

**AFRICAN YOUTHS  
PREVENTION**  
(Developing the Mind-set  
Development)  
(Organization in Special Consultative Status with the UN Economic and Social  
Council, ECOSOC, 2018)



**INITIATIVE ON CRIME**

of the Youth for Positive

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**REPORT ON THE 7<sup>TH</sup> NATIONAL YOUTH SUMMIT ON DRUGS AND  
SUBSTANCE ABUSE PREVENTION ORGANIZED BY AFRICAN  
YOUTHS INITIATIVE ON CRIME PREVENTION IN PARTNERSHIP  
WITH WORLD FEDERATION AGAINST DRUG, WFAD, 9<sup>TH</sup> – 10<sup>TH</sup>,  
NOVEMBER, 2021, @FORMER SGF CONFERENCE HALL, FEDERAL  
SECRETARIAT, PHASE , ABUJA.**

**INTRODUCTION:**

The Summit was hosted by **African Youths Initiative on Crime Prevention**, (AYICRIP) in partnership with **World Federation against Drug**, (WFAD) Sweden with the theme: **The Fight against Illicit Drug Trafficking and Substance in COVID 19 Era, Challenges and Prospect.**

**OVERVIEW:**

The two day Summit had in attendance 80 male and 65 female making it a total of 145 delegates with great personalities in the field of drug and substance abuse prevention cutting across, Secondary and Tertiary Institutions, practitioners, Academia, Policy makers and some strong prevention advocates and champions whose commitments and works in the global fight against drugs and substance abuse speaks volume.

Some of the policy making institutions and civil society organizations that participated in the Summit include:

- The Senate Committee on Drugs and Narcotics.
- The Federal Ministry of Health,
- Registrar of Pharmaceutical Council of Nigeria
- The National Drug Law Enforcement Agency,
- The National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control,
- Nigerian Television Authority,
- World Federation Against Drugs, WFAD,
- United Nations Office Drug and Crime, UNODC
- Civil Society Network on Drug Abuse,
- PADDI Foundation,
- International Centre for Leadership Development, Nigeria
- International Society for Substance Use Professionals, ISSUP.

### **WELCOME ADDRESS:**

**Amb. Christogonus C. Ibe**, the Founder/Executive Director of African Youths Initiative on Crime Prevention welcomed participants and guests to the 7th National Youth Summit on Drugs and Substance Abuse Prevention on behalf of the Board of Trustees, staff and volunteers.

According to him, the summit annually brings together youth leaders and heads of youth focused NGOs spearheading the fight against drug, substance abuse and illicit trafficking within the country for the purpose of appraising the war against drug/substance abuse and illicit trafficking as it affects young people.

The Summit creates awareness on the dangers and repercussion associated with young people getting involved in drugs and substance abuse. It will also stimulate discussion on possible suggestions on prevention, policy formulation and implementation as it affects young people in the Nigeria in general.

He used the medium to inform participants that efforts in organizing this summit has been faced with numerous challenges considering the poor economic situation and the fact that government and her agencies have not seen reasons while programmes like this should be supported even when most Nigerian youths are being executed for drug related offences in foreign lands and others are fallen victims as drug addicts and are now having psychiatric and rehabilitation homes as permanent residence.

He went further to say that bringing over 200 participants from our Universities, Polytechnics, Colleges of Education, Youth Corps Members, Civil Society Organizations and other youth leaders across Nigeria for the purpose of addressing the global war against drugs and substance abuse with no support from government and her agencies is most de-motivating and demoralizing but

our resolve to tackle this menace headlong will always keep us in focused and motivated.

He thanked President Muhammadu Buhari for appointing General BubaMarwa who has changed the face of the agency for good and the fight against drugs and narcotics in Nigeria through his leadership skill. His objection for the legalization of marijuana and the launch of **War Against Drug Abuse**, (WADA) has restored hope and revitalized the fight against drug abuse and illicit trafficking in Nigeria and based on this we are using this medium to declare our support to his leadership and programmes

It is understandable to us that the movers of the illicit drug industry are far more ahead of our drug law enforcement agency considering the sophistication at which they carry out their activities. The lives of our NDLEA officers are made vulnerable due to poor condition of service and we wish to use this medium to call on government to intensify their commitment and effort to the fight against drug and substance abuse and illicit trafficking by adequately equipping the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency, NDLEA to effectively carry out its responsibilities.

The government should also double their efforts in coming up with policies that will improve the economic situation which has been identified as the greatest motivator and influencer of illicit drug trafficking among young people in Nigeria.

As part of the activities, three outstanding individuals (**General BubaMarwa, Prof. Moji ChristianahAdeyeye and James David Lalu**) were selected for an award in recognition of their objective contributions to the fight against discrimination, drugs and substance abuse and other related crimes through youth and community development. The award salutes exemplary contributions towards the creation of a conducive and crime free society through policies and programmes. It also serves as a motivation to the awardees to continue with their good works and as well a challenge to other members of the society towards improving their social responsibilities in the area of youth development and crime prevention.

Ibe said to support the launch of the WADA campaign in Nigeria, AYICRIP have concluded plans to activate **WADA COMPUS NETWORKS** in some Nigerian Universities and are joining the NDLEA Chairman and the National Assembly to say a **BIG NO TO MARIJUANA LEGALIZATION**.

He called on the federal government, international agencies and well-meaning individuals to come to their aid in implementing these projects which are

designed to create huge impact in the lives of our youths and we believed that the UNODC and the NDLEA has a lot to do in this regards considering the role they have been playing in this country.

He used the medium to thank the United Nation Office on Drug and Crime, Centre for Development of Institutions, Impact Her World Foundation, UNODC, the US Embassy, World Federation against Drug, Divine Love Foundation, Centre for Development of Institutions, CDI, Impact Her World Foundation, Paddi Foundation, United Religious Initiative, and International Centre for Leadership Development in Nigeria for their support and encouragement.

Amb. Ibe said that our common enemy is defined and the name is drugs and substance which is stronger and highly sophisticated to the extent that no individual or family can defeat it but the only way out to win this global enemy is by our joint effort. He urged the participants to pay rapt attention to enable them learn as the resource persons are ready to do justice to the topics.

### **KEYNOTE SPEECHES AND GOOD MESSAGES:**

The Keynote Speech was delivered by the Executive Chairman of the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency who was represented by **Mr Chidi Ndukwe**, an Assistant Narcotic Agent.

He took the lead by welcoming the participants and also thanking the organizers of the Summit for their commitment in protecting the lives of our young people by consistently organizing a Summit of this nature irrespective of the economic situation in Nigeria.

He called on youths to rise up against the scourge of drug and substance abuse considering the dangers it poses to their growth and development. He highlighted some of the successes the agency has recorded since his assumption in office and also some challenges facing the agency Nigeria which he regarded as manmade and he went ahead to call on government and Civil Society to support the agency especially the War Against Drug Abuse, WADA if we must win the war against the drug abuse prevention fight.

The Chairman went further to call on Civil Society Organizations and Nigerians to adopt a prevention approach that will be peculiar to our culture and society against the foreign imports that are promoting legalization in an open, young and vulnerable community like Nigeria and West Africa.

He urged summit resource persons to address the way forward in making a distinction on the consequences of legalization of marijuana and preventing the

adverse effect of drug use, thereby promoting solution driven advocacy. He called on organizations to use platforms like this to make a clear statement to the fight against legalization of drugs especially marijuana.

**Dr Emmanuel C. Ibe**, the Chairman Board of Trustees of AYICRIP, was full of joy while presenting his good will message. He welcomed every participant especially the government agencies for coming considering the summit very important to warrant their participation. He urge the youths to take their future in their hands by saying no to drug abuse and put their school at the front burner of their pursuit. He also pledged his commitment to the global fight against drugs and substance abuse amongst youths through his support and advice as the chairman of the Board of Trustees of AYICRIP.

**Ms Regina Mattson**, Secretary General of World Federation against Drugs, WFAD was highly delighted to see the summit being co-hosted by World Federation Against Drugs, WFAD, as she said she was very happy to be part of the summit being organized by one of the affiliate organizations of WFAD. According to her, WFAD is a membership organization with over 200 affiliate members of which over 100 are based in Africa. She said she believes that prevention is the best way to solve the world's drugs problems and if governments of different nations could commit to it, there will be a drastic reduction in addiction she promised that WFAD will continue to support advocacy in the area of prevention.

**Honorable Minister of Health:** The Honorable Minister, Federal Ministry of Health who was represented by **Pharm. Ezeagui Oluchi**, a Chief Pharmacist Narcotic and Drug Abuse Division, Food and Drug Services, Federal Ministry of Health, Abuja, was full of praises for the organizers and young people of Nigeria for their commitment in hosting a programme of this nature.

He said government is fully committed to the campaign of a drug abuse free Nigeria and that is the reason different policies are being put in place to address the issues especially in the reduction of alcohol harms amongst youths in Nigeria.

He also said that drug and substance abuse is now a huge problem in Nigeria which gives government great concern considering the negative impact it has on the general population and government cannot close her eyes over the issues so he therefore call on participants to commit their time in the summit to enable time acquire skills that will help in addressing the problems.

**Director General of NAFDAC:** The Director General of the National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control, NAFDAC was represented by **Ms. Yunusa Suzie Ibrahim** who presented her goodwill message. While thanking the organizers of the summit, she said NAFDAC is committed to the national complain against drug and substance abuse considering what our young people are passing through due to drug addiction.

She said the agency have tightened most loopholes of illicit drug distribution thereby reducing the availability for abuse. She said the agency is open for collaboration and would be happy to partner with organization like AYICRIP in our effort to consolidate on the gains we have already achieved.

**The Registrar of Pharmacist Council of Nigeria:** The Registrar who was represented by **Pharmacist Peter Iliya** thanked the organizers for inviting the Council to be part of the summit. He said the Council will be very happy to partner with the Civil Society Organizations considering the fact that they are closer to the people. According to him, researches have shown that most abused drugs are bought from the community pharmacy and for any meaningful control and enforcement to take place, there must be a partnership between the Civil Society Organizations and the Council is willing to work with African Youths Initiative on Crime Prevention and any other that organization who are willing to add value in the system.

**The Director General of Nigerian Television Authority:** He was represented by a director, **Alhaji Musa Sulaiman** who briefed the participants on the activities of NTA in the national fight against drug and substance abuse especially in the area of education and public enlightenment. He said NTA is at the forefront in redeeming the image of Nigeria from the global community by educating the citizens on the dangers associated with drug and substance abuse.

He called on AYICRIP and other interested organizations to leverage on the wide network coverage of N.T.A to partner with station for the purpose of carrying out drug and substance abuse prevention programmes that will education Nigerians and restore the image of Nigeria within the international community.

**Barrister Eze Eluchie**, president of Civil Society Network on Drug Abuse, Secretary General of West Africa Network on Drug Abuse and the Executive Director and Founder of PADDI Foundation while delivering his goodwill message observed that the greatest asset of this country is not the oil and natural resources but its youth population and if not well guided, Nigeria may lose her greatest assets. He hoped that the youth present here will become empowered and leave as change agents to the nation at the end of the Summit.

## RESOURCE PERSONS AND PAPER PRESENTATION SESSIONS:

A total of eleven (11) papers were presented by different resource persons during the two days summit and the lead paper was presented by **Prof. Michael Ezenwa** of the Psychology Department, Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Awka, Anambra state.

His paper focused on the challenges and prospects inherent in the national fight against drug and substance abuse prevention amongst young people during the COVID 19 Era. He highlighted some of the challenges as economic, psychological, environmental and human. He said the future and prospects of the fight against illicit drug trafficking and drug abuse would be determined by our response and rates how we managed the fall outs and lessons learnt during the time in review.

Names of other resource persons and their topics are listed below:

	PAPER PRESENTATION SESSION	PAPER PRESENTATION SESSION
1	1 <sup>ST</sup> Speaker: Prof Michael Ezenwa, Psychology Department, NnamdiAzikiwe University Awka	The fight against Illicit Drug Trafficking and Substance Abuse in COVID 19 Era, Challenges and Prospect
2	2 <sup>nd</sup> Speaker: Prof.Adeyemi Raphael Awopetu, Human Kinetics and Health Education Department, University of Lagos.	Alleviating drugs and COVID 19 lockdown post pandemic depression in youths
3	3 <sup>rd</sup> Speaker: Peggy IjeomaChukwuemeka, Parent-Child Intervention Centre	Links between money laundering and drug trafficking
4	5 <sup>th</sup> Abayomi Joseph Owoeye , Chief Executive , Yomi Owoeye Foundation	The role of faith based institutions in the fight against drug and substance abuse.
5	Felix Iziomoh, Founder/Executive Director, International Centre for Leadership Development and Project Director, AYICRIP	Goal Mapping and Setting in Drug and Substance Abuse Prevention
6	Ekemini Monday Umoh, Founder, Psychologists Beyond Barriers Initiative	Psychological Impact of Covid-19 Pandemic on Substance Abuse Among Adolescents and Youths in Yaba, Lagos Nigeria
7	Dr Ebere James Okorie, University of	Substance Abuse Prevention in Nigeria:

	Uyo	A Criminological Perspective
8	Barr EzeEluchie, President, PADDI Foundation/ Secretary General WANCOSA	Exploring alternatives in efforts at addressing the substance abuse scourge in Nigeria
9	Dr Paul Agbo, University of Jos	The aftermath of COVID 19 on drug use: lessons learnt and the way forward
10	Amb. Christogonus Ibe, Founder/Executive Director, African Youths Initiative on Crime Prevention	Running a Drug Abuse Prevention NGO in times of COVID 19; Challenges and Prospect.
11	Agu Christian Uchenna, Executive Director, Citizens Alert Initiative,	Talent Development; a panacea for the fight against drug and substance abuse amongst youths in Nigeria

### TRAINING SESSION:

145 participants were trained on Prevention, Sensitization, Advocacy and Care in Illicit Drug Trafficking and Abuse and the training session was facilitated by **Dr. Paul Agbo** who is a trained Master Trainer on the instruction of **Dr. Akanidomo Ibanga**, *National Project Officer DDR Response to Drug and Related Organised Crime in UNODC, Nigeria*, .

UNODC Training Dr Paul Agbo	Prevention, Sensitization, Advocacy and Care in Illicit Drug Trafficking and Abuse
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### PANEL OF DISCUSSION SESSION

Discussants: MsYunusa Suzie Ibrahim, NAFDAC, Pharmacist Peter Iliya, Pharmacy Council of Nigeria	Nigeria and the fight against Illicit Drug Trafficking and Abuse; the role of media and effective regulation
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The discussants used the opportunity to explain the roles their organizations are playing in the reduction of demand and supply through regulations. The discussant from NAFDAC stated that their agency has developed a system where unapproved drugs coming into the country are tracked and offenders are arrested prosecuted and punished.

**Pharmacist Peter Iliya** of the Pharmacist Council of Nigeria said the Council is a professional body with a mandate to regulate activities of the members and their activities as regards to practice. They monitor and supervise the activities of their members with the mind of maintaining standard and any member that

fails gets different sanctions from the Council and he used the opportunity to seek partnership with AYICRIP and other well-meaning Civil Society Organizations.

### **AWARD PRESENTATION:**

Three (3) eminent Nigerians were presented with the organization's prestigious awards in appreciation of their commitment and contributions the national fight against discrimination, drug and substance abuse amongst young people and the entire citizens.

The awardees are:

- **Prof. Moji Christianah Adeyeye**, Director General, National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control, NAFDAC
- **James David Lulu**, Executive Secretary of the Disabilities Commission
- **General Mohammed Buba Marwa**, Chairman/CEO of National Drug Law Enforcement Agency, NDLEA

### **STUDENT'S SPEAKOUT SESSION:**

As part of the activities marking the summit, participating students were giving opportunity to speak and share their knowledge and experiences on illicit drug trafficking, drug and substance abuse amongst youths. The discussion was centered on Sustainable Development Goals (*SDG*) 3, 4 and 16 and youth development.

*Some of the schools that participated in the speak out session include:*

- Access School Abuja
- Raudhatul Quran Academy Abuja
- St Aloysius Secondary School Abuja
- Glorious Vision International Academy

### **QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS**

There were questions amongst which are the following:

1. Why tramadol and codeine is available everywhere and what is government doing about it?
2. What is government doing in prosecuting and bringing to justice these drug barons who are bringing these drugs into the country?
3. Why can't our legislators promulgate laws that will address this drug problems
4. Why are some people calling for legalization of drugs in Nigeria?
5. What do you mean by psychosis and psychotic disorder?
6. There are lots of evidence based researches on the problems caused by drugs but still nothing is happening.
7. What is government doing is helping those students who are out of school because of drugs?

8. How can I become a drug and substance abuse prevention champion

### **LESSONS LEARNED AND KEY ACHIEVEMENTS:**

Participants were able to learn that:

1. Drugs are any substance other than food that when ingested causes temporal psychological effect on the body.
2. Young people were highly affected by the COVID 19 due to the lockdown as there was little or no access to sensitization, advocacy, treatment and prevention programmes.
3. That it will amount to substance abuse when you ingest drugs that are legal (prescription drugs) in a ways other than as prescribed.
1. That addiction will result when you get involved in the intake of drugs and become dependent on the intake.
2. That public enlightenment awareness and interventions and targeted Youth empowerment programs are highly effective if activated.
3. That the youth population for any country can be a landmine or a goldmine without drug abuse.
4. That the drug abuse situation is an emergency national challenge, which calls for Intelligence, led nationwide drug abuse mapping exercise.
5. That many young people are experiencing drugs problems, most of which result in mental issues; we should be willing to help our young people from becoming drug dependent.
6. That the fight against drugs and substance abuse is for everybody and not left for government alone.
7. The participants learned how to start up a school based prevention programme in their community.
8. 145 committed to a pledge that they will not abuse drugs and they will replicate the summit to their communities upon return.

### **PARTNERS/SUPPORTERS:**

United Nations Office on Drug and Crime, UNODC

World Federation against Drug, WFAD

Healthy Thinking International, Sweden

PADDI Foundation

International Centre for Leadership Development in Nigeria,

Divine Love Foundation, Abuja.

Centre for Development of Institutions, Abuja

Impact Her World Foundation,

United Religious Initiative, URI

International Substance Abuse and Addiction Coalition, ISAAC

Smart International

## **CHALLENGES EXPERIENCED**

- The COVID 19 outbreak reduced the number of participation of youths across Nigeria.
- Lack of support from government agencies and corporate organizations.
- Insufficient funds for feeding, transport subsidies for student participants and production of summit materials

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. Nigerians should support the government and National Drug Law Enforcement Agency and other narcotic control agencies in the national fight against drug and substance abuse
2. Sensitization based campaign must be enhanced to get to many schools, religious institutions and communities as possible
3. Government must necessarily build and strengthen national Support mechanisms for empirical and policy oriented research in the area of drug use and substance abuse.
4. That government should increase and foster partnerships with functional civil society in the fight against drugs and illicit substances. Establish and scale up counseling and rehabilitation outfit.
5. Corporate organizations should also support drug and substance abuse prevention programmes as part of their corporate social responsibilities activities.
6. International organizations and other funding agencies must treat and fund the activities of prevention focus organizations without any form of sentiments.
7. Policies that tend to promote prevention activities must be promulgated and government should intensify commitment in funding and empowering drug regulating agencies in Nigeria.
8. Government should repeal laws that focus on petty drug users rather than big barons and dealers.
9. Legalizations of the use of marijuana and other psychotropic drugs must not be encouraged by government and other stakeholders.
10. The fight against Drug Abuse campaign of the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency, NDLEA must be launched in both secondary and tertiary institutions across the country.
11. The NDLEA should support NGOs to activate the War against Drug Abuse programme in all higher institutions and secondary schools across Nigeria

## **RESPONSES/FEEDBACK:**

**Eromina Osene a male youth corper:** I really want to thank the organizers for this event which is targeted on youth like me to sensitize us on the effect of drug and substance abuse in our nation. I must tell you these issues is very serious considering what young people are going through in Nigeria especially now that we have no job to fall back on.

I love the presentations especially the UNODC training on Prevention, Care, Advocacy and sanitization which is very cheap and everybody can actually do it but government should start looking at addressing the causes by providing jobs and other youth friendly that will engage the youths out of drug abuse.

**Eboigbe Joy Omoeffe is a female youth corper:** I am very happy to have been selected by our coordinator to participate in this programme because I have learnt a lot on this drug issues especially how we as youth can support the fight by contributing our own quota. I like what AYICRIP is doing by bringing the youths together to enlighten them on the effect of this drug problems but I think they also need help from government and corporate organizations for better organization. For example, I did not get writing materials and same as other because it is not enough even the feeding was really not enough and maybe it was because of lack of money.

Let me also thank them for the UNODC training Session by Dr paul Agbo because I will be going back to replicate the whole knowledge in my community because the youths there are destroying themselves with marijuana and other drugs.

**16 years old Zainab Muhammed Bello, female, from Raudhatul Academy** said she is very glad that her school included her name for the summit as she was able to talk learn and also talk to the speakers who were very nice and approachable. I am also happy that my school was among the five (5) schools selected to start the AYICRIP SMART CLUB in Abuja to fight drug and substance abuse amongst students and this will help me and other students to know more about drugs and substance abuse.

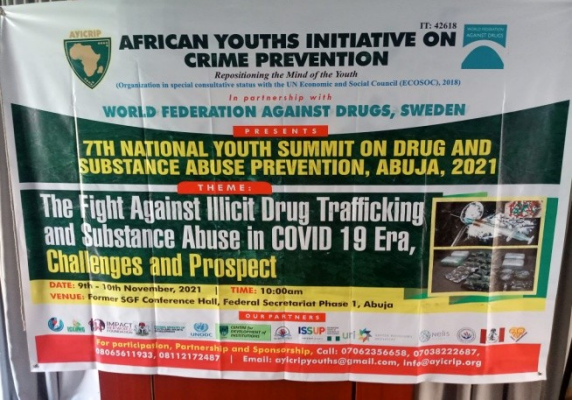
17 years old Favour Ezechukwu of Glorious Vision Technical International School was so excited that she said she will educate his friends and also take the message to their church children department so that young people will stop drug abuse. He said he would love to be a member of the smart club when it is formed.

## **SPECIAL APPRECIATION:**

We specially thank United Nations Office on Drug and Crime, UNODC for their partnership and supporting our resource persons.

**PHOTO SPEAKS:**







Thank you.  
Amb. Christogonus C. Ibe,  
Founder/ Executive Director,  
African Youths Initiative on Crime Prevention, AYICRIP,