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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

Expansion of the Screening, Brief Intervention and Referral to Treatment initiative as a tool to prevent and interrupt the progression from substance use to dependence and addiction and to reduce the need for treatment

The Commission on Narcotic Drugs,

Recalling the Political Declaration adopted by the General Assembly at its twentieth special session, in which Member States 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

Taking note of the Action Plan for the Implementation of the Declaration on the Guiding Principles of Drug Demand Reduction, which, inter alia, recognizes that progress to reduce the demand for illicit drugs should be seen in the context of the need for programmes to reduce the demand for substances of abuse,⁴

Understanding that the Screening, Brief Intervention and Referral to Treatment initiative is a comprehensive, integrated public health approach for the

* 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 54/132, annex, para. 5.



delivery of early intervention and treatment services to persons at risk of developing substance use disorders and to others in need of treatment,

Acknowledging that the Screening, Brief Intervention and Referral to Treatment initiative spans the divide between preventive efforts and treatment for substance-dependent persons,

Acknowledging also that the Screening, Brief Intervention and Referral to Treatment initiative is a systematic approach to carrying out screening for use of a broad spectrum of substances,

Recognizing that the Screening, Brief Intervention and Referral to Treatment initiative offers a preventive approach to treating addiction and can potentially reduce the stigma associated with illicit drug use,

Acknowledging that the Screening, Brief Intervention and Referral to Treatment initiative can be used in various health-care systems to intervene in cases involving the abuse of any of a broad range of substances, before patients encounter serious adverse consequences, and can potentially prevent long-term substance dependence and addiction,

Acknowledging also that substance abuse is a problem that poses a major challenge to public health and that can lead to unintentional injury and violence and result in substance dependence,

Fully aware that the Screening, Brief Intervention and Referral to Treatment initiative can contribute to a reduction in medical and health consequences and to cost savings for both those who provide and those who pay for health care,

1. *Notes* the relationship between substance abuse and medical and health consequences;
2. *Endorses* the concept of the Screening, Brief Intervention and Referral to Treatment initiative in order to mainstream substance abuse prevention and intervention into general health-care practices;
3. *Supports* the Screening, Brief Intervention and Referral to Treatment initiative as a means of removing the stigma associated with substance abuse in the field of health;
4. *Encourages* the implementation of the Screening, Brief Intervention and Referral to Treatment initiative as a set of effective and cost-effective preventive medicine procedures that can be implemented in health-care settings and that provides important education to health-care professionals, many of whom lack a systematic approach to addressing potential substance abuse problems in their patients;
5. *Encourages* Member States to raise awareness among their health-care professionals and to urge those professionals to identify at-risk populations and to encourage early intervention in order to significantly reduce substance abuse and possibly prevent addiction;
6. *Urges* Member States to share with each other and with relevant international organizations their experiences with the Screening, Brief Intervention and Referral to Treatment initiative;

7. *Requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to promote the practices of the Screening, Brief Intervention and Referral to Treatment initiative worldwide as part of its demand reduction activities, when appropriate and within existing resources, and to work closely with the World Health Organization in that regard.
