

Since the world drug
problem: a reduction



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Since 2009, opium use has increased on an average of 30%, and in the decade between 2005 and 2015, global drug use increased by 25%. The Islamic Republic of Iran reaffirms its support for the Political Declaration and the Plan of Action, and acknowledges that while both drug-related challenges and the methods of combating those challenges differ from region to region, there are three universalizing pillars in crafting viable and sustainable solutions to the world drug problem: a reduction in supply via systematic campaigns against regional drug rings; a reduction in demand via improvements to social security, health, and the minimization the effects of drug abuse; and an emphasis on shared intelligence and intelligence collection. The Islamic Republic of Iran pledges its continued support to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and recognizes the importance of the promotion of physical and mental health; the eradication of extreme poverty; sustainable urban development and management; and improvements of maternal care and the reduction of child mortality rates. Iran is fully conscious of the relationship between these Sustainable Development Goals and the world drug problem, and emphasizes the importance of decriminalizing non-violent drug offenses and ensuring that all fundamental human rights, in particular, those related to criminal justice, are upheld. The national policies of the Islamic Republic of Iran parallel this sentiment; the recent amendment to its Law Against Drug Trafficking limits capital punishment to only the most extreme drug-related circumstances; similarly, Iran has focused on providing inmates with both social support and services. It is Iran's hope that all members states will establish similar regulatory procedures, especially those that promote the rehabilitation and social reintegration of all those affected by the world drug problem.

Iran recognizes the importance of a comprehensive and balanced monitoring and evaluation process, and encourages a strengthened relationship between the CND and the World Health Organization (WHO) and other NGO groups. As over 80% of all drug demand reduction programs are handled by NGOs, a joint effort to encourage community-based participation between them and national governments is of the utmost importance. Alongside these community mechanisms, parallel prevention programs must be expanded within the education system. In light of that fact, Iran has prioritized life skill training for both women and children of all age groups, the bedrock of which is centered on prevention and cultural programs.

These programs, like all other reduction and prevention campaigns, must have a comprehensive follow-up system. To that end, the Islamic Republic of Iran calls for the creation of a year-long study on implementation and follow-up procedures in all Member States, with particular emphasis on both national and community-led involvement. This study will be performed by the CND in tandem with the WHO and other NGO groups, and be made part of a report detailing all areas of improvement for the individual Member States.