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Commission on Narcotic Drugs

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Item 5 (d) of the provisional agenda*

Implementation of the international drug control treaties: international cooperation to ensure the availability of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances for medical and scientific purposes while preventing their diversion

France, Nigeria and Slovenia: draft resolution

Promoting comprehensive and scientific evidence-based early prevention

The Commission on Narcotic Drugs,

Reaffirming the goals, objectives and obligations of the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1953 as amended by the 1954 Protocol,¹ the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971² and the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988,³ in the preamble to which States parties stated that they were deeply concerned by the threat to the health and welfare of humankind posed by narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, and the steadily increasing inroads into various social groups made by illicit traffic in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, and particularly by the fact that children were used in many parts of the world as an illicit drug consumers market and for purposes of illicit production, distribution and trade in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, which entailed a danger of incalculable gravity,

Reaffirming also the unwavering commitment of Member States to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,⁴ which states in articles 25 and 26 that everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for their health and well-being, including necessary social services, and that everyone has the right to education,

Recalling the commitments made in the Convention on the Rights of the Child,⁵ in article 33 of which it is stated that parties should take all appropriate measures, including legislative, administrative, social and educational measures, to protect children from the illicit use of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, as defined

* E/CN.7/2022/1.

¹ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 976, No. 14152.

² *Ibid.*, vol. 1019, No. 14956.

³ *Ibid.*, vol. 1582, No. 27627.

⁴ General Assembly resolution 217 A (III).

⁵ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1577, No. 27531.



in the relevant international treaties, and to prevent the use of children in the illicit production of and trafficking in such substances,

Recalling also the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,⁶ in particular Sustainable Development Goal 3, on ensuring healthy lives and promoting well-being for all at all ages, and noting that efforts to strengthen drug prevention address this Goal and constitute a step forward in its implementation,

Recalling further the outcome document of the thirtieth special session of the General Assembly, entitled “Our joint commitment to effectively addressing and countering the world drug problem”,⁷ in which Member States recommended taking effective and practical primary prevention measures that protect people, in particular children and youth, from drug use initiation by providing them with accurate information about the risks of drug abuse, by promoting skills and opportunities to choose healthy lifestyles and develop supportive parenting and healthy social environments and by ensuring equal access to education and vocational training,

Recalling all commitments related to prevention, as contained in the Ministerial Declaration on Strengthening Our Actions at the National, Regional and International Levels to Accelerate the Implementation of Our Joint Commitments to Address and Counter the World Drug Problem⁸ and the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem,⁹

Recalling also its resolution 57/3 of 21 March 2014, in which it highlighted that prevention based on scientific evidence and on a process of adaptation to local culture and socioeconomic circumstances is the most cost-effective approach to preventing drug use and other risky behaviours and is therefore an investment in the well-being of children, adolescents, youth, families and communities,

Recalling further its resolution 61/2 of 16 March 2018 on strengthening efforts to prevent drug abuse in educational settings, in which it reiterated its commitment to promoting the health, welfare and well-being of all individuals, families, communities and society as a whole, and facilitating healthy lifestyles through effective, comprehensive, scientific evidence-based demand-reduction initiatives at all levels, covering, in accordance with national legislation and the three international drug control conventions, prevention, early intervention, treatment, care, recovery, rehabilitation and social reintegration measures, as well as initiatives and measures aimed at minimizing the adverse public health and social consequences of drug abuse,

Reaffirming its resolution 63/2 of 6 March 2020, in which it underlined the importance of scientific evidence-based responses to the world drug problem and called upon Member States to analyse their policies and responses, including regarding demand reduction and cross-cutting issues such as drugs and human rights, youth, women, children, vulnerable members of society and communities by gathering scientifically robust data on their effectiveness and efficiency in addressing and countering the world drug problem,

Recalling its resolution 64/3 of 16 April 2021, in which it underlined the importance of increasing the availability, coverage, quality and affordability of scientific evidence-based prevention,

Acknowledging the important advances made in the science of prevention, establishing prevention as one of the main components of comprehensive, scientific evidence-based demand-reduction initiatives to address the non-medical use of controlled drugs, and also acknowledging that effective early prevention contributes

⁶ General Assembly resolution 70/1.

⁷ General Assembly resolution S-30/1, annex.

⁸ See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2019, Supplement No. 8 (E/2019/28)*, chap. I, sect. B.

⁹ See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2009, Supplement No. 8 (E/2009/28)*, chap. I, sect. C.

significantly to the positive engagement of children, youth and adults with their families and in educational settings, workplaces and communities,

Noting with appreciation the publication of the *International Standards on Drug Use Prevention*, developed by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in collaboration with the World Health Organization, and welcoming the second updated edition, in which it is noted that the general aim of substance use prevention is the healthy and safe development of children and youth so that they can realize their talents and potential and become contributing members of their community and society,

Expressing appreciation for the ongoing work and initiatives of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, including capacity-building initiatives that seek to promote family-, school- and community-based prevention programmes, such as the Families and Schools Together programme, the Youth Initiative and the “Listen first” initiative,

1. *Encourages* Member States, through a cross-sectoral and multi-agency approach, to provide sufficient resources for and put greater emphasis on scientific evidence-based early prevention, encompassing infancy and early and middle childhood, with a particular focus on the systematic inclusion of social and emotional learning interventions that cover family and parenting skills, early childhood education and personal and social skills education, and prevention education based on social competence and influence, targeting children and youth in multiple settings and reaching young people in educational settings and through family or community interventions aimed at promoting a healthy environment;

2. *Calls upon* Member States to facilitate access to comprehensive, scientific evidence-based demand reduction services and related measures, and to expand capacity, especially for people affected by social marginalization and in the context of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, as well as by situations of armed conflict or humanitarian disaster, while increasing possibilities to promote healthy lifestyles;

3. *Encourages* Member States to ensure that all children, especially those of parents with addictive behaviours, are provided with access to appropriate prevention and health-care services, in order to secure the highest attainable standard of health and increased equity in health, and to develop preventive health care, guidance for parents, family planning education and services, and prenatal and postnatal health care;

4. *Calls upon* Member States to take into account the key principles and standards, including early prevention, as recommended in the second updated edition of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and World Health Organization *International Standards on Drug Use Prevention*;

5. *Invites* Member States and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to continue monitoring and evaluating policies and services in order to protect the health, safety, welfare and well-being of individuals, families and vulnerable members of society, paying special attention to women, children and youth, and accounting for specific age- and gender-related needs, with full respect for all human rights and fundamental freedoms and the inherent dignity of all individuals;

6. *Requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to continue to provide, upon request, support to Member States relating to technical assistance and capacity-building for programmes in educational settings for the purpose of preventing drug use, and also requests the Office to assist Member States in promoting research and data collection in educational settings in this regard to better understand the challenge of drug use among children and youth and respond to it more effectively;

7. *Encourages* Member States to promote the exchange of good practices and experiences in early prevention of drug use, and calls upon the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to facilitate such exchange;

8. *Also encourages* Member States to cooperate with universities, schools and other educational institutions, as well as civil society and relevant international organizations and programmes within the United Nations system, in accordance with their mandates, to develop prevention programmes that target early childhood and the family context and include guidance on effective prevention strategies in communities and other settings;

9. *Calls upon* Member States to mainstream a gender perspective into the development, implementation and evaluation of drug prevention and health promotion efforts within the framework of domestic drug policies;

10. *Requests*, subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to appoint a multi-agency expert group on the topic of scientific evidence-based early prevention for the purpose of developing guidelines and recommendations to help Member States and other relevant international and civil society organizations make best use of the *International Standards on Drug Use Prevention* for the promotion and implementation of scientific evidence-based early prevention programmes;

11. *Requests* the Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to report to the Commission on Narcotic Drugs at its sixty-sixth session on the measures taken and on the progress achieved in the implementation of the present resolution.
