



American Model United Nations
Commission on Narcotic Drugs

**Report to the Commission on Narcotic Drugs on
Promoting alternative development as a
development-oriented drug control strategy
that is sustainable and inclusive**

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1 Executive Summary

2 The Commission on Narcotic Drugs is pleased to present to the Economic and Social Council its
3 final report on the topic of promoting alternative development as a development-oriented drug con-
4 trol strategy that is sustainable and inclusive. The following report covers a wide variety of subtopics,
5 ranging from agricultural development and subsidies to law enforcement and rehabilitation.

6 The first chapter of the report includes one resolution and several additional recommendations
7 made by the body for the Economic and Social Council to take into consideration. Resolution I/1 en-
8 courages technical support and financial incentives for minority communities and countries, as well
9 as suggests the involvement of international organizations for information sharing and strong law en-
10 forcement. Additionally, it mentions women-led initiatives, global oversight and monitoring of the drug
11 trade, and suggests funding methods for these suggestions.

12 Other recommendations include the implementation of alternative crops and sources of in-
13 come for cultivators of narcotic drugs, suggesting subsidies for the farmers and promoting the devel-
14 opment of full value chain infrastructure. Additionally, suggestions include stronger monitoring of the
15 growth of illicit drugs through technical innovation between countries on a voluntary basis.

16 The second chapter of this report includes deliberations by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs
17 regarding several subtopics over the alternative development. These deliberations touch on the sovereignty
18 of Member States to decide the consequences of those who break laws within their borders, as well as
19 how alternative development affects individual states. Moreover, it mentions import regulations and
20 sea borders to address the transnational drug trade.

2 Matters calling for action

2.1 CND I/1

Recalling the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961, the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971 and the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988, as well as the outcome document of the thirtieth special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem held in 2016,

Further recalling its resolutions on international cooperation for sustainable alternative development and previous relevant resolutions of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs,

Recognizing that poverty, lack of infrastructure, limited market access and social exclusion remain major drivers of illicit crop cultivation in many regions of the world, particularly in rural areas of Latin America and Southeast Asia,

Acknowledging that the global community spends more than 100 billion United States dollars annually on drug enforcement, while in 2022 approximately 296 million people worldwide used drugs, demonstrating the continued need for balanced, development-oriented strategies,

Noting with concern that illicit drug economies provide informal employment to millions of people and that abrupt eradication efforts, in the absence of viable alternatives, may contribute to social instability, food insecurity and increased vulnerability to organized crime,

Deeply concerned by the use of blanket bans on drug cultivation in regions such as Afghanistan that while leads to less cultivation of narcotic drugs such as opium, has led to an increase of cultivation of synthetic drugs, such as methamphetamine, and an increase of economic strife for farmers due to a multitude of factors such as immigration, climate issues and lack of support through alternative development,

Also recognizing that cartel-related violence in Latin America accounts for approximately 3 per cent of regional gross domestic product and that organized criminal networks influence or destabilize more than 60 countries, contributing to nearly one-third of global homicides,

Reaffirming that sustainable livelihoods, inclusive economic growth, rural development and community resilience are essential components of a long-term solution to illicit cultivation,

Noting the success of alternative development initiatives in Peru, Thailand and Colombia, where investments in legal crops, processing industries and market access have contributed to durable reductions in illicit cultivation,

Guided by the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in particular Goals 1, 2, 8, 10, 15 and 16, which emphasize poverty eradication, inclusive economic growth, reduced inequalities, sustainable land use and peaceful societies,

Emphasizing the need for strengthened international cooperation, technical assistance and financial support to ensure that alternative development initiatives are sustainable, gender-responsive, youth-inclusive and aligned with human rights obligations,

Further recognizing that illicit crop cultivation is driven by complex structural conditions and that these conditions vary significantly by region, requiring flexible, evidence-based and locally-adapted policy frameworks,

Noting with appreciation the proposal of Brazil, co-sponsored by Chile and Peru, to establish the Global Crop Transition & Security Partnership (GCTSP) as a comprehensive, multi-phased framework for promoting development-oriented drug control strategies,

1. *Takes of note* of the establishment of the GCTSP, aimed at supporting Member States affected by illicit cultivation through coordinated funding, technical support and policy coherence under United Nations auspices;

2. *Encourages* the establishment of a specialized intelligence-led task force operating under judicial oversight and transparent United Nations monitoring to support Member States in addressing violent organized criminal groups that obstruct development and threaten rural communities;

69 3. *Encourages* the establishment of a specialized intelligence-led task force operating under
70 judicial oversight and transparent United Nations monitoring to support Member States in addressing
71 violent organized criminal groups that obstruct development and threaten rural communities;

72 4. *Further encourages* the creation of regional training centers devoted to agricultural improve-
73 ment, business development, climate-smart practices, and youth and women's entrepreneurship in
74 rural areas;

75 5. *Requests* Member States participating in the GCTSP to submit annual reports containing data
76 on hectares converted, household income growth, increases in legal crop production and measurable
77 effects on rural global domestic products and food security;

78 6. *Calls upon* governments to ensure that women-led cooperatives, indigenous communities
79 and rural youth have equitable access to grants, credit, training and leadership opportunities within
80 alternative development programs;

81 7. *Decides* that the GCTSP shall include a non-violent enforcement training component aimed
82 at strengthening human-rights-compliant policing, de-escalation practices and community-centred
83 security approaches in regions transitioning away from illicit crop cultivation;

84 8. *Encourages* the establishment of a specialized intelligence-led task force operating under
85 judicial oversight and transparent United Nations monitoring to support Member States in addressing
86 violent organized criminal groups that obstruct development and threaten rural communities;

87 9. *Recommends* that all GCTSP activities include independent human rights monitoring mech-
88 anisms and accessible community grievance procedures to ensure transparency and accountability;

89 10. *Invites* Member States, international financial institutions, regional development banks and
90 non-governmental organizations to contribute voluntary funding and technical support to ensure the
91 sustainable multi-regional expansion of the GCTSP;

92 11. *Encourages* countries to support ethical purchasing agreements and stable market path-
93 ways for legally produced crops originating from alternative development regions, including through
94 advance-purchase commitments and long-term contracts;

95 12. *Requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to support the coordination, moni-
96 toring and evaluation of the GCTSP, in cooperation with relevant international bodies, and to report on
97 progress to the Commission on Narcotic Drugs;

98 13. *Requests* the Secretary-General to transmit the text of the present resolution to all Govern-
99 ments, relevant United Nations bodies and specialized agencies for consideration and implementation.

3 Agriculture Replacement, Cash Crops, and Alternative Development

The commission took note of widespread support for agricultural alternative development, recognizing the urgent need to address the fundamental root causes of the illicit drug trade. Member States expressed deep concern that a lack of viable economic options drives farmers in many regions to rely on illicit drug farming. Alternative development programs must therefore be promoted alongside strong law enforcement and non-punitive eradication programs that encourage farmers to transition toward legal livelihoods rather than penalizing them. Member States encouraged struggling countries to advance development standards in crop substitution and infrastructure building, emphasizing that citizens must see that legal alternatives provide sustainable and profitable livelihoods. To assist in this change of vocation, this body recommends exploring an increase in access to primary and secondary education for impoverished individuals, which would add to the sustainable nature of our proposal.

Member States supported increasing technical assistance for monitoring illicit crop cultivation and sharing information through initial research assessments on environmental conditions and recommendations for appropriate replacement crops. The commission acknowledged the need to promote incentives for cultivating local cash crops to replace crops used in narcotics production. Recognizing United Nations Office on Drug and Crime (UNODC) reports of a significant global increase in illicit coca cultivation and cocaine production since 2019, Member States encouraged expansion upon the UNODC's *2023 Practical Guide to Alternative Development and the Environment*.

The commission further recommends that the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) creates a full value-chain infrastructure to make alternative crops genuinely profitable. This includes transportation networks, processing facilities, market access, and subsidies for farmers. Member States emphasizes that alternative crop development cannot succeed without robust support for the farmers who grow these crops; without such support, farmers will lack the ability to sustain themselves, and investments in alternative development may fail. Member States also encourage free trade measures and economic incentives among participating nations to promote inclusivity and ensure that alternative development becomes a viable and appealing path for rural communities.

The commission also acknowledges the importance of maritime infrastructure in promoting alternative development and facilitating sustainable economic growth. Strengthening ports and maritime trade routes improves farmers' access to international markets, allowing alternative crops to compete globally. By improving maritime connectivity, Member States can ensure that alternative crops reach profitable markets quickly and reliably, making legal cultivation a stable source of income than reliance on the growth of illicit crops.

134 **4 Drug Cultivation**

135 The commission acknowledges the rights of indigenous peoples' use of controlled substances
136 for ceremonial or cultural use and the importance of these rights under the Declaration on the Rights of
137 Indigenous Peoples. The commission recommends communities should retain their right to cultivate
138 and utilize controlled substances for these purposes and supports states in the pursuit of ensuring
139 indigenous rights.

5 Alternative Development

The commission recommends subsidies for alternative livelihoods for farmers who have historically engaged in illicit drug cultivation. Drug cultivation is often a means of surviving poverty; it is therefore imperative that alternative development focuses on uplifting people out of poverty. Means of addressing this can be accomplished through crop subsidization, improving access to primary and secondary education, and prioritizing infrastructural development regarding individual job markets.

Subsidization is a necessary and effective first step that helps farmers who previously grew narcotics in their transition to growing legal crops. Without financial support, any efforts to promote alternative development are unlikely to succeed, as farmers must sustain themselves and their families during the transitional period. Even if investments are made in infrastructure, these take time to become fully operational, necessitating subsidization. Otherwise, faced with a lack of profitable, legal options, farmers may revert back to narcotics production, negating any progress made in alternative development. Examples such as the Colombian Government's introduction of a cash influx towards farmers who transitioned away from growing coca plants, as well as the United States subsidizing Afghan farmers who transitioned away from growing opium poppies showed promise; these strategies tackled the fact that these producers needed a livelihood and in these less developed environments the most sustainable income came out of drug crops. Guaranteeing that other more sustainable crops permit farmers to have the same livelihood as growing drug crops allow the source supply to be reduced without violence and complications.

Recognizing that the illicit drug trade is driven out of necessity in many cases where legitimate income is not sustainable, rather than the lucrative financial payouts involved, the Commission on Narcotic Drugs recommends implementing a system wherein those previously involved in the production of illicit drugs are encouraged through the usage of subsidies to pursue alternative means of income. The cultivation and processing of illicit substances should be discouraged through means that avoid permanently harming low-level participants in the illicit drug trade's financial status later in life and encourage these financially unwilling participants to seek other means of income. This can be achieved through implementing different programs in incarceration systems, specifically for those incarcerated due to the cultivation of illegal drug crops, such as education, vocational training and opportunities for sustainable agricultural growth. In this way, once released from incarceration, these individuals will have the opportunity to be reintegrated into society in a way that allows them to make meaningful and sustainable impacts while affording the cost of living. Those reliant on illegal drug crops to sustain themselves and their families can be provided with incentives to encourage a transition to more sustainable crops. This effort works to encourage sustainable economic growth in less developed areas that veer towards relying on drug processing to sustain themselves. Thus, alternative development can be achieved by deterring these individuals from processing illegal crops, and incentivising them to contribute to sustainable development.

Member States note the necessity of developing full value-chain infrastructure to make alternative crops genuinely profitable. This has been successfully done in local capacities, such as in the Doi Tung Development Project, where supporting infrastructure helped to improve incomes while eliminating opium production in the target area. Member States emphasize that alternative crop development can't succeed without robust support for those who will grow these alternative crops. This will involve the development of transportation networks, processing facilities and subsidies for farmers. Without this support, farmers will lack the financial stability to maintain their commitment to alternative development, and may revert to narcotics production. Member States also encourage free trade measures and economic incentives among participating nations to promote inclusivity and ensure that alternative development becomes a viable and appealing path for rural communities.

Moreover, Member States in CND also note the necessity of promoting effective and resilient infrastructure to facilitate the implementation of alternative development policies. The United Nations Trade and Development noted that in 2021, over 80 percent of global trade was conducted over maritime routes. Commercial maritime infrastructure stands out as an area in need of further attention. CND recommends Member States implement policies to strengthen economic integration between maritime infrastructure and rural proximate areas. CND further recommends Member States identify areas of mutual cooperation, especially regarding international public-private partnerships, to continue improving commercial maritime infrastructure. The development and identification of opportu-

194 nities for greater market integration with maritime infrastructure can facilitate the viability of alternative
195 development and improve the economic livelihood of communities involved in maritime trade.

196 6 Education

197 We emphasize the importance of community involvement and education about alternative
198 cultivation, and therefore urge CND to encourage ECOSOC to implement various programs that will
199 help citizens gain knowledge about drug cultivation. Outreach into communities that grow illicit crops
200 helps improve society; this outreach would include education how to grow alternative, legal crops.
201 Additionally, educational outreach into grower communities may include optional vocational train-
202 ing as another alternative to the cultivation of illicit crops. Community involvement in education will
203 combine youth, religious and administrative efforts to equip citizens with the necessary skills not only
204 to keep themselves safe but also to contribute to the safety of their nation as a whole. For example,
205 community-by-community support and outreach will help link former grower communities, strength-
206 ening the community at-large, by leading by example, showing current grower communities steps to
207 an alternative lifestyle.

208 According to the Food and Agriculture Organization, women produce 60% to 80% of food in
209 developing countries and account for half of all food production globally. Because of existing social
210 inequalities, women experience the impacts of narcotics development, organized crime and access to
211 agricultural markets differently from men. Policy that does not take these differences into account risks
212 mitigating women's participation and undermining effective policy. For those reasons, the promotion
213 of agricultural development as alternative development requires the participation of and input from
214 women around the world.

215 Accounting for half the global population, women still remain underrepresented in many na-
216 tional and local governments globally. Because of alternative development's focus on economic local-
217 ity, the inclusion of women in creating and implementing alternative development remains paramount.
218 The CND recommends Member States continue implementing measures from the 2022-2026 United
219 Nations Office on Drugs and Crime Strategy for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women. In
220 particular, States must examine methods for the equitable representation of women throughout the
221 entire policy process. Women's needs can only be met through the inclusion of women. Rural women
222 experience unique economic, political, societal barriers to participating in agricultural economies. The
223 CND recommends Member States create alternative development policies that specifically focus on
224 empowering rural women. These policies can include grants focused on assisting women in devel-
225 oping sustainable agriculture, reducing barriers for rural women to buy and sell agricultural goods, or
226 more. Alternative development cannot succeed without the empowerment of rural women.

227 **7 Consideration of the status**

228 Several Member States noted their support for the reform of import regulations to tackle the
229 transnational flow of narcotic drugs. Measures such as permits, certifications of origin and bills of
230 lading were recognized as increasing transparency in supply chains and the transportation of goods
231 between Member States. To support individuals requiring legitimate prescription medications contain-
232 ing narcotic or psychotropic substances, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia encouraged Member States to
233 establish online registration systems for declaring such drugs.

234 The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Belgium, and Malta noted the importance of extending the reform
235 of import regulation to sea ports as well. Belgium suggested implementing a more thorough inspection
236 of incoming shipments for quality-control purposes and presence of narcotic drugs.

237 Member States Nigeria, India, Qatar and the Russian Federation discussed the topics of educa-
238 tion, law enforcement and alternative livelihoods for those who engage in the growing of illicit crops.
239 These topics were decided on due to their broad focus, allowing each delegation to effectively divide
240 their time.

241 The Russian Federation echoes The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia with strong disagreement to only
242 punishing drug traffickers. Russia believes in strong and strict sentences towards those who possess
243 and use narcotics, and those who traffic them. Russia emphasizes state sovereignty in order to choose
244 the proper consequences of actions that take place within their own borders.

245 The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Russian Federation discussed their indifference on initia-
246 tives focused on alternative agricultural crops. We believe there are more effective ways of tackling
247 the crisis of illicit drug trafficking and possession.

Passed by consensus, with 0 abstention