

**71 session of the EMR Regional Committee
Regional Flagship Initiative 3**

**Statement of I.R. Iran on:
Accelerating public health action on substance use
Monday 14 Oct
Session 6
16:45 – 17:45**

Allow me to appreciate Regional Director for paying attention to this important public health challenge. Iran has developed a range of awareness building and health education interventions, a standard protocol for management of drug use disorder that has been introduced in 7000 public and private health facilities across the country.

The Opioids is the most commonly used substance use in our country. In this sense, for treatment of substance use disorders we suggested psychological support interventions beside maintenance treatment.

We also paid special attention to the needs of drug-using teenagers through establishment of comprehensive and centralized integrated centers in several provinces. In this regard collaboration between NGOs, interested scientific Institutions and health departments aims to tackle the economic and social underlying factors for crime or drug use.

Considering importance of community leadership, we have established special centers for mental and social health services that are staffed by psychiatrists, psychologists and social workers supported by local community and volunteers in the same locality. The aim of these centers is to identify underlying causes for social harm, including drug use.

Thank you for your kind attention