

Resolution 49/6

Listing of ketamine as a controlled substance

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,

Recalling also the reports of the International Narcotics Control Board for 2004¹ and 2005,² in which the Board reaffirmed the widespread abuse of substances not scheduled under the international drug control treaties, in particular ketamine,

Recognizing that, in its report for 2005, the International Narcotics Control Board drew attention to the emerging problem of widespread abuse of ketamine, in particular among youth, in East and South-East Asia, and trafficking in ketamine in that region and in other regions, including North America and South America,³

Recognizing also the licit use of ketamine as an anaesthetic and its diversion for illicit use as a mixture or in conjunction with amphetamine-type stimulants, especially methylenedioxymethamphetamine (commonly known as Ecstasy), as well as its harmful effects,

Deeply concerned by the threat to the well-being of people and society posed by the diversion of ketamine for illicit use and by the rise in the abuse of and trafficking in that substance,

Welcoming the decision of the World Health Organization to conduct a critical review of ketamine,

Noting that a number of Member States in many regions of the world have placed ketamine on the list of substances controlled under their national legislation,

Noting also the efforts being made to discuss in the international forums on drug law enforcement, in particular the Twenty-ninth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, East Asia and the Pacific, held in Hanoi from 7 to 11 November 2005, the placing of ketamine under the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971,⁴ to better control and limit abuse of and trafficking in that substance,

1. *Calls upon* Member States to pay particular attention to the emerging problem of widespread abuse of and trafficking in ketamine, in particular in East and South-East Asia, which also affects States in other regions;

2. *Also calls upon* Member States to consider controlling the use of ketamine by placing it on the list of substances controlled under their national legislation, where the domestic situation so requires;

¹ *Report of the International Narcotics Control Board for 2004* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.05.XI.3).

² *Report of the International Narcotics Control Board for 2005* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.06.XI.2).

³ *Ibid.*, paras. 385, 431, 468, 471 and 641.

⁴ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1019, No. 14956.

3. *Encourages* Member States to consider adopting a system of import-export certificates for use by their government agencies;
4. *Urges* Member States to share, through bilateral, regional and international channels, relevant information on the licit import and export of ketamine and the abuse of and trafficking in ketamine, including patterns of such trafficking, in order to reduce the widespread abuse of the substance.