

ECOSOC Resolution 2008/27

Provision of international assistance to the most affected States neighbouring Afghanistan

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its resolutions 2001/16 of 24 July 2001, 2002/21 of 24 July 2002, 2003/34 and 2003/35 of 22 July 2003 and 2005/27 of 22 July 2005 and other relevant resolutions on international assistance to States affected by the transit of illicit drugs,

Taking note with concern of the report of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime entitled “Afghanistan: opium survey 2007”, in which the Office emphasized that, in 2007, Afghanistan had produced 8,200 tons of opium, representing 93 per cent of global production,

Noting the progress that Afghanistan has made in implementing the National Drug Control Strategy of the Government of Afghanistan,¹ including the fact that the number of its provinces free of opium poppy more than doubled, from six to thirteen, in 2007,

Reaffirming the commitments assumed by Member States in the Political Declaration adopted by the General Assembly at its twentieth special session² and the measures to enhance international cooperation to counter the world drug problem,³

Welcoming the Paris Pact initiative on assistance to States affected by the transit of illicit drugs,⁴

Acknowledging the ongoing efforts of the Government of Afghanistan and the international community, including States neighbouring Afghanistan, to counter the scourge of illicit drugs, despite the continuing increase in the illicit cultivation of opium poppy and the illicit production of opiates in Afghanistan,

Emphasizing that international drug traffickers are constantly changing their modus operandi, rapidly reorganizing and gaining access to modern technology,

Acknowledging that transit States are faced with multifaceted challenges related to the increasing amount of illicit drugs transiting through their territory as a result of the increasing supply and demand on illicit drug markets,

Keeping in mind that the bulk of the illicit drugs originating in Afghanistan are smuggled through the Islamic Republic of Iran, Pakistan and other countries neighbouring Afghanistan before reaching their countries of destination,

Considering that a large number of transit States, in particular the States neighbouring Afghanistan, are developing countries or

¹ S/2006/106, annex.

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

³ General Assembly resolutions S-20/4 A to E.

⁴ S/2003/641, annex.

countries with economies in transition and are faced with multifaceted challenges, including rising levels of drug-related crime and increased prevalence of drug abuse,

Bearing in mind that the constantly changing tactics of drug traffickers and the introduction of new varieties of illicit drugs increase the challenges and harm that they cause in Afghanistan, in the States neighbouring Afghanistan and in other parts of the world,

1. *Reaffirms* its commitment, in accordance with the principle of shared responsibility, to counter the world drug problem in all its manifestations, in a coordinated manner, in particular by providing technical assistance and support to the transit States most affected by drug trafficking;

2. *Calls upon* the Government of Afghanistan to intensify, with the support of the international community, its efforts to continue implementing, in particular, the eight pillars⁵ of the National Drug Control Strategy,¹ to identify and dismantle laboratories illicitly manufacturing heroin and morphine and to trace and curb the illicit supply of precursors;

3. *Commends* regional initiatives to strengthen international and regional cooperation aimed at countering the threat posed by the illicit production of drugs in Afghanistan and trafficking in drugs originating in that country;

4. *Encourages* cross-border cooperation among Afghanistan, the Islamic Republic of Iran and Pakistan;

5. *Calls upon* all Member States and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to provide the technical assistance and support needed for strengthening the initiatives and efforts of Afghanistan, the Islamic Republic of Iran and Pakistan to fight drug trafficking, thereby also reducing the deleterious impact of illicit drugs in all parts of the world, and invites Member States and other donors to provide extrabudgetary contributions for those purposes in accordance with the rules and procedures of the United Nations;

6. *Encourages* the States neighbouring Afghanistan to enhance coordination through existing regional mechanisms for strengthening border cooperation and information exchange;

7. *Encourages* Member States and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to provide technical assistance and support needed for strengthening the efforts of States neighbouring Afghanistan to fight drug trafficking, and invites Member States and other donors to provide extrabudgetary contributions for those purposes in accordance with the rules and procedures of the United Nations;

8. *Welcomes* the trilateral ministerial meeting held in Vienna in June 2007, with the assistance of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, which brought together high-level officials from Afghanistan, the Islamic Republic of Iran and Pakistan, and supports

⁵ S/2006/106, annex A.

the decision to hold another trilateral meeting in the Islamic Republic of Iran in 2008;

9. *Emphasizes* the importance of taking measures to reduce demand and the adverse consequences of drug abuse in conjunction with measures to reduce supply in order to effectively counter the menace posed by illicit drugs to the entire international community;

10. *Calls upon* Afghanistan to mainstream, with the assistance of the international community, the counter-narcotics programme in the forthcoming Afghan national development strategy;

11. *Emphasizes* the need to strengthen the law enforcement capacity of the main transit States and the importance of inter-agency coordination in developing effective drug control strategies;

12. *Urges* the international partners, all relevant organizations of the United Nations and, in particular, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and invites international financial and development institutions to assist transit States, in particular the States neighbouring Afghanistan that are most affected by the transit of illicit drugs, by providing them with adequate technical assistance to effectively address the drug trafficking problem through a comprehensive and integrated shared plan, and invites Member States and other donors to provide extrabudgetary contributions for those purposes in accordance with the rules and procedures of the United Nations;

13. *Requests* the Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to report to the Commission on Narcotic Drugs at its fifty-second session on the implementation of the present resolution.

*42nd plenary meeting
24 July 2008*