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Follow-up to the implementation at the national, regional and international levels of all commitments, as reflected in the Ministerial Declaration of 2019, to address and counter the world drug problem

Austria and Portugal: draft resolution**

Promoting quality, affordable, scientific evidence-based and comprehensive drug prevention and treatment services

The Commission on Narcotic Drugs,

Reaffirming the obligations contained in the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1953 as amended by the 1972 Protocol,¹ the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971² and the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988,³ in which States parties express concern for the health and welfare of humankind,

Reaffirming also the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,⁴ which states in its article 25 that everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for their health and well-being, including medical care and necessary social services,

Reaffirming further the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,⁵ in particular its article 12, in which States parties to the Covenant recognize the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health,

Recalling the outcome document of the thirtieth special session of the General Assembly, entitled “Our joint commitment to effectively addressing and countering the world drug problem”,⁶ in which Member States reiterated their commitment to promoting the health, welfare and well-being of all individuals, families, communities and society as a whole, and facilitating healthy lifestyles through effective, comprehensive, scientific evidence-based demand reduction initiatives at all levels,

* E/CN.7/2021/1.

** On behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the European Union.

¹ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 976, No. 14152.

² *Ibid.*, vol. 1019, No. 14956.

³ *Ibid.*, vol. 1582, No. 27627.

⁴ General Assembly resolution 217 A (III).

⁵ General Assembly resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

⁶ General Assembly resolution S-30/1, annex.



covering, in accordance with national legislation and the three international drug control conventions, prevention, early intervention, treatment, care, recovery, rehabilitation and social reintegration measures, as well as initiatives and measures aimed at minimizing the adverse public health and social consequences of drug abuse,

Recalling also the Joint Ministerial Statement of the 2014 high-level review by the Commission of the implementation by Member States of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem,⁷ in which Member States reaffirmed the need to further strengthen public health systems, particularly in the areas of prevention, treatment and rehabilitation, as part of a comprehensive and balanced approach to demand reduction based on scientific evidence,

Recalling further the 2009 Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem,⁸ in which Member States were called upon to ensure that access to drug treatment that is affordable, culturally appropriate and based on scientific evidence is available and that drug dependence care services are included in health-care systems, whether public or private, with the involvement of primary and, where appropriate, specialized health-care services, in accordance with national legislation,

Recalling the 2019 Ministerial Declaration on Strengthening Our Actions at the National, Regional and International Levels to Accelerate the Implementation of Our Joint Commitments to Address and Counter the World Drug Problem,⁹ adopted at its sixty-second session in 2019, in which Member States committed themselves to safeguarding our future and ensuring that no one affected by the world drug problem is left behind by enhancing efforts to bridge the gaps in addressing the persistent and emerging trends and challenges through the implementation of balanced, integrated, comprehensive, multidisciplinary and scientific evidence-based responses to the world drug problem, placing the safety, health and well-being of all members of society, in particular youth and children, at the centre of their efforts,

Welcoming the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,¹⁰ in particular the commitment to ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages, and noting that efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and to effectively address the world drug situation are complementary and mutually reinforcing,

Recalling the political declaration of the high-level meeting on universal health coverage, held in New York on 23 September 2019, entitled “Universal health coverage: moving together to build a healthier world”,¹¹ in which Members States recognized that universal health coverage implies that all people have access, without discrimination, to nationally determined sets of the needed promotive, preventive, curative, rehabilitative and palliative essential health services, and essential, safe, affordable, effective and quality medicines and vaccines, while ensuring that the use of these services does not expose the users to financial hardship, with a special emphasis on the poor, vulnerable and marginalized segments of the population,

Commending the collaboration between the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the World Health Organization, leading, inter alia, to the publication of the *International Standards on Drug Use Prevention* and the *International Standards for the Treatment of Drug Use Disorders*, which compile scientific evidence-based recommendations that reflect best prevention and treatment practices for possible use

⁷ See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2014, Supplement No. 8 (E/2014/28)*, chap. I, sect. C.

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

⁹ See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2019, Supplement No. 8 (E/2019/28)*, chap. I, sect. B.

¹⁰ General Assembly resolution 70/1.

¹¹ General Assembly resolution 74/2.

in Member States, as well as the improvement of drug prevention, treatment, care, rehabilitation and social reintegration services worldwide,

Reaffirming the operational recommendation contained in the outcome document of the thirtieth special session of the General Assembly, entitled “Our joint commitment to effectively addressing and countering the world drug problem”, to invite relevant national authorities to consider, in accordance with their national legislation and the three international drug control conventions, including in national prevention, treatment, care, recovery, rehabilitation and social reintegration measures and programmes, in the context of comprehensive and balanced drug demand reduction efforts, effective measures aimed at minimizing the adverse public health and social consequences of drug abuse, including appropriate medication-assisted therapy programmes, injecting equipment programmes, as well as antiretroviral therapy and other relevant interventions that prevent the transmission of HIV, viral hepatitis and other blood-borne diseases associated with drug use,

Recognizing that drug dependence is a complex, multifactorial health disorder characterized by a chronic and relapsing nature with social causes and consequences that can be prevented and treated through, inter alia, quality, affordable, scientific evidence-based and comprehensive drug prevention and treatment services and care and rehabilitation programmes, as well as through initiatives and measures aimed at minimizing the adverse public health and social consequences of drug abuse, and the social reintegration of individuals with substance use disorders, including homeless people who use drugs, through, inter alia, assistance for effective reintegration into the labour market and other support services, as appropriate,

Acknowledging that the world drug situation remains a common and shared responsibility that should be addressed in a multilateral setting through effective and increased international cooperation and demands an integrated, multidisciplinary, mutually reinforcing, balanced, scientific evidence-based and comprehensive approach which takes into account the age, gender and physical, mental and special needs of people who use drugs,

Underlining the importance of increasing the availability, coverage and quality of scientific evidence-based prevention and treatment services that target relevant age, gender and risk groups and vulnerable members of society in multiple settings, such as schools, families, communities, workplaces, health and social services, and prisons,

Convinced that prevention that is based on scientific evidence and on a rigorous process of adaptation to local cultural and socioeconomic circumstances is the most cost-effective approach to preventing drug abuse and other risky behaviours and is therefore an investment in the well-being of children, adolescents, youth, women, vulnerable members of society, including homeless people, families and communities,

Mindful of the importance of encouraging the voluntary participation of individuals with drug use disorders in treatment programmes, with informed consent, and developing and implementing outreach programmes and campaigns, involving people who use drugs in long-term recovery to prevent social marginalization and promote non-stigmatizing attitudes, as well as of encouraging people who use drugs to seek treatment and care and taking measures to facilitate access to treatment, including integrated treatment for comorbid conditions, and expand capacity,

Reaffirming the relevance of promoting effective supervision of drug treatment and rehabilitation facilities by competent domestic authorities to ensure adequate quality of drug treatment and rehabilitation services and to prevent any possible acts of torture or cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment,

Aware of the need for an integrated approach in designing, implementing, monitoring and evaluating drug prevention and treatment services, including by strengthening partnerships and cooperation among national authorities, particularly in the health, education, social, justice and law enforcement sectors, and between governmental agencies and other relevant stakeholders, including academia, the

scientific community, the private sector, civil society, people who use drugs and regional, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations,

Stressing that all detained persons have the right to access and receive health care and social services, including drug prevention and treatment services, which are to be on a level equal to those available in the community and give special attention to the specific needs of women, youth and vulnerable members of society living in prison settings, while fully respecting all human rights and fundamental freedoms,

Deeply concerned about the negative impacts of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic on essential health-care systems around the globe, in particular in terms of access to and the availability of drug prevention and treatment services, on measures aimed at minimizing the adverse public health and social consequences of drug abuse and on substance use behaviours, as a consequence of lockdown measures, social isolation and arising mental health issues,

1. *Encourages* Member States to continue developing, implementing, monitoring and evaluating quality, affordable, scientific evidence-based and comprehensive drug prevention and treatment services in order to protect the health, safety, welfare and well-being of all humanity, giving special attention to women, youth and vulnerable members of society, as well as communities and families, with full respect for all human rights and fundamental freedoms and the inherent dignity of all individuals;

2. *Invites* Member States to establish and strengthen cooperation and the exchange of information among national authorities, particularly in the health, education, social, justice and law enforcement sectors, and between governmental agencies and other relevant stakeholders, including academia, the scientific community, the private sector, civil society, people who use drugs and regional, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, with a view to developing and implementing quality, affordable, scientific evidence-based and comprehensive drug prevention and treatment services;

3. *Encourages* Member States to develop quality assurance mechanisms for drug prevention and treatment services with a view to ensuring continuous improvement, through, inter alia, effective supervision of drug treatment and rehabilitation facilities by competent domestic authorities, including to prevent any possible acts of torture or cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment;

4. *Urges* Member States to ensure that people who use drugs have access to quality, affordable, scientific evidence-based and comprehensive drug prevention and treatment services, including treatment for comorbid conditions, on a voluntary, non-discriminatory and non-stigmatizing basis;

5. *Also urges* Member States to ensure access to controlled substances for medical and scientific purposes, including for the treatment of drug use disorders;

6. *Encourages* Member States to provide adequate, comprehensive and continued training and awareness-raising activities to health and other professionals in the area of drug prevention and treatment at different levels of education, including university curricula and programmes of continuing education, in order to ensure the quality of drug treatment services and ensure that health and other professionals working with people who use drugs continue to carry out their tasks in an ethical manner and with a respectful, non-judgemental and non-stigmatizing attitude;

7. *Notes* the role of law enforcement officials in supporting drug prevention services, and encourages Member States to provide those officials with appropriate evidence-based training in that regard;

8. *Invites* Member States to consider, in accordance with national legislation, involving law enforcement officials in encouraging people who use drugs to seek treatment, care and rehabilitation on a voluntary basis, by providing them with appropriate aid and assistance;

9. *Also invites* Member States to exchange, including through the Commission, information, good practices and experiences in designing, implementing, monitoring and evaluating drug prevention and treatment services, in order to promote international cooperation in this regard and to further advance the development of quality, affordable, scientific evidence-based and comprehensive drug prevention and treatment services, and calls upon the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to facilitate such exchanges, in collaboration with relevant United Nations agencies such as the World Health Organization, the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, within their respective mandates, and other relevant stakeholders such as the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria and UNITAID;

10. *Encourages* Member States to mainstream a gender perspective into all stages of development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of drug prevention and treatment services, in order to ensure their quality, safety and efficacy and ensure that such services are tailored to the different needs, including comorbid conditions, and circumstances faced by all people who use drugs, in particular women and girls;

11. *Urges* Member States to ensure non-discriminatory and non-stigmatizing access to essential health-care and social services, including drug prevention and treatment services, for those living in prison settings, while taking into account in particular the specific needs of women, youth and vulnerable members of society, and encourages Member States to also consider providing, within their national strategies, alternatives to conviction and punishment in appropriate drug-related cases of a minor nature or in cases in which the drug-using offender has committed an offence as outlined in the relevant provisions of the international drug control conventions;

12. *Calls upon* Member States to make every possible effort to ensure access to and the availability of quality, affordable, scientific evidence-based and comprehensive drug prevention and treatment services, as well as measures aimed at minimizing the adverse health and social consequences of drug abuse, during the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, and encourages Member States to strengthen the capacity of their essential health-care systems, in particular with regards to drug prevention and treatment services, in order to ensure their preparedness for possible future health crises, including by considering establishing and strengthening partnerships with civil society, the private sector and other relevant stakeholders;

13. *Requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, in collaboration with other relevant international and regional organizations, and subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources, to conduct a comprehensive analysis of the quality of drug prevention and treatment services and of measures aimed at minimizing the public health and social consequences of drug abuse, in order to ensure their continuous improvement and with the aim of understanding the health and socioeconomic impacts and the effects on criminality of such services and measures;

14. *Also requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to continue providing, subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources, technical assistance to Member States, in particular developing countries, upon request, for the development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of quality, affordable, scientific evidence-based and comprehensive drug prevention and treatment services;

15. *Further requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the World Health Organization, the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS and other relevant stakeholders such as the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria and UNITAID to continue and expand their collaboration on drug prevention and treatment to other regional, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations;

16. *Encourages* Member States to consider providing technical assistance, upon request, for these purposes through bilateral and multilateral channels;

17. *Invites* Member States and other donors to provide extrabudgetary resources for these purposes, in accordance with the rules and procedures of the United Nations;

18. *Requests* the Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to report to the Commission at its sixty-sixth session on the implementation of the present resolution.
