

Fourth Lesson: Combating Drugs

Algerian legislation deals with the criminalization and punishment of drug-related offences under Act No. 04-18, as amended and supplemented by Act No. 23-05 on the prevention and control of narcotics and psychotropic substances in all its aspects, thus reflecting the country's criminal policy and, by the same token, the international obligations arising from the ratification of the relevant conventions on combating illicit drug trafficking.

positive legislation as a mechanism for preventing and combating drugs

The Algerian legislature has turned its attention to drug-related crime, which has become increasingly dangerous due to its persistence among human beings of all generations, genders and social classes. As a transnational nation, Algeria has put in place a criminal justice policy to deal with this issue.

National Drug Control and Addiction Office

Algeria's legislative and operational mechanisms for the prevention and control of the drug scourge 473 After the public authorities had identified the widespread phenomenon of drug addiction among segments of society through surveys and statistics from security institutions, in addition to recommendations from international bodies tasked with combating the phenomenon, the Algerian authorities set up a national committee affiliated to the Minister of Health in accordance with Executive Decree No. 92-151 dated 11 Shawwal 1412, corresponding to 14 April 1992, which includes the creation of a national committee to combat drug addiction and dependence. In addition to the Minister of Health, this committee includes representatives from the various ministries, with the aim of monitoring and developing national programmes to deal with the phenomenon of drug addiction in Algeria. However, this body has not been very successful, due to its lack of a legislative framework defining the tasks of each ministry. Participation in this body obliged the government to create the National Office for Combating Drugs and Drug Addiction.

police services' measures to prevent and control drugs.

The preventive role of the Directorate General for National Security is essentially community policing, through which it works in the service of public safety, based on the treatment of recurring minor problems and the security and systemic needs of delinquent and targeted society, which are at the heart of the close relationship between police institutions and civil society, based on trust

and credibility. The Directorate General of National Security has also adopted mechanisms to prevent the threat of drugs, as described below:

- Listening and preventive activity units: set up in 2004 and operating nationwide, 48 listening and preventive activity units aim to bring the police closer to the public and build trust between them. Without losing sight of the need to take care of children and adolescents, in particular against the risks of drug addiction and various other social ills, programmes are drawn up at the beginning of the year and implemented in the field to raise public awareness.
- Community partnership: a preventive policy (awareness-raising) in coordination with various social partners such as the National Office for Combating Drugs and Drug Addiction, the Islamic Scouts of Algeria, and representatives of civil society.
- Communication with citizens and the media: The doors of all police services are open at all times and under all conditions throughout the country to receive reports and complaints from citizens. A hotline has been set up for citizens 1548 and other means of reporting illegal acts, including social media sites.