

Resolution 53/10

Measures to protect children and young people from drug abuse

The Commission on Narcotic Drugs,

Bearing in mind the Convention on the Rights of the Child,¹ which provides in its article 33 that States parties should take all appropriate measures, including legislative, administrative, social and educational measures, to protect children against the illicit use of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances as defined in the relevant international treaties, and to prevent the use of children in the illicit production of and trafficking in such substances,

Taking into account the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem, adopted by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs at its fifty-second session,² in particular the sections addressing the prevention of drug abuse among children and young people,

Bearing in mind that children and young people are the most valuable asset for achieving development and that Governments are obliged to protect them,

Noting with grave concern the decrease in the age of young people starting to use drugs, especially in areas in which the production of illicit drugs is a permanent threat,

Underlining the need to prevent and counter drug abuse among children because of its effects on their physical, mental, spiritual, moral and social development, which undermine the progress of society,

Aware of the need for Governments, in coordination with other sectors of society, to strengthen policies and mechanisms aimed at preventing illicit drug use among young people, especially those of school age,

Recognizing that collaboration among Governments, international organizations and all sectors of society is necessary for the implementation of plans and initiatives to counter drug abuse among children and the use of minors in illicit drug production and trafficking,

Taking into account the report of the International Narcotics Control Board for 2009,³ which emphasizes primary prevention,

Taking note with appreciation of the subregional study on drug use in the school-age population in Argentina, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Chile, Ecuador, Peru and Uruguay,

¹ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1577, No. 27531.

² A/64/92-E/2009/98, sect. II.A.

³ *Report of the International Narcotics Control Board for 2009* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.10.XI.1).

Noting with appreciation the current global initiatives on the prevention of drug abuse, HIV/AIDS and crime among young people through family skills training programmes in low- and middle-income countries undertaken by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime,

1. *Invites* States that have not yet done so to develop, implement and evaluate, in accordance with their national legislation, adequate evidence-based plans and strategies aimed at reinforcing the prevention of drug abuse at all levels of school education, focusing in particular on students who present a high risk of consumption or who have already started to abuse drugs, and to consider incorporating such initiatives into public-health and educational programmes;

2. *Encourages* States to promote, in coordination with local governments and other sectors of society, prevention programmes aimed at strengthening the role of families and family relations in order to prevent risky behaviours associated with drug consumption in children and young people, as well as to prevent the use of children and young people in the illicit production of and trafficking in drugs;

3. *Exhorts* all States to develop appropriate means of communicating and distributing information in the context of prevention programmes aimed at young people and designed to encourage effective alternatives to drug use and to promote healthy ways of life conducive to the enjoyment of free time without the use of drugs;

4. *Exhorts* States to design and conduct information campaigns in order to sensitize children and young people to all the consequences of the abuse of drugs, including psychoactive substances, as appropriate;

5. *Encourages* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, which already has a programme on the prevention of drug abuse, to continue to gather detailed information on successful experiences in programmes for preventing and reducing illicit drug use among children and young people, especially those of school age, and to provide States, upon request, with guidance and assistance in developing strategies and programmes to replicate those successful experiences;

6. *Requests* the Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to report to the Commission at its fifty-fourth session on the measures taken and on progress achieved in the implementation of the present resolution.

*10th Plenary Meeting
12 March 2010*