

Resolution 56/6

Intensifying the efforts to achieve the targets of the 2011 Political Declaration on HIV and AIDS among people who use drugs, in particular the target to reduce HIV transmission among people who inject drugs by 50 per cent by 2015

The Commission on Narcotic Drugs,

Reaffirming the commitments of the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961,²⁷ in which States parties expressed concern for “the health and welfare of mankind”,²⁸

Reiterating the commitments of the United Nations Millennium Declaration²⁹ and the Millennium Development Goals, in particular the target under goal 6 of halting and beginning to reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS by 2015,

Reiterating also the commitments made in the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem,³⁰

²⁷ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 520, No. 7515.

²⁸ *Ibid.*, preamble, first para.

²⁹ General Assembly resolution 55/2.

³⁰ See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2009, Supplement No. 8 (E/2009/28)*, chap. I, sect. C.

Recalling its resolution 53/9 of 12 March 2010, on achieving universal access to prevention, treatment, care and support for drug users and people living with or affected by HIV,

Recalling also its resolution 54/13 of 25 March 2011, on achieving zero new infections of HIV among injecting and other drug users,

Noting with great concern that women who use drugs, in particular women who inject drugs, are even less likely to have access to HIV prevention and drug demand reduction services than their male counterparts,

Noting with concern that women with substance abuse problems are often deprived of or limited in their access to effective treatment that takes into account their specific needs and circumstances, and recalling in this regard its resolution 55/5 of 16 March 2012, on promoting strategies and measures addressing specific needs of women in the context of comprehensive and integrated drug demand reduction programmes and strategies,

Reiterating the commitments made in the Political Declaration on HIV and AIDS: Intensifying Our Efforts to Eliminate HIV and AIDS,³¹ adopted by the General Assembly at its sixty-fifth session, particularly the commitment to work towards reducing transmission of HIV among people who inject drugs by 50 per cent by 2015,

Taking note of the *Global Report: UNAIDS Report on the Global AIDS Epidemic 2012*,³² published by the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), which shows a sharp decline in HIV transmission in countries that have implemented comprehensive prevention, care, treatment and support programmes for those most vulnerable to HIV infection,

Noting with great concern that a continuing rise in HIV/AIDS and other blood-borne diseases has been recorded, particularly hepatitis B and C, among people who inject drugs in some countries,

Noting with concern that the prevalence of tuberculosis and viral hepatitis among HIV-infected people who use drugs, in particular people who inject drugs, remains greater than the national average in many countries, and recognizing the value of integrating tuberculosis and viral hepatitis screening and treatment into existing services, such as HIV prevention and treatment services, where feasible,

Taking note of the report of the Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime entitled “Responding to the prevalence of HIV/AIDS and other blood-borne diseases among drug users”,³³ in which it is recognized that people who inject drugs are vulnerable to viral hepatitis and tuberculosis infections,

Taking note also of the report of the International Narcotics Control Board for 2012,³⁴ which states that drug abuse, particularly by injection, has emerged as a

³¹ General Assembly resolution 65/277, annex.

³² Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), *Global Report: UNAIDS Report on the Global AIDS Epidemic 2012* (Geneva, 2012).

³³ E/CN.7/2012/16 and Corr.1.

³⁴ *Report of the International Narcotics Control Board for 2012* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.13.XI.1).

serious social issue in many countries, posing new public health challenges such as the spread of HIV and viral hepatitis,

Noting that injecting new psychoactive substances may pose potential risks for spreading HIV/AIDS and other blood-borne diseases in some countries,

Affirming that close cooperation at the national level among experts from the criminal justice, health, social and drug control sectors is a critical element of devising effective responses to HIV prevention, treatment, care and support among drug users,

Reaffirming the central importance of promoting the involvement of people living with or affected by HIV and drug use in shaping responses to the HIV/AIDS epidemic, as well as working with civil society, a key partner in the global response to HIV/AIDS, including the response to the spread of HIV/AIDS through drug injection, in the global efforts to achieve the targets set in the Political Declaration on HIV and AIDS adopted in 2011,

Reaffirming also the importance of global coordination efforts to scale up sustainable, intensified and comprehensive HIV/AIDS responses, in a comprehensive and inclusive partnership with people living with HIV, vulnerable groups, the most affected communities, civil society and the private sector, as called for in the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem, within the framework of the “Three Ones” principles,

Noting that 2013 marks the halfway point between the setting of the target and the date when it should be met, and concerned that the coverage of HIV prevention services for people who use drugs, in particular people who inject drugs, provided in accordance with the international drug control treaties, is far from adequate in many countries with a high prevalence of HIV transmission among people who use drugs, in particular people who inject drugs, despite more than 30 years of the HIV/AIDS epidemic,

1. *Urges* Member States to strengthen their efforts to ensure continued political commitment to combating HIV/AIDS among people who use drugs, in particular people who inject drugs, and to strive to achieve the target set in the Political Declaration on HIV and AIDS: Intensifying Our Efforts to Eliminate HIV and AIDS³⁵ to reduce HIV transmission among people who inject drugs by 50 per cent by 2015;

2. *Requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to continue its leadership and guidance, to significantly expand its work with relevant civil society groups in order to address the gap in access to services for people living with or affected by HIV, including people who use drugs, in particular people who inject drugs, to tackle the issues of stigmatization and discrimination and to support increased capacity and resources for the provision of comprehensive prevention programmes and treatment, care and related support services, including for co-occurring common mental health disorders, in full compliance with the international drug control conventions and in accordance with national legislation, taking into account all relevant General Assembly resolutions;

³⁵ General Assembly resolution 65/277, annex.

3. *Also requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, as the convening agency of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) for reducing HIV transmission among people who use drugs, in particular people who inject drugs, including those in prisons, to work with the other co-sponsors of UNAIDS, especially the World Health Organization and the UNAIDS secretariat, to implement, as appropriate, the *WHO, UNODC, UNAIDS Technical Guide for Countries to Set Targets for Universal Access to HIV Prevention, Treatment and Care for Injecting Drug Users: 2012 Revision*;³⁶

4. *Encourages* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to support the World Health Organization in the implementation of its newly published *Guidance on Prevention of Viral Hepatitis B and C among People Who Inject Drugs*,³⁷ as appropriate, and encourages them to work together to ensure that health services for people who inject drugs include the elements set forth in that publication;

5. *Requests* Member States to ensure, in full compliance with the international drug control conventions and national legislation, that adequate access for people who use drugs, in particular people who inject drugs, to the nine interventions mentioned in the *Technical Guide* referred to above is provided, as appropriate, without stigma or discrimination and while ensuring gender equality;

6. *Strongly requests* Member States, in accordance with national legislation, to reinforce the coordination among relevant national authorities, inter alia, health, criminal justice and law enforcement authorities, as well as civil society, and to develop strategies to ensure that HIV prevention, treatment, care and support for people who use drugs, in particular people who inject drugs, are affordable, available and accessible in order to achieve maximum efficiency of those interventions, without stigma or discrimination and while ensuring gender equality;

7. *Requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to provide the leadership and guidance necessary to support Member States, upon request, in their efforts to scale up access to evidence-based HIV prevention, care, treatment and support services for people who inject drugs, including family-friendly services, especially for women who are pregnant and/or have young children;

8. *Recommends* that the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and UNAIDS develop and assist Member States, upon request, in implementing regional strategies to address HIV among people who use drugs, in particular people who inject drugs, both male and female;

9. *Requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to continue to inform Member States on a yearly basis about the measures taken to achieve a 50 per cent reduction in HIV transmission among people who use drugs, in particular people who inject drugs, by 2015;

³⁶ *WHO, UNODC, UNAIDS Technical Guide for Countries to Set Targets for Universal Access to HIV Prevention, Treatment and Care for Injecting Drug Users: 2012 Revision* (Geneva, World Health Organization, 2012).

³⁷ *Guidance on Prevention of Viral Hepatitis B and C among People Who Inject Drugs* (Geneva, World Health Organization, 2012).

10. *Invites* Member States and other donors to provide extrabudgetary contributions for the purposes of the present resolution, in accordance with the rules and procedures of the United Nations.