

HMDC Presents... WHO: Part 1 (The Topic)

HMDC Presents... World Health Organization (WHO): Social Effects of Addiction (Research Report, December 2026)

Prepared for HMDC delegates attending Harvard Model United Nations Online, December 5-6, 2026. Every fact below comes from a page that was opened and read in October 2026. Each evidence entry names its publication and date so you can always trace a fact back to its source.

WHAT OUR CHAIRS WILL FOCUS ON

Harvard explains that this committee studies the worldwide problem of drug use and substance abuse, and how it hurts health, growth and the safety of whole societies. The October session looks at money and economies, but our December session looks at the same problem from a social side: how addiction changes life in communities, and how it hurts the people who are least able to protect themselves, such as children, poor families and people without homes. Our chairs will ask us to work together and build solutions backed by evidence that lead to "healthier and more resilient communities." That means our papers and resolutions should show real people and real neighbourhoods, not only numbers about money.

Harvard Model United Nations, HMUN Online Committee Page, Last Accessed: October 2026

<https://www.harvardmun.org/who-online>

The parts of this HMDC report that match this focus most closely are Section A entries 1.2, 1.3, 1.5, 1.6 and 1.10, Solution 1 (treatment and overdose response), Solution 3 (treating drug use as a health matter instead of a crime), and Part 3 entries 3.1 to 3.3 on harm reduction and community services.

How we use this report: Harvard's December focus is drugs, alcohol and other substances, and what they do to families, communities and vulnerable groups. This report gives a lot of room to gambling, sports betting and gaming (entries 1.7, 1.8, 1.9, 1.11, 1.21 and Solution 4), and Harvard does not name these at all, so we treat them as background only and never make them the centre of a speech, a position paper or a resolution. Solution 2 (health taxes) leans toward the economic view from the October session, so we use it only as a way to pay for treatment and family support. We spend most of our preparation time on the social harms of substance use and on treatment, harm reduction and community care.

Introduction: What This Committee Is Really Debating

Addiction is usually discussed as a medical problem inside one person's body. This topic asks a wider question: what does addiction do to families, schools, workplaces, neighbourhoods and whole countries? The WHO is the UN agency for health, so delegates will be expected to write resolutions about prevention, treatment, health taxes, regulation of products such as alcohol, tobacco and gambling, and support for the families and communities who carry the cost.

The topic covers both **substance addictions** (alcohol, tobacco and nicotine, illegal drugs, misused medicines) and **behavioural addictions** (gambling and gaming, which the WHO formally recognises as disorders). Social media use is a newer and more disputed area: the WHO measures "problematic" use but does not classify it as a formal addiction.

Remember one practical limit: the WHO gives advice and sets standards, but it cannot force countries to change their laws. Drug control laws are mostly decided through three UN treaties and a separate body, the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND). A strong WHO resolution therefore usually *recommends, requests, encourages* and *funds*, instead of commanding.

PART 1, THE TOPIC

Section A: The Harms

The harms of addiction fall on three groups: the person with the addiction, the people around them (children, partners, victims of road crashes and violence), and society as a whole (health systems, police and courts, the economy). The entries below move from the largest numbers to the more specific social effects.

1.1 World Health Organization, June 25, 2024: Alcohol and Drug Deaths

Tagline: Counting deaths from alcohol and drugs Source: According to... World Health Organization, June 25, 2024 Link: <https://www.who.int/news/item/25-06-2024-over-3-million-annual-deaths-due-to-alcohol-and-drug-use-majority-among-men> Fact: It states... that alcohol causes about 2.6 million deaths a year (4.7% of all deaths on Earth) and other drugs cause about 0.6 million, mostly among men. About 400 million people live with an alcohol use disorder, and young adults aged 20-39 carry the highest share of alcohol deaths. Among teenagers aged 15-19, almost one in four already drinks. Treatment reaches somewhere between less than 1% and at most 35% of people who need it, depending on the country. This means... the scale is enormous and treatment is badly under-supplied almost everywhere. A resolution that only talks about awareness will not touch the treatment gap; delegates should consider how to finance and staff treatment services.

1.2 UN News, June 26, 2026: Record Drug Use Worldwide

Tagline: Measuring the rise in drug use Source: According to... UN News, June 26, 2026 Link: <https://news.un.org/en/story/2026/06/1167817> Fact: It states... that the UN World Drug Report 2026 estimates 331 million people used drugs in 2024, which is 6.2% of people aged 15-64, up from 5.2% ten years earlier. Cannabis is the most used drug (256 million people), followed by opioids (63 million). Women move into dependence faster than men, and women who inject drugs are 20% more likely than men to be living with HIV. The report says harm depends heavily on poverty, homelessness, poor mental health and unequal access to care, and that refugees and displaced people are especially exposed. This means... drug use is growing, not shrinking, and its social effects are tied to poverty and inequality. Delegates can argue that addiction policy must be linked to housing, mental health and humanitarian aid, not only to policing.

1.3 UNODC World Drug Report 2026 Findings, Last Accessed October 14, 2026: The Treatment Gap

Tagline: Showing who misses out on treatment Source: According to... United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, Last Accessed: October 14, 2026 (the page shows no publication date) Link: <https://www.unodc.org/unodc/frontpage/2026/june/wdr26-findings.html> Fact: It states... that only 1 in 12 people with a drug use disorder receives treatment, and for women the figure is only 1 in 23, compared with 1 in 9 for men. In 2024 about 5.9 million people had formal contact with police and courts for drug offences, and roughly two-thirds of those cases involved only use or possession; about 3.7 million people were prosecuted and about 2.2 million convicted. About 755 new psychoactive substances were on the market in 2024, 118 of them seen for the first time. This means... most people with a drug disorder meet the justice system more easily than they meet a doctor. This is the central tension of the topic: should countries move resources from punishment toward treatment, and how should women be reached?

1.4 World Health Organization, October 6, 2025: Tobacco and Vaping

Tagline: Tracking tobacco and vaping addiction Source: According to... World Health Organization, October 6, 2025 Link: <https://www.who.int/news/item/06-10-2025-who-tobacco-trends-report-1-in-5-adults-still-addicted-to-tobacco> Fact: It states... that 1.2 billion people still used tobacco in 2024, about one adult in five, down from 1.38 billion in 2000. More than 100 million people now use e-cigarettes, including at least 15 million children aged 13-15, and where data exist children are on average nine times more likely than adults to vape. The world missed its 2025 target of a 30% reduction in tobacco use (it reached 27%). This means... tobacco control is a real success story, but new nicotine products are pulling young people back toward addiction. Delegates will likely debate whether e-cigarettes should be regulated like cigarettes.

1.5 World Health Organization, June 28, 2024: Alcohol Harms to Other People

Tagline: Revealing harm beyond the drinker Source: According to... World Health Organization, June 28, 2024 Link: <https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/alcohol> Fact: It states... that in 2019, of 298,000 deaths from alcohol-related road crashes, 156,000 were caused by someone else's drinking. Alcohol is also linked to sexual assault, intimate partner violence, suicide, family breakdown, job loss and money problems. Drinking during pregnancy can cause fetal alcohol spectrum disorders, which bring lifelong disabilities to the child. This means... alcohol is not only a personal choice; more than half of alcohol road deaths are other people. This "harm to others" argument is the strongest reason a government can give for stricter alcohol rules.

1.6 University of Michigan, March 3, 2025: Children in Affected Homes

Tagline: Exposing harm to children at home Source: According to... University of Michigan, March 3, 2025 Link: <https://news.umich.edu/millions-of-children-live-with-parents-who-have-a-substance-use-disorder> Fact: It states... that a study in the Journal of Addiction Medicine found nearly 17 million children and teenagers in the United States (about one in four) live with a parent who has a substance use disorder, most often alcohol. These children face higher risk of their own substance use, mental health problems, and contact with child-welfare and legal systems. This means... addiction passes across generations. Even though this study covers one country, it shows why family support programmes and child protection belong in a WHO resolution on social effects. Delegates should look for similar data from their own country.

1.7 World Health Organization, December 2, 2024: Gambling Harms

Tagline: Describing the social cost of gambling Source: According to... World Health Organization, December 2, 2024 Link: <https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/gambling> Fact: It states... that about 1.2% of adults worldwide have a gambling disorder, and for every person gambling at high risk, about six other people (usually family members) are affected. Harms include relationship breakdown, family violence, poverty, neglect of children, crime such as theft and fraud, and suicide; people with gambling disorder in a Swedish study were 15 times more likely to die by suicide. Only about 0.14% of people seek help, partly because of shame. Global gambling revenue is expected to reach US\$700 billion by 2028, driven by smartphones in low- and middle-income countries. This means... gambling is a fast-growing addiction whose damage falls mostly on families. Unlike alcohol and tobacco, there is no UN treaty or global WHO strategy for gambling, which is an open space for a new resolution.

1.8 UNSW Sydney, October 25, 2024: The Lancet Gambling Commission

Tagline: Estimating gambling harm worldwide Source: According to... UNSW Sydney, October 25, 2024 Link: <https://www.unsw.edu.au/news/2024/10/new-commission-calls-for-regulatory-reform-to-tackle-the-health> Fact: It states... that the Lancet Public Health Commission on gambling estimates about 449 million adults gamble at some level of risk and about 80 million have a gambling disorder. Online casino and slot products are especially dangerous: up to 15.8% of adults and 26.4% of adolescents who use them may develop a disorder. Commercial gambling is now available in more than 80% of countries, and gambling features are increasingly built into video games. This means... online and mobile gambling are a youth problem, not only an adult one. Delegates may propose age limits, limits on in-game gambling-like features, and advertising rules.

1.9 WHO Regional Office for Europe, September 25, 2024: Teens, Screens and Gaming

Tagline: Measuring problematic screen use in teens Source: According to... WHO Regional Office for Europe, September 25, 2024 Link: <https://www.who.int/europe/news/item/25-09-2024-teens--screens-and-mental-health> Fact: It states... that in a survey of nearly 280,000 young people aged 11-15, problematic social media use rose from 7% in 2018 to 11% in 2022, higher among girls (13%) than boys (9%). About 12% of adolescents were at risk of problematic gaming, with boys (16%) much higher than girls (7%). This means... digital habits are now part of the addiction debate for young people. Delegates should be careful: "problematic social media use" is measured but is not an official diagnosis, while "gaming disorder" is.

1.10 WHO Regional Office for Africa, April 19, 2024: The Kush Crisis

Tagline: Showing a youth drug emergency Source: According to... WHO Regional Office for Africa, April 19, 2024 Link: <https://www.afro.who.int/fr/node/19609> Fact: It states... that "Kush," a cheap and highly addictive mixture sold mainly to young people in Sierra Leone, has caused many deaths and severe mental illness. Its low price makes it easy for unemployed youth to buy, feeding a wider social crisis. WHO and partners agreed a plan covering prevention, treatment and rehabilitation, and WHO also pressed for action on youth unemployment as a root cause. Africa accounts for half of all global seizures of pharmaceutical opioids, especially tramadol. This means... in many low-income countries the problem is new, cheap, unpredictable drug mixtures combined with joblessness. A resolution should include help for countries with very few treatment services and should link addiction to employment and education.

1.11 CGAP (World Bank), September 3, 2019: Youth Sports Betting in Africa

Tagline: Linking mobile phones to youth gambling Source: According to... CGAP (Consultative Group to Assist the Poor, housed at the World Bank), September 3, 2019 Link: <https://www.cgap.org/blog/sports-betting-highway-to-hell-or-on-ramp-to-digital-finance> Fact: It states... that a survey found over 54% of young people (ages 17-35) in Sub-Saharan Africa had tried gambling, mostly sports betting, and that in Kenya 96% of betting is done on mobile phones. It reports students using school fees to bet, dropping out, and borrowing digital loans to gamble, and a Kenyan government minister calling sports betting "a curse on youth." This means... this source is older (2019) but shows how mobile money and phones carried gambling into countries with high youth unemployment. Delegates from Africa and Asia can use it to argue that gambling regulation must cover phone-based betting and digital lending.

1.21 Harvard Gazette, January 6, 2026: Sports Betting Moves Onto Phones

Tagline: Tracking the boom in phone betting Source: According to... Harvard Gazette, January 6, 2026 Link: <https://news.harvard.edu/gazette/story/2026/01/sports-betting-worries-grow-as-wagers-skyrocket/> Fact: It states... that in the United States, legal sports bets grew from US\$4.9 billion in 2017 to US\$121.1 billion in 2023, and 94% of those bets were placed online. Since a 2018 Supreme Court decision, 39 states have allowed sports betting. Internet searches for help with gambling addiction rose 23% between that ruling and June 2024, and 43% of adults now say legal sports betting is harmful for society, up from 34% in 2022. A Harvard Kennedy School expert links new forms of gambling to falling savings and more missed credit card and mortgage payments, and experts say phone apps with push notifications and constant advertising encourage addictive behaviour. This means... when gambling moves onto phones it grows very fast, and its costs show up in family budgets and debt. Delegates can use this to support two ideas named by experts in the article: banning betting advertisements during sports events, and training ordinary doctors to screen patients for gambling problems.

Section B: Major Potential Solutions

Four solutions are most likely to appear in committee. Each has evidence for and against. Strong delegates will not simply pick one; they will combine them and show how to pay for them.

Solution 1: Expanding Treatment and Overdose Response

Advantages: Medical treatment for opioid dependence has the strongest evidence of any option, prevents deaths, and is cost-effective. Naloxone can reverse an overdose in minutes. New medicines may help alcohol addiction. **Disadvantages:** Treatment needs trained staff and steady money, which poorer countries lack. Methadone and buprenorphine are themselves controlled medicines, so some governments resist them. New medicines are expensive and not yet proven.

1.12 World Health Organization, August 29, 2025: Naloxone and Opioid Treatment

Tagline: Proving overdose deaths are preventable Source: According to... World Health Organization, August 29, 2025 Link: <https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/opioid-overdose> Fact: It states... that about 125,000 people died of opioid overdose in 2019 and that these deaths are preventable with basic life support and quick use of naloxone, a medicine that reverses an opioid overdose and has almost no effect on someone who has not taken opioids. Methadone or buprenorphine maintenance treatment has the strongest evidence of effectiveness, yet fewer than 10% of people who need it receive it, and only half of countries provide it. WHO recommends giving naloxone to people likely to witness an overdose, such as family and friends. This means... the most proven tools already exist; the problem is access. A realistic resolution could set a target for naloxone availability and for opioid treatment coverage.

1.13 UN News, April 2, 2026: Updated WHO Opioid Guidelines

Tagline: Updating treatment guidance for opioids Source: According to... UN News, April 2, 2026 Link: <https://news.un.org/en/story/2026/04/1167248> Fact: It states... that WHO updated its guidance on treating opioid dependence and managing overdoses in the community. WHO reaffirmed methadone and oral buprenorphine and added a long-acting injectable form of buprenorphine, recommended with some caution while more evidence is gathered. Fewer than 10% of the 64 million people with drug use disorders receive treatment. The full guideline is expected in late 2026 or early 2027. This means... WHO's own guidance is changing right now, so delegates can "welcome" the update and "request" WHO to help countries put it into practice.

1.14 University of North Carolina Health, February 12, 2025: A New Medicine Under Study

Tagline: Testing weight-loss drugs against alcohol Source: According to... University of North Carolina Health, February 12, 2025 Link: <https://news.unchealthcare.org/2025/02/semaglutide-shows-promise-in-reducing-cravings-for-alcohol-heavy-drinking/> Fact: It states... that a small trial published in JAMA Psychiatry found that semaglutide (the medicine in Ozempic) reduced alcohol cravings, drinks per drinking day and heavy drinking days compared with a placebo. The study had only 48 adults and lasted nine weeks, and the authors call the results preliminary. This means... new medicines may one day help, but they are not proven and are costly. Delegates can call for more research and fair access, without claiming a cure exists.

1.22 NPR, May 28, 2026: Overdose Deaths Fall, but Not Everywhere

Tagline: Showing overdose response saves lives Source: According to... NPR, May 28, 2026 Link: <https://www.kunc.org/npr-news/2026-05-28/u-s-street-drug-deaths-keep-dropping-but-some-western-states-see-deadly-overdose-surge> Fact: It states... that early government data show overdose deaths in the United States fell about 14% in 2025, to 69,973, roughly 11,300 fewer than in 2024 and far below the peak of 112,418 in mid-2023. Experts credit wide access to naloxone, more use of medicines that reduce opioid cravings, weaker street fentanyl and fewer young people using drugs. However, deaths rose sharply in Arizona, New Mexico and North Dakota, where strong methamphetamine is common and some rural patients must drive more than two hours to reach opioid treatment, and Native American communities die from overdose at about double the national rate. This means... the tools in Solution 1 work when they actually reach people, but the gains are uneven. Delegates can argue that the next step is reaching rural areas and minority communities, and that falling deaths are a reason to keep funding these services, not to cut them.

Solution 2: Raising Health Taxes on Addictive Products

Advantages: Taxes reduce use, especially among young people and people with low incomes, and they raise money that can fund treatment. WHO calls taxes one of the most cost-effective tools. Scotland's minimum price for alcohol cut deaths most in its poorest areas. **Disadvantages:** Higher prices can push some people toward cheaper illegal or home-made alcohol, which can be poisonous. Taxes fall hardest on poorer households, and industries lobby strongly against them.

1.15 World Health Organization, July 2, 2025: The "3 by 35" Initiative

Tagline: Raising prices to save lives Source: According to... World Health Organization, July 2, 2025 Link: <https://www.who.int/news/item/02-07-2025-who-launches-bold-push-to-raise-health-taxes-and-save-millions-of-lives> Fact: It states... that WHO launched the "3 by 35" initiative, asking countries to raise the real prices of tobacco, alcohol and sugary drinks by at least 50% by 2035 through taxes. WHO says this could raise about US\$1 trillion over ten years, and that a one-time 50% price increase could prevent 50 million early deaths over 50 years. Nearly 140 countries raised tobacco taxes between 2012 and 2022. This means... health taxes are WHO's flagship idea and come with a ready-made target. Delegates can endorse "3 by 35" and argue about whether tax money should be set aside for treatment and prevention.

1.16 World Health Organization, January 13, 2026: Cheaper Alcohol

Tagline: Warning that alcohol is getting cheaper Source: According to... World Health Organization, January 13, 2026 Link: <https://www.who.int/news/item/13-01-2026-cheaper-drinks-will-see-a-rise-in-noncommunicable-diseases-and-injuries> Fact: It states... that since 2022 alcohol has become cheaper or stayed the same price in most countries because taxes have not kept up with inflation or rising incomes. Wine is not taxed at all in at least 25 countries, mostly in Europe. Very few countries automatically raise alcohol taxes with inflation. A WHO official said cheaper alcohol "drives violence, injuries and disease." This means... even countries that have alcohol taxes are letting them shrink. A practical proposal is to index alcohol taxes to inflation so prices do not quietly fall.

1.17 Pan American Health Organization, October 7, 2025: Methanol Poisoning

Tagline: Highlighting the danger of illegal alcohol Source: According to... Pan American Health Organization, October 7, 2025 Link: <https://www.paho.org/en/documents/epidemiological-alert-risk-methanol-poisoning-7-october-2025> Fact: It states... that at least five countries in the Americas reported methanol poisoning cases and deaths in the past five years, and that Brazil confirmed 16 cases linked to adulterated alcoholic drinks. PAHO asked countries to strengthen poison surveillance, treat cases quickly, warn the public and stop contaminated drinks from circulating. This means... unregulated alcohol can kill. Opponents of high alcohol taxes argue that price rises push people to these illegal drinks; supporters reply that strong enforcement and monitoring must come with any tax. Either way, a resolution on taxes should include action against illegal alcohol.

1.23 University of Glasgow, March 21, 2023: A Minimum Price for Alcohol in Scotland

Tagline: Testing a lowest legal price for alcohol Source: According to... University of Glasgow, March 21, 2023 Link: https://www.gla.ac.uk/news/headline_929949_en.html Fact: It states... that a study by Public Health Scotland and the University of Glasgow, published in The Lancet, found that Scotland's minimum unit pricing (a law setting the lowest price at which each unit of alcohol can be sold) cut deaths caused wholly by alcohol by 13.4% and alcohol-related hospital admissions by 4.1%, compared with England, which did not use the policy. That is about 150 deaths and 400 hospital admissions avoided each year. The largest benefits went to men and to people in the 40% most deprived areas, where alcohol death rates are more than five times higher than in the least deprived areas. This means... a minimum price answers one of the main objections to health taxes: it targets the cheapest, strongest drinks, and it helped poorer communities most instead of hurting them. Delegates can offer it as a partner to the "3 by 35" tax plan (entry 1.15), especially for countries worried about the effect of taxes on low-income families.

Solution 3: Treating Drug Use as a Health Matter Instead of a Crime

Advantages: Removing criminal penalties for personal use can reduce prison crowding and stigma and encourage people to seek help, as Portugal's results suggest. Supervised overdose prevention centres in New York stopped more than 700 overdoses without a measurable rise in crime.

Disadvantages: Without enough treatment services, public drug use and disorder can rise and voters may reject the policy, as happened in Oregon and British Columbia. Many countries strongly oppose any weakening of drug laws, and the international drug treaties limit how far countries can go.

1.18 UNSW Sydney, November 2024: The Portugal Model

Tagline: Evaluating Portugal's decriminalisation results Source: According to... UNSW Sydney Drug Policy Modelling Program, November 2024 Link: <https://unsw.edu.au/content/dam/pdfs/ada/sprc/research-reports/dpmp-drug-summit-2024-explainers/2024-11-was-decriminalisation-effective-in-portugal-v3.pdf> Fact: It states... that in 2001 Portugal made possession of small amounts of drugs an administrative offence and sent people to health-and-social-work panels instead of courts. Afterward, the share of prisoners held for drug offences fell from 44% (1999) to 21% (2008), HIV and hepatitis C among drug users fell, drug deaths fell, and overall drug use did not rise more than in neighbouring countries. The social cost of drug use fell by 18% over 11 years. However, funding cuts after 2008 weakened the system, and overdoses in Lisbon have recently risen. This means... decriminalisation seemed to work in Portugal because it came with heavy investment in treatment. The lesson for delegates is that changing the law without paying for services is unlikely to work.

1.19 Brookings Institution, September 17, 2024: The Pacific Northwest Reversal

Tagline: Explaining why decriminalisation was reversed Source: According to... Brookings Institution, September 17, 2024 Link: <https://www.brookings.edu/articles/the-rise-and-fall-of-drug-decriminalization-in-the-pacific-northwest/> Fact: It states... that Oregon (USA) and British Columbia (Canada) removed criminal penalties for personal drug possession but later reversed course. Arrests fell, but overdose deaths kept rising, treatment did not expand quickly, and residents complained about open drug use and disorder; about two-thirds of Oregon voters later wanted the law repealed in whole or in part. The author argues that treatment capacity, careful design and rules on public drug use decide whether such a policy succeeds. This means... this is the main counter-example to Portugal. Delegates who support decriminalisation must answer this evidence, and delegates who oppose it can use it, but both should note that the failure was about poor design and missing services.

1.24 Brown University, November 13, 2023: Overdose Prevention Centres in New York

Tagline: Testing whether supervised sites raise crime Source: According to... Brown University, November 13, 2023 Link: <https://www.brown.edu/news/2023-11-13/overdose-prevention-centers>
 Fact: It states... that a study in JAMA Network Open, co-led by a Brown University researcher, examined New York City's two official overdose prevention centres (places where people use drugs under the watch of trained staff), which opened in late November 2021. By February 2023, more than 2,300 people had made about 55,000 visits, staff stepped in to stop more than 700 overdoses, and no one died. Compared with 17 similar neighbourhoods, the areas around the centres showed no significant change in violent crime, property crime, 911 crime calls or complaints about public drug use, and calls about homelessness-related problems fell. This means... one of the biggest fears about harm reduction, that it brings crime into a neighbourhood, did not appear in this study. Supporters of these sites can cite it, while opponents may point out that it covers only two sites in one city over about one year.

Solution 4: Regulating Gambling and Digital Products

Advantages: Regulation can limit advertising, protect children and reduce the number of people harmed before they become addicted. **Disadvantages:** Online gambling crosses borders easily, and governments earn tax money from gambling. There is no international treaty, so each country acts alone.

1.20 UNSW Sydney, October 25, 2024: Gambling Regulation Recommendations

Tagline: Recommending public-health rules for gambling Source: According to... UNSW Sydney, October 25, 2024 Link: <https://www.unsw.edu.au/news/2024/10/new-commission-calls-for-regulatory-reform-to-tackle-the-health>
 Fact: It states... that the Lancet Public Health Commission recommends treating gambling like alcohol and tobacco: strong regulation in every country, limits on access, advertising and sponsorship, protection of policy from industry influence, affordable treatment, and global action including a World Health Assembly resolution and a new international alliance. This means... experts are directly asking the World Health Assembly to act on gambling. This gives delegates a clear, evidence-backed idea for a new clause in this committee.

Section C: Lesser Solutions (Brief List)

- **Prevention in schools and families:** programmes that build life skills and support parents; widely supported but slow to show results.
- **Reducing stigma:** training health workers and using respectful language so people seek help sooner.
- **Peer support and mutual-help groups:** the WHO reports that almost half of responding countries offer none.
- **Advertising and sponsorship bans:** already standard for tobacco; proposed for alcohol and gambling.
- **Drug-checking services:** testing drugs for dangerous ingredients such as nitazenes; disputed in many countries.
- **Screening in primary care:** short check-ups and advice by ordinary doctors and nurses, a part of the WHO SAFER package.
- **Employment and housing support:** addressing joblessness and homelessness, which the UN identifies as drivers of harm.