

## Resolution 60/4

### **Preventing and responding to the adverse health consequences and risks associated with the use of new psychoactive substances**

*The Commission on Narcotic Drugs,*

*Concerned* that new psychoactive substances continue to have the potential to pose risks to public health and safety, and noting that evidence-based and timely information to assist in the identification of substances that pose a risk to public health and safety, and information on how to address that risk, is often lacking,

*Welcoming* the adoption of the outcome document of the thirtieth special session of the General Assembly, entitled “Our joint commitment to effectively addressing and countering the world drug problem”,<sup>1</sup> in which Member States resolved to strengthen national and international action to address the emerging challenge of new psychoactive substances, including their adverse health consequences,

*Recalling* its resolutions 55/1 of 16 March 2012, 56/4 of 15 March 2013, 57/9 of 21 March 2014, 58/11 of 17 March 2015 and 59/8 of 22 March 2016 on enhancing national and international action on new psychoactive substances, in particular relating to sharing information on supply reduction and demand reduction strategies and on emerging evidence about effective treatment models and by supporting the international drug scheduling system to meet the challenges posed by these substances, and noting that Member States and relevant international and regional organizations need to enhance law enforcement actions in addressing new psychoactive substances,

*Emphasizing* the need to promote technical and financial assistance to countries, in particular developing countries, in effectively addressing the emerging challenge of new psychoactive substances, including by providing support, training and relevant equipment for prevention and treatment,

*Welcoming* the third expert consultation on new psychoactive substances organized by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the World Health Organization, held on 3 and 4 May 2016, at which discussions were held on how the World Health Organization might enhance its surveillance of new psychoactive substances in order to strengthen the prioritization of substances reviewed for international control and to alert Member States swiftly to substances of concern,

*Welcoming also* the pilot exercise on the collection of toxicological data on new psychoactive substances conducted by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, in partnership with the International Association of Forensic Toxicologists, held in July and August 2016, during which it was explored how data on the adverse health consequences of the use of new psychoactive substances could be incorporated into the early warning advisory system of the Office in order to inform national and international policy responses,

*Welcoming further* the expert meeting on treating the adverse health consequences of the use of new psychoactive substances held on 20 and 21 September 2016 as part of phase II of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime Treatnet strategy and organized in consultation with the World Health Organization, which brought together clinicians with expertise in this

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<sup>1</sup> General Assembly resolution S-30/1, annex.

field to share experiences and best practice in implementing new psychoactive substance treatment programmes,

*Welcoming* the efforts of Member States to develop treatment guidelines which recognize that there can be similarities and differences in effective treatment responses to the acute and potentially chronic adverse health consequences associated with new psychoactive substances compared with those for other drugs,

*Recognizing* the need for further research into and development of scientific evidence-based responses to help those providing health-care and social services to prevent and address the adverse health consequences associated with new psychoactive substances,

*Recognizing also* that new psychoactive substances can pose challenges for relevant front-line workers, such as health-care and social service providers, law enforcement officers and prison staff, and that such workers may need support and training to prevent and deal effectively with the adverse health consequences and risks associated with such substances,

*Aware* of the global diversity of circumstances faced by Member States relating to the prevalence and use of new psychoactive substances contributing to differing levels and types of associated adverse health consequences and risks that have resulted in different challenges and a variety of legislative responses already taken by Member States,

*Concerned* about the dramatically rising number of new psychoactive substances, and mindful of the challenge that that poses to developing effective health responses and to the timeliness and rate of decision-making with respect to international scheduling and control of the most harmful, prevalent and persistent substances,

*Welcoming* the collaboration and the exchange of data on new psychoactive substances between the World Health Organization, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the International Narcotics Control Board and the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction,

1. *Encourages* Member States to consider developing prevention and treatment models as well as initiatives and measures aimed at minimizing the adverse public health and social consequences associated with the use of new psychoactive substances and to support health-care and social service providers and relevant front-line workers in preventing and dealing effectively with the adverse health consequences and risks associated with the use of such substances;

2. *Also encourages* Member States to develop and strengthen comprehensive and multidisciplinary responses to the adverse health consequences and risks of new psychoactive substances, involving all relevant sectors;

3. *Invites* Member States, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the World Health Organization and other relevant international and regional organizations to share experiences and best practices in preventing and addressing the adverse health consequences and risks associated with new psychoactive substances;

4. *Invites* Member States and relevant international and regional organizations, including the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction, to continue to share data on new psychoactive substances on a bilateral and multilateral basis, including, where appropriate, data on the pharmacological and toxicological effects of such substances on the human body;

5. *Also invites* Member States and relevant international and regional organizations to exchange information and experiences on trends in the use of new psychoactive substances and on mechanisms for rapidly collecting data on those issues which can be used to promote more timely public health responses, including targeted prevention interventions;

6. *Requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, with the support of Member States, the World Health Organization and other relevant international and regional organizations, to incorporate toxicological data, in order to provide information on the adverse health consequences of the use of new psychoactive substances, into the early warning advisory system of the Office, building on existing models of data collection in this area with a view to avoiding duplication of efforts;

7. *Invites* the World Health Organization, with the support of Member States, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and other relevant international and regional organizations, to enhance its surveillance of new psychoactive substances of concern, to regularly update its surveillance list and disseminate it to Member States and relevant international and regional organizations and to issue voluntary public health alerts where there is sufficient evidence that a substance poses a significant risk to public health and safety;

8. *Also invites* the World Health Organization to continue and accelerate its conducting of regular reviews on the most harmful, prevalent and persistent new psychoactive substances and to provide Member States with the opportunity to contribute to the process for prioritizing substances for review;

9. *Further invites* the World Health Organization, in collaboration with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and with the support of Member States and other relevant international and regional organizations, to develop and disseminate the guidance and technical tools necessary to assist health-care and social service providers and relevant front-line workers in preventing, identifying, diagnosing and responding to the adverse health consequences and risks associated with the use of new psychoactive substances;

10. *Invites* Member States to promote technical and financial assistance, especially to developing countries, upon request, in effectively addressing the challenge of new psychoactive substances, including by providing support, training and relevant equipment for prevention and treatment;

11. *Invites* Member States and other donors to provide extra-budgetary resources for these purposes, in accordance with the rules and procedures of the United Nations.