Abuse of narcotic and psychotropic substances

The Thirty-ninth World Health Assembly,

Recalling resolutions WHA33.27 and WHA37.23 on the abuse of narcotic and psychotropic substances, adopted by the Thirty-third and Thirty-seventh World Health Assemblies, and resolution EB73.R11 adopted by the Executive Board on the same subject;

Having examined the Director-General's progress report on WHO activities in 1985 and 1986 on the abuse of narcotic and psychotropic substances, and the Director-General's report on the Conference of Ministers of Health on Narcotic and Psychotropic Drug Misuse, held in London in March 1986;

Noting with grave concern the dramatic increase of serious health and social problems related to abuse of narcotic and psychotropic substances;

Affirming that health concerns in relation to the misuse of narcotic and psychotropic substances need to be given greater prominence and emphasis within the international drug control system;

Considering that there is an urgent need, to intensify efforts and programme activities concerned with the individual and community health aspects of problems related to the misuse of narcotic and psychotropic substances, including prevention, treatment, training and research;

Noting with satisfaction the continued development of WHO's activities in this field, including its response to International treaty obligations;

1. URGES Member States to continue:

   (1) to develop and implement national policy to address the health problems related to the misuse of narcotic and psychotropic substances through prevention, treatment, and rehabilitation, and including training programmes and research, and to evolve mechanisms which will promote the coordination of the work of relevant government sectors and community organizations concerned with tackling drug abuse;

   (2) to develop ways to assess and monitor trends in the development of these problems and evaluate the effectiveness of programmes launched to combat them;

   (3) to promote social and educational measures and encourage and support community action so as to reduce inappropriate demand for narcotic and psychotropic substances;

   (4) to encourage the establishment and development of appropriate services to provide for the treatment of patients with drug-related problems, and their integration within existing health and mental health services, particularly at the primary health care level, and those provided by social services and nongovernmental organizations;

   (5) to cooperate in activities under International conventions on narcotic and psychotropic substances, and any other programmes directed towards the control of health problems related to the misuse of such substances;

2. REQUESTS the regional committees to review the extent and nature of health problems related to the abuse of narcotic and psychotropic substances in their respective regions and to decide on ways of ensuring cooperation among countries in this area;

3. REQUESTS the Director-General:

   (1) to further develop the Organization's activities aiming to control health problems related to the misuse of narcotic and psychotropic substances, and to formulate a plan of action;

   (2) to facilitate cooperation in this field among different WHO regions;

   (3) to consider devoting a World Health Day to this topic;
(4) to convey to the Secretary-General of the United Nations the need to increase the proportion of the financial support provided by the United Nations budget for the whole field of control of drug abuse to be devoted to activities and programmes dealing with health and related social problems caused by the misuse of narcotic and psychotropic substances;

(5) to report to the United Nations conference on drug abuse and illicit trafficking, in 1987, on WHO's activities and plans to combat health problems related to the abuse of narcotic and psychotropic substances;

4. REQUESTS the Executive Board to consider selecting the theme "Public health problems related to the abuse of narcotic and psychotropic substances" as a subject for Technical Discussions during a Health Assembly at the earliest opportunity.

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