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**Twelfth Meeting of Heads of National  
Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Europe**

Vienna, 27-30 June 2017

**Draft report***Rapporteur:* Kris Lapiere (Belgium)**Consideration of topics by working groups****Issue (d): Mainstreaming gender perspectives in drug-related policies and programmes**

1. The working group held one meeting on 28 June. In its consideration of the topic under review, the working group made the following observations:

(a) Collecting and analysing qualitative and quantitative gender disaggregated data, and conducting research on gender perspectives in relation to the world drug problem is important to better respond to the specific needs of men and women, as well as to develop and implement targeted measures to crime prevention;

(b) Women affected by drug abuse and drug-related crime are more vulnerable and stigmatized than men and often bear a heavy burden of violence and deprivation, with economic and social factors shaping their involvement in drug-related crime;

(c) The experience of violence, including domestic violence, can represent an impediment to effective drug prevention, treatment and rehabilitation policies and programmes;

(d) Women with substance use disorders are often deprived of or limited in their access to health services and effective treatment that takes into account their specific needs and circumstances;

(e) Mainstreaming gender perspectives in drug-related policies and programmes contributes to achieving Sustainable Development Agenda Goal 5 on gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls.

2. The working group drew up the following conclusions:

(a) It is important to collect and analyse gender disaggregated data in order to design effective gender-sensitive drug policies and programmes and involve women, including during their design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation;

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\* Available only in English, French, Russian and Spanish, which are the working languages of the subsidiary body.



(b) With the number of women drug users and women involved in drug-related crime increasing, it is important to tailor policies and programmes, addressing specific circumstances that women may face, including domestic violence, sexual abuse or trauma;

(c) More research needs to be conducted on the various roles women assume in drug-related and organized crime groups;

(d) Targeted training and capacity-building, including the dissemination of guidelines or handbooks, can support the implementation of gender-sensitive drug policies and programmes.

3. The working group adopted the following recommendations:

(a) Governments are encouraged to collect and analyse gender disaggregated data to obtain more information about the situation, and circumstances of women drug users as well as the various roles women may assume in drug-related crime and organized crime groups, with a view to developing and implementing effective and comprehensive policies and programmes;

(b) Governments are encouraged to ensure non-discriminatory access to health-care services for women, including in prison, and to develop gender-sensitive prevention, primary care, treatment and reintegration policies and programmes, particularly for pregnant women and women with caretaking responsibilities;

(c) Governments are encouraged to ensure close cooperation and collaboration among all relevant national authorities in developing and implementing gender-sensitive drug policies and programmes that take into account the specific needs and circumstances faced by women and girls with regard to the world drug problem.

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