

## **Resolution 49/4**

### **Responding to the prevalence of HIV/AIDS and other blood-borne diseases among drug users**

*The Commission on Narcotic Drugs,*

*Concerned* at the increased drug supply and the significant prevalence of HIV/AIDS and other blood-borne diseases among drug users,

*Considering* that, in the search for the best treatment and prevention models for drug use, the specific social, economic, political and cultural situation of each country must be taken into account,

*Keeping in mind* that, in its resolution 46/2, it requested the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to continue developing and strengthening, at the international and regional levels, its role and strategy regarding the prevention of HIV transmission related to drug abuse,

*Recalling* the report of the International Narcotics Control Board for 1987, in which the Board stressed the need for Governments to adopt measures aimed at the reduction of needle-sharing among injecting drug users in order to control the spread of HIV/AIDS by that means,<sup>1</sup> and keeping in mind that any prophylactic measures should not promote or facilitate drug abuse,<sup>2</sup>

*Recalling also* the report of the International Narcotics Control Board for 2003, in which the Board stated that the implementation of drug substitution treatment did not constitute any breach of treaty provisions,<sup>3</sup>

*Taking note* of the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS, adopted by the General Assembly at its twenty-sixth special session, in 2001,<sup>4</sup>

*Acknowledging* the role played by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in 2004 and 2005 as chair of the Committee of Co-Sponsoring Organizations of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS,

*Taking into consideration* the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,<sup>5</sup>

*Recalling* Economic and Social Council resolution 2004/40 of 21 July 2004, on guidelines for psychosocially assisted pharmacological treatment of persons dependent on opioids, in which the Council addressed preventing the transmission of HIV and other blood-borne diseases,

1. *Invites* Member States, in accordance with their national legislation:

(a) To give the utmost consideration to the development of demand reduction actions based on studies and research that demonstrate the efficacy and efficiency of drug-related treatment and prevention;

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<sup>1</sup> *Report of the International Narcotics Control Board for 1987* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.87.XI.3), para. 2.

<sup>2</sup> *Report of the International Narcotics Control Board for 2003* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.04.XI.1), para. 221.

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*, para. 222.

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

<sup>5</sup> General Assembly resolution 217 A (III).

(b) To adopt drug-related health policies that facilitate prevention of drug abuse and access by drug users to different types of prevention, treatment and care for drug dependency, drug-related HIV/AIDS, hepatitis and other blood-borne diseases;

(c) To enhance efforts to promote access to health and social care for drug users and their families without discrimination of any kind and, where appropriate, to cooperate with relevant non-governmental organizations;

(d) To provide access, as appropriate and in the framework of the pertinent national policies, to medications, vaccines and other measures that are consistent with international drug control treaties and have been shown to be effective in reducing the risk of HIV/AIDS, hepatitis and other blood-borne diseases among injecting and other drug users, under the supervision of the competent authorities or institutions;

2. *Endorses* the recommendations of the Global Task Team on Improving AIDS Coordination among Multilateral Institutions and International Donors, as well as related decisions of the Programme Coordinating Board of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS;

3. *Requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, in conformity with the *UNAIDS Technical Support Division of Labour* document,<sup>6</sup> to provide technical assistance, upon request and subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources, to Member States to develop comprehensive demand reduction strategies and measures, including HIV/AIDS prevention and care in the context of drug abuse, that are consistent with the international drug control treaties;

4. *Requests* the Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to report to it biennially, starting at its fifty-first session, on the implementation of the present resolution.

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<sup>6</sup> Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS, Geneva, August 2005.