

Annex 1: Report on WHO Questionnaire for Review of Psychoactive Substances for the 39th ECDD: Evaluation of THF-F

Data was obtained from 57 Member States (7 AFR, 4 EMR, 25 EUR, 7 PAH, 2 SEAR and 12 WPR) for the WHO Questionnaires for the Review of Psychoactive Substances.

A total of 42 Member States answered the questionnaire regarding THF-F. Of these, 5 respondents had information on the substance.

| Region | Number of countries responded | Number of countries with information on substance |
|--------------|-------------------------------|---|
| AFR | 4 | 0 |
| EMR | 3 | 0 |
| EUR | 20 | 4 |
| PAH | 4 | 1 |
| SEAR | 2 | 0 |
| WPR | 9 | 0 |
| TOTAL | 42 | 5 |

LEGITIMATE USE

No countries reported any approved human medical products or veterinary products containing THF-F.

No countries reported that THF-F is currently being used in medical or scientific research or for any industrial purposes.

No countries reported the use of THF-F for any cultural, religious or ceremonial purposes.

EPIDEMIOLOGY OF NON-MEDICAL/NON-SCIENTIFIC USE – USE FOR PSYCHOACTIVE PURPOSES OR RECREATIONAL DRUG USE

Two countries reported that THF-F is being misused for its psychoactive properties (as a recreational drug). The most common routes of administration for recreational use were injection and sniffing (refer to Table 1).

| Route of administration | Number of countries |
|-------------------------|---------------------|
| Injection | 2 |
| Sniffing | 2 |
| Oral | 1 |
| Smoking | 1 |
| Inhalation | 0 |
| Don't know | 1 |

Table 1: Common routes of administration

Powder was the most common formulation of THF-F reported (refer to Table 2). One country also mentioned nasal sprays as a formulation.

| Formulations | Number of countries |
|------------------------|---------------------|
| Powder | 2 |
| Tablets | 0 |
| Solution for injection | 0 |
| Liquid for oral use | 0 |
| Other | 2 |

Table 2: Common formulations reported by countries

Smuggling was the source of THF-F for non-medical/non-scientific use in seven countries (refer to Table 3).

| Sources | Number of countries |
|-----------------------|---------------------|
| Smuggling | 2 |
| Illegal manufacturing | 1 |
| Legal manufacturing | 0 |
| Legal trade | 0 |
| Diversion | 0 |
| Don't know | 0 |

Table 3: Sources of substance for non-medical or non-scientific use

One country identified users of users of prescription opioid analgesics and heroin as a specific subpopulation known to misuse THF-F

The level of negative health-impact originating from this substance's non-medical consumption was reported as:

| Serious | Substantial | Negligible | Don't Know |
|---------|-------------|------------|------------|
| 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

Those countries which reported a serious or substantial level of negative health-impact indicated that this level was chosen due to the association of THF-F with intoxications and overdose deaths.

One country reported an emergency room admission related to the non-medical use of THF-F. This was analytically confirmed case and the patient demonstrated opioid toxidrome side effects.

In regards to the mortality rate, two countries provided information about mortalities involving THF-F. Four deaths were reported that involved other substances in 2017. Ten deaths where it was unknown if other substances were involved between 2016-2017.

One country commented that there are no routine drug tests performed for THF-F in the medical ward, and therefore the non-fatal intoxications associated to THF-F and drug positive patients visiting drug-treatment centres may be unrecorded

STATUS OF NATIONAL CONTROL AND POTENTIAL IMPACT OF INTERNATIONAL CONTROL

Three countries reported that THF-F was under national control. The legislation that the control is based upon included the Controlled Substances Act (1 country), Analogue Act (1 country), New Psychoactive Substances Act (1 country).

The scope of the controls includes production (2 countries), manufacturing (2 countries), exporting (2 countries), importing (2 countries), distribution (2 countries), and possession (2 countries).

One country reported that a challenge in implementing control was that analogue cases are often challenged in court.

Reported illicit activities involving THF-F (Table 4) include:

| Illicit Activities | Number of countries reporting |
|---|--------------------------------------|
| Trafficking | 2 |
| Internet sales from abroad | 1 |
| Internet sales from unknown locations | 1 |
| Internet sales within your country | 0 |
| Sales to people who use the substance | 0 |
| Manufacture of substance by chemical synthesis | 0 |
| Manufacture of substance by extraction from other products | 0 |
| Production of consumer products | 0 |
| Don't know | 1 |

Table 4: Reported illicit activities involving THF-F

There were three countries that completed the section on the number of seizures. The combined number of seizures was 8 (2014), 3 (2015), 38 (2016).

If THF-F was placed under international control, five countries responded that they would have the capacity to enforce the control at the national level. There were five countries that responded that they would have the forensic laboratory capacity to analyse the substance.