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refer to: ECDD46

Your reference:

His Excellency
Mr António Guterres
Secretary-General of the United Nations
New York, NY 10017
USA

RECEIVED

20 November 2023

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EOSG/CENTRAL

15 November 2023

Dear Mr Secretary-General,

I have the honour to refer to the Forty-sixth Meeting of the World Health Organization (WHO) Expert Committee on Drug Dependence (ECDD), which was convened in Geneva, Switzerland, from 16 to 19 October 2023.

WHO is mandated by the 1961 and 1971 International Drug Control Conventions to make recommendations to the Secretary-General of the United Nations on the need for a level of international control of psychoactive substances based on the advice of its independent scientific advisory body, the ECDD. To assess the appropriate control of a psychoactive substance, WHO convenes ECDD annually to review the potential of a substance to cause dependence, abuse and harm to health, as well as any therapeutic applications.

The Forty-sixth WHO ECDD Meeting critically reviewed six new psychoactive substances: one novel synthetic opioid (butonitazene), two cathinones/stimulants (3-chloromethcathinone or 3-CMC, dipentylone), one dissociative substance (2-fluorodeschloroketamine) and two benzodiazepines (bromazolam, flubromazepam). These substances, with the exception of bromazolam, had previously not been formally reviewed by WHO, and are currently not under international control.

Information was brought to WHO's attention that these substances are clandestinely manufactured, of risk to public health and society, and of no recognized therapeutic use by any party. Therefore, a critical review to consider international scheduling measures was undertaken for each substance so that the Expert Committee could consider whether information about these substances may justify the scheduling of a substance in the 1961 or 1971 Conventions.

In addition, the Forty-sixth ECDD carried out pre-reviews of the medications nitrous oxide and carisoprodol to consider whether current information justified a critical review.

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With reference to Article 3, paragraphs 1 and 3 of the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs (1961), as amended by the 1972 Protocol, and Article 2, paragraphs 1 and 4 of the Convention on Psychotropic Substances (1971), WHO is pleased to endorse and submit the following recommendations of the Forty-sixth Meeting of ECDD:

To be added to Schedule I of the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs (1961):

- **butonitazene**

IUPAC name: N,N-diethyl-2-[(4-butoxyphenyl)methyl]- 5-nitro-1H-benzimidazole-1-ethanamine

To be added to Schedule II of the Convention on Psychotropic Substances (1971):

- **3-chloromethcathinone or 3-CMC**

IUPAC name: 1-(3-chlorophenyl)-2-(methylamino)propan-1-one

- **dipentylone**

IUPAC name: 1-(1,3-benzodioxol-5-yl)-2-(dimethylamino)pentan-1-one

- **2-fluorodeschloroketamine**

IUPAC name: 2-(2-fluorophenyl)-2-(methylamino)cyclohexan-1-one

To be added to Schedule IV of the Convention on Psychotropic Substances (1971):

- **bromazolam**

IUPAC name: 8-bromo-1-methyl-6-phenyl-4H-[1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-a][1,4]benzodiazepine

To proceed to critical review at a future ECDD meeting:

- **carisoprodol**

IUPAC name: 2-[(carbamoyloxy)methyl]-2-methylpentyl(1-methylethyl)carbamate

To be kept under surveillance:

- **flubromazepam**

IUPAC name: 7-bromo-5-(2-fluorophenyl)-1,3-dihydro-2H-1,4-benzodiazepin-2-one

- **nitrous oxide**

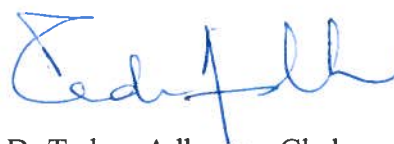
IUPAC name: nitrous oxide

The assessments and findings on which these recommendations are based are set out in detail in the forty-sixth meeting report of the WHO Expert Committee on Drug Dependence. A summary of the assessment and recommendations made by the Forty-sixth ECDD is contained in Annex 1 to this letter.

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I am pleased with the ongoing collaboration between WHO, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, and the International Narcotics Control Board, and in particular, how this collaboration has benefited the work of the WHO Expert Committee on Drug Dependence and, more generally, the implementation of the operational recommendations of the United Nations General Assembly Special Session 2016.

Yours sincerely,



Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus
Director-General