

## Resolution 55/5

### **Promoting strategies and measures addressing specific needs of women in the context of comprehensive and integrated drug demand reduction programmes and strategies**

*The Commission on Narcotic Drugs,*

*Stressing* the commitments contained in the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem,<sup>1</sup> 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, in which it was stated that Member States should ensure that a broad range of drug demand reduction services provided approaches that took into account gender considerations and served the needs of vulnerable groups,

*Recalling* the Declaration on the Guiding Principles of Drug Demand Reduction,<sup>2</sup> which states that demand reduction programmes should be effective, relevant and accessible to those groups most at risk, taking into account differences in gender, culture and education,

*Recalling also* the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women,<sup>3</sup> which states that women are entitled to the right to the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health,

*Recalling further* the commitments that must be made to inform all activities of the United Nations system with respect to the human rights of women, as expressed in the Vienna Declaration and the Programme of Action adopted by the World Conference on Human Rights,<sup>4</sup>

*Reaffirming* the commitments to end all discrimination against women expressed in the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women,<sup>5</sup> and in specific the commitment to achieve equal treatment for women in access to health services,

*Recalling* the commitments made in the United Nations Millennium Declaration<sup>6</sup> to promote gender equality,

*Recalling also* that the *Millennium Development Goals Report 2010*<sup>7</sup> stressed that access to care for women was still very problematic in several regions,

*Recalling further* its resolution 54/5 of 25 March 2011, in which it recognized that drug dependence was a chronic but preventable and treatable multifactorial health disorder, and stressing the need to

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<sup>1</sup> See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2009, Supplement No. 8 (E/2009/28)*, chap. I, sect. C.

<sup>2</sup> General Assembly resolution S-20/3, annex.

<sup>3</sup> General Assembly resolution 48/104.

<sup>4</sup> A/CONF.157/24 (Part I), chap. III.

<sup>5</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1249, No. 20378.

<sup>6</sup> General Assembly resolution 55/2.

<sup>7</sup> United Nations publication, Sales No. E.10.I.7.

provide a full continuum of policies and programmes that promote prevention, early detection and intervention, treatment, care and related support services for rehabilitation, social reintegration and recovery,

*Recalling* the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action adopted at the Fourth World Conference on Women,<sup>8</sup> which states that women have the right to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, and convinced that girls and women should be provided access to health services developed specifically for their needs,

*Recalling also* General Assembly resolution 65/228 of 21 December 2010, in which the Assembly adopted the updated Model Strategies and Practical Measures on the Elimination of Violence Against Women in the Field of Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, and General Assembly resolution 65/229 of 21 December 2010, in which the Assembly adopted the United Nations Rules for the Treatment of Women Prisoners and Non-custodial Measures for Women Offenders (the Bangkok Rules),

*Recognizing* that there is a need for more evidence-based information on all aspects of substance abuse, in particular regarding women-specific aspects, including physiological and psychosocial effects, the characteristics of women with substance use problems and their treatment experiences and also a need to use that information while developing and implementing programmes and strategies,

*Concerned* that women with substance abuse problems are often deprived of or limited in their access to effective treatment that takes into account their specific needs and circumstances,

*Aware* that enhanced educational and employment opportunities for women significantly decrease the risk of their drug abuse and dependence and their involvement in drug-related crimes,

*Taking into account* the need to develop and implement drug demand reduction measures so that they respond best to the specific needs of drug-dependent women and women who abuse drugs, including designated services specifically devoted to those women,

*Noting with great concern* the adverse consequences of drug abuse for individuals and society as a whole, reaffirming its commitment to tackle those problems in the context of comprehensive, complementary and multisectoral drug demand reduction strategies, in particular such strategies targeting youth, noting with great concern the alarming rise in the incidence of HIV/AIDS and other blood-borne diseases among injecting drug users, reaffirming its commitment to work towards the goal of universal access to comprehensive prevention programmes and treatment, care and related support services, in full compliance with the international drug control conventions and in accordance with national legislation, taking into account all relevant General Assembly

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<sup>8</sup> *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annex I.

resolutions and, when applicable, the *WHO, UNODC, UNAIDS Technical Guide for Countries to Set Targets for Universal Access to HIV Prevention, Treatment and Care for Injecting Drug Users*,<sup>9</sup> and requesting the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to carry out its mandate in this area in close cooperation with relevant organizations and programmes of the United Nations system, such as the World Health Organization, the United Nations Development Programme and the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS,

1. *Urges* Member States to consider incorporating female-oriented programmes in their drug policies and strategies;

2. *Encourages* Member States to integrate essential female-specific services in the overall design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies and programmes addressing drug abuse and dependence, where needed;

3. *Recommends* that Member States consider and accommodate the specific needs of drug-dependent parents, including childcare and parental education;

4. *Also recommends* that Member States, in designing, implementing and evaluating integrated drug prevention and treatment and HIV prevention programmes, take into account the needs of women who have experienced sexual and other violent trauma related to drug abuse;

5. *Encourages* Member States to take into account the specific needs of women in the prevention, early detection and intervention, treatment and care of drug dependence and drug-related diseases, including infectious diseases and psychiatric disorders, as well as related support services, including for rehabilitation, reintegration and recovery, and to consider designing those services using a multi-agency approach so as to include specific female-oriented measures, promoting effective modalities such as special group offerings for women in inpatient and outpatient settings, family-based treatment and extra occupational training for women as part of recovery activities;

6. *Invites* Member States to consider implementing, where needed, female-oriented guidelines and quality standards in their drug policies in order to maximize coherence with existing activities, efficient allocation of resources and positive outcomes for drug-dependent women and their children;

7. *Encourages* Member States to consider promoting the implementation of the updated Model Strategies and Practical Measures on the Elimination of Violence against Women in the Field of Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, as well as the United Nations Rules for the Treatment of Women Prisoners and Non-custodial Measures for Women Offenders (the Bangkok Rules), particularly those provisions related to prevention and treatment programmes designed for women substance abusers, including those in prison settings, taking into account incidents of violence against

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<sup>9</sup> Geneva, World Health Organization, 2009.

women, prior victimization, the special needs of pregnant women and women with children, and their diverse cultural backgrounds;

8. *Urges* Member States to identify and firmly counter discrimination against, as well as degrading and undignified treatment of, drug-dependent women and women who abuse drugs, while simultaneously offering such women timely access to counselling, including voluntary HIV counselling and testing, and treatment and support services for rehabilitation and social integration that take into account the specific needs of women, including parental responsibilities and recovery from trauma related to drug abuse suffered as a result of sexual or other forms of violence;

9. *Encourages* Member States to consider providing a wide range of measures that match the specific needs of women affected by drug abuse, including pregnant women and women who are parents or guardians with children;

10. *Calls upon* Member States to pay due attention to the specific needs of women while applying the relevant target goals as set forth in the Political Declaration on HIV and AIDS adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 65/277 of 10 June 2011 and incorporating those goals in their relevant national strategies and measures as set forth in the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem;<sup>10</sup>

11. *Invites* the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute to share with it and with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime the information on experiences with respect to relevant programmes and measures addressing specific needs of women, with a view to considering appropriate follow-up measures;

12. *Encourages* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to raise awareness among United Nations agencies regarding the need to design educational and employment opportunity modules that may be used in programmes and strategies to prevent drug abuse and dependence and the involvement of women in drug-related crimes;

13. *Invites* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to work with relevant United Nations agencies, including the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute, to assist and support Member States in developing and adapting measures and strategies, at the national, regional and international levels, addressing the specific needs of women as an essential element of more effective, just and human rights-based policies;

14. *Requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to facilitate the gathering and dissemination of information provided by Member States on their efforts to implement the present resolution;

15. *Also requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to integrate into its future public-awareness campaigns information emphasizing the importance of an integrated approach to the specific needs of women;

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<sup>10</sup> See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2009, Supplement No. 8 (E/2009/28)*, chap. I, sect. C.

16. *Invites* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to coordinate as appropriate with civil society and the private sector in addressing the specific needs of women in the context of drug demand reduction, with a view to the expansion of the range and coverage of programmes addressing drug abuse and dependence of women, in accordance with national legislation and in full compliance with the international drug control conventions;

17. *Invites* Member States and other donors to consider providing extrabudgetary resources for these purposes in accordance with the rules and procedures of the United Nations.

*9th Plenary Meeting  
16 March 2012*