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Commission on Narcotic Drugs

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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

Germany, Guatemala, Peru and Thailand: revised draft resolution

Promoting alternative development as a development-oriented drug control strategy, including in the context of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic and its consequences

The Commission on Narcotic Drugs,

Recognizing that the world drug problem continues to present challenges to the health, safety and well-being of all humanity, and resolving to tackle such challenges in order to help ensure that all people can live in health, dignity and peace, with security and prosperity,

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 Rights¹ 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,

Underscoring that the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961 as amended by the 1972 Protocol,² the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971³ and the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988,⁴ together with other relevant international instruments, constitute the cornerstone of the international drug control system,

Recalling the commitments related to alternative development contained in the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an

¹ General Assembly resolution 217 A (III).

² United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 976, No. 14152.

³ *Ibid.*, vol. 1019, No. 14956.

⁴ *Ibid.*, vol. 1582, No. 27627.



Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem⁵ of 2009 and 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 Action,⁶ as well as 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”,⁷ in which Member States reiterated their commitment to addressing 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,

Recalling also the Ministerial Declaration on Strengthening Our Actions at the National, Regional and International Levels to Accelerate the Implementation of Our Joint Commitments to Address and Counter the World Drug Problem,⁸ adopted at the ministerial segment of the sixty-second session of the Commission, in 2019, in which Member States reiterated their resolve, in the framework of existing policy documents, inter alia, to address drug-related socioeconomic issues related to illicit crop cultivation and the production and manufacture of and trafficking in drugs, including through the implementation of long-term comprehensive and sustainable development-oriented and balanced drug control policies and programmes,

Emphasizing that the implementation of alternative development programmes should also be considered in the framework of sustainable crop control strategies, which may include, inter alia, eradication and law enforcement, in accordance with the national context, in the light of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem and the outcome document of the thirtieth special session of the General Assembly, and taking into consideration the United Nations Guiding Principles on Alternative Development, adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 68/196 of 18 December 2013,

Welcoming the holding of the virtual expert group meeting on alternative development, on the theme “Latest developments and insights on alternative development”, hosted by Germany, Peru, Thailand and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, from 15 to 18 March 2021, involving the participation of Member States, international organizations, and representatives of civil society and academia,

Reaffirming that alternative development is an important, lawful, viable and sustainable alternative to the illicit cultivation of drug crops and an effective measure to counter the world drug problem and other drug-related crime challenges, as well as a choice in favour of promoting a society free of drug abuse, that it is one of the key components of policies and programmes for reducing illicit drug production and that it is an integral part of efforts made by Governments to achieve sustainable development within their societies,

Reiterating its commitment to respecting, protecting and promoting all human rights, fundamental freedoms and the inherent dignity of all individuals and the rule of law in the development and implementation of drug policies,

Recalling the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,⁹ and stressing that the implementation of the United Nations Guiding Principles on Alternative Development

⁵ See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2009, Supplement No. 8 (E/2009/28)*, chap. I, sect. C.

⁶ See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2014, Supplement No. 8 (E/2014/28)*, chap. I, sect. C.

⁷ General Assembly resolution S-30/1, annex.

⁸ See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2019, Supplement No. 8 (E/2019/28)*, chap. I, sect. B.

⁹ General Assembly resolution 70/1.

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 on Narcotic Drugs, and that the efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and to effectively address the world drug problem are complementary and mutually reinforcing,

Noting with concern that in the pandemic and post-pandemic period there may be funding shortages and diversion of resources from drug-related initiatives, including those relating to alternative development,

Recognizing the important challenges posed by the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic at the international, regional and national levels, which may have increased unemployment, weakened social support systems, deepened inequality, and affected the livelihoods of people vulnerable to the illicit cultivation of drug crops, as well as other illicit drug-related activities that may lead to increases in such illicit cultivation and in drug-related crimes, and may impede the progress of alternative development efforts, and stressing the importance of international cooperation to comprehensively address and counter these challenges on the basis of common and shared responsibility,

Recognizing also that alternative development programmes can contribute to the efforts of Member States to address human vulnerabilities, including poverty, unemployment, a lack of opportunities, discrimination and social marginalization, as well as mutually reinforce endeavours to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, in accordance with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,

1. *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, which may contribute to efforts to build back better from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, utilizing best practices and lessons learned from the United Nations Guiding Principles on Alternative Development, and reiterates in that regard that efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and to effectively address the world drug problem are complementary and mutually reinforcing;

2. *Recognizes* the need for increasing national, regional and international efforts to promote viable economic alternatives, in particular for communities affected by or at risk of the illicit cultivation of narcotic plants and the illicit manufacture and production of and trafficking in drugs, as well as other illicit drug-related activities in urban and rural areas, including through comprehensive alternative development programmes, and to this end encourages Member States to consider development-oriented interventions, while ensuring that all people benefit equally from them;

3. *Acknowledges* the importance of data collection, research and the exchange of information and expertise on efforts, achievements, challenges and best practices for identifying causes and factors driving illicit drug crop cultivation and addressing drug-related socioeconomic issues related to the illicit cultivation of narcotic plants and the illicit manufacture and production of and trafficking in drugs, including the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, and invites relevant stakeholders to make contributions in this regard;

4. *Encourages* Member States to improve the assessment of the impact of alternative development programmes, including preventive alternative development programmes, as appropriate, with a view to increasing the effectiveness of such programmes, including through the use of relevant human development indicators, criteria related to environmental sustainability and other measurements in line with the Sustainable Development Goals;

5. *Invites* Member States, in implementing alternative development programmes, to consider the importance of community-based agreements that enable communities to sustain their development;

6. *Encourages* Member States 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;

7. *Invites* relevant international financial institutions, United Nations entities, non-governmental organizations and the private sector, as appropriate, to consider increasing their support, including through long-term and flexible funding, for the implementation of comprehensive and balanced development-oriented drug control programmes and viable economic alternatives, in particular alternative development, including, as appropriate, preventive alternative development programmes, based on identified needs and national priorities, for areas and populations affected by or vulnerable to the illicit cultivation of drug crops, with a view to its prevention, reduction and elimination, and encourages States, to the extent possible, to stay strongly committed to financing such programmes;

8. *Takes note* of the conference room paper submitted jointly by Germany, Peru and Thailand and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime entitled “Opportunities and challenges for the role of development in drug control policies”, on recent challenges in the field of alternative development, bearing in mind its non-binding nature and that it does not necessarily reflect the position of all participants;

9. *Encourages* Member States to continue sharing lessons learned, best practices and expertise, including through the Commission, and enhancing dialogues on development-oriented drug control policies and programmes, including on the implementation of the United Nations Guiding Principles on Alternative Development;

10. *Also encourages* Member States to engage in and promote partnerships with each other, as well as with all relevant stakeholders, including regional and international organizations, the private sector, civil society and financial institutions, in the implementation of alternative development projects and programmes;

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

12. *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.
