

**1993/35. Demand reduction as part of balanced national strategic plans to combat drug abuse**

*The Economic and Social Council,*

*Reaffirming* the Political Declaration and Global Programme of Action adopted by the General Assembly at its seventeenth special session,<sup>90</sup> in which Member States proclaimed their intention to strengthen policies aimed at the prevention, reduction and elimination of illicit demand for narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances,

*Recalling* the Comprehensive Multidisciplinary Outline of Future Activities in Drug Abuse Control, adopted by the International Conference on Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking,<sup>104</sup> and its previous resolutions on reduction of the demand for narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, particularly resolution 1991/46 of 21 June 1991,

*Acknowledging* the work that has been and is being undertaken in demand reduction by a variety of organizations and bodies, including the United Nations International Drug Control Programme, specialized agencies of the United Nations system, in particular the World Health Organization, through the establishment of its Programme on Substance Abuse, and other regional intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations,

*Noting* the rising trend in and the vast scale of illicit demand for and trafficking in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, and the illicit supply, production and distribution of such products,

*Deeply concerned* about the continuing threat posed by the abuse of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances to the health and welfare of mankind, to the political, economic, social and cultural structure of communities, and to the stability of States and nations,

*Noting* the important role that programmes to control supply have been playing, and will continue to play, in the effort to reduce the illicit availability of drugs,

*Stressing* the importance of the development, by States, of comprehensive strategic plans to combat drug abuse and provide a focus for controlling the supply of, demand for and trafficking in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances,

*Noting* the role that Governments play in facilitating the development of demand reduction programmes which can be implemented by either governmental or non-governmental organizations,

*Believing* that in seeking to combat drug abuse, the effectiveness of programmes to control supplies would be enhanced by complementing and integrating them with appropriate demand reduction strategies,

*Noting* the importance of developing demand reduction strategies which are specifically targeted and culturally

appropriate, and which recognize the social context of the target groups,

*Noting* that voluntary and non-governmental organizations can play a very important role in the development and implementation of demand reduction strategies,

*Recognizing* that, as drug abusers are often polydrug abusers, national responses need to be comprehensive, addressing a range of drugs,

*Also recognizing* that there is no single measure sufficient to address the problem of substance abuse, and that a multidisciplinary and integrated strategy involving the application of measures to counter drug abuse would constitute a more relevant and balanced response,

*Noting* the links between drug abuse and a wide range of adverse health consequences, including the transmission of the hepatitis viruses and the human immunodeficiency virus,

*Acknowledging* the importance and benefits of regular evaluation of demand reduction strategies and programmes, and of sharing experiences and information on their evaluation and effectiveness,

1. *Urges* all Governments and competent regional organizations, particularly Governments of countries where serious problems of substance abuse exist or are likely to emerge, to develop a balanced approach within the framework of comprehensive demand reduction activities, giving adequate priority to prevention, treatment, research, social reintegration and training of professional staff in the context of national strategic plans to combat drug abuse;

2. *Calls for* the involvement by governmental and non-governmental organizations, including those concerned with health, education, law enforcement, the private sector and the community, in developing a range of demand reduction strategies;

3. *Emphasizes* the importance of collaborative arrangements between international organizations working in the field of drug abuse control, such as the proposed memoranda of understanding to be drawn up between the United Nations International Drug Control Programme and such organizations as the International Labour Organisation and the World Health Organization, which will enhance effective cooperation between the bodies concerned, while fully reflecting their respective mandates;

4. *Encourages* the Programme to continue developing demand reduction strategies within the context of national strategic plans to combat drug abuse, taking into account regional and local needs, particularly in countries where more dangerous forms of consumption are appearing;

5. *Requests* the Programme to give priority to assisting countries in the development and implementation of national strategic plans to combat drug abuse, fully integrating efforts to reduce supply and demand;

6. *Encourages* countries which have expertise in demand reduction to make their experiences and knowledge available to countries wishing to develop a demand reduction strategy;

7. *Encourages* the establishment of a regional and international system for the regular exchange of information, experiences, training programmes and new ideas on demand reduction programmes and policies;

8. *Urges* Governments to promote national, sub-regional, regional and international cooperation in order to

facilitate improved coordination, at the policy and operational levels, of personnel dealing with the reduction of both demand and supply;

9. *Stresses* the importance of targeting potential and actual groups of drug abusers and developing programmes designed to reduce demand and tailored to their needs, including prevention, treatment, rehabilitation and social integration;

10. *Requests* the Programme to assist non-governmental organizations in preparing for the World Forum on Drug Demand Reduction, to be held in 1994;

11. *Emphasizes* the necessity of taking into account the existing social and cultural environments when developing strategies to control drug abuse or reduce demand;

12. *Urges* all Governments to provide and support programmes of prevention, treatment and rehabilitation, particularly for youth and those most at risk from substance abuse;

13. *Recognizes* that the use of illicit products may be linked to the abuse of licit substances, and encourages all Governments to give due attention to programmes designed to reduce the abuse of licit substances;

14. *Encourages* the development of strategies of early intervention, especially by primary health-care workers, to prevent and discourage substance abuse;

15. *Reaffirms* the need for Governments to take all appropriate measures to give substance abusers, particularly those who use injections, access to the care of treatment services and agencies;

16. *Urges* all Governments to address the problems raised by hepatitis, the human immunodeficiency virus and acquired immunodeficiency syndrome, and, where appropriate, to take steps, including increased accessibility to treatment and other approaches, to reduce their harmful effects;

17. *Stresses* the importance of collecting appropriate statistical data that could be used in the development of demand reduction strategies, and that should be, as far as possible, reliable, valid and comparable, and encourages the Programme to further elaborate guidelines for collecting statistical data and, in particular, data on drug-related deaths;

18. *Urges* the Programme to facilitate access to and disseminate information received from Governments regarding the development, implementation and evaluation of national strategies and programmes to control substance abuse;

19. *Encourages* the Programme to integrate its annual reports questionnaire into a single simplified document, which should be coordinated, when appropriate, with other international bodies in order to facilitate timely and complete replies by all Member States;

20. *Reaffirms* the request to the Programme to disseminate, through the database of the International Drug Abuse Assessment System, the information on demand reduction received from Governments, specialized agencies of the United Nations system and other intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, in such a way as to assist Governments and the organizations concerned in developing their policies to reduce demand, in providing technical support to Member States in the submission of data, and in implementing quality-control measures;

21. *Invites* the Executive Director of the Programme to place special emphasis on demand reduction strategies and initiatives in his report to the Commission on Narcotic Drugs at its thirty-seventh session;

22. *Requests* the Secretary-General to transmit the present resolution to all Governments for consideration and implementation.

*43rd plenary meeting  
27 July 1993*