

Foreword

It is my pleasure to present the International Narcotics Control Board's 2016 report on precursors, its first annual report on precursors following the thirtieth special session of the General Assembly, on the world drug problem.

INCB welcomes the joint commitment of Member States, expressed in the outcome document of the special session, to addressing and countering the world drug problem. Specifically, INCB welcomes their commitment to preventing and countering the diversion of precursors and pre-precursors for illicit use. The Board is pleased to see that Member States have extended their commitment to include pre-precursors, substitute and alternative precursors and chemicals used in the illicit manufacture of new psychoactive substances, i.e., chemicals which require cooperation beyond the letter of the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988. The Board is also pleased to note the emphasis on voluntary partnerships and cooperation with relevant industries, an area to which it attaches great importance, as highlighted in the Board's 2015 report on precursors.

Throughout the outcome document, Governments also emphasize the importance of and the need for enhanced information-sharing, multilateral operational cooperation, including joint investigations, and the use of existing tools and cooperation mechanisms, in order to identify, disrupt and dismantle organized criminal groups that are involved in, among other things, the diversion of precursors.

The present report provides Governments with the Board's latest analysis of the functioning of the international precursor control system and a comprehensive overview of the most recent precursor trends and challenges, in accordance with the Board's mandate under the 1988 Convention. In our conclusions, we address a number of overarching concerns that emerge from our analysis of this year's data and information. An area previously addressed that has increased in importance is the vulnerability of the global precursor control systems in periods of political instability in a number of countries and entire regions.

The present report also picks up on the concerns of the special session's outcome document and provides a thematic focus on the prevention of chemical diversion beyond regulatory controls, namely the role of law enforcement, and a call to overcome competing interests, compartmentalization and the mentality that considers seizures to be the ultimate goal of an intervention, rather than focusing on identifying and disrupting the sources and criminal groups behind attempts to obtain the necessary chemicals.

On behalf of the Board, I therefore wish to invite all Governments and interested international and regional organizations to work with each other, the Board and its secretariat, to maximize the effectiveness of precursor control, encompassing the continuum from regulatory to law enforcement measures, as a preventive element of an integrated and balanced strategy to counter the world drug problem.



Werner Sipp

President of the International
Narcotics Control Board