

Fifth Meeting of the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA) Fact-Finding Committee (AIFOCOM) to Combat the Drug Menace Singapore, 22-25 June 2008

RESOLUTION ON THE CONTROL OF SYNTHETIC DRUG AND ILLICIT DRUG CROP PRODUCTION

The Twenty-Ninth General Assembly:

Recalling Resolution No.26GA/2005/Soc/01 adopted by the 26th AIPO General Assembly on the AIPO Fact Finding Committee to Combat the Drug Menace;

Affirming the importance of strengthening national precursor control systems for the control of precursors, as a means to counter the diversion of chemical substances into illicit drug production or manufacture;

Considering the different profiles of drug abusers for each type of drugs, preventive education to target the various drug abuser profiles and cater to different audience groups;

Recognising the importance of putting in place adequate aftercare services to complement the initial treatment and rehabilitation efforts;

Recognising also the need for member countries to strengthen their national capacity to sustain alternative development programmes to prevent farmers from turning back to illicit crop cultivation;

Considering that ASEAN countries have already invested a lot of efforts at the legislative and operational levels to combat the drug menace, greater attention should be paid to enhancing legal cooperation among member countries in combating illicit drug trafficking;

Acknowledging the role of AIFOCOM in strengthening the exchange of information and expertise among member countries of AIPA and with ASOD in preventing and combating the drug menace;

Hereby resolves to:

Urge ASEAN governments to strengthen precursor control by enhancing dialogue between precursor control authorities and the chemical/pharmaceutical companies in order to better monitor the manufacture, distribution, import and export of precursor chemicals;

Call upon ASEAN governments to develop national capacities and resources to carry out effective clandestine laboratory and precursor diversion investigations by putting in place appropriate training programmes for personnel in areas including safe handling and identification of precursor chemicals;

Urge ASEAN governments to enhance regulatory control of precursor chemicals by developing or strengthening national legislation, control procedures and compliance mechanisms in accordance with the requirements under the 1988 UN Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, with the introduction of tougher penalties to deter would-be perpetrators of precursor diversion and trafficking;

Emphasise the need for ASEAN governments to enhance partnerships among the parliamentarians, public sector, the private sector, community groups such as the NGOs and CBOs, the media and academic institutions, to further promote, implement and monitor preventive education activities that are audience-targeted;

Call upon ASEAN governments to enhance partnerships among the public sector, the private sector and community groups such as the NGOs and CBOs in order to support the rehabilitation and reintegration of former drug abusers into society, for example, through providing training and job placement opportunities;

Emphasise the need for ASEAN governments which have implemented alternative development programmes to ensure the sustainability of the programmes by offering incentives, subsidies or other assistance to farmers for eradicating illicit narcotic crop cultivation;

Call upon ASEAN governments to strengthen their partnership with the private sector and civil society in order to support socio-economic development in areas where illicit drugs are produced, taking into account the role that the private sector and civil society can play in promoting and marketing products of alternative development;

Call upon ASEAN governments to review their legislation with a view to putting in place the necessary legal framework to facilitate mutual legal assistance as provided for under the ASEAN Treaty of Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters, and to ratify the Treaty as soon as possible;

Emphasise the need to strengthen cross-sectoral linkages and improve coordination among existing regional and extra-regional mechanisms by consulting and seeking assistance from other relevant ASEAN bodies on drug concerns.