



Tel. direct: +41 22 791  
Fax direct: +41 22 791  
E-mail:

In reply please  
refer to: ECDD40

Your reference:

His Excellency  
Mr António Guterres  
Secretary-General of the United Nations  
New York, NY 10017  
USA

23 July 2018

Dear Mr Secretary-General,

The fortieth meeting of the WHO Expert Committee on Drug Dependence (ECDD) convened from 4 to 7 June 2018 at WHO headquarters in Geneva. The fortieth ECDD meeting was dedicated to the review of cannabis and its component substances.

CND Resolution 52/5 noted that the health effects of cannabis had not been recently reviewed and requested the WHO ECDD to provide an updated report. The thirty-eighth ECDD (November, 2016) reviewed updates presented by the Secretariat and recognised an increase in the use of cannabis and its components for medical purposes and the emergence of new cannabis-related pharmaceutical preparations for therapeutic use. The Committee further recognised that cannabis had never been subject to a formal review and therefore recommended that pre-reviews of cannabis and its component substances be evaluated at a specific ECDD meeting dedicated to those substances.

Following those recommendations, the fortieth ECDD undertook a critical review of cannabidiol (CBD). It also carried out pre-reviews of cannabis plant and resin; extracts and tinctures of cannabis; delta-9-tetrahydrocannabinol (THC); and isomers of THC.

With reference to Article 3, paragraphs 1 and 3 of the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs (1961), as amended by the 1972 Protocol, I am pleased to submit the recommendations of the fortieth ECDD as follows:

**Cannabidiol (CBD)**

The Committee recommended that preparations considered to be pure CBD should not be scheduled within the International Drug Control Conventions.

ENCL: (1)

cc: Ms J. Dedeysne-Amann, Chief, Secretariat to the Governing Bodies, UNODC