

WHO'S ROLE UNDER THE INTERNATIONAL DRUG CONTROL CONVENTIONS

The two major drug control conventions...

1961 Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs

as amended by the 1972 Protocol

1971 Convention on Psychotropic Substances

...recognize the medical use of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances is indispensable and they should be available for such purposes.

The World Health Organization is responsible for conducting the medical, scientific and public health evaluation of substances.

Evaluations are conducted through:

The WHO Expert Committee on Drug Dependence

The Expert Committee on Drug Dependence (ECDD) evaluates the dependence-producing properties and potential harm to health of psychoactive substances in accordance with the *Guidance on the WHO review of psychoactive substances for international control*.

WHO communicates the ECDD's recommendations on whether or not the substances assessed should be placed under international control. WHO's assessments of psychoactive substances are **"determinative as to medical and scientific matters"**.

The Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND) considers WHO's recommendation along with other relevant factors (economic, social, legal, administrative). The CND decides whether substances come under international control.

The CND is made up of 53 UN Member States – elected by the UN Economic and Social Council.

- ▶ PLACING A SUBSTANCE UNDER INTERNATIONAL CONTROL REQUIRES COUNTRIES TO APPLY SPECIAL MEASURES TO PREVENT ITS DIVERSION DURING IMPORT, STORAGE, DISTRIBUTION AND USE...
- ▶ CAREFUL CONSIDERATION MUST BE GIVEN TO NATIONAL IMPLEMENTATION TO AVOID RESTRICTING ACCESS TO MEDICINES CONTAINING CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES FOR PATIENTS WHO NEED THEM.



World Health
Organization

For more information, contact:

ECDD Secretariat

Dr Gilles Forte – forteg@who.int

Dr Eda Lopato – ecddsecretariat@who.int

Policy, Access and Use Unit

Department of Essential Medicines and Health Products

Health Systems and Innovation Cluster

World Health Organization

Geneva, Switzerland

Web: <http://www.who.int/medicines/access/controlled-substances/ecdd/en/>

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