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**Statement by Mr. Cornelis de Joncheere, President,  
International Narcotics Control Board (INCB)**

**Sixty-third session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs**

**Item 5(a) Changes in the scope of control of substances:  
*Consideration of a proposal from INCB to include MAPA (methyl alpha-phenylacetoacetate) in Table I of the 1988 Convention under the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988***

**4 March 2020, Vienna, Austria**

Mr. Chair, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

- 1) The International Narcotics Control Board has the **responsibility under article 12 of the 1988 Convention** to assess chemicals used in the illicit manufacture of drugs in order to determine whether they should be placed under international control. In discharge of its mandate, the Board submitted to the Commission a recommendation to place a pre-precursor of amphetamine and methamphetamine in Table I of the 1988 Convention.
- 2) The substance in question is known by its shorthand “**MAPA**”, which stands for **methyl alpha-phenylacetoacetate** or, by its systematic chemical name: **methyl 3-oxo-2-phenylbutanoate**.
- 3) In making its assessments pursuant to article 12, paragraph 4, of the 1988 Convention, the Board finds that:
  - a) MAPA is a substitute chemical for APAAN and the recently controlled APAA, and **highly suitable for the illicit manufacture of P-2-P**, which are all precursors in Table I of the 1988 Convention. P-2-P is in turn used in the illicit manufacture of amphetamine or methamphetamine.
  - b) **Incidents of illicit manufacture and trafficking** involving MAPA started to emerge in late 2017, with an increase in the number of seizures and amounts seized since November 2018. The emergence of MAPA coincides with an increase in scrutiny over APAA.
  - c) MAPA has **no known legitimate use**, except in small amounts for research, development and laboratory analytical purposes and there is **no documented regular legitimate commerce and trade** in MAPA other than small amounts for the afore-mentioned purposes.
- 4) In light of its findings, **the Board recommends adding MAPA and its optical isomers to Table I of the 1988 Convention**. International control of MAPA will limit its availability for

MAPA is therefore yet another **designer precursor**, similar to APAAN and APAA, and you will recall that I elaborated the issue and its implications for precursor control and invited your thoughts yesterday, under agenda item 5b.

illicit drug manufacture and subsequently reduce the quantity of amphetamine and methamphetamine manufactured illicitly from that substance.

5) The proposed control will have **no adverse effect on the availability** for any of the known research and development purposes, given the very limited legitimate market for, and trade in, MAPA.

6) **Placement in Table I** will provide Governments with the possibility to request pre-export notifications as a means of monitoring shipments entering their territory.

I thank you for your attention.