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## Commission on Narcotic Drugs

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Item 5 of the provisional agenda\*

**Implementation of the international drug control treaties**

### **Statement submitted by Turkish Green Crescent Society, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council\*\***

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 36 and 37 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

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\* [E/CN.7/2022/1](#).

\*\* Issued without formal editing.



## Statement

Dear Excellencies, distinguished delegates, and colleagues,

As Turkish Green Crescent Society (TGCS), our priority area of work is to struggle against addictions such as tobacco, alcohol, and drug addictions that devastate the physical and mental health of the youth and the public in general. We do this by conducting preventive as well as rehabilitative public health work and advocacy based on scientific evidence with a global vision.

On this subject, we are well aware that illicit drugs continue to pose important obstacles to achieving the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda. Additionally, it is a concerning fact that the social impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic are long-lasting, and that they affect each and every individual and community. On top of that, since the COVID-19 pandemic has created additional economic hardships and worsened mental health conditions for many, it put many people at risk of activities related to illicit drugs; be it the use or trafficking. Therefore, we are observing an alarming trend of rising drug trafficking and use globally. Besides, as the world population is growing and the youth is becoming a big part of our future, we need to do our best to promote their health and well-being, and to discuss all potential or emerging threats of drug use in international decision-making bodies, keeping all vulnerable populations' best interest in mind which surely involve ensuring their access to treatment services without disruptions or stigma.

The international drug control treaties and all the organizations working on the scheduling; which are the CND, INCB, and WHO, are reflecting the scientific knowledge together with the evidence based approach. However, some areas such as the rise of methamphetamine use and New Psychoactive Substances (NPSs) remain to be challenged when it comes to scheduling.

These two subjects are particularly concerning as they are often manufactured in clandestine laboratories and trafficked through various routes that are hard to detect in real-time. Methamphetamine in particular is also sometimes used in conjunction with opioids such as heroin or in forms that are adulterated with fentanyl. NPSs are also known to be used in polydrug use form. Therefore, they can be deadly in such challenging times when the world needs to ensure their scientific and medical use perhaps the most, that is if any. All of these complex dynamics signify that joint coordinated efforts of not only member States but all stakeholders including international organizations are needed. The cross-border collaboration of States coupled with a speedy stream of information from transnational organizations involving multinational companies is essential to address and counter the world drug problem, as is indicated in the Ministerial Declaration of 2019.

In short, ensuring cooperation and coordination of efforts with a holistic point of view is needed. It is therefore essential to make sure civil society is meaningfully involved in the process, as well. Civil society organizations such as TGCS have extensive knowledge and experience in the emerging threats, their effects on society, and the overall steps to be taken to assure public health is preserved and promoted, especially among the children and youth.

Turkish Green Crescent Society, through its work based on prevention and treatment-rehabilitation, is working to make sure that future generations' lives are as healthy and happy as possible. To this end, we are more than ready to provide more input to the United Nations Common System in terms of the needs of treatment directly from the field and to collaborate to ensure free counselling involving treatment-rehabilitation is widely available and accessible to everyone.

Thank you.

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