

ECOSOC Resolution 2006/32

Support for the National Drug Control Strategy of the Government of Afghanistan

The Economic and Social Council,

Recognizing the scale and complexity of the problem of narcotic drugs and the risk that the cultivation of opium poppy and the production of and trafficking in opium poses to the security, development and governance of Afghanistan, as well as at the regional and international levels,

Noting with appreciation the continued efforts of the Government of Afghanistan and the personal commitment of President Hamid Karzai to foster and implement counter-narcotics measures, including the publication in 2006 of the interim National Drug Control Strategy, which was welcomed by the international community at the Conference on Afghanistan held in London on 31 January and 1 February 2006,

Welcoming the inclusion of counter-narcotics as a cross-cutting theme in the Afghanistan Compact and the Government of Afghanistan's interim National Development Strategy,

Welcoming also the noteworthy progress made in the fight against narcotics in Afghanistan, including the adoption of counter-narcotics legislation, the establishment of a counter-narcotics tribunal, the use of extradition as a tool and the development of the country's counter-narcotics law enforcement and criminal justice capacity, which has resulted in the conviction of over ninety drug traffickers and an increase in drug-related seizures,

Recalling the report by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime entitled *Afghanistan: Opium Survey 2005*, in which it is indicated that, for the first time since 2001, Afghanistan has succeeded in achieving a decrease of 20 per cent in the area under cultivation of opium poppy, from 130,000 hectares to 104,000 hectares,

Welcoming the commitment by Afghanistan and its neighbours to enhanced regional cooperation as expressed in the Doha Declaration on Border Management in Afghanistan of 28 February 2006,

Noting with concern, however, the reported potential for increases in 2006 in the cultivation of opium poppy, in particular in specific provinces of Afghanistan,

Bearing in mind that securing the sustainable elimination of drug crop cultivation and drug trafficking in Afghanistan will take time and that it is a common and shared responsibility to be addressed through international efforts, as recognized by Member States in the Political Declaration adopted by the General Assembly at its twentieth special session,¹

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 59/161 of 20 December 2004 and 60/179 of 16 December 2005, in which the Assembly requested the international community to support the Government of

¹ General Assembly resolution S-20/2, annex.

Afghanistan in its fight against the illicit cultivation of opium poppy and trafficking in narcotic drugs,

Recalling also Security Council resolution 1659 (2006) of 15 February 2006, in which the Council endorsed the Afghanistan Compact and its annexes, welcomed the updated National Drug Control Strategy presented by the Government of Afghanistan at the London Conference and encouraged additional international support for the four priorities identified in that Strategy, including through contributions to the Counter-Narcotics Trust Fund,

1. *Welcomes* the bilateral and multilateral support being provided to Afghanistan by the international community, including through contributions to the Government of Afghanistan's Counter-Narcotics Trust Fund, through the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and through other entities;

2. *Notes with appreciation* the strong commitment of the international community to the development and reconstruction of Afghanistan, as reflected in its endorsement of the Afghanistan Compact during the Conference on Afghanistan held in London on 31 January and 1 February 2006;

3. *Commends* the National Drug Control Strategy of 2006 of the Government of Afghanistan, including its identification of the following four priority areas of activity:

(a) Disrupting the illicit drug trade by targeting traffickers and their backers;

(b) Strengthening and diversifying legal rural livelihoods;

(c) Reducing the demand for illicit drugs and enhancing the treatment of problem drug users, including support for the action steps on demand reduction identified by Afghanistan and its partners at the Conference on Behavioural Health held in Kabul in May 2005;

(d) Developing state institutions at the central and provincial levels vital to the implementation of the counter-narcotics strategy;

4. *Invites* the international community to provide the necessary support to enable the Government of Afghanistan to implement its National Drug Control Strategy by:

(a) Continued provision of expertise and financial assistance, including through the Counter-Narcotics Trust Fund, in support of the key priorities set out in the National Drug Control Strategy;

(b) Making every effort to control smuggling into Afghanistan of precursors and chemicals used in the manufacture of narcotic drugs;

(c) Enhancing the steps already being taken aimed at a global reduction in illicit drug demand, thereby helping the Government of Afghanistan to fight illicit production of and trafficking in narcotic drugs;

5. *Reiterates* the concern expressed by the International Narcotics Control Board in its report for 2005² regarding the recent

² *Report of the International Narcotics Control Board for 2005* (United Nations

advocacy by a non-governmental organization of so-called legal cultivation of opium poppy in Afghanistan;

6. *Urges* the Government of Afghanistan to maintain control of illicit drugs among its highest priorities, as stipulated in article 7 of the Afghan Constitution and in line with the National Drug Control Strategy, with a view to enhancing its efforts to combat illicit cultivation of opium poppy and trafficking in drugs;

7. *Encourages* the Government of Afghanistan and all members of the international community to implement the Afghanistan Compact, which aims at achieving a sustained and significant reduction in the production of and trafficking in narcotics with a view to completely eliminating them, with drug control as a cross-cutting issue;

8. *Invites* the Government of Afghanistan and its neighbours, while appreciating their existing cooperation, to enhance regional cooperation in order to strengthen border control and security belts in the region, with a view to disrupting the smuggling of drugs out of Afghanistan and the smuggling of precursors into Afghanistan, including through participation in the Paris Pact initiative,³ emerging from the Paris Statement, which was issued at the end of the Conference on Drug Routes from Central Asia to Europe, held in Paris on 21 and 22 May 2003, and in the work of the Central Asian Regional Information and Coordination Centre;

9. *Invites* Member States to provide the necessary resources to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to support the work of the Central Asian Regional Information and Coordination Centre;

10. *Calls upon* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to strengthen its efforts, subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources, to ensure that multilateral assistance is provided to Afghanistan in full support of its National Drug Control Strategy;

11. *Decides* to continue the consideration of this matter at future sessions.

*41st plenary meeting
27 July 2006*