

**Statement of I.R. Iran on
“Progress report on the regional framework for action to strengthen the public
health response to substance use”**

**Mr./Madam Chairperson,
Excellences, ladies and gentlemen**

The efforts made in drafting this report are commendable.

As an independent country and aware of global and regional conditions, the I.R. Iran, seeks to prevent drug use and endeavors to mitigate the effects of its use on individuals, society and the region. Accordingly, we are ready to cooperate and contemplate about reviewing, integrating, gathering and publishing evidence, knowledge sharing and experience exchange, especially with regional countries because of cultural similarities in order to enhance the strategies for prevention and treatment-oriented interventions.

The Ministry of Health of the I.R. Iran has always prioritized health measures for prevention, response, treatment and care as well as rehabilitation services for drug use disorders on its agenda. To this end, MOH&ME has tried its best to establish coordination mechanisms for implementation of those health measures.

We would like to request WHO to add the name of I.R. Iran to the following paragraphs: To paragraph 7 among the countries that have an independent law for drug use, in paragraph 11- to the countries that has implemented the pilot program of drug use disorder treatment in the PHC, to paragraph 12- specialized medical services for women, especially during pregnancy, and childbirth, to paragraph 17- the universal, selective and ad-hoc prevention programs for household, educational centers (schools and universities), work settings and community-based activities.

With regard to paragraph 20- The MOH&ME states its interest to benefit the evaluation tools/indicators that have been reviewed in other regional countries with good results.

In line with paragraph 29- considering that the I.R. Iran was one of the first countries to implement harm reduction strategy, we advise WHO to invite one of Iranian authorities as a member of the technical advisory group to reflect national best practices to the TAG.

Finally, due to the neighborhood of Iran to one of the main centers of drug production and distribution in the world, despite huge production burden in that center, 90% of the world's opium is also discovered by Iran (Drug Control Headquarter, DCHQ), which prevents the entry of drugs to other parts of the world, therefore, it is requested that WHO in cooperation with UNODC provide all-round support to I.R.Iran in the field of reducing supply and demand.

Madam/Mr. chair, thank you for the floor.

**Deputy for Public Health
Ministry of Health & Medical Education
The Islamic Republic of Iran**