

# Update on 37<sup>th</sup> ECDD

**Dr Gilles Forte**

**Coordinator, Policy, Access and Use  
Essential Medicines and Health Products**



**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.  $\alpha$ -Pyrrolidinovalerophenone ( $\alpha$ -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 government
  - 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
  - dedicated website <http://www.who.int/medicines/access/controlled-substances/ecdd/en/>
  - Critical & peer reviews published prior to meeting for comments

