

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. The present report has been prepared pursuant to the provisions of that Convention.

2. Substantive reporting begins in chapter II, which contains statistical data and other information on action taken by Governments and the Board pursuant to article 12 of the 1988 Convention.

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 from clandestine laboratories. The data and information contained in chapters II and III are drawn from a number of sources, including the following: form D; the PEN Online system; PICS; results achieved under Project Prism and Project Cohesion, which are the international operational initiatives regarding chemicals used in the illicit manufacture of, respectively, synthetic drugs, and cocaine and heroin; and official national reports on the drug and precursor control situation.

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, the theme explored in chapter IV is Internet-facilitated trade in precursors.

5. Specific recommendations and conclusions are highlighted throughout the report to facilitate the taking of specific actions by Governments to prevent diversion.¹

6. Annexes I–XI to the report contain 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 on the INCB website.

¹ A compilation of the recommendations relating to international precursor control made by INCB in previous years is available on the Board's website (www.incb.org).

² World Customs Organization, *Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System*, 6th ed. (Brussels, 2017).

³ Equatorial Guinea, Kiril