



AMERICAN KRATOM ASSOCIATION

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**INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC COMMUNITY SIGNALS OVERWHELMING SUPPORT
FOR KRATOM DURING WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION ECDD VIRTUAL MEETING**
AKA REQUESTS PUBLIC LINK TO INFORMATION SESSION

WASHINGTON, D.C — October 11, 2021 — The American Kratom Association (AKA) earlier today presented arguments to the World Health Organization’s (WHO) Expert Committee on Drug Dependence (ECDD) which is currently holding a week-long [critical review of 5 substances and a pre review of 2 substances](#). Today the committee heard from preregistered speakers regarding the substances being reviewed, particularly kratom. The AKA’s delegation expertly and articulately demonstrated that existing and emerging scientific studies confirm kratom should not be banned and that kratom has many merits for continued human use.

In the interest of transparency, the AKA has requested that the WHO ECDD provide a public link to today’s information session.

“All public presentations on kratom were clearly opposed to the international scheduling of kratom. In fact, only one of the speakers addressed an issue other than kratom, demonstrating both how united the scientific community studying kratom is against a ban, and how unnecessary it was to include kratom in the WHO ECDD’s prereview process,” said Mac Haddow, Senior Fellow on Public Policy at the AKA.

Haddow continued, “Clearly the anti-kratom sentiment is coming from one source: the FDA. Although we didn’t hear the anti-kratom speakers today, the FDA will have the ability to make their views on kratom known as a part of the member-state submissions. However, based on the strong presentations made on the science of kratom during the presentations this morning, I believe we have established the position that the FDA is unfairly biased against kratom.”

The ECDD will remain in non-public discussions over the next four days, and then the review of member state submissions between now and early December. Their announcement of any decisions related to will be made public at that time.

The committee could rule in several ways, which include taking no action at all or announcing a full, critical review of kratom. The AKA is fully prepared to present all facts and evidence necessary should a critical review be implemented.

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ABOUT AKA

The American Kratom Association (AKA), a consumer-based non-profit organization, is here to set the record straight about kratom and gives a voice to the millions of Americans who safely consume kratom each year. For more information or to arrange an interview, contact Pete Candland, Executive Director of the AKA, at pete.candland@americankratom.org.