

Committee: United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)

Country: Republic of South Korea

Agenda Item: Effects of Drug Decriminalization on Drug Abuse

Topic: Decreasing the Rates of Drug Abuse by Drug Decriminalization

Honorable Chairs and most distinguished delegates,

The Republic of South Korea understands the critical importance of addressing drug abuse and its devastating impact on societies worldwide. Governments worldwide are shifting their stance for the decriminalization of drug abuse. We believe that the issue of drug abuse requires a multifaceted approach, with a balance between strict law enforcement and compassionate public health policies. South Korea is committed to find solutions that will advance social well-being while combating drug abuse and illicit drug trafficking.

South Korea recognized that drug abuse pressing global issue moreover it is posing challenges to public health, safety, and socio-economic development. We acknowledge that drug-related offenses need to be addressed effectively through a combination of prevention, treatment, rehabilitation, and law enforcement. We are firmly against the usage of drug of all types in South Korea and even ban the usage of drugs by South Korean citizens abroad where it is legal or tolerated to be used which is mainly comes from the devastation of Chinese people in the opium wars between Great Britain and Qing Dynasty therefore drug usage is a taboo in most of the eastern countries. For instance, the South Korean Embassy in Canada wrote (after cannabis use was legalized in Canada in October 2018) that "it is illegal for South Koreans to use cannabis, even if they are in a region where cannabis is legal". South Korea's biggest and most developed, capital city Seoul had seen 13.7% increase in Drug Abuse in 2014-2018, furthermore most of the cities in the South Korea experienced an increase in drug abuse subsequently drug and substance use in South Korea has moved beyond recreation and has become a major problem of abuse. In 2007 South Korea enforced the 'Drug Expenditure Rationalization Plan' to limit the overconsumption of drugs in addition to this marijuana is legal in medical literature since 2020. We stand strict against drug usage whereas increased Drug Abuse especially in the younger generation is concerning and one reason for that is the stigma that South Korean citizens have due to the fear that they will be imprisoned thus many addicted people cannot seek medical help and people are curious to know how is drugs, "People don't know the effects of cannabis, because they have never experienced it.". The solution for to reduce Drug Abuse might be decriminalization of small-scale drugs usage and a greater extent of support supplied to addicted people therefore resolve the need of medical attention need by the addicted citizens.

In conclusion, South Korea remains steadfast in its commitment to combat drug abuse and illicit drug trafficking. Our policy on the decriminalization of small-scale drug use emphasizes a compassionate and evidence-based approach to promote public health, human rights, and social well-being. We firmly believe that by focusing on prevention, treatment, and targeted law enforcement, while cooperating with the international community, we can collectively work towards a drug-free world where individuals are empowered to lead healthy and fulfilling lives.

Kindest regards,

Delegate of Republic of South Korea