

Position Paper

Country: Islamic Republic of Iran

Committee: World Health Organisation (WHO)

Agenda: Addressing Global Youth Substance Abuse - Focusing on Prevention, Intervention and long-term solutions.

Honourable Chair, esteemed delegates

- ① The Islamic Republic of Iran recognizes youth substance abuse as a global health crisis and a serious threat to our nation's well being. With its geographical proximity to Afghanistan, the world's largest opium producer, Iran has long been on the frontline of drug trafficking making it vulnerable to increased substance availability and use - especially among the youth.
- ② Iran faces unique challenges. Many young individuals, especially in urban and border areas are exposed to substance use due to peer pressure, academic stress, unemployment and mental health issues like anxiety and depression. In rural areas, the lack of awareness and access to proper support services further worsens the situation.
- ③ However Iran is actively working to prevent substance abuse through a multi-level, prevention first strategy, with strong national and international partnerships.

Our key prevention efforts include Drug Control Master Plan (DMP) which focuses on -

- ① **Education in Schools:** Iran has introduced substance abuse awareness in the school curriculum, including workshops, guest talks and interactive campaigns. These programs empower students with knowledge and skills to resist peer pressure and harmful behaviour.
- ② **Mental Health Support** - Iran is expanding access to counselors and youth-friendly clinics to treat early signs of anxiety and depression which are major triggers of substance abuse.
- ③ **Family and Community Engagement** - Iran holds parenting workshops, supports youth clubs and works closely with religious leaders, NGOs and community health workers to raise awareness in cities and rural towns.
- ④ **Free rehab and Treatment** - Iran provides over 8,000 treatment centres, many offering ^{free} rehab, therapy and methadone programs. These services have helped thousands of youth recover.
- ⑤ **Mobile Clinics for Rural Youth:** Iran, with support from the WHO and UNODC, sends mobile health units, to underserved regions for treatment, ~~high~~ counselling and drug education.

International Cooperation: Iran works closely with WHO and UNODC, particularly in regional partnerships to improve treatment, tighter border control, and train health professionals. Our commitment is strong and our partnerships are growing.

Illegal and Legal Drugs in Iran

Illegal Drugs - Opium, heroin, crystal meth, ecstasy

Legal Drugs - Tramadol, codeine, diazepam, alcohol

Laws for Prevention of Substance Abuse

Anti-Narcotics Law

Legal framework that supports rehab and treatment for the youth

Article 16 of the Anti Narcotics Law

This article ensures treatment and not punishment for people who are willing to get cured.

Programs run by the Government to prevent substance abuse

Life Skills Education (LSE)

Youth Empowerment and Engagement Programme

Methadone Maintenance Treatment (MMT)

The Islamic Republic of Iran urges all nations for shared responsibility and International Collaboration to build a drug-free future for the next generation.