



# WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION

EXECUTIVE BOARD  
103rd Session  
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## Technical and health matters

### Revised guidelines for the WHO review of dependence-producing psychoactive substances for international control

#### Report by the Secretariat

1. The report on meetings of expert committees and study groups<sup>1</sup> refers to the following recommendation of the WHO Expert Committee on Drug Dependence concerning application of the procedure for WHO review of dependence-producing psychoactive substances for international control:

*In an effort to provide timely advice and decisions, the Committee recommends that the guidelines formulated in 1990 be reviewed and modified so as to provide the Expert Committee latitude for proceeding more expeditiously and efficiently from identification of substances to their critical review and scheduling recommendations. This recommendation is made particularly with reference to clandestinely manufactured substances and substances of especially serious risk to public health and society and of no recognized therapeutic utility. Psychiatric and clinical data, wherever relevant, must be collected with the same care as chemical and pharmacological data.*

#### ACTION BY THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

2. In view of the above recommendation, the following draft decision, amending decision EB93(16), is proposed to the Board (amendments indicated in italics).

The Executive Board decided, in view of the *continuing* need for prompt international regulatory action to respond to changing patterns of drug abuse, that the revised guidelines for the WHO review of dependence-producing psychoactive substances for international control, adopted by the Board at its eighty-fifth session,<sup>2</sup> *and subsequently modified in their application by the Board at its ninety-third session,*<sup>3</sup> should be *further* modified in their application as follows:

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<sup>1</sup> Document EB103/28.

<sup>2</sup> Decision EB85(10).

<sup>3</sup> Decision EB93(16).

(1) if there is (i) a notification from a Party to the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, 1961, or to the Convention on Psychotropic Substances, 1971, (ii) an explicit request from the United Nations Commission on Narcotic Drugs concerning international control of psychoactive substances, or (iii) information is brought to WHO's attention that a substance is clandestinely manufactured, of especially serious risk to public health and society, and of no recognized therapeutic utility, the Expert Committee on Drug Dependence should critically review such substances as soon as is practicable, and without pre-review being required;

(2) in all other cases, a critical review should be conducted only after the substance in question has been submitted to pre-review and selected for a critical review by the Expert Committee.

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