**Forum:** ECOSOC

**Question:** Decreasing the economic dependence of developing countries on illegal drug production and trade

**Submitted by:** Russia

The Economic and Social Council,

*Concerned by* the increase of drug use globally by 2% in the last decade and a range of 3.5% to 7.0% of the world ́s population aged 15 to 64 consuming illicit drugs,

*Acknowledging* the importance of international cooperation in the quest to eradicate illegal drug production, trade and use in all states,

*Desiring* minimal negative impact on parties involved in the illicit drug trade,

*Keeping in mind* the reliance of Less Economically Developed Countries (LEDCs) on the illicit drug trade and its short term benefits,

*Aware of* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime's (UNODC) approach to the question,

1. Encourages the introduction of more policies in member states concerning the consequences, primarily of illicit drug production, for repeat offenders and also drug use, such as:
   1. compulsory rehabilitation for repeat drug offenders
   2. a legal requirement on police forces to inform the farmer what they are producing is an illicit drug,
   3. heavier punishments for those who, after initial warning or punishment, continue to produce and traffic drugs such as:
      1. fining
      2. incarceration;
2. Calls upon the UNODC to act as a coordinator to achieve higher levels of cooperation between member states in order to:
   1. synchronise policies of member states to better counteract the ‘balloon effect’
   2. improve levels of interdiction globally
   3. to ensure that member states are adhering to the policies laid out by the UNODC in order to guarantee progress in reduction of the illicit drug trade in every member state;
3. Requests that UNODC create a guideline concerning the handling of third parties involved in the illicit drug trade, which all member states should be encouraged to follow, for example by offering alternative development programs to families that have their illegal crop confiscated, for example by:
   1. incentivising the growth of other crops
   2. purchasing and taking possession of the illegal crop of the producer to reduce the impact
   3. crop substitution, meaning replacing their illegal crop with a sustainable crop answering the needs of the farmers and their local population;
4. Asks that member states make use of educational campaigns similar to those of the UNODC for example, in seminars, and during lessons, to educate the youth about the dangers of drug use in, primarily but not limited to, LEDC's, by:
   1. having police officers talk to students about the legalities and consequences of illegal drugs
   2. the introduction of a lesson into the school curriculum educating the consequences of consuming illicit drugs and the livelihoods of producers farming these illicit drugs;
5. Further requests that international effort be focused on:
   1. prevention and reduction in demand, by developing and implementing measures by which demand for drugs can be tracked in member states, which can be used to target and prioritise states that need the most help, in ways including but not limited to:
      1. the UNODC creating a specialised team that works with law enforcement in UN states to track patterns of illicit drug usage
      2. said specialised team creating a database on each state that denotes the frequency of use of each illicit drug and the percentage use of each type of illicit drug (Serbia)
   2. improve the sharing of information between member states with the help of law enforcement in those member states and international law enforcement
   3. encouraging the provision of treatment and rehabilitation for drug users in LEDCs, so that those who are already dependent on drugs can be brought back to good health, and continuous evaluation of this process by the UNODC to ensure that progress is being made;
6. Strongly encourages the strengthening of border controls in all member states but specifically LEDCs to reduce the ease of trading illicit drugs across borders in ways such as monitoring the activity of drug cartels/syndicates;
7. Urges MEDCs to share their knowledge on how to create other sources of income for countries struggling with drug trade;
8. Recommends that medication and substances which can be used for drug production should only be sold in controlled amounts;
9. Supports the foundation of an organization that has as its main target to provide a safe environment for orphaned children in developing countries, who often become unwillingly part of criminal gangs and become accustomed to illegal activities such as drug abuse.