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Commission on Narcotic Drugs**Sixty-eighth session**

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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 the Sudanese Green Crescent
Society (SGCS), 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.



Madam Chair, Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates,

The global displacement crisis has reached unprecedented levels, with the current United Nations estimate indicating that there are about 281 million international migrants worldwide, accounting for 3.6 per cent of the global population. Political instability, armed conflict, and economic hardship continue to drive mass migration, exposing affected populations to extreme vulnerabilities, including increased risks of substance use and addiction.

While migration itself is not a direct cause of drug use, the trauma of displacement, social fragmentation, and lack of access to healthcare significantly elevate the risk of substance use as a coping mechanism.

In crisis-affected regions, weakened healthcare systems and disrupted social structures leave displaced individuals with minimal access to mental health support and addiction recovery services. Without targeted interventions, displaced youth remain especially vulnerable to substance use due to psychological distress, PTSD, and social isolation.

Sudan's ongoing crisis, which escalated in 2023, has displaced 11 million people, worsening migration struggles and deepening vulnerabilities. In response, the Sudanese Green Crescent Society actively works to prevent substance use among internally displaced persons (IDPs), focusing on drug and tobacco prevention.

Despite very limited funding, the organization conducts 20 education and awareness programs annually in Gazera, Sudan, offering field-based guidance in crisis-affected areas to help IDPs avoid substance use and tobacco during health emergencies.

Recognizing the urgent need for evidence-based prevention strategies, we support the Declaration of Oviedo, which highlights the importance of scientific and early prevention efforts in drug policy. The declaration emphasizes trauma-informed, community-based approaches and urges an increased focus on prevention within drug demand reduction strategies. This aligns with our belief that effective drug policies must address underlying vulnerabilities—especially among displaced populations—by strengthening protective factors and promoting resilience at all levels of society.

To build resilient and inclusive policies, we urge the international community to:

- **Integrate Trauma-Informed Care** – Address mental health as a core component of humanitarian assistance by ensuring the inclusion of substance use treatment and psychosocial support in crisis response frameworks.
- **Ensure Equitable Access to Health Services** – Strengthen healthcare systems in crisis-affected regions, guaranteeing that displaced populations receive non-discriminatory and continuous care, including **substance** use treatment.
- **Promote Preventive Strategies and Community-Based Interventions** – Expand harm reduction, early **intervention**, and youth-targeted initiatives within refugee and displacement settings to prevent the escalation of substance use.
- **Enhance Multilateral Cooperation** – Foster collaboration among UN agencies, governments, and civil society organizations to develop long-term, research-driven solutions tailored to the specific needs of displaced populations affected by substance use.

A comprehensive, health-centred approach to drug policy in crisis-affected regions is not just an option—it is a necessity. Ensuring that forcibly displaced individuals have access to mental health and substance use treatment is essential for upholding human dignity, fostering resilience, and promoting sustainable recovery.

By applying evidence-based prevention principles, as outlined in the Declaration of Oviedo, the global community can strengthen prevention, improve access to care, and develop inclusive policies that protect those most at risk. We call upon the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and all stakeholders to prioritize policies that address

the intersection of displacement, trauma, and substance use, ensuring a future where every individual – regardless of their circumstances – can live with dignity, health, and hope.

Thank you.
