

**Commission on Narcotic Drugs****Sixty-second session**

Vienna, 14–22 March 2019

Item 11 of the provisional agenda\*

**Follow-up to the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem held in 2016, including the seven thematic areas of the outcome document of the special session****Brazil: draft resolution****Promoting measures to prevent transmission of HIV for women who use drugs, including by improving access to post-exposure prophylaxis**

*The Commission on Narcotic Drugs,*

*Reaffirming* the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,<sup>1</sup> which states in its article 25 that everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for their health and medical care, among other social rights,

*Reaffirming also* the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,<sup>2</sup> in article 12 of which States parties undertake to take all appropriate measures to eliminate discrimination against women in the field of medical care, ensuring, on a basis of equality of men and women, access to health-care services,

*Recalling* the recommendations 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”,<sup>3</sup> aimed at ensuring non-discriminatory access to health, care and social services in prevention, primary care and treatment programmes, including those particularly needed during pregnancy, and aimed at mainstreaming a gender perspective and ensuring the involvement of women at all stages of development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of drug policies and programmes, taking into account the specific needs of and circumstances faced by women and girls with regard to the world drug problem,

*Recalling also* its resolution 59/5 of 22 March 2016, and underlining the importance of taking into account the needs of and challenges faced by women and girls who use drugs or who are affected by the drug use of others and of mainstreaming a gender perspective into national drug policies,

\* E/CN.7/2019/1.

<sup>1</sup> General Assembly resolution 217 A (III).

<sup>2</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1249, No. 20378.

<sup>3</sup> General Assembly resolution S-30/1, annex.



*Considering* that 30 per cent of women in 79 countries have suffered intimate partner sexual violence, that 38 per cent of women have suffered abuse by the age of 40–44 years, and that, in some regions, women who have suffered such abuse are 1.5 times more likely to acquire HIV and 1.6 times more likely to acquire syphilis in comparison with women who do not experience partner violence,

*Considering also* that women who have experienced childhood adversity and abuse have internalizing behaviours and more often use substances to self-medicate, and that the pattern of a woman's drug use and the related harm are often shaped by an intimate male partner,

*Recalling* that the prevalence of HIV among people who use drugs is higher among women,

*Noting* that women who use drugs face specific barriers to accessing HIV services, including gender-based stigmatizing attitudes, discrimination and violence,

*Considering* the importance of post-exposure prophylaxis for women who use drugs and/or share injecting equipment, especially those who suffer sexual violence, as well as of clinical follow-up and the provision of emergency contraception to survivors of sexual assault,

*Recalling* that in the outcome document of the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem held in 2016, Member States invited national authorities to consider the adoption of measures to minimize the adverse consequences of drug abuse and to prevent the transmission of HIV, viral hepatitis and other blood-borne infections associated with drug use, and consider ensuring access to such interventions,

*Recalling also* the Political Declaration on HIV and AIDS: On the Fast Track to Accelerating the Fight against HIV and to Ending the AIDS Epidemic by 2030,<sup>4</sup> in which Heads of State and Government and representatives of States and Governments committed to providing effective measures aimed at minimizing the adverse public health and social consequences of drug abuse,

*Gravely concerned* about the social barriers, including poverty, that continue to hinder the access of women to treatment for drug use, and, in some cases, the lack of sufficient resources allocated for removing those barriers, and fully aware that women are disproportionately affected by specific consequences of drug abuse, such as sexually transmitted diseases, violence and drug-facilitated crime,

1. *Urges* Member States to strengthen their efforts and take measures aimed at promoting peaceful and inclusive societies, ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all, achieve gender equality, contribute to the elimination of HIV and combat hepatitis B, hepatitis C and syphilis, including among women who use drugs, in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development<sup>5</sup> and its Goal 3;

2. *Encourages* Member States to provide services for women who use drugs in line with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime publication entitled *Addressing the Specific Needs of Women who Inject Drugs: Practical Guide for Service Providers on Gender-responsive HIV Services* and the World Health Organization guidelines on HIV treatment;<sup>6</sup>

3. *Calls upon* Member States, when initiating or providing medically assisted therapy for drug dependence to women, to also offer and provide access to HIV combination prevention programmes, including timely access to post-exposure prophylaxis, when appropriate;

4. *Also calls upon* Member States to provide training and supervision for health professionals who are involved with persons who use drugs, relating to the

<sup>4</sup> General Assembly resolution 70/266, annex.

<sup>5</sup> General Assembly resolution 70/1.

<sup>6</sup> World Health Organization, *Consolidated Guidelines on HIV Prevention, Diagnosis, Treatment and Care for Key Populations* (Geneva, 2014), updated in 2016.

prevention of HIV transmission among women who use drugs or are inserted into an environment of drug use, especially those who are sexually assaulted, including for all health staff in prisons;

5. *Further calls upon* Member States to offer women who use drugs or are inserted into an environment of drug use and have been sexually assaulted or who have recently shared injecting equipment assisted referral to health clinics, where these women can access post-exposure prophylaxis and emergency contraception, in line with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime guidelines in the publication *Addressing the Specific Needs of Women who Inject Drugs: Practical Guide for Service Providers on Gender-responsive HIV Services*;

6. *Calls upon* Member States to implement, in their HIV/AIDS programmes and other HIV-related services, strategies to help identify and respond to gender-based violence by providing direct support to women who use drugs or are inserted into an environment of drug use and who experience sexual violence, including extra measures and protections as may be required to enable women who use drugs to report abuse;

7. *Also calls upon* Member States, when taking steps to prevent the transmission of HIV among women, pursuant to the commitments contained in the Political Declaration on HIV and AIDS: On the Fast Track to Accelerating the Fight against HIV and to Ending the AIDS Epidemic by 2030,<sup>4</sup> to ensure that such steps are also taken for women who use drugs, in order to train HIV service providers to identify and provide support to women who use drugs, especially those who have been sexually assaulted;

8. *Requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, as the convening agency of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS for HIV prevention, treatment, care and support among people who use drugs and ensuring access to comprehensive HIV services for people in prisons, and the World Health Organization, as the convening agency for evidence-based, normative and policy support to Member States in scaling up HIV treatment, care and prevention services, to enable a comprehensive and sustainable response to this epidemic;

9. *Also requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, through its HIV/AIDS Section, to continue providing its leadership and guidance on this issue, along with the World Health Organization, in partnership with other relevant United Nations entities, Governments and civil society groups, including networks of people who use drugs, and to continue to support Member States to increase their capacity and mobilize resources, including domestic investment, for the provision of comprehensive HIV prevention and treatment programmes.

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