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**Statement by Prof. Jallal Toufiq, President,
International Narcotics Control Board (INCB)
Sixty-seventh session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs**

Item 5(a): Changes in the scope of control of substances

INCB Statement 3:

**Ethyl ester of 3,4-MDP-2-P methyl glycidic acid and six
additional esters**

Vienna, 19 March 2024

Mr. Chair, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

1) The last set of recommendations that INCB submitted to the Chair of the Commission in the discharge of its functions under article 12 of the 1988 Convention relates to the placement of seven pre-precursors of MDMA (or “ecstasy”) in Table I of the 1988 Convention.

2) At the outset, I would like to note that the same considerations that I have shared in connection with the previous recommendations also apply here:

- a) The seven substances are very closely related with each other and with two substances listed already in Table I of the 1988 Convention, namely 3,4-MDP-2-P methyl

glycidic acid and its methyl ester; Chemically they are all esters;

- b) All of these substances can be used interchangeably in the illicit manufacture of 3,4-MDP-2-P, a chemical already listed in Table I of the 1988 Convention; and
- c) They are all designer precursors, purpose-made chemicals with no known legitimate uses and no regular trade.

3) Because of the similarities, I will cover the seven substances together, in one statement:

4) In making its assessments pursuant to article 12, paragraph 4, of the 1988 Convention, the Board finds that:

5) All seven substances are **highly suitable for the illicit manufacture of 3,4-MDP-2-P**, a precursor already listed in Table I of the 1988 Convention, which is in turn used in the illicit manufacture of MDMA and related substances.

6) **Incidents of illicit manufacture and trafficking** involving the **ethyl ester of 3,4-MDP-2-P methyl glycidic acid** have been known since 2021, with a major increase in frequency and amounts reported since the end of 2022.

7) **Seizures of the other six esters** (the propyl, isopropyl, butyl, isobutyl, *sec*-butyl and *tert*-butyl ester) have not yet been brought to

the Board's attention. However, the six esters are direct substitutes for the ethyl ester [and the already controlled methyl ester] and can be converted to 3,4-MDP-2-P using the same technology and processes.

8) There is **no known legitimate manufacture of and trade** in the seven substances other than in very small amounts for research and development purposes.

9) In light of its findings, **the Board recommends adding all seven substances to Table I of the 1988 Convention**. International control of the seven substances will limit their availability for illicit drug manufacture and subsequently reduce the quantity of MDMA manufactured illicitly from them.

10) For the six esters (the propyl, isopropyl, butyl, isobutyl, *sec*-butyl and *tert*-butyl ester) for which no seizures have yet been brought to the Board's attention, scheduling is recommended to prevent an instant shift to those esters, effectively putting Commission resolution 65/3 of March 2022 into practice.

11) The proposed controls will have **no adverse effect** on the availability of the seven substances for any of the known research and development processes, given the very limited to non-existent legitimate market for and trade in the substances.

12) **Placement in Table I** will provide Governments with the possibility to request pre-export notifications as a means of monitoring any trade in the substances.

13) Given the close chemical relationship between the substances, the Board proposes that the seven named esters be included in Table I as a **footnote** to 3,4-MDP-2-P methyl glycidic acid, which has been under international control since November 2019.

Thank you for your attention.

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