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**STATEMENT BY MR. RAYMOND YANS, PRESIDENT,
INTERNATIONAL NARCOTICS CONTROL BOARD**

**Economic and Social Council Substantive Session 2013
General Segment
18-25 July 2013, Geneva**

**Agenda Item 14d: Narcotic Drugs
Report of the International Narcotics Control Board for 2012**

Report of the International Narcotics Control Board for 2012 (E/INCB/2012/1), accompanied by:
Narcotic Drugs: Estimated World Requirements for 2013 — Statistics for 2011 (E/INCB/2012/2);
Psychotropic Substances: Statistics for 2011 — Assessments of Annual Medical and Scientific
Requirements for Substances in Schedules II, III and IV of the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of
1971 (E/INCB/2012/3); and Precursors and Chemicals Frequently Used in the Illicit Manufacture of
Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances: Report of the International Narcotics Control Board for 2012
on the Implementation of Article 12 of the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic
Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988 (E/INCB/2012/4).

Mr. President, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB), I wish to extend my congratulations to His Excellency Néstor Osorio on his election as President of the Economic and Social Council, and also to the other members of the Bureau. INCB is particularly grateful for the ongoing support of the Council.

It is with great pleasure that I present to you the INCB Annual Report for 2012, which is mandated by the three international drug control conventions and which was presented at and considered by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs at its fifty-sixth session earlier this year. The Annual Report is accompanied by our annual report on the implementation of article 12 of the 1988 Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, or, in other words, the INCB annual report on precursor chemicals used in the illicit manufacture of drugs. The report is also complemented by our two technical publications on narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances.

As the independent and quasi-judicial body mandated to monitor the implementation of the three drug control treaties, INCB maintains an ongoing dialogue with Governments with a view to improving the functioning of the international drug control system. In our reports, we draw attention to weaknesses in drug control and propose remedial measures.

In the thematic chapter of our annual report for 2012, INCB calls for a renewal of shared responsibility in drug control. This global and interconnected challenge requires a global solution. Global cooperation is essential if the primary objectives of the conventions are to be met, to limit the use of controlled substances to medical and scientific purposes. In particular, the 1961 and 1971 Conventions stress that narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances continue to be indispensable for the relief of pain and suffering and that adequate provision must be made to ensure availability of and access to controlled medicines while preventing their diversion and abuse.

To this end, the conventions are founded upon the principle of shared responsibility and, in its current report, INCB has made a number of recommendations aimed at enhancing shared responsibility in drug control efforts at all levels. For instance, the Board emphasized the importance of inclusiveness, governments drug control should be integrated into national and regional policies for economic and social development, seeking greater common purpose among policies for drug control, social justice, economic development and human rights and addressing corruption and organized crime. Supply and demand reduction efforts at the national, regional and international levels must be balanced. Prevention, treatment and rehabilitation are essential to reducing illicit demand for drugs and I cannot overemphasise the importance of preventing the first instance of drug abuse. The renewed sense of shared responsibility should encompass Governments, international and regional organizations, civil society and the private sector.

While shared responsibility in drug control is essential and can go a long way in addressing the global drug challenge, progress depends upon States fully meeting their treaty obligations across the entirety of their territories. This in turn is contingent upon the capacity of the national authorities charged with regulating the licit use, distribution and production of drugs.

Mr. President, Excellencies,

The drug control conventions enjoy almost universal adherence – a reflection of the importance and necessity accorded to them by Member States. INCB encourages those few States that have still not acceded to the conventions to do so as a matter of urgency. INCB was pleased to note the accession in 2012 of the Holy See, Nauru and Niue to the 1988 convention. Regarding the re-accession of the Plurinational State of Bolivia to the 1961 Convention with a reservation on coca leaf, INCB emphasises that this reservation applies only on the territory of *that* State; the applicability of the provisions of the Convention regarding coca leaf to *other* States remains unaffected. Coca leaf remains a narcotic drug under the provisions of the 1961 Convention and all

aspects of control upon its cultivation, production, import, export and use will continue to be in force. As is its mandate, INCB is continuing its dialogue with the Government of Bolivia to promote and facilitate effective national action to attain the overall aims of the 1961 Convention.

Mr. President,

INCB remains deeply concerned that little progress has been seen with regard to the illicit cultivation of opium poppy in Afghanistan, which poses a serious risk to the aims of the drug control conventions. To make matters worse, the continued increase in illicit cannabis cultivation in the country has meant that Afghanistan has become a major source of cannabis resin in the world. We have welcomed the steps taken by the Government of Afghanistan to update its drug control policies, which we look forward to seeing translated into positive results through the action of the Government with the support of the international community.

Mr. President, Excellencies

Significant disparities in the levels of availability of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances within and between regions prevail, with, for instance, the greater part of global consumption accounted for by a limited number of countries in Europe, North America and Oceania, compared to almost negligible levels of consumption in some countries in Africa and Asia. Let me put this more graphically with reference to one internationally controlled substance – morphine – which is used both for the treatment of pain as well as for the manufacture of other medicines for pain management. In 2011, based on the information Governments provide to INCB, a small group of countries in Europe, North America and Oceania, which together account for around 20% of the world population, consumed 92 per cent of medically administered morphine. In other words, the countries where 80% of the world's population lived, accounted for less than 9% of the world's consumption of the substance. One can conclude that many people in these parts of the world faced unnecessary and treatable pain.

Whilst available data for psychotropic substances, i.e. the medicines to treat mental and behavioural disorders, is less comprehensive than that for narcotics, the distribution of consumption is similarly uneven, if not worse. Let it simply be stated that, a few years back WHO estimated that these disorders account for 12% of the global burden of disease, but only a minority of persons affected receive basic treatment.

While the global supply of internationally controlled substances is more than adequate, the reasons for low levels of availability in many countries of the world include economic, social, cultural barriers and not least, availability of adequately trained health professionals. I urge Governments to implement INCB's recommendations aimed at improving the availability and rational use of controlled medicines. In contrast, the increasing level of abuse of prescription drugs is becoming a major health and social concern in many countries and regions. To help address the problem, INCB recommends

education of health professionals, especially with regard to prescription practices, better control of storage and distribution, and awareness raising among the public. Efforts to improve the availability and rational use of medicines must be balanced with measures to prevent their abuse.

INCB is developing an electronic tool to assist Member States in their control of the licit distribution of drugs, through the international electronic import export authorization system. The system, which should enter into a pilot phase later this year, is designed to facilitate the electronic exchange of import and export authorizations and assist governments in the effective management of the licit trade in medicines. A well-functioning import/export authorization system is one of the prerequisites for ensuring the adequate availability of drugs for medical and scientific purposes, and prevent diversion to illicit use. The Commission on Narcotic Drugs, whose report is also before you today, adopted its resolution 56/7 with broad support and I invite all delegations to support the development and implementation of the system politically and financially.

Mr. President,

The emergence of an ever-increasing number of new psychoactive substances (NPS) is a matter increasing concern in countries around the world. These substances are not under international control yet can have similar effects to internationally controlled substances and the Internet plays a role in the marketing and sale of these substances. Some of these substances are not so “new” but this “new” challenge requires concerted action. The conventions provide a mechanism for changing the scope of control of substances. In absence of international controls some Governments have placed substances or groups of substances under national control or have imposed market restrictions based on other regulatory frameworks such as medicine, consumer or health protection legislation. INCB encourages Governments to monitor and share information about the emergence and spread of these substances, and to give due attention to these substances in their prevention and treatment programmes. INCB is working on developing operational responses to tackle the challenge of NPS as well as exploring with other organizations how to deal with their control.

In preventing the diversion of precursor chemicals into the illicit manufacture of drugs, Governments have continued to strengthen controls over the import and export of precursors. However, traffickers are increasingly seeking novel ways of obtaining the chemicals needed for the illicit manufacture of drugs, including diverting precursors from domestic trade in countries and regions with weaker controls or non-scheduled substances. So serious were reports about the use of *alpha*-phenylacetonitrile (APAN) – a substance with no legitimate industrial use - in the illicit amphetamine and methamphetamine manufacture that INCB decided to begin the scheduling process for this substance. INCB’s Pre-Export Notification system (PEN Online) and Precursors Incident Communication system (PICS), as well as INCB’s initiatives to support operational cooperation in precursor control, have been recognized as highly effective in enhancing controls of precursors globally. Yet more needs to be done in addressing

diversion from domestic trade, and in full and proactive utilization of the available mechanisms.

The topics I have just mentioned are just some of those highlighted in the INCB Annual Report, which has been distributed to you today and are available in our web page.

Mr. President, Excellencies

The international community is approaching important policy making milestones, the review of the implementation by Member States of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action adopted by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and the General Assembly in 2009, next year and a special session of the General Assembly on the drug control problem in 2016.

The political engagement of the Council and all delegations in this process, reaffirming the central role, relevance and actuality of three United Nations drug treaties will be crucial. The international community indeed continues to face many challenges in drug control. Yet we have faced such challenges before, and the international drug control system, founded upon the three international drug control conventions, has provided the framework for joint efforts in the past and serves as the road map for future action. Universal adherence, compliance and implementation of the conventions are the best way to address the drug problems faced today. INCB, in its reports, has identified areas of treaty implementation that need the attention of Governments and has made concrete recommendations to bridge those gaps. INCB will continue to pursue an active dialogue with Governments to promoting universal application of the international drug control conventions, including matters highlighted by the Political Declaration and Plan of Action, particularly with regard to availability of internationally controlled substances for medical and scientific purposes, measures to prevent diversion and abuse of drugs and control of precursor chemicals. I commend to you the INCB Annual Report for 2012 and the 2012 report on the implementation of article 12 of the 1988 Convention, and look forward to your continued support of the international drug control system.

In closing, let's recall that your work in promoting the implementation of the international drug control treaties is ultimately humanitarian. We are working towards reducing human suffering – the suffering caused by inadequate access to controlled medicines for the treatment of pain and illness, and the suffering caused by drug abuse and the crime and violence associated with illicit drug markets.

Thank you.
