



ISRAEL ANTI-DRUG AUTHORITY



CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

United Nations

Economic and Social Council

Commission on Narcotic Drugs

High-Level Segment

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Item 4: General debate of the high-level segment

Presented by

**Mr. Yair Geller
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Mr. Chairperson, honored delegates:

At the outset, please accept my congratulations upon your election as Chairperson of our Committee and allow me to convey our congratulations to the other members of the Commission.

Five years ago, we collectively adopted the Political Declaration and Plan of Action during the high level segment of the fifty second session of the CND, and today, we review our achievements so far.

National efforts are led and coordinated by the Israel Anti-Drug Authority, through a multi-disciplinary approach covering areas such as drug prevention, treatment and law enforcement. A national comprehensive, balanced demand and supply reduction approach is implemented and data collection and monitoring ensure evidence-based programs and policies.

The State of Israel implements a healthy life-skills approach to promote prevention among the youth, targeting the general and at risk populations, through a comprehensive program in the schools.

Research has shown the significance of parent involvement in the deterrence of substance use among the youth, so parents are an integral part of our prevention approach.

Interventions are implemented in the non-formal education system through community centers, sports activities and more, for the entire community. Due to the multi-cultural facet of our population, implementation at the local level must be adapted to suit the local and cultural characteristics of each group.

Mr. Chairperson,

The State of Israel's health centered approach to treatment offers a range of interventions developed to address the different needs of each individual, such as gender and cultural diversity, in order to ensure accessibility for all, with full respect



for the patient's human rights. Treatment is also offered in the prison systems. Harm reduction measures are employed to reduce adverse consequences of drug abuse. Unified standards of training for all those working in the field of drugs ensure qualified professional and skilled staff is involved prevention and treatment interventions.

The State of Israel recognizes the importance of sharing best practices and exchanging expertise with the international community. The State of Israel hosts a unique training course to professionals, from government and non-government organizations in developing countries, involved in all areas related to alcohol and drugs. Over the past three years the UNODC has been become a key partner in this project and we look forward to further establishing such platforms for cooperation.

Mr. Chairperson,

The synthetic drug market and its growing popularity particularly among the youth is of concern to the entire global community. Indeed, the Executive Director refers to this as one of the setback in achieving the goals of the Plan of Action.

We commend the UNODCs recently launched Early Warning Advisory to assist in the timely sharing of information on NPS, and we have kept the UNODC up to date with our recent legislative efforts in this respect.

Until August 2013, these substances were openly sold in over 3,500 convenience stores across the country. Today the situation has changed and we have managed to take control, thanks to the new legislation. The law grants law enforcement authorities powers to seize and destroy substances considered to be "dangerous substances", making it up to the possessor to prove that the substances is not a 'dangerous substance'. The key to this approach is the focus on the sellers and manufacturers rather than the users.



Public awareness efforts also focused on the dangers of new psychoactive drugs. We have seen a 70% decrease in the sales of these substances, particularly as sales are now perceived as a criminal activity

Today, there seems to be a shift towards cyber trafficking, and this seems to be the new challenge we must focus on.

Mr. Chairman,

The State of Israel works together with the international community to counter money laundering and promote judicial cooperation.

The Israeli money laundering prohibition law enables the confiscation of proceeds of crime, and in cases involving illicit drugs proceeds are deposited into a government fund which is re-allocated towards national drug prevention, treatment and law-enforcement activities.

Finally, the prominent debate on legalization of cannabis in the international arena is also concerning for the State of Israel. We must find together a way to cope with this trend while protecting our children.

On the other hand, we continue to support the regulated and controlled use of cannabis for medical purposes, for patients for whom such use brings alleviation from pain and suffering.

Our collective challenge is to promote the right message to the entire society.

Thank you.