

I. Introduction

1. The International Narcotics Control Board (INCB) monitors Governments' control over precursor chemicals and assists Governments in preventing the diversion of such chemicals from licit into illicit channels, pursuant to the provisions of the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988.¹ The present report has been prepared pursuant to the provisions of that Convention.

2. 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. Those data are drawn from a number of sources, including the following: form D; the Pre-Export Notification (PEN Online) system; the Precursors Incident Communication System (PICS); the operational results achieved under Project Prism and Project Cohesion, which are the international initiatives addressing chemicals used in the illicit manufacture of, respectively, amphetamine-type stimulants, and cocaine and heroin; and official national reports on the drug and precursor control situation.

3. Chapter III provides information on the extent of legitimate trade in individual precursor chemicals; on major trends in trafficking in and illicit use of those chemicals; on relevant cases of suspicious and stopped shipments; on diversions or attempted diversions of those chemicals from legitimate trade; and on seizures of those chemicals, including clandestine laboratories.

4. As has been the practice since 2011, one precursor-related theme is addressed in greater depth in the report. In this year's report, chapter IV explores the role of precursor law enforcement in preventing diversions, including the diversion of non-scheduled substitute chemicals.

5. Specific recommendations and conclusions are highlighted throughout the report to facilitate concrete actions to be taken by Governments to prevent diversion. Overall conclusions are presented in chapter V.

6. Annexes I-X to the report provide updated statistics and practical information to assist competent national authorities in carrying out their functions. The annexes are not included in the printed copies of the present report but are available in the electronic version (CD-ROM) and on the INCB website.

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

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

7. The present chapter provides information on action taken by Governments and the Board since its 2015 report on precursors.

A. Scope of control

Initiation of procedures for the inclusion of two precursors of fentanyl in Table I of the 1988 Convention

8. In October 2016, the Government of the United States of America notified the Secretary-General of a proposal to place *N*-phenethyl-4-piperidone (NPP) and 4-anilino-*N*-phenethyl-4-piperidine (ANPP), two precursors of fentanyl and of a few "designer" fentanyls, in Table I of the 1988 Convention. Pursuant to the procedure set out in article 12, paragraph 3, of that Convention, the Secretary-General invited Governments' comments concerning the notification and supplementary information which might assist the Board in establishing an assessment and assist the Commission on Narcotic Drugs in reaching a decision.

B. Adherence to the 1988 Convention

9. As at 1 November 2016, 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). As there have been no changes since the publication of the Board's 2015 report on precursors (see annex I), there continue to be nine States — five in Oceania, three in Africa and one in West Asia — that have yet to become parties to the 1988 Convention.² **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.**

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