



Tel. direct: +41 22 791
Fax direct: +41 22 791
E-mail :

In reply please
refer to:

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

Your reference:

18 November 2021

Dear Mr Secretary-General,

The Forty-fourth Meeting of the World Health Organization (WHO)'s Expert Committee on Drug Dependence (ECDD) was convened in a virtual format from 11 to 15 October 2021 and was coordinated from the WHO headquarters in Geneva.

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, and level of, international control of psychoactive substances based on the advice of its independent scientific advisory body, the ECDD. In order to recommend if a psychoactive substance should be placed under international control or if its level of control should be changed, the WHO convenes the ECDD annually to thoroughly review the potential for abuse, dependence, and harm to health of a psychoactive substance, as well as any therapeutic applications.

The Forty-fourth WHO ECDD Meeting critically reviewed five new psychoactive substances, including one synthetic cannabinoid receptor agonist (4F-MDMB-BICA), two novel synthetic opioids (bromophine; metonitazene), and two cathinones/stimulants (eutylone; benzylone). 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 especially serious 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 available about these substances may justify the scheduling or a change in scheduling of a substance in the 1961 or 1971 Conventions.

In addition, the Forty-fourth ECDD Meeting carried out pre-reviews of kratom, mitragynine, and 7-hydroxymitragynine; and phenibut 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-fourth Meeting of the ECDD:

ENCL: (1)

.../2

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

- **Brorphine**
IUPAC (International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry) name: 1-[1-[1-(4-Bromophenyl)ethyl]- piperidin-4-yl]-1,3-dihydro-2H-imidazol-2-one
- **Metonitazene**
IUPAC name: N,N-Diethyl-2-(2-(4-methoxybenzyl)-5-nitro-1H-benzo[d]imidazol-1-yl)ethan-1-amine

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

- **Eutylone** (alternate name: 3,4-methylenedioxy-*alpha*-ethylamino butiophenone)
IUPAC names: 1-(Benzo[d][1,3]dioxol-5-yl)-2-(ethylamino)butan-1-one; 1-(1,3-Benzodioxol-5-yl)-2-(ethylamino)butan-1-one

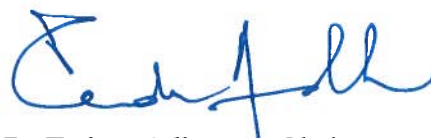
To be kept under surveillance:

- **4F-MDMB-BICA** (alternate name: 4F-MDMB-BUTICA)
IUPAC names: Methyl 2-([1-(4-fluorobutyl)-1H-indol-3-yl]carbonyl)amino)-3,3-dimethylbutanoate; Methyl 2-(1-(4-fluorobutyl)-1H-indole-3-carboxamido)-3,3-dimethylbutanoate
- **Benzylone** (alternate name: 3,4-Methylenedioxy-N-benzylcathinone)
IUPAC name: 1-(Benzo[d][1,3]dioxol-5-yl)-2-(benzylamino)propan-1-one
- **Kratom, mitragynine, 7-hydroxymitragynine**
- **Phenibut** (alternate name: 4-amino-3-phenyl-butyric acid)
IUPAC name: 4-Amino-3-phenylbutanoic acid

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

I am very 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