Update on 37th ECDD

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World Health Organization
International drug control conventions
Recommendations for international control

- Both Conventions require WHO to recommend if a substance should be placed under international control or if the level of control should be changed:

- The WHO Expert Committee on Drug Dependence (ECDD) will:
  - assess risks of harm and dependence due to use of a substance
  - consider therapeutic usefulness of this substance

  Risk assessment strikes a balance: consider control & public health needs

- Recommendations from ECDD to CND for further decision; WHO assessment determinative as to medical and scientific matters

- Up to now about 250 substances including for medical purpose have been placed under international control through ECDD.
Substances considered for review at the 37th ECDD

1. MT-45
2. Acetylfentanyl
3. α-Pyrrolidinovalerophenone (α-PVP)
4. 4-Fluoroamphetamine (4-FA)
5. para-Methyl-4-methylaminorex (4,4’-DMAR)
6. para-Methoxymethylamphetamine (PMMA)
7. Etizolam (INN)
8. Phenazepam
9. Methoxetamine (MXE)

Updates:
10. Ketamine (INN)
11. Cannabis and cannabis resin
Expert Committee on Drug Dependence

Evidence based assessment of substances

- Constituted by selected experts from WHO panels
  - Recognised knowledge and expertise on substance evaluation – toxicology, addiction, pharmacology etc.
  - Independent expertise – clear of COI, not representing any agency or country, experts approved by national governments
  - Geographic and gender balance
  - Observers are invited from concerned UN agencies

- 'Guidance on the WHO review of psychoactive substances for international control'
  - WHA 33.27 (1980);
  - Revisions approved by WHO EB 2010;
Preparation of the Expert Committee on Drug Dependence

- Selection of substances to be reviewed by ECDD e.g. notifications

- For each substance, one critical review and two expert peer reviews:
  - Thorough review of published and grey literature for ECDD
  - Other data e.g. Pharmacovigilance, poison centres

- Questionnaire based surveys for Member States
  - WHO data collection on harm, dependence, therapeutic use
  - UNODC, EMCDDA, Member States data on abuse, seizures etc.

- To make the process transparent and inclusive
  - Critical & peer reviews published prior to meeting for comments