

Precursors Control in Asia: Addressing the Challenges

Expert Meeting Recommendations

1. Expert Meeting on “*Developing industry-Government cooperation to prevent use of precursors and other chemicals in illicit drug manufacture*”

- 1.1. Governments, in Asia and beyond, recognizing the importance of effective inclusion of industry in national anti-drug efforts, particularly with respect to preventing diversion of precursors used in illicit drug manufacture and as a valuable regulatory and law enforcement partner, committed themselves to developing professional working arrangements with the chemical industry as part of their national efforts to maintain effective precursor control.
- 1.2. Governments, in Asia and beyond, agreed on the importance of finding ways to raise awareness of manufacturers and traders of precursors used in illicit manufacture, as well as non-scheduled chemicals and new psychoactive substances, and apply practical implementation of INCB Guidelines for a Voluntary Code of Practice for the Chemical Industry.
- 1.3. It was agreed by participants, that efforts encouraging Governments in Asia and beyond to support national and regional level collaboration between Governments and industry stakeholders which have a legitimate role in the chemical and pharmaceutical industries are to be actively promoted.
- 1.4. Participants agreed on the need to encourage chemical industry to communicate information on legitimate consumption of scheduled chemicals and those on the International Special Surveillance List, in order to enhance collaboration with national competent authorities.
- 1.5. Establishing national and regional forums (e.g. regular national workshops, community/stakeholder developed code of conducts...) to promote Government – Industry communication and cooperation.

2. Expert Meeting on “*Preventing domestic diversion and enhancing domestic controls*”

Establish mechanisms for:

- 2.1. Verifying end-use and end-users.

- 2.2. Registration and reporting; all companies manufacturing scheduled substances, regardless of whether for own/internal use or on demand.
- 2.3. Monitoring and controlling, as appropriate, manufacture, consumption, distribution, brokerage, warehousing and transportation.
- 2.4. Cooperation and coordination of all authorities: identify preferably a single focal point.

3. Expert Meeting on “Operational Investigative Activities and Information Sharing about Precursor Incidents, In Order to Target Major / High Level Trafficking Organizations”

- 3.1. Governments, in Asia and beyond, will continue to utilize the PEN Online system and make efforts to expand their use of PICS as the standard method for exchanging information on precursor seizure and enforcement incidents.
 - Encourage all countries to actively use the PICS system and provide feedback to INCB on results and challenges.
 - Identify which countries still have yet to register and use PICS and identify challenges to utilizing.
- 3.2. Governments, in Asia and beyond, will continue and re-invigorate the use of the existing mechanisms and operations under the Task Force of *Project Prism* and *Project Cohesion* as a focal point for global law enforcement and intelligence collection efforts with respect to precursor control. The use of time-bound voluntary operations and intelligence sharing projects could include:
 - A special operation (time-bound) on shipments of select non-scheduled precursors originating from East Asia. While yet to be determined by the Task Force, the chemicals to be targeted would be limited to a small number (3-5) and would include both chemical utilized in the production of ATS and in the refining and processing of heroin (i.e. chemicals to target in such an operation could include APAAN, PMK glycidate, esters of PAA, glacial acetic acid, and/or acetyl chloride, etc.).
- 3.3. Governments, in Asia and beyond, continue to work bilaterally, and regionally, to share intelligence information and jointly target for prosecution criminal organizations involved in precursor chemical trafficking.

- Developing and fully exploiting the investigative potential of suspicious orders, diversions, and/or attempted diversions ensuring that the information is utilized to develop intelligence for future use.
- Encourage “backtracking” investigations to identify point of diversion and those responsible.
- Delegates encouraged to report instances of successful investigations to INCB for further dissemination.

3.4. Governments, in Asia and beyond, are encouraged to form mechanisms such as *National Working Groups* as a means of facilitating interaction and dialogue amongst national stakeholders involved in precursor control.

4. Expert Meeting on “Addressing the New Challenges Posed by Non-Scheduled Chemicals and New Psychoactive Substances”

Non-scheduled chemical precursors

- 4.1. Identify and provide INCB a focal point in your government for each Project PRISM and Project Cohesion, the international initiatives focusing on chemicals used in illicit ATS manufacture, and illicit cocaine and heroin manufacture, respectively, to receive INCB special alerts and other time-sensitive communications. Share these communications with all relevant domestic law enforcement and regulatory authorities without delay;
- 4.2. Actively participate in and contribute to all relevant time-bound intelligence gathering operations targeting major chemical and drug trafficking organizations under the Task Force of Project PRISM and Project Cohesion;
- 4.3. Identify and provide INCB relevant law enforcement and regulatory focal points for registration to the Precursors Incident Communication System (PICS). Actively use PICS as the standard communication mechanism for the exchange of information and intelligence on incidents involving precursors including non-scheduled chemicals used in illicit drug manufacture;
- 4.4. Establish and/ or enhance existing cooperation between the authorities and relevant industries with regard to suspicious activity reporting of non-scheduled chemicals used in illicit drug manufacture. Utilize and share with industry as appropriate the updated INCB international special surveillance list (ISSL) of non-scheduled substances used in illicit drug manufacture.

- 4.5. Strengthen domestic regulatory controls of targeted non-scheduled chemicals used in illicit drug manufacture by using article 12, paragraph 8, article 13 and/or article 24 of the 1988 convention, as appropriate, and make use of the updated international special surveillance list (ISSL) to that effect.
- 4.6. Share all relevant national and regional alerts related to all scheduled and non-scheduled chemicals used in illicit drug manufacture with INCB in a timely fashion so that time-sensitive information may be communicated to relevant national authorities.

New Psychoactive Substances

- 4.7. Support the formal scheduling process of targeted New Psychoactive Substances (NPS) by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND) following effective World Health Organization (WHO) critical reviews;
- 4.8. Support activities under INCB's new Task Force on New Psychoactive Substances by providing INCB a focal point in your government to receive INCB special alerts and other time-sensitive communications focusing on strategic and operational intelligence gathering activities on New Psychoactive Substances. Share these communications with all relevant domestic law enforcement and regulatory authorities without delay;
- 4.9. Actively participate in and contribute to all relevant INCB time-bound Task Force intelligence gathering initiatives targeting major trafficking organizations of selected New Psychoactive Substances;
- 4.10. Actively support the development of an NPS incident communication system modelled on the PICS platform. Identify and provide INCB relevant law enforcement and regulatory focal points for registration to the new system. Actively use the system as a communication mechanism for the exchange of intelligence on incidents involving New Psychoactive Substances;
- 4.11. Strengthen domestic regulatory controls of targeted New Psychoactive Substances, with consideration to have appropriate controls particularly for substances with no known medical, scientific or industrial purposes; and
- 4.12. Provide data on New Psychoactive Substances, particularly forensics, abuse and current domestic legislation to the UNODC Global SMART early warning advisory network.