



Economic and Social Council

Distr.: Limited
3 March 2008

Original: English

Commission on Narcotic Drugs

Fifty-first session

Vienna, 10-14 March 2008

Item 4 (a) of the provisional agenda*

Drug demand reduction: Action Plan for the Implementation of the Declaration on the Guiding Principles of Drug Demand Reduction

United States of America: draft resolution

The consequences of cannabis use: reinvigorating prevention and education efforts

The Commission on Narcotic Drugs,

Recalling that Member States, in the Political Declaration adopted by the General Assembly at its twentieth special session, recognized that action against the world drug problem was a common and shared responsibility requiring an integrated and balanced approach,¹ by which supply control and demand reduction reinforced each other, as enshrined in the Declaration on the Guiding Principles of Drug Demand Reduction² and the measures to enhance international cooperation to counter the world drug problem,³

Recalling also that, in the Political Declaration, Member States committed themselves to achieving significant and measurable results in the field of demand reduction by 2008,⁴

Highlighting that cannabis is the most widely produced, trafficked and consumed illicit drug worldwide,

* E/CN.7/2008/1.

¹ General Assembly resolution S-20/2, annex, para. 2.

² General Assembly resolution S-20/3, annex, paras. 4 and 8.

³ General Assembly resolutions S-20/4 A to E.

⁴ General Assembly resolution S-20/2, annex, para. 17.



Noting that, in its *World Drug Report 2007*,⁵ the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime cited the increasing availability of cannabis with far higher levels of tetrahydrocannabinol than in the past,

Recalling article 38 of the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961,⁶ which requires the parties to the Convention to give special attention to and take all practicable measures for the prevention of abuse of drugs and for the early identification, treatment, education and aftercare of the persons involved,

Concerned by the number of adolescents in some countries who need treatment for substance abuse due to cannabis use,

Taking note of research correlating cannabis use with illnesses such as depression and schizophrenia,

1. *Appeals* to Member States and relevant international organizations to continue to raise awareness of the health risks of cannabis use among youth and adults;

2. *Invites* Member States to share effective, evidence-based strategies and best practices for preventing the use of cannabis by children and young people in order to protect those vulnerable populations from the health risks associated with cannabis use;

3. *Recognizes* that programmes for prevention and early intervention treatment should target pre-adolescents, as appropriate, in order to maximize the impact of such programmes;

4. *Encourages* Member States to urge the medical research community to continue to study both prevention and treatment practices addressing the health consequences of cannabis use;

5. *Also encourages* Member States to implement comprehensive prevention and treatment approaches focusing on individuals and their relationships with their peers, families, schools and communities, as appropriate;

6. *Invites* the International Narcotics Control Board to continue sharing information regarding its efforts to monitor and report on the application of the international drug control treaties by Member States with regard to cannabis and to other illicit drugs;

7. *Encourages* Member States to consider collecting data on hospital visits and treatment demand related to cannabis use in order to better understand the extent of the problem;

8. *Calls upon* Member States to further examine the scientific, medical and international data available on the health effects of cannabis use.

⁵ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.07.XI.5.

⁶ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 520, No. 7515.