

15 November 2017

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**Subcommission on Illicit Drug Traffic and  
Related Matters in the Near and Middle East****Fifty-second session**

Beirut, 13–17 November 2017

**Draft report***Rapporteur:* Muhammad Basharat Tahir Malik (Pakistan)**Addendum****Consideration of topics by working groups****Issue (d): Prevention of drug use, focusing on children, youth, families and the education system**

1. The working group on the above topic met during the fifth meeting, held on 15 November 2017. In its consideration of the topic in question, the working group formulated the following observations:

(a) Governments have strong interest and numerous experiences in prevention. A large diversity of ongoing initiatives already exists as well as some promising experiences that could be disseminated through a platform of exchange of experience and expertise;

(b) Prevention initiatives are focusing on the educational sector, media including social media, workplace and awareness-raising. Documentation on the outcome and impact of these initiatives need to be made available, for Member States to benefit from such experiences;

(c) Schools remain one of the main social institutions to reach youth through prevention initiatives. Nevertheless, family skills prevention programmes are an approach that could be further strengthened;

(d) While universal prevention initiatives are prioritized and ongoing, special programmes tailored for high risk subpopulations remain an area that requires further strengthening and support;

(e) Prevention programmes need to account for the cultural specificities and norms of the countries of concern. Proper cultural review and adaptation of evidence-based programmes remain a key ingredient in the successful implementation of any programme;

(f) An inter-sectorial participation in the drug prevention response that also include Civil Society and Non-Governmental institutions is already in place and

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



suggests a successful model of collaborative partnership for an effective prevention response.

2. The working group drew up the following conclusions:

(a) Aligning national strategies with the *International Standards on Drug Use Prevention* is needed, practical and feasible;

(b) Youth drug prevention programmes are a key component to a comprehensive and balanced drug control strategy;

(c) Inter-sectorial collaboration on the prevention response, including between governmental and non-governmental counterparts is a key ingredient in successful implementation of an effective prevention response addressing the different vulnerabilities of youth in different ages of development;

(d) Effective prevention responses in line with the International Standards carry an effective impact that spans beyond drug prevention and actually ensures the safe and healthy development of children.

3. The working group adopted the following recommendations:

(a) Governments are encouraged to adopt a health-centred approach that is balanced and comprehensive when it comes to drug control;

(b) Governments are encouraged to use the International Standards on Drug Use Prevention as a framework to critically review national prevention strategies in line with the Outcome document of the thirteenth session of the General Assembly and the Sustainable Development Goal Target 3.5;

(c) Governments are encouraged to adopt a science-based approach in their youth drug prevention programmes and document the effectiveness and cost effectiveness of their national responses.

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