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DRUGS AND DEVELOPMENT
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FINDINGS

The absence of direct causation requires focused study in social risk factors.

The benefit of the illegal drug industry to the legal economy is an illusion.

Repressive policies seeking to protect public morals or public welfare, regardless of the social context, end up generating huge costs and eternal wars that cannot be won.

FINDINGS

Illegal drugs +
eternal wars result
in:

- 1. Damage to the social fabric
- 2. Damage to democratic governability
- 3. Damage to the environment
- 4. Increase in costs related to addictions and their control.

Societies have not developed satisfactory systems to control addictive drugs: that is the challenge.

FINDINGS: APPROACHES TO CONSIDER

The relationship between individuals and drugs is very diverse and is based on the specific relationship between communities and the State and between individuals and society.

Policies should respond to the characteristics of the problem in each space, moment and situation.

Policies should focus more on human beings and less on prohibited substances.

FINDINGS: APPROACHES TO CONSIDER

Policies should be “humanized” and should generate social integration and sustainable human development:

- Exercise of democratic citizenship, respect for human rights and licit lifestyle choices.
- Should guide the actions of the State and serve as a reference for the design of drug policy.

Some alternative development strategies, implemented in an integral manner and taking into account community contexts

- Have demonstrated successful processes to reincorporate individuals into the legal economy.

THE SOCIAL CONTEXT: Vulnerabilities and risk factors

1. Etiology:

- bodies defenses can be low or high. Not all are affected by trigger factors.

2. Modernization and globalization:

- increased risks caused by economic and social inequality, migration, individualism, unemployment, materialism, urbanization, social conflict and forced displacement.

3. Economic growth:

- Less needs vs. more wants
- involves more risk of crime and drugs.

THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL BURDEN OF DRUGS

Interrelated burdens:

- Damage to the legal economy and to sustainable development.
- Impact on repression measures and unintended consequences.
- Relationship between drugs and human rights.
- Damage to the social fabric.
- Damage to democratic governability.

ENVIRONMENTAL DAMAGE

Damage related to illicit crops due to its placement in fragile zones.

Damage due to the repression of crops:

- fumigation, incentives to erosion, misuse of chemicals, displacement of crops, national parks.

Damage to the production of synthetic drugs:

- Dangerous chemicals, waste.

DRUG-RELATED COSTS

Difficult to quantify and causality is unclear.

Costs of drug use:

- Sickness, loss of productivity, costs for families.

Costs of control programs:

- Police costs, crime and prisons, deterioration of the justice system, diversion of funds for development.

Choosing drug policies is key because it determines many of the costs.

CHALLENGES AND APPROACHES TO CONSIDER

Identification of weaknesses to increase society's defenses:

- **conflict**
 - among those who promote cohesion and social integration and
 - those who seek individual benefits, to whom crime is a legitimate path.

Social integration perspective, "focused on the participation of individuals on three basic pillars:

- *The market and/or the social utility provided by each individual, as a trade mechanism and as a link to the collective contribution for the creation of value;*
- *The redistribution of income, which is basically carried out by the public powers and administrations;*
- *and finally, the reciprocity relationships that are developed within the family and social networks".*

CHALLENGES AND APPROACHES TO CONSIDER

Lessons from Alternative Development:

- Criticized for its low rate of success
- But highlights the need for integrality, involving communities so that repression is not perceived as an imposition from an outside power, and to achieve sustainability.
- There are successful projects today, although this has not prevented the displacement of crops.

The concept has been extended to synthetic drugs and to drug use.