

**Statement on the results of the participation
of the delegation of Ukraine in the resumed 63rd session of the United Nations
Commission on Narcotic Drugs
(2 – 4 December 2020)**

Ukraine emphasizes the necessity to strengthen international cooperation aimed at developing a balanced drug control policy and addressing socio-economic issues.

The Ukrainian Side wishes to involve actively the competent authorities of Ukraine to strengthen the international collaboration in the fight against illicit trafficking on the illegal drug market of new psychoactive substances.

Under international drug control conventions, the United Nations Commission on Narcotic Drugs is to decide on the control of substances by scheduling them in the conventions. The system of schedules is very important. Each convention includes a number of schedules that provide different control regimes. The Commission takes decisions, as a rule, once a year based on the recommendations from the WHO, the International Narcotics Control Board and States Parties.

On December 2, 2020, the Commission on Narcotic Drugs adopted a number of decisions on the international control of cannabis and cannabis-related substances. The Delegation of Ukraine abstained during voting on the recommendations of the World Health Organization regarding the change of control over cannabinoids and considers it necessary to provide the Secretariat with clarification on some factors that prevented the Ukrainian Side from supporting these recommendations.

Concerning paragraph 5.1, which excludes cannabis and cannabis resin from Schedule IV of the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, 1961: Ukraine is concerned that attitudes towards cannabis and cannabis resin will be changed as to non-hazardous for health. In its turn, this can lead to a weakening of control methods at both the international and national levels.

Regarding recommendations 5.4, 5.5, and 5.6: Ukraine indicates the absence of pharmacopoeial dossier articles on methods of quality control of such drugs.

In addition, these recommendations apply to drugs with a high concentration of tetrahydrocannabinol, which have no medical use, such as butane oil. Medicines and tinctures are taken orally, while illicit drugs are consumed by inhalation of heat-secreted vapors.

In determining the position of Ukraine, the unpreparedness of laboratories to determine the percentage of delta-9-tetrahydrocannabinol is also taken into account, including due to the lack of approved research methods.

Reagents and solvents that do not allow the removal of controlled substances in quantities that may pose a risk to human health may become easily available in the near future.