

I. Introduction

1. The present report has been prepared by the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB) pursuant to the provisions of the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988.¹ In this report, as in all the reports on precursors issued since 2011, one precursor-related theme is addressed in more depth: in chapter IV below, the Board reviews the merits and potential of public-private partnerships to prevent the diversion of chemicals.

2. Substantive reporting begins in chapter II with information on action taken by Governments and INCB pursuant to article 12 of the 1988 Convention. It includes statistics on adherence to the Convention and reporting to the Board, legislation and control measures, as well as the utilization of the Board's Pre-Export Notification Online (PEN Online) system. Chapter II concludes with an overview of the activities and achievements of the two international initiatives of INCB addressing chemicals used in the illicit manufacture of amphetamine-type stimulants (Project Prism) and cocaine and heroin (Project Cohesion), including the status of utilization of the Precursors Incident Communication System (PICS).

3. Chapter III continues with an overview of information on the legitimate trade in individual precursor chemicals, as well as major trends in their trafficking and illicit use. The analysis includes information on the most relevant cases involving suspicious or stopped shipments of precursor chemicals, diversions or attempted diversions of those chemicals from legitimate trade, and seizures of those chemicals. Specific recommendations and conclusions are highlighted throughout the report to facilitate concrete action to be taken by Governments with the aim of preventing such diversions. Overall conclusions are presented in chapter V, following the thematic chapter on public-private partnerships.

4. As in the past, annexes I-XI to the report provide updated statistics and practical information to assist competent national authorities in carrying out their functions. The annexes are available only in the CD-ROM version of the report and in the version on the INCB website.

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

A. Adherence to the 1988 Convention

5. As at 1 November 2015, the 1988 Convention had been ratified, acceded to or approved by 189 States and formally confirmed by the European Union (extent of competence: article 12). There have been no changes in this regard since the publication of the Board's 2014 report on precursors, leaving nine States — five in Oceania, three in Africa and one in West Asia — that have yet to become parties to the Convention (see annex I).² The geographical proximity of some of the non-parties to illicit drug-manufacturing areas makes those States vulnerable to precursor trafficking. **Therefore, the Board urges those nine States to implement the provisions of article 12 and accede to the 1988 Convention without further delay.**

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

6. Pursuant to article 12, paragraph 12, of the 1988 Convention, it is mandatory for States parties to submit annually to INCB information on: the seized amounts of substances in Tables I and II of the Convention and, when known, their origin; any substance not included in Table I or II which is identified as having been used in illicit manufacture of narcotic drugs or psychotropic substances; and methods of diversion and illicit manufacture. Such information is to be submitted through form D by 30 June of the following year at the latest, although the Board encourages States parties to submit the information by an earlier date (30 April) to facilitate the analysis of and follow-up to the information provided.

7. As at 1 November 2015, a total of 117 States and territories had submitted form D for 2014, a significantly lower submission rate than for the past 10 years (see annex VII for details). About 5 per cent of the submitting States and territories used older versions of form D, thus providing an incomplete set of information.

8. The Sudan and Zambia resumed their submission of form D after having failed to do so for a number of years. Some States parties to the 1988 Convention (Burundi, Gabon and Marshall Islands) have never submitted form D

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

² Equatorial Guinea, Kiribati, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Sudan, State of Palestine and Tuvalu.