**Draft Decision**

The 24th Session of the Governing Board:

* **acknowledging that**

1. substance abuse is a growing problem directly affecting more than 220 million people around the world, regardless of their social status, origins and economical conditions;
2. substance abuse and violence are more and more affecting our societies;

-  **considering**

that humanitarian approaches to drug addiction based on compassion and scientific evidence have proved effective in dealing with issues related to the abuse of substances;

* **noting that**

humanitarian drug policies, programmes and practices, primarily aiming to reduce the adverse health, social and economic consequences associated to the abuse of substances, may represent the proper response in order to:

1. encourage drug users to access health care and social services;
2. decrease the social marginalisation of both drug users and their families;
3. consequentially reduce the levels of urban violence and vulnerability;

* **recalling**

Resolution 30 of the XXI International Conference, Istanbul 1969; Resolution 11 of the Executive Committee of the League, Geneva 1976; Decision 39 of the General Assembly of the League, Geneva 1985; and Resolution 29 of the XXVInternational Conference, Geneva 1986,

**Encourages National Societies in their role of auxiliaries to the public authorities to**:

* set the fight against substance abuse as one of their priorities;
* develop culturally appropriate harm reduction programmes in cooperation with Governments and NGOs;
* consider the relevance of basing any kind of prevention and rehabilitation activity in this domain on the commitment of their Youth.

**Asks the Secretary General to:**

assess how best to support National Societies in a sustainable manner in their humanitarian responses to vulnerabilities caused by drug addiction.

Options to be considered include:

* Create groups of experts in order to identify urgent issues on which focus their action, especially in those countries most affected by the consequences of drug addiction;
* promote the establishment of a reference centre aimed at developing strategic knowledge and best practice in the field of addiction and related diseases;
* renew, develop and strengthen the cooperation with the WHO, the UNODC and other international bodies, including NGOs, working in this domain;
* support regional Networks working on this issue (i.e. ERNA and ART).

Feedback is expected at the next ordinary session of the Governing Board.