

Foreword

As chemical trafficking organizations are becoming more resourceful and increasingly adaptive, the international community must be proactive in order to maintain the momentum created in the first 20 years of successful precursor control. In the present report, the International Narcotics Control Board seeks to contribute to that momentum by making concrete recommendations to Governments in order to help fight the diversion of and trafficking in precursor chemicals.

The present report underlines the critical importance of having functioning domestic controls to ensure the effectiveness of the international system for monitoring precursor chemicals. The Board is concerned that many States do not appear to have such systems in place and may thus be unable to fulfil their obligations under the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988.

In this report, the Board presents an analysis of the movement of the 23 chemicals in Table I and Table II of the Convention. It also looks at the growing use of new substitute chemicals, as well as non-scheduled substances, in illicit drug manufacture. These developments require the urgent attention of the international community.

The report also makes it clear that Governments need to stem the flow of precursor chemicals diverted from domestic distribution channels, as it is becoming increasingly evident that traffickers are using those licit channels as a source and smuggling large quantities of chemicals across borders, often with negative effects on neighbouring countries. Addressing vulnerabilities of countries in regions where law enforcement and regulatory capacity is limited requires not only the political will and the recognition that precursor control is a shared responsibility, but also a long-term commitment to training national drug control authorities and ensuring that they are provided with adequate equipment.

The Precursors Incident Communication System (PICS), launched by the Board in March 2012, was developed to enhance the work of competent national authorities. PICS allows users to share information on diversions, attempted diversions and seizures of precursors. It can also be used to initiate national and bilateral investigations.

The Board's approach to finding flexible and effective solutions, based on joint efforts, has proved valuable in the past. PICS is but another example of this type of initiative, aimed at countering existing and emerging trafficking threats. PICS, together with the Pre-Export Notification Online (PEN Online) system, the stalwart of the international precursor control system, as well as international cooperative activities such as Project Prism and Project Cohesion, are effective tools that can be used by Governments to substantially enhance their precursor control efforts.



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