

10 January 2014

English only

Commission on Narcotic Drugs**Fifty-seventh session**

Vienna, 13-21 March 2014

Item 10 (a) of the provisional agenda*

Implementation of the International Drug Control**Treaties: Changes in the scope of control of substances****Updated information provided by the International Narcotics Control Board on the implementation of Commission on Narcotic Drugs resolutions 49/6 “Listing of ketamine as a controlled substance” and 50/3 “Responding to the threat posed by the abuse and diversion of ketamine”****I. Introduction**

1. Following the meeting between the Members of the Bureau of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and the Members of the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB) during the 108th session of the Board held in November 2013, the President of INCB shared with the Chairperson of the fifty-sixth session of the Commission the updated information on ketamine, below, on 20 November 2013, which is brought to the attention of the Commission for information.
2. In recent years, the Board has repeatedly drawn the attention of Governments to the reports of abuse of and international trafficking in ketamine, a substance currently not under international control. The Board has noted with concern that diversion or trafficking of ketamine has been noted in all regions of the world and that the abuse of ketamine has become a health risk in a number of countries. Widespread abuse of ketamine, particularly among youth, continues to be reported by countries in East and South-East Asia, as well as in the Americas.
3. The international community shared those concerns of the Board. The Commission on Narcotic Drugs, at its forty-ninth session, in March 2006, adopted resolution 49/6, entitled “Listing of ketamine as a controlled substance”, in which the Commission called upon Member States to consider controlling the use of ketamine by placing it on the list of substances controlled under their national

* E/CN.7/2014/1.



legislation, where the domestic situation so required. In March 2007, the Commission took further action in its resolution 50/3, entitled “Responding to the threat posed by the abuse and diversion of ketamine”, in which it encouraged Member States to consider adopting a system of precautionary measures for use by their government agencies to facilitate the timely detection of the diversion of ketamine.

4. In its Annual Reports published thereafter, the Board has repeatedly called upon Governments to implement those resolutions without delay. In 2008, the Board sent a questionnaire to all Governments requesting information on the specific legal or administrative measures adopted pursuant to Commission resolution 49/6, including, in particular, information on measures to control imports and exports of ketamine. To date, a total of 105 countries and territories have responded. Of these, 63 countries and territories have already introduced an import authorization requirement for ketamine, and 57 countries and territories have introduced an export authorization requirement. Forty-two (42) countries and territories do not require an import authorization and 48 do not require an export authorization.

5. The Board continues to publish, on a secure page of its website for Governments, information on the requirements for import and export authorizations for ketamine in individual countries, with a view to assisting trading countries in rapidly verifying the legitimacy of individual trade transactions involving that substance without unduly delaying licit trade. The Board has called upon the competent authorities of exporting and importing countries to consult that information before authorizing imports or exports of ketamine. Moreover, the Board has reiterated its requests to all Governments that have not yet done so to furnish it with updated information on the national regulatory control measures for ketamine that are applied in their countries pursuant to Commission resolutions 49/6 and 50/3.

6. In its Annual Report for 2012,¹ paragraphs 316-322, the Board noted that ketamine had been illicitly manufactured in some countries, in addition to being diverted from licit channels, and had been subsequently trafficked between countries and regions, to satisfy the growing illicit demand for the substance. The Board shared the opinion of the Governments concerned that national control measures alone may not be sufficient to enable law enforcement cooperation between the countries involved, the concerted investigation of such crimes or the prosecution of the criminals behind them, to name a few of the actions that need to be taken in this regard.

7. The Board therefore recommended that Governments that do not apply control measures to ketamine remain vigilant, in view of the risk that ketamine might be diverted or abused in the country. The Board further encouraged Governments to inform the Board and UNODC of cases of diversion or attempted diversion of ketamine that they may uncover and to collect epidemiological data on the abuse of the substance, and remind Governments that experience difficulties with the diversion and abuse of ketamine to provide the relevant information to INCB, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the World Health Organization (WHO).

¹ *Report of the International Narcotics Control Board for 2012* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.13.XI.1).

8. In recent sessions of the Commission, a number of Governments have commented on the health risks and other problems associated with abuse and diversion of ketamine as experienced in their countries. Those countries expressed their disappointment with the fact that the substance was not under international control and called for urgent international action to counter the abuse of and trafficking in ketamine. Welcoming the national controls applied in many countries in accordance with the above Commission resolutions, those Governments stressed the need for concerted action by all Governments, which would best be achieved when ketamine was controlled under the international drug control treaties.

9. The Board has continued to share relevant information with WHO on abuse and trafficking of ketamine, as well as on control measures adopted by Governments in their national legislations for that substance, pursuant to operative paragraph 3 of Commission resolution 50/3.

10. The Board takes note that WHO has included in the agenda of the thirty-sixth meeting of its Expert Committee on Drug Dependence the update review of the current status of ketamine, which is scheduled to take place in June 2014.
