

## INCB President addresses the Economic and Social Council and meets with Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon

The President of the Board, Hamid Ghodse, addressed the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session on 22 July 2010 in New York. In his statement to the Council, the President spoke about the Report of the Board for 2009 and emphasized the importance of promoting the primary prevention of drug abuse.

The President briefed the Council on a number of issues, including the need for consistent application of treaty obligations at the national level; the availability of opioid-based medicines; the abuse of prescription drugs; the control of precursor chemicals; and illegal Internet pharmacies. The President identified four significant challenges: the growing number of countries where amphetamine-type stimulants are being illicitly manufactured; the increasing trafficking in and abuse of substances that are not under international control; the diversion of psychotropic



UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon meets President of INCB Hamid Ghodse

substances from domestic distribution channels; and the overconsumption of psychotropic substances.

While in New York, the President met with Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon to discuss the international drug control situation and the work of the Board in promoting Government compliance with the United Nations drug control conventions.

The President of INCB also met with the President of the Security Council, the President of the Economic and Social Council, the Acting President of the General Assembly and various senior officials of the United Nations. The Board's President held consultations with representatives of several countries' Permanent Missions regarding the international drug treaties.

## Yury Fedotov appointed Executive Director of UNODC



UN Secretary-General Ban Ki Moon appoints new Executive Director of UNODC, Yury Fedotov

In July 2010 Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon appointed Yury Fedotov of the Russian Federation Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). A former Ambassador and Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation, Mr. Fedotov took office on 13 September. The Board congratulated Mr. Fedotov on his appointment, wished him success in his role and looks forward to furthering its close cooperation with UNODC. Mr. Fedotov will address the Board at its next session in November.

## Contents

INCB President addresses the Economic and Social Council and meets with Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon.....	1
Yury Fedotov appointed Executive Director of UNODC .....	1
Recent and upcoming events.....	2
INCB participates in the European Cities against Drugs Mayors' Conference, Malta, September 2010 and holds high-level consultation with the Government of Malta.....	2
President of INCB meets with United States Government officials and members of Congress and Senate in Washington, D.C. ....	2
INCB President addresses the African Union Conference of Ministers for Drug Control and Crime Prevention.....	2
INCB responds to the flooding emergency in Pakistan.....	3
Release of the 2010 Afghan opium survey.....	3
Galina Aleksandrovna Korchagina elected INCB member .....	3
Conference on "Combating the threat of illicit drugs and strengthening the control of precursor chemicals" (8 and 9 July 2010).....	3
Guidelines for a voluntary code of practice for the chemical industry .....	4
2010 information package on the control of precursors .....	4
Secure area on the INCB website for Governments .....	4
INCB supports achieving a balance between the supply of and demand for opiate raw materials .5	
INCB missions.....	6
INCB Secretariat in preparation for the 99th session of the Board.....	7

## INCB participates in the European Cities against Drugs Mayors' Conference, Malta, September 2010 and holds high-level consultation with the Government of Malta

The President and the Secretary of the International Narcotics Control Board participated in the seventeenth European Cities against Drugs Mayors' Conference, held in Malta on 23 September 2010. The Conference focused on empowering citizens to lead healthier lifestyles. The President's intervention covered the achievements and challenges of international drug control and best practices in primary prevention. While in Malta, the INCB President met with the Prime Minister of Malta, Lawrence Gonzi, and the Minister of

Health, Joseph Cassar. Discussions were held on the international drug control system and the drug control situation in Malta, as well as on the follow-up to the Board's 2009 mission to Malta.



President of INCB Hamid Ghodse meets with Prime Minister of Malta Lawrence Gonzi

## President of INCB meets with United States Government officials and members of Congress and Senate in Washington, D.C.

In July, the President of the Board accompanied by the Secretary of the Board, met with a number of senior United States Government officials in Washington, D.C., including Gil Kerlikowske, Director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy; Michele Leonhart, Acting Administrator of the Drug Enforcement Administration; David Johnson, Assistant Secretary for International Narcotics and Law Enforcement; and Nerissa Cook, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Bureau of International

Organization Affairs. Meetings were also held with some members of Congress and Senior Senate staff on drug control.

Among the issues discussed were the upcoming referendum in California on cannabis; the advertising of psychotropic substances; access to controlled substances; the abuse of prescription drugs; drug trafficking and trade in counterfeit drugs through the Internet; the misuse of amphetamine-type stimulants; and precursor control.

## INCB President addresses the African Union Conference of Ministers for Drug Control and Crime Prevention

On 1 October 2010, the President of the Board, Hamid Ghodse, addressed the opening session of the 4th African Union Conference of Ministers for Drug Control and Crime Prevention. In his address, the President emphasized the need for regulatory aspects of drug control to be addressed by Member States of the African Union, through their Plan of Action on Drug Control and Crime Prevention.



African Union Ministers meet in Addis-Ababa to step up fight against drug trafficking and organized crime  
Photo: © African Union

## Recent and upcoming events

### July 2010

- **28 June-23 July** Substantive session of the Economic and Social Council, New York
- **26-28 July** INCB mission to Washington, D.C.

### September 2010

- **23-24 September** Seventeenth European Cities against Drugs Mayors' Conference, Malta
- **28 September-2 October** Fourth session of the African Union Conference of Ministers for Drug Control and Crime Prevention, Addis Ababa
- **30 September-1 October** Conference on the Prevention of Drug Precursors Diversion, Strasbourg

### October 2010

- **4-6 October** Twentieth Anti-Drug Liaison Officials' Meeting for International Cooperation, Seoul
- **13-15 October** Regional Training Seminar on Supply Indicators and Precursors, Beirut
- **18 October** Meeting of the INCB President with the Director-General of the World Health Organization, Geneva
- **20-21 October** OSCE Regional High-Level Expert Workshop on Comprehensive Cooperation in Synthetic Drug Supply Reduction in the Baltic Region, Vilnius
- **26 October** INCB mission to the European Commission, Brussels
- **27 October-12 November** Ninety-ninth session of INCB, Vienna

### November 2010

- **3-4 November** Fifteenth Ministerial Conference of the Pompidou Group of the Council of Europe, Strasbourg

## Forthcoming INCB missions

- **October-December** Armenia, Bangladesh, Czech Republic, India, Iraq and Myanmar

continued on page 7

## INCB responds to the flooding emergency in Pakistan

In response to the catastrophic flooding in Pakistan in July and August that left millions of people in need of

humanitarian aid and medical care, the Board called on all Governments to facilitate the supply of medicines under

international control to Pakistan in order to meet the medical needs of flood victims.

## Release of the 2010 Afghan opium survey

The 2010 Afghan opium survey was launched by the Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, Yury Fedotov, in Vienna on 30 September 2010.

Opium poppy cultivation remains stable at 123,000 hectares, although total opium production in 2010 is estimated at 3,600 tons, down 48 per cent from 2009. The decrease was largely due to a plant infection that hit the major opium poppy growing provinces of Helmand and Kandahar particularly hard.

Mr. Fedotov called for a comprehensive strategy to rein in the threat posed by opium originating in Afghanistan,

including by strengthening the rule of law and security, and spurring development efforts. More robust regional cooperation was essential to containing the illicit drug trade. "We need a broader strategy to support farmers throughout Afghanistan by providing them with access to markets and a secure environment. Stability and security, combined with sustainable alternative development opportunities, will give farmers the chance to make a living without resorting to opium poppy cultivation," said Mr. Fedotov.

The Board has followed closely the drug control situation in Afghanistan. The Government's measures taken



Executive Director of UNODC, Yury Fedotov, launches the 2010 Afghan Opium Survey

and progress made in addressing illicit opium poppy cultivation will be reviewed by the Board at its upcoming session in November.

The summary findings of the survey are available on [www.unodc.org](http://www.unodc.org)

## Galina Aleksandrovna Korchagina elected INCB member

On 22 July 2010, Galina Aleksandrovna Korchagina of the Russian Federation was elected member of the Board by the Economic and Social Council. Ms. Korchagina is presently Deputy

Director of Research at the National Centre for Research on Drug Addiction in Moscow. A doctor of medicine, Ms. Korchagina has extensive experience in research on drug addiction.

## Conference on "Combating the threat of illicit drugs and strengthening the control of precursor chemicals" (8 and 9 July 2010)

On 8 and 9 July 2010, Barbara Remberg, a senior staff member of the INCB Secretariat participated in a conference organized by the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) on "Combating the threat of illicit drugs and strengthening the control of precursor chemicals", which was held in Vienna. Ms. Remberg delivered a

presentation on available tools for controlling the diversion of precursor chemicals. The conference, which was attended by senior officials from OSCE participating countries and a number of international and regional organizations, aimed at providing a platform for raising awareness and facilitating international cooperation.

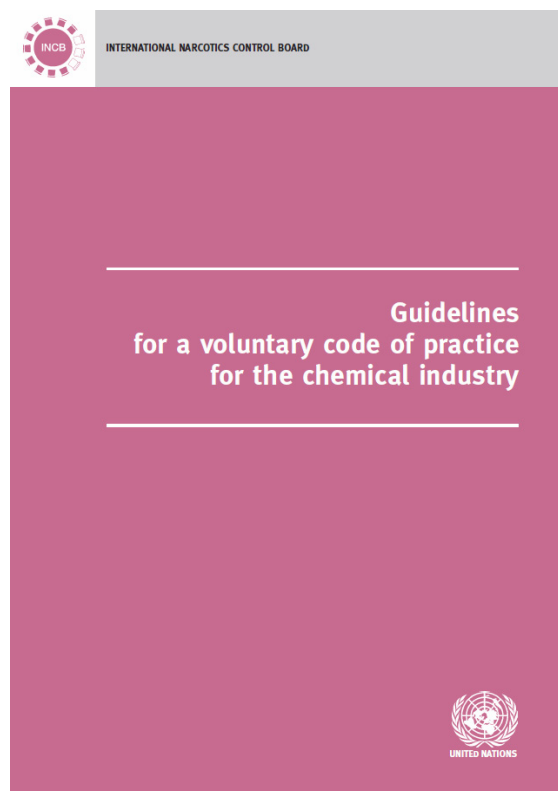
### The current members of INCB:

- **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)
- **Camilo Uribe Granja** (Colombia)
- **Raymond Yans** (Belgium)
- **Xin Yu** (China)

## Guidelines for a voluntary code of practice for the chemical industry

Voluntary cooperation between Governments and the chemical industry is an important component of effective chemical control. A voluntary code of practice for the chemical industry supplements existing mandatory controls and allows rapid and flexible responses to new trends in illicit drug manufacture. The Economic and Social Council and the Commission on Narcotic Drugs have consistently emphasized, through their resolutions, the need for and importance of such voluntary cooperative agreements between Governments and the chemical industry.

With a view to assisting Governments in designing their own guidelines for voluntarily adhering to controls in cooperation with the chemical industry, the Board has developed and published the "Guidelines for a voluntary code of practice for the chemical industry". The Guidelines are intended to help national authorities develop a code of practice with the chemical industry, as a supplement to existing national legislation. The Board invites all Governments to make use of the Guidelines, which it believes will be a useful and valuable tool in controlling precursor chemicals. The Guidelines are now available to competent national authorities on the INCB website ([www.incb.org](http://www.incb.org)).



*INCB issues guidelines for improved precursor control*

## 2010 information package on the control of precursors

The 2010 information package on the control of precursors was distributed by the Board to all Governments in July 2010. The package contains updates on control measures applied by Governments to imports and exports of substances used in the illicit manufacture of drugs. Such information is intended to assist Governments in verifying the legitimacy of shipments of precursors. All Governments are invited to inform

the Board of any additions or changes to the tables containing information on the measures in place to control certain substances.

Another important component of the information package is the INCB limited international special surveillance list of non-scheduled substances, which was updated by the Board in 2009 and currently includes 45 substances

not under international control. The list is provided to national competent authorities so that appropriate measures can be devised to prevent those substances from being used by traffickers. The 2010 information package, including the list, is available to competent national authorities on the INCB website ([www.incb.org](http://www.incb.org)).

## Secure area on the INCB website for Governments

On 1 August 2010 the Board made an area of its website accessible only to specifically authorized Government officials. The secure area, which is, for the time being, available only in English, will be used by the Board to make restricted information available to competent national authorities, in order

to better assist them in controlling drugs and precursors.

During the first two months after its launch, officials from about 50 countries requested access to the secure area of the INCB website. The Board plans to post other kinds of

restricted information on this area of the website in the future. The Board invites all Governments to make use of this area and to provide feedback on its usefulness, including suggestions about the kinds of information they would like to see in the secure area.

# INCB supports achieving a balance between the supply of and demand for opiate raw materials

Opiates (drugs derived from opium and their chemically related derivatives) are in high demand worldwide for medical and scientific purposes. Narcotic drugs such as morphine, codeine and oxycodone are consumed by patients undergoing medical treatment. Opiates are obtained from opiate raw materials such as opium, poppy straw, and, very importantly nowadays, concentrate of poppy straw, a narcotic drug defined in the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961 as "the material arising when poppy straw has entered into a process for the concentration of its alkaloids when such material is made available in trade". Concentrate of poppy straw is widely used in the manufacture of opiates.

An important element of the mandate of INCB is to ensure the balance between the supply of and the demand for opiate raw materials. INCB does so in close cooperation with a number of countries that cultivate opium poppy and produce opiate raw materials, thereby complying with the strict control provisions stipulated in the 1961

Convention. Major producing countries are Australia, France, India, Spain and Turkey. India remains the sole supplier of licit opium to the world market. All other major producing countries manufacture concentrate of poppy straw.

INCB analyses data, some of which States are obligated to report and some of which States report voluntarily, and then projects trends in production, demand and stocks of opiate raw materials. On the basis of its assessment of the global situation, the Board then issues recommendations to producing countries. Within the informal consultation mechanism on the supply of and demand for opiate raw materials initiated by INCB, major producing and importing countries meet in Vienna once a year, at the invitation of the INCB President, to discuss the situation, plans and concerns of each country. All industrially sensitive data received by INCB are handled with confidentiality.

One important INCB recommendation is to hold enough global stocks of

opiate raw materials to cover global demand for about one year. This ensures sufficient supply even in the case of unforeseen shortfalls in the cultivation of opium poppy and the production of opiate raw materials. Such shortfalls might occur, for instance, as a result of adverse weather conditions. In addition, INCB also monitors the development of demand for and stocks of opiates. Significant stocks of opiates are held in many countries and would also serve as a buffer to cover global demand. At present, there are sufficient opiate raw materials to meet global demand.

There are two main groups of opiate raw materials: one comprises opiate raw materials that are rich in morphine and another those that are rich in thebaine. In recent years, there has been a significant increase in the production of thebaine-rich opiate raw materials. Opiates such as hydrocodone and oxycodone, as well as a number of substances not under international control, can be obtained — and are increasingly expected to be obtained — from thebaine. In addition,

production of and demand for opiate raw materials rich in morphine continue to grow and opiate raw materials remain the most important class of such materials.

For more detailed information on this topic, please refer to the INCB publication "Narcotic Drugs - Technical Report 2009: Estimated World Requirements for 2010 - Statistics for 2008", which is available from the INCB website, under: [http://www.incb.org/incb/en/narcotic\\_drugs\\_2009.html](http://www.incb.org/incb/en/narcotic_drugs_2009.html), section "supply of opiate raw materials and demand for opiates for medical and scientific purposes".

## SUPPLY OF OPIATE RAW MATERIALS AND DEMAND FOR OPIATES FOR MEDICAL AND SCIENTIFIC PURPOSES

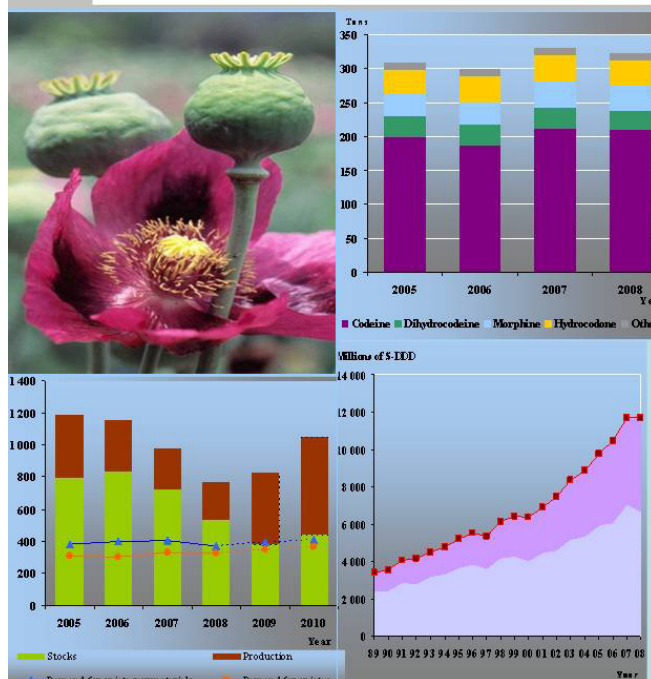


Table 1. Area cultivated with opium poppy rich in morphine and opium poppy rich in thebaine, 2005-2010  
(Estimated area, as confirmed by the International Narcotics Control Board, and area harvested, in hectares)

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009*	2010*
<b>Australia</b>						
Estimated area (rich in morphine)	6 700	4 800	4 882	5 250	10 535	17 937
Actual area harvested (rich in morphine)	6 389	3 487	4 881	4 108	4 538	—
Estimated area (rich in thebaine)	6 950	5 200	8 872	9 700	11 857	17 639
Actual area harvested (rich in thebaine)	6 853	4 838	8 857	7 857	8 884	—
<b>Total estimated area (morphine and thebaine)</b>	<b>13 650</b>	<b>10 000</b>	<b>13 754</b>	<b>14 950</b>	<b>22 392</b>	<b>35 576</b>
<b>Total actual area harvested (morphine and thebaine)</b>	<b>13 242</b>	<b>8 325</b>	<b>13 738</b>	<b>11 965</b>	<b>13 422</b>	<b>—</b>
<b>France</b>						
Estimated area (rich in morphine)	8 500	9 100	5 150	2 850	7 500	8 800
Actual area harvested (rich in morphine)	8 841	6 022	3 188	3 823	6 550	—
Estimated area (rich in thebaine)	1 100	1 000	1 200	2 850	2 500	5 000
Actual area harvested (rich in thebaine)	524	1 444	2 787	2 524	2 890	—
<b>Total estimated area (morphine and thebaine)</b>	<b>9 600</b>	<b>10 100</b>	<b>6 350</b>	<b>5 700</b>	<b>10 000</b>	<b>13 800</b>
<b>Total actual area harvested (morphine and thebaine)</b>	<b>9 365</b>	<b>7 466</b>	<b>5 975</b>	<b>6 347</b>	<b>9 440</b>	<b>—</b>
<b>Germany</b>						
Estimated area (rich in morphine)	14 200	12 000	10 200	12 200	15 500	18 000
Actual area harvested (rich in morphine)	6 100	4 302	3 289	2 382	1 717	—
Estimated area (rich in thebaine)	—	—	—	—	—	2 000
Actual area harvested (rich in thebaine)	—	—	—	—	—	—
<b>Estimated area (rich in morphine and thebaine)</b>	<b>14 200</b>	<b>12 000</b>	<b>10 200</b>	<b>12 200</b>	<b>15 500</b>	<b>18 000</b>
<b>Actual area harvested (rich in morphine and thebaine)</b>	<b>6 100</b>	<b>4 302</b>	<b>3 289</b>	<b>2 382</b>	<b>1 717</b>	<b>—</b>
<b>India</b>						
Estimated area (rich in morphine)	8 156	7 300	6 200	4 600	7 262	22 898
Actual area harvested (rich in morphine)	7 823	6 975	5 913	2 653	6 853	—
<b>Spain</b>						
Estimated area (rich in morphine)	7 002	6 002	7 000	6 000	6 500	7 000
Actual area harvested (rich in morphine)	4 932	2 146	5 600	5 507	6 855	—
Estimated area (rich in thebaine)	500	1 000	—	2 500	4 400	5 000
Actual area harvested (rich in thebaine)	480	—	1 482	2 527	4 405	—
<b>Total estimated area (morphine and thebaine)</b>	<b>7 502</b>	<b>7 002</b>	<b>7 000</b>	<b>8 500</b>	<b>11 000</b>	<b>12 000</b>
<b>Total actual area harvested (morphine and thebaine)</b>	<b>5 412</b>	<b>2 146</b>	<b>7 082</b>	<b>8 034</b>	<b>11 260</b>	<b>—</b>
<b>Turkey</b>						
Estimated area (rich in morphine)	70 000	70 000	70 000	70 000	70 000	70 000*
Actual area harvested (rich in morphine)	20 225	42 823	24 403	20 842	48 893	—

## INCB missions

### Azerbaijan

Carola Lander, First Vice-President of the Board, accompanied by a staff member of the INCB Secretariat, visited Azerbaijan from 5 to 7 July 2010.

The objective of the mission was to review the implementation of the three international drug control conventions to which Azerbaijan had acceded after the Board's previous visit to the country in 1997. The INCB representatives met the deputy ministers for foreign affairs, health, the interior, and justice, as well as the Deputy General Prosecutor and senior officials of the Office of the



Prosecutor General, the State Customs Committee and the State Drug Control Commission. Visits were also made to

the Centre of Forensic Examinations of the Ministry of Justice and a checkpoint at Baku airport, among others.

Discussions focused on the status of the national legislative and institutional framework for drug control, recent developments in drug trafficking and abuse in Azerbaijan, the measures taken by the Government to counteract those developments and the situation regarding the availability of opioids for medical purposes. The country's reporting obligations under the international drug control treaties were also discussed.

### Gabon

Board member Raymond Yans, accompanied by a staff member of the INCB Secretariat, visited Gabon from 27 to 30 June 2010. The previous mission to Gabon had taken place in 1998.

The objective of the mission was to review the implementation of the three international drug control conventions to which Gabon is a party. The discussions focused on recent developments in drug trafficking and abuse in Gabon, and the Government's experience in implementing the treaties, in particular

with regard to its obligations to report to the Board. The availability of opiates for medical purposes was also discussed with health officials and recent records on drug trafficking in Gabon were collected.

The INCB delegation met the Minister for Foreign Affairs, the Minister for Health and the Minister for Justice, as well as senior officials of the Anti-Drug Central Office of the Ministry of the Interior and the Customs Directorate. Meetings were also held with leading



officials at the Ministry of Health.

### Georgia

Carola Lander, First Vice-President of the Board, accompanied by a staff member of the INCB Secretariat, visited Georgia from 8 to 10 July 2010.

The objective of the mission was to review the implementation of the three international drug control conventions to which Georgia has fully acceded since the Board's previous visit to the country in 1998. Meetings were held with the Deputy Minister for Labour, Health and Social Affairs and the Deputy Chief Prosecutor, as well as with senior officials

of the Office of the Prosecutor General, the Border Police and Customs, and the ministries of the interior, justice and foreign affairs. Meetings were also held

with the Deputy Director of the National Centre for Disease Control and Public Health and with the General Director of the Research Institute on Addiction.



The INCB representatives visited the detoxification and rehabilitation centres of those two institutions, as well as a centre for methadone substitution treatment. The Centre for Forensic Examinations of the Ministry of the Interior was also visited.

The discussions focused on recent developments in drug trafficking and abuse in Georgia and the measures taken by the Government to counteract these developments, the status of the national legislative and institutional framework for

drug control and the reporting obligations under the international drug control treaties. The situation regarding the availability of opioids for medical needs was also discussed.

## INCB President addresses the African Union Conference of Ministers for Drug Control and Crime Prevention

*continued from page 2*

In particular, the Board recommended that the Plan of Action include elements on increasing the availability of controlled drugs for medical and scientific purposes, reducing the availability of drugs on unregulated markets, and preventing the diversion of precursor chemicals. The President was accompanied by the Secretary,

Jonathan Lucas, who participated in the Experts' Meeting of the Conference from 28–30 September. The Ministers' made a number of decisions reflecting, inter alia, these aspects of regulatory drug control. Member States of the African Union decided to, in cooperation with the Board and other partners, actively address the control of precursor

chemicals and assist in the sourcing of training, expertise and equipment. The meeting also called on the Board to assist Governments in strengthening their regulatory systems, in order to improve the availability of drugs for medical purposes but also to reduce the availability of drugs on unregulated markets.

## INCB Secretariat in preparation for the 99th session of the Board



On 20 October 2010, the Secretariat of the International Narcotics Control Board met for a team-building exercise in preparation for the 99th session of the Board. The Vienna-based team, part of the United Nations Secretariat, acts on behalf of the Board in implementing its mandates.

### Call for contributions

Readers are invited to submit comments and contributions:

**E-mail:** [focus@incb.org](mailto:focus@incb.org)

**Facsimile:** (+43-1) 26060 76948

Mail can be sent to the following address:

**Focus on international drug control**

Convention Evaluation Section (CES)

International Narcotics Control Board

P.O. Box 500 | 1400 Vienna | Austria

The Board 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 and neither 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.