

**United Nations Guiding  
Principles on Alternative  
Development  
in action**



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# Foreword

The United Nations Guiding Principles on Alternative Development (UNGPs on AD) is an outcome of the first International Workshop and Conference on Alternative Development (ICAD 1) in 2011. During the ICAD 1, international experts exchanged their experiences on alternative development as a means for addressing illicit drug crops problem and related issues, and drafted the “International Guiding Principles on Alternative Development”. In 2013, this document was endorsed by the United Nations General Assembly and became the “United Nations Guiding Principles on Alternative Development”, serving as a universal reference document for the United Nation’s Member States in implementing alternative development programmes.

This publication on “United Nations Guiding Principles on Alternative Development in action” presents the background, salient points, and case studies of alternative development practices by the Mae Fah Luang Foundation under Royal Patronage (MFLF). The MFLF’s work both in Thailand and abroad follows the UNGPs on AD, so the publication serves as a guideline for organisations interested in implementing alternative development.



# International Workshop and Conference on Alternative Development (ICAD 1):

## Drafting the International Guiding Principles on Alternative Development



participated by

104 experts

with government  
representatives from

28 countries



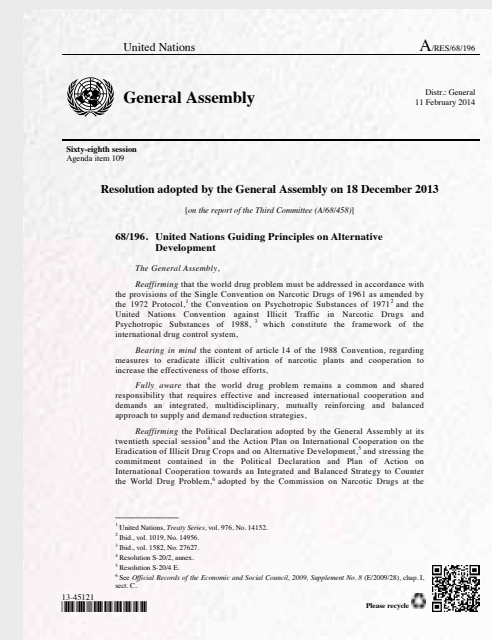
The Governments of Thailand and Peru, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crimes (UNODC), and the Mae Fah Luang Foundation (MFLF) co-organised the first International Workshop and Conference on Alternative Development (ICAD 1) in Thailand during 6<sup>th</sup> - 11<sup>th</sup> November 2011. The conference showcased the lesson-learned from Thailand's alternative development (AD) model in the Doi Tung Development Project in Chiang Rai province, and the Angkhang Royal Agriculture Station in Chiang Mai province. It also provided a platform for knowledge exchange between alternative development experts in addressing illicit drug crops problem and related issues. The meeting initiated the drafting of the "International Guiding Principles on Alternative Development" as a reference document to facilitate the planning and implementation of AD programmes on the ground.

The ICAD 1 was participated by 104 experts in the field of alternative development from non-governmental organisations, academia, and government representatives from 28 countries, including Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bolivia, Colombia, Cambodia, Ecuador, Egypt, Finland, France, Germany, India, China, Indonesia, Jamaica, Lao PDR, Myanmar, the Netherlands, Nigeria, Pakistan, Peru, the Philippines, Singapore, South Africa, Sudan, Thailand, United States of America, Vietnam, and Yemen.





The draft International Guiding Principles on Alternative Development was adopted at the high-level International Conference on Alternative Development, held in Lima, Peru between 14<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> November 2012.



In 2013, the document was later endorsed by the United Nations General Assembly in New York, the United States of America as the “United Nations Guiding Principles on Alternative Development”.

## ICAD 2:

### Case studies of the UNGPs on AD implementations

As a follow up to the ICAD 1, the Governments of Thailand, Myanmar, and Germany, and the MFLF co-organised the ICAD 2 between 18<sup>th</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup> November 2015 in Thailand and Myanmar. The Conference underscored the importance of putting the UNGPs on AD into action, in accordance with the resolution of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs.

The ICAD 2 was attended by 258 participants from 38 countries, 17 organisations, and representatives from various sectors: international experts, academia, civil society, the private sector, and communities cultivating illicit crops.

The countries participated included Afghanistan, Algeria, Australia, Austria, Bangladesh, Bolivia, Cambodia, Canada, China, Colombia, Egypt, Germany, Guatemala, India, Indonesia, Iran, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Lao PDR, Libya, Malaysia, Mexico, Morocco, Myanmar, the Netherlands, Nigeria, Pakistan, Peru, the Philippines, Portugal, Qatar, Russian Federation, Sudan, Thailand, United States of America, Uruguay, and Vietnam.



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The Conference was divided into two parts: field visit and the high-level conference. The delegates visited different alternative development project sites, including the Doi Tung Development Project in Chiang Rai province and the Nong Hoi Royal Project in Chiang Mai province, Thailand, as well as the Thailand-Myanmar Cooperation on Sustainable Livelihood Development Project in Yawng Kha, Mong Hsat District, Shan State, Myanmar.



The high-level conference was organised between 23<sup>rd</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup> November 2015 in Bangkok, Thailand. Key message from the field visits as well as the high-level segment was that there is “no one size fits all” when it comes to AD implementation. There is no one successful formula that can be copied from one AD project to another. The planning and implementation must be adapted to fit local contexts and needs of the targeted communities. AD programmes must also increase the participation of the State and the local communities, build trust between them, and promote peace, rule of law, and a culture of lawfulness.

## UNGP's on AD's salient points

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1. Mainstream Alternative Development as a part of long-term national development strategies and secure long-term political commitment and financing from government and donors agencies
2. Implement a holistic and balanced development approach, taking into account specific demographic, cultural, social, and geographic conditions
3. Promote viable licit livelihood alternatives before deploying eradication measure
4. Ensure community participation and people-centred approach
5. Apply result-oriented approach and measure the programme's success with human-centric indicators

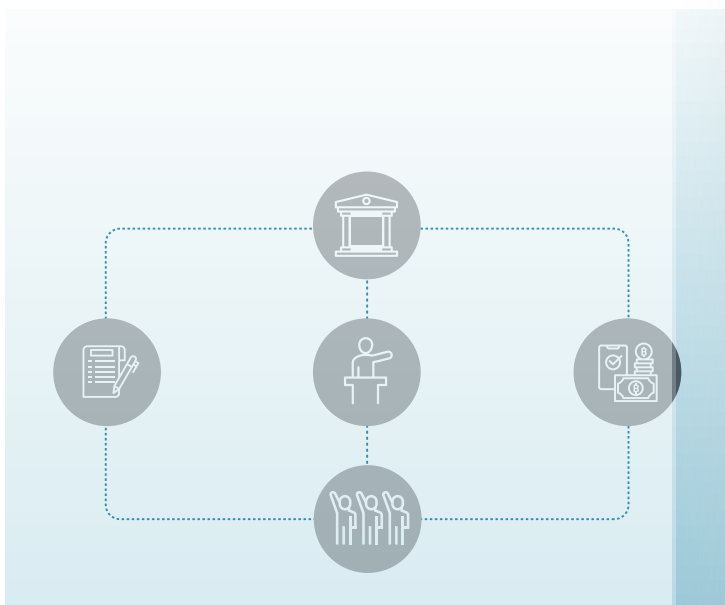
6. Promote marketing strategies with access to domestic and international markets, encourage public-private partnership and build entrepreneurial skills
7. Strengthening communities' ability to secure access to land and other production resources
8. Protect the environment and empower local communities to conserve their traditional ways of life
9. Promote peace, security, rule of law and culture of lawfulness
10. Promote continuous exchanges of best practices and innovative partnerships





### 1. Mainstream Alternative Development as a part of long-term national development strategies and secure long-term political commitment and financing from government and donors agencies

To ensure continuity, AD programmes must secure long-term political and financial commitment from the government. Equally important is to win over support of local communities. Therefore, mainstreaming AD as a part of national development strategies is crucial since it reflects the government's intention and commitment to improve quality of life of the people, promote peace, security, and rule of law.



In Thailand, governmental agencies and the private sector has joined hands in driving AD programmes, and included AD in the national policy for tackling illicit drugs issues. Thailand's commitment to AD is also reflected by its active participation and promotion of people-centred approach in international policy platforms, especially the Commission on Narcotic Drugs.



One of Thailand's AD programme is the Doi Tung Development Project (DTDP) which was initiated as early as 1988 by the Mae Fah Luang Foundation under Royal Patronage (MFLF) with the support of the Thai government. Although the DTDP has become financially self-reliant with its social enterprise model since 2000, the Thai government continues its commitment to AD initiatives. It has extended financial supports for the MFLF to implement AD project in Myanmar for 6 years, with the manpower commitment from the Myanmar government. Moreover, the Thai government also funds a 12-year development project to tackle illicit drugs trafficking problem in Chiang Mai province, Thailand.





## 2. Implement a holistic and balanced development approach, taking into account specific demographic, cultural, social, and geographic conditions

To address illicit drug crops cultivations and related issues, AD programmes must apply a holistic approach, provide opportunities, and improve the quality of life of local people in order to drive positive changes in a sustainable manner.



AD programmes need to be multi-dimensional, covering all aspects of life from health development of the communities and habilitation for drug users to providing viable licit livelihood alternatives, increasing household incomes, ensuring access to quality education, paving ways for more diverse livelihood options, and empowering new generations to continuously elevate themselves.

With experiences from Doi Tung, the MFLF applies development principles in its projects abroad but also considers different local contexts. For example, comprehensive livestock development in Doi Tung promoted black pigs raising given the local demand for



black pigs used in religious rituals. The MFLF set up pig bank to distribute high-quality breeders to villagers; the recipients had to return the offspring to be re-distribute to other villagers. Yet, comprehensive livestock development does not end at increasing amount of livestock, but also entails various capacity buildings to ensure healthy livestock: proper shelter and husbandry, nutritious feeds from local materials to reduce costs, basic veterinary skills, as well as securing access to high-quality livestock medicines.



When the MFLF implemented projects in Afghanistan and Myanmar, pigs were no longer an appropriate option; in Afghanistan, majority of the population are Muslims, while people in Myanmar simply do not prefer pork. The projects opted for sheep bank in Afghanistan and goat bank in Myanmar. Details of the support ecosystem also differed according to the contexts: numbers of livestock circulating in the bank, feed management, etc. With participation of all stakeholders, these details were designed based on reliable information, local contexts, and the needs of local communities.



### 3. Promote viable licit livelihood alternatives before deploying eradication measure

The government should consider proper sequencing when designing interventions to tackle illicit drugs issues. Because illicit drug crops cultivation is often the main source of income for local people, development assistance must be provided before deploying law enforcement and eradication measure.



The DTDP fostered understanding among the locals to voluntarily shift from opium poppy cultivation to other licit livelihood options. Without using force or eradication of what was the local's main source of income at that time, the DTDP focused on working with the community to uplift their quality of life through development of natural capitals like water, land, and forest; agricultural development

to increase income; improvement of healthcare system and basic education; livelihood development to provide diverse licit livelihood alternatives which were suitable to the local context and gave capacity building opportunities for the local people.



The DTDP planned its development into three phases. In the short term, the Project emphasised healthcare development, including drug habilitation for drug users, and daily wage employment to ensure that local people have sufficient income as they turned away from illicit drugs related livelihood. In the medium term, livelihood options beyond daily wage work were promoted to make the illicit-licit shift permanent. In the long term, the Project strived to create sustainability through education development and environmental conservation.



#### 4. Ensure community participation and people-centred approach

AD programmes should not pre-design inventions without gaining a thorough understanding of the context. The planning of development activities should be based on data collected on the ground and in consultation with local communities and all relevant stakeholders.



Before planning the activities, the DTDP surveyed socio-economic data and conducted needs assessment. After the data were collected, they were presented back to the community for verification. This also helped to align understanding of the problems among community members, and engage them in the planning of development interventions which truly address the real needs of the whole community.



When the problems were identified, they were discussed further with the community to re-verify and check if any issues were still missing. Then, the community was requested to prioritise these problems for implementation, where the Project and the community work side by side. For instance, the majority of Thai rural communities faced the problem of water system management. Once all the data were collected, water development experts conducted field surveys together with the local people to verify details on the ground and design appropriate solutions, for examples, constructing a new weir, or repairing existing systems and creating conservation mechanism to protect the water source. Importantly, local people must be engaged in every steps to build a sense of ownership, and prepare them to be able to take care of their own water source and systems.





## 5. Apply resulted-oriented approach and measure the programme's success with human-centric indicators

Measuring the success of drug policies often revolves around the number of illicit drugs confiscated and other law enforcement related measures. However, such measures should not be the main measure for AD programme's success.



AD programmes must strive to create sustainable positive impacts for the communities. Thus, the measure of success should focus on benefits that the people get from development activities rather than hectares of illicit crops eradicated or arrested cases. For example, if a community wishes to build a new water system for agriculture, the project and the community must assess the number of beneficiaries, investment for construction and maintenance, as well as

management capacity of the community. Considering these aspects helps to determine feasibility and benefit of the water system. The additional water resource will allow the beneficiaries to increase their agricultural productivity and hence income, making licit cultivations a viable livelihood for them.

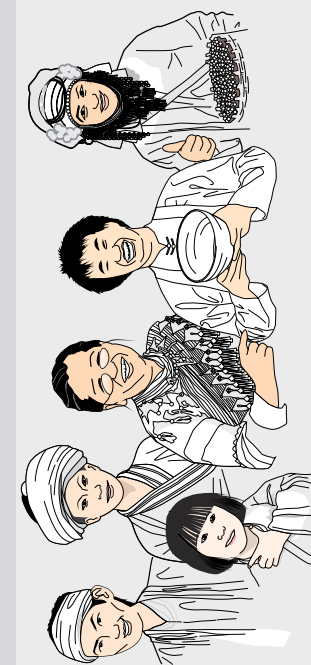


The DTDP has always been outcome-oriented rather than output-oriented. When the local community demanded for education development and planned to request additional school buildings, the Project shared that physical space is only one piece of the problem. Quality education also relies on teacher development, enabling teachers to create effective learning experiences for students, as well as adjust the curriculums to fit the local socio-cultural context. For instance, teaching Thai language to non-Thai speaking ethnic minority children is crucial as it lays the foundation for their future education and work in Thailand. Therefore, the DTDP does not measure the outputs like the numbers of school building constructed, but assesses the quality of education reflected through student's performance and behaviors of the local youth.

AD programme's evaluation must also be multi-dimensional, considering economic, social, and environmental impacts. International indicators such as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Human Development Index offer useful references for planning holistic AD programmes to benefit the communities- from poverty eradication to access to clean water, infant mortality rate, mortality rate from local infectious diseases like Malaria, among others.



## From three decades of development, what do the people get out of it ?



In 2018 Doi Tung has  
87% of forest area,  
from 28% in 1988

### Environment



Reference : Mae Fah Luang Foundation under Royal Patronage



## 6. Promote marketing strategies with access to domestic and international markets, encourage public-private partnership and develop entrepreneurial skills

To create viable alternatives to illicit drug crops cultivation and other illegal activities, AD programmes need to utilise business thinking and market-oriented approach along with improvement of local production capacity. In addition, they must research domestic and international markets; public-private partnership can help accelerate this process and secure access to market. Regarding local capacity building, the programmes should develop entrepreneurial skills such as profits and costs calculation, stock management, basic marketing, etc. Incubation of local enterprise is one of the effective strategies for sustainable development.



With the example of the Roi Jai Rak Project in Chiang Mai province, Thailand, the MFLF has collaborated with an agricultural export corporation to improve the quality of mangoes, popularly grown in the project area, to meet export standards. Raw materials are also processed as juice, frozen mangoes, and popsicle for distribution in domestic market, and potentially, international markets in the future.





## 7. Strengthening communities' ability to secure access to land and other production resources



One of the most important foundations for livelihood is access to production resources, especially access to land which often causes conflict between the government and local people. The DTDP is located in a national park which legally belongs to the State. However, the local people have lived in the area for generations since before the lines were drawn; their shifting cultivation practice also resulted in further encroachment into forest areas. Land management strategy was needed to resolve the conflict and ensure sustainable future for all stakeholders. The DTDP organised the area into conservation forest, sustenance forest, economic forest, cultivation areas and residential areas, and aligned the understanding of and agreed by all levels of stakeholders from local community, the local authorities and the central government.



The DTDP acted as the mediator between the State and the local community, and facilitated land management process to ensure the locals have access to land but do not further encroach into the forest. The Project surveyed existing cultivation area of each household and verify with their neighbours, village heads, and applied GPS technology of the Department of Forestry to map the land. Once agreed, the Project issued non-legal binding documents for the households to assure their right to use the land and pass on to their children. Yet, this land cannot to be sold or earn legal ownership.



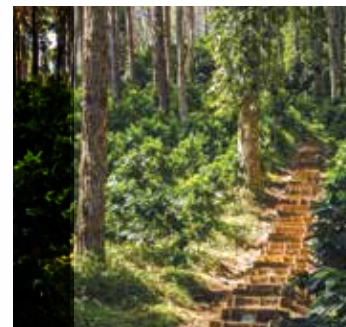


## 8. Protect the environment and empower local communities to conserve their traditional ways of life

AD programmes should enable local communities to benefit from their natural resources as long as they are systematically managed and conserved for long term sustainability. Introduction of any new species of plant or animal to generate additional incomes must take into consideration impacts on existing species, climate conditions, and water resources. Development activities must not create negative environmental impacts and should consider traditional ways of life.



With the Thai example, the DTDP has several strategies to promote understanding about the importance of environmental conservation among the local people and establish mechanisms for people and forest to co-exist in harmony. When the local people are able to benefit from the forest, they are incentivised to protect it. There are community-based measures to prevent and manage forest fires, as well as rules and regulations on forest areas management. While the locals are not allowed to encroach the forest to expand their cultivation areas, the Project helps them to increase productivity from existing land. The community plays an active role in issuing rules and regulations such as how many trees they can cut in the sustenance forest and how many to replant in return; how much of the forest products like mushrooms, bamboo shoots, and honey they can collect without creating any imbalance in the ecosystem. When the forest generates incomes and provides resources for their livelihoods, the local people become the protectors of the forest and the most sustainable environmental conservation mechanism.



In the early stage, the DTDP chose pine trees for its reforestation effort, in accordance with traditional reforestation principle which prioritised fast-growing and evergreen trees. Over the years, the Project found that pine forest is not suitable with existing ecosystem and monoculture decreases biodiversity. Pine leaves and fruits are also excellent fuel to forest fires.



As a result, the DTDP is currently undergoing natural forest restoration process: researching traditional species and ecosystems, identifying species for plantations to restore biodiversity, and researching species of mammals and birds in the area. All the processes are conducted in close cooperation with the local community, governmental agencies, the private sector, and academics. Local youth are also encouraged to take part in the process. To create harmonious co-existence between human and nature and allow the local people to benefit from the forest while taking care of it, the Project prepares to develop the area as a destination for eco-tourism and bird watching. The Project also measures carbon absorption ability of the forest in preparation to participate in carbon credit trading market in the forestry sector which can generate an additional income in the future.



## 9. Promote peace, security, rule of law and culture of lawfulness

Illicit drugs problem cannot be tackled by law enforcement measures alone; law enforcement must go hand in hand with development assistances. Only when the targeted communities are provided with opportunities and alternative livelihoods, then they can move away from illicit economy.



AD programmes should play a role in promoting peace, security, and rule of law because these factors will also ensure sustainability. When speaking of rule of law, it does not only mean law enforcement but also culture of lawfulness which must be cultivated in the communities. Using bottom-up approach, the local people must play an active role in setting their own community rules and regulations. The sense of ownership helps to ensure that they will be put into practice and foster law-abiding communities.

Located in Chiang Mai province, Thailand, the Roi Jai Rak Project's area was plagued with illicit synthetic drugs trafficking. While major drug cartel players were being prosecuted, new licit livelihood alternatives were quickly promoted to the local people, who were also given time to shift their mindset and way of living to walk the licit path. After giving the choices, government officials rolled out more law enforcement measures to take out the remaining micro traffickers.



The Project focuses on fostering a positive attitude towards rule of law. For example, the villagers used to run their personal water pipelines from the central tank to their houses. With everyone disregarding the common water source and other people's pipelines, numerous damages and leakages resulted in water shortage and constant conflicts on water supply.

The Project facilitated discussion among the villagers and pointed out that water is a common resource of the whole community; thus, everyone must work together to develop and manage, using a commonly agreed set of rules, so that all members can benefit from the water system equally.

With participation and cooperation of the local community, rules and regulations are put into actions and result in common benefits for all. This case shows the locals a positive consequence from respecting rules and helps to foster the culture of lawfulness, which serves as the foundation for establishing and reinforcing rule of law concerning more sensitive issues like prevention of drug trafficking in the villages and abiding to national laws.



## 10. Promote continuous exchanges of best practices and innovative partnerships

AD programmes can advance when best practices and lessons learnt are exchanged in the regional and international level. Events such as Expert Group Meeting on Alternative Development (EGM on AD) and various United Nations' platforms, study visits, and case studies of AD programmes are all useful instruments for the exchanges.



Knowledge exchanges then lead to AD implementation in reality such as application of the UNGPs on AD and other international guidelines in the field, as well as further learning and sharing among AD experts.



### **"Develop based on real problems and needs of communities"**

Make no predetermination of development activities. Instead, learn directly from the community and design the development activities based on the community's problems and needs that address the root causes of the problems and yield common benefit.

**Mae Fah Luang Foundation under Royal Patronage**

## **United Nations Guiding Principles on Alternative Development :**

**resolution/adopted by the General Assembly  
A/RES/68/196**



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# General Assembly

Distr.: General  
11 February 2014

Sixty-eighth session  
Agenda item 109

## Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 18 December 2013

[on the report of the Third Committee (A/68/458)]

### 68/196. United Nations Guiding Principles on Alternative Development

*The General Assembly,*

*Reaffirming* that the world drug problem must be addressed in accordance with the provisions of the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961 as amended by the 1972 Protocol,<sup>1</sup> the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971<sup>2</sup> and the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988,<sup>3</sup> which constitute the framework of the international drug control system,

*Bearing in mind* the content of article 14 of the 1988 Convention, regarding measures to eradicate illicit cultivation of narcotic plants and cooperation to increase the effectiveness of those efforts,

*Fully aware* that the world drug problem remains a common and shared responsibility that requires effective and increased international cooperation and demands an integrated, multidisciplinary, mutually reinforcing and balanced approach to supply and demand reduction strategies,

*Reaffirming* the Political Declaration adopted by the General Assembly at its twentieth special session<sup>4</sup> and the Action Plan on International Cooperation on the Eradication of Illicit Drug Crops and on Alternative Development,<sup>5</sup> and stressing the commitment contained in the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem,<sup>6</sup> adopted by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs at the

<sup>1</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 976, No. 14152.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*, vol. 1019, No. 14956.

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*, vol. 1582, No. 27627.

<sup>4</sup> Resolution S-20/2, annex.

<sup>5</sup> Resolution S-20/4 E.

<sup>6</sup> See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2009, Supplement No. 8 (E/2009/28), chap. I, sect. C.*

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high-level segment of its fifty-second session and by the Assembly in its resolution 64/182 of 18 December 2009,

*Recalling* Commission on Narcotic Drugs resolutions 52/6 of 20 March 2009,<sup>6</sup> 53/6 of 12 March 2010,<sup>7</sup> 54/4 of 25 March 2011<sup>8</sup> and 55/4 of 16 March 2012,<sup>9</sup> which resulted in the International Seminar Workshop on Sustainable Alternative Development, held in the provinces of Chiang Mai and Chiang Rai, Thailand, from 6 to 11 November 2011, and the high-level International Conference on Alternative Development, held in Lima from 14 to 16 November 2012, hosted by the Governments of Thailand and Peru, respectively, in close collaboration with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, at which Member States considered and adopted the International Guiding Principles on Alternative Development,<sup>10</sup>

*Recalling also* its resolution 67/193 of 20 December 2012, in which it noted the need for Member States to undertake to increase long-term investment in sustainable crop control strategies targeting the illicit cultivation of crops, in coordination with other development measures, in order to contribute to the sustainability of social and economic development and poverty eradication, and recognized the significant role played by developing countries with extensive expertise in alternative development, including preventive alternative development, in promoting best practices and lessons learned from such programmes and invited them to continue sharing those best practices with States affected by illicit crop cultivation,

*Acknowledging* that alternative development<sup>11</sup> is an important, lawful, viable and sustainable alternative to illicit cultivation of drug crops and an effective measure to counter the world drug problem and other drug-related crime challenges, as well as a choice in favour of societies free of drug abuse, that it is one of the key components of policies and programmes for reducing illicit drug production and that it is an integral part of efforts made by Governments to achieve sustainable development within their societies,

*Reaffirming* that development-oriented drug policies and programmes should be undertaken in accordance with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, international law and, in particular, respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of States, human rights and fundamental freedoms and the principles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,<sup>12</sup> and the principle of common and shared responsibility, as well as the Millennium Development Goals, and also taking into account the specific situation of countries and regions and, where appropriate, security concerns,

1. *Welcomes* the outcome of the high-level International Conference on Alternative Development, held in Lima from 14 to 16 November 2012, including the adoption of the Lima Declaration on Alternative Development and the International Guiding Principles on Alternative Development;<sup>10</sup>

<sup>7</sup> *Ibid.*, 2010, *Supplement No. 8 (E/2010/28)*, chap. I, sect. C.

<sup>8</sup> *Ibid.*, 2011, *Supplement No. 8 (E/2011/28)*, chap. I, sect. C.

<sup>9</sup> *Ibid.*, 2012, *Supplement No. 8 (E/2012/28)*, chap. I, sect. C.

<sup>10</sup> See E/CN.7/2013/8.

<sup>11</sup> In accordance with Economic and Social Council resolutions 2006/33, 2007/12 and 2008/26, the concept of alternative development includes preventive alternative development in a manner focusing on the sustainability and integrity of uplifting people's livelihood.

<sup>12</sup> Resolution 217 A (III).



2. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime on the outcome of that Conference;<sup>10</sup>

3. *Adopts* the aforementioned Lima Declaration on Alternative Development and the International Guiding Principles on Alternative Development as the United Nations Guiding Principles on Alternative Development, annexed to the present resolution;

4. *Encourages* Member States, international organizations, international financial institutions, entities and other relevant stakeholders to take into account the United Nations Guiding Principles on Alternative Development when designing and implementing alternative development programmes;

5. *Expresses its appreciation and gratitude* to the Governments of Thailand and Peru for the convening of the International Seminar Workshop on Sustainable Alternative Development and the high-level International Conference on Alternative Development, respectively.

*70th plenary meeting  
18 December 2013*

## Annex

### United Nations Guiding Principles on Alternative Development

#### Lima Declaration on Alternative Development

We, the representatives convened in Lima for the high-level International Conference on Alternative Development on 16 November 2012,

*Underscoring* that the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961 as amended by the 1972 Protocol,<sup>13</sup> the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971<sup>14</sup> and the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988,<sup>15</sup> in particular its article 14, paragraphs 2 and 3, constitute the framework of the international drug control system, and *urging* their full and effective implementation,

*Reaffirming* the Political Declaration adopted by the General Assembly at its twentieth special session in 1998<sup>16</sup> and the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem, adopted by the General Assembly in 2009,<sup>17</sup>

*Noting* that, as was stated at the International Seminar Workshop on Sustainable Alternative Development, held in Chiang Mai and Chiang Rai, Thailand, from 6 to 11 November 2011, the Political Declaration and Plan of Action mentioned above, together with the Action Plan on International Cooperation on the Eradication of Illicit Drug Crops and on Alternative Development,<sup>18</sup> represent a

<sup>13</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 976, No. 14152.

<sup>14</sup> *Ibid.*, vol. 1019, No. 14956.

<sup>15</sup> *Ibid.*, vol. 1582, No. 27627.

<sup>16</sup> Resolution S-20/2, annex.

<sup>17</sup> See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2009, Supplement No. 8 (E/2009/28), chap. I, sect. C.*

<sup>18</sup> Resolution S-20/4 E.

significant advance, as they promote alternative development within the framework of broad national rural development, emphasize the need to address poverty, inter alia, as a driver of illicit crop cultivation and suggest the coupling of both human development and crop reduction indicators to measure the success of alternative development efforts,

*Reaffirming* that development-oriented drug policies and programmes should be undertaken in accordance with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, international law and, in particular, respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of States, protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms in accordance with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,<sup>19</sup> and the principle of common and shared responsibility, as well as the Millennium Development Goals, also taking into account the rule of law, the specific situations of countries and regions and, where appropriate, security concerns,

*Recalling* Commission on Narcotic Drugs resolutions 53/6 of 12 March 2010,<sup>20</sup> 54/4 of 25 March 2011,<sup>21</sup> and 55/4 and 55/8 of 16 March 2012,<sup>22</sup>

*Recognizing* that alternative development, which, in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolutions, includes, as appropriate, preventive alternative development, is part of sustainable and effective crop control strategies, which may also include eradication and law enforcement measures,

*Recognizing also* that alternative development is a process to prevent and eliminate the illicit cultivation of plants containing narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances through specifically designed rural development measures in the context of sustained national economic growth and sustainable development efforts in countries taking action against drugs, and recognizing the particular sociocultural characteristics of the target communities and groups, within the framework of a comprehensive and permanent solution to the problem of illicit drugs,

*Recognizing further* that the problem of the illicit production and manufacture of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances is often related to development problems and that those links require, within the context of common and shared responsibility, close cooperation among States, the competent organs of the United Nations system, in particular, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, regional bodies and international financial institutions,

*Acknowledging* the principal role of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, as a governing body of the United Nations Office on Drug and Crime, along with its subsidiary bodies, together with the International Narcotics Control Board, as the United Nations organs with prime responsibility for drug control matters,

*Reaffirming* that alternative development is one of the tools to fight against the world drug problem,

*Recalling and noting with appreciation* the inputs for the draft international guiding principles on alternative development agreed by participants at the International Seminar Workshop on Sustainable Alternative Development, held in

<sup>19</sup> Resolution 217 A (III).

<sup>20</sup> See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2010, Supplement No. 8 (E/2010/28), chap. I, sect. C.*

<sup>21</sup> *Ibid.*, 2011, Supplement No. 8 (E/2011/28), chap. I, sect. C.

<sup>22</sup> *Ibid.*, 2012, Supplement No. 8 (E/2012/28), chap. I, sect. C.



the provinces of Chiang Mai and Chiang Rai, Thailand, from 6 to 11 November 2011,<sup>23</sup>

1. *Welcome* the outcome of the high-level International Conference on Alternative Development, held in Lima from 14 to 16 November 2012, which includes the present Declaration and the International Guiding Principles on Alternative Development, as contained in the appendix hereto;

2. *Encourage* States, competent international organizations, entities and other relevant stakeholders to take into account the present Declaration and the International Guiding Principles on Alternative Development when designing and implementing alternative development strategies and programmes;

3. *Submit* the present Declaration, including its appendix, to the Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, for inclusion in his report to the Commission on Narcotic Drugs at its fifty-sixth session;

4. *Express our appreciation and gratitude* to the Government of Peru for the convening of the high-level International Conference on Alternative Development.

## Appendix

### International Guiding Principles on Alternative Development

#### A. General provisions

1. Alternative development policies are an important component of enhancing development in States affected by, or in some cases at risk of, the illicit cultivation of crops used for illicit drug production and manufacture, and play an important role in national, regional and international development policies and in comprehensive policies of poverty reduction and cooperation.

2. Alternative development, as an integral component of policies and programmes for reducing drug production, is an important, viable and sustainable option for preventing, eliminating or significantly and measurably reducing the illicit cultivation of crops used for the production and manufacture of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances through tackling poverty and providing livelihood opportunities.

3. Alternative development, including in some cases preventive alternative development, constitutes an international policy founded on the principle of shared and common responsibility that seeks to discourage the cultivation of illicit crops in countries affected by that problem and in those countries which are vulnerable to illicit activities.

4. Alternative development, which includes, as appropriate, preventive alternative development strategies and programmes, should be formulated and implemented by taking into account the vulnerability and specific needs of the communities and groups affected by illicit cultivation of crops used for drug production and manufacture, within the broader framework of national policies.

5. Effective alternative development strategies and programmes require, as appropriate, the strengthening of relevant governmental institutions at the national,

<sup>23</sup> See E/CN.7/2012/8.

regional and local levels. Public policies should be supported to the extent possible by, inter alia, strengthening legal frameworks, involving local communities and relevant organizations, identifying and providing adequate financial support, technical assistance and increased investment, and recognizing and enforcing property rights, including access to land.

6. Local communities and relevant organizations should be involved in the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of all alternative development programmes in order to truly reflect the needs of targeted communities.

7. Civil society can contribute significantly to the formulation of effective and sustainable alternative development programmes, and its active participation should therefore be encouraged in all phases of alternative development programmes.

8. An integrated and complementary approach to alternative development programmes and strategies is crucial and should be implemented in concert with broader drug control policies, including demand reduction, law enforcement, illicit crop elimination and awareness-raising, taking into account demographic, cultural, social and geographic considerations, as appropriate, and in line with the three drug control conventions.

9. States should ensure the proper and coordinated sequencing of development interventions when designing alternative development programmes, and in that regard should take into account issues related to the establishment of agreements and viable partnerships with small producers, favourable climatic conditions, strong political support and adequate market access.

10. Alternative development programmes in the areas where crops are cultivated for illicit drug production and manufacture should be undertaken with a clear understanding of the overall objectives, as appropriate, of eliminating or significantly and measurably reducing the supply of drugs while promoting comprehensive development and social inclusion, alleviating poverty and strengthening social development, the rule of law, security and stability at the country and regional levels, taking into account the promotion and protection of human rights.

11. Alternative development programmes should include measures to protect the environment at the local level, according to national and international law and policies, through the provision of incentives for conservation, proper education and awareness programmes so that the local communities can improve and preserve their livelihoods and mitigate negative environmental impacts.

12. Alternative development programmes, including, as appropriate, preventive alternative development programmes, should be designed to address subregional and regional needs and should be integrated, when circumstances require, into broader regional, subregional and bilateral treaties and arrangements.

13. International cooperation, coordination and stakeholder ownership are essential for the successful implementation and sustainability of alternative development programmes. Alternative development should be considered by all parties involved as a long-term commitment whose results may require time to attain.

14. International cooperation programmes aimed at alternative development should take into account the experiences of different countries, including with regard to South-South cooperation, should draw on best practices and lessons



learned in alternative development programmes and projects and should take into account the available financial and technical support provided by donors.

15. Alternative development policies, as one of the tools available in the fight against the world drug problem, should be implemented alongside efforts made by States to strengthen the rule of law and promote health, safety and security so as to ensure a comprehensive approach to tackling the challenges that may be posed by the possible links between drug trafficking, corruption and different forms of organized crime and, in some cases, terrorism.

16. Alternative development can be an integral element of an overall development strategy and should complement economic efforts in the fight against poverty.

17. The impact of alternative development programmes should be assessed by taking into account their contribution to the control of illicit crop cultivation, including the eradication of such crops, and through estimates based on human development indices, socioeconomic and environmental indicators and impartial and accurate evaluations.

## B. Actions and implementation measures

18. States Members of the United Nations, international organizations, regional organizations, development agencies, donors and international financial institutions, as well as civil society, should apply their utmost efforts, as appropriate:

(a) To target illicit cultivation and production of crops used for the production and manufacture of illicit drugs, and address related factors, by alleviating poverty, by strengthening the rule of law and institutional frameworks, as appropriate, and by promoting sustainable development aimed at enhancing the welfare of the population;

(b) To build and maintain confidence, dialogue and cooperation with and between stakeholders, from people at the community level and local authorities to leaders at the national and regional levels, so as to ensure participation and ownership for long-term sustainability;

(c) To implement long-term projects and programmes to provide opportunities to fight poverty, diversify livelihoods and strengthen development, institutional frameworks and the rule of law;

(d) To develop policies and programmes that take into account an evidence- and science-based assessment of the potential impact of alternative development on the illicit cultivation of crops used for the illicit production and manufacture of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, and on rural and socioeconomic development, including the gender dimension related thereto, and the environment;

(e) To take into account the need to promote the diversification of licit crops cultivated and licit economic activities undertaken when implementing alternative development programmes;

(f) Owing to the transnational nature of drug-related crimes, to encourage and support coordinated cross-border collaboration and alternative development activities, where appropriate and feasible, with the support of international cooperation;

(g) To address with specific measures the situation of women, children, youth and other high-risk populations, including, in some cases, dependent drug users, owing to their vulnerability and exploitation in the illicit drug economy;

(h) To provide, within a holistic and integrated development approach, essential basic services and legal livelihood opportunities to the communities affected by, or in some cases vulnerable to, illicit crop cultivation;

(i) To recognize that alternative development, including, as appropriate, preventive alternative development, requires the implementation of articulated short-, medium- and long-term plans and actions from all relevant stakeholders to promote positive and sustainable socioeconomic changes in the affected and, in some cases, vulnerable areas;

(j) To promote coordination and encourage alternative development programmes which contain complementary measures at the local, regional and national levels;

(k) To ensure, when considering crop control measures, that small-farmer households have opportunities for viable and sustainable licit livelihoods so that the measures may be properly sequenced in a sustainable fashion and appropriately coordinated, taking into account the circumstances of the region, country or area concerned;

(l) To ensure that programmes or projects related to alternative development effectively discourage the illicit cultivation of crops used for the illicit production and manufacture of drugs;

(m) To also ensure that drug control programmes are implemented in a comprehensive and balanced manner, so as to avoid the shifting of illicit crop cultivation domestically, as well as from one country or region to another;

(n) To respect the legitimate interests and specific needs of the local affected and, in some cases, vulnerable population when designing and implementing alternative development programmes;

(o) To address basic human needs, in full conformity with the three drug conventions and relevant human rights instruments, in order to promote the welfare of targeted communities;

(p) To integrate those communities which are in marginalized regions into the economic and political mainstream; as appropriate, such integration should involve supporting access to roads, schools, primary health-care services, electricity and other services and infrastructure;

(q) To promote increased coordination and cooperation between relevant governmental agencies, when appropriate, and adopt an integrated approach to drug control that involves all relevant stakeholders;

(r) To ensure that the implementation of alternative development programmes is conducted in a manner that helps to enhance synergy and confidence among national Governments, regional authorities and local administrations and communities with regard to building local ownership and coordination and cooperation;

(s) To promote the strengthening of the justice and security sectors and social development, as well as institutional legal frameworks and anti-corruption measures, in a manner conducive to enhancing alternative development efforts;

(t) To promote governance capabilities, when appropriate, in order to strengthen the rule of law, including at the local level;



(u) To ensure that measures aimed at strengthening the rule of law are included in development-oriented drug control policies in order to, *inter alia*, support farmers in their efforts to stop, and in some cases prevent, the cultivation of illicit crops;

(v) To apply, in addition to estimates of illicit cultivation and other illicit activities related to the world drug problem, indicators related to human development, socioeconomic conditions, rural development and the alleviation of poverty, as well as institutional and environmental indicators, when assessing alternative development programmes in order to ensure that the outcomes are in line with national and international development objectives, including the Millennium Development Goals, and that they reflect accountable use of donor funds and truly benefit the affected communities;

(w) To utilize objective impact evaluations that examine a broad range of social, economic and environmental factors and incorporate the lessons learned from these evaluations in future projects to ensure that the design and implementation of alternative development programmes are based on a reliable and evidence-based evaluation and thorough analysis of local socioeconomic, geographical and cultural realities, as well as the assessment of benefits and risks;

(x) To undertake further research and strengthen data collection with a view to providing a basis for more effective and evidence-based alternative development programmes, as well as conduct research to assess the factors leading to the illicit cultivation of drug crops used for the production and manufacture of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances;

(y) To utilize data and conduct analysis to identify areas, communities and affected populations that are vulnerable to illicit cultivation and its related illicit activities, and tailor the implementation of programmes and projects to address identified needs;

(z) To encourage partners in cross-border alternative development activities to consider measures to support the implementation of alternative development strategies and programmes, which may include special preferential policies, protection of property rights and facilitation of the import and export of products, in accordance with relevant international law, including trade agreements;

(aa) To enhance technical support, including exchange of expertise, best practices and resources, while seeking to secure long-term flexible funding for alternative development programmes in order to ensure their sustainability;

(bb) To consider the possibility of creating an international fund for alternative development programmes that could be used to face major emergency situations, in order to ensure continuity;

(cc) To recognize that international cooperation resources for the implementation of alternative development programmes should be used in consultation and in coordination with partner countries to support joint efforts to eliminate, reduce and, in some cases, prevent the cultivation of illicit crops through reducing poverty and enhancing rural development in areas affected by, or in some cases vulnerable to, illicit cultivation and engaging in effective law enforcement measures;

(dd) To recognize that long-term cooperation, coordination and the commitment of multilevel and multisectoral stakeholders are essential to a holistic

and integrated approach to the effectiveness and sustainability of alternative development programmes;

(ee) To consider voluntary and pragmatic measures in appropriate forums, with a view to enabling alternative development products to gain easier access to international markets, in accordance with applicable multilateral trade rules and treaties and taking into consideration the ongoing negotiation processes in the framework of the World Trade Organization; these might include promoting cost-effective marketing regimes in the field of alternative development, including, as appropriate, preventive alternative development, such as a global stamp for products stemming from alternative development programmes and voluntary certification to support the sustainability of alternative development products;

(ff) To promote, where appropriate, a favourable socioeconomic infrastructure, including the development of roads and transportation networks, the promotion and enhancement of farmer associations, microfinance schemes and schemes aimed at enhancing the effectiveness of the management of available financing resources;

(gg) To combine local wisdom, indigenous knowledge, public-private partnerships and available resources to promote, *inter alia*, a legal market-driven product development approach when applicable, capacity-building, skills training of the involved population, effective management and the entrepreneurial spirit, in order to support the creation of internal and sustainable commercial systems and a viable value chain at the local level, when applicable;

(hh) To support policies conducive to cooperation with the international financial institutions and, where appropriate, private sector involvement and investment to help to ensure long-term sustainability, including through the use of public-private partnerships, and to encourage alternative development in rural associations or cooperatives and support their management capacity, in order to maximize value from primary production and to ensure the integration of areas affected by, or in some cases vulnerable to, illicit cultivation into national, regional and, as appropriate, international markets;

(ii) To promote local ownership and participation of the involved parties in the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of alternative development programmes and projects;

(jj) To foster empowerment, including articulation, communication and participation, of the community and local authorities and other stakeholders, to sustain the achievements of the projects and programmes;

(kk) To take into account land rights and other related land management resources when designing, implementing, monitoring and evaluating alternative development programmes, including those of indigenous peoples and local communities, in accordance with national legal frameworks;

(ll) To raise awareness among rural communities of the negative impacts that illicit drug crop cultivation, related deforestation and the illicit use of natural resources, in disregard of national or international laws, may have on long-term development and the environment.



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## **United Nations Guiding Principles on Alternative Development in action**

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This publication on “United Nations Guiding Principles on Alternative Development in action” presents the background, salient points, and case studies of alternative development practices by the Mae Fah Luang Foundation under Royal Patronage (MFLF). The MFLF’s work both in Thailand and abroad follows the UNGPs on AD, so the publication serves as a guideline for organisations interested in implementing alternative development.