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

Tashkent, 23–27 September 2019

Draft report*Rapporteur:* Tlegen Matkenov (Kazakhstan)**Addendum****Consideration of topics by working groups****Issue (d): Practical measures tailored to the specific needs of children and youth
to prevent and treat drug abuse among them**

1. The working group on the above topic met during the sixth meeting, held on 25 September 2019. In its consideration of the topic in question, the working group formulated the following observations:

- (a) Youth are a critical resource in mobilizing solutions to the issues related to drugs and drug use behaviour in the region;
- (b) Prevention interventions and treatment for drug use disorders based on science, and culturally adapted, are effective;
- (c) Improving the skills of both parents and youth is a critical component of an effective drug demand reduction programme;
- (d) Effective drug use prevention and drug use disorder treatment must be viewed through a comprehensive approach within a strategic framework;
- (e) Whenever possible encouraging the collection of data that demonstrate a decrease in use of substances to show effectiveness.

2. The working group drew up the following conclusions:

- (a) While prevention is effective, care must be given to the cultural context and to ensuring that implementation is done properly without increasing substance use behaviours;
- (b) Drug use prevention and drug use disorder treatment and rehabilitation must be done within a strategic, multipronged approach but can be focused on key measurable components that allow for results;

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



(c) Successful prevention interventions may begin as early as infancy and progress into adulthood;

(d) Successful treatment and rehabilitation interventions available must be increased and encompass youth from the earliest ages to adulthood.

3. The working group adopted the following recommendations:

(a) Governments are encouraged to implement a system of prevention at the national level that incorporates a number of integrated prevention interventions based on science, aligned with the International Standards on Drug Use Prevention and taking into considerations cultural factors;

(b) Governments should recognize that drug use and drug use disorders are a multifactorial health disorder and ensure quality drug use disorder treatment is available for all persons in need of services;

(c) Governments are encouraged to utilize established platforms and networks for collecting data and sharing best practices in prevention and treatment among countries in the region;

(d) Governments should place a value on youth empowerment and inclusion of youth in policy discussions around the issues of risk behaviours, including substance use.
