World Drug Report 2020

Vienna, 26 June 2020
Some overarching challenges for prevention and treatment

• **Prevention:** Perception of low risk for some drugs

• **Treatment:** Possible global increase of treatment needs and higher complexity of the treatment needs
Global drug market Expansion

- 30% more users between 2009-2018
- 2008-2017: deaths increased by a quarter
- Higher availability of cocaine, heroin, methamphetamine
Expansion in developing countries

Between 2000-2018

- Total population grew by 28% in developing countries and by 7% in developed countries

- Population 18-25 grew by 18% in developing countries and decreased by 10% in developed countries
Increasing treatment demand?

Currently at global level only roughly 1/8 persons with drug use disorders receive treatment, if nothing is done to increase treatment accessibility, the treatment gap is likely to increase, moving away from achieving SDG target 3.5 “Strengthen the prevention and treatment of substance abuse, including narcotic drug abuse and harmful use of alcohol”

Has COVID-19 brought new approaches to increase treatment accessibility?
Increased complexity of global markets requires new treatment approaches
Cannabis prevalence, perceived risk among 12th grade US high-school students, 1975-2018

Annual prevalence of drugs by sex in Nigeria, 2017

- Non medical use of pharmaceutical opioids
- Non medical use of tranquilizer/sedatives
- Non medical use of cough syrups
- Cannabis
How to prevent drug use through increasing the perception of risk?

Particularly challenging for pharmaceuticals that should be available and use with no stigma when they are needed

Promoting a science-based risk discussion

Against the interest of some private sector?