

**RESOLUTION OF THE HIGH-LEVEL INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE  
"UKRAINIAN SOCIETY AND DRUGS: DEVELOPING A NEW STRATEGIC  
APPROACH"**

**comprehensive and integrated approach to prevention and treatment of drug  
addiction and HIV / AIDS co-morbidity**

**May, 21-23 2012, Kyiv**

The Conference was organized and conducted by the State Service of Ukraine for Drug Control in partnership with the UN Office on Drugs and Crime, the World Federation for the Treatment of Opioid Dependence, Pompidou Group of the Council of Europe and the National Academy of Legal Sciences of Ukraine.

The Forum was attended by politicians, leading researchers, recognized international and national experts in the sectors of healthcare, drug control, education, culture, law, representatives of social protection institutions, national security, law enforcement, and penitentiary authorities.

After hearing \_\_\_\_\_ reports and presentations within the framework of discussion of the National Drug Strategy of Ukraine for the period through 2020 (the Strategy) and exchange of experience on modern evidence-based approaches to prevention, treatment of drug-addiction, improvement of interaction among different groups of professionals, and comprehensive resolution of such issues, the Conference participants state:

The new approach to drug circulation, counteracting drug addiction and drug-related crimes suggested in the draft Strategy is objectively justified, consistent with the current needs of national development, preservation and maintenance of security and public health. It is quite consistent with realities of the modern civilization and efforts of the international and European community to counteract drug-related threats.

The selected progressive paradigm regarding the role and place of drugs in the contemporary Ukrainian society is to provide a balanced system of drug control for the benefit of people, comprehensive and targeted focus of prevention measures, consistency in implementation of efficient methods of treatment of drug addiction, as well as the focus of law enforcement resources to combat systemic factors of the illegal drug market;

The Strategy sets as its determining factors human rights, focus on prevention of drug use and bringing drug addicted persons back to normal life, as well as a conceptual shift from the punitive vector of the drug policy for drug users towards prevention and treatment.

Participants of the Conference deem it appropriate:

*to approve* the proposed draft National Drug Strategy of Ukraine (through 2020) and *to recommend* to the group of authors to finalize the document in accordance with the proposals and comments made during the discussion that took place;

*to develop* mechanisms for effective implementation of the Strategy's provisions and the system of measures to monitor the progress of their implementation, *to ensure* in this context openness of the state drug policy, a permanent dialogue between the government and civil society institutions, to improve their communication mechanisms;

*to identify* as the key strategic objective of preventive measures development in the society of protective barriers to counteract hazardous challenges of nowadays: drug addiction, alcoholism, tobacco smoking, gambling, etc. It is thus important to implement systems for early detection of drug users among high-risk groups, especially minors, children from distressed families, and families of migrant workers, orphans, the homeless;

*to organize* operation of the treatment and rehabilitation system in view of the best international practice based on evidence-based medicine, integrative approach to the unity of medical, social, and psychological assistance, and other components, development of easily accessible low threshold services, drug use harm reduction, especially reduction of spreading of the HIV infection, mortality, and crime rates. It is important to ensure quality, intensity, and continuity of treatment and rehabilitation measures, including by improving the targeted approach to their funding;

*to emphasize* the need to look for efficient ways of slowing down the spread of HIV / AIDS, hepatitis, tuberculosis and other socially hazardous diseases, one of components of which may be ordering provision of substitution maintenance therapy programs in Ukraine and their functioning on the basis of scientifically sound and evidence-based data;

*to create* the necessary legislative and organizational conditions for providing access of patients with the chronic pain syndrome to pain killer narcotic drugs, above all their non-injection forms;

*to update* research in all areas of the drug policy, especially in forecasting the processes in drug circulation, development of programs to prevent adverse consequences of drug abuse and drug-related crimes, as well as scientifically based methods and approaches to treatment of drug addiction;

*to review* priorities of law enforcement activities to combat illegal drug trafficking taking into account the dynamics and specificity of the illegal drug market, *to focus efforts* on combating drug-related crimes constituting the greatest threat to the public: organized crime associated with drug business, corruption and

drug trafficking. Equally important is development of cooperation of international law enforcement authorities, both at the level of strategic partnership, and within carrying out of specific operations.

*to suggest* that amendments in legal regulation of drug-trafficking control implemented in practice a balanced approach to drugs: on the one hand, ensuring their availability for medical purposes, on the other – preventing their leakage for illegal trafficking.

*to establish* mechanisms for systematic monitoring of the drug situation's development, effectiveness of measures of prevention, treatment and rehabilitation of drug addicted persons, fighting illegal drug trafficking and on this basis making adjustments in the drug policy of the state.

In order to disseminate best practices in defining and implementing national policies on drugs presented at the plenary sessions and during thematic discussions, the Conference participants address its organizers with the suggestion to communicate outcomes of the Conference to practitioners, researchers, experts in the sectors of healthcare, education, culture, law enforcement and penitentiary system officials by publishing the specific proceedings and coverage of the Conference's materials in the media.

May 23, 2012

Kyiv