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Commission on Narcotic Drugs

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Item 7 of the provisional agenda*

Illicit drug traffic and supply and related measures

Japan: draft resolution

Promoting the sharing of information on the abuse of and trafficking in synthetic cannabinoids in Spice products

The Commission on Narcotic Drugs,

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

Recognizing that the abuse of a number of substances that are not controlled under the international drug control treaties and that may pose a public health threat comparable to the threat posed by the substances already controlled under those treaties has emerged in recent years in several regions of the world,

Concerned about the fact that herbal mixtures containing synthetic cannabinoids have recently been distributed under the brand name Spice by various means, in particular through the Internet,

Recognizing that some synthetic cannabinoids in Spice products have been reported to have psychoactive effects on users similar to those produced by cannabis,

Welcoming the report of the International Narcotics Control Board for 2009,¹ in which the Board notes the concern about the potential health effects of synthetic cannabinoids in Spice products, which are not scheduled under the international drug control treaties,

* E/CN.7/2010/1.

¹ *Report of the International Narcotics Control Board for 2009* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.10.XI.1).



Noting that a number of Member States in several regions of the world have already placed some synthetic cannabinoids in Spice products on the list of substances controlled under their national legislation,

Noting also the efforts made to discuss, in international forums on drug law enforcement held in Asia and the Pacific, the placing of synthetic cannabinoids in Spice products on the list of substances under national control in order to better control and limit abuse of and trafficking in those substances,

Recalling that, pursuant to article 39 of the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961,² article 23 of the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971³ and article 24 of the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988,⁴ parties to those conventions are not precluded from adopting domestic measures of control that are stricter than those provided for in those conventions,

Aware of the need for Member States to develop and strengthen law enforcement cooperation,

Noting that it is necessary to share information on the abuse of synthetic cannabinoids in Spice products as the basis for the development of preventive measures, before the situation worsens, and to help Member States to cooperate more closely in tackling problems associated with those substances,

1. *Calls upon* Member States to pay particular attention to the emerging trends of widespread abuse of and trafficking in synthetic cannabinoids in Spice products;

2. *Also calls upon* Member States to consider controlling the use of synthetic cannabinoids in Spice products by placing them on the list of substances under national control, where the domestic situation so requires;

3. *Urges* Member States to share, through bilateral, regional and international channels, relevant information on abuse of and trafficking in synthetic cannabinoids in Spice products, including information on health hazards, patterns of trafficking and synthesis techniques, in order to reduce the widespread abuse of those products;

4. *Requests* the International Narcotics Control Board to play a role in gathering from Member States relevant information on synthetic cannabinoids in Spice products and in sharing that information with other Member States, including by maximizing use of the monitoring mechanisms provided for by the limited international special surveillance list of non-scheduled substances;

5. *Requests* also the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to share the concerns of the Commission with the Expert Committee on Drug Dependence of the World Health Organization and, in that regard, looks forward to the review of synthetic cannabinoids in Spice products in the report of the Expert Committee.

² United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 520, No. 7515.

³ *Ibid.*, vol. 1019, No. 14956.

⁴ *Ibid.*, vol. 1582, No. 27627.