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Item 4 (a) of the provisional agenda*

**Implementation of the international drug control treaties:
changes in the scope of control of substances**

Changes in the scope of control of substances**

Note by the Secretariat

Addendum

I. Consideration of a notification from the World Health Organization concerning scheduling under the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971

1. As stated in document E/CN.7/2013/11, pursuant to article 2, paragraphs 1, 4 and 6, of the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971,¹ the Director-General of the World Health Organization (WHO), in her correspondence dated 22 October 2012, notified the Secretary-General of the United Nations that WHO recommended that *gamma*-hydroxybutyric acid (GHB) be rescheduled from Schedule IV to Schedule II of the 1971 Convention (E/CN.7/2013/11, annex).
2. In accordance with the provisions of article 2, paragraph 2, of the 1971 Convention, the Secretary-General transmitted to all Governments notes verbales, dated 9 November and 27 December 2012, annexing the notification and the information submitted by WHO in support of the recommendation to reschedule GHB from Schedule IV to Schedule II of the 1971 Convention.
3. In addition to the Governments referred to in paragraph 3 of document E/CN.7/2013/11, the following three Governments provided comments on

* E/CN.7/2013/1.

** The submission of the present document was delayed to include comments received by Member States after the deadline.

¹ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1019, No. 14956.



economic, social, legal, administrative or other factors relevant to the possible rescheduling of GHB from Schedule IV to Schedule II of the 1971 Convention: El Salvador, Lebanon and Republic of Moldova.

4. The National Drug Directorate of El Salvador indicated that GHB was included in the official list of controlled substances published in the country; its marketing was therefore regulated and its rescheduling would not affect measures already in place for its control. The National Drug Directorate further noted that the relevant articles of the 1971 Convention, as cited in the communication of the WHO Director-General to the Secretary-General, provided the legal basis for the transfer of GHB from Schedule IV to Schedule II, since products that contained GHB as an active substance may be misused for illicit purposes, owing to their sedative effect, and may also be used to produce designer drugs.

5. The Narcotics Department of the Ministry of Public Health of Lebanon indicated that the Ministry was ready to abide by WHO recommendations, even though the Government could not communicate any economic, social, legal or administrative factors relevant to the possible rescheduling of GHB, as the substance was not currently registered by the Ministry of Public Health and had never been seized by the Pharmaceutical Inspection Department or by the Drug Enforcement Bureau of the Ministry of the Interior. Lebanon indicated, moreover, that the transferring of GHB from Schedule IV to Schedule II of the 1971 Convention required the passing of a decree, following the consent of the State Council.

6. The Ministry of Health of the Republic of Moldova expressed its full agreement with the transfer of GHB from Schedule IV to Schedule II of the 1971 Convention.
