

## Resolution 53/13

### Use of “poppers” as an emerging trend in drug abuse in some regions

*The Commission on Narcotic Drugs,*

*Mindful* of the need to raise awareness of new patterns of potential abuse of drugs,

*Recalling* the strategy for the period 2008-2011 for the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime,<sup>1</sup> in which it is stated that scientific and forensic findings enrich policy and trend analysis by providing the basis for accurate information in specific areas,

*Recalling also* its resolution 48/1, on promoting the sharing of information on emerging trends in the abuse of and trafficking in substances not controlled under the international drug control conventions,

*Bearing in mind* the Action Plan for the Implementation of the Declaration on the Guiding Principles of Drug Demand Reduction,<sup>2</sup> in which States committed themselves to assess the causes and consequences of the misuse of all substances,

*Reaffirming* the commitment to ensure that drug demand reduction measures are based on drug use trends in the community and are revised periodically on the basis of new trends, feedback, and monitoring and evaluation processes, as stated in the Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem,<sup>3</sup>

*Reiterating* the fact that in recent years in several regions there has emerged a trend of abuse of a number of substances not under international control that may pose a threat to public health,

*Concerned* that those substances of abuse may be distributed by various means, including through the Internet,

*Noting* that, pursuant to article 39 of the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961,<sup>4</sup> article 23 of the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971<sup>5</sup> and article 24 of the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988,<sup>6</sup> the parties to those conventions are not precluded from adopting domestic measures of control that are stricter than those provided for in those conventions,

*Concerned* about the potential abuse of and emerging problems related to substances not under international control that have been reported by some countries,

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<sup>1</sup> Economic and Social Council resolution 2007/12, annex.

<sup>2</sup> General Assembly resolution 54/132, annex.

<sup>3</sup> A/64/92-E/2009/98, sect. II.A.

<sup>4</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 520, No. 7515.

<sup>5</sup> *Ibid.*, vol. 1019, No. 14956.

<sup>6</sup> *Ibid.*, vol. 1582, No. 27627.

*Recognizing* that “poppers” is a term used to describe mixtures containing various alkyl nitrites, such as amyl nitrite, that are abused by inhaling, and noting that those mixtures are not currently controlled under the international drug control conventions,

*Aware* of the documented adverse consequences of the use of “poppers” for human health, including blood disorders and other pathological conditions,

*Aware also* that some alkyl nitrites are present in products used for legitimate medical and non-medical purposes,

1. *Invites* Member States, as appropriate, to share available information on abuse of “poppers” with the International Narcotics Control Board and other interested parties;

2. *Also invites* Member States, where appropriate, to address the potential problem of the use of “poppers”, which affects some Member States, by adopting measures such as the enhancement of public awareness;

3. *Further invites* Member States to share information on best practices and lessons learned to counter this emerging trend.

*10<sup>th</sup> Plenary Meeting  
12 March 2010*