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IMPROVING ACTIVITIES RELATED TO THE LEGAL REGULATION OF PSYCHOTROPIC SUBSTANCES AND CERTAIN CATEGORIES OF CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES

Shamsiddinov Mirzo Ulugbek Mukhiddinovich

leading researcher of National Center on Drug Control under the Administration of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan

Abstract: The article develops theoretical and practical proposals for improving the regulatory legal acts governing activities related to the legal circulation of narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances, and certain categories of potent substances in the republic, as well as their enhancement.

Keywords: narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances, certain categories of controlled substances, international standards, improvement of legislation.

The proliferation and escalation of novel narcotic drugs, psychotropic chemicals, and certain categories of potent compounds, particularly in the form of synthetic "designer" pharmaceuticals, pose urgent challenges for society and the economy.

Currently, in Uzbekistan, there is a growing number of cases of incidents of young people taking psychoactive drugs. This, in turn, requires vigilance and alertness not only from law enforcement agencies but also from the general public.

It is well known that medications containing narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances, and certain categories of controlled substances are widely used in medicine for treating specific diseases and in medical procedures.

Therefore, there should be no gaps in our legislation to prevent illegal circulation in the process of using the aforementioned medications.

However, there should be no gaps in our legislation in preventing illegal forms of trafficking in the process of using the aforementioned drugs. Unfortunately, current rules and regulations do not explicitly govern the use of drugs in medical, scientific, and social settings. However, while revising regulatory documentation, it is important to consider people who require the aforementioned drugs. Otherwise, individuals may have challenges in acquiring and taking prescription medications. Furthermore, it is essential to focus on a process grounded on the principles of assessing the republic's genuine requirements for these pharmaceuticals.

Today, relevant norms are being improved in accordance with the requirements of the Unified UN Convention "On Narcotic Drugs" (1961), the Convention "On Psychotropic Substances" (1971), and the Convention "On Combating Illicit Trafficking in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances" (1988), as well as the experiences of leading foreign countries. The Republic of Uzbekistan ratified these conventions in 1995.

The legal circulation of drugs containing narcotic drugs, psychotropic and special categories of potent substances in the republic is regulated by the Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan "On Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances" of 1999 and 12 subordinate legal acts, and licensors also follow the requirements established by these norms. This prohibits the use of the aforementioned substances for illicit purposes.

In addition, on September 6, 2019, the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan issued Presidential Decree No. 4438 to enhance measures against illicit drug trafficking in the Republic.

To ensure the implementation of this resolution, the Cabinet of Ministers issued Resolution No. 818 of September 27, 2019, approved the list of highly effective substances, their quantitative indicators in the classification of criminal acts, and the Harmonised System of Economic Conduct codes.

In addition, the "Regulation on the Regulation of the Circulation of Separate Category of High Impact Substances in the Republic of Uzbekistan" was passed by Cabinet of Ministers Resolution No. 632 on October 4, 2024.

According to it, substances named "Zaleplon," "Pregabalin," "Sibutramin," "Tropicamide," "Cyclopentholate," and "Gabapentin" were identified as a special category of strong substances, and their circulation was determined to follow the procedure used for psychotropic substances.

Today, the growing number of new forms of narcotic medicines, psychotropics, and some categories of highly effective chemicals, as well as the hazards connected with them, necessitates continuous revision of industry-regulating laws and rules. The Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan "On Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances" adopted in 1999 and has remained unchanged since then.

Furthermore, the necessity for narcotic medications and psychotropic substances in the republic is determined in accordance with a Cabinet of Ministers resolution from 2003. According to statistics, Uzbekistan's population was approximately 25 million in 2003, and by April 2024, it had grown to 37 million. (Source: Statistics Agency; websites gazeta.uz, kun.uz). The disparity in the statistics necessitates adjustments and additions to rules and regulations in this area.

Based on the foregoing, the following is proposed:

1. Enhancement of legislation:

- Creating a new edition of the Law "On Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances" that meets international standards;

- Amendments and additions to the Cabinet of Ministers Resolution No. 472 of October 29, 2003, "On approval of regulations establishing the circulation of narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances, and precursors in the Republic of Uzbekistan";

2. Strengthening the function of regulatory bodies by increasing the operations of special regulatory bodies, providing them with new technology, and upgrading their credentials.

3. Implementation of a specific information system: creation of an electronic information system that enables online monitoring of the import, storage, and distribution (retail) of these chemicals;

4. Implementation of preventive and education programs: teaching the general population about the dangers of narcotic substances, the repercussions of their use, and the penalties for infractions.

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