

**Economic and Social Council**Distr.: General
28 February 2025

English only

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

Vienna, 10–14 March 2025

Item 5 of the provisional agenda*

Implementation of the international drug control treaties**Statement submitted by Turkish Green Crescent Society (Yesilay), 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.



Dear Excellencies, distinguished delegates, and esteemed colleagues,

As the Turkish Green Crescent Society – a non-governmental organization based in Türkiye – we are honoured to contribute to the 68th Session of the Commission of Narcotic Drugs. In line with **Agenda Item 5**, which calls for an integrated and public health-oriented approach to addressing substance use, we offer perspectives shaped by a century of experience in public health and community well-being.

Over the years, the diversity of substances in global drug markets has expanded significantly beyond conventional drugs such as heroin, cannabis, and cocaine. In recent years, synthetic drugs – particularly methamphetamine and fentanyl – have gained prominence. Moreover, the rapid proliferation of New Psychoactive Substances (NPS) has further complicated the landscape by introducing unpredictable chemical compositions and heightened public health risks. This expanding array of substances reflects the flexibility of drug production and trafficking networks, which continuously adapt to shifting consumer demands and evolving legal frameworks. Such adaptability not only complicates detection and control but also challenges existing legal instruments, as many new synthetic compounds and NPS fall outside traditional scheduling measures.

The strain imposed by this evolving landscape on healthcare systems has intensified the need for comprehensive treatment and rehabilitation services. The rising availability and consumption of synthetic drugs, along with the unpredictable effects of NPS, have led to more severe health complications, including higher rates of overdose and substance use disorders. It is therefore urgent to expand access to evidence-based treatment programs that address both the psychological and physical dimensions of substance use. Recovery extends beyond clinical treatment; effective rehabilitation must include psychological support, vocational training, and social reintegration efforts to prevent relapse and promote long-term recovery. Yet, prevention remains the most cost-effective strategy for safeguarding future generations.

Türkiye is currently grappling with emerging trends in drug trafficking and smuggling. In response, the Turkish Green Crescent Society plays an essential role in the nation's efforts to prevent and treat substance use disorders. Through nationwide initiatives, we employ research-proven strategies to reduce substance use risks and provide effective assistance to those in need. Our prevention initiatives focus on advocacy, education, and awareness-raising activities targeting youth, families, and communities. Additionally, our treatment and recovery services are delivered through the Green Crescent Counseling Centers (YEDAM), which offer free psychological and social support to individuals struggling with substance use disorders. YEDAM currently operates 107 centres across all 81 provinces in Türkiye and in Cyprus, and extends online services to Azerbaijan, Austria, and Germany – ensuring that those seeking treatment can access critical socio-psychological support, reintegrate into society, and sustain long-term recovery.

Bridging the gap between policy and practice requires the active engagement of civil society organizations. Peer support programs, community-driven treatment initiatives, and evidence-based counselling are among the strategies NGOs like ours employ to address critical gaps in substance use recovery efforts. By expanding access to localized rehabilitation centres, implementing culturally sensitive treatments, and ensuring long-term follow-up support, civil society can play a pivotal role in strengthening recovery systems.

We urge all States to prioritize prevention efforts in line with international drug control policies while addressing current challenges and evolving needs. National drug policies should incorporate comprehensive treatment and rehabilitation programs by allocating sufficient funding for addiction services and integrating a public health perspective into drug control strategies. Furthermore, international collaboration is essential to developing best practices and ensuring that no individual is left without access to care. Türkiye remains dedicated to promoting public health-focused policies, enhancing evidence-based treatment and rehabilitation approaches,

and ensuring that those struggling with substance use disorders receive the support they need to reclaim their lives.

Thank you.
