

## ECOSOC Resolution 2003/39

### **Strengthening systems of control over chemical precursors and preventing their diversion and trafficking**

*The Economic and Social Council,*

*Convinced* that the transnational nature of the world drug problem and related offences requires the effective application of the principles of shared responsibility and a holistic and balanced approach,

*Noting* that the availability of chemical precursors makes it possible to extract, refine and synthesize illicit drugs of natural or synthetic origin,

*Noting* General Assembly resolution S-20/4 B of 10 June 1998 on the control of precursors, adopted by the Assembly at its twentieth special session, devoted to countering the world drug problem together,

*Stressing* the importance of Commission on Narcotic Drugs resolution 45/12 on the diversion of precursors and prompt reporting to competent authorities of the countries of origin and the countries of transit and the International Narcotics Control Board,

*Concerned* at the fact that the diversion of chemical precursors is related to, inter alia, the manufacture of illicit drugs,

*Observing* that transnational criminal organizations have taken advantage of the benefits of globalization and the use of new technology to broaden the scope of their activity in this area and that, therefore, combating those organizations and the methods they use constitutes one of the greatest challenges facing the international community today,

*Noting with concern* the widespread use of substances substituted for controlled substances in Tables I and II of the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988,<sup>1</sup> for the purposes of extracting and refining drugs of natural or synthetic origin,

*Noting* the important problems posed by the diversion, smuggling and illicit trading of chemical precursors needed for the production of drugs of natural or synthetic origin,

*Aware* that the availability of chemical precursors continues, despite the success of Operation Topaz and Operation Purple and the efforts of all countries to prevent the access of drug traffickers to chemical precursors needed in the manufacture of illicit drugs of natural and synthetic origin,

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<sup>1</sup> See *Official Records of the United Nations Conference for the Adoption of a Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, Vienna, 25 November-20 December 1988*, vol. I (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.94.XI.5).

*Committed* to preventing, through all legal means available, access to chemical precursors by those engaged in or attempting to engage in the processing of illicit drugs,

*Concerned* at the fact that illicit drugs of natural and synthetic origin have spread worldwide, and recognizing that that represents a threat to all States,

1. *Urges* all States, including producing, exporting, transit and importing States, in accordance with the principle of shared responsibility, to exchange information, through the competent authorities established in accordance with the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988<sup>2</sup> or through law enforcement authorities, regarding suspicious transactions or shipments of substances suspected of being diverted for use in illicit drug production;

2. *Recommends* that all States ensure that they have in place fully effective systems for chemical precursor control and procedures for training personnel of control agencies and operational, regulatory and administrative staff;

3. *Calls upon* all States to inform, through the International Narcotics Control Board, the competent authorities of States about matters concerning the introduction of substances substituted for controlled substances and the use of new techniques in the synthesis, refining and extraction of illicit drugs, with a view to strengthening controls;

4. *Encourages* all States, including producing, exporting, transit and importing States, to make full use of existing channels of communication for the timely exchange of information, where possible, on enterprises that have been given penalties for improper management of chemicals, in accordance with their national legislation, as well as on routes and means of trafficking and diversion, on methods of camouflaging and on means of falsifying and manipulating customs documents, and any other information necessary to exercise more effective control;

5. *Reiterates* the vital importance of the process of prior notification of export of chemicals used in the manufacture of organic and synthetic drugs, established pursuant to article 12 of the 1988 Convention, as a mechanism for preventing the diversion of chemicals into illicit channels, and stresses the need for timely feedback following such prior notification;

6. *Also reiterates* the need to adopt measures for the application of the “know-your-client” principle by enterprises involved in production and distribution;

7. *Encourages* States and relevant international organizations to provide technical assistance that can be used to exercise more effective precursor control.

*44th plenary meeting  
22 July 2003*

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<sup>2</sup> Ibid.