

Supervised drug consumption rooms

1. In the last few years, the Board has noted developments in several States with respect to the establishment or continued operation of supervised drug consumption facilities or “drug injection rooms”. The objective of these facilities has been to reduce the transmission of communicable blood-borne diseases, to prevent overdose death and to provide target populations with access to basic health care and social services, including treatment and rehabilitation opportunities.
2. In the past, the Board has expressed reservations concerning the operation of “drug consumption rooms” because of concerns that their operation may increase the risk of drug abuse and trafficking. The Board has also expressed unease at the provenance of the substances used in “drug consumption rooms”, as they are or may have been illicitly obtained.
3. The Board encourages any national, state or local authority that permits the establishment and operation of “drug injection rooms” to take measures to ensure that such facilities do not provide an additional opportunity for trafficking and abuse of illicit drugs. As State parties to the international drug control conventions, Governments have an obligation to combat illicit drug trafficking in all its forms.
4. The Board wishes to reiterate that, in order for the operation of such facilities to be consistent with the international drug conventions, certain conditions must be fulfilled. Chief among those conditions is that the ultimate objective of these measures is to reduce the adverse consequences of drug abuse through treatment, rehabilitation and reintegration measures, without condoning or increasing drug abuse or encouraging drug trafficking. “Drug consumption rooms” must be operated within a framework that offers treatment and rehabilitation services as well as social reintegration measures, either directly or by active referral for access, and must not be a substitute for demand reduction programmes, in particular prevention and treatment activities.

INCB is the independent, quasi-judicial body charged with promoting and monitoring Government compliance with the three international drug control conventions: the 1961 Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, the 1971 Convention on Psychotropic Substances, and the 1988 Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances.

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