



Eightieth Session

Agenda item 108

**Resolution #1**

**Combating Illicit Drug Trafficking**  
**By Strengthening the International Drug Control System**

The General Assembly,

*Underscoring* that the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961 as amended by the 1972 Protocol<sup>i</sup>, the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971<sup>ii</sup>, the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988<sup>iii</sup> and other relevant international instruments constitute the cornerstone of the international drug control system,

*Reaffirming its commitment* to the goals and objectives of the three international drug control conventions, including concern about the health and welfare of humankind as well as the individual and public health-related, social and safety problems resulting from the abuse of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, and drug-related crime, and reaffirming its determination to prevent and treat the abuse of such substances and prevent and counter their illicit cultivation, production, manufacturing and trafficking,

*Recalling* all relevant United Nations resolutions, including General Assembly resolutions related to addressing and countering the world drug problem and all resolutions and decisions adopted by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs,

*Recalling also* the need to develop, adopt and implement, with due regard for national, constitutional, legal and administrative systems, alternative or additional measures with regard to conviction or punishment in cases of an appropriate nature, in accordance with the three international drug control conventions and taking into account, as appropriate, relevant United Nations standards and rules,

*Noting with grave apprehension* the findings of the *World Drug Report*<sup>iv</sup> that show, for many years, the issues relating to the illicit cultivation, production, manufacture, trafficking and consumption of drugs have continued to present challenges to the health, safety and security of all humanity,

*Expressing* increased concern that as of 2023, an estimated 316 million people are using illicit drugs, representing a 28% increase in drug users over the last 10 years,<sup>v</sup>

*Regretfully noting* the consumption of morphine, along with other opioid analgesics, remains concentrated in developed countries within Europe and North America, and the levels of consumption of the substance in other regions are insufficient to adequately address the medical needs of their populations,<sup>vi</sup>

*Recognizing* that drug trafficking is an important income-generating activity for organized criminal groups, with estimated annual global retail sales in the hundreds of billions of dollars,<sup>vii</sup>

*Expressing alarm* that global cocaine seizures reached a record high in 2023, and increases were reported in all regions with a 68 per cent rise in the quantity of cocaine seized worldwide between 2019 and 2023,<sup>viii</sup>

*Highlighting* that fentanyl accounts for a large number of drug-related deaths, in particular in North America, where in 2024, 48,422 deaths in the United States of America were estimated to be related to synthetic opioids (fentanyl) and in 2023, in Canada, fentanyl or a fentanyl analog was involved in 10,413 deaths,<sup>ix</sup>

*Emphasizing* that the main cocaine trafficking flows continue to be from the Andean countries to North America and from the Andean countries to Europe, either directly or, to a lesser extent, by way of West and Central Africa,<sup>x</sup>

*Celebrating* the success of the drug ban imposed in Afghanistan in April 2022 on the cultivation, transportation, trade, and selling of all drugs, which resulted in the global area under opium poppy cultivation being 68 per cent smaller and global opium production being 72 per cent lower in 2024 than in 2022,<sup>xi</sup>

*Recognizing* that, despite the significant efforts undertaken by the international community, and while progress has been made, considerable gaps remain in the implementation of many international drug policy commitments,

*Accentuating* that the existing international drug control convention framework, either through lack of resources or poor implementation, has failed to address the current global challenges caused by the drug problem, including most notably:

- a) responding to drug trafficking by organized criminal groups in conflict and post conflict zones where vulnerable people face heightened risks of recruitment by both drug trafficking organizations and terrorist groups,
- b) addressing the environmental consequences of illicit drug markets including deforestation, land degradation, toxic waste, water pollution, and chemical contamination,
- c) supporting public health systems to provide scientific evidence-based, quality interventions, and mitigate the negative health and social impacts of drug use and drug use disorders,

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<sup>i</sup> Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, 1961: <https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/treaties/single-convention.html?ref=menuside>

<sup>ii</sup> Convention on Psychotropic Substances, 1971: <https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/treaties/psychotropics.html>

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iii United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988: <https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/treaties/illicit-trafficking.html>

iv World Drug Report 2025: <https://www.unodc.org/unodc/data-and-analysis/world-drug-report-2025.html>

v United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime Special Points of Interest: <https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/data-and-analysis/world-drug-report-2025-special-points-of-interest.html>

vi International Narcotics Control Board Annual Reports: <https://www.incb.org/incb/en/publications/annual-reports/annual-report.html>

vii United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime Contemporary Issues on Drugs: <https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/data-and-analysis/wdr2025-contemporary-issues.html>

viii United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime Key Findings: <https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/data-and-analysis/world-drug-report-2025-key-findings.html>

ix *Ibid.*

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