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Agenda item 7

Implementation of the international drug control treaties

Draft resolution submitted by Argentina

Use of pharmaceutical technology to counter drug-facilitated sexual assault (“date rape”)

The Commission on Narcotic Drugs,

Recalling the strategy for the period 2008-2011 for the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime,¹ in which it is stated that scientific and forensic findings enrich policy and trend analysis by providing the basis for accurate information in specific areas,

Recalling also its resolution 48/1 on promoting the sharing of information on emerging trends in the abuse of and trafficking in substances not controlled under the international drug control conventions,

Concerned by the scale of the problem of the use of substances to commit drug-facilitated sexual assault (“date rape”), including alcohol (in fruit drinks, beer, wine and spirits), alprazolam, 1,4-butanediol, *gamma*-butyrolactone, cannabis, chloral hydrate, clonazepam, diazepam, flunitrazepam, *gamma*-hydroxybutyric acid (GHB), ketamine, meprobamate, midazolam, phencyclidine, scopolamine, secobarbital, temazepam, triazolam and zolpidem, of which the most epidemiologically significant substances are flunitrazepam and GHB, and ketamine, which is still not subject to international control,

Recalling that, in accordance with its decision 38/4, flunitrazepam was transferred from Schedule IV to Schedule III of the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971² and that, in accordance with its decision 44/3, GHB was included in Schedule IV of the 1971 Convention,

¹ Economic and Social Council resolution 2007/12, annex.

² United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1019, No. 14956.



Recognizing that the International Narcotics Control Board, in its reports for 2004,³ 2005⁴ and 2006,⁵ noted the widespread abuse of substances, in particular ketamine, not subject to control under the international drug control treaties,

Welcoming the decision by the World Health Organization to conduct a critical review of ketamine,

Noting the work being carried out in other international forums to consider the implementation of legislation on offences involving the use of drugs as a means of committing other offences,

Noting also the measures taken by certain pharmaceutical companies to safeguard their products against criminal use and, through the use of innovative pharmaceutical technology, to discourage such use and alert potential victims to the contamination of their drinks by causing the drinks to turn blue,

1. *Urges* Member States to address the emerging problem, which affects many Member States, of the use of the following substances in drug-facilitated sexual assault (“date rape”): alcohol (in fruit drinks, beer, wine and spirits), alprazolam, 1,4-butanediol (BDO), *gamma*-butyrolactone, cannabis, chloral hydrate, clonazepam, diazepam, flunitrazepam, γ -hydroxybutyric acid (GHB), ketamine, meprobamate, midazolam, phencyclidine, scopolamine, secobarbital, temazepam, triazolam and zolpidem;

2. *Also urges* Member States to consider imposing stricter controls on those substances, including those not subject to control, such as BDO, chloral hydrate and ketamine;

3. *Requests* the global pharmaceutical industry to cooperate in developing formulations with safety features, such as dyes and flavourings, to alert potential victims to the contamination of their drinks, without affecting the bioavailability of the active ingredients in legitimate proprietary drugs;

4. *Calls upon* Member States to share, through bilateral, regional and international channels, information on emerging trends in the use of drugs to commit such offences.

³ *Report of the International Narcotics Control Board for 2004* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.05.XI.3).

⁴ *Report of the International Narcotics Control Board for 2005* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.06.XI.2).

⁵ *Report of the International Narcotics Control Board for 2006* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.07.XI.11).