

Resolution 53/1

Promoting community-based drug use prevention

The Commission on Narcotic Drugs,

Recalling the Political Declaration adopted by the General Assembly at its twentieth special session, in which Member States recognized that action against the world drug problem was a common and shared responsibility requiring an integrated and balanced approach,¹ through which supply control and demand reduction reinforced each other, as enshrined in the Declaration on the Guiding Principles of Drug Demand Reduction² and the measures to enhance international cooperation to counter the world drug problem,³

Recalling also Economic and Social Council resolution 689 J (XXVI) of 28 July 1958,

Recalling further its resolution 46/1, in which it reaffirmed that the illicit use of drugs could be prevented and in which it urged States parties to the international drug control treaties to take all measures to safeguard the integrity of the treaties,

Recalling its resolutions 1 (XXVII), 42/6, 43/4, 44/5 and 48/4,

Recognizing that the term “drug use” is defined by the International Narcotics Control Board in its annual report for 2009⁴ as the illicit use of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances covered by the international drug control conventions,

Recognizing also the importance of addressing drug use prevention by all Member States,

Recognizing further that preventing the initiation of drug use is a successful means of keeping people drug-free,

Recognizing that drug use prevention focuses on decreasing risk factors and increasing protective factors, and that drug use prevention interventions include a wide spectrum of efforts in different domains involving individuals, peers, youth, families, schools, law enforcement and criminal justice entities, communities and society at large,

Recalling its resolution 51/3, in which it acknowledged that drug use was a public health issue and that early detection and brief intervention and, when appropriate, linking people to treatment required a public health approach that must be addressed within health- and social-care settings between providers and patients,

Recognizing that drug use prevention efforts are a cost-effective way to reduce the demand for drugs and are most successful when fully coordinated through a multisectoral approach in which multiple government agencies and non-governmental organizations within communities participate and are sufficiently funded,

¹ General Assembly resolution S-20/2, annex, para. 2.

² General Assembly resolution S-20/3, annex, paras. 4 and 8.

³ General Assembly resolutions S-20/4 A to E.

⁴ *Report of the International Narcotics Control Board for 2009* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.10.XI.1).

Recognizing also that locally developed drug use prevention efforts that involve multiple sectors of the community can contribute to building comprehensive and effective drug use prevention coalitions to address community problems, mobilize coalitions of youth, parents, educational and law enforcement institutions, businesses, the media, health-care providers and religious and fraternal organizations working in conjunction with government entities,

Acknowledging that drug use prevention should be a component of other multisectoral community-based efforts, such as those aimed at preventing violence and eliminating poverty, among other efforts,

Recognizing that family-based drug treatment and prevention programmes that improve parenting skills, keep families together and support the stability and well-being of families can interrupt intergenerational cycles of addiction, violence and poverty,

Recognizing also that community-based prevention efforts can reduce the use of and dependence on drugs,

Noting that media campaigns against drug use, when effectively tailored to local circumstances and communicated through publications, television shows, Internet sites and other forums used by youth and the general public, can reinforce and supplement policies and programmes for preventing drug use and raise public awareness,

Recognizing that all types of drug use prevention programmes, including those in the community, school and media, are most effective when tailored to local circumstances and culturally adapted, as appropriate,

Welcoming the activities of those Member States that have established drug-free community-based coalitions,

1. *Urges* Member States to continue their efforts to prevent drug use and to develop national policies, laws and practices that can be incorporated into national and community-based drug use prevention programmes;

2. *Also urges* Member States to consider implementing a national coordinated response for drug use prevention that includes mobilizing multiple relevant sectors of civil society, in conjunction with government entities including law enforcement and criminal justice agencies, as well as social, health and welfare agencies, working together to learn about, participate in and support effective drug use prevention programmes;

3. *Further urges* Member States to fund community-based drug use prevention efforts that include training and the implementation of reliable evidence-based strategies, where the national situation so requires;

4. *Urges* Member States to develop, fund and implement media campaigns against drugs, as well as family-based drug use prevention programmes that are appropriate to the needs of their populations, where the national situation so requires;

5. *Requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to include, as appropriate, community-based drug use prevention modules in its relevant technical assistance and training programmes.

*10th Plenary Meeting
12 March 2010*