



# Economic and Social Council

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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 Pertubuhan Bulan Sabit Hijau Malaysia (Green Crescent), 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, ladies and gentlemen,

This statement is made on behalf of the **Pertubuhan Bulan Sabit Hijau Malaysia**, a non-governmental organization based in Malaysia, working on **prevention and early prevention activities**, conducting preventive public health work and **advocacy** based on **scientific evidence** with a global vision.

First of all, we would like to thank UNODC for allowing us to share our opinions, expertise, and knowledge on the recent drug problem with member States, international organizations, and other non-governmental organizations on this platform.

In our region, drug use has increased considerably, and the prevalence of **drug use among youth rising** tremendously in comparison to other age groups. This rise poses a particular threat to society, as the younger generation is an inevitable part of the healthier generation goal. **Accessibility to drugs** has become a more challenging phenomenon than ever before due to **digitalization** on the drug market in accordance with the pandemic. Every individual has been more exposed to the drug market and drug use. Thus, everyone has become a **potential consumer** of the drug market. Therefore, we need to give a special focus on prevention activities and raise awareness in society about the harms of drugs.

In addition to that, we are seeking to raise awareness to avoid or – at least – **reduce the stigmatization** that people who use drugs faced on the national level, as well as to share the difficulties and the ways to overcome them with other NGOs and international platforms.

As Pertubuhan Bulan Sabit Hijau Malaysia, we believe that the **reintegration of people with addictions into society** is very crucial both for individuals and for society as a whole. Furthermore, we would like to point out **that women who use drugs face intense discrimination**, and seem “invisible” when it comes to treatment services. Women who use drugs face more discrimination from society than men, always become the “**second on the needle**”, and are more likely to be subjected to “**gender-based violence**” from their intimate partners.

Thus, we advocate that special focus should be given to women in treatment services to overcome the current vulnerabilities that women need to encounter. However, the capacity of treatment services is one of the major issues that blocks the way to reintegrate people with addictions into society and should be increased in Malaysia to be able to reach out to more people in need. We believe that increasing the access to **online treatment services** which are **tailor-made** and **gender-sensitive** is the solution.

We acknowledge and appreciate the efforts of UNODC and other non-governmental organizations in the region. Finally, we would like to call UNODC, member States, and other non-governmental organizations to cooperate with us, Pertubuhan Bulan Sabit Hijau Malaysia, **on a new initiative that focuses on the needs of gender-equal treatment services in South-East Asia.**

Thank you for your attention.

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