



Economic and Social Council

Distr.: Limited
11 March 2005

Original: English

Commission on Narcotic Drugs

Forty-eighth session
Vienna, 7-14 March 2005

Draft report

Rapporteur: Olawale **Maiyegun** (Nigeria)

Addendum

Drug demand reduction

A. Structure of the debate

1. At its 1254th meeting, on 9 March, the Commission considered agenda item 5, which read as follows:

“Drug demand reduction:

“(a) Action Plan for the Implementation of the Declaration on the Guiding Principles of Drug Demand Reduction;

“(b) World situation with regard to drug abuse.”

For its consideration of the item, the Commission had before it:

(a) Report of the Secretariat on the world situation with regard to drug abuse (E/CN.7/2005/3);

(b) Report of the Executive Director on drug control and related crime prevention assistance for countries emerging from conflict (E/CN.7/2005/10).

2. The Director of the Division for Operations of UNODC introduced the agenda item and an audio-visual presentation was made by a representative of the Secretariat. A statement was made by the observer for Luxembourg (on behalf of the members of the European Union (the candidate countries Bulgaria, Croatia, Romania and Turkey, as well as the Countries of the Stabilization and Association Process and potential candidates Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia and Montenegro and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (and the EFTA members Iceland and Norway, members of the European Economic Area),



associated themselves with that statement)). Statements were made by the representatives of Turkey, Brazil, the United States, Indonesia, the Netherlands, Chile, Israel, Japan, Mexico and the United Arab Emirates. A statement was also made by the observer for the Republic of Korea.

B. Deliberations

3. The Secretariat presented an analysis of the progress made by Member States in relation to activities included in the Action Plan for the Implementation of the Guiding Principles of Drug Demand Reduction (General Assembly resolution 54/132, annex), as well as an overview of the world drug abuse situation, with particular reference to treatment demand data.

4. Representatives expressed appreciation for the documentation provided by the Secretariat. Most representatives recognized the importance of demand reduction activities and policies. They described a wide and diverse range of integrated and balanced activities in line with the guiding principles of drug demand reduction. One speaker referred to recent changes in his country's legislation to facilitate the treatment of addicts.

5. Some concern at the world drug abuse situation was expressed, in particular in relation to the continuous increase in production and use of amphetamine-type stimulants, but some positive signs were also noted. Concern was also expressed at the increased use of cannabis.

6. Most representatives underscored the importance of intensified efforts in prevention, treatment and rehabilitation. They mentioned the need to improve access to and the effectiveness of prevention programmes, as well as to raise awareness about the risks involved in abusing psychoactive substances.

7. It was considered important to provide a continuum of treatment services. It was noted that the well-established link and coordination between clinical setting, out-patient treatment services and low-threshold services contributed to reaching more patients.

8. An initiative to increase access to recovery through services such as relapse prevention, peer-to-peer support, literacy programmes, employment referral, housing advocacy, psychiatric consultation and medication-assisted therapy was presented.

9. There was also recognition of the importance of reducing the negative health and social consequences of injecting drug use, including HIV/AIDS and other blood-borne diseases. In that context, some representatives noted the work done by UNODC as chairman of the Committee of Co-sponsoring Organizations of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS.

10. Some representatives were of the opinion that successful experiences required the mobilization of civil society and local communities. Examples were given of consultation with civil society in the development of national drug policies and the mobilization of local communities, non-governmental organizations and other volunteer organizations in the dissemination of prevention messages.

11. A number of representatives recognized the importance of assessing the national situation, monitoring progress and evaluating the impact of the efforts made to reduce demand for drugs.
