

Dear Sirs,

On behalf of the «Smart Solutions Integration Agency» NGO (Russia, listed at VNGOC Marketplace) we write to thank you for the opportunity to share our input regarding drug use among elderly people prior to the INCB 128th session.

While the 2015 INCB Report covers benzodiazepines overuse among older persons, we suggest to expand the discussion by other related topics - excessive use of over-the-counter medicine (OTC) to treat insomnia and anxiety, recreational drug use among older persons, specifically drug users who failed to reach stable remission and continue drug intake in the older age, causes of this phenomena and prevention methods.

Today, the Russian expert community and NGOs demonstrate growing interest towards issues related to drug use among older persons. Since Russia is following the global population ageing trend (increasing percentage of population aged 60 +), and assuming current middle-aged drug users may join this age group in the near future, there is an urgent need to develop prevention programs designed for the elderly population.

In order to determine the magnitude of the problem, countries may be advised to launch national studies consolidating data from medical, scientific establishments and NGOs related to benzodiazepines and OTC drugs misuse among older people, to measure their awareness about the risks of medication misuse. Research results may be further used to upgrade elderly social support programs, expanding them with risk-free medication intake training and information campaigns.

Finally, we suggest to explore the ethics of OTC drugs' marketing to elderly people and provide manufacturers with guidelines on avoiding elderly consumer misinformation and OTC drugs overuse.

Kind Regards,

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