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Statement submitted by the International Council on Alcohol and Addictions (ICAA)*

The Secretary-General has received the following paper, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 36 and 37 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* The present document is reproduced in the form in which it was received.



ICAA Activities on Drug Control 2016

For many years the Focus on Women's Section of the International Council on Alcohol and Addictions, the oldest NGO in the field with its 110 years of existence, has studied and evaluated problems and best practices in responding to the research, policy, education, prevention and treatment of psychoactive substance-related problems experienced by women.

There has been considerable development in the addictions field in response to the overall problems created by psychoactive substances. The same cannot be said regarding issues concerning women.

Member organisations such as WOCAD (Sweden), the Bergen Clinics (Norway) and others have been crystallising the problems faced by this population. This is an era of seeking empirically validated best practices that are matched to target those needs.

ICAA, in partnership with WOCAD, undertook to hold a consultative interactive conference on 19th and 20th September 2016 in Stockholm, Sweden on the theme on Focus on Women in Addictions in the 2020s. The conference deliberations produced the following resolutions, which we submit to the member states of the CND for consideration.

The resolutions reflect the broad consensus of the event and provide both a necessary road map and a challenge to the international community to respond to this urgent criminal justice, social justice and public health issues.

Be it resolved:

1. THAT a better recognition be given to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women* to ensure that the sex and gender-specific particular needs of girls and women in all areas of policy-making, research concerning education, empowerment skills, prevention and treatment of the harmful misuse of psychoactive substances are addressed.
2. THAT all global conventions on psychotropic substances emphasises on the necessity to be gender sensitive and specific.
3. THAT all countries commit to develop policies and strategies to reduce or eliminate the burden of health and crime caused by the targeted marketing of alcohol and other psychoactive substances, whether legal or illegal, to adolescents, young women and other vulnerable populations.
4. THAT indigenous and minority peoples who are disproportionately represented in the field of problematic psychoactive substance use and the criminal justice system be consulted and that their needs be met with appropriate and accessible, gendered and culturally sensitive care and research in order to reduce this incidence.
5. THAT the policies on research and project funding be reviewed to ensure that they are gender-balanced and inclusive.
6. THAT an action plan be designed from a women perspective to ensure that treatment of addicted women in conflict with the law is respectful, gender and culturally specific and trauma-informed.
7. THAT training curricula for judges, attorneys, prosecutors, criminal justice and social service workers, law enforcement personnel, and others responding to

* Adopted by the UN General Assembly in 1979 The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) defines discrimination against women as "...any distinction, exclusion or restriction made on the basis of sex which has the effect or purpose of impairing or nullifying the recognition, enjoyment or exercise by women, irrespective of their marital status, on a basis of equality of men and women, of human rights and fundamental freedoms in the political, economic, social, cultural, civil or any other field."

the needs of girls and women ensure that they acquire the knowledge, sensitivity and respect to produce effective and proactive interventions.

8. THAT an action plan be designed and implemented to ensure the availability of appropriate treatment, prevention, support and empowerment for mothers with young children.
 9. THAT each country intensifies their efforts to implement CEDAW and to examine all social service, medical and criminal justice practices to ensure that all addicted women receive treatment based on social justice, respect with full recognition of their cultural and gender needs.
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