

Annex 1: Report on WHO Questionnaire for Review of Psychoactive Substances for the 39th ECDD: Evaluation of 5F-ADB

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 41 Member States answered the questionnaire regarding 5F-ADB. Of these, 13 respondents had information on the substance.

| Region | Number of countries responded | Number of countries with information on substance |
|--------------|-------------------------------|---|
| AFR | 6 | 0 |
| EMR | 3 | 0 |
| EUR | 19 | 11 |
| PAH | 3 | 1 |
| SEAR | 2 | 0 |
| WPR | 8 | 1 |
| TOTAL | 41 | 13 |

LEGITIMATE USE

No countries reported any approved human medical products or veterinary products containing 5F-ADB. One country reported that 5F-ADB is currently being used for analytical purposes as a reference standard in forensic toxicology.

No countries reported any industrial or other non-medical or non-scientific use.

No countries reported the use of 5F-ADB for any cultural, religious or ceremonial purposes.

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

Eleven countries reported that 5F-ADB is being misused for its psychoactive properties (as a recreational drug).

The most common route of administration reported was smoking (refer to Table 1).

| Route of administration | Number of countries |
|-------------------------|---------------------|
| Smoking | 8 |
| Oral | 0 |
| Inhalation | 0 |
| Sniffing | 0 |
| Injection | 0 |
| Don't know | 5 |

Table 1: Common routes of administration

The most common formulation of 5F-ADB reported was powder (refer to Table 2). However, nine countries mentioned how 5F-ADB is generally dissolved in solvents and administered to leaf or plant material before being smoked. Also, one country stated that powder may be dissolved into liquid for e-cigarette use.

| Formulation | Number of countries |
|------------------------|---------------------|
| Powder | 10 |
| Liquid for oral use | 1 |
| Tablets | 0 |
| Solution for injection | 0 |
| Other | 9 |

Table 2: Common formulations reported by countries

Smuggling was the main source of 5F-ADB for non-medical/non-scientific use in eight countries (Table 3).

| Sources | Number of countries |
|-----------------------|---------------------|
| Smuggling | 8 |
| Illegal manufacturing | 1 |
| Legal manufacturing | 0 |
| Legal trade | 0 |
| Diversion | 0 |
| Don't know | 3 |
| Other | 1 |

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

Countries stated that specific subpopulations known to misuse 5F-ADB were prisoners (one country), cannabis users (one country) and young people (one country).

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

| Serious | Substantial | Negligible | Don't Know |
|----------------|--------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| 5 | 1 | 3 | 2 |

Those countries which reported a serious or substantial level of negative health-impact indicated that this level was chosen due to the association of 5F-ADB with severe adverse effects including fatal intoxications. One country commented that the spraying of 5F-ADB on herbal material may lead to uneven concentrations and a potential risk of overdose to the user. Some users are also not aware of the effects and potential harm that synthetic cannabinoids may cause.

Four countries reported emergency room admissions related to the non-medical use of 5F-ADB. Reported adverse effects included nausea, vomiting, frothing at the mouth, loss of consciousness, respiratory difficulties, agitation, seizures, delirium and death.

Regarding mortality rate, three countries provided information about mortalities involving 5F-ADB. Ten fatal cases were reported that involved only 5F-ADB between 2015-2017. Twenty-seven fatal cases that involved other substances were reported between 2015-2016. Finally, twenty-six fatal cases where it was unknown if other substances were involved (time period unknown).

It was noted by one country that routine drug testing for 5F-ADB is not conducted in the medical ward, and therefore non-fatal intoxications associated with 5F-ADB and drug positive patients visiting drug-treatment centres, may be unrecorded.

STATUS OF NATIONAL CONTROL AND POTENTIAL IMPACT OF INTERNATIONAL CONTROL

Eleven countries reported that 5F-ADB was under national control. The legislation that the control is based upon included the Controlled Substances Act (8 countries), Medicines Act (1 countries), Psychoactive Substances Act (1 country) and other specific legislation (1 country). In one country, the control is a temporary measure.

The scope of the controls includes production (11 countries), manufacturing (11 countries), exporting (10 countries), importing (11 countries), distribution (11 countries), use (6 countries) and possession (10 countries).

One country reported challenges to implementing control measures as they had difficulty obtaining reference standards thereby impacting their forensic laboratory capacity.

The main reported illicit activities involving 5F-ADB (Table 4) include:

| Illicit Activities | Number of countries |
|---|----------------------------|
| Trafficking | 4 |
| Internet sales from abroad | 4 |
| Internet sales from unknown locations | 4 |
| Sales to people who use the substance | 3 |
| Internet sales within your country | 1 |
| Manufacture of substance by chemical synthesis | 0 |
| Manufacture of substance by extraction from other products | 0 |
| Production of consumer products | 0 |
| Diversion | 0 |
| Do not know | 4 |

Table 4: Reported illicit activities involving 5F-ADB

Nine countries completed the section on the number of seizures. The combined number of seizures was 48 (2014), 963 (2015), 4752 (2016).

If 5F-ADB was placed under international control, thirteen countries responded that they would have the capacity to enforce the control at the national level. There were thirteen countries which responded that they would have the forensic laboratory capacity to analyse the substance.