

Commission on Narcotic Drugs  
Resolution 53/11

**Promoting the sharing of information on the potential abuse of and trafficking in synthetic cannabinoid receptor agonists**

*The Commission on Narcotic Drugs,*

*Recalling* 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 treaties,

*Recognizing* that the use of substances that are not controlled under the international drug control treaties and that may pose potential public-health risks has emerged in recent years in several regions of the world,

*Noting* the increasing number of reports about the production of substances (most commonly herbal mixtures) containing synthetic cannabinoid receptor agonists that have psychoactive effects similar to those produced by cannabis,

*Concerned* that herbal mixtures containing cannabinoid receptor agonists, such as Spice products, are increasingly being sold through various channels, in particular through the Internet,

*Welcoming* the report of the International Narcotics Control Board for 2009, in which the Board noted the concern that have been raised regarding the abuse liability and potential health effects of herbal mixtures containing synthetic cannabinoids,<sup>1)</sup>

*Noting* that most synthetic cannabinoid receptor agonists are not currently under international control although a number of Member States in several regions have placed several cannabinoid receptor agonists under national control,

*Noting* the efforts made at international forum held in Asia and the Pacific and in Europe to discuss the impact and control of synthetic cannabinoid receptor agonists and the use of national legislation to prevent the abuse of and trafficking in such substances,

*Recalling* that, pursuant to article 39 of the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961<sup>2)</sup>, article 23 of the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971<sup>3)</sup> and article 24 of the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and

Psychotropic Substances of 1988<sup>4)</sup>, the parties to those conventions are not precluded from adopting domestic measures of control that are stricter than those provided for in those conventions,

*Aware* of the need for Member States to develop and strengthen law enforcement cooperation,

*Noting* the value of sharing information on the use of substances containing synthetic cannabinoid receptor agonists as a means of developing effective preventive measures and encouraging Member States to cooperate more closely in addressing potential problems associated with the use of those substances,

1. *Calls upon* Member States to pay particular attention to the emerging trends of the widespread distribution of products containing synthetic cannabinoid receptor agonists, in particular through the Internet, and of the increasing use of such products;

2. *Also calls upon* Member States to consider adopting national legislation to control the use of synthetic cannabinoid receptor agonists, consistent with their domestic legal framework and after having assessed the potential risks of those substances, including the health and social problems associated with the use of, manufacture of and trafficking in those substances;

3. *Encourages* Member States to share, through appropriate channels, relevant information on the potential abuse of and trafficking in synthetic cannabinoid receptor agonists, including research results and any assessment of the public-health risks of those substances, trafficking trends and manufacturing techniques, in order to prevent the abuse and inappropriate distribution of those substances;

4. *Requests* the International Narcotics Control Board to continue to play a role in gathering from Member States information on synthetic cannabinoid receptor agonists, including on new types of those substances that are not under international control, and in sharing that information with other Member States and the World Health Organization;

5. *Encourages* Member States to exchange, through appropriate bilateral and multilateral channels, information on methodologies for the detection and identification of new types of synthetic cannabinoid receptor agonists;

6. *Requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to share information on the issue of cannabinoid receptor agonists with the Expert Committee on Drug Dependence of the World Health Organization to increase its understanding and

awareness of the issue.

- 1) *Report of the International Narcotics Control Board for 2009* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.10.XI.1) , paras. 242-248
- 2) United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 520, No.7515.
- 3) *Ibid.*, vol.1019, No.14956
- 4) *Ibid.*, vol.1582, No.27627