

Resolution 53/2

Preventing the use of illicit drugs within Member States and strengthening international cooperation on policies of drug abuse prevention

The Commission on Narcotic Drugs,

Recalling the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961,¹ that Convention as amended by the 1972 Protocol,² the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971,³ the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988,⁴ the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime⁵ and the United Nations Convention against Corruption,⁶

Recalling also the Political Declaration adopted by the General Assembly at its twentieth special session,⁷ the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem,⁸ adopted at the high-level segment of the fifty-second session of the Commission, and General Assembly resolution 64/182 of 18 December 2009,

Reaffirming its resolution 45/15, on reducing demand for illicit drugs, in which it recognized the need to maintain a balanced and integrated approach in addressing the demand for and supply of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances,

Reaffirming also its resolution 48/4, on promotion of policies for the prevention of illicit drug use, in which it expressed deep concern at the dangers of drug use, the effects of drug use on the freedom and development of youth and the negative health and social consequences of drug abuse,

Taking into account the report of the International Narcotics Control Board for 2009,⁹ in which the Board focused on preventing drug abuse,

Expressing its concern at the worrying volume of production and the scale of use of illicit drugs in most regions of the world,

Recognizing, however, that in some regions the level of use of illicit drugs is stable or even decreasing,

¹ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 520, No. 7515.

² *Ibid.*, vol. 976, No. 14152.

³ *Ibid.*, vol. 1019, No. 14956.

⁴ *Ibid.*, vol. 1582, No. 27627.

⁵ *Ibid.*, vol. 2225, No. 39574.

⁶ *Ibid.*, vol. 2349, No. 42146.

⁷ General Assembly resolution S-20/2, annex.

⁸ A/64/92-E/2009/98, sect. II.A.

⁹ *Report of the International Narcotics Control Board for 2009* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.10.XI.1).

Bearing in mind that investment in evidence-based drug abuse prevention will result in significant progress and that prevention measures need to respond to changing international trends in the use of drugs and attitudes towards that use,

1. *Urges* Member States to develop, with regard to their national situation, an updated policy for the prevention of use of illicit drugs, in particular among youth, on the basis of the best available national and international evidence and to ensure that new and innovative responses are evaluated, taking into account their national legislation;

2. *Reaffirms* its unwavering commitment to ensuring that all aspects of demand reduction, supply reduction and international cooperation are addressed in full conformity with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, international law and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,¹⁰ and, in particular, with full respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of States, the principle of non-intervention in the internal affairs of States, all human rights and fundamental freedoms, the inherent dignity of all individuals and the principles of equal rights and mutual respect among States;

3. *Urges* Member States to increase public awareness of drug-related risks, including the risks associated with illicit use of legally prescribed medications;

4. *Encourages* Member States to raise awareness of the importance of facilitating healthy lifestyle choices and to discourage unhealthy choices in different settings, such as, among others, within the family; in schools, universities and workplaces; in means of public transport; in venues of entertainment and leisure; and while driving;

5. *Also encourages* Member States to engage private sector entities with a strong influence on the behaviour and attitudes of youth, including the entertainment industry, civil society and other relevant actors, to promote healthy lifestyles;

6. *Encourages* relevant entities to raise public awareness and inspire debate in youth forums and the media on the risks and harms of illicit drugs and other substances of abuse;

7. *Encourages* Member States to conduct activities to prevent the use of illicit drugs, in conjunction with efforts to prevent the underage use of any substance with potential for abuse, in accordance with the Declaration on the Guiding Principles of Drug Demand Reduction;¹¹

8. *Urges* Member States to be aware that social exclusion contributes to drug abuse, poor health, possible negative behaviour and criminal activities and that it is important to attend to the basic well-being of individuals in need, respecting their human rights and dignity, in order to effectively reduce the use of illicit drugs;

¹⁰ General Assembly resolution 217 A (III).

¹¹ General Assembly resolution S-20/3, annex.

9. *Encourages* Member States to repeat universal prevention interventions during different stages of childhood and adolescence in order to reinforce the original goals and achieve significant and sustainable impact;

10. *Also encourages* Member States to make use of the potential of young people as active stakeholders and partners in developing and implementing drug abuse prevention interventions in order to increase the effectiveness and credibility of those interventions among target groups;

11. *Urges* Member States that have not yet done so to establish monitoring systems to identify, at an early stage, emerging trends in the use of drugs and to share information in broad cooperation with other Member States, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and all relevant stakeholders;

12. *Urges* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to gather national and international experiences and the best available information on evidence-based prevention activities and instruments for the early identification of young people vulnerable to the use of illicit drugs;

13. *Also urges* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to facilitate the sharing, among Member States, of best practices in the area of drug abuse prevention and provide expert advice to Member States in this area, upon request;

14. *Encourages* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, in its capacity-building role, to continue to establish and strengthen functional partnerships, including with civil society, the private sector, entities of the United Nations system, in particular the World Health Organization, and other regional and international organizations.

*10th Plenary Meeting
12 March 2010*