

Guidelines for the Control of Narcotic and Psychotropic Substances

In the context of the international treaties

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WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION

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by

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WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION
GENEVA
1984

ISBN 92 4 154172 5

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PRINTED IN ENGLAND

83/5815 — Spottiswoode — 5500

The World Health Organization is a specialized agency of the United Nations with primary responsibility for international health matters and public health. Through this organization, which was created in 1948, the health professions of some 160 countries exchange their knowledge and experience with the aim of making possible the attainment by all citizens of the world by the year 2000 of a level of health that will permit them to lead a socially and economically productive life.

By means of direct technical cooperation with its Member States, and by stimulating such cooperation among them, WHO promotes the development of comprehensive health services, the prevention and control of diseases, the improvement of environmental conditions, the development of health manpower, the coordination and development of biomedical and health services research, and the planning and implementation of health programmes.

These broad fields of endeavour encompass a wide variety of activities, such as developing systems of primary health care that reach the whole population of Member countries; promoting the health of mothers and children; combating malnutrition; controlling malaria and other communicable diseases including tuberculosis and leprosy; having achieved the eradication of smallpox, promoting mass immunization against a number of other preventable diseases; improving mental health; providing safe water supplies; and training health personnel of all categories.

Progress towards better health throughout the world also demands international cooperation in such matters as establishing international standards for biological substances, pesticides and pharmaceuticals; formulating environmental health criteria; recommending international non-proprietary names for drugs; administering the International Health Regulations; revising the International Classification of Diseases, Injuries, and Causes of Death; and collecting and disseminating health statistical information.

Further information on many aspects of WHO's work is presented in the Organization's publications.

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

It is virtually impossible to name all the individuals, institutions and national authorities who have contributed towards the Guidelines by providing information during the country visits. Thanks should be extended to the participants of the first and second consultations (see pages 12 and 14) and in particular to the Commonwealth Association, who helped in planning the project and criticized the first draft respectively. The International Narcotics Control Board and the United Nations Division of Narcotic Drugs deserve special thanks for their advice and active participation. The provision of funds by the Government of the Netherlands and the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control made the Guidelines possible and calls for special mention.