

Resolution 48/6

Women and substance use

The Commission on Narcotic Drugs,

Recalling the Political Declaration¹ and the Declaration on the Guiding Principles of Drug Demand Reduction² adopted by the General Assembly at its twentieth special session, which reflected Member States' resolve to ensure that men and women benefit equally and without any discrimination from strategies directed at countering the world drug problem and that demand reduction policies shall be sensitive to both culture and gender,

Noting the observations in the third biennial report of the Executive Director on the world drug problem,³ which indicate that more needs to be done to strengthen efforts in prevention, rehabilitation and treatment, and the findings in the report of the Secretariat on the world situation with regard to drug abuse,⁴ which indicate that women experience difficulties in utilizing specialized treatment services in many regions,

Recognizing the conclusions of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime expressed in the report entitled *Substance Abuse Treatment and Care of Women: Case Studies and Lessons Learned*⁵ that there are distinct gender differences in the patterns of uptake and use of illicit drugs, as well as gender-specific barriers that limit access to drug abuse treatment services,

Noting the evidence presented in the above-mentioned report that women are less likely than men to use illicit substances such as opioids and cocaine, but more likely to use pharmaceutical substances, although there is also some evidence of convergence of rates of substance use among younger people,

Concerned at the adverse impact of drug use on women's health, including the effects of fetal exposure,

Concerned also at the linkages between abuse and drug use among women, as recognized in the above-mentioned report,

Stressing the importance of gender-specific data collection and research on gender issues relating to substance use,

1. *Commends* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime for its timely publication, *Substance Abuse Treatment and Care of Women: Case Studies and Lessons Learned*,⁶ and urges that the publication be considered carefully by Member States;

2. *Calls upon* Member States to consider providing additional reporting and analysis on women-specific data relating to the use of illicit substances and access to appropriate treatment services;

3. *Requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to ensure that gender issues are given appropriate attention in future reporting on the world situation with regard to drug

¹ General Assembly resolution S-20/2, annex.

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

³ E/CN.7/2005/2 and Add.1-6.

⁴ E/CN.7/2005/3.

⁵ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.04.XI.24.

⁶ Ibid.

abuse, having regard to the issues identified in its recent publication and report;⁷

4. *Urges* Member States to consider implementing broadly based prevention and treatment programmes for young girls and women, taking into account all attendant circumstances, including clinical and social histories;

5. *Also urges* Member States to consider giving priority to the provision of treatment for pregnant women who use illicit drugs and comprehensive post-natal support services for both mothers and children;

6. *Further urges* Member States, where appropriate, to review barriers to treatment access by women and work towards the elimination of such barriers;

7. *Requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to assist Member States in the elimination of barriers by continuing to disseminate examples of relevant programmes and policies that constitute good practice.

⁷ E/CN.7/2005/3.