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Commission on Narcotic Drugs

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Item 6 (a) of the provisional agenda*

Implementation of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem: demand reduction and related measures

United States of America: draft resolution

Brief sanctions, monitoring and treatment as an alternative to incarceration

The Commission on Narcotic Drugs,

Recalling provisions of the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988¹ that allow Member States to provide, as an alternative to conviction or punishment, measures for the treatment, education, aftercare, rehabilitation or social reintegration of the offender,

Recognizing that drug users who repeatedly commit criminal offences or acts of violence or who participate in illicit drug trafficking pose challenges and create costs for society and families, including the need for effective supervision via incarceration or other means,

Acknowledging that, in some cases, a term of incarceration is the most appropriate sanction,

Noting that programmes, without long-term incarceration, can reduce criminal activity and substance abuse by chronic drug users and enhance public health outcomes and protect public safety at reduced cost,

Recalling that, in the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World

* E/CN.7/2012/1.

¹ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1582, No. 27627.



Drug Problem,² it is noted that there are limited alternatives to prosecution and imprisonment for drug-using offenders and that treatment services within the criminal justice system are frequently inadequate,³

Highlighting that some Member States have implemented alternatives to incarceration that include effective drug use monitoring and swift and consistently applied brief sanctions for programme non-compliance and, in doing so, have seen declines in drug use and crime as well as significant reductions in the length of time spent in confinement by programme participants;

Recognizing that individuals participating in alternatives to incarceration programmes who require drug treatment should receive it in order to promote their rehabilitation,

1. *Requests* Member States to exchange information on effective alternatives to incarceration initiatives, including brief sanctions, monitoring and treatment programmes for drug offenders on probation or parole;

2. *Urges* Member States to consider sponsoring a meeting on brief sanctions, monitoring, and treatment as an alternative to incarceration, to be held on the margins of the fifty-sixth session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs;

3. *Encourages* Member States to establish pilot programmes based on the brief sanctions, monitoring and drug treatment concept.

² *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2009, Supplement No. 8 (E/2009/28), chap. I, sect. C.*

³ *Ibid.*, Plan of Action, para. 15.