

FOCUS on international drug control

Newsletter initiated by the International Narcotics Control Board

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Hamid Ghodse elected President of the International Narcotics Control Board



Hamid Ghodse (Islamic Republic of Iran) as President of the Board for a one-year term. He succeeds Professor Sevil Atasoy (Turkey), who served as President in 2009.

At its ninety-eighth session, held in Vienna in May 2010, the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB) elected Professor

Prof Ghodse, who is Professor of International Drug Policy at St George's and also heads its International Centre for Drug Policy (ICDP), said: "I am delighted and honoured to have been elected President of INCB again, and I hope to meet the many challenges faced by Governments and the international community." He added: "During my term of office I would like to highlight even more, the commitment of the Board within its mandate to a profound respect for human rights and the dignity of those who suffer drug dependence.

We will continue to bring to the attention of the Governments the importance of the provision of adequate services for the prevention, treatment, rehabilitation and care of addicts and their families, while at the same time dealing effectively with drug traffickers and criminals who make profit out of human misery".

Professor Ghodse has been a member of INCB since 1992 and has served as President of the Board in 1993, 1994, 1997, 1998, 2000, 2001, 2004, 2005 and 2008.

INCB participation in the International Forum on Drug Production in Afghanistan, Moscow, June 2010



First at left: Russian President Dmitry Medvedev Second from left: INCB President Professor Hamid Ghodse
Photo: © RIA Novosti, Dmitriy Astahov

The President and the Secretary of INCB participated in the "International Forum on Drug Production in Afghanistan: a Challenge for the International Community", held in Moscow on 9 and 10 June 2010.

The President of INCB delivered a statement emphasizing the role of INCB in ensuring Governments' compliance with the provisions of the international drug control treaties and the measures taken and progress made in addressing the drug problems in Afghanistan (see INCB website on www.incb.org).

The Forum identified issues of common concern for all parties involved related to the Afghan drug production problem and developed a platform for the fight against the illicit production and international trafficking of drugs originating in Afghanistan.

The Forum was opened by President Dmitry Medvedev of the Russian Federation and attended by leading statesmen representing concerned Governments, heads of law enforcement agencies, wellknown experts and

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international journalists, as well as representatives of the United Nations and other international organizations, such as the Collective Security Treaty Organization and NATO. Mr. Antonio Maria Costa, Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), also addressed the Forum.

Jonathan Lucas appointed as new Secretary of the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB)



Jonathan Lucas, a national of Seychelles, was appointed as Secretary of the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB) and Chief of the INCB Secretariat in February 2010. He succeeds Mr. Koli Kouame (Côte d'Ivoire), who retired from the United Nations in January 2010. Prior to his

appointment, Mr. Lucas served for five years as the Regional Representative, UNODC Regional Office for Southern Africa, Pretoria. Mr. Lucas brings to the position his extensive experience as Secretary of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND) and in related fields such as serving as the Chief of the Office of the Executive Director/Office of Director-General, Vienna.

INCB secure area for Governments

The screenshot shows the INCB website interface. A red box highlights a section titled "INCB SECURE AREA FOR GOVERNMENTS" in the main content area. Below this, a detailed description of the secure area is provided, including a link to "Access to the INCB Secure Area for Governments". The secure area is described as a newly established secure area of the website (www.incb.org) where certain types of restricted information are published. It is accessible to specifically authorized Government officials upon request, and will contain restricted information on national requirements for the authorization of the import and export of ketamine, as well as information on national requirements already in place in individual countries. The secure area will be accessible, as of 1 August 2010, to specifically authorized Government officials. At the initial stage, the secure area will be available in English only. Individual Government officials, upon request, will be given an individual account for access to the secure document repository containing restricted information. Initially, restricted information on national requirements for the authorization of the import and export of ketamine will be made available, in order to better assist the competent authorities of countries importing and exporting that substance. Ketamine is currently not under international control. However, in its resolutions 49/6 and 50/3, the Commission on Narcotic Drugs called upon Member States to place ketamine on the list of substances controlled under their national legislation, where

Access to the newly created secure area of the INCB website (www.incb.org)

The Board has decided to publish certain types of restricted information in a newly established secure area of its website (www.incb.org).

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the domestic situation so required. Since then, INCB has systematically collected information on the specific legal or administrative measures adopted by States, including import and export authorization requirements for ketamine. The Board encourages all Governments to make use of this new tool, as appropriate, and to provide feedback on its usefulness. If the pilot exercise proves to be successful, other types of restricted information could be made available in the secure area of the website.

Recent and upcoming events

May 2010

- **3 - 14 May** The Board held its ninety-eighth session in Vienna
- **16 - 21 May** Visit of the INCB President to the WHO World Health Assembly
- **22 May** Visit of the INCB President to the WHO Executive Board
- **26 - 28 May** INCB mission to Guatemala

June 2010

- **7 - 10 June** INCB mission to Turkmenistan
- **9 - 10 June** International Forum in Moscow "Drug Production in Afghanistan: a Challenge for the International Community"
- **15 - 17 June** Joint Meeting of Task Forces of Projects Cohesion and Prism, Bogotá
- **27 - 30 June** INCB mission to Gabon
- **28 June** Starting of the Economic and Social Council substantive session of 2010, New York,

July 2010

- **4 - 7 July** INCB mission to Azerbaijan
- **7 - 11 July** INCB mission to Georgia
- **20 July** The Kabul International Conference on Afghanistan, Kabul

INCB President Ghodse participates in the World Health Assembly of WHO

INCB President Hamid Ghodse attended the World Health Assembly, the governing body of the World Health Organization (WHO), at its 63rd session, held in Geneva in May 2010.

Subsequently, the President and the Secretary of INCB held a series of consultations with leading officials of WHO, representatives of Governments and nongovernmental organizations, on a number of issues, including availability of

and access to medications containing controlled substances, promoting the rational use of psychoactive substances and cooperation with INCB to enhance implementation of the Conventions.

Tribute to Professor Tatyana Dmitrieva, late member and First Vice- President of INCB

It is with great sadness that the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB) announces the passing away of Professor Tatyana Borisovna Dmitrieva, First Vice-President of the Board, on 1 March 2010 in Moscow.

Professor Dmitrieva, a national of the Russian Federation, held important positions such as Minister of Health of the Russian Federation (1996-1998), Chairman, Russian Security Council Commission on Health Protection (1996-2000), Chief Expert Psychiatrist, Ministry of Health and Social Development of the Russian Federation (2005-2010), Head of the Department of Psychiatry (1986-1989), Deputy Director of Research (1989-1990) and Director, V. P. Serbsky State Research Centre for Social and Forensic Psychiatry (1998-2010).

A graduate of the Ivanovskii State Medical Institute, she held a Master of Science and Doctor of Medical Sciences



(M.D.), and was a Professor of Medicine. Professor Dmitrieva was a member of the Presidium of the Russian Academy of Medical Sciences; Vice-Chairman of the Russian Society of Psychiatrists; Vice-President of the World Association for Social Psychiatry; a member of the Russian Academy of Medical Sciences. She was the author of over 450 scientific

works, including five books on drug abuse therapy, and a recipient of five author's certificates for inventions.

She was a member of the editorial boards of several Russian and foreign medical journals, including the journal *Narcology*. Recipient of the Order "For Services to the Country", fourth class (2001) and third class (2006); and the Order of Honour (1995). Speaker at national and international congresses and conferences, including those organized by the World Health Organization, the European Union, the Council of Europe and the World Psychiatric Congress.

Professor Dmitrieva was a Member of the International Narcotics Control Board since 2005, serving as Rapporteur in 2006, Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Estimates and Second Vice-President of the Board in 2007 and as First Vice-President of the Board in 2009.

Board held ninety-eighth session

At its sessions, INCB discusses matters ranging from the content of its annual report to estimates used to determine the amount of narcotic drugs that countries may manufacture or import.

At its ninety-eighth session, held in Vienna from 3 to 14 May 2010, the Board examined a variety of matters including the outline of chapter I of its annual report for 2010, on drug-related corruption and

organized crime, discussed cooperation with more than 200 countries and territories, examined shortcomings in national drug control systems and formulated proposals to Governments to overcome such deficiencies.

Chapter I of the annual report for 2010

The topic for 2010 is entitled "Drug-related corruption and organized crime". Every year, chapter I of the annual report

focuses on a different theme in the remit of the Board's work. The topic for 2009 was "Primary prevention of drug abuse". In 2008, the Board presented an overview entitled "The international drug control conventions: history, achievements and challenges".

The topics of the first chapters of annual reports from previous years can be found on the website of the Board (www.incb.org).

Highlights of the 2009 annual report

Drug abuse prevention: the keynote chapter of the 2009 annual report

The keynote chapter of the report of the Board for 2009 focuses on primary prevention of drug abuse, a crucial area of demand reduction. Preventing drug abuse is a crucial area of demand reduction. Primary prevention strategies need to address both the population at large and groups that are particularly vulnerable to drug abuse. To be effective, primary prevention efforts need to move from rhetoric to action. All too often, priority is given to highly visible but short-lived responses such as stand-alone media campaigns. Prevention campaigns need to be supported by other complementary measures to result in significant social and economic benefits.

As a fundamental health issue, drug use prevention is most closely connected to public health, health promotion and child and youth development. Policymakers need to commit resources to these activities. Governments cannot be effective in primary prevention by

operating alone. Partnerships with civil society need to be forged at all levels locally, nationally and internationally to ensure scarce resources are applied as efficiently as possible and to increase effectiveness in reducing the prevalence of drug use.

Abuse of painkillers and other prescription drugs

In its examination of the worldwide situation with respect to drug abuse and illicit trafficking, the Board has devoted special attention to the growing scale of abuse of painkillers and other prescription medicines.

Control of precursors

Another area of focus is the achievements of the international community in preventing the diversion of precursor chemicals for the manufacturing of drugs. INCB has supported operations that have led to the successful interception of illicit shipments of chemicals, thus preventing the manufacture of heroin, cocaine and amphetamine-type stimulants. The annual report discusses how to continue

and strengthen this global effort in the midst of an increasing demand for monitoring the international trade of chemicals, especially in Afghanistan and its neighbouring countries.

Other major issues

In addition, INCB has reviewed the supply and demand of narcotic and psychotropic substances used for medical purposes. Through its Standing Committee on Estimates, the Board examines the requirements of licit drugs for each country and, where necessary, makes amendments to ensure that all patients worldwide have access to the cure and care they need.

INCB also considered the problems associated with "daterape drugs", the sale of controlled substances through the Internet, problematic consumption levels of anorectics in some countries, abuse of synthetic cannabinoids, internationally controlled substances on the unregulated market and other trends in drug abuse and trafficking, with a view to recommending actions to improve international control measures.

Ketamine to be reviewed by WHO for possible scheduling

Abuse of and trafficking in ketamine, a substance currently not under international control, is widespread, particularly among youth in East and South-East Asia, Europe and the Americas. Through its annual reports, the Board has repeatedly drawn the attention of Governments to that problem.

In 2006, ketamine was the subject of critical review by the WHO Expert Committee on Drug Dependence. At that time, the Committee concluded that the information presented to it on ketamine was not sufficient to warrant the international scheduling of that

substance. However, the Committee requested the secretariat of WHO to produce an updated version of the critical review document for its next meeting, scheduled for September 2010.

The Board, which has communicated to WHO on a regular basis all information received from Governments on trafficking in and abuse of ketamine, urges Governments to continue to furnish WHO with all relevant information on trafficking in and abuse of ketamine in their countries, in order to facilitate a well-informed assessment of ketamine for possible scheduling under the international drug control treaties.

Election of the new INCB Bureau

At its 98th session in May 2010, the Board elected:

- as President, **Hamid Ghodse** (Islamic Republic of Iran)
- as First Vice-President, **Carola Lander** (Germany)
- as Second Vice-President and Chair of the Standing Committee on Estimates, **Sri Suryawati** (Indonesia)
- as Rapporteur, **Raymond Yans** (Belgium)

Changes in INCB membership

INCB is the independent and quasi-judicial treaty body for monitoring the implementation of the international drug control conventions. Established by the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961, INCB supports Government compliance with each of the international drug control conventions.

Board Members are elected by the Economic and Social Council to serve five-year terms. They act in their personal capacity.

New members elected to INCB

Four new board members from France, India, South Africa and Thailand joined the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB) at the Board's ninety-eighth session in Vienna, namely, Marc Moinard (France), Lochan Naidoo (South Africa), Rajat Ray (India) and Viroj Sumyai (Thailand), who were elected for a full five-year term until March 2015, in compliance with the provisions of article 10 of the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961. In addition, Jorge Montaño (Mexico) had joined the Board in November 2009, after his election to replace Maria Elena Medina-Mora Icaza (Mexico), who resigned, for the remainder of her term until March 2012. One position is vacant and will be filled when the Economic and Social Council elects a member of the Board in July 2010.

Jorge Montaño (Mexico)

Mr. Montaño is Professor of International Organizations at the Mexico Autonomous Institute of Technology (ITAM) and a private consultant on the enforcement of the North American Free Trade Agreement. From 2001 to 2003, he was a member of the Organization of American States Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism on drugs. From 1989 to 1992, he was the Ambassador of Mexico to the United States, after serving as Permanent Representative of Mexico to the United Nations. He holds a doctorate in international affairs from the London School of Economics.

Marc Moinard (France)

Mr. Moinard, a former magistrate, served as Procurator General responsible for the prosecution of narcotics-related offences, Director for Judicial Affairs and later Director for Criminal Affairs and Pardons in the Ministry of Justice of France, as well as Secretary-General of the Ministry of Justice (drafting of legislative proposals and circulars on criminal policy in the area of drug control). Mr. Moinard is a graduate of the Paris Institute of Political Studies and a graduate of the Paris Faculty of Law. He is a Commander of the Legion of Honour of France.

Lochan Naidoo (South Africa)

Mr. Naidoo is programme developer with Roots Office-based Addiction Treatment in South Africa, and designer of the Jullu software programme for assessment, treatment planning and delivering therapeutic module for the rehabilitation of patients and families dealing with addiction, depression and stress. Previous posts include: member of the Opiate Dependency Advisory Board of South Africa (2006-2008) and drafter of the National detoxification policy and procedure for the national Department of Health of South Africa (2006). Mr. Naidoo holds a Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Surgery (MB ChB) from the University of Natal (1983), and a degree in diplomatic business management from the South African Institute of Management (1997).

Rajat Ray (India)

Professor Ray is Head of the Department of Psychiatry and Chief of the National Drug Dependence Treatment Centre (NDDTC), All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), New Delhi. Previous assignments include: Professor and Head, Department of Psychiatry and Chief, NDDTC, AIIMS (2002); Professor, Department of Psychiatry, AIIMS (2000); and Additional Professor, NDDTC, AIIMS (1988-2000).

Prof. Ray holds a MBBS in Medicine from the Medical College of Calcutta, India (1971) and a MD in Psychiatry from the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), New Delhi (1977).

Viroj Sumyai (Thailand)

Mr. Sumyai was Assistant Secretary-General of the Food and Drug Administration, Ministry of Public Health of Thailand. Previous posts include: Director of the Narcotics Control Division, Food and Drug Administration, Ministry of Public Health (1988-2001); expert on narcotic drugs, Food and Drug Administration, Ministry of Public Health (1992-1997); Senior pharmacist, Narcotics Control Division, Food and Drug Administration, Ministry of Public Health (1990-1992).

Mr. Sumyai holds a Bachelor of Science in Chemistry from the Chiang Mai University, Thailand (1976); Bachelor of Science in Pharmacy from the Manila Central University, Manila (1979); Master of Science in Pharmacology, Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok (1983); apprenticeship in narcotic drugs epidemiology, St. George's University of London (1989).

The current members of INCB:

- **Hamid Ghodse** (Islamic Republic of Iran)
- **Carola Lander** (Germany)
- **Melvyn Levitsky** (USA)
- **Marc Moinard** (France)
- **Jorge Montaño** (Mexico)
- **Lochan Naidoo** (South Africa)
- **Rajat Ray** (India)
- **Viroj Sumyai** (Thailand)
- **Sri Suryawati** (Indonesia)
- **Camilo Uribe Granja** (Colombia)
- **Raymond Yans** (Belgium)
- **Xin Yu** (China)

The Work of the Standing Committee on Estimates

The Standing Committee on Estimates (SCE) plays a very important role in the work of the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB). It is responsible, on behalf of the Board, for the implementation of the estimate system for narcotic drugs under the Single Convention. It also considers information on assessments ("simplified estimates") for psychotropic substances and estimates for some precursors frequently used in the manufacture of amphetamine-type stimulants, which are submitted by Governments to INCB in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the Economic and Social Council and the Commission on Narcotic Drugs.

Governments have the obligation to furnish to INCB each year estimates of their requirements for narcotic drugs. The estimates are examined by the Board, which may decide to confirm

them or to request a Government to provide additional clarifications. For those countries and territories that have failed to furnish estimates to INCB, the Board establishes estimates to preserve the universal character of the estimate system. The estimates then serve for determining the maximum quantities of narcotic drugs that each country or territory may obtain through manufacture or import or both.

SCE includes members of the Board with medical, pharmacological and pharmaceutical knowledge that is particularly relevant for the Committee's work. SCE meets regularly during the sessions of the Board. In addition, since the Governments may submit supplementary estimates to the Board at any time during the year, the Committee continues its work between the sessions

of the Board. The work of the Committee is supported by the INCB Secretariat that stays in close contact with the members of the Committee throughout the year.

Diversion of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substance from international trade has become very rare, thanks to the system of estimates and assessments and other control mechanisms. Estimates and assessments are equally important in helping Governments to ensure adequate availability of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances for medical and scientific use. Preparing estimates/assessments helps Governments to identify whether the quantities of medication containing controlled substances available in the national health system are adequate for their medical and scientific requirements.

Update on precursors activities

INCB continues to coordinate precursor efforts

INCB continues to serve as the international focal point for the exchange of information under international initiatives in precursor control. From 15 to 17 June 2010, a number of key governments and international organizations gathered in Bogotá, Colombia, to evaluate operational activities and to plan new action against diversion and trafficking of precursor

chemicals. Participants to that meeting highlighted some results achieved in recent months. For example, 2575 individual transactions with precursors for amphetamine-type stimulants have recently been monitored, which has led to the identification of 39 cases. Governments prevented 13 tons of bulk ephedrine or pseudoephedrine, as well as 200 million pseudoephedrine tablets,

from reaching illicit drug manufacture. Activities for the gathering and exchange of information on chemicals used in the illicit manufacture of heroin and cocaine are also planned. The INCB pre-export notification system (PEN-Online) has become the cornerstone of this international monitoring and control system.

President of INCB meets with Chairperson of the Vienna NGO Committee on Drugs

The President of INCB met with Mr. David Turner, Chairperson of the Vienna NGO Committee on Drugs, at the margin of the Board's 98th session in May 2010.

The Board welcomed the informal consultations with NGOs through its President, and requested the President

to pursue such consultations whenever the opportunity presents itself.

At the above meeting, the President of INCB underlined the important role of NGOs in international drug control, particularly their knowledge and experience at the grass-roots level.

INCB initiated the informal consultations with NGOs several years ago, and will continue to do so in its endeavor to promote broad-based support, involving civil society, in universal application of the international drug control treaties.

INCB missions

Turkmenistan

An INCB mission visited Turkmenistan from 8 to 11 June 2010. The mission was conducted by Carola Lander, First Vice-President of the Board, accompanied by a member of the INCB Secretariat. The last INCB mission visited Turkmenistan in 2003.

The objective of the mission was to review the implementation of the three international drug control conventions to which Turkmenistan has been a party since 1996. The mission met the Minister for Health and Medical Industries, the

Minister of Justice, the Deputy-Ministers for Internal Affairs and for Foreign Affairs, as well as senior officials of the State Anti-Drug Control Service, the Ministry of Health and Medical Industries, and the State Customs Service. Deliberations focused on the availability of opiates for medical needs, recent developments in drug trafficking and abuse in Turkmenistan as well as measures taken by the Government to counteract these developments including the relevant amendments of the national legislation.



Guatemala

An INCB mission visited Guatemala from 26 to 28 May 2010. The mission was conducted by Jorge Montaña, member of the Board, accompanied by a member of the INCB Secretariat. The last INCB mission to Guatemala was in 1999.

The mission met with the Vice-Minister for Public Health and Social Assistance and senior officials from other ministries and government entities involved in the fight against drug abuse and drug trafficking, in particular the Ministry

of External Affairs, the Office of the General Prosecutor and the Executive Secretariat of the Commission against Addiction and Illicit Drug Trafficking (SECCATID). In addition, the mission visited a national drug treatment centre located in Guatemala City. Specific issues discussed included measures to combat drug trafficking and the diversion of precursors of amphetamine-type stimulants, programmes to prevent and treat drug abuse and the availability of narcotic drugs for the treatment of pain.

Croatia

An INCB mission visited Croatia from 17 to 19 May 2010. The mission was conducted by Melvyn Levitsky, member of the Board, accompanied by a member of the INCB Secretariat. The last mission of the Board to Croatia took place in 2001.

The objective of the mission was to discuss the implementation of the three international drug control conventions, to which Croatia is a party. The mission met with the Vice-Prime Minister of Croatia and with officials from the Ministries of Justice, Health and Social Welfare, the Interior, Finance, Science, Education and Sports, Family, Veterans'

Affairs and Intergenerational Solidarity and Foreign Affairs and European Integration and from the Office for Combating Drug Abuse and other government authorities involved in drug control.

Specific issues discussed included the situation of drug abuse in Croatia, programmes to prevent and treat drug abuse, and measures to combat drug trafficking, including organized crime and corruption. The mission also visited a drug treatment and rehabilitation facility and a centre that operated a needle exchange programme, located in Zagreb.



Lebanon

An INCB mission visited Lebanon from 22 to 25 March 2010. The mission was conducted by Sri Suryawati, member of the Board, accompanied by a member of the INCB Secretariat. The last mission of the Board took place in 1999.

The purpose of the mission was to review the implementation of the three international drug control conventions through national policy. Deliberations focused on the continued cultivation of cannabis and opium poppy in the north-east of the country, recent developments in drug trafficking and abuse in Lebanon, measures taken to control narcotic drugs, psychotropic

substances and the chemicals needed for their illicit manufacture, and demand reduction policies. The availability of opiates for medical needs was also discussed. The mission met with senior officials of the Ministry of Health, Justice, Foreign Affairs, the Lebanese Internal Security Forces, the Judiciary Police including the Drug Enforcement Central Bureau and the Lebanese Customs Authorities. The mission included visits to two centres in Lebanon which provide treatment, counselling and aftercare for drug-dependent patients and a field visit to the areas of illicit cultivation with cannabis which had reportedly been eradicated in 2009.



Call for contributions

Readers are invited to submit comments and contributions:

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

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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. At its session in May 2008, the Board decided to launch this newsletter.

Focus on international drug control is prepared by the Vienna-based INCB Secretariat. The views expressed in Focus do not necessarily reflect the position of the Board unless expressly stated.