



Economic and Social Council

Distr.: Limited
27 November 2020

Original: English

Commission on Narcotic Drugs

Reconvened sixty-third session

Vienna, 2–4 December 2020

Agenda item 5 (a)

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

Draft decision submitted by the Chair

Voting procedure on the scheduling recommendations of the World Health Organization (Expert Committee on Drug Dependence) on cannabis and cannabis-related substances at the reconvened sixty-third session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs

The Commission on Narcotic Drugs,

Recalling its decision 63/14,

Bearing in mind the unprecedented circumstances resulting from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic and related measures,

Taking into account the complexity and interconnectedness of the recommendations of the World Health Organization (Expert Committee on Drug Dependence) on cannabis and cannabis-related substances,

1. *Decides* to vote on all recommendations of the World Health Organization (Expert Committee on Drug Dependence) on cannabis and cannabis-related substances on 2 December 2020, at its reconvened sixty-third session;

2. *Also decides* to apply the following voting procedure, which does not set a precedent for any future decision-making by the Commission:

(a) The reconvened session will be held with the physical presence of one representative of each member of the Commission, for voting and decision-making, and the online participation of other Member States and stakeholders;

(b) The Commission will vote on the recommendations by roll call, in the following order: recommendation 5.1,¹ recommendation 5.2.1,² recommendation

¹ To delete cannabis and cannabis resin from Schedule IV of the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961.

² To add dronabinol and its stereoisomers (*delta*-9-tetrahydrocannabinol) to Schedule I of the 1961 Convention.



5.2.2,³ recommendation 5.3.1,⁴ recommendation 5.3.2,⁵ recommendation 5.4,⁶ recommendation 5.5⁷ and recommendation 5.6;⁸

(c) Bearing in mind the conditionalities introduced by the Expert Committee on Drug Dependence regarding the adoption of recommendations 5.2.1, 5.2.2, 5.3.1 and 5.3.2, and in order to avoid having a substance scheduled under two conventions, if recommendation 5.2.1 is rejected by the Commission, there will be no consideration of and no vote on recommendations 5.2.2, 5.3.1 and 5.3.2. Following the same reasoning, in the case that recommendation 5.2.1 is approved and recommendation 5.2.2 is rejected by the Commission, recommendation 5.2.1 will be deemed to be reconsidered and rejected and there will be no vote on recommendations 5.3.1 and 5.3.2. In the case that recommendation 5.3.1 is approved and recommendation 5.3.2 is rejected by the Commission, recommendation 5.3.1 will be deemed to be reconsidered and rejected. Furthermore, if recommendation 5.2.1, to add dronabinol and its stereoisomers (*delta*-9-tetrahydrocannabinol) to Schedule I of the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961, is rejected, recommendation 5.6, to add certain preparations containing dronabinol to Schedule III of the 1961 Convention, will be deemed to be rejected;

(d) Given the time limitations of the online interpretation platforms, States members of the Commission will be provided with an opportunity to make statements in explanation of vote immediately after the completion of votes on all recommendations, to be followed by statements by other Member States and stakeholders.

³ To delete dronabinol and its stereoisomers (*delta*-9-tetrahydrocannabinol) from Schedule II of the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971, subject to the adoption by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs of the recommendation to add dronabinol and its stereoisomers (*delta*-9-tetrahydrocannabinol) to Schedule I of the 1961 Convention.

⁴ To add tetrahydrocannabinol (isomers of *delta*-9-tetrahydrocannabinol) to Schedule I of the 1961 Convention, subject to the adoption by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs of the recommendation to add dronabinol and its stereoisomers (*delta*-9-tetrahydrocannabinol) to Schedule I of the 1961 Convention.

⁵ To delete tetrahydrocannabinol (isomers of *delta*-9-tetrahydrocannabinol) from Schedule I of the 1971 Convention, subject to the adoption by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs of the recommendation to add tetrahydrocannabinol to Schedule I of the 1961 Convention.

⁶ To delete extracts and tinctures of cannabis from Schedule I of the 1961 Convention.

⁷ To give effect to the recommendation of the fortieth meeting of the Expert Committee on Drug Dependence that preparations considered to be pure cannabidiol (CBD) should not be scheduled within the international drug control conventions, by adding a footnote to the entry for cannabis and cannabis resin in Schedule I of the 1961 Convention to read "Preparations containing predominantly cannabidiol and not more than 0.2 per cent of *delta*-9-tetrahydrocannabinol are not under international control".

⁸ To add preparations containing *delta*-9-tetrahydrocannabinol (dronabinol), produced either by chemical synthesis or as preparations of cannabis, that are compounded as pharmaceutical preparations with one or more other ingredients and in such a way that *delta*-9-tetrahydrocannabinol (dronabinol) cannot be recovered by readily available means or in a yield which would constitute a risk to public health to Schedule III of the 1961 Convention.