

In the name of God

Committee B
Agenda item 29.H - Progress reports
A77-33 H

Statement of I.R. Iran on
"Public health dimensions of the world drug problem"

The I.R. Iran is grateful to the honorable WHO DG for presenting the progress report of the resolution WHA75 (20) and for the attention of the 77th session of WHA to the effects of drugs on public health.

The most commonly abused drugs in the Asian region are opioids. Based on the available evidence, the banning of producing, distributing, transporting and consuming drugs and alcohol is one of the important ways of preventing the consumption, the occurrence of new cases and reducing deaths due to overdose. Such measures are not contradictory to providing medical services to patients affected by drug abuse. The I.R. Iran agrees with the control of new synthetic opioids, cannabinoids, benzodiazepines and stimulants.

The Stop Overdose Safely (SOS) program has suggested carrying naloxone and including it in the list of OTC drugs. However, we believe the proposition requires a more comprehensive review and is not yet feasible. Because carrying naloxone by a person and having unconditional access to it brings a false reassurance so paradoxically increases drug overdose in people. Although the performed studies have proven the effectiveness of naloxone in the treatment of opioid overdose, but the proposition for unconditional access to naloxone, has not considered other aspects including its possible personal and social harms.

Similarly, some harm reduction programs, such as teaching safe sex to prevent HIV in children and adolescents, have paradoxically caused an increase in unprotected sex and need careful review and reconsideration.

The mhGAP program has addressed harm reduction program for alcohol abuse. According to their rich culture, Islamic countries have rejected any amount of alcohol consumption following Islamic etiquettes and domestic culture, so they implement the program for prevention of alcohol consumption much more easily.

Thank you Mr. /Madam Chairperson.