

**WORLD HEALTH  
ORGANIZATION**

Regional Office  
for the Eastern Mediterranean



**ORGANISATION MONDIALE  
DE LA SANTÉ**

Bureau régional  
pour la Méditerranée orientale

WORKSHOP ON PREVENTION AND TREATMENT  
OF DRUG DEPENDENCE  
Alexandria, 16 - 21 October 1978

11 October 1978

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WHO Inter-Regional Workshop on  
Prevention and Treatment of Drug Dependence

Alexandria, 16-21 October 1978

Agenda item 2

OBJECTIVES AND AIMS OF THE WORKSHOP<sup>\*</sup>

I would like to welcome all of you to the first Inter-Regional Workshop on the Prevention and Treatment of Drug Dependence. The next Workshop is planned for 1979 in Thailand for countries from SEARO and WPRO. Other Workshops are planned for 1980/81 for Africa and Latin America.

These Workshops are planned in response to a World Health Assembly Resolution, WHA23.42, adopted by the 23rd World Health Assembly. This resolution noted, among other things, with great concern, the extension of the serious public health problems resulting from the self-administration of dependence-producing drugs, in particular among the young age group, and expressed that there is an urgent need at the local, national, regional and international level to promote prevention, treatment, and rehabilitation measures, and to develop means for intensive collection and exchange of data on the human and environmental factors associated with drug dependence and approved a programme to develop a system for collaborative reporting by selected institutions. The Workshops are also being planned in response to a General Assembly resolution 32/124, passed in 1977, which, among other things, recognized the urgent need to make individuals and governments more aware of the dangers of drug abuse, and the need for increased attention to be given to the field of prevention, treatment and rehabilitation. The resolution also invited the United Nations

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Fund for Drug Abuse Control to initiate, in collaboration with WHO and other appropriate agencies, actions to design models for prevention, treatment and rehabilitation, taking into account the diversity of cultures in which drug abuse exists, for the purposes of identifying and demonstrating the best techniques for assisting drug abusers in order to facilitate the work of the national authorities in reducing drug abuse.

The aim of these Workshops is to increase awareness and to promote the exchange of information, experience, research results and expertise, and to establish mechanisms for coordination and collaboration between the developing countries for the purpose of more effectively planning and implementing drug dependence prevention, treatment and other intervention programmes.

The Workshop has the following objectives:

1. To discuss and assess the drug dependence problems in the countries of the participants.
2. To identify and review measures used in prevention, treatment and rehabilitation and to make recommendations about the most practical approaches to treatment and rehabilitation.
3. To identify and review practical approaches to manpower development.
4. To identify and evaluate the available information needed to plan and operate programmes, to determine what research and information is most needed to improve planning, operation and evaluation of programmes.
5. To discuss and agree on ways and means which would ensure that programmes concerned with the management of drug dependence (and mental health problems linked to those) become part of overall country programmes in the field of health and socio-economic development.

6. To examine mechanisms for coordination and collaboration within countries and between countries in the region.

As you can see, there is a lot of work ahead of us, and I hope that we will achieve these objectives and that the recommendations of the Report of the Workshop will be useful to all countries of the Region.