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**Follow-up to the implementation at the national,
regional and international levels of all
commitments, as reflected in the Ministerial
Declaration of 2019, to address and counter the
world drug problem**

Statement submitted by Proyecto Hombre Association, 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.

* [E/CN.7/2025/1](#).

** Issued without formal editing.



Joining Forces for Drafting the Agenda on Science-Based Drug Prevention

Drug use continues to pose tremendous challenges to populations worldwide. In just one decade, it has grown by 23%.¹ Furthermore, science is increasingly proving that a significant portion of drug-related problems is preventable.

Countries are more empowered and engaged by existing political commitments such as the 2016 UNGASS Outcome Document² and the 2019 Ministerial Declaration³ that reflect the value of evidence-based prevention and mention the UNODC/WHO International Standards on Drug Use Prevention.⁴ They are encouraged by previous resolutions adopted at the United Nations Commission on Narcotic Drugs such as the 2022 65/4 resolution “Promoting Comprehensive and Scientific Evidence-based Early Prevention”⁵ and Article 33 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child which states that all children have the right to be protected from drug use.⁶ And now, countries are further oriented by the Global Initiative on Drug Use Prevention and the guiding proposals of the “The Declaration of Oviedo,”⁷ an unprecedented call from civil society, academia and governments to incorporate science-based prevention in drug policy. The Oviedo Initiative already counts on the support of 2,800 organisations in 165 countries.

We call on countries to allocate at least 25% of their drug demand reduction budget to prevention by 2030, emphasizing strategies that target all ages and prioritize early intervention; advocate for robust research and evaluation to eliminate ineffective or counterproductive practices while broadening prevention efforts to focus on individuals and communities rather than just drugs; mainstream intersectional approaches to support at-risk populations and multistakeholder systems; enhance universal coverage through a continuum of care as a human right, with a special focus on low- and middle-income countries; and empower current and future prevention professionals while tracking policy status and impact through accountable monitoring.

Since January 2024, the Oviedo Initiative achieved a remarkable global reach, attributed to the political neutrality of the declaration, our 170 focal points who sustainably continue to advocate and campaign at local and national levels, and a committed task force coordinating the initiative globally and regionally. Furthermore, the initiative ensures an inclusive, no-harm approach across all regions through accessibility and transparency promoting multistakeholder and multilateral engagement and collaboration. The proposals of The Declaration of Oviedo have been elaborated concisely and clearly for relevant stakeholders and translated into over 45 languages. This voluntary mobilization was planned with hundreds of action-oriented activities, including meetings, workshops, hearings, and consultations, bridging the global with the local, while constantly evolving and adjusting based on feedback, regional and cultural diversity, and newly emerging challenges.

Drug policies should be complemented by improved public health, education, justice, governmental, private, and social services at individual, community, institutional, and societal levels. Initiatives and programmes must be tailored to the specific intersectional identities and needs of each community and person. Additionally, these strategies should create cycles and systems of support in local communities, schools, and families while intertwining prevention with health promotion, early intervention, harm reduction, addiction treatment, recovery, and social integration. By strengthening these integrated systems, we must recognize that none of these activities work in isolation but are interconnected, and each plays a pivotal role in improving the health, well-being, lives and future prospects of people while protecting and upholding their rights.

To conclude, it is crucial, now more than ever, for member states, civil society organizations, and international organizations to come together with the goal of drafting a holistic agenda on science-based prevention. We call on member states to commit to policy-level changes to ensure that evidence-based prevention is

incorporated into drug and wider policies. Together, it is our collective responsibility to ensure that no country, no community, no family, no person, and no child is left behind.

Member organizations of the Oviedo Initiative Task Force:

World Federation Against Drugs

World Federation of Therapeutic Communities

Latin American Federation of Therapeutic Communities

Association of Rehabilitation of Drug Abusers of Macau

SEIRIOS Prevention Centers Greece

African Youths Initiative on Crime Prevention Nigeria

Uganda Youth Development Link

CDLL Lebanon

Association Proyecto Hombre

¹ www.unodc.org/res/WDR-2023/WDR23_Exsum_fin_SP.pdf.

² www.unodc.org/documents/postungass2016/outcome/V1603301-E.pdf.

³ www.unodc.org/documents/hlr/19-06699_E_ebook.pdf.

⁴ www.unodc.org/documents/prevention/UNODC-WHO_2018_prevention_standards_E.pdf.

⁵ www.unodc.org/documents/commissions/CND/CND_Sessions/CND_66/ECN72023_CRP8_2303657E.pdf.

⁶ www.ohchr.org/en/instruments-mechanisms/instruments/convention-rights-child

⁷ www.oviedodeclaration.org/.