

Ref.: C.L.26.2018

The World Health Organization (WHO) presents its compliments to Member States and Associate Members and has the pleasure of informing that the 41st Expert Committee on Drug Dependence (ECDD) will meet in Geneva from **12 to 16 November 2018**.

The 41st ECDD will convene to review psychoactive substances on their potential to cause dependence, abuse and harm to health, and their potential therapeutic applications. WHO will make recommendations to the UN Secretary-General on the need for and level of international control of these substances.

Member States are invited to collaborate, as in the past, in this process by providing accurate information as requested in questionnaires concerning substances under review. At its 126th session in January 2010, the Executive Board approved the publication “*Guidance on the WHO review of psychoactive substances for international control*” (EB126/2010/REC1, Annex 6)¹ which requires the Secretariat to request relevant information from Ministers of Health in Member States and to prepare a report for submission to the ECDD.

For this purpose, a questionnaire was designed to gather information on the legitimate use, harmful use, status of national control and potential impact of international control for each substance under evaluation. A list of substances for which Member States will receive questionnaires is attached.

Kindly note that Member States who submitted questionnaire responses that were reviewed at the 40th ECDD on cannabis and cannabis-related substances will not be requested to re-submit questionnaires for those substances for the 41st ECDD. However, if Member States would like to amend their responses or submit additional information on cannabis and cannabis-related substances, it is requested that they inform the Secretariat.

It would be appreciated if a person from the Ministry of Health could be designated as the focal point responsible for coordinating responses to the questionnaires. A list of focal points designated by Member States for the 40th ECDD in June 2018 is attached. It is requested that if a focal point’s contact details (including e-mail address) are to be added or amended, that Member States inform the Secretariat by **17 September 2018**. Any additions or amendments to focal point designations should be emailed to **ecddsecretariat@who.int**.

¹ http://apps.who.int/gb/ebwha/pdf_files/EB126-REC1/B126_REC1-en.pdf.

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If no additions or amendments to focal point details are made by this date, the focal point from June 2018 will be approached by the Secretariat for questionnaire completion. Where there is a competent National Authority under the International Drug Control Treaties, it is kindly requested that the questionnaires be completed in collaboration with such body.

Once the Secretariat has received the contact details, focal points will be given further instructions and direct access to online questionnaires. The questionnaires will be analysed by the Secretariat and prepared as a report that will be shared with the Committee for review.

Member States are also encouraged to provide any additional relevant information (unpublished or published) on substances to be reviewed at the 41st ECDD to: **ecddsecretariat@who.int**. This information will be an invaluable contribution to the ECDD deliberations and all submissions will be treated as confidential.

The World Health Organization takes this opportunity to renew to Member States and Associate Members the assurance of its highest consideration.

GENEVA, 21 August 2018

Annex 1

41st WHO Expert Committee on Drug Dependence Member State Questionnaire Substances
SYNTHETIC CANNABINOIDS
ADB-FUBINACA
FUB-AMB(MMB-FUBINACA_ AMB-FUBINACA)
ADB-CHMINACA
CUMYL-4CN-BINACA
FENTANYLS
Cyclopropyl fentanyl
Methoxyacetyl fentanyl
Ortho-fluorofentanyl
Parafluoro butyrfentanyl
Paramethoxybutyrfentanyl
(METH)CATHINONE
N-ethylnorpentylone
MEDICINES
Tramadol
Pregabalin

Annex 2

Country	Focal Point	Position	Email
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