

## IV. Measures against the abuse of drugs

50. To enhance the health and welfare of humankind, the conventions mandate States parties to take measures for the treatment, rehabilitation and social reintegration of people affected by drug problems (art. 38 of the 1961 Convention and art. 20 of the 1971 Convention). Those articles stipulate the legal obligation of States to take all practicable measures for the prevention of drug abuse and for the early identification, treatment, education, after-care, rehabilitation and social integration of the persons involved. In the same provision, the importance of promoting both personnel training and awareness campaigns is underlined. In the Commentary on the *Protocol Amending the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, 1961*,<sup>16</sup> it is explained that article 38 reflected the general acceptance of the view that a system of administrative controls

and penal sanctions for the purpose of keeping narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances from actual or potential victims was not sufficient. In the Political Declaration and Plan of Action of 2009, Member States reiterated their commitment to promote and develop prevention and treatment services that were found to be effective and cost-effective on the basis of scientific evidence.

51. In this area, the Board has recommended that countries implement policies and approaches based on scientific evidence, such as those presented by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and WHO in the *International Standards on Drug Use Prevention* and the *International Standards for the Treatment of Drug Use Disorders*.

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<sup>16</sup>United Nations publication, Sales No. E.76.XI.6.