

Foreword

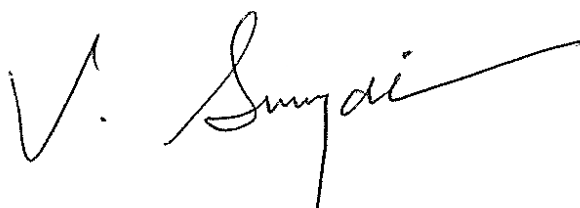
I am pleased to present the analysis of the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB) regarding the world precursor situation in 2018. This year's report marks the thirtieth anniversary of the conclusion of the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988.

Over the years, INCB has noted overall improvements in the prevention of the diversion of chemicals listed in Table I and Table II of the 1988 Convention through the monitoring of their international trade, as set out in article 12 of that Convention. However, some challenges are not adequately addressed by the existing international precursor control framework. Above all, I am referring to the emergence of non-scheduled chemicals including, most recently, “designer” precursors purposely made to circumvent controls. Other developments are not specific to precursor control but affect it in significant ways and present new challenges to global cooperation and coordination. Those include changes in global trade relations, communication and transportation. In that connection, the Board would like to recall its 2014 report on precursors and the thematic chapter entitled “Making precursor control fit for 2019 and beyond”.

The theme of this year's report is the proliferation of non-scheduled “designer” precursors and the Board's reflection on possible ways to address it at the international level. It is the common thread running through the present report, as illustrated by the fact that nearly half of the chapter about global trends in precursor trafficking is devoted to non-scheduled chemicals, including “designer” precursors.

While it is important to find solutions that enable Governments worldwide to address the growing complexity and diversification of the problem, proven concepts in international precursor control also need to continue to be implemented to maintain the low level of diversion from international legitimate trade. This includes the applicable provisions of the 1988 Convention, precursor-related resolutions and established working mechanisms, such as the Pre-Export Notification Online system and the Precursors Incident Communication System. For some time now, INCB has been advocating a two-pronged approach with a focus on preventive action (such as voluntary cooperation with industry) and law enforcement action (investigating seizures and stopped shipments of chemicals that are known or suspected to be used for illicit purposes). Such a two-pronged approach can be taken to addressing both internationally controlled precursors and non-scheduled chemicals.

INCB invites Governments to continue to work with each other and the Board within the established framework, and to develop new concepts together to make precursor control fit for the future and reduce the flow of chemicals that reach clandestine laboratories.



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Narcotics Control Board