The Dominion of Canada

Positions for Commission on Narcotic Drugs

**I) Preventing Illicit Drug Usage by At-Risk Youths**

The Dominion of Canada (Canada), as an active global participant, is dedicated to the prevention of drug use by youths.[[1]](#footnote-1) Canada believes drug-related issues are the result of “decades of ineffective drug policies and inappropriate drug laws.”[[2]](#footnote-2) We recognize the global community as not only a reliable source of answers, but also a system of accountability, and firmly believe the only way to formulate a solution to these issues is by collaboration with fellow member states.[[3]](#footnote-3) We view illicit drug usage as a health issue, and are of the opinion that resources are “better spent on health, education and economic development” rather than ineffective ‘drug-free’ proposals.[[4]](#footnote-4) We look forward to acting with other members of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs in tackling these issues, and developing agreements that do not “restrict the ability of member nations to devise effective solutions to local drug problems.”[[5]](#footnote-5)

Internally, Canada adopted the Canadian Drugs and Substances Strategy (CDSS) in 2016 as a guide for the federal government to respond to all substance abuse issues.[[6]](#footnote-6) In addition to the CDSS, Canada has also launched a public forum as an opportunity for the government to receive public insight on issues surrounding drug abuse.[[7]](#footnote-7) Similar forums have been deemed successful for the United Nations by allowing youth to “exchange ideas and different perspectives on how to improve and protect their peers and convey their message to policymakers.”[[8]](#footnote-8) Several programs and strategies have been created under the CDSS, like the Substance Use and Addiction Program, Opportunity For All, and the Strengthening Families for Parents and Youth Program, all of which help address various aspects of the country’s drug issues.[[9]](#footnote-9) Our policies are a reflection of our perspective on drug usage and emphasize we are willing to pay attention to the “neglected rights of citizens.”[[10]](#footnote-10) Collectively, we need to work alongside other member states and move forward in creating effective solutions.

Pertaining to the original goals of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND) and the pillars of the CDSS, Canada recommends that under the World Programme of Action for Youth (WPAY), there be a redistribution of funds in attempt to create a better organized, more effective, and efficient sub organization similar to that of Canada’s Substance Use and Addictions Program (SUAP). The sub-organization may be referred to as the Global Drug and Addiction Youth Program (GDAYP). Substance abuse is an enduring issue and is recognized as one of fifteen fields of action for the WPAY. The UN acknowledges “youth as a major source for development efforts” and understands the importance of youth participation.[[11]](#footnote-11)As part of the GDAYP Canada also recommends youth forums be incorporated into international education standards. Existing youth forums implemented by the UN have shown to be successful, and Canada strongly believes having forums as part of international education standards will launch future youth initiatives. After all, youth participation is the most important action the CND can take. To guarantee active participation with the GDAYP, Canada suggests the UN enforce strict compliance with member states, extending a shadow of the future.

**II) Combating the Proliferation of Chemically Enhanced Illicit Drugs**

Canada is devoted to furthering its efforts in combating the proliferation of chemically enhanced illicit drugs. We acknowledge proliferation as a serious issue, and aim at partnering with fellow member states to fabricate solutions that are respectful of all backgrounds and cultures. Following the 1971 convention, the CND recognized the importance of states to be able to regulate and monitor chemically enhanced substances within their borders and internationally.[[12]](#footnote-12) As a result, the Convention on Psychotropic Substances was established and essentially became a control system for chemical substances.[[13]](#footnote-13) Canada firmly believes in formulating a solution that meets the goals of

the Convention on Psychotropic Substances and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC).

Within Canadian borders, we have followed in the direction of the UNODC and heavily participated in the National Framework for Action (NFA), an organization linking “federal, provincial, territorial, municipal and community initiatives to common principles, goals and priorities.”[[14]](#footnote-14) A major recommendation of the UNODC was to strengthen networks for cross-border cooperation, and the NFA does exactly that by “providing policy expertise and coordinates roles'' for participating members.[[15]](#footnote-15) The recent measures taken have shown to be successful particularly in the fight against drug trafficking and distribution at the United States-Canada border by having the two state’s government and law enforcement collaborate; however, we do not believe the NFA is the only solution to our problems.[[16]](#footnote-16) Canada admires the efforts of the EU-LAC Coordination, and their ability to succeed in combating such issues in their home regions. Canada would like to formally propose the EU-LAC partner with North American Member States as a resolution to this issue. The actions taken by the coordination thus far have proven to be “successful in monitoring, criminalizing, and identifying precursor chemicals, illicit drugs, and criminal actors,” which is important in order to tackle the issue at hand.[[17]](#footnote-17)

Furthermore, Canada understands that with combating the proliferation of chemically enhanced illicit drugs, comes the careful handling of its disposal because chemicals can harm their environmental surroundings when not disposed of properly.[[18]](#footnote-18) The UNODC reports that “safe methods to dispose chemically induced illicit drugs include recycling or reuse of the chemicals to recognized institutions, fuel blending, and disposal in neutralized sewers.”[[19]](#footnote-19) Therefore, as part of Canada’s solution, we would also like to propose a committee solely directed at assisting member states safely disposing of chemically enhanced illicit drugs.

Lastly, Canada respects the General Assembly's recommendation in developing a “national regulatory and operational procedure.”[[20]](#footnote-20) As intelligence discrepancies continue to be an international issue that hinder the ability to monitor and prevent the trafficking of precursor chemicals.[[21]](#footnote-21) Canada strongly encourages the need for development for a “real-time” information and intelligence exchange program that is shared among member states and seeks to oversee the creation and implementation of such. We are very eager to work with fellow delegates of member states, and are determined to find solutions regarding both issues presented.

1. Riley, D. (1998, November). *Drugs and drug policy in Canada*. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. *Ibid.* [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Canada, G. (2020, November 19). *Canada and the United Nations*. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. Riley, D. (1998, November). *Drugs and drug policy in Canada*. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. Canada, G. (2020, November 19). *Canada and the United Nations*. [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. Canada, H. (2018, September 10). *Government of Canada*. [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. *Ibid.* [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
8. Economic and Social Council, *UNODC Handbook on Youth Participation in Drug Prevention Work*, E/CN. 7/2020/CRP.12. [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
9. *Ibid.* [↑](#footnote-ref-9)
10. Riley, D. (1998, November). *Drugs and drug policy in Canada*. [↑](#footnote-ref-10)
11. Economic and Social Council, *UNODC Handbook on Youth Participation in Drug Prevention Work*, E/CN. 7/2020/CRP.12. [↑](#footnote-ref-11)
12. Convention on Psychotropic Substances, United Nations, February 21, 1971. [↑](#footnote-ref-12)
13. "United Nations Conference for the Adoption of a Protocol on Psychotropic Substances 11 January-21 February 1971, Vienna," United Nations. [↑](#footnote-ref-13)
14. “Illicit Drugs.” *Public Safety Canada / Sécurité Publique Canada*, 18 Jan. 2021. [↑](#footnote-ref-14)
15. *Ibid.* [↑](#footnote-ref-15)
16. *Ibid.* [↑](#footnote-ref-16)
17. https://eulacfoundation.org/en/system/files/study\_on\_judicial.pdf [↑](#footnote-ref-17)
18. Guidelines for the Safe handling and disposal of chemicals used in the illicit manufacture of drugs, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, 2011. [↑](#footnote-ref-18)
19. *Ibid.* [↑](#footnote-ref-19)
20. United Nations General Assembly, Follow-up on strengthening the systems of control over chemical precursors and preventing their diversion and trafficking, A/RES/59/162. [↑](#footnote-ref-20)
21. “UNODC partners with governments to disrupt precursor chemical trafficking in the Asia Pacific region,” United Nation Office on Drugs and Crime .https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/frontpage/2020/February/unodc-to-assist-in-disrupting-precursor-chemical-trafficking-in-the-asia-pacific-region.html [↑](#footnote-ref-21)