

I. Introduction

1. The present report has been prepared by INCB pursuant to article 23 of the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988. It provides an overview of action taken by Governments and by INCB since the publication of the Board's report on precursors for 2022¹ to prevent the diversion of chemicals and to implement the provisions of the 1988 Convention.

2. As in reports for previous years, substantive reporting begins in chapter II, which provides statistics and information on action taken by Governments and the Board in accordance with the provisions of article 12 of the 1988 Convention. This includes information on the utilization of the PEN Online and PEN Online Light systems. The latter has, since October 2022, enabled the sending of pre-export notifications for non-scheduled chemicals on a voluntary basis. The chapter also contains an overview of the operational activities carried out under Project Cohesion and Project Prism and of other initiatives related to precursor control.

3. Chapter III provides an overview of the licit trade in precursors and the latest major trends and developments in their trafficking and illicit use. The chapter also highlights the most relevant cases of suspicious and stopped shipments, diversion and attempted diversion, and seizures, as well as activities associated with illicit drug manufacture.

4. Chapter IV provides an account of the implications of conflict and unresolved territorial disputes for precursor control. The chapter forms part of the series of thematic chapters, introduced in 2011, that have addressed a particular precursor-related theme in greater depth in each report.

5. Chapter V summarizes key conclusions of the present report and provides recommendations to Governments on the way forward for effective international and domestic precursor control. Specific recommendations and conclusions are highlighted throughout the report as a basis for

Governments to take the necessary action to prevent the diversion of and trafficking in precursor chemicals and their use in illicit manufacture.²

6. Annexes I to XI contain updated statistics and practical information intended 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 included in the digital version of the report, available on the INCB website.

¹ *Precursors and Chemicals Frequently Used in the Illicit Manufacture of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances: Report of the International Narcotics Control Board for 2022 on the Implementation of Article 12 of the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988* (E/INCB/2022/4).

² 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).