PUBLIC POLICIES ON DRUG TREATMENT

Executive Secretariat of CICAD
Public Policies on Drug Treatment
So why TREATMENT?

- Severity of the Problem
- Human Rights
  - Right to Life and Health
  - Right to Protection and Social Security
  - Nondiscrimination
- Obligation of the State
Illegal drug use at the global level (2005/2006)

Total world population: 6,475 million people

World population age 15-64: 4,177 million people (100%*)

Non-drug using population age 15-64: 3,977 million people (95.2%*)

Annual prevalence of drug use: 200 million people (4.8%*)

Monthly prevalence of drug use: 110 million people (2.6%*)

Problem drug use: age 15-64: 25 million people (0.6%*)

* in per cent of population age 15-64

Drug Users vs Drugs Used

Source: Kleiman “Controlling Drug use and crime with testing, sanctions and treatment”

Drug Users
- 75-80% Drug users
- 20%-25% Drug users

Drugs Used
- 20%
- 80%

Occasional Users

Abuse

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Washington DC
Drug dependence

- Multifactorial, chronic and recurrent health problem
- Impact on socioeconomic development
- Security problem
- High Cost:
  - Health
  - Productivity
  - Security
  - Violence & accidents
- Treatable
- Cost effective (WHO) 1:13
  - Cost of Treatment
  - Indirect costs
    - Crime
    - Health
    - Social productivity
- “Minimum” treatment
  - Certified
  - Systematic
  - Science based
  - Similar to other chronic diseases

Goals of Treatment

- To improve health and quality of life
- To reduce mortality and disabilities
### Principles of Drug Dependence Treatment

| Availability, accessibility |
| Screening, evaluation, diagnosis, treatment plan |
| Evidence-based |
| Human rights & dignity |
| Sub-groups and special problems |
| Justice system |
| Community involvement |
| Role of government |
| Treatment systems |

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Recommendations for action (WHO, 2001)

- Primary health care
- Availability of medicines
- Community care
- Educate the public
- Involve communities
- National policies
- Human rights
- Links between sectors
- Monitoring
- Research
Treatment:

- Fully integrated into Antidrug Strategy
- Coordinated with other components
- Based on national legislation
- Accessible, equitable, non-discriminatory