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refer to:

Your reference:

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

24 November 2022

Dear Mr Secretary-General,

I have the honour to refer to the Forty-fifth Meeting of the World Health Organization (WHO) Expert Committee on Drug Dependence (ECDD) that was convened in Geneva, Switzerland from 10 to 13 October 2022.

WHO is mandated by the 1961 and 1971 International Drug Control Conventions to make recommendations to the United Nations Secretary-General 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-fifth WHO ECDD Meeting critically reviewed nine new psychoactive substances: one synthetic cannabinoid receptor agonist (ADB-BUTINACA), four novel synthetic opioids (2-Methyl-AP-237, etazene, etonitazepine and protonitazene), two cathinones/stimulants (alpha-PiHP, 3-methylmethcathinone) and two benzodiazepines (adinazolam, bromazolam). These substances had not previously 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 recognised 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-fifth ECDD carried out a pre-review of zopiclone to consider whether current information justified a critical review.

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-fifth Meeting of the ECDD:

ENCL: (1)

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

- **2-Methyl-AP-237**
IUPAC name: 1-[2-Methyl-4-(3-phenyl-2-propen-1-yl)-1-piperazinyl]-1-butanone
- **etazene**
IUPAC name: 2-[(4-ethoxyphenyl)methyl]-N,N-diethyl-1H-benzimidazole-1-ethanamine
- **etonitazepyne**
IUPAC name: 2-[(4-ethoxyphenyl)methyl]-5-nitro-1-(2-pyrrolidin-1-ylethyl)-1Hbenzoimidazole
- **protonitazene**
IUPAC name: N,N-Diethyl-5-nitro-2-[(4-propoxyphenyl)methyl]-1H-benzimidazole-1-ethanamine

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

- **ADB-BUTINACA**
IUPAC name: N-[1-(aminocarbonyl)-2,2-dimethylpropyl]-1-butyl-1H-indazole-3-carboxamide
- **alpha-PiHP**
IUPAC name: 4-Methyl-1-phenyl-2-(pyrrolidin-1-yl)pentan-1-one
- **3-methylmethcathinone**
IUPAC names: 2-(methylamino)-1-(3-methylphenyl)propan-1-one

To be kept under surveillance:

- **adinazolam**
IUPAC name: 8-Chloro-N,N-dimethyl-6-phenyl-4H-[1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-a][1,4]benzodiazepine-1-methanamine
- **bromazolam**
IUPAC name: 8-Bromo-1-methyl-6-phenyl-4H-[1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-a][1,4]benzodiazepine
- **zopiclone**
IUPAC name: 6-(5-chloropyridin-2-yl)-7-oxo-6,7-dihydro-5H-pyrrolo[3,4-b]pyrazin-5-yl 4-methylpiperazine-1-carboxylate

The assessments and findings on which these recommendations are based are set out in detail in the Forty-fifth Meeting report of the WHO Expert Committee on Drug Dependence. A summary of the assessment and recommendations made by the 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