



The International Narcotics Control Board elects a new President and Bureau at its 131st session



At its 131st session, held from 17 to 28 May 2021, the Board elected officers for one-year terms. The composition of the INCB Bureau following the 19 May 2021 elections is as follows:

- Jagjit Pavadia - President of the Board
- Galina A. Korchagina - First Vice-President
- H. H. Sevil Atasoy - Second Vice-President and Chair of the Standing Committee on Estimates
- Raúl Martín del Campo Sánchez - Rapporteur and Member, Standing Committee on Estimates.

Officers elected by the Board:

- Zukiswa Zingela - Vice-Chair of the Standing Committee on Estimates
- Jallal Toufiq - Chair of the Committee on Finance and Administration
- César T. Arce Rivas - Member, Standing Committee on Estimates
- Cornelis P. de Joncheere - Member, Standing Committee on Estimates and Member, Committee on Finance and Administration
- David T. Johnson - Member, Standing Committee on Estimates
- Bernard Leroy - Member, Committee on Finance and Administration.

The Board continues to monitor the compliance of Member States with the three international drug control conventions and the functioning of the international drug control system. At its most recent session the Board paid particular attention to the timely supply of and access to controlled drugs during emergency situations and continued its work on the development of guidelines for the control and monitoring of cannabis and cannabis-related substances.

Read the full story [here](#).

International Narcotics Control Board secretariat welcomes Mark Colhoun as new Secretary

The International Narcotics Control Board welcomes the appointment of Mr. Mark Colhoun as the new Secretary of the Board and Chief of the INCB secretariat, which took effect on 1 March 2021.

Mr. Colhoun, a national of South Africa, brings with him extensive experience in international drug policy and drug control. Until recently he served as the UNODC Representative for the Country Office in Kabul, Afghanistan, with over ten years serving in different positions in that office. Before that he spent three years as Law Enforcement Advisor at the UNODC Regional Office for Central Asia located in Tashkent, Uzbekistan.



Read the full story [here](#).

Past events

Member States Consultation on practical and concrete measures and approaches for global action to address the proliferation of non-scheduled chemicals and designer precursors, 13-14 October 2021

Third Intergovernmental Meeting on the draft Guidelines on International Drug Control Requirements for the Cultivation, Manufacture and Utilization of Cannabis for Medical and Scientific Purposes Vienna, Austria October 2021

75th Economic and Social Council High-level Segment New York, USA 13-15 July 2021

INCB 131st session, Vienna, Austria 17-28 May 2021

64th session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, Vienna, Austria 12-16 April 2021

Launch of the INCB Annual Report 2020 and the Precursors Annual Report Vienna, Austria 25 March 2021

INCB 130th session, Vienna, Austria 1-5 February 2021

Upcoming events

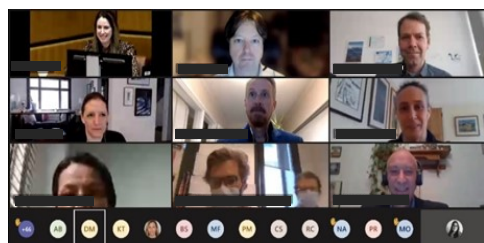
INCB 132nd session Vienna, Austria 2-19 November 2021

3rd Expert Group Meeting on specialized illicit drug manufacturing equipment and article 13 of the 1988 Online/Hybrid 30 November-1 December 2021

Expert Group Meeting on precursors (Public-Private Partnerships) Online/Hybrid 2 December 2021

INCB 133rd session Vienna, Austria 2-19 February 2022

Second Informal Consultation on the Supply of Cannabis Raw Material and Demand for Cannabinoids



From 23 to 25 February 2021, a total of 97 government-nominated delegates from regulatory agencies and industry of 36 countries, as well as representatives from the African Union, European Union, Organization of American States and UNODC, participated in the Second Informal Consultation on the Supply of Cannabis Raw Materials and the Demand for Cannabinoids. The meeting provided participants with the opportunity to exchange views and best practices in the cultivation, production, manufacture and trade of cannabis and cannabis-related substances.



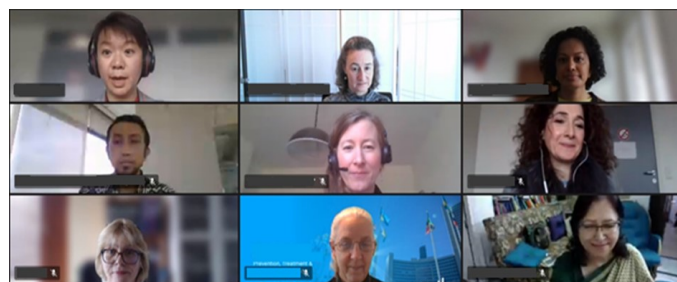
Operation “Acronym”

In February 2021, the Board conducted the targeted, time bound Operation “Acronym”, aiming to address the diversion of recently scheduled ATS and fentanyl precursors and selected non-scheduled chemicals using the Internet (clear web). The operation was supported by 34 Governments, four international organizations as well as legitimate B-2-B platforms in India and the Republic of Korea. In addition to identified weaknesses concerning regulatory controls over select precursors, in particular in their source countries, the operation revealed some commonalities in modi operandi used by traffickers of drug precursors. Legal impediments and insufficient experience at national and global levels in promoting and advancing investigations into suspected cybercrime involving diversion of and trafficking in drug precursors were found to be a challenge for a number of competent national authorities responsible for precursor control.

Online expert group meeting on facilitating timely supply of and access to controlled drugs during emergency situations

On 18-19 March 2021, INCB held a two-day online expert group meeting on facilitating timely supply of and access to controlled drugs during emergency situations.

The online meeting provided an opportunity for various stakeholders, including countries supplying and receiving controlled substances during emergency situations, humanitarian organizations (ICRC and MSF) and the United Nations (UNICEF, UNODC and WHO), to share their experiences and perspectives in the application of the simplified control measures. Providing a platform for such an exchange, the meeting aimed at identifying possible areas for improvement at the national, subnational and international levels.



Attended by 45 experts from 22 competent national authorities and five international organizations, the online meeting underlined the role of simplified control measures in facilitating the availability of controlled substances during various emergency situations, including those caused by natural disasters, man-made conflicts and pandemics like COVID-19. Enabling the exchange of perspectives from both supplying and receiving countries, it also underscored several important elements in the application of simplified control measures at times of emergency.



In her opening remarks, Dr. Zukiswa Zingela, member of the International Narcotics Control Board and Chair of the Working Group on Availability of Controlled Substances during Emergency Situations, highlighted the timeliness of the discussion: “it is precisely because COVID affects us all at the same time, over such a protracted period, that it serves to remind us that in today’s interconnected world, emergencies of this kind might not be far, it can hit us anytime and no one can be spared”. She emphasized the need for the global community to work together in ensuring the availability of controlled substances during emergency situations, including those caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

While most experts agreed on the growing importance of controlled substances in the face of emergency situations given an increasing number of protracted emergencies around the globe, different perspectives on the application of simplified control measures at times of emergency warranted further attention and called for the provision and adoption of relevant practical recommendations.

INCB calls for further collaboration among the international community in its endeavour to facilitate timely access to controlled substances during emergency situations, and will continue working with competent national authorities, relevant international organizations and humanitarian partners on practical recommendations in this regard.

Two Intergovernmental Meetings on the draft Guidelines on International Drug Control Requirements for the Cultivation, Manufacture and Utilization of Cannabis for Medical and Scientific Purposes

Under the INCB initiative on the control and monitoring requirements of cannabis and cannabis-related substances, a series of Intergovernmental Meetings with Member States have taken place to gather Member States' views on the way forward to improve international reporting and control standards on cannabis and cannabis-related substances for medical and scientific purposes. Given the ongoing COVID-19 related restrictions, these meetings took place online.

First Intergovernmental Meeting: On 24 March 2021, the first intergovernmental meeting was held with the participation of 122 representatives from 69 Member States. Representatives from the European Union and African Union were also in attendance.

Second Intergovernmental Meeting: From 30 June to 1 July 2021, the second intergovernmental meeting took place through an online platform offering simultaneous interpretation in all UN official languages. 135 experts from capitals and Permanent Missions of 77 Member States, as well as representatives from the European Union, African Union, and the Organization of American States joined the meeting.

These meetings engaged delegates in substantive discussions on reporting and control requirements. Comments and questions received during this meeting will be taken into the consideration by the Board to better assist Member States in complying with the requirements set forth in the 1961 and 1971 Conventions.

INCB 2020 Annual Report, Anniversary Report and Precursors Report launched



The INCB Annual Report, prepared in accordance with the three international drug control treaties, was launched on 25 March 2021. The report examines the global drug control situation, and makes recommendations to Governments and regional and international organizations.

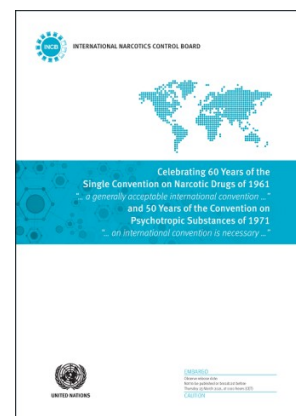
The thematic chapter of the INCB Annual Report for 2020 was dedicated to the issue of the use of drugs among older persons.

The Report includes an analysis of the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on availability of controlled substances for medical and scientific purposes, on the provision of prevention and treatment services, and on illicit drug markets. The Report addresses regional developments, the continued problem of illicit use of methamphetamine, opioid use as well as the non-medical use of cannabis.

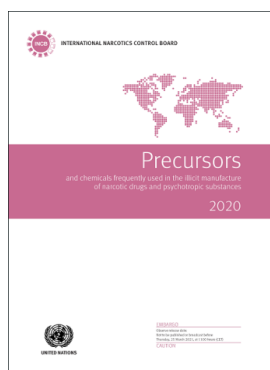
See the report by chapter [here](#).

Supplement to Annual Report 2020

2021 marks the sixtieth and fiftieth anniversaries of the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961 and the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971, respectively. To commemorate the anniversaries, INCB has published a special report reviewing the conventions' achievements and highlighting continued challenges faced by the international community.



Precursors Annual Report 2020



INCB publishes an annual report on the implementation of article 12 of the Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988, on precursors and chemicals frequently used in the illicit manufacture of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances.

INCB convenes meetings to assist Member States in improving reporting and monitoring practices of cannabis and cannabis-related substances



To support Member States in finding a common approach and improving the current practices in reporting and monitoring of cannabis and cannabis-related substances for medical and scientific purposes, ensuring availability and preventing diversion, INCB has carried out a number of activities.

On 13 April 2021, at the margins of the 64th session of the CND, INCB organized the online side event, “The way forward in the control and monitoring of cannabis and cannabis-related substances: development of INCB guidelines on the international drug control requirements for the cultivation, manufacture and utilization of cannabis for medical and scientific purposes”. The former President of INCB, Cornelis P. de Joncheere, reassured the 270 attendees of the continued commitment of the Board to working closely with Member States to ensure the control and monitoring of cannabis and cannabis-related substances for medical and scientific purposes. Speakers from the competent national authorities of Germany, Japan, and the United States of America, as well as the UNODC Laboratory, highlighted that the INCB Guidelines on International Drug Control Requirements for the Cultivation and Utilization of Cannabis for Medical and Scientific Purposes, currently under drafting, could build a common understanding and constitute to improved control and monitoring of cannabis and cannabis-related substances for medical and scientific purposes at both the national and international levels.



INCB co-sponsored event at CND to identify global solutions to the proliferation of non-scheduled chemicals and designer precursors



On 13 April 2021, INCB and the European Commission co-sponsored a side event, “Non-scheduled and designer precursor chemicals - global challenges and global solutions”, at the Commission on Narcotics Drugs (CND) which was organized by the Government of the United States of America. Six panellists representing UNODC, the European Commission, the Drug Enforcement Administration (USA), the Office of the National Narcotics Control Commission (China), the Ministry of Justice and Security (the Netherlands) and the Indian Drug Manufacturers Association presented case studies, latest legislative developments and operational measures which authorities and the private sector had already taken in this context. Participants agreed that the Conference Room

Paper published by the INCB for the 63rd session of the CND provided a sound basis for international action, and invited the global drug precursor control community to further elaborate the options put forward in that paper. The event was attended by more than 150 participants.

Narcotic Drugs 2020: annual data on global narcotics production, use, trade, and 2021 needs released

On 14 April 2021, INCB released the latest consolidated global data on narcotic drug production and use related to 2019. The INCB publication, '[Narcotic Drugs 2020](#)', found that countries used lesser amounts of opiates for medical and scientific purposes than previously, while the use of cannabis for such purposes continued to rise in 2019.

This report presents data and analysis on the global production and use of narcotic drugs, which include opium, morphine, heroin, fentanyl, cocaine, and cannabis among more than 136 internationally controlled substances.

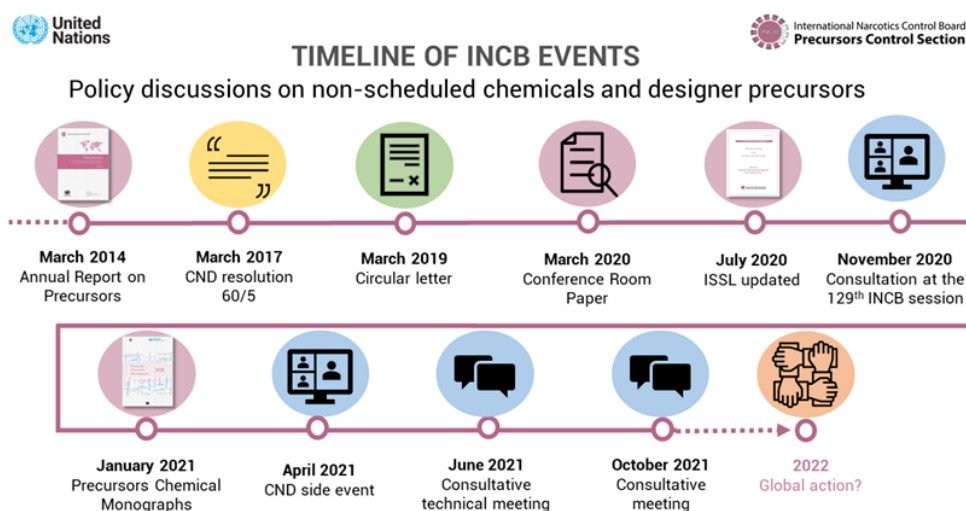
INCB convened second expert group meeting on illicit drug manufacturing equipment

In April 2021, 24 experts participated in a virtual INCB expert group meeting to review the progress made through multilateral cooperation to prevent and investigate the diversion of equipment used to illicitly manufacture drugs and precursors and to discuss practical tools, approaches and mechanisms. Acknowledging the importance of the principle of shared responsibility and the need to support and promote the design and implementation of voluntary operational initiatives, experts recommended a course of action in the context of article 13 of the 1988 Convention to enhance operational use of that article and to support the building of global consensus for action in this area. In this context, a draft awareness-raising and guidance document was shared with all Governments seeking their feedback.

Find the link to the full story [here](#).

Expert technical consultation to identify concrete solutions to the challenges posed by the proliferation of non-scheduled chemicals and designer precursors

On 28 and 30 June 2021, nearly 60 experts from national regulatory and law enforcement entities and international and regional organizations participated in a virtual technical consultation to advance global understanding of options to address the proliferation of non-scheduled chemicals and designer precursors. The consultation resulted in a working document containing possible legislative and operational measures that Governments could consider to address this issue. This consultation was to be followed by a Member States consultation on 13-14 October 2021 in order to continue to support the building of global consensus.



INCB President presents 2020 reports to Economic and Social Council and highlights contributions to Sustainable Development Goals

On 22 July 2021, the President of the International Narcotics Control Board, Jagjit Pavadia, addressed the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) at its Management Segment meeting at United Nations Headquarters in New York.



Ms. Pavadia presented the Board's [2020 annual report](#) and [precursors report](#), as well as a supplementary [report reviewing the achievements](#) of the 1961 Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, as amended, and the 1971 Convention on Psychotropic Substances. The reports contain recommendations to governments and international and regional organizations and are available on the [INCB website](#) in all six official languages of the United Nations.

In her address, the President highlighted the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the availability of internationally controlled substances for medical purposes and on illicit drug activity and explained INCB's direct and indirect contributions to the achievement of the sustainable development goals - particularly SDG 3 on good health and well-being, SDG 10 on reducing inequalities and SDG 16 on peace, justice and strong institutions. She also highlighted the fact that INCB

continues to support governments through the INCB Learning and GRIDS programmes.

Read the full statement [here](#).

On World Humanitarian Day (19 August 2021), INCB launched its factsheet "Lessons from countries and humanitarian aid organizations in facilitating the Timely Supply of Controlled Substances during Emergency Situations" ([English](#) and [French](#)). The document provides recommendations to and calls on governments to improve access to medicines containing controlled substances in emergencies, including pandemics and climate-related disasters.

With an increasing number of climate-related humanitarian emergencies and the persistent impact of COVID-19, there have been considerable increases in demand for controlled substances in emergency responses. Internationally controlled substances such as morphine and diazepam, which are listed as WHO essential medicines and often included as part of emergency health kits, are vital for the timely provision of care for affected populations during emergencies. Other controlled substances including lorazepam and midazolam, have often been used in the general management of hospitalized patients with COVID-19. The cross-border movement of these substances, especially to areas severely impacted by humanitarian emergencies and COVID-19, should therefore be urgently facilitated.

Summarizing the latest lessons learnt from countries and humanitarian aid organizations in their provision and delivery of controlled substances to sites of emergency, the factsheet provides further details for the formulation and application of simplified control measures during emergencies. Such best practice guidance, together with other relevant UN resource documents, provide both interim and long-term recommendations to governments and other relevant actors.



INCB raises awareness on the precursor control framework in a virtual workshop with the Mexican Technical Group for the Control of Synthetic Drugs



On 25 August 2021, the Precursors Control Section of the secretariat of the International Narcotics Control Board held a virtual workshop with 150 participants of the Mexican Technical Group for the Control of Synthetic Drugs (GTCDS), an inter-ministerial body made up of the federal Ministries of Communications, Economy, Health, Justice, Public Finance and Security. The meeting provided an opportunity to exchange best practices concerning mechanisms for the control and monitoring of precursor chemicals, which can be exploited for the illicit manufacture of opioids and methamphetamines.

The United Republic of Tanzania formalizes cooperation with relevant sectors of industry

On 31 August 2021, the authorities of the United Republic of Tanzania signed a Memorandum of Understanding with two pharmaceutical associations and a number of chemical companies aimed at ensuring effective and sustainable prevention of diversion of precursor chemicals and non-scheduled chemicals, including designer precursors. The formalization of the cooperation is a culmination of long-term assistance provided to the country by the Governments of France and Switzerland in the form of twinning and ongoing capacity building support by INCB. INCB encourages and supports the concept of twinning between Governments that have established public-private partnerships and those that wish to develop or enhance such cooperation.

INCB, UNODC and WHO joint statement on access to controlled medicines in emergencies

In recognition of the fact that access to controlled medicines in humanitarian emergencies remains constrained, INCB, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the World Health Organization (WHO) have jointly called for collaboration towards effective solutions.

Read the full statement [here](#).

INCB convenes second international expert group meeting on practical responses to counter fentanyl and emerging synthetic opioids with no known legitimate uses

On 9 September 2021, INCB convened its second international expert group meeting on fentanyl-related substances and emerging synthetic opioids with no known legitimate uses. The meeting, convened under the INCB GRIDS programme, examined voluntary actions and outcomes relating to the [INCB list of fentanyl-related substances](#) with no known medical or industrial uses, which was released in 2018 and which has been continually updated.

The three-day virtual meeting reviewed both fentanyl-related substances and emerging non-fentanyl opioids, and practical voluntary cooperation from Governments and, through them, private sector partners. Participants took stock of

Scheduling Decisions by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND)

At its sixty-fourth session, the Commission decided to include eight substances in the relevant schedules of the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961 as amended by the 1972 Protocol, the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971 and the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988 as follows: isotonitazene to Schedule I of the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961 as amended by the 1972 Protocol; CUMYL-PEGACLONE, MDMA-4en-PINACA, 3-methoxyphencyclidine and diphenidine to Schedule II; and clonazepam, diclazepam and flubromazolam to Schedule IV of the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971. The decisions will become effective 180 days after they were communicated by the Secretary-General to all parties. INCB will be supporting governments in the implementation of the scheduling decisions.

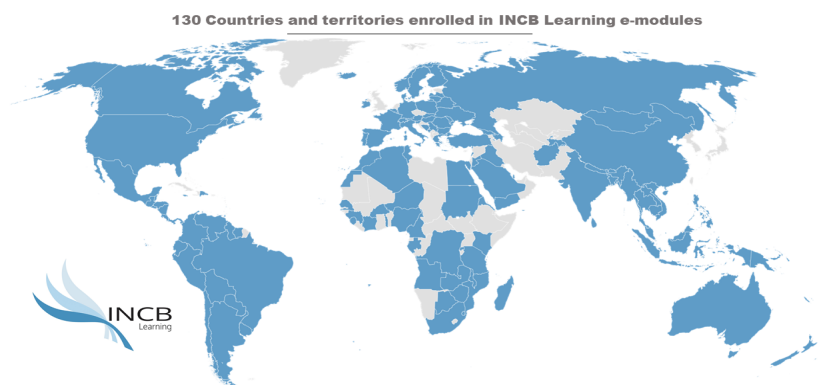
INCB President addresses the Subcommittee on Illicit Drug Traffic and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East at the extraordinary session of the subsidiary bodies of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs

On 22 September 2021 the INCB President addressed the Subcommittee on Illicit Drug Traffic and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East at the extraordinary session of the subsidiary bodies of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs.

Read the full statement [here](#).

INCB reaches e-learning enrolment milestone

A total of 130 countries have enrolled in INCB Learning e-modules. Since launching in 2016, INCB Learning has continued to expand its offering with new e-modules, additional language versions, and increasing country enrolment. Marking a new milestone, 67 per cent of UN Member States have now benefitted from these



activities. This reaffirms the international commitment to removing barriers to the availability of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances required for medical and scientific purposes, while preventing their abuse and diversion into illicit channels.

Competent national authorities can register, free of charge, an unlimited number of staff members to INCB Learning's e-modules. Available in several languages (English, French, Portuguese, and Spanish) users can follow the e-modules at their own pace and receive an online certificate upon completion.

INCB Learning currently offers four e-modules with a fifth e-module currently in development. These include:

- [Estimates System for Narcotic Drugs](#)
- [Assessment System for Psychotropic Substances](#)
- [Estimates of Annual Legitimate Requirements \(ALRs\) for Imports of Precursors of Amphetamine-Type Stimulants](#)
- [International Drug Control Framework and the International Narcotics Control Board.](#)

INCB Learning has been made possible through contributions from the Governments of Australia, Belgium, France, the Russian Federation, Thailand and the United States of America. For more information on registration and access to the e-modules follow this [link](#).

Find us on Twitter! [#INCBLearning](#)

Other items of interest on the INCB website

- ◇ [INCB Alerts](#)
- ◇ [INCB Publications](#)
- ◇ [INCB Statements](#)
- ◇ [INCB Guidelines](#)
- ◇ [INCB Press releases](#)
- ◇ [Tweets by @INCB President](#)

Recent UNODC publications on drugs:

World Drug Report 2021

Bolivia Coca Survey 2020 - Fact Sheet and Executive Summary

Mexico Opium Survey 2018-2019: Spanish with a Summary in English

Colombia Coca Survey 2020—Fact Sheet (English and Executive Summary (Spanish)

Afghanistan Opium Survey 2020: Cultivation and Production - Executive Summary (Updated)

Publications on drug prevention and treatment

Useful links:

United Nations

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

Commission on Narcotic Drugs

World Health Organization

World Customs Organization

INTERPOL