

The Russian Federation proposals for the UN General Assembly Special Session on the World Drug Problem to be held in 2016

The Russian Federation pays significant attention to the UNGASS on the World Drug Problem in 2016. Despite the continuous efforts undertaken by the international community the situation with regard to the illicit production, manufacture, trade and consumption of drugs remains difficult.

In particular, the recent years have witnessed a considerable rise in the illicit cultivation of opium poppy and opium production in Afghanistan. According to the international experts' estimates in 2015 a 7.800 tonn strong opium production is expected in the IRA (in 2014 - 6.400 metric tonnes).

The situation is even more exacerbated by the appearance of new dangerous substances, particularly - so called "new psychoactive substances" (NPS), as well as by the ongoing attempts to question the effectiveness of the current international legal regime in the sphere of drug control.

In that regard there is a steadily growing importance of the task to achieve the goals of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action of 2009 endorsed by the UN General Assembly, taking into account additional orienteers contained in the Joint Ministerial Statement as an outcome of the High Level Mid-Term Review in 2014, new realities and the need to raise efficiency in a number of key directions of the efforts to counter the World Drug Problem.

The main goal as we see it is to considerably reduce the production and consumption of illicit opiates, cocaine, cannabis, as well as synthetic drugs and NPS with a view of a longstanding perspective of a society free of drugs. The achievement of the goal needs to rest on the principle of common and shared responsibility of all States for the solution of the World Drug Problem, requires application of a comprehensive and balanced approach to the strategies and measures to reduce supply and demand, including inadmissibility of drug legalization for consumption with non-medical purposes.

To achieve the set targets the Russian Federation proposes to reflect in the outcome document of the UNGASS the following basic elements and priorities:

1. The necessity for States to fully comply with their obligations under the international drug control conventions of 1961, 1971 and 1988 with the UN's central coordination role, including the limitation of drug use only for medical and scientific purposes;

2. Strengthen effectiveness and further intensify international cooperation in the following spheres:

- 1) Identification and blockage of financial flows linked to the illicit drug production and trade, in cooperation with financial and banking sectors, taking into account the connection between drug trafficking and other forms of transnational organized crime and terrorism, including financing of these criminal activities;

- 2) Increase in real output from practical implementation of the UN Guiding principles on Alternative Development taking into account the specifics of each country and region. Enhancement of the UNODC's interaction with UNIDO, FAO, UNDP and other UN entities and structures, as well as with the private sector and credit institutions aimed at realization of the AD projects;

3) Further improvement of the mechanisms for identification, information exchange and scheduling at international and national level of NPS with the engagement of the UNODC and the INCB;

4) Better involvement of academic circles in formulation of the modern drug control policy with a view of setting up the International Anti-Drug Academy;

5) Elaboration of new effective methods of drug prevention, treatment and rehabilitation of drug addicted people, including through engagement with academic circles and civil society with a view of healthy lifestyles promotion;

6) In collaboration with the private sector interruption of leakages into illicit channels of chemical precursors for drug production as well as of drug containing pharmacological preparations, as well as disruption of trade in illicit drugs with the use of modern information and communication technologies, including the Internet;

7) Use of the accumulated international experience (including that in the framework of the Paris Pact Initiative) in order to expand effectiveness of counteracting illicit production, manufacture, trafficking and consumption in particular in opiates and cocaine.

The Russian Federation comes out of the understanding that the decisions of the forthcoming UNGASS will not only provide a strong impulse to achieve by 2019 the goals and targets established in 2009 but also become an important orienteer for the activities of the international community in the sphere of drug control for the upcoming ten years.