

## Resolution 60/7

### **Promoting scientific evidence-based community, family and school programmes and strategies for the purpose of preventing drug use among children and adolescents**

*The Commission on Narcotic Drugs,*

*Recognizing* that the world drug problem continues to constitute a serious threat to public health and safety and the well-being of humanity, in particular children and young people and their families and communities,

*Stressing* the importance of Member States taking into account their applicable human rights obligations, such as the obligations relating to the rights of children stemming from the provisions of the Convention on the Rights of the Child,<sup>1</sup> for its States parties, in the implementation of drug prevention programmes and policies,

*Recalling* the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem,<sup>2</sup> in which Member States reaffirmed their commitment to investing in and working with youth and to delivering prevention programmes in a range of settings, including in families, schools, workplaces, communities, the media, health and social services and prisons,

*Recalling also* 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>3</sup> in which Member States reiterated their commitment to promoting the health, welfare and well-being of all individuals, families, communities and society as a whole, and facilitating healthy lifestyles through effective, comprehensive, scientific evidence-based demand reduction initiatives at all levels,

*Bearing in mind* the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,<sup>4</sup> target 3.5 of which is the strengthening of the prevention and treatment of substance abuse, including narcotic drug abuse and harmful use of alcohol,

*Emphasizing* the importance of implementing the *International Standards on Drug Use Prevention*, which constitute a relevant tool by summarizing the currently available scientific evidence and describing interventions and policies and their characteristics that have been found to result in positive prevention outcomes,

*Emphasizing also* the need for effective and practical primary prevention measures that protect people, in particular children and young people, from drug use initiation by providing them with accurate information about the risks of drug abuse, by promoting skills and opportunities to choose healthy lifestyles and develop supportive parenting and healthy social environments and by ensuring equal access to education and vocational training,

*Stressing* the need to take effective and practical measures to prevent progression to severe drug use disorders through appropriately targeted early interventions for people at risk of such progression,

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<sup>1</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1577, No. 27531.

<sup>2</sup> See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2009, Supplement No. 8 (E/2009/28)*, chap. I, sect. C.

<sup>3</sup> General Assembly resolution S-30/1, annex.

<sup>4</sup> General Assembly resolution 70/1.

*Acknowledging* that prevention is one of the main health responses to the world drug problem, and that effective prevention interventions, policies and systems should be developed and implemented in an integrated manner, with an interdisciplinary approach within Governments and international organizations,

*Noting* that the terms “risk factor” and “protective factor”, according to the International Narcotics Control Board in its annual report for 2009,<sup>5</sup> refer to “those attributes or conditions that serve to either increase or decrease the likelihood of drug use”,

*Recognizing* that communities, families and schools share responsibility for the education and welfare of children and adolescents, including in relation to drug use prevention,

*Underlining* the importance of increasing the availability, coverage and quality of scientific evidence-based prevention measures and tools that target relevant age and risk groups in multiple settings, reaching young people in school as well as out of school, among others, through drug abuse prevention programmes, including by using the Internet, social media and other online platforms, developing and implementing prevention curricula and early intervention programmes for use in the education system at all levels, as well as in vocational training, including in the workplace, and enhancing the capacity of teachers and other relevant professionals to provide or recommend counselling, prevention and care services,

*Acknowledging* the need to involve, inter alia, parents, care service providers, teachers, peer groups, health professionals, religious communities, community leaders, social workers, sports associations, media professionals and entertainment industries, as appropriate, in the implementation of prevention programmes,

*Acknowledging also* that the purpose of community, family and school drug prevention programmes is to equip children and adolescents with information about drugs, the life skills and resilience necessary to enable them to deal with different situations without turning to drugs and the ability to resist pressure to use drugs,

*Noting* that, according to the International Narcotics Control Board in its annual report for 2009,<sup>40</sup> family skills training programmes are among the most effective drug use prevention options,

*Bearing in mind* that community, family and school drug prevention programmes and strategies overwhelmingly cover universal or primary prevention, which is appropriate for the population at large, and selective or secondary prevention, which is for groups that are particularly at risk, while indicated or tertiary prevention, which is for individuals who are particularly at risk or who have started to use drugs and are at particular risk of progressing to disorders, is addressed by the health and social sector,

*Acknowledging* that comprehensive and multi-component approaches that combine community, family and school drug prevention programmes and strategies are more effective overall, as they simultaneously address more risk and protective factors,

*Underlining* the importance of further research into community, family and school drug prevention programmes and strategies addressing the needs of children and adolescents, including into how such programmes and strategies should be designed to meet the specific needs and circumstances of girls and boys and how they can contribute to preventing the use of new

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<sup>5</sup> E/INCB/2009/1.

psychoactive substances by young people, so as to produce a scientific evidence base,

*Recognizing* the need to evaluate community, family and school drug prevention programmes and strategies addressing the needs of children and adolescents also from a gender perspective by collecting and sharing quantitative and qualitative data disaggregated by age and sex,

1. *Calls upon* Member States, in accordance with national and domestic legislation, to develop, implement, monitor and evaluate scientific evidence-based community, family and school age- and gender-sensitive drug prevention programmes and strategies addressing the needs of children and adolescents;

2. *Encourages* Member States to use the *International Standards on Drug Use Prevention* in the development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of community, family and school drug prevention programmes and strategies addressing the needs of children and adolescents;

3. *Also encourages* Member States to use, inter alia, the *Guide to Implementing Family Skills Training Programmes for Drug Abuse Prevention*,<sup>6</sup> *Schools: School-Based Education for Drug Abuse Prevention*,<sup>7</sup> *Monitoring and Evaluating: Youth Substance Abuse Prevention Programmes*<sup>8</sup> and *Preventing Child Maltreatment: a Guide to Taking Action and Generating Evidence*<sup>9</sup> for the purposes noted above;

4. *Invites* Member States to involve, as appropriate, children and adolescents in the development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of community, family and school drug prevention programmes and strategies;

5. *Also invites* Member States to exchange good practices related to the development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of community, family and school drug prevention programmes and strategies targeting children and adolescents;

6. *Requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to support research into community, family and school drug prevention programmes and strategies targeting children and adolescents, especially in low- and middle-income countries, including the potential for such programmes and strategies to be replicated and scaled, while maintaining their integrity;

7. *Also requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to provide technical assistance to Member States, in particular developing countries, upon request, for the development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of community, family and school drug prevention programmes and strategies;

8. *Encourages* Member States to consider providing technical assistance, upon request, for these purposes through bilateral and multilateral channels;

9. *Requests* the Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to submit a report to the Commission on Narcotic Drugs at its sixty-second session on the implementation of the present resolution;

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<sup>6</sup> United Nations publication, Sales No. E.09.XI.8.

<sup>7</sup> United Nations publication, Sales No. E.04.XI.21.

<sup>8</sup> United Nations publication, Sales No. E.06.XI.7.

<sup>9</sup> World Health Organization, Geneva, 2006.

10. *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.