



## Economic and Social Council

Distr.: Limited  
16 March 2006

Original: English

---

### Commission on Narcotic Drugs

Forty-ninth session

Vienna, 13-17 March 2006

### Draft report

*Rapporteur:* Ali Hajigholam **Saryazdi** (Islamic Republic of Iran)

### Addendum

### Drug demand reduction

1. At its 1267th and 1268th meetings, on 15 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.”

2. For its consideration of the item, the Commission had before it the report of the Secretariat on the world situation with regard to drug abuse (E/CN.7/2006/2 and Corr.1 and Add.1).

3. The Director of the Division for Operations and Deputy Executive Director of UNODC made an introductory statement and audio-visual presentations were made by representatives of the Secretariat. A statement was made by the representative of Austria (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the European Union (the acceding countries Bulgaria and Romania, the candidate countries Croatia,<sup>1</sup> the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia<sup>1</sup> and Turkey, as well as the Countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidates Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Serbia and Montenegro (and the EFTA members Iceland and Norway, members of the European Economic Area), as well as the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine, associated themselves with the

---

<sup>1</sup> Croatia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia continue to be Countries of the Stabilisation Association Process.



statement)). Statements were also made by the representatives of Israel, Chile, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States, Hungary, Belgium, Turkey, Ukraine, Japan, Switzerland, the Republic of Korea, Norway, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Brazil and Mexico. Statements were also made by the observers for South Africa, Iraq and Denmark. An audio-visual presentation was also made by the observer for UNAIDS.

## **B. Deliberations**

4. Appreciation was expressed for the documentation and presentations provided by the Secretariat. Most speakers reiterated that drug demand reduction was a vital pillar of the global response to the world drug problem, as part of a multidisciplinary, integrated and balanced approach and as a means of significantly reducing the harm caused to health and society. They also provided detailed information on the demand reduction activities that had been initiated in various countries following the adoption of the Declaration on the Guiding Principles of Drug Demand Reduction and its Action Plan (General Assembly resolution 54/132, annex).

5. Several speakers mentioned the problems of collecting information on drug abuse and recognized the importance of developing drug information systems in order to gain an accurate understanding of the situation. On the basis of the information available, they confirmed the drug abuse trends described by the Secretariat. One speaker outlined the problem of drug abuse in a post-conflict situation, while others drew attention to the problem of drug abuse in transit countries.

6. The Commission noted with satisfaction that several countries had been able to achieve positive and considerable results in the reduction of demand for various drugs; however, at the same time, concern was expressed at the increase in abuse of other drugs in certain regions. Several speakers pointed out that it was important also to consider the abuse of psychoactive substances that were not currently under international control.

7. Several representatives highlighted the importance of primary prevention and the need to develop programmes and activities on the basis of successful experience. They mentioned, among other things, the importance of increasing public awareness of drug-related health risks, the risks posed by the abuse of psychoactive substances and related consequences. Young people were also mentioned as one of the most important groups to be targeted by prevention activities.

8. In relation to treatment and rehabilitation, several representatives stressed the need for and value of early detection and intervention activity and the importance of strengthening national and international cooperation among the various services that provided assistance to drug users and their families.

9. In the context of a comprehensive strategy to reduce demand for drugs, several representatives, alarmed by the situation with regard to HIV/AIDS, underlined the importance of reducing the negative health and social consequences of drug abuse, such as HIV/AIDS and other blood-borne diseases. Several speakers provided examples of programmes aimed at reaching drug abusers and providing them with

information on the risks associated with drug abuse and on clean injecting equipment, substitution therapy, treatment and rehabilitation and other related services. In that context, some speakers underlined the leadership role of UNODC in the Committee of Co-sponsoring Organizations of UNAIDS in the promotion of action to combat HIV/AIDS in the context of comprehensive drug abuse prevention strategies.

10. A number of speakers emphasized that it was important to involve civil society, local communities and non-governmental organizations in the full range of drug demand reduction policy development, programme planning and implementation.

11. Scientific research in the field of drug abuse, the need for improved information and data collection for drug assessment and the evaluation of demand reduction initiatives were also recognized as important elements of concerted action by the international community to better assess and thus improve the world situation with regard to drug abuse.

12. One representative expressed concern at the situation in Afghanistan and the impact of illicit drug trafficking on transit and neighbouring countries affected by the increase in drug supply and problems related to drug abuse such as HIV/AIDS and hepatitis C infection. Injecting heroin abuse was increasing and a considerable change in the pattern of drug abuse was taking place. The supply and demand aspects of the drug problem in those countries deserved both increased attention and coordinated action by the international community.

13. Several representatives indicated that, at the global level, it was necessary for all countries, in particular those experiencing a high level of abuse of illicit drugs, to reinforce their action with regard to demand reduction. In that context, it was noted that the Declaration on the Guiding Principles of Drug Demand Reduction and its Action Plan, as well as the Joint Ministerial Statement and further measures to implement the action plans emanating from the twentieth special session of the General Assembly (A/58/124, sect. II.A) were important guidelines to follow in efforts to reduce significantly demand for illicit drugs.

---