

FOCUS on international drug control

Newsletter initiated by the International Narcotics Control Board

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President of INCB holds briefing with ECOSOC Members in New York and meets with Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon



President of INCB, Prof. Hamid Ghodse meets Secretary-General of the United Nations, Mr. Ban Ki-Moon in New York

On 7 March 2012, the President of the Board, Prof. Hamid Ghodse, held a briefing with the ECOSOC Members in New York. The briefing provided an opportunity for Permanent Missions to gain a better understanding of the work and mandate of the Board and to hear first-hand the Board's assessment of developments and challenges in drug control as presented in the Board's annual report for 2011. The importance of the Board's dialogue with Governments in its work in promoting and monitoring the implementation of the international drug control treaties was emphasized, as was the Board's independence and impartiality. The President congratulated the

Governments on their efforts in drug control and encouraged them to further their efforts in implementing the provisions of the treaties. While recognizing the almost universal accession to the treaties, the President encouraged those States that have not yet acceded to the treaties to do so as a matter of priority.

On 8 March, the Board's President and Secretary met with Secretary-General of the United Nations, Mr. Ban Ki-moon to discuss the latest developments in international drug control and the work of the Board. As part of the ongoing dialogue between the Board and Governments, the President and the Secretary

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also met with a number of Permanent Representatives while in New York.

INCB participates in the Paris Pact Ministerial Conference

On 16 January 2012, high-ranking delegations from 58 countries as well as representatives of 16 international organizations convened at the Hofburg

in Vienna to discuss the challenges faced in addressing trafficking in opiates from Afghanistan. The Third Ministerial Conference of the Paris Pact Partners on

Combating Illicit Traffic in Opiates Originating in Afghanistan focused on the

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need to reduce drug trafficking and illicit opium poppy cultivation and production, as well as drug abuse, while aiming at establishing a broad international coalition to combat opiate trafficking.

Addressing the Conference, the President of the Board, Prof. Hamid Ghodse, stressed that the growing levels of drug abuse in Afghanistan could potentially undermine the achievements being made in improving the drug control situation. Welcoming the political will expressed by the Government of Afghanistan to address the challenges posed by the drug problem, the President noted that a number of normative actions could be undertaken that could significantly contribute to improving the national drug control situation, including improved control over the licit movement of internationally controlled substances, prevention of diversion and abuse of psychotropic substances and enhanced precursor chemical control.

The Government of Afghanistan had recently registered to use Pre-Export Notification Online (PEN Online) and invoked article 12, paragraph 10 (a), of the 1988 Convention for all substances in tables I and II, requiring exporting countries to notify it prior to exporting

precursor chemicals to Afghanistan. The Government of Afghanistan had informed the Board that it had no licit use for acetic anhydride, but large amounts were still being smuggled into the country. The President called on the international community to take adequate measures to ensure that Security Council resolution 1817 (2008), on precursor control, is effectively implemented. Other measures were outlined, such as participation in Project Cohesion mechanisms and strengthened border protection. The President of INCB called for consolidated effort and commitment by all stakeholders in addressing the drug problem in Afghanistan and neighbouring countries, urging that due attention be given to the emerging situation regarding the illicit cultivation of and trafficking in cannabis.

The outcome of the Conference was the Vienna Declaration, adopted by the 55 Paris Pact partners. It is a statement of international commitment to act in a "balanced and comprehensive manner" against the menace of illicit Afghan opiates. In the Declaration, the Paris Pact partners recognized that "the narcotics problem is a global challenge which also requires a global response, including addressing the demand and supply sides".

Recent and upcoming events

March - July 2012

- **7 March** Briefing by the INCB President to members of the Economic and Social Council
- **8 March** Regular meeting between the United Nations Secretary-General and INCB President
- **30 March** Signing of Memorandum of Understanding between INCB and the World Customs Organization
- **7 - 18 May** 104th session of the Board
- **21 - 26 May** 65th World Health Assembly
- **4 - 8 June** 35th meeting of the WHO Expert Committee on Drug Dependence, Tunisia
- **23 - 27 July** ECOSOC Substantive Session, New York

Forthcoming INCB missions

- Republic of Korea, Peru

In the Declaration, it was also recognized that reducing illicit traffic in opiates will contribute to enhanced peace and stability, as well as to solving problems of economic, social and humanitarian character related to the world drug problem. It was also suggested that efforts should focus on key areas including the prevention of the diversion of precursor chemicals used in the illicit manufacture of opiates in Afghanistan, reduction of drug abuse and dependence through a comprehensive approach, and detection and blocking of financial flows linked to illicit traffic in opiates.

The "Paris Pact" came into existence at the Ministerial Conference on Drug Routes from Central Asia to Europe, held in Paris in May 2003, when more than 50 countries and international organizations subscribed to the principle of shared responsibility in addressing trafficking in opium and heroin from Afghanistan. The Paris Pact initiative is a partnership of more than seventy countries and international organizations, and is an important framework for addressing opiates originating in Afghanistan.



President of INCB (centre) participates in Paris Pact Ministerial Conference

Launch of the INCB Annual Report

The annual report of the Board for 2011, dedicated to the centennial of the first international drug control treaty, the International Opium Convention signed at The Hague in 1912, was launched on 28 February 2012. Prof. Hamid Ghodse, President of the Board, presented the report to the press in Vienna. In many other locations, the report was launched by members of the Board, as well as by field offices of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the network of United Nations information centres. Earlier, on 1 February, the President of the Board gave an advance briefing to the Permanent Missions to the United Nations (Vienna), highlighting

the major findings of the report, as well as the Board's recommendations.

Each year, the Board devotes the first chapter of its annual report to a topic of specific concern. This year, the Board addressed the issue of marginalized communities that are vulnerable to drug problems. The report includes a review of the implementation of the international drug control treaties, covers special topics such as "designer drugs" and illegal Internet pharmacies, and presents regional developments. It concludes with a series of recommendations for Governments and international and regional organizations aimed at

improving the global drug control situation. The Board's 2011 report on precursors and chemicals frequently used in the illicit manufacture of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances contains an analysis of the latest developments in international precursor chemical control and includes a new thematic chapter reviewing the past 20 years of international precursor control.

Those reports are complemented by the technical reports:

- o Narcotic Drugs: Estimated World Requirements for 2012; Statistics for 2010

- o Psychotropic Substances: Statistics for 2010; Assessments of Annual Medical and Scientific Requirements for Substances in Schedules II, III and IV of the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971

The reports are available on the Board's website (www.incb.org).



Launch of INCB Annual Report in Vienna on 28 February 2012

Social cohesion/social disintegration and the drug problem: an issue of concern

Within marginalized communities — some large, some small — drug abuse has become virtually endemic, driving and in turn being driven by a whole host of social problems including violence, organized crime, corruption, unemployment, poor health and poor education, in a vicious spiral of collective harm. The problem exists in every region of the world and these communities represent enormous challenges, in terms of the risk that they pose not only to their

residents but also to the wider societies of which they are a part.

In these communities, individuals and families are experiencing a profound sense of hopelessness, which can lead individuals to believe that the circumstances in which they are living will never change and that they will never experience the benefits of safety, security and economic stability as enjoyed

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The current members of INCB:

- **Hamid Ghodse** (Islamic Republic of Iran)
- **Galina Aleksandrovna Korchagina** (Russian Federation)
- **Carola Lander** (Germany)
- **Melvyn Levitsky** (United States)
- **Marc Moinard** (France)
- **Jorge Montaño** (Mexico)
- **Lochan Naidoo** (South Africa)
- **Rajat Ray** (India)
- **Viroj Sumyai** (Thailand)
- **Sri Suryawati** (Indonesia)
- **Raymond Yans** (Belgium)
- **Xin Yu** (China)
- **Vacant**

Secure area for researchers and academic institutions on the INCB website

The Board has decided to make available to academic institutions and researchers a complete, downloadable data set on the consumption of selected narcotic drugs, covering the last 20 years in 213 countries and territories. The data can be retrieved and downloaded from a secure area named "Secure area for researchers and academia" on the INCB website (www.incb.org), following a web registration and ID validation (on case-by-case basis) by the INCB Secretariat. The area was created to meet the needs of

fellows/researchers and academic non-commercial institutions that have been made known in the past.

The dataset made available displays data accurate to the nearest gram which is more detailed than the figures published in the Board's yearly [technical publication on narcotic drugs](#), where quantities shown are rounded to the nearest kilogram. In the case of fentanyl and its analogues and of piritramide, the quantities are reflected to the nearest milligram, also

published as such in the publication.

The data set will be updated throughout the year to reflect amendments to the figures submitted by Governments. Experience has shown that data going back as far as five years may be subject to change. Interested researchers may register by [clicking here on the link](#) or on the header "Secure area for researchers and academia" in the bottom right-hand corner of the homepage of the Board's website.

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by other members of society. Confronted by a situation in which they seem to have been cut adrift from the wider society, some people may come to feel that there is little reason not to engage in a lifestyle involving illegal drugs and criminality.

The annual report of the International Narcotics Control Board for 2011 outlines, in a thematic chapter, the threats to social cohesion that have been and are now being observed within some communities. Factors that can contribute to social disintegration include persistent social inequality, displacement and political and economic transformation. Faced with a future of limited opportunities, individuals within these communities may increasingly become disengaged from the wider society and become involved in a range of personally and socially harmful behaviours, including drug abuse and drug dealing. However, social cohesion can be undermined not only by poverty and social exclusion but also by the emergence of a culture of excess, growth of individualism and consumerism, and shifts in traditional values. The resulting development of a culture of acceptance of illicit drug use can contribute to a growing normalization of certain forms of drug misuse within the wider society, in turn undermining broader social cohesion. Furthermore, when societies are experiencing conflict or are in a post-conflict situation, previously close and mutually supportive social ties may become strained and weakened, leaving large swathes of the population uncertain of the degree to which they are members of a shared society.

The Board recommends that addressing the vicious cycle of social disintegration and its associated drug problems follow a multidisciplinary approach involving stakeholders at all levels, including citizens, families, civil society, various levels of



Launch of INCB Annual Report in New Delhi on 28 February 2012

government and the private sector. All stakeholders should be involved in the design and implementation of interventions aimed at tackling this problem.

The Board has recognized in its report a number of good examples of interventions to address social disintegration, such as community policing, in Brazil, South Africa, the United States and the United Kingdom.

The challenge extends well beyond providing effective and efficient law enforcement to the social rehabilitation of these communities so that their inhabitants can enjoy the benefits of full participation in the wider society. Specific recommendations include drug abuse prevention, treatment and rehabilitation; equitable educational, employment and recreational opportunities; community policing; community rehabilitation; responding to the signs of financial success of criminals associated with drug trafficking; and the promotion of positive role models. Although meeting the needs of these populations within these areas will undoubtedly be challenging, the consequences of failure would be far greater and should be avoided at all cost.

Board completes its 103rd session

The Board's 103rd session took place from 30 January to 3 February 2012.

During the session, the Board continued its work of monitoring the implementation of the drug control conventions and paid particular attention to the quality of reporting to the Board by national competent authorities, identifying areas

for improvement. The Board reviewed the findings of its missions to Bangladesh, Bolivia (Plurinational State of) and Turkey and agreed upon recommendations to be made to the respective countries as part of its ongoing dialogue. The Board noted the ongoing relevance and importance of the principle of shared responsibility, which it would address in

the thematic chapter of its annual report for 2012. The Board met with the Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and a representative of the World Health Organization.

The 104th session of the Board will commence on 7 May 2012.

Consultations with the Government of Afghanistan under article 14 of the 1961 Convention as amended by the 1972 Protocol

At the invitation of the Board, a high-level Government delegation from Afghanistan attended the session of the Board in February 2012. The delegation, headed by the Minister of Counter-Narcotics of Afghanistan, was composed of high-level Government officials from various ministries responsible for drug control in the country.

The delegation made a presentation on the drug control situation in Afghanistan and on activities carried out by the Government in addressing the challenges faced with regard to illicit cultivation of opium poppy and related illicit drug activities. The attendance at a Board session of the Afghan delegation, for the third time, was part of the continuing consultations under article 14 of the 1961 Convention as amended by the 1972 Protocol. The information provided by the delegation will help the Board to assess the current drug



Prof. Hamid Ghodse, President of INCB (second from left) meets high-level delegation from Afghanistan, headed by H.E. Mr. Zarar Ahmad Moqbel-Osmani, Minister of Counter Narcotics of Afghanistan (third from left).

control situation in Afghanistan and any progress made by the Government in compliance with its treaty obligations.

The Board invoked article 14 of the 1961 Convention as amended with regard to Afghanistan in 2000, in view of the widespread illicit cultivation of opium

poppy in the country. The Board has since then maintained an ongoing dialogue with the Government by various means, including sending missions to Afghanistan at both the political and technical levels and inviting Government delegations to the Board's sessions.

Farewell to outgoing Board Members

The terms of Board members Dr. Carola Lander (Germany), Ambassador Melvyn Levitsky (United States of America), Dr. Sri Suryawati (Indonesia) and Dr. Xin Yu (China) will expire on the eve of the 104th session, in May 2012. The Board and its Secretariat thank the outgoing Board members for their service to the

Board in the interest of the international drug control system, and wish them all the best for the future. Board member Dr. Camilo Uribe Granja (Colombia) resigned from the Board in February 2012. The Economic and Social Council will hold an election for this vacant position in due course.

The new Board members as elected by the Council in April 2011 - Prof. Wayne Hall (Australia), Ambassador David T. Johnson (United States), Mr. Ahmed Kamal Eldin Samak (Egypt) and Mr. Werner Sipp (Germany) - will commence their five-year terms on 7 May 2012, at the beginning of the 104th session of the Board.

INCB participates in fifty-fifth session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs

The fifty-fifth session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs was held in Vienna from 12 to 16 March 2012. Under item 4, implementation of the international drug control treaties, of the Commission's agenda, the President of the Board addressed the Commission on the work of the Board, the findings of the Board as contained in its annual report for 2011 and the availability of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances for medical and scientific purposes.

On 13 March, the President of the Board delivered a keynote speech at a special event commemorating the centennial of the adoption of the International Opium Convention of 1912. The event

was chaired by the Chair of the Commission, H. E. Ms. Carmen Buján Freire (Spain), and included statements by the Executive Director of UNODC, Mr. Yury Fedotov, the Permanent Representative of China, H. E. Mr. Cheng Jingye, and the Chair of the Vienna NGO Committee on Drugs, Mr. Michel Perron. A number of representatives of Governments also made statements at the event. The event celebrated the achievements made in the past century in the area of international drug control and considered the way forward in addressing contemporary challenges in drug control.

At a side event on 16 March, the President of the Board, together with

Mr. Willem Scholten of the World Health Organization and the Board's Secretariat, launched the *Guide on Estimating Requirements for Substances under International Control*. Other INCB events held on the margins of the Commission's session included an informal meeting on the electronic import/export authorization system, informal consultations on supply of and demand for opiate raw materials and an informal dialogue with the Vienna NGO Committee on Drugs. The President and the Secretariat of the Board held a large number of consultations with Governments as part of the Board's ongoing dialogue with Member States.

Accession of the Holy See to the 1988 Convention

On 25 January 2012 at the United Nations Headquarters in New York, His Excellency Archbishop Francis Chulikatt, Apostolic Nuncio, Permanent Observer of the Holy See, deposited with the Secretary-General of the United Nations the instrument of ratification for the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988. Thus, the total number of parties to that Convention currently stands at 186.

The Holy See, acting also in the name and on behalf of the Vatican City State had acceded to the 1961 Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs and the 1971 Convention on Psychotropic Substances on 7 January 1976.



Centennial of the signing of the International Opium Convention of 1912

2012 marks the centennial of the signing of the International Opium Convention of 1912, the first international drug control treaty and the core of the international drug control system. The

adoption of the Convention was a milestone in multilateralism and resulted from recognition of the transnational nature of the drug problem and the principle of shared responsibility. The States

that adopted the Convention saw the importance of ensuring access to drugs for medical and scientific purposes

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INCB President, Professor Hamid Ghodse, and WCO Secretary General, Mr. Kunio Mikuriya, formalize an agreement to enhance international drug control efforts

Prof. Hamid Ghodse, President of the International Narcotics Control Board, met with the Secretary-General of the World Customs Organization (WCO), Mr. Kunio Mikuriya, at WCO headquarters in Brussels on 30 March 2012 to sign a memorandum of understanding (MOU) to formalize their long-standing cooperation with a view to enhancing international drug control efforts within their respective mandates.



INCB President Prof. Hamid Ghodse (right) and WCO Secretary-General, Mr. Kunio Mikuriya.

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and of ensuring that people should be protected from drug abuse and drug dependency.

Before the adoption of the Convention, the global drug problem was abysmal. There was widespread substance abuse and, in general, trade in drugs was not regulated, with no international controls in place. In 1906, 1.5 per cent of the world's population used opium, and global opium production amounted to approximately 41,000 tons, about five times the global licit production a century later. Cocaine was also being extensively used for non-medical purposes by the end of the nineteenth century. A significant proportion of humanity was suffering from the effects of drug abuse and drug addiction, which was facilitated by the unregulated trade in drugs. Seeing these disturbing effects, a movement of progressive non-governmental organizations worked and lobbied to reverse the situation, and there was growing awareness of the need to protect people from becoming dependent on drugs

and from drug abuse.

Recognizing that shared responsibility was essential if the drug problem was to be solved, the representatives of 13 States met at the International Opium Commission, held in Shanghai in 1909, to discuss international drug control for the first time. The Commission led to the International Opium Convention signed at The Hague on 23 January 1912. The parties to the 1912 Convention agreed to control the production and distribution of opium and to impose limits on the manufacture and distribution of certain drugs, mainly morphine, heroin and cocaine, enshrining the principle of drug use only for medical and scientific purposes. The Convention gained near-universal adherence after 1919, when the Treaty of Versailles required that all its signatories sign the 1912 Convention.

Subsequent conventions built upon the 1912 Convention and led to the three international drug controls in force today: the 1961 Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, the 1971 Convention on

Psychotropic Substances and the 1988 United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances. Many achievements have been made over the past century of drug control. There is near universal accession to the conventions, the diversion of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances from licit trade has been almost fully eliminated at the international level, and a well-functioning system for the control of precursor chemicals has been established and made operational. Levels of drug abuse have been reduced dramatically: for example, 1.5 per cent of the world population was using opium in 1906, compared with the 0.25 per cent prevalence rate of opiate abuse at present.

However, many challenges remain. Continued political will and strong effort by the international community is required if use of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances is to be limited to medical and scientific use and if diversion of controlled substances from licit channels is to be prevented.

The Vienna NGO Committee and INCB

As submitted by Mr. Michel Perron, Chair of the Committee

The Vienna NGO Committee on Drugs (VNGOC) is very pleased with the collaboration which has been established and continues to develop between the INCB and our members. Most recently we welcomed the President of INCB, Prof. Ghodse, for an informal dialogue with NGOs attending the 55th session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs. This is one of three informal dialogues we organize during the annual session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, the others being with the Chairperson of the Commission and the Executive Director of UNODC.

This year topics ranged widely, including the issue of INCB priorities, relations with NGOs, access to essential medicines, in particular those used for opiate substitution therapy, and the Board's position on the use of the death penalty for those convicted of drug offences. NGOs emphasized that they would like the Board to apply all possible discretion in dealing with these fundamentally important issues. Again, the informal dialogue provided an invaluable opportunity for the exchange of views and for the sharing of different perspectives. We are grateful to the President for his openness and willing participation in the dialogue.

The VNGOC, through myself as Chairperson, was also very pleased to participate at the invitation of Prof. Ghodse in the 100 year commemoration of the 1912 Convention on Opium. Our statement underscored the common foundation and fundamental principles flowing from the Hague while also calling on members states to fully embrace not just the letter but also the spirit of the Conventions. The VNGOC also called on all to leverage the collective knowledge, experience and lessons learned from 100 years of practice so as to inform the pathways of the future where prevention, treatment and support



President of INCB participates in an informal dialogue with NGOs during the recent CND session in Vienna

for those affected by drugs must be a fundamental part of that work.

Finally at this CND, we also welcomed the participation of the INCB at the VNGOC's first informal Civil Society Hearing. On this occasion our intention was to develop further the working relations between NGOs and the drug control bodies of the United Nations, creating a space for NGOs, Member States and representatives of UN institutions to share best practices related to NGO/Government collaboration in the area of drug policy. Given the very constructive relationship which has developed between the VNGOC and the Board, we were delighted to have Pavel Pachta, Deputy Secretary of the Board, speak at the session on how the relationship can work best between the multi-lateral system and NGOs, focusing on the benefits arising from our collaboration.

VNGOC welcomes the ongoing partnership and dialogue with the Board as we strive to enhance our mutually beneficial relationship.

Launch of the guide on estimating requirements

During the recent session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, the INCB/World Health Organization (WHO) *Guide on Estimating Requirements for Substances under International Control* was launched by the President of the International Narcotics Control Board, Prof. Hamid Ghodse, and WHO representative Dr. Willem Scholten. In his introductory speech, the President of the Board referred to the activities of the Board relating to the availability of

internationally controlled substances, including last year's special report on availability of internationally controlled drugs. The analysis presented in that special report highlighted the global disparities in access to internationally controlled substances for medical and scientific purposes, and identified countries with low levels of licit consumption.

The report also showed that adequate availability is contingent upon the

identification of actual licit requirements for internationally controlled substances at the national level. However, as some national authorities lacked the experience to calculate adequate estimates and assessments, the Board, together with WHO, developed the *Guide on Estimating Requirements for Substances under International Control*.

The aim of the Guide is to assist

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Round table on best practices in collecting and reporting statistics on the manufacture of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances

On the margins of the 55th session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, the INCB Secretariat facilitated a round table on best practices in collecting and reporting statistics on the manufacture of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances. Following a brief presentation clarifying the relevant definitions as contained in the provisions of the international drug control treaties, Ms. Monika Joos, Head of the Narcotics Division of the Swiss Agency for Therapeutic Products, made a presentation on the system of electronic data collection and verification that is available to companies

involved in the manufacture of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances in Switzerland, as well as recent measures taken by the Swiss competent authorities to improve national control mechanisms for ensuring timely and accurate reporting to INCB.

In the exchange that followed, representatives of the competent authorities of 10 major manufacturing countries — Australia, Brazil, Canada, France, Germany, Hungary, India, Switzerland, the United Kingdom and the United States — shared information on the strengths

of their national drug control systems related to licensing, record-keeping, reporting, training and data quality assurance, as well as on the difficulties they face in their normative work. The Board will use the findings of this information exchange to better advise the States parties on the ways to enhance their data collection and reporting capabilities. The Board took note of the comments and suggestions, with regard to further improvement of INCB forms, made by the participants during the round table and the individual consultations that followed.

Training of national drug control authorities by the INCB Secretariat

Technical training at the INCB Secretariat was provided to two officials from the Pharmacy and Poisons Board of Kenya in January 2012 and to four officials of the Federal Drug Control Service of the Russian Federation in March 2012. The technical training assists competent national authorities in better understanding their reporting obligations to the Board as called for in the treaties and provides them with practical advice on how to meet their obligations and how to implement the relevant provisions of the treaties. Training on PEN Online was also provided to representatives of twenty six Governments on the margins of the fifty-fifth session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, in March 2012. Competent national authorities wishing to avail themselves of technical training should contact the INCB Secretariat (secretariat@incb.org).



Mr. Andres Finguerut, Secretary of INCB (third from left), meets officials from Kenya (third and fourth from right).

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Governments of countries with low levels of consumption to better determine their actual requirements for narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances for medical and scientific purposes. The Guide is flexible and user-friendly and includes various methods to take into account differences among national

health systems, as well as availability of data and resources required for the calculations. Accordingly, the Guide includes three methods to calculate requirements for narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances: the consumption based-method, the service-based method and the morbidity-based

method.

The Guide has been distributed to national competent authorities and is also available online on the website of the International Narcotics Control Board (www.incb.org/incb/en/guide-on-estimating-requirements.html).

INCB missions

Bangladesh

An INCB mission visited Bangladesh from 16 to 18 January 2012. The mission was conducted by Professor Sri Suryawati, member of the Board, accompanied by a member of the INCB Secretariat. The aim of the mission was to review the Government's efforts to comply with obligations under the three international drug control conventions to which it is a party. The last Board mission to Bangladesh took place in 2005.

The mission had discussions with senior officials from the Department of Narcotics Control (DNC), the Directorate General of Drug Administration, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Border Guard Bangladesh, the Bangladesh Police, the National Board of Revenue and Bangladesh Customs (including their operations at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport at Dhaka). The mission also visited the UNODC project

office, met with representatives of the World Health Organization and visited the DNC Central Treatment Centre and the Dhaka Ahsania Mission non-governmental organization, which provides drug treatment services for high-risk injecting drug users in the capital.

Issues addressed during discussions with senior officials included those related to legislative measures and administrative policies of drug control that have been introduced by the Government, issues related to opiate availability in palliative care and measures aimed at controlling the movement of precursor chemicals — including those in the form of pharmaceutical preparations — to, from and through Bangladesh. The situation and efforts related to countering drug trafficking and the provision of drug abuse treatment and abuse prevention services were also discussed.



Map of Bangladesh

The findings of the mission were reviewed by the Board at its last session in February 2012 and will be reflected in the INCB annual report for 2012, to be published in early 2013.

Call for contributions

Readers are invited to submit comments and contributions:

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The Focus Team reserves the right to edit and select articles depending on their relevance and the availability of space.

The contents of the Newsletter do not necessarily reflect the views or policies of INCB, nor do they imply any endorsement. The designations employed and the presentation of material in this report do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of INCB concerning the legal status of any country, territory or city or its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers and boundaries.

About Focus on international drug control

Focus on international drug control is a quarterly publication, initiated by the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB), that provides

insight into the activities and positions of the Board and information on other issues relevant to the Board's mandate. Focus also functions as a

forum in which interested parties may share their opinions. Focus on international drug control is prepared by the Vienna-based INCB Secretariat.