

29 November 2017

English only*

**Forty-first Meeting of Heads of National
Drug Law Enforcement Agencies,
Asia and the Pacific**

Bangkok, 27–30 November 2017

Agenda item 10

Adoption of the report**Draft report***Rapporteur:* Lee Pin How (Singapore)**Addendum****Consideration of topics by working groups****(d) Practical measures tailored to the specific needs of children and youth to prevent and treat drug abuse among them and to address their involvement in drug-related crime, including cultivation and trafficking**

1. The working group on the above topic met during the 6th meeting, held on 29th November 2017. In its consideration of the issue, the working group formulated the following observations, conclusions and recommendations.

2. The working group made the following observations:

(a) Countries in the region are implementing drug use prevention programmes that target pre-school and primary school children;

(b) Life-skills programmes in schools as well as awareness programmes for youth, including out-of-school youth, remain the most widely implemented types of prevention interventions;

(c) Several examples of community interventions in support of drug-free communities, carried out in collaboration with the law enforcement and education sectors, were discussed;

(d) Concern was expressed regarding the growing trend of abuse of prescription medications among youth in some countries;

(e) Increased criminal penalties for the distribution of narcotics to minors has proven effective, in some countries, in curbing access to illicit substances by youth.

* Available only in English, which is the working language of the subsidiary body.



3. The working group drew the following conclusions:

(a) Drug use prevention strategies, implemented as part of a balanced and comprehensive approach to addressing the world drug problem, should take into account the differences in national contexts;

(b) Prevention strategies that target early childhood development are key to developing and implementing effective drug use prevention plans;

(c) Cooperation with and assistance provided by local communities can support the law enforcement and education sectors in their efforts to prevent the use of drugs among children and youth;

(d) In the instance of distribution of drugs to minors, national drug policies and laws need to focus on convicting the traffickers and suppliers of the drugs.

4. The working group made the following recommendations:

(a) Governments are encouraged to enhance cooperation among the education, health and law enforcement sectors at the national level, with regard to prevention interventions that target youth;

(b) Governments are encouraged to enhance the knowledge and build the capacity of teachers and other relevant professionals, including through inter alia training courses, in the area of drug use prevention;

(c) Governments are encouraged to further enhance their drug use prevention programmes that target pre-school and primary school children, as well as youth.
