



Central Drug Authority

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SUMMARY OF THE RESOLUTIONS OF THE 3RD NATIONAL SUMMIT ON SUBSTANCE USE, ABUSE AND ILLICIT TRAFFICKING

The **3rd National Summit on Substance Use, Abuse and Illicit Trafficking** was held at Birchwood Conference Centre in Boksburg, Gauteng Province from **14 to 16 November 2023**, attended by over 700 delegates in person and virtually, representing the Central Drug Authority and its provincial and local structures, established in terms of the Prevention of and Treatment for Substance Abuse Act No.70 of 2008; delegates gathered and present at this summit, representing government, NGO's, business, and tertiary institutions, and working closely with the Minister in the Department of Social Development, international agencies, and all other sectors of society in South Africa.

Further acknowledging the mission of National Drug Master Plan 2019-2024 (NDMP), a blueprint and strategy aimed at the management of the drug problem in the country, including licit substances such as tobacco and alcohol and which calls on government, the private sector and other local and international stakeholders to work in a coordinated and multisectoral manner to address drug use, misuse and abuse.

The Summit noted progress to date in the implementation of the 7 Goals of the National Drug Master Plan 2019 – 2024, critical challenges yet to be addressed by the country in the short to medium term, and working towards the review of the master plan for the next five years.

The summit identified critical challenges and gaps in the content and implementation of the NDMP, made recommendations for action and adopted resolutions to bring the country closer to a South Africa safe from alcohol and other drugs, and illicit trafficking.

The Summit, recognising and articulating these challenges, and proposing concrete actions for them to be met, adopted resolutions as indicated below.

GOAL 1. DEMAND REDUCTION THROUGH PREVENTION AND TREATMENT FOR SUBSTANCE USE.

RESOLUTION 1/1

We,

- I. Urge the Department of Social Development (DSD) to develop, jointly with all stakeholders, a comprehensive, integrated and evidence-based prevention policy and programmes, in line with the UNODC and WHO International Standards on Drug Use Prevention.***
- II. Call on CDA to coordinate the development of a comprehensive harm reduction policy and encourage the mobilization of resources to fund evidence-based services to ensure the sustainability of programmes.***
- III. Call on the Department of Health (DoH), working with the DSD to develop policies and guidelines to ensure a basket of services is standardized, including minimum human resources required to effectively run community-based centers and for the policy development process to be inclusive.***
- IV. Call on CDA to urge Cabinet and Parliament to enforce a special fund whereby the liquor industry will be compelled to contribute financially to cater for SUD needs including access to treatment services and implementation of the NDMP seven goals.***

GOAL 2: REDUCE THE SUPPLY OF DRUGS THROUGH PROACTIVE LAW ENFORCEMENT; EFFECTIVE RESPONSES TO DRUG-RELATED CRIME; COUNTERING MONEY-LAUNDERING AND PROMOTING JUDICIAL COOPERATION.

RESOLUTION 2/1

We,

- I. Call on all law enforcement agencies (SARS, SAPS Home Affairs SANDF, Port Health) to:***
 - a) Invest in proper security technology and equipment at all ports of entry, to detect drugs, including investment in biometrics to close immigration loops, and***
 - b) Strengthen internal control measures including regular monitoring and vetting of staff working at all ports of entry***
- II. Urge that the CDA engages, within the next three months (by February 2024), with all the relevant the Justice, Corrections and Police Services (JCPS) Cluster departments and their respective agencies, to highlight and focus on the plight of border control in all ports of entry (air, land and maritime borders) in the country.***

RESOLUTION 2/2

We,

- I. Call on the CDA to coordinate the process of alignment of all policies and legislation related to the management of supply reduction within 12 months.***
- II. Call on Police and Justice colleges to ensure capacity building, awareness raising in the application of relevant legislation.***
- III. Call on the Department of Justice to urgently review the Criminal Justice Act in relation to addressing the case management on substance use, abuse and misuse, in line with the current policy paradigm and understanding of addiction as a disease that affects the brain and behaviour.***
- IV. Call on the Justice, Corrections and Police Services Cluster to collectively align its policies and legislation with the new paradigm.***

GOAL 3: INCREASE THE AVAILABILITY OF AND ACCESS TO DRUGS INTENDED FOR MEDICAL AND SCIENTIFIC USE, WHILST PREVENTING THEIR DIVERSION.

RESOLUTION 3/1

We,

- I. Call for greater control by SA Health Products Regulatory Authority (SAHPRA), South African Pharmacy Council(SAPC) and DOH with regards to Over The Counter(OTC) prescriptions.***
- II. Call on Municipalities and SAPS to strengthen monitoring of illegal distribution and sale of medicines.***
- III. Urge the national DoH to fast-track the review and inclusion of Opioid Agonist Therapy in the Standard Treatment Guidelines and Essential Medicines List for treatment of substance use disorder, and enhance monitoring the availability of all controlled medicines to mitigate stock-outs which impact on the quality of care.***

RESOLUTION 3/2

We,

- I. Urge the Minister of Health to facilitate the process of getting medical aids to fund medicines for the treatment of substance use disorder and to make these a prescribed minimum benefit option.***

- II. Call on the Minister to ensure that all relevant medicines for the treatment of substance use disorder are provided at primary health care facilities for the outpatient treatment of SUD.**
- III. Call on the DSD and NDOH to formulate a single set of criteria for treatment centres and that a single team ensures compliance.**

Goal 4: Identify trends and control of New Psychoactive Substances (NPS).

RESOLUTION 4/1

We,

- I. Urge SAHPRA to enhance surveillance to locate clandestine laboratories in order to close these operations and successfully prosecute those responsible.**
- II. Call on the DoH, in collaboration with the relevant authorities, to provide details of illnesses and deaths caused by NPS, that they be recorded and sent to a central database such as SA Medical Research Council as evidence of the harm caused and for further research purposes.**

RESOLUTION 4/2

We,

- I. Urge the DBE and the DHE to conduct education and awareness through various mediums, including social media, on an ongoing basis to alert children and youth to this danger.**
- II. Urge SAHPRA to conduct education and awareness to the public about the NPS and risks associated with their use.**
- III. Urge SAHPRA, working with other stakeholders to conduct greater surveillance and detection exercises, particularly in poverty stricken communities and on the web on NPS**

Goal 5: Promote governance, leadership and accountability for an effective response

RESOLUTION 5/1

We,

- I. Call on the President to ensure that the CDA and its structures at provincial level and local level are independent, accorded the appropriate status, resources and power to be effective and responsive to the dire situation of the people of South Africa that are adversely affected and impacted by drugs**

- II. Call on the CDA to establish a team to investigate the most appropriate location and placement of the CDA, Provincial Substance Forums and Local Drug Action Committees, that will ensure their efficiency in addressing the challenges of substance use, misuse and abuse in the country.**
- III. Call on the CDA to market and popularise the NDMP.**
- IV. Implore the CDA to mobilise urban and rural communities and organs of civil society to lobby for the inclusion of the NDMP into all IDPs as per Act 70 of 2008.**
- V. Call on Cabinet to compel government departments and all entities of government to integrate the NDMP as applicable, in their workplans and development plans to ensure that they are budgeted for and that there is accountability for the realization of the goals of the NDMP.**

RESOLUTION 5/2

We,

- I. Call on the Minister of the Department of Trade, Industry and Competition to table the Liquor Bill initially released and consulted in 2016, since it has not been tabled in parliament.**
- II. Call for a moratorium on the issuing of new licenses and urge the provincial liquor authorities and municipalities to enforce the liquor laws and by laws, through the employment of sufficient inspectors at the ratio to the population that will ensure compliance with such laws.**
- III. Implore the CDA to champion the development and adoption of a Conflict-of-Interest Policy that guides all Ministries and Department in their engagement with the alcohol private sector.**
- IV. Call on Cabinet to ensure that 2% of the 'sin tax' or any other income derived from the Alcohol, Tobacco and other harmful substance industries, is directed and allocated to an independent fund similar to Thai Health Promotion Foundation to address the harms associated with substances such as alcohol.**

Goal 6: Strengthen data collection, monitoring, evaluation, and research evidence for an evidence-based response

Resolution 6/1

We therefore -

- I. Call on the CDA to coordinate all relevant stakeholders and structures including implementing partners so that reporting is strengthened through regular submission of M&E data on demand and harm reduction interventions implemented in the continuum of care.***
- II. Urge the CDA to collate and share best practice interventions with clear M&E components which incorporate iterative feedback loops.***
- III. Urge the CDA to establish a coordinated research hub in collaboration with SANAC and other stakeholders to pool and centralise all data in relation substance use, abuse and illicit traffic.***
- IV. Call on the CDA to facilitate the monitoring and evaluation of existing treatment programmes and interventions.***

Goal 7: Stimulate robust and sustainable economic growth aimed at reducing poverty, unemployment and inequalities

Resolution 7/1

We,

- I. Call on the CDA to coordinate and facilitate a restructuring of social employment programmes such as EPWP to accommodate service users and intentionally include them onto these programmes.***
- II. Call on the CDA to facilitate the enhancement of access to work opportunities by ensuring the removal of red tape, age limit exclusions and the expungement of the criminal record (after a year with the Clearance Certificate from Treatment Centres and Community Based Treatment programmes). This should be done within 2 years.***

Resolution 7/2

We,

- I. Urge the CDA to facilitate the provision of skills development of service users which will include soft skills, vocational skills, business mentorship, coaching and accommodate new business concepts featuring 4IR and green economy within a year.***

Resolution 7/3

We,

- I. Call on CDA to partner with the private sector with the aim of educating them and resource mobilization***
- II. Call on the CDA to host Substance Abuse Business and Stakeholder Indaba by mid 2024***

These resolutions were deliberated on, amended accordingly and unanimously adopted by the summit.