

The 138th session of WHO's Executive Board discussed the public health dimension of the world drug problem in the light of the upcoming Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly on the World Drug Problem, to be held in 2016

The 34 member Executive Board (EB) of the World Health Organization discussed at its 138th session (25-30 January 2016), among a range of other public health issues, agenda item "Public health dimension of the world drug problem including in the context of the Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly on the World Drug Problem" and the report prepared by the WHO's Secretariat.

The report focuses on the critical public health elements of a comprehensive, balanced and inclusive drug policy: prevention of drug use and reduction of vulnerability and risks; treatment and care of people with drug use disorders; prevention and management of the harms related to drug use; access to controlled medicines; monitoring and evaluation.

In the discussion a number of Member States emphasized the importance of a balanced and public health oriented approach to the world drug problem and highlighted the role of the WHO in the context of the upcoming Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly to be held in New York in April 2016. Member States asked for a greater engagement of WHO, at all levels, in promoting and implementing public health measures to address the world drug problem, also by providing normative guidance and technical assistance, increasing its involvement in the work of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, strengthening its cooperation with UNODC and other UN entities, and to actively engaging in the preparation of and follow-up to UNGASS 2016 on drugs.

The 138th session of WHO's Executive Board highlighted a need of a follow-up discussion on the public health dimension of the world drug problem at the 69th World Health Assembly in May 2016.

RELATED LINKS:

- The Report by the Secretariat "Public health dimension of the world drug problem including in the context of the Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly on the World Drug Problem, to be held in 2016" (**document EB138/11**) is available in 6 languages at:
 - http://apps.who.int/gb/a/a_eb138.html (Arabic)
 - http://apps.who.int/gb/c/c_eb138.html (Chinese)
 - http://apps.who.int/gb/e/e_eb138.html (English)
 - http://apps.who.int/gb/f/f_eb138.html (French)
 - http://apps.who.int/gb/r/r_eb138.htm (Russian)
 - http://apps.who.int/gb/s/s_eb138.html (Spanish)
- WHO's role, mandate and activities to counter the world drug problem: A public health perspective
http://www.who.int/substance_abuse/publications/drug_role_mandate/en/