WHA43.11 Reduction of demand for illicit drugs

The Forty-third World Health Assembly,

Recalling previous resolutions of the Health Assembly and in particular resolution WHA42.20 on prevention and control of drug and alcohol abuse;

Noting with satisfaction the WHO plan of action to reduce drug abuse formulated by the Director-General in response to resolution WHA39.26;

Recalling the Organization's continuing obligations under the international drug control conventions;

Deeply concerned at the scale of the international problem of illicit drugs production, trafficking and abuse, and alarmed by the threat this poses to the health of the world population and to the political, economic and social fabric of States;

Recognizing that international cooperation is essential to combat drug abuse and illicit trafficking;

Noting, in that respect, that the United Nations General Assembly held a Special Session on Drugs in February 1990 which adopted a Political Declaration and a Global Programme of Action on Drugs;

Noting also that the Special Session proclaimed 1991-2000 to be the United Nations Decade against Drug Abuse, during which the Global Programme of Action on Drugs will be implemented;

Welcoming the Declaration of the World Ministerial Summit to Reduce the Demand for Drugs and to Combat the Cocaine Threat, held in London in April 1990, and the emphasis given in it to health issues;

1. URGES Member States:

(1) to work toward the implementation of the measures in the United Nations Global Programme of Action and the London Declaration adopted by the World Ministerial Summit;

(2) to devote appropriate resources to the development of national programmes of action, paying particular attention to the reduction of demand for illicit drugs and to the promotion of effective treatment for drug-dependent persons, including:

   (a) regular monitoring of trends in drug abuse with special attention to changes in patterns of use;

   (b) the development of comprehensive programmes of prevention, utilizing the principles of health promotion and involving full participation of the community and nongovernmental organizations, and intersectoral cooperation;

   (c) facilitating access to drug treatment and rehabilitation programmes and strengthening the capacity of primary health care to respond to drug-related health problems;

   (d) recognizing the relationship between health programmes dealing with drug abuse and those in related areas;

2. REQUESTS the Director-General:

(1) to intensify WHO's action to reduce drug abuse in line with the objectives identified by him in his statement to the World Ministerial Summit, namely:

   (a) preventing the spread of drug abuse in individuals, families, communities, and countries;

   (b) developing effective approaches to the treatment of drug dependence and associated diseases;
(c) collaborating in controlling the supply of licit psychoactive substances;

(2) to promote fundamental and operational research on drug abuse, bringing together relevant disciplines, including all branches of medicine, as well as social epidemiology and cultural anthropology;

(3) to encourage the development of national programmes of action on drug abuse consistent with the economic and health priorities of countries;

(4) to ensure coherence in WHO's action to reduce drug abuse and its action in related areas such as the control of alcohol abuse and of the spread of AIDS;

(5) to continue to draw attention to WHO's role in the reduction of demand for illicit drugs, and to attract additional support for the programme;

(6) to continue to work closely with the United Nations Division of Narcotic Drugs, the International Narcotics Control Board and the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control, together with other regional and international bodies involved, to ensure the fullest possible coordination and compatibility of programmes and optimum use of available resources.

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