challenges relating to the implementation of alternative development projects and programmes;

2. *Encourages all* Member States, relevant international organizations and other relevant stakeholders to participate in the international conference on the theme “From alternative development to the Sustainable Development Goals: empowering alternative development to address global challenges”, to be hosted by the Government of Thailand from 2 to 4 December 2024, in order to share knowledge, experiences and best practices in this regard;

3. *Encourages* Member States to increase their national, regional and international efforts in promoting viable economic alternatives, in particular through balanced, comprehensive, sustainable and inclusive alternative development programmes* based on national needs and priorities, taking into account relevant measures to protect the environment, in order to accelerate progress made in the implementation of international drug policy commitments as well as towards the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

*Footnote: Alternative development programmes may also be referred to in some particular contexts by some countries as integral development programmes.

4. *Acknowledges* the need for increased international cooperation aimed at addressing and overcoming effectively challenges, obstacles and impediments at all levels to effectively implement the United Nations Guiding Principles on Alternative Development;

5. *Encourages all* Member States, relevant international organizations and other relevant stakeholders to continue to take into account the United Nations Guiding Principles on Alternative Development, as a crucial instrument for effective and sustainable development-oriented interventions for drug-related challenges and trends;

6. *Encourages* Member States to examine and address, including within their efforts to implement the United Nations Guiding Principles on Alternative Development, the negative impact on the environment of the illicit cultivation of crops used for the production of narcotic drugs and other illicit drug-related activities, which may lead to deforestation and the pollution of soil and water, and to seize the opportunities offered by alternative development with regard to the restoration;

⁴ United Nations publication, 2022, booklet 5

⁵ Ibid., 2023, booklet 2

conservation and sustainable use of the environment and the protection of biodiversity;

7. *Also encourages* Member States, including within their efforts to implement the United Nations Guiding Principles on Alternative Development, to mainstream a gender perspective into and ensure the involvement of women in all stages of the development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of alternative development programmes, and to develop and disseminate gender-sensitive and age-appropriate measures that take into account the specific needs of and circumstances faced by women and girls with regard to the illicit cultivation of drug crops and other illicit drug-related activities in urban and rural areas;

8. *Encourages* Member States, including within their efforts to implement the United Nations Guiding Principles on Alternative Development, to take into account land rights and other related land management resources when designing, implementing, monitoring and evaluating alternative development programmes and, as appropriate, preventive alternative development programmes, including the land rights and other related land management resources of Indigenous Peoples and local communities, in accordance with domestic and applicable international law;

9. *Encourages* Member States to also consider the development of viable economic alternatives, particularly for communities affected by or at risk of illicit cultivation of drug crops and other illicit drug-related activities in urban and rural areas, including through comprehensive alternative development programmes, and to this end to consider development-oriented interventions, while ensuring that both men and women benefit equally from them, including through job opportunities, improved infrastructure and basic public services and, as appropriate, access and legal titles to land for farmers and local communities, which will also contribute to preventing, reducing or eliminating illicit cultivation and other drug-related activities;

10. *Encourages* Member States to consider developing and implementing, in rural and urban areas, sustainable alternative development initiatives and provide viable economic alternatives for those affected by illicit drug-related activities including, inter alia, illicit cultivation of crops used for illicit production of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances;

11. *Further encourages* Member States, including within their efforts to implement the United Nations Guiding Principles on Alternative Development to engage, where appropriate, Indigenous Peoples and local communities affected by illicit drug crop cultivation and other illicit drug-related activities in the development and implementation, including, within the decision making process, in accordance with domestic and applicable international law, of policies and actions aimed at promoting sustainable alternative development, taking into account their culture, knowledge and traditions;

12. *Also encourages* Member States to increase efforts in promoting alternative development programmes to support populations affected by or vulnerable to the illicit cultivation of drug crops and other drug-related crime challenges, and to develop viable economic alternatives, including, inter alia, legal products on the basis of market demand and value added production chains, as well as secure and stable markets with fair prices for producers, in accordance with international trade rules, as applicable, including the required infrastructure and a conducive environment, utilizing best practices and lessons learned from the United Nations Guiding Principles on Alternative Development;

13. *Encourages* Member States to ensure the proper and coordinated sequencing of development interventions when designing, implementing and assessing sustainable alternative development programmes so that their beneficiaries, including small-farmer households, have opportunities for viable and sustainable licit livelihoods, taking into account the circumstances of the region, country or area concerned;

14. *Encourages* Member States, international organizations, civil society and other relevant stakeholders to discuss and provide recommendations, at forthcoming expert group meetings on alternative development and other relevant international meetings, on options to further strengthen the effective implementation, as well as on the way forward, including whether there is a need to update the United Nations Guiding Principles on Alternative Development, for future consideration by the Commission, taking into account the latest scientific evidence, good practices, and decisions taken by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and other relevant bodies of the United Nations;

15. *Requests* the Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to report to the Commission at its sixty-eighth session on the implementation of the present resolution;

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

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