**FORUM:** Special Conference two (SPC2)

**QUESTION OF:** Tackling the Opioid Epidemic

**SUBMITTED BY:** Zambia

THE SPECIAL CONFERENCE,

*Alarmed by* United Nations Conference for Development Policy (UNCDP) reports, illustrating a substantial global increase in the consumption, transportation, and production of opioids, especially heroin,

*Defines* that opioids are addictive narcotic drugs prescribed to patients in need of severe pain-relief,

*Condemning* the widespread misuse and over-prescription of opioids such as morphine,

*Defines* medication-assisted substance-abuse treatment as the combination of both counseling and behavioral therapy with a prescribed medication used to treat patients withdrawal symptoms, in order to provide a more thorough approach to rehabilitation,

*Recognizing* Non-Profit Organizations, such as the Centerstone Addiction Center (CAD), who support those recovering from opioid addiction through the provision of various mental and community resources,

*Noting with deep concern* the popularization of recreational use of non-prescription drugs, specifically codeine, among youth,

*Reaffirming* the use of opioid substances in cases of extreme or severe pain, emphasizing cases where the use of opioids such as morphine are used to provide a patient with a relatively pain-free passing,

1. Recommends the implementation of mandatory substance abuse classes in all schools starting at the age of 13, whose curriculum will emphasize the prevention of drug use through means such as but not restricted to:
   1. emphasis on the prevention of the recreational use of affordable over the counter drugs such as codeine
   2. illustrating the dangers of drug use, highlighting the dangers of substance mixing and hybrid-drugs
   3. utilizing the services of NGOs specializing in health and education such as but not limited to:
      1. Barefoot College (BS), an NGO dedicated to educating impoverished and rural populations, through the means of providing knowledge to combat poverty at the socio-economic level
      2. Forum for African Women Educationalists (FAWE), an NGO dedicated to improving the academic resources of both young women and girls in African nations in order to build safe and sustainable communities through the use of education
   4. using pamphlets, flyers, newsletters and/or signs as the means to inform the public of the implementation of substance abuse classes in schools;
2. Calls for all Member Nations to implement biennial governmental investigations of any medical practice meeting the following qualifications such as, but not restricted to:
   1. prescribing addictive substances at a rate higher than 45% in cases of patients with conditions that may require pain medication
   2. location of medical practice where the overdose death rate due to the abuse of opioids is higher than 20%;
3. Further calls for the for Member States to set up mandatory quadrennial re-education programs for all general practitioners and doctors with the ability to prescribe opioids, highlighting the extreme risks of opioid prescription through means such as:
   1. establishing relationships with relevant NGO’s to establish these re-education programs while providing doctors with relevant information on alternative methods of treatment
   2. notifying a doctor whenever a patient they prescribed opioids to experiences an overdose through the means of:
      1. substance-abuse programs established at local hospitals and rehabilitation centers, who will notify through means of sending medical professionals who prescribed the drug a letter stating the name of the deceased patient and the cause of death (OD)
      2. NGO sponsored substance abuse programs;
4. Suggests the expansion of non-profit substance abuse treatment centers in areas impacted most by the opioid epidemic, that will provide resources such as but not confined to:
   1. counseling and behavioral therapies
   2. access to support groups and academic resources regarding the treatment and diagnosis of addiction
   3. information on and easier access to substance abuse rehabilitation programs such as but not limited to:
      1. Hospital-based rehab and treatment programs
      2. Residential based treatment programs
      3. Medical Assisted Therapy, including both medications and behavioral therapy, providing the patient with an increased chance of success in curing their addiction;
5. Urges Member Nations to implement training programs for local substance abuse therapists and counselors under the guidance of NGOs such as but not limited to:
   1. Amref, an African organization dedicated to training health workers in medical areas greatly affected by medical events such as the Opioid Epidemic
   2. Population Services International (PSI), an NGO with the purpose of working together with local governments in order to better the health of individuals in developing nations
   3. Doctors Without Borders/Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF), a humanitarian organization dedicated to helping communities facing epidemics, displacement, hunger, and natural disasters;
6. Endorses the use of medication-assisted substance abuse treatment, due to the largely negative impact addiction has on the economy of affected areas, through means such as:
   1. emphasizing the use of prescription medications such as, but not limited to, methadone and buprenorphine, to aid abusers in quitting substances such as heroin, with a reduced risk of relapse
   2. describing the sources of economic strain related to substance abuse such as:
      1. hospitalization in connection with drug abuse
      2. use of vital police resources on drug-related crimes
      3. decrease in the workforce caused by the use of opioids
      4. incarceration of drug users left unable to contribute to the economy in addition to the cost of incarceration;
7. Recommends all Member States to work with the United Nations to provide funding to research groups dedicated to finding a safe, replacement drug for opioids, such as but not restricted to:
   1. PCORI, an NGO dedicated to helping patients and doctors make well-informed decisions regarding the use and prescription of opioids
   2. World Health Organization (WHO).