



# 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 Tanzania Green Crescent Community (TGCC), 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,

As **Tanzania Green Crescent Community**, our priority area is to improve the healthy living standards of our society and **build healthier generations** both physically and mentally.

Firstly, we would like to thank UNODC for allowing us to share our knowledge on drug use features during the Covid-19 pandemic here on this platform of the 65<sup>th</sup> Commission on Narcotic Drugs.

In almost every country around the world, **drug use is increasing**, and this trend causes a threat, especially after the Covid-19 pandemic, as health services have been disrupted by the pandemic. The primary health threats have left **drug users more vulnerable**. East Africa is one of the regions that is considered to have a possible increase in drug use. According to the ENACT Report, among African regions, **East Africa is expected to experience the largest growth** in the proportion of its population **consuming illicit drugs** between 2018 and 2050. The dramatic increase in drug use projected in East Africa is attributed to the rapidly urbanizing, large youth bulge that it holds, and the increased trafficking on the continent. In context of Tanzania, the lack of job is a major problem that made the youth to be engaged in using the substance abuse as the youth stayed in the streets, they become bored and therefore forced to use the substances.

We acknowledge that drivers of drug demand might have different characteristics in every country, and region. However, the same constraints and challenges or traditions might lead to familiar results in drug use features. The similarities can be defined under demographic, economic, and cultural factors. In Tanzania, the youth has a bigger percentage of the population. If the **prevention activities** would not hold effectively, this demographic could be quite concerning because of the fact that young populations are more likely to use drugs. Therefore, we, as Tanzania Green Crescent Community agree that prevention is the most **cost-effective solution**, and put prevention and **early prevention activities** at the core of our works.

One of the common characteristics in East Africa's drug use is the people's **preference for cheap drugs** such as **tramadol or fentanyl**, due to the economic conditions of individuals. However, tramadol is relatively more costly than heroin if used frequently, and it is still a **more accessible** opioid than most "traditional drugs".

In addition to that, the ENACT Report foresees a boost in East Africa's economy which would probably increase the prices for "**fashionable drugs**", and the additional costs and risks might lead traffickers to use the region as a market and not only the transit point. As Tanzania Green Crescent Community, we are concerned about the possible threats that may arise from **our region becoming a "new market"**. Therefore, we are working on our activities to protect our society from any harm, and raise awareness about the harms of drugs.

We call UNODC, member states, and non-governmental organizations to increase their efforts in the East Africa Region to **find a sustainable solution to leave no one behind**.

Thank you.

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