

I. Introduction

1. The United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988¹ provides for measures to prevent the diversion of substances frequently used in the illicit manufacture of drugs. The International Narcotics Control Board monitors the control by Governments over precursor chemicals and assists them in preventing the diversion of those chemicals into the illicit traffic.

2. The present report on precursors has been prepared by the Board pursuant to article 23 of the 1988 Convention. Substantive reporting begins in chapter II, which provides statistical data and other information on action taken by Governments and the Board pursuant to article 12 of the 1988 Convention. This includes the utilization of the Pre-Export Notification Online (PEN Online) system and the results of task force operational support under Project Prism and Project Cohesion. Chapter III provides details of the extent of legitimate trade in precursor chemicals and the latest major trends in the trafficking and illicit use of those chemicals, highlighting the most relevant cases involving suspicious and stopped shipments and diversions or attempted diversions of those chemicals from international trade, as well as seizures of those chemicals.

3. Chapter IV, entitled “Challenges in international precursor control”, builds on the 2011 report on precursors and provides a thematic examination of the future of precursor control. It also provides a detailed analysis of the existing control gaps and an outline of future challenges to precursor control. Chapter V provides recommendations to Governments on effective precursor control at the national and international levels.

4. Annexes I-XI provide updated, practical information to assist competent national authorities in carrying out their functions, including information on estimated annual legitimate requirements for the import of selected substances frequently used in the illicit manufacture of amphetamine-type stimulants, a list of Governments that require pre-export notifications, information on the use of scheduled substances in illicit drug manufacture and a summary of applicable treaty provisions. Annexes I-VI can be found in the printed copy, while all annexes are available in the CD-ROM version of the report and online from the Board’s website (www.incb.org).

¹ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1582, No. 27627.

II. Action taken by Governments and the International Narcotics Control Board

A. Adherence to the 1988 Convention

5. As at 1 November 2012, the 1988 Convention had been ratified, acceded to or approved by 187 States and formally confirmed by the European Union (extent of competence: article 12).² Following the issuance of the Board’s 2011 report on precursors, the Holy See, Nauru and Niue became States parties to the 1988 Convention.³ Of the nine States that have yet to become parties to the 1988 Convention,⁴ five are in Oceania (see annex I). The Board urges the nine States that have yet to become parties to the 1988 Convention to implement the provisions of article 12 and accede to the Convention without further delay.

B. Reporting to the Board pursuant to article 12 of the 1988 Convention

6. Governments are obliged to report annually on substances frequently used in the illicit manufacture of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances. That information, which is submitted on form D, is subsequently used to identify regional and global patterns and trends. As at 1 November 2012, a total of 129 States and territories had submitted form D for the year 2011 (see annex VII). Some Governments continue to miss the reporting deadline of 30 June, fail to report altogether, submit blank forms or only provide partial information, thus making it difficult to accurately assess the global situation with regard to the diversion of precursor chemicals. For example, six States parties to the 1988 Convention (Burundi, Gabon, Liechtenstein, Marshall Islands, San Marino and Somalia) have never submitted form D to the Board, while an

² The Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961 as amended by the 1972 Protocol and the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971 each have 183 States parties.

³ The Holy See ratified the 1988 Convention on 25 January 2012, Nauru acceded to it on 12 July 2012 and Niue acceded to it on 16 July 2012. For the Holy See, the Convention entered into force on 24 April 2012; for Nauru, on 10 October 2012; and for Niue, on 14 October 2012.

⁴ Equatorial Guinea, Kiribati, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Sudan, Timor-Leste and Tuvalu.