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## **Commission on Narcotic Drugs**

### **Sixty-second session**

Vienna, 14–22 March 2019

Items 10 and 11 of the provisional agenda\*

### **Implementation of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem**

**Follow-up to the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem held in 2016, including the seven thematic areas of the outcome document of the special session**

## **Conference room paper submitted by the Islamic Republic of Pakistan\*\***

The attached document entitled: High-Level Expert Group Meeting on “Preventing Drug Abuse in Educational Settings: Fostering Regional Cooperation and Partnership, Islamabad, Islamic Republic of Pakistan, 11–12 February 2019, has been submitted by the Islamic Republic of Pakistan for consideration by the Commission under agenda items 10 and 11 at its sixty-second session.

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\* [E/CN.7/2019/1](#).

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## **High-Level Expert Group Meeting on “Preventing Drug Abuse in Educational Settings: Fostering Regional Cooperation and Partnership”**

**Islamabad, Islamic Republic of Pakistan, 11–12 February 2019**

### **Chair’s Summary**

To contribute towards the implementation of the resolution 61/2 of the United Nations Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND), adopted during its sixty-first session in March 2018 in Vienna, a high-level expert group meeting on “Preventing Drug Abuse In Education Settings: Fostering Regional Cooperation And Partnership” was organized jointly by the Government of Pakistan and UNODC Regional Programme for Afghanistan and its Neighbouring Countries, in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Pakistan, Islamabad, from 11–12 February 2019.

Below is the Chair’s summary of the main points based on the discussion held and recommendations made by the experts and practitioners participating in the above high-level expert meeting:

- There is an urgent need to scale up efforts to prevent drug abuse in education settings, through comprehensive, multidisciplinary and evidence-based approaches, including by taking into appropriate consideration the UNODC-WHO International Standards on Drug Use Prevention and Best Practices.
- Further efforts are needed to develop, as appropriate, national school education curricula, including drug abuse prevention messages tailored to the needs of the regional countries.
- UNODC, through its Regional Programme for Afghanistan and Neighbouring Countries, should continue to support capacity building of the Regional Programme countries in the area of drug abuse prevention in educational settings and should make this workshop an annual event to allow countries of the Regional Programme to promote cooperation, including sharing of good practices, in this thematic area.
- Enhance efforts to promote opportunities for healthy lifestyles for youth.
- More attention needs to be paid to the sustainability of UNODC’s relevant prevention programmes. It was noted that the Family and School Together (FAST) programme and the Strengthening Families Programme (SFP 10-14) that have been implemented across the region were highly effective, but they were comparatively expensive with limited coverage. Efforts are needed to reduce costs and expand coverage and it was noted that a key way to do this would be to place a greater emphasis on Training of Trainers (ToT). The importance of regularly assessing the impact of prevention programmes was underscored.
- Engage youth, including through social media, to promote drug abuse prevention campaigns. Promote the involvement of students in initiatives aimed at preventing drug abuse in educational settings. Explore opportunities to promote students exchange programmes among the Regional Programme countries.
- There is a need for strengthening data collection, research and analysis in the region, including data disaggregated by gender, to provide further evidence to underpin national and regional efforts in the area of drug abuse prevention in educational settings.
- Promote coordinated efforts among ministries of education, health and interior/narcotics control to effectively address and counter drug abuse in educational settings.

- There was a suggestion for countries to consider the establishment of a Centre of Excellence for evidence-based drug abuse prevention, which would also allow for strengthening of joint research activities between countries also in the area of drug abuse prevention in educational settings.
- Strengthen national legislation and policies, and enhance penalties for criminals targeting educational settings for drug sales and other criminal activities. Effective law enforcement should also be part of national efforts to address drug abuse in educational settings.
- UNODC, as part of the Regional Programme, should develop a compendium of good practices of the regional countries, including in relation to prevention curricula, in the area of drug abuse prevention in educational settings.
- Partnership and cooperation among multiple stakeholders should be the central plank of national, regional and global efforts to prevent drug abuse among children and youth in different educational settings. Also enhance cooperation with civil society in the area of drug abuse prevention in educational settings.
- The Regional Programme countries should continue to exchange and benefit from each other's experiences and good practices.
- Particular attention should be given to capacity-building of officials from education, health, social welfare and law enforcement sectors, so that they are well equipped to safeguard our children and youth from the menace of drug abuse, including in educational settings.

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