

Committee on the prevention of HIV infection among injecting drug users

- Intersection between drug policies and HIV/AIDS prevention
- UNODC policies related to HIV/AIDS prevention among injecting drug users
- Implementation challenges for UNODC

Intersection between drug policies and HIV/AIDS prevention

- Drug policies and legislation are usually based on the international drug conventions
- International Narcotics Control Board, annual report 2003, published in March 2004: Harm reduction is not a breach of the conventions
- National drug policies impede HIV/AIDS prevention, if
 - Drug dependence is considered a criminal offence rather than a disease
 - Outreach, particularly peer outreach, substitution treatment, and needle and syringe programmes are considered illegal

Intersection between drug policies and HIV/AIDS prevention

- Except for Kyrgyzstan and Moldova, substitution treatment is illegal in all countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States
- Needle and syringe programmes remain controversial in that region
- Needle and syringe programmes and substitution treatment remain small-scale and on a pilot basis in some key countries in South and South-East Asia (China, Indonesia, Myanmar) or are not carried out at all.

UNODC and HIV/AIDS prevention among injecting drug users

HIV/AIDS prevention and care programmes for injecting drug users typically include a wide variety of measures (the "package" approach), ranging from drug dependence treatment, including drug substitution treatment, outreach providing injecting drug users with information on risk reduction and referral to services, prevention commodities, voluntary counselling and testing, treatment of sexually transmitted infections, antiretroviral therapy, and interventions for especially at-risk populations such as prisoners and sex workers who inject drugs. Such a comprehensive package of measures also usually includes treatment instead of punishment for persons convicted of minor drug offences, since drug dependence treatment not only constitutes a humane, cost-effective alternative, but also incarceration usually increases the risk of HIV transmission.

UNODC and HIV/AIDS prevention among injecting drug users

Increase coverage with HIV/AIDS services to at least 35 per cent

- Legal reviews
- Capacity building
- Technical support

Implementation challenges for UNODC

- Political support
- Advocacy
- Quality of services
- Coverage with services

Thank you