

Resolution 55/10

Promoting evidence-based drug prevention strategies and policies

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 session⁷ and the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem,⁸ adopted during the high-level segment of the fifty-second session of the Commission and by the General Assembly in its resolution 64/182 of 18 December 2009,

Recalling further its resolution 53/2 of 12 March 2010, entitled “Preventing the use of illicit drugs within Member States and strengthening international cooperation on policies of drug abuse prevention”,

Recognizing that the world drug problem continues to pose a serious threat to the health, safety and well-being of all humanity, in particular youth,

Taking into account that the demand for drugs has a direct impact on the supply of drugs,

Aware of the violence generated by the world drug problem at all levels of the chain of consumption,

Recognizing that drug addiction is a chronic but preventable and treatable multifactorial health disorder,

Noting that a considerable body of evidence developed through the science of prevention now exists,

Bearing in mind that, in order to reduce the adverse consequences of drug abuse, a comprehensive approach is crucial, which includes primary prevention, early intervention, treatment, care, rehabilitation, social reintegration and related support services,

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 See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2009, Supplement No. 8 (E/2009/28)*, chap. I, sect. C.

Noting that conditions such as depression and anxiety, if not responded to effectively, may lead to the use of illicit drugs and addiction,

Bearing in mind that prevention measures must have an evidence-based approach to enhance their results, in particular regarding populations at risk,

Bearing in mind also that prevention is a developmental process, with exposure to risk changing at each life stage of individuals, and that prevention strategies should be designed for the domains where individuals encounter risks as they grow older,

Recognizing that families, schools, workplaces and communities, inter alia, serve as opportune domains for preventing drug use problems,

Welcoming the ongoing work of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in developing international standards on drug use prevention,

1. *Urges* Member States to develop, promote and implement cost-effective policies and interventions to prevent the use of illicit drugs, with special emphasis on children, youth and populations at risk and utilizing current academic, scientific and practitioner-based studies to achieve that objective;

2. *Also urges* Member States to continue to raise the awareness of policymakers of the risks and the threats posed to society by abuse of drugs and of the individual and social conditions that make people vulnerable to abusing drugs;

3. *Encourages* Member States to target their prevention programmes towards domains where individuals, in particular children and youth, are most likely to encounter illicit drugs;

4. *Also encourages* Member States to develop and implement specific policies and interventions aimed at the healthy and safe development of children and youth that are particularly vulnerable to individual or environmental risks;

5. *Further encourages* Member States to take into account gender-specific services in their drug prevention systems;

6. *Encourages* Member States to promote public health and healthy lifestyles, such as physical activities, sport and recreation programmes, in order to facilitate drug prevention;

7. *Also encourages* Member States to engage in close coordination with all stakeholders in their societies to target prevention with a cross-cutting and multidisciplinary approach;

8. *Urges* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to continue gathering information on national and international experiences and best practices, to make available information on evidence-based prevention activities and instruments and to provide States with guidance and assistance in developing strategies and programmes to incorporate those successful experiences, upon request and subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources;

9. *Encourages* Member States to cooperate, on both the bilateral and regional levels, to strengthen national capacities with respect to prevention policies and their implementation;

10. *Also encourages* Member States to exchange experiences and best practices on the prevention of the use of illicit drugs in families, schools, universities, workplaces, communities and other domains;

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

*9th Plenary Meeting
16 March 2012*