

## **UNODC Regional Office Middle East and North Africa Initiative: UN Staff Training on Early Detection of Drug Abuse:**

In the context of our public information campaign against drugs, not only in the local community, but also within the families of the United Nations Agencies. An early detection of drug abuse training seminar was held on March 7, 2005 with the assistance of the United Nations Staff Association (FUNSA). The seminar is the first of its kind to be organized by UNODC Regional Office, which was a very successful initiative in a series of seminars to be part of the national campaign to protect youth against drug abuse. The seminar took place at UNICEF Cairo premises.



The training seminar was serviced by Faisal Hegazy (UNODC - NPO) and Dr. Hashem Bahry (UNODC consultant on prevention and treatment). The seminar dealt with the following themes: Drug situation in the World; Drug Situation in Egypt; Different Types of Drugs; How addiction starts and the different phases; Reasons for Drug Addiction; Symptoms of Drug Addiction; The role of the family members and Parenting in protecting their children; Early detection of drug abuse; and then an Open discussion took place.



The seminar was well attended by UN agencies, and there has been a general interest among the attendees. At the end of the seminar, an evaluation form was distributed so as to obtain feedback from participants on the viability of such an initiative.

The feed back from the attendees was positive and the conduct of such an event was very much appreciated. We intend to duplicate this experience in other countries of the region.

Moreover, other UN agencies are urging UNODC to replicate this training seminar at their premises for their national staff.