

48th WHO EXPERT COMMITTEE ON DRUG DEPENDENCE**20- 22 October 2025**

Timeline**48th WHO EXPERT COMMITTEE ON DRUG DEPENDENCE****20-22 October 2025****Geneva, Switzerland****1) ECDD meeting agenda (June 2025)**

To determine the agenda of the ECDD, WHO coordinates a substance prioritization process to identify substances for review. A formal critical review is initiated when:

- 1) there has been notification from a Party to the 1961 or the 1971 Convention concerning the scheduling of a substance;
- (2) there has been an explicit request from CND to review a substance;
- (3) pre-review of a substance has resulted in an Expert Committee recommendation for critical review; or
- (4) information is brought to WHO's attention that a substance is clandestinely manufactured, of especially serious risk to public health and society, and of no recognized therapeutic use by any Party

Once the agenda has been determined by WHO, Member States are formally notified and the agenda is posted to the ECDD webpage.

2) Member State Questionnaire (July-August 2025)

Member States are invited to contribute to the ECDD review process by providing accurate information concerning substances on the ECDD agenda. A questionnaire is sent to Member States to gather country information on the legitimate use, harmful use, evidence of public health harm, status of national control and potential impact of international control for each substance under evaluation. The questionnaire is available in all six UN languages. The responses to the Member State Questionnaire are compiled into a report that is published along with the technical reports.

3) Technical reports (Pre-reviews and Critical review reports) (September 2025)

In preparation for the meeting, the WHO Secretariat coordinates the collection of comprehensive data for use by the Expert Committee in assessing individual substances. For each substance under review, this information is compiled into a technical report that is considered by the Committee.

The pre-review and critical review reports are made publicly available thirty days before the meeting.

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4) Public consultation (20 October 2025)

Individuals or representatives of public and private institutions and civil society who wish to present information to committee members on issues related to the meeting agenda will be invited to register their interest to attend a virtual information meeting prior to the closed session of the Committee. Interested persons or organizations will be offered the opportunity to provide input to the consideration of substances under review. The information session will allow these parties to provide presentations and submit information to the Expert Committee at the meeting. Individuals and partners external to the WHO will be able to listen to an update on the current and future activities of the ECDD secretariat, and to provide comment on issues on the ECDD agenda. Individuals may participate in the information session in several ways:

- a) observing the meeting
- b) sending a written statement for the consideration of the Committee
- c) presenting information (live or pre-recorded) at the Information Session.

Further information on how to register and submit evidence will be displayed on the ECDD Events page.

5) Expert Committee on Drug Dependence Meeting (20-22 October 2025)

Expert Committee meetings are closed sessions that are not open to the public, however, international observers are invited to attend and contribute towards the meeting. The pre-reviews and critical reviews of each substance being considered at the meeting will be discussed by the Expert Committee in October and recommendations will be made regarding the need for international control of the substances.

6) Communication of outcomes of ECDD meeting (December 2025)

Following the close of the Expert Committee meeting, WHO communicates the meeting outcomes to the UN Secretary General. The meeting outcomes are disseminated through numerous channels and will be posted to the WHO ECDD webpage.

7) Technical Report Series (February 2026)

The 48th ECDD Technical Report Series will be the meeting report from the Expert Committee on Drug Dependence meeting. This will include the recommendations made by the Expert Committee at the meeting, including the scheduling changes suggested, the critical review reports, pre-review reports and aggregated data from the member state questionnaire.

8) CND consideration of ECDD recommendations (March 2026)

The Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND) may consider WHO recommendations for changes in the international scope of control of substances through a vote