**CONTRIBUTION OF THE GOVERNMENT OF SPAIN**

**TO THE REQUEST OF INFORMATION FROM THE**

**OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER OF THE UNITED NATIONS**

**FOR HUMAN RIGHTS**

**ON HUMAN RIGHTS CHALLENGES AND THE WORLD DRUG PROBLEM**

In response to the **request for information from the Office of the High Commissioner of the United Nations for Human Rights** whereby, in accordance with Human Rights Council resolution 54/22 adopted on April 4, 2023 requests the States and other stakeholders relevant **information on human rights challenges in addressing and countering all aspects of the world drug problem**, **for reporting to the Human Rights Council at its 54th session to be held in September 2023**, the Government of Spain conveys the following information:

The global drug problem is a scourge that affects humanity, affecting human rights and fundamental freedoms without distinction as to age, gender or social or economic status, making it necessary to reinforce multidisciplinary policies that take a broad approach to this problem.

The **Intelligence Centre against Terrorism and Organised Crime** (CITCO) of the Ministry of Interior is responsible for the fight against drugs and the control of supply, attending international forums such as the United Nations Commission on Narcotic Drugs and the EU Council's Horizontal Drugs Group (HDG), where this problem is tackled from the point of view of controlling demand and supply.

One of the emerging threats in illicit drug trafficking is the increase in synthetic drug trafficking. There are regions of the world highly affected by the consumption of synthetic opioids, which, with minimal quantities trafficked, provide large profits to criminal organisations, causing serious damage to health, including to health workers and members of the law enforcement authorities in the exploitation and seizure phases of these substances.

Illicitly manufactured **synthetic drugs**, such as fentanyl, tramadol and other opioids, methamphetamine, captagon, MDMA and ketamine, pose a complex public health and security threat that law enforcement, regulatory, trade and public health agencies around the world must **jointly** address. Synthetic drugs are often more potent - and more lethal - than plant-based drugs such as cocaine or heroin.

CITCO is also involved in the control of NPS -**New Psychoactive Substances**-, which are drugs that are not controlled at the moment and whose monitoring is carried out within the INCB - International Narcotics Control Board of UNODC, through the ION project (International Operations against New Psychoactive Substances). CITCO coordinates the actions of the National Police and the Civil Guard as part of the State Security Forces and Corps (FCSE) in this area, monitoring the alerts issued by other States and disseminating them to the different Spanish and foreign police forces.

It is worth recalling CITCO's commitment to improving the **prevention of drug trafficking and consumption among young people and children**, with the implementation of Instruction 7/2013 of the Secretary of State for Security on the "**Master Plan for coexistence and improvement of safety in educational centres and their surroundings**", with inter-ministerial collaboration and with the objective of strengthening police cooperation with the educational authorities, developing phases of intensified control of drug trafficking and consumption in these educational areas and receiving the data issued by the police forces during their actions, carrying out assessments and intelligence reports based on these data.

Also in the field of youth protection, through Instruction 3 /2011 of the Secretary of State for Security updating the rules for the implementation of the "Strategic Plan for Police Response to drug use and retail drug trafficking in leisure areas, places and premises", this plan focuses on reducing the supply of drugs to consumers, especially young people, independently of investigations into drug trafficking, highlighting the preventive nature of the action of the FCSE. The objective is to deactivate drug sales points and carry out inspections of public premises. CITCO plans the Operational Plans annually, as well as the periods or phases of intensification, coordinating the execution of the Security Forces and Corps, applying an evaluation procedure and drawing up risk maps and reports on results and intelligence, in order to improve effectiveness.

**Intervention in the prison setting**

Drug addiction is also one of the most important problems among **people in prison**, due to the number of people affected and the seriousness of the associated complications, in terms of health, personality disintegration, family life, training and work, social deterioration, marginalisation and legal and criminal problems.

On the other hand, intervention programmes with prisoners are structured around three interrelated fundamental areas: prevention, assistance and social reincorporation. Prevention activities are a priority and are adapted to the needs of the population. The programmes in the area of assistance with drug addicts are aimed at those people who suffer from biopsychosocial problems due to their addiction. They include:

- Risk and Harm Reduction,

- Detoxification,

- Health Intervention, and

- Psychosocial Intervention.

Social reincorporation contemplates a complex process of socialisation and normalisation that must respond to the personal needs of the drug addict, trying to support their incorporation into family life and the cultural, working and social environment.