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Agenda item 13 (c)
Round-table discussions of the high-level segment:
demand reduction, treatment and preventive
policies and practices

Outcome of the round table on demand reduction, treatment and preventive policies and practices, submitted by the Chairman of the round table, Peter Dunne (New Zealand)

On 12 March 2009, the outcome of the round-table discussion on demand reduction, treatment and preventive policies and practices was presented by the chairman of the round table, Peter Dunne (New Zealand). The outcome was as follows:

1. The value of collaboration and partnership across agencies on issues such as health, law enforcement, education and social welfare was widely recognized.

2. Increased opportunities must be created for Member States, international organizations and civil society to adopt collective approaches.

3. The crucial role of parents and families in preventing drug abuse needs to be supported.

4. There is a strong commitment to sharing information to help with planning and policymaking, in particular the sharing of best practices and successes, especially through a compendium to be developed by international organizations.

5. A range of campaigns aimed at preventing drug abuse is being implemented to raise awareness and provide information that is accessible and relevant through a range of media, in particular the new media that appeal to youth, such as the Internet.

6.   There is a commitment to respond to the need to base prevention and treatment on scientific evidence.

7.   Emphasis should be placed on providing a range of treatment and care services that recognize the chronic nature of drug dependence, from early intervention to treatment, including pharmacologically assisted treatment, and needle exchange programmes.

8.   There is value in having robust data that can be collected and monitored to evaluate the effectiveness of interventions (what worked and what did not work).

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