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Commission on Narcotic Drugs

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Agenda item 5 (a)

Drug demand reduction: HIV/AIDS and other blood-borne diseases in the context of drug abuse prevention

Colombia* and Czech Republic: revised draft resolution

Prevention of HIV/AIDS among drug users in the context of the right to health

The Commission on Narcotic Drugs,

Recognizing that the situation as regards drug use is part of a social, economic, political and cultural context,

Considering that over 95 per cent of people infected with HIV/AIDS are in developing countries, that one third of people living with HIV/AIDS are between 15 and 24 years old, that 10 per cent of all people with HIV/AIDS are injecting drug users and that the sharing of needles, syringes and other infected equipment is a significant route for HIV transmission,

Reaffirming the knowledge, acquired over the last few decades, that an effective response to the issues raised by drug consumption demands a broad and pragmatic approach, ranging from referral to health-care establishments for treatment of drug dependence, through abstinence or other treatments, to the provision of general information on drugs and specific information on harm to health,

Recalling its resolution 46/2, in which it requested the United Nations International Drug Control Programme to continue to develop and strengthen, at headquarters and in the field, its role and strategy regarding the prevention of HIV transmission related to drug abuse,

* On behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States.



Reaffirming the statement made by the International Narcotics Control Board in its report for 1987 that there was a need to adopt measures that might decrease the sharing of hypodermic needles among injecting drug abusers in order to limit the spread of HIV/AIDS,¹

Noting that the report of the International Narcotics Control Board for 2003 clarifies that, although results are dependent on many factors, the implementation of substitution and maintenance treatment does not constitute a breach of treaty provisions,²

Underlining the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS,³ adopted by the General Assembly at its twenty-sixth special session, in particular as regards encouraging expanded access to sterile injecting equipment and to health-care efforts related to drug use,

Mindful of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,⁴ in particular its article 25, which states that everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and of his family,

1. *Urges* that multicentric studies and research be conducted with a view to adopting measures aimed at reducing harm to health in the context of the use of drugs, giving special attention to frontier regions and drug trafficking corridors;

2. *Also urges* the development of health policies that promote the diagnosis and treatment of drug dependence and of infection by HIV and hepatitis viruses, directed to the segments of society most vulnerable to drug use;

3. *Strongly encourages* efforts towards the strengthening of civil society activities aimed at defending the right to health of drug users and their families and the right to social support networks, taking into account the characteristics of each country;

4. *Reinforces* the necessity of broad access for drug users to general information on HIV prevention, vaccines against hepatitis and medicines for AIDS treatment, guaranteed by local governments according to their health policies;

5. *Acknowledges* the necessity for greater attention to be paid to drug demand reduction in urban areas located close to trafficking routes, through the promotion of new instruments making it feasible to create social support networks for drug users and through drug use prevention strategies;

6. *Supports* the broad engagement of local authorities and civil society in the development of local demand reduction policies, together with prevention strategies, treatment and measures aimed at reducing harm to health, so as to provide drug users with education, rehabilitation and social reintegration, as well as, where appropriate, treatment and aftercare, as effective alternatives to conviction and punishment;

¹ *Report of the International Narcotics Control Board for 1987* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.87.XI.3), chap. I, para. 2.

² *Ibid.* (Sales No. E.04.XI.1), para. 222.

³ General Assembly resolution S-26/2, annex.

⁴ General Assembly resolution 217A (III).

7. *Calls* for broad horizontal cooperation among Member States towards the promotion of action directed at demand reduction, mindful of the competence and experience of universities, civil society and drug user associations, so as to balance the allocation of resources among demand and supply reduction;

8. *Requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, in coordination with the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS, to take an active role in achieving the above objectives.
