

Commission: **Drugs and Crime**

Session : **7th Zonal MUN- 2024**

Sponsors : **Egypt, Germany, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Madagascar, Mauritius, Myanmar, New Zealand, Republic of Korea (S), United Kingdom**

QUESTION OF: **ADDRESSING THE POPULARISATION OF VAPE AMONG YOUNG ADULTS**

The General Assembly,

Taking into account that out of 82 million vape smokers worldwide, an alarming number are young adults between the ages 18 and 24,

Noting with regret the presence of harmful chemicals such as glycerine, pyridine, acetlpyrazine 2,3,5 - trimthylyrazin that threaten the respiratory system and damage pulmonary organs,

Fully aware that e-cigarettes more formally termed as electronic nicotine delivery systems( ENDS) has the potential to undermine the global tobacco control efforts and annihilate the successes achieved to date( WHO FCTC,2016),

Cognisant of the lack of reinforced legislation, infrastructure and policies that directly address young adults surrounding the purchase and utilisation of vape,

Noting with deep concern that young adults are more prone to be influenced by the rising popularity of vaping in different walks of life,

Taking into consideration that exposure to even moderate level of nicotine can have enduring detrimental effects on the brain development, of young adults whose brains are still undergoing neuroplasty and recognising that exposure to nicotine has the potential to significantly alter brain circuitry,

Alarmed that tobacco consumers have adopted the use of vaping devices as a new habit.

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1. Endorses the implementation of a state-regulated system for the sale of vaping products under the guidance of World Health Organisation (WHO), wherein the state assumes responsibility for:
  - (a) Transparently displaying all product consents, and norms regarding the chemicals present, such as nicotine and tar, ensuring adherence to global regulations;
  - (b) Mandating rigorous safety assessments conducted by both local and international forensic specialists for all vape brands on the market;
  - (c) Advocating the revision of national registration to raise the minimum age for purchasing and using e-cigarettes, in line with the recommendations from the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), and the WHO;
  - (d) Adopting the introduction of a vape distribution quota under the recommendation of UNODC that includes the establishment of quotas to mitigate excessive consumption of vaping products;
2. Recommends the implementation of public health campaigns in schools to educate students about the dangers of vaping by highlighting the potential for addiction, lung damage and other health issues;
3. Calls upon all Member States to develop strategies on spreading awareness and develop better prevention methods such as severely sanctioning the selling of vapes to youngsters under the age of 18, and limiting advertising and marketing of vaping products, especially those targeting youths;
4. Draws the attention of Governments to set proximities restrictions to new vape stores applications to keep them far from schools in addition to preventing growth from the “store-within-a-store” tactic practiced by some dairies, and to introduce legislations that provide greater control over the number of vape stores;

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5. Urges the prohibition of sale of flavoured e-liquids with tempting names that appeal to young people and instead comply with restricted variant names;
6. Suggests actions by government to compel vape companies to make packaging less appealing using dull colours and implement mandatory health warnings on the packaging while also making the packaging hard to remove;
7. Further requests the United Nations (UN) to organise detoxification workshops and rehabilitations that use cognitive behavioural therapy to withstand cravings to vape, conferences, and knowledge sharing platforms on the consequences and dangers of vaping at a young age,
8. Recommends bringing together Member States, experts, and stakeholders to share experiences, best practices, and innovative approaches to address measures to stop youngsters from vaping.
9. Reaffirms that beyond traditional tactics like monitoring bathrooms and hallways to confiscate vaping devices, states could also take a new approach to fighting the e-cigarette epidemic, like offering grants to schools to invest in on-site counselling;
10. Welcomes the Prohibition of tobacco and e-cigarette company sponsorship of teams or events, promotional activities, and offers of educational materials for preventing tobacco use among youth.