
Economic and Social Council

Distr.
GENERAL

892nd Meeting
20 February 1980

CND Res.3(S-VI). Indiscriminate prescribing of methadone, other narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances

The Commission on Narcotic Drugs,

Concerned about the widespread prescribing of some narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances and reports on indiscriminate prescribing of methadone for addicts,

Aware that this practice may lead to indiscriminate use and harmful effects,

Recognizing that all narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances should be used with caution and only in accordance with approved therapeutic indications,

Recalling that methadone is a morphine-type narcotic drug and consequently has to be used under well-defined strict conditions when it is prescribed for the management and treatment of addicts,

1. Recommends that Governments monitor continuously and closely the prescribing and use of all psychotropic substances and narcotic drugs in general and take appropriate measures for the prevention of the indiscriminate prescribing of methadone or other drugs for addicts;
2. Further recommends that Governments obtain valid and reliable information from the World Health Organization and other knowledgeable sources on the appropriate prescribing and use of psychotropic substances and narcotic drugs, including the hazards connected with the indiscriminate prescribing of methadone for the treatment of opiate addiction.

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