

## Foreword

I am pleased to present the 2017 report on precursors of the International Narcotics Control Board.

In accordance with the Board's mandate under the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988, the present report provides an overview of the most important actions taken to implement article 12 of that Convention and to strengthen the functioning of the international precursor control system.

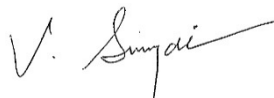
The report also provides a detailed account of the latest trends and developments in legitimate international trade and in trafficking in precursor chemicals under international control, as well as their non-scheduled substitutes and alternatives.

In compiling this and its past reports on precursors, the Board has carefully balanced the need to provide Governments with the most comprehensive data available with the need to withhold details so as not to endanger any investigations that might bring to justice the criminals behind larger-scale diversion schemes. I believe that the reports on precursors represent an important source of information and, viewed together, constitute a comprehensive source of reference for global precursors-related data.

Throughout the year, INCB assists Governments on a daily basis in preventing diversion and in facilitating investigations. In particular, the Board promotes contacts and information-sharing between Governments affected by multinational diversion schemes; it helps to overcome obstacles between regulatory and law enforcement authorities investigating precursor incidents; and it devises and conducts, in cooperation with the INCB Precursors Task Force, international operations aimed at closing existing control gaps and generating strategic intelligence related to trafficking in precursors.

I would like to thank all Governments for the cooperation and confidence that the Board has enjoyed over the past year in precursor matters. The significant worldwide increase since the beginning of 2016 in incidents involving acetic anhydride, which has required very close, fast and trusting cooperation across borders and along the regulatory-law enforcement continuum, demonstrates the type of cooperation and the speed and level of detail of information exchange that will be required in the future.

The Board stands ready to support Governments in this endeavour, as well as in meeting other challenges of the future, including those related to emerging, non-scheduled "designer" chemicals, Internet-facilitated trade in chemicals and the growing sophistication of traffickers' attempts to obtain the chemicals they require for illicit drug manufacture.



**Viroj Sumyai**  
President of the International  
Narcotics Control Board