

Resolution 47/2 Prevention of HIV/AIDS among drug users

The Commission on Narcotic Drugs,

Reaffirming that drug abuse affects all sections of society and countries at all levels of development, and recognizing that drug demand reduction should address all sections of society, taking into account the social, economic and political context,

Considering that, according to data from the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS, over 95 per cent of people infected with HIV/AIDS are in developing countries, that one third of people living with HIV/AIDS are between 15 and 24 years old, that 10 per cent of all people with HIV/AIDS are injecting drug users and that risk-taking behaviour, including the sharing of needles, syringes and other infected equipment, is a significant route for HIV transmission,

Reaffirming that an effective response to the issues raised by drug consumption demands a comprehensive approach, ranging from referral to health-care establishments for treatment of drug dependence, to the provision of general information on drugs and specific information on negative consequences to health and care options,

Recalling its resolution 46/2 on strengthening strategies regarding the prevention of human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome in the context of drug abuse,

Taking note of the report of the International Narcotics Control Board for 2003,¹ in particular paragraph 221,

Recalling the Declaration on the Guiding Principles of Drug Demand Reduction,² adopted by the General Assembly at its twentieth special session,

Reaffirming the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,³ in particular article 25, and recalling that HIV/AIDS affects human security,

Reiterating the concerns of the General Assembly, reflected in the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS,⁴ adopted by the Assembly at its twenty-sixth special session,

1. *Urges* that studies and research be conducted with a view to identifying various vulnerable groups and the extent and patterns of risk-taking behaviour, in order to develop measures aimed at improving comprehensive care and treatment and reducing negative consequences to health;

2. *Also urges* the strengthening of health policies that promote and incorporate the diagnosis and treatment of drug dependence and infection by HIV and other blood-borne diseases and address risk-taking behaviour, directed to the segments of society most vulnerable to drug use;

¹ *Report of the International Narcotics Control Board for 2003* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.04.XI.1).

² General Assembly resolution S-20/3, annex.

³ General Assembly resolution 217A (III).

⁴ General Assembly resolution S-26/2, annex.

3. *Encourages* efforts towards the strengthening of civil society activities aimed at promoting the health care and social support of drug users and their families, taking into account the characteristics and regulations of each country;
4. *Reinforces* the necessity of broad access for drug users to general information on HIV prevention, vaccines and/or medicines against HIV/AIDS and other blood-borne diseases;
5. *Acknowledges* the necessity for greater attention to be paid to drug demand reduction, through the promotion of drug use prevention strategies;
6. *Encourages* the broad engagement of local authorities and civil society in the development of demand reduction policies, so as to provide drug users with education, treatment, care, rehabilitation and social reintegration;
7. *Calls* for broad horizontal cooperation among Member States towards the promotion of action directed at demand reduction, mindful of the need to maintain a balanced approach between demand and supply reduction;
8. *Encourages* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, in collaboration with the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS, the World Health Organization and other relevant organizations, within their existing mandates, to pursue their efforts in studying the effectiveness of drug-related HIV/AIDS prevention programmes, and report on the progress made to the Commission on Narcotic Drugs at its forty-eighth session;
9. *Requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, in coordination with the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS, the World Health Organization and other relevant international organizations, to convene an intergovernmental expert group meeting in Vienna, subject to the availability of voluntary funds, which might be from general-purpose funds, in accordance with the Commission on Narcotic Drugs guidelines for the use of general-purpose funds,⁵ or from earmarked funds, to assist in putting together a specific programme on the main issues of HIV/AIDS and drug abuse, with emphasis on HIV/AIDS prevention, injecting drug use and risk-taking behaviour, and to make the report of the group available for the thematic debate at the forty-eighth session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs;
10. *Requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, in coordination with the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS, to take an active role in achieving the above objectives.

⁵ Commission on Narcotic Drugs resolution 44/20, annex.