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Commission on Narcotic Drugs

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Item 4 of the provisional agenda*

Implementation of the international drug control treaties

Australia, Denmark, Japan, Peru and New Zealand: draft resolution**

Promoting international cooperation in responding to new psychoactive substances

The Commission on Narcotic Drugs,

Concerned that new psychoactive substances are increasingly being marketed as legal alternatives to internationally controlled drugs and that these substances may pose risks to public health and safety,

Acknowledging the dynamic and fast-paced nature of this market and the increasing role that the Internet plays in the trade of new psychoactive substances,

Deeply concerned about reports of the increased and emerging use of and trade in new psychoactive substances, such as synthetic cannabinoids, 4-methyl-methcathinone (mephedrone), methylenedioxypropylvalerone (MDPV), other cathinones and phenethylamines, that have effects similar to those of internationally controlled drugs,

Concerned about the potential opportunities for transnational organized criminal groups to exploit the market for these substances,

Noting that a number of new psychoactive substances that have already been identified as posing serious risks to public health are subject to domestic control within certain Member States,

Noting also that the identification and control of emerging new psychoactive substances can pose challenges to effective health and law enforcement regulation,

* E/CN.7/2012/1.

** On behalf of the States members of the United Nations that are members of the European Union.



Recalling its resolution 48/1 of 11 March 2005, on promoting the sharing of information on emerging trends in the abuse of and trafficking in substances not controlled under the international drug control conventions,

Recalling also its resolution 53/11 of 12 March 2010, on promoting the sharing of information on the potential abuse of and trafficking in synthetic cannabinoid receptor agonists,

Recalling further the functions mandated to the World Health Organization, under the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961¹ as amended by the 1972 Protocol² and the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971,³ to provide technical recommendations to the Commission with regard to assessing the potential liability for abuse and ill effects of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances,

Welcoming the 2011 report of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime entitled “Synthetic cannabinoids in herbal products”, which provides a comprehensive review and valuable recommendations in response to synthetic cannabinoids,

Acknowledging the success of the global Synthetics Monitoring: Analyses, Reporting and Trends (SMART) programme of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in improving understanding of the synthetic drug problem through monitoring the illicit manufacture, use of and trafficking in synthetic drugs, including emerging synthetic substances, and noting the progress in implementation of that approach,

Acknowledging also the work of States members of the European Union, together with the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction, in developing effective processes for addressing new psychoactive substances, including an early warning system and risk assessment methodologies,

1. *Encourages* Member States to monitor emerging trends in the composition, production and distribution of new psychoactive substances, for example through the Internet, as well as patterns of use of those substances within their own national borders;

2. *Urges* Member States to share that information, in particular with regard to patterns of use, risks to public health, forensic data and regulation of new psychoactive substances, with other Member States and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime;

3. *Encourages* Member States, based on the information on patterns of use and risks to the public, to adopt appropriate measures aimed at reducing demand;

4. *Also encourages* Member States to take measures to tackle the problem of new psychoactive substances, in particular by advancing the monitoring of such substances by improving research, analysis and forensic capability in order to share that information with other Member States;

5. *Further encourages* Member States to consider a wide variety of evidence-based control measures to tackle the emergence of new psychoactive

¹ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 520, No. 7515.

² *Ibid.*, vol. 976, No. 14151.

³ *Ibid.*, vol. 1019, No. 14956.

substances, including the use of consumer protection, legislation regarding medicine and legislation regarding hazardous substances;

6. *Urges* Member States, based on the principle of common and shared responsibility, to further cooperate, in accordance with national law, in judicial and law enforcement activities to tackle the trade in and distribution and manufacture of those new psychoactive substances which have already been identified as posing risks to public health and which are subject to control within certain Member States;

7. *Calls on* Member States, where appropriate, to pursue cooperative measures in addressing the potential public health risks from the use of those substances, and to share information and expertise with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the World Health Organization on effective responses;

8. *Requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to continue to work with the World Health Organization, pursuant to article 3 of the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961⁴ as amended by the 1972 Protocol⁵ and article 2 of the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971,⁶ towards resuming the provision of scheduling recommendations to the Commission;

9. *Encourages* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to enhance the collection of information on emerging new psychoactive substances, including through existing mechanisms such as the global Synthetics Monitoring: Analyses, Reporting and Trends (SMART) programme;

10. *Requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to share that information, where appropriate, with relevant international organizations and international cooperation frameworks, including the International Narcotics Control Board, the World Health Organization, the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) and the World Customs Organization;

11. *Encourages* Member States, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the World Health Organization and other relevant organizations, including the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction, to increasingly share information on new psychoactive substances;

12. *Requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to provide an update to its 2011 report entitled “Synthetic cannabinoids in herbal products”, addressing a wider range of new psychoactive substances, in addition to synthetic cannabinoids;

13. *Requests* the Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to report to the Commission, at its fifty-sixth session, on progress made with respect to the activities described in the present resolution.

⁴ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 520, No. 7515.

⁵ *Ibid.*, vol. 976, No. 14151.

⁶ *Ibid.*, vol. 1019, No. 14956.