

Vienna International Centre, P.O. Box 500, A-1400 Vienna, Austria  
Telephone: +43-1-26060, Facsimile: +43-1-26060-5867 / 5868,  
Email: [incb.secretariat@un.org](mailto:incb.secretariat@un.org) Internet Address: <http://www.incb.org/>

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The International Narcotics Control Board (INCB) has the honour to request the cooperation of the competent authorities of your Government in the following matter.

Extensive loss of lives and destruction of property has been reported in north-west Syria and Türkiye, as a result of the strong earthquake that struck southern Türkiye yesterday. The acute humanitarian needs of the affected communities as a result of this devastating earthquake require urgent action to ensure shipments of medications, including medicines containing internationally controlled narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances reach those in need.

INCB reminds all Governments that in acute emergencies, such as the one experienced in Syria and Türkiye, it is possible to utilize simplified control procedures for the export, transportation, and provision of medicinal products containing controlled substances. Competent national authorities may permit the export of medicines containing narcotic drugs and/or psychotropic substances to the areas in the absence of the corresponding import authorizations and/or estimates. Urgent deliveries do not need to be included in the estimates of the receiving country.

Competent national authorities may find further information on the subject in the [Guidelines for the International Provision of Controlled Medicines for Emergency Medical Care](#), and [Lessons from countries and humanitarian aid organizations in facilitating the Timely Supply of Controlled Substances during Emergency Situations](#).

Competent authorities are invited to contact the Board, in case any assistance is required to facilitate the supply of controlled medicines to Syria and Türkiye.

The Board trusts that this matter will receive the prompt attention of your Government.

Vienna, 07 February 2023

