

III. Analysis of the world situation

A. Africa

Major developments

197. Illicit cannabis cultivation continues to be widespread in many countries in Africa, partly as a result of the low prices offered for traditional African agricultural products. Increasing cannabis cultivation has been reported in countries or areas affected by civil war or armed conflict. Law enforcement authorities have expressed concern that the trends in Europe and North America towards liberalizing or even legalizing the non-medical use of cannabis may lead to further increases in cannabis cultivation in Africa. The abuse of psychotropic substances continues to be a matter of serious concern across Africa, especially in the central, southern and western parts of the region. There is concern that the abuse of heroin and opiates may increase in East Africa since it is a major transit area. In the southern part of Africa, where the abuse of and trafficking in methaqualone have remained widespread, heroin abuse and trafficking have become more significant. In many countries in North Africa, there have been reports of the abuse of stimulants, as well as heroin and cocaine, albeit at low levels.

198. There is concern that drug abuse in Africa will increase further because of the prevailing socio-economic conditions: in many parts of the region, the effects of poverty, conflict and migration have been exacerbated by HIV/AIDS and the high proportion of children and adolescents in the population, many of whom have no families to protect them and no access to education or employment.

199. In the light of the threat that the drug problem poses to Africa's development, the Board encourages Governments of countries in the region to strive to improve the link between drug control policies and strategies and regional and national development programmes, notably in the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD)⁴⁴ and the International Partnership against AIDS in Africa (IPAA).

200. On 9 July 2002, the Organization of African Unity (OAU) was officially transformed into the African Union, with the aim of promoting sustainable development, reducing poverty and resolving conflicts and political instability and establishing Africa-wide

political and economic infrastructure. It is hoped that that development may herald a new era for Africa.

Treaty adherence

201. In January 2002, Eritrea acceded to the 1961 Convention as amended by the 1972 Protocol, to the 1971 Convention and to the 1988 Convention. In April 2002, Morocco ratified the 1972 Protocol amending the 1961 Convention. In addition, Rwanda acceded to the 1988 Convention in May 2002.

202. Angola, the Congo and Equatorial Guinea are not yet parties to any of the three main international drug control treaties. In addition, Algeria and Chad have not yet acceded to the 1972 Protocol amending the 1961 Convention. Liberia is not yet a party to the 1971 Convention, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Gabon, Liberia, Namibia and Somalia are not yet parties to the 1988 Convention.

203. The Board hopes that Angola, which enacted two drug control laws in 1999 to allow it to ratify the three international drug control treaties, will soon deposit its instruments of accession with the Secretary-General.

Regional cooperation

204. The government ministers attending the first OAU ministerial meeting on drug control, held in Yamoussoukro, Côte d'Ivoire, in May 2002, reviewed the implementation of the Declaration and Plan of Action on Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking Control in Africa, covering the period 1997-2001, which had been adopted in Yaoundé, Cameroon, in 1996. Subsequently, the ministers adopted a new OAU plan of action for drug control, covering the period 2002-2006. The plan of action highlights the need to integrate drug control elements into poverty alleviation, alternative development and other social and health programmes. By integrating and mainstreaming drug and crime control elements into the renewed African development process, the new plan of action will tie in with other recent major initiatives aimed at poverty reduction and sustainable development in Africa, in particular NEPAD and IPAA.

205. The Council of Ministers of the Eastern and Southern Africa Anti-Money Laundering Group (ESAAMLG),⁴⁵ at its second meeting held in Mbabane, Swaziland, in August 2002, decided, inter alia, to consolidate the national laws against money-laundering of the ESAAMLG member States into a comprehensive subregional legal regime.

206. The East African Community protocol on combating illicit drug trafficking in East Africa has contributed to enhanced cooperation in criminal and intelligence matters among the drug control units of Kenya, Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania.

207. At the second meeting of the heads of national drug regulatory authorities from countries in East Africa, held in Nairobi, Kenya, in June 2002, effective policies for the control of licit drugs were reviewed. The Board notes the progress made in regulatory control in some countries in East Africa and calls on Governments of countries in other subregions of Africa to consider similar initiatives. Progress was also made in the development of the East Africa Drug Information System, to be used for collecting reliable and comparable drug abuse data and assessing the magnitude and patterns of drug abuse throughout East Africa, with a view to developing demand reduction programmes in the subregion.

208. In August 2002, a Regional Strategic Framework Conference was held in Pretoria, South Africa, for the purpose of helping to establish priorities in drug and crime control for the member States of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) and to link them with the goals of the major donors for that subregion.

209. The Board notes with appreciation that the drug issue continues to receive the highest political support from the Economic Community of West African States. The Board also notes that steps against corruption, money-laundering and organized crime were taken by the Authority of Heads of State and Government of the Economic Community of West African States at its twenty-fifth session, held in Dakar, Senegal, in December 2001.

210. The West African Joint Operations initiative, launched by the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA) of Nigeria in 2000, continues to promote closer cooperation between law enforcement authorities of West African countries through

networking, with a view to conducting joint operations against drug traffickers and other criminals.

211. The Board appreciates the steps being taken by the Government of Nigeria to upgrade the NDLEA training academy in Jos to a regional institute that will offer training in advanced international law enforcement methods and techniques.

212. In view of the increasing diversion of chemicals in Africa,⁴⁶ the Board, in cooperation with the Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention⁴⁷ of the Secretariat, convened in Pretoria, South Africa, in July 2002 the first technical round-table meeting on prevention of the diversion of chemicals. Representatives of the regulatory and law enforcement authorities of African countries being targeted by traffickers for the diversion of chemicals, as well as the major source countries of chemicals, participated in the meeting. The meeting resulted in the establishment of a network for sharing, among the African countries concerned, the relevant source countries and the Board, information on seizures and stopped shipments of chemicals.

213. The Governments of several countries in Africa have concluded bilateral cooperation agreements with countries in the region and elsewhere. The Board notes that the Government of South Africa is currently negotiating extradition and/or mutual legal assistance treaties with Algeria, France, Nigeria, the United Arab Emirates and several countries in Latin America.

National legislation, policy and action

214. The Board has noted with appreciation that in Egypt, the parliament approved legislation against money-laundering in May 2002. The Board also notes that a national conference on demand reduction held in Cairo in April 2002 launched the planning and preparation process for a demand reduction plan for Egypt by 2003, pursuant to the recommendations of the twentieth special session of the General Assembly, devoted to countering the world drug problem together. Furthermore, in view of the increasing drug abuse, especially among marginalized young people, the Government of Egypt has initiated a number of important steps to strengthen treatment services for drug abusers.

215. In Mauritius, the Dangerous Drugs Act, incorporating comprehensive measures for precursor

control into existing national drug control legislation, was adopted in December 2001.

216. In December 2001, a new law against money-laundering entered into force in South Africa. The law provides for the establishment of a financial intelligence centre to coordinate policy and efforts to counter money-laundering activities and to act as a repository of information. The Board notes with appreciation that the fight against corruption is a top priority of the Government of South Africa. Furthermore, in June 2002, the Government of South Africa launched a pilot campaign to increase awareness, especially among youth at risk and their parents or guardians, of the dangers of drug abuse. The pilot campaign, if successful, will be extended throughout the country and may also be used as a model for similar programmes in other African countries.

217. The Government of the United Republic of Tanzania approved the national drug control master plan in March 2002. The Board hopes that the international community will assist the authorities in that country in implementing the master plan.

218. In Uganda, new drug control legislation has been approved by the cabinet and will be presented to the parliament in 2002. The new legislation is aimed at harmonizing national laws with the provisions of the three main international drug control treaties, in addition to targeting other drug-related problems such as crime and money-laundering.

219. In Zambia, a new law against money-laundering was passed by the parliament in November 2001. Responsibility for implementing the law is vested in the Drug Enforcement Commission of Zambia.

Cultivation, production, manufacture, trafficking and abuse

Narcotic drugs

220. In the view of law enforcement authorities in Africa, the abuse of and trafficking in cannabis are the main drug problems African countries are faced with. At the Twelfth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Africa, held in Nairobi in September 2002, representatives emphasized the threat posed by the abuse of and trafficking in cannabis to security, health and socio-economic development in African countries, noting that the

tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) content of cannabis seized in the region had increased significantly, from 2-3 per cent in the 1960s to over 17 per cent. It was stated that the reclassification of cannabis by the Government of the United Kingdom would undermine the efforts of Governments of African countries to counter illicit cannabis cultivation, trafficking and abuse. That action, it was held, had sent the wrong message and could lead to increased cultivation of cannabis destined for the United Kingdom and other European countries.

221. Africa continues to be a major source of the cannabis found on illicit markets in the region or smuggled out of the region, mainly into Europe. In many African countries, cannabis cultivation is increasing, as cannabis is often substituted for licit agricultural products. Approximately one fourth of the seizures of cannabis herb and resin that take place in the world occur in Africa. Almost one fourth of the cannabis herb seized worldwide was seized in the southern part of Africa, mainly in South Africa. Large-scale illicit cultivation of cannabis in Morocco remains a prime concern. Morocco continues to be the source of 60-70 per cent of the cannabis resin seized in Europe. Cannabis cultivation is also spreading to the western and southern parts of Morocco. The routes used for smuggling Moroccan cannabis lead mainly through Spain (and, to a lesser degree, through Portugal and France) to various other European countries. There are also reports of illicit consignments of cannabis being transported through and to Algeria and Tunisia. Cannabis herb is also grown in Egypt, mainly on the Sinai peninsula. Seizures of cannabis herb in Egypt rose from 7 tons in 1996 to over 50 tons in 2001. In several countries in sub-Saharan Africa, seizures of cannabis have increased significantly in recent years and law enforcement operations have often resulted in the destruction of large cannabis cultivation sites.

222. The southern and western parts of Africa are used as landing zones for cocaine consignments transported from South America, mainly through Brazil and Venezuela. Cape Verde and Senegal, because of their geographical locations and their air and sea links with Brazil, are used to trans-ship cocaine consignments to Europe and North America. Other routes used lead through Nigeria and South Africa. In almost all countries in the southern and western parts of Africa, in particular in Nigeria and South Africa, cocaine abuse is on the rise. The latest available seizure reports show that over 20 per cent of all cocaine seizures in

Africa took place in South Africa and 12 per cent took place in Nigeria. Cocaine trafficking in Africa has shifted from Nigeria to South Africa, possibly as a result of the migration of West African criminal organizations to South Africa in the mid-1990s. Those organizations currently appear to control about 80 per cent of the illicit trade in cocaine in South Africa. There has also been a shift in South Africa from dealing in cocaine to dealing in crack, which has become particularly popular among marginalized and vulnerable segments of society.

223. There are no indications that opium poppy is cultivated in any part of Africa except Egypt, where limited illicit opium poppy cultivation continues on the Sinai peninsula. While the total amount of heroin seized in the region has remained small, African countries, in particular Nigeria and South Africa, continue to be used as transit areas for heroin trafficking. Criminal networks from West Africa continue to control the heroin traffic in that subregion and beyond. Heroin from South-East Asia and South-West Asia is smuggled by couriers on commercial flights, who take routes that pass through African countries and lead to Europe and North America. Postal and express courier services are also used. In Africa, the abuse of heroin is still limited mainly to large urban areas. Increasing heroin abuse has been reported in Egypt and in most countries in the eastern and southern parts of Africa bordering the Indian Ocean. Increases in heroin abuse have also been reported in several countries in the western part of Africa. South Africa has seen a significant increase in heroin abuse and trafficking in the past decade, even though the quantities involved are still relatively small. The spread of intravenous drug abuse is a matter of concern, especially considering the high prevalence of HIV/AIDS in many countries.

Psychotropic substances

224. In Central and West Africa, trafficking in and abuse of ephedrine, amphetamines and benzodiazepines (mainly diazepam) are widespread. Information on the origin of the substances being trafficked continues to be scarce. There is evidence that depressants are increasingly being diverted from licit pharmaceutical distribution channels in West Africa. Illicit pharmaceutical distribution channels in urban and rural areas, inadequate health-care facilities and low income, together with the fact that self-medication

is practised by a large portion of the population in Central Africa and West Africa, all exacerbate the situation with regard to illicit trafficking in pharmaceuticals. In North Africa, there have been only a few cases involving illicit manufacture of synthetic drugs, all of those cases being in Egypt, where clandestine laboratories continue to manufacture amphetamine-type stimulants (Maxiton Forte) for domestic abuse, albeit on a small scale. In the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, the abuse of benzodiazepines (flunitrazepam) diverted from licit trade and smuggled out of Malta has been reported by government agencies to be a growing problem. There are concerns that trafficking in amphetamines that have been illicitly manufactured, mainly in Eastern Europe, and the diversion of such substances from licit distribution channels may soon be complemented by the illicit manufacture of those substances in North Africa. Amphetamine and methamphetamine tablets are smuggled out of West Africa, via the Sudan, and into Saudi Arabia and other Arab countries in the Persian Gulf area. Several countries throughout Africa have reported increasing abuse of amphetamines.

225. Methaqualone (Mandrax) is the second most commonly abused illicit drug in South Africa; it is frequently smoked together with cannabis. The bulk of the methaqualone continues to be smuggled into that country out of China and India. In addition, methaqualone has been clandestinely manufactured in South Africa for more than a decade. The number of clandestine laboratories seized by law enforcement authorities in the country has been increasing. In two of the biggest chemical seizures ever, authorities in South Africa seized in July 2002 manufacturing equipment and more than 100 tons of chemicals (mainly anthranilic acid and acetic anhydride) hidden in several warehouses near Johannesburg. The chemicals, which had been smuggled into South Africa out of India, would have been enough to manufacture 90 million tablets of methaqualone. Those seizures enabled the authorities in South Africa to dismantle a major methaqualone manufacturing laboratory before it could start operating. Methaqualone remains the only substance reported to be illicitly manufactured in a few countries in East Africa. In Kenya, Mozambique and the United Republic of Tanzania, a number of laboratories engaged in the illicit manufacture of methaqualone have been dismantled in recent years; however, those laboratories were being used only to

make tablets of the substance from the raw material, which originated in India.

226. In South Africa, the range of detected illegal laboratories has broadened in recent years to include facilities for manufacturing methamphetamine, crack cocaine and amphetamine-type stimulants, including MDMA (Ecstasy).

227. The abuse of MDMA (Ecstasy) is spreading in the southern part of Africa. That is particularly true for South Africa, where the abuse of that substance has increased significantly in the white community within the last few years. While the MDMA (Ecstasy) found in South Africa is predominantly smuggled out of European countries, mainly the Netherlands and the United Kingdom, to satisfy the demand for that substance in the club scene, there is also evidence that the substance is illicitly manufactured locally. The role of South Africa as a trans-shipment point was confirmed in May 2002, when 36,000 tablets of MDMA (Ecstasy) were seized in a shipment from that country en route to New Zealand.

Other issues

228. In countries in the central and southern parts of Africa, one development has been a cause of concern: the abuse of cannabis herb mixed with *Datura stramonium*. The leaves and seeds of *Datura stramonium* contain the alkaloids scopolamine and hyoscyamine, substances not under international control that complement the effect of cannabis. The abuse of datura is allegedly spreading fast throughout Central Africa, having started in Chad and the Congo, as well as in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, where it grows wild and has recently been cultivated in an organized manner.

Missions

229. The Board has reviewed action taken by the Government of Cameroon pursuant to recommendations made by the Board after its mission to that country in April 1999. The Government has improved its cooperation with the Board, and higher priority is now being accorded to drug control activities, as demonstrated by increased funding of the inter-ministerial drug control committee and operational activities, as well as initiatives to prevent the illicit cultivation of cannabis.

230. While the authorities of Cameroon have resumed the submission of some reports to the Board, no annual report on narcotic drugs has been received since the mission of the Board visited Cameroon. The reports submitted were delayed and did not contain all of the required information.

231. The Board also continues to be concerned that, in Cameroon, pharmaceutical products containing internationally controlled substances are still being distributed through illicit drug distribution channels such as street markets. The Board therefore welcomes the initiative of the Government in adopting a national plan of action to stop illicit trade in psychotropic substances. The Board looks forward to the effective implementation of the plan of action. The Board further underlines the importance of identifying the origin of those substances so that effective countermeasures can be developed to prevent their diversion.

232. In July 2002, the Board sent a mission to Kenya to assess the progress made by the Government in implementing the recommendations made by the Board pursuant to its 1999 mission to that country. The Board found that, while certain authorities had taken steps to implement its recommendations, more decisive action was required by the Government to meet its national and international obligations.

233. In Kenya, the police, customs authorities and Attorney-General's office are working together effectively to combat drug trafficking, having made significant seizures of smuggled narcotic drugs at the country's ports of entry. The National Agency for the Campaign against Drug Abuse and the Ministry of Education have introduced important initiatives throughout Kenya to prevent drug abuse in the general population and to raise awareness, especially among students, of the dangers posed by drug abuse.

234. The Board regrets, however, that, three years after having been drafted, the national drug control master plan, which provides for better coordination of national drug control efforts, has still not been approved by the parliament of Kenya. Furthermore, regulations to enhance certain provisions of the drug law have yet to be made. That is particularly important with regard to the control of licit activities related to narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and chemicals, to which the Government should accord higher priority, because the

lack of such control also affects neighbouring countries.

235. The Government of Namibia invited the Board to send a mission to that country in July 2002. The Board appreciates the commitment of the Government to international drug control. Since 1990, when it gained independence, Namibia has acceded to the 1961 Convention and the 1971 Convention. The Board urges Namibia to become a party to the 1988 Convention as soon as possible. The Board also urges the Government to pass the Medicines and Related Substances Control Bill and the Drug Control Bill without further delay so that a number of psychotropic substances and chemicals that are currently not controlled in Namibia can be controlled in conformity with the international drug control treaties.

236. No illicit manufacture of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances takes place in Namibia and the climatic conditions are not favourable for growing cannabis. Illicit drugs seized in Namibia were found to have been smuggled into the country, mostly out of South Africa. While cannabis and methaqualone (Mandrax) continue to be the main drugs of abuse in Namibia, a small illicit market for cocaine and heroin has developed in that country in recent years, primarily as a result of spillover from transit trafficking, as consignments of those substances are transported from Angola through Namibia to South Africa.

237. Cooperation among the different authorities responsible for drug control and the treatment and rehabilitation of drug abusers in Namibia has markedly improved, as reflected in the progress made in the formulation of the national drug control master plan for the period 2002-2006, which is being developed along the lines of the SADC Protocol on Combating Illicit Drugs; the master plan is expected to be finalized by the end of 2002.

238. In June 2002, the Board sent a mission to Tunisia. The Board was informed that drug abuse was not considered to be a problem in Tunisia. Drug seizures only involve cannabis and almost all of the drug consignments seized involved insignificant amounts and were being sent from Morocco and Algeria to the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya and, to a small extent, countries in Europe. No illicit drug production or manufacture has ever been reported in Tunisia.

239. The Government of Tunisia has combined drug abuse prevention and treatment activities with rigorous supply reduction measures and has been successful in combating drug trafficking, which was deemed to have become prevalent in the 1980s. Law enforcement in the country is very strict and is based on the principle of zero tolerance with regard to drug trafficking and abuse.

240. The legal framework for drug control in Tunisia is comprehensive and in compliance with the provisions of the 1961 Convention and the 1971 Convention. Also, the authorities of Tunisia have been cooperating with the Board with regard to the implementation of the provisions of those conventions. Tunisia has only one authorized importer of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, which makes it easier for the competent authorities to control trade in those substances. The Board notes with appreciation the role played by Tunisia in training health inspectors in Africa. The Board also notes that the authorities of Tunisia have already identified free trade zones as a potential problem in the control of chemicals and are working on preventive measures.

241. A mission of the Board visited Zimbabwe in December 2001. The Board notes the clear commitment of the Government to drug control, reflected in its adoption of the national drug control master plan shortly before the mission was undertaken. The Board trusts that immediate actions are being taken to implement the master plan, including the establishment of institutionalized coordination mechanisms and a nationwide rapid assessment of the drug abuse situation, with a view to introducing appropriate countermeasures.

242. The drug laws that currently exist in Zimbabwe are adequate for applying controls in line with the international drug control treaties. Sufficient controls are being exercised over licit narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances while appropriate controls have to be extended to chemicals in order to prevent them from being diverted for use in illicit drug manufacture.

243. The Board hopes that the authorities of Zimbabwe will facilitate the availability of drugs for medical purposes, particularly for pain treatment. The Board calls on the appropriate authorities to raise the awareness of medical practitioners with regard to that requirement.

B. Americas

244. Drug abuse and trafficking affect all countries in the Americas. Thus, close cooperation at the regional and interregional levels must be an important part of the response to the many facets of those problems. All countries in the Americas have continued to cooperate closely through a number of mechanisms at the interregional, regional and subregional levels.

245. The Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD) of the Organization of American States (OAS) issued its 2001 Progress Report in Drug Control in January 2002. The report, which concluded the first round of the CICAD Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism, indicated that OAS member States had made significant efforts and progress in fulfilling recommendations of the Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism on improving national drug control, including the development of national drug control plans. The report recognized that many countries lacked the technical and financial resources to tackle the problem of illicit drugs and implement their national drug control plans more effectively. The Board encourages countries to maintain adequate financing for drug control at the national level and to continue cooperating at the multilateral level through regional and international organizations working to prevent drug abuse and illicit trafficking.

246. The inter-American system has continued to emphasize the need to collect and evaluate, through a drug observatory network, information on drug abuse and its socio-economic costs, as well as on illicit drug supply, while recognizing the need to improve the comparability of the available data. Increasingly reliable data will have a positive impact on the effectiveness of efforts by States to reduce illicit drug demand. The Board appreciates that national observatories on drug use have been established in El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama.

Central America and the Caribbean

Major developments

247. Drug trafficking in Central America and the Caribbean continues to involve mostly cannabis and

cocaine, but seizures of heroin and MDMA (Ecstasy) have increased. Heroin from Colombia is being shipped to illicit markets in the United States and, increasingly, to Europe, while heroin abuse in the region remains limited. Shipments of MDMA (Ecstasy) arrive from Western Europe, destined mainly for illicit markets in North America; however, the abuse of that substance has recently become a matter of concern in some countries in Central America. Drug trafficking continues to be linked with trafficking in firearms and to be facilitated by corruption. Illicit drugs and arms are sometimes used as interchangeable commodities. Most of the firearms come from countries such as El Salvador and Nicaragua, where civil conflicts have ended, resulting in large caches of firearms, and are transported to guerrilla insurgency groups in countries in South America, mainly Colombia. Illicit drugs and arms are often transported along the same routes but in opposite directions.

248. Free trade areas, mainly in the Caribbean, are being exploited by drug traffickers. The Board reminds all Governments that, in line with article 31 of the 1961 Convention, such areas must be controlled in the same way as other parts of a national territory and that more drastic measures should be applied where the situation so warrants. The Caribbean Drug Control Coordination Mechanism has estimated that 40-50 per cent of the cocaine being transported through the Caribbean in containers on ships passes through free trade areas.

249. Progress has been achieved in recent years in most countries in the development and adoption of more appropriate drug control legislation and the establishment of national and subregional institutions and cooperation mechanisms. In order to be sustainable and to ensure the implementation of that legislation, those efforts need appropriate funding from sources within and outside Central America and the Caribbean. The Board calls on Canada, the United States and countries in Europe, as the main destinations of the illicit drug shipments, not to reduce their drug control assistance in favour of measures against terrorism but to look for new ways to combine both.

Treaty adherence

250. The Board notes with satisfaction that, in December 2001, Belize and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines acceded to the 1961 Convention as

amended by the 1972 Protocol and to the 1971 Convention. All States in Central America and the Caribbean are now parties to the 1961 Convention and the 1988 Convention. The Board calls once again on Haiti, Honduras and Saint Lucia to become parties to the 1971 Convention and on Nicaragua to ratify the 1972 Protocol amending the 1961 Convention.

Regional cooperation

251. The High-level Meeting on Drugs and Crime, held in Port-of-Spain in December 2001, made recommendations on the review of the implementation of the Plan of Action on Drug Control Coordination and Cooperation in the Caribbean (also known as the Barbados Plan of Action). The Thirteenth Inter-Sessional Meeting of the Conference of Heads of Government of the Caribbean Community, held in Belize City in February 2002, endorsed those recommendations. In determining the direction to be taken in the fight against drugs and crime, a number of priority elements for enhancing the Caribbean subregional strategy were adopted. In addition, in July 2002, a strategy was adopted to address the various aspects of crime and security, which included measures against drug trafficking. The Board notes that, through the secretariat of the Caribbean Community, a subregional strategy for the reduction of illicit drug demand was completed. A subregional maritime law enforcement agreement between States and territories in the Caribbean has been negotiated and is open for signature.

252. The Board considers the wide qualitative and methodological differences in epidemiological research to be the main impediment to assessing and comparing the magnitude of and developments in drug abuse and trafficking and to evaluating the impact of drug control measures in the Caribbean. The Board notes with appreciation that the first workshop in the Caribbean on building capacity for the development of national networks for data on drug use and abuse and rapid assessment surveys was held in Barbados in November 2001. The Board also notes that, within the framework of the Drug Abuse Epidemiological and Surveillance System Project of the Caribbean Drug Information Network, some States in the subregion are developing a joint methodology for implementing a system for the collection of data on drug abuse.

253. With regard to money-laundering, the Board welcomes the decision of the Inter-American Development Bank to finance, on the basis of proposals of CICAD, a programme for the creation and strengthening of financial intelligence units. The Board also notes the ongoing activities of the Caribbean Financial Action Task Force and the Caribbean Anti-Money-Laundering Programme to assist countries in the subregion.

254. In April 2002, heads of law enforcement in Central America and the Dominican Republic participated in a meeting in El Salvador that ratified joint plans in efforts against drug trafficking and terrorism. The joint strategies include the strengthening of national border security, the promotion of stricter laws against drug trafficking and other types of organized crime and the creation of a statistical system with information on crime in Central America and the Caribbean. In June 2002, a similar meeting was held in Nicaragua for drug law enforcement authorities from the Central American countries, Mexico and the United States, resulting in an agreement to improve telecommunications infrastructure in order to be able to exchange, through a regional network, information on efforts to counter drug trafficking. The agreement is part of the Plan sin Fronteras (plan without borders) against organized crime in the area between the southern border of Mexico and Panama. The Board notes that Governments in Central America are developing a subregional plan for guiding the formulation of projects for the reduction of illicit drug demand and supply.

255. There are numerous bilateral law enforcement agreements among countries in Central America and the Caribbean, as well as between those countries and countries in North America and South America. Bilateral agreements between Central American countries include agreements on police cooperation in the control of porous borders and of adjoining territorial waters. Countries such as Costa Rica and Panama have also concluded agreements on police cooperation with Colombia, to counter the activities of the South American drug trafficking cartels in Central America. The United States continues to be the main partner of most countries in Central America and the Caribbean in bilateral action against drug trafficking, usually action involving maritime interdiction, but also drug abuse prevention, judicial cooperation, police training and technical assistance. European countries

also assist law enforcement authorities in Central American and Caribbean countries, facilitating training and operations, and sponsor regional conferences and meetings for the discussion of problems related to drug control.

National legislation, policy and action

256. Nearly all countries in Central America and the Caribbean have adopted national drug control plans in recent years. The Board notes with satisfaction that El Salvador approved a national drug control plan in January 2002 and urges the country to implement it. The Board also encourages Nicaragua to conclude the approval and implementation of its national drug control plan. The Board trusts that other countries, if necessary with the assistance of CICAD and UNDCP, will soon complete their national drug control plans. National coordinating bodies should be established in all countries. The Board trusts that the adoption and implementation of national drug control plans will lead to an expansion of demand reduction activities. Most countries have continued to focus and rely on their penal systems, while efforts aimed at the treatment, rehabilitation and social reintegration of drug abusers are faced with limited public resources.

257. While public awareness campaigns are carried out in some form in most countries in the region, many countries are not yet able to provide rehabilitation programmes and institutionalized treatment for drug abusers. When available, those programmes are usually provided with the assistance of non-governmental, private or religious organizations. The accessibility and quality of facilities for the treatment of drug abuse are generally poor, partly because of lack of resources and partly because of the relatively low importance attached to such treatment.

258. The Board welcomes the drug abuse prevention programmes carried out in Cuba within the framework of its integrated national programme for the prevention of drug abuse, which together with strict law enforcement measures, has contributed to the low prevalence of drug abuse in that country. Trinidad and Tobago has carried out extensive public information programmes within its National Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention Programme. In Saint Kitts and Nevis, the National Council on Drug Abuse Prevention is working on a programme to evaluate and determine the efficacy of demand reduction programmes.

259. Several countries in Central America and the Caribbean have, for years, been criticized for allowing the laundering of money derived from drug trafficking and other criminal activities. However, the Board notes that continued attention is being given to combating money-laundering in the region. In June 2002, the Financial Action Task Force on Money Laundering removed Saint Kitts and Nevis from the list of countries and territories that it considered uncooperative in efforts to counter money-laundering, after having removed the Bahamas and the Cayman Islands from the list in June 2001. Dominica, Grenada, Guatemala and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines remain on the list. It should be noted that Grenada and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines have enacted most of the legislation against money-laundering required to remedy the situation, while Dominica and Guatemala are also making efforts in that direction. It should also be noted that in January 2002 Belize ended its economic citizenship programme, whereby foreigners could obtain Belizean citizenship in exchange for making investments in the country. The programme had been misused by money-launderers.

260. Belize's accession to the 1961 Convention as amended by the 1972 Protocol and to the 1971 Convention in December 2001 and the increase in law enforcement and demand reduction measures in that country are important steps towards improving its national drug control system. The Board encourages Belize to continue working towards the review and implementation of legislation for the control of chemical substances and to continue improving its cooperation with the Board in terms of fulfilling the reporting obligations under the international drug control treaties.

261. The Board welcomes initiatives aimed at improving efforts to determine the extent of illicit cannabis cultivation in the region. In Barbados, the police are working on the improvement of their intelligence-gathering capability, especially by developing a network of informants and increasing joint interdiction patrols involving the police and the military. The Royal Bahamas Police Force has established a system of weekly aerial surveillance flights throughout the Bahamas with the capacity to locate illicit crops, which can then be eradicated by ground units. Unfortunately, such detection activities are not carried out by a number of countries in the

region, mostly due to limited resources and because the terrain is difficult to patrol.

262. With little risk of being arrested, an increasing number of airplane passengers on direct flights from certain countries in the region to Europe have been engaging in small-scale drug smuggling. For example, the authorities of Jamaica and the United Kingdom have estimated that approximately 10 per cent of passengers on flights from Jamaica to the United Kingdom are smuggling drugs. The Board calls on the Governments of the countries concerned to develop a strategy to curtail such smuggling.

263. The Board notes with appreciation the improvement in the control system for chemicals in, for example, the Bahamas, Dominica, Grenada and Panama. Considering both the proximity of the region to major illicit drug production areas and the risk of clandestine laboratories being moved to countries in the region, the Board would like to encourage all countries in Central America and the Caribbean to continue to improve their capabilities to control chemicals, including by clearly defining the competencies of the authorities involved in chemical control and ensuring that there are adequate legal provisions for the application of criminal, civil or administrative sanctions against the diversion of controlled substances for illicit purposes.

Cultivation, production, manufacture, trafficking and abuse

Narcotic drugs

264. Central America and the Caribbean is the main area through which illicit drug consignments are transported from South America to North America and Europe, but the region is also affected by illicit crop cultivation, illicit drug manufacture and drug abuse, the latter being partly attributable to the spillover effect of the transit traffic.

265. Cannabis continues to be cultivated in all countries in Central America and most countries in the Caribbean, mostly to be abused locally. However, trafficking in cannabis has declined over the last two decades. Cannabis eradication efforts continue to take place in most of the countries in Central America and the Caribbean. For example, in Belize and Jamaica, the total area under cannabis cultivation in 1980 was estimated to be five times the area currently under

cannabis cultivation. That reduction has been achieved through intensive eradication campaigns. Despite those efforts, Jamaica continues to be an important source of supply for illicit markets in North America and, to some extent, the Eastern Caribbean; it also constitutes the main illicit market for cannabis in the Caribbean. The Board therefore notes with concern the attempts to decriminalize the personal use of cannabis in Jamaica and in a number of other Caribbean countries. Saint Vincent and the Grenadines is the major supplier of cannabis for the Eastern Caribbean. Growers of licit crops sometimes turn to cannabis production when the market conditions for their licit crops become unfavourable.

266. Although almost all manufacture of cocaine in the Americas takes place in South America, there is increasing evidence of cocaine manufacture in some countries in Central America. In 2001, some Governments in Central America expressed concern over the possible establishment of laboratories for processing cocaine in the subregion by South American drug trafficking organizations, partly with a view to developing the Central American market for illicit drugs. There are indications of the existence of small coca bush cultivation sites and cocaine laboratories in Panama. Central America is also a transit area for chemicals used in the manufacture of cocaine and heroin, mainly in Colombia. In November 2001, a precursor chemical laboratory was seized in Belize, the first such seizure in the country.

267. Cocaine transit trafficking continues unabated in Central America and the Caribbean. While the Central American and Mexican land corridor continues to be essential to such trafficking, the Pacific route is becoming increasingly important, either as an independent route or as a complementary route. For example, there have been cases in which shipments of cocaine originating in Colombia were transported by sea along the Pacific coast and would have continued by land towards Mexico and the United States had they not been seized in Panama. Drug trafficking organizations in Central American countries appear to have established partnerships with criminal organizations in Colombia and Mexico as part of a trafficking network extending from South America to North America.

268. Increased seizures of narcotic drugs in some Central American countries do not necessarily reflect

an increase in drug trafficking through the subregion; instead, they may reflect the effectiveness of national law enforcement authorities or changes in the drug trafficking routes that pass through certain countries. National authorities have indicated that cocaine transit trafficking in the Caribbean has increased. The major trans-shipment points are the Dominican Republic, Haiti and Jamaica, but other countries have also been affected by that development.

269. It appears that, mainly as a spillover of the transit traffic, cocaine and crack abuse in Central America and the Caribbean has increased in recent years. It is estimated that, in the Caribbean, approximately two thirds of those who abuse cocaine abuse it in the form of crack and that new and younger abusers from the more affluent segments of the population prefer sniffing cocaine in powder form.

270. Opium poppy cultivation continues on a very small scale in Guatemala, as evidenced by seizure reports in 2000 and 2001. Neither opium poppy cultivation nor heroin production takes place in the Caribbean. The heroin consignments trafficked through Central America and the Caribbean are mostly destined for the United States and are mostly of Colombian origin. Heroin consignments have been seized regularly in all Central American countries and in some Caribbean countries, though much less regularly and in smaller quantities than cocaine.

Psychotropic substances

271. Trafficking in MDMA (Ecstasy) through Central America and the Caribbean has developed in recent years and there are indications that some of the transit trafficking in MDMA (Ecstasy) is linked to the transit trafficking in cocaine. MDMA (Ecstasy) is supplied by European sources, mainly in the Netherlands; most of the MDMA (Ecstasy) trafficked in the region is destined for illicit markets in the United States. The main trans-shipment points are in Aruba and the Netherlands Antilles (which, like Suriname in South America, have close economic ties with the Netherlands) and the Dominican Republic.

272. The lack of epidemiological data does not allow any firm conclusions to be drawn on trends in the abuse of psychotropic substances in the region. It appears that flunitrazepam and diazepam are the licitly manufactured substances that are most often diverted and abused. As for illicitly manufactured psychotropic

substances, the abuse of MDMA (Ecstasy) is reported to have increased.

273. In Haiti, deficient control over the licit distribution of drugs has led to a large parallel market for narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances. A study identified psychoactive substances as the main drugs abused by street children in Port-au-Prince. The substances abused and illicitly traded in Haiti are diverted from domestic distribution channels or from international donations and smuggled out of the Dominican Republic or countries in Central America. Recognizing the humanitarian relief objective of donor countries and organizations, the Board requests the competent authorities of Haiti to ensure that such donations are not diverted for illicit purposes. The Board also calls upon donors of pharmaceuticals to Haiti and to other developing countries to ensure, to the extent possible, that the internationally controlled substances included in their donations are adequately controlled in the receiver countries.

Missions

274. The Board reviewed action taken by the Government of the Bahamas pursuant to recommendations made by the Board after its mission to that country in June 1999. The Board welcomes the adoption of legislation by the parliament of the Bahamas to strengthen activities against money-laundering and noted that the Financial Action Task Force removed the Bahamas from the list of countries and territories that it considered uncooperative in efforts to counter money-laundering.

275. The Board noted that steps are being taken in the Bahamas to strengthen institutional capabilities to deal with drug control issues, including the development of a comprehensive national drug control plan, the final text of which is expected to be approved soon by the Government. The Board noted that the Bahamas was making progress in fulfilling its reporting obligations under the 1961 Convention and the 1971 Convention.

276. However, the Board also noted the continuing lack of reporting by the Bahamas on issues related to precursor control. As draft legislation on the control of precursor chemicals is still to be adopted by the parliament and in view of the recently reported export to the Bahamas of large quantities of chemical substances that can be used in the illicit manufacture of narcotic drugs, the Board recommends to the

Government to improve observance of its obligations under article 12 of the 1988 Convention.

277. A mission of the Board visited Haiti in December 2001. The Board is concerned by the serious problems related to drug abuse and trafficking in that country. Haiti has become one of the hubs for drug trafficking in Central America and the Caribbean, adversely affecting the drug control activities of other countries in the region. It is estimated, for example, that 15-20 per cent of the cocaine trafficked in the region passes through Haiti. The lack of adequate control over the licit trade in drugs and chemicals has led to the development of a vast parallel market for narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances in the country. The abuse of all kinds of psychoactive substances poses a serious threat to the health of large segments of the population, especially young people.

278. The Government of Haiti has taken some steps to remedy the situation. In April 2001, a law against the laundering of assets derived from drug trafficking and other serious offences was passed by parliament but has yet to be implemented. The adoption in October 2001 of a law on the control and suppression of drug trafficking provides the legislative framework for controlling narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and precursors. The Board urges the Government to finalize the review and regulations necessary for implementing both laws as soon as possible. The Board notes that an interministerial drug control commission was created by presidential decree in May 2002. The Board invites the Government to continue to demonstrate that it has the political will to address the drug problem and to ratify the 1971 Convention.

279. In view of the gravity of the drug abuse and trafficking situation in Haiti, the Board will continue its close monitoring of developments in that country. The Board calls on the Government to address the urgent situation by increasing its efforts, allocating the required financial resources and obtaining the necessary assistance from bilateral and multilateral donors.

280. In July 2002, the Board sent a mission to the Netherlands Antilles. The airports and the seaports of the five islands that comprise the Netherlands Antilles, especially Bonaire and Curaçao, are used as transit points for shipping cocaine consignments from Colombia and Venezuela. The drug law enforcement authorities in the Netherlands Antilles continue to be successful in seizing significant quantities of illicit

drugs destined for Europe and North America. While noting the active participation of the Netherlands Antilles in joint law enforcement and intelligence-sharing programmes involving Aruba, the Netherlands, Suriname and the United States, the Board encourages closer cooperation between the authorities of those islands in order to ensure the continued success of their law enforcement efforts.

281. Crack cocaine remains the main drug of abuse in the Netherlands Antilles. Drug abuse is spreading, as local drug traffickers, being increasingly paid in kind, are developing new illicit markets. There is a need to address the problem of drug smuggling on direct flights to the Netherlands by "body packers" (persons concealing illicit drugs on their persons), who believe that they face little risk of arrest in the Netherlands Antilles. The Board welcomes the closer cooperation with the authorities of the Netherlands.

282. The Board notes with satisfaction the creation in the Netherlands Antilles of a special financial intelligence unit for preventing money-laundering and investigating suspicious transactions. However, chemical controls and a demand reduction programme have yet to be developed and should be part of the drug control strategy that is to be adopted.

283. The Board sent a mission to Trinidad and Tobago in July 2002. The Government has enacted several laws to give effect to the provisions of the drug control treaties at the national level; however, those laws may have to be consolidated into a single law in order to simplify the organization of the control of drugs and chemicals. Law enforcement activities are well developed and coordinated at the national level and carried out in close cooperation with other countries.

284. While the Government of Trinidad and Tobago is fully committed to drug control, lack of treaty-mandated reporting on narcotic drugs may indicate deficiencies in the national control system, which may result in the diversion of those substances into illicit markets. The Board trusts that the Government will take the appropriate action to ensure that its reports are submitted in future.

285. The Board noted with appreciation that the Government of Trinidad and Tobago is aware of the importance of controlling chemicals used in illicit drug manufacture in other countries and encourages the

Government to review and strengthen existing mechanisms to prevent trans-shipments from being diverted for illicit use.

North America

Major developments

286. Following the terrorist attacks in the United States on 11 September 2001, the amount of drugs seized at airports and border crossings in both Canada and the United States decreased considerably, possibly owing to the fact that drug traffickers feared detection because of enhanced border controls. That resulted in reduced availability of cocaine and heroin on illicit markets, which has generally led to increased prices.

287. The abuse of cannabis and cocaine has significantly increased in Mexico over the past few years. The abuse of heroin, which was previously confined to certain areas of the country, has also become more widespread. The increasing drug abuse in Mexico needs to be adequately addressed, though the prevalence of drug abuse in that country remains far below that observed in Canada and the United States.

Treaty adherence

288. All States in North America are parties to the 1961 Convention as amended by the 1972 Protocol, to the 1971 Convention and to the 1988 Convention.

Regional cooperation

289. Canada, Mexico and the United States continue to cooperate closely with each other in their efforts to address drug abuse and illicit trafficking. The Governments of those countries have also enhanced the security at their national borders, a step that will contribute to the effectiveness of drug interdiction efforts.

290. Canada, Mexico and the United States have all concluded with countries outside of North America bilateral agreements aimed at facilitating effective law enforcement action against the drug problem, in particular to suppress drug trafficking. Canada, Mexico and the United States also cooperate through CICAD.

291. In November 2001, the fourth annual Binational Drug Demand Reduction Conference was held in Mexico City in order to strengthen the cooperation of

Mexico and the United States in addressing the problem of drug abuse. As a result of the Conference, plans have been made for the establishment of electronic communications networks to improve access to the most up-to-date drug abuse prevention, treatment and survey data.

National legislation, policy and action

292. The Board notes the pre-publication of precursor control regulations in Canada in June 2002 and expects that those regulations will enter into force not later than January 2003. The regulations provide for controls on the import, export, production and distribution of precursors, yet avoid introducing undue restrictions on their legitimate needs. The Board calls on the Government of Canada to accelerate the enforcement of the regulations since, in the absence of such control regulations, trafficking in some precursors from Canada has assumed significant proportions. A sound legislative base and strengthened cooperation between both regulatory and law enforcement authorities involved in precursor control at the national level are essential if the problem of trafficking in precursors is to be effectively addressed.

293. The Board notes that the Government of Canada has taken action to bring under national control all substances listed in the 1971 Convention. The Board hopes that the Government will ensure that, in future, scheduling decisions of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs will be implemented in a timely fashion, in line with the provisions of article 2, paragraph 7, of the 1971 Convention.

294. In November 2001, the Drug Enforcement Administration of the United States approved research on the effects of smoked cannabis in human beings. The research programme will assess the safety and efficacy of using cannabis compounds as an alternative in treating certain medical conditions. The Board would like once again to express its support for sound scientific research projects on possible medical uses of cannabis and other narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances.

295. The Financial Transactions and Reports Analysis Centre of Canada became operational in November 2001. The Centre collects and analyses reports of suspicious financial transactions from financial institutions and intermediaries, as well as other information, and makes disclosures to law

enforcement authorities, where appropriate. The Board welcomes the publication of three sets of regulations to combat money-laundering and terrorist financing that will enable the Government of Canada to fully enforce the Proceeds of Crime (Money Laundering) and Terrorist Financing Act.

296. In Mexico, intensified action against drug trafficking organizations resulted in the arrest of several persons suspected of being key drug traffickers and the dismantling of large trafficking organizations, which will have a significant impact on the flow of cocaine into North America and on drug-related corruption in Mexico. The Government of Mexico has continued its efforts to reorganize the Office of the Attorney-General in order to strengthen its capacity.

297. The Government of the United States has evaluated the extent to which the goals of the 1998 National Drug Control Strategy of the United States have been achieved. The Board notes that, while progress has been made in reducing the crime and violent consequences of drug trafficking and drug abuse, the objectives set with respect to the reduction of illicit drug demand have not been reached and encourages the Government to further investigate the reasons. The Board hopes that in future more progress will be made in reducing illicit drug demand, thereby ensuring that a sustainable reduction of illicit drug supply can also be achieved.

298. The 2002 National Drug Control Strategy of the United States has as its three national priorities the prevention of drug abuse, the treatment and rehabilitation of drug abusers and the suppression of illicit drug trafficking. The Government proposes to spend, over a five-year period, an additional \$1.6 billion on treating and rehabilitating drug addicts and to increase funding for drug courts (courts that deal with drug-related cases).

299. The Board notes the results of the semi-annual evaluation of the National Youth Anti-Drug Media Campaign that is being implemented in the United States in collaboration with non-governmental organizations. A study by the Government found that, while the campaign advertisements aimed at parents had a small positive impact, those targeting the youths themselves had no discernible impact. The Board appreciates the continuous evaluation of the campaign and expects that the results will be fully taken into

account by authorities in designing and executing drug abuse prevention campaigns.

300. In December 2001, a drug court opened in Vancouver, Canada, where non-violent drug abusers charged with possession of and trafficking in cocaine and heroin under the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act of Canada are offered judicial supervision, multiphase treatment for their dependency and a range of other community support services as an alternative to imprisonment. Drug courts have operated for some years in the United States and preliminary findings have shown that such courts can be effective in directing non-violent drug offenders to treatment.

Cultivation, production, trafficking and abuse

Narcotic drugs

301. Cannabis remains the most common drug of abuse in Canada, Mexico and the United States and is widely available in all three countries. The hydroponic cultivation of cannabis continues to be a problem in Canada and the United States. Canadian companies continue to sell over the Internet cannabis seeds and paraphernalia for growing cannabis. A significant portion of the cannabis produced in Canada is smuggled into the United States. The seventh national survey of attitudes on substance abuse in the United States revealed that, for the first time, a higher percentage of teenagers surveyed in the United States found cannabis easier to buy than both cigarettes and beer. At the same time, the percentage of teenagers reporting having tried cannabis increased from 21 per cent to 25 per cent.

302. The Board notes that, in several states in the United States, discussions on liberalizing or legalizing cannabis continue. The Board appreciates that the Government continues to ensure that national laws in line with the international drug control treaties are enforced in all states.

303. In the United States, a study conducted by the Government found that first abuse of cannabis before age 15 is associated with a greater risk of illicit drug dependence or abuse at age 26 or older. In comparison with adults who had started abusing cannabis at age 21 or older, adults who had first abused cannabis before age 15 were six times as likely to be dependent on other illicit drugs such as cocaine and heroin. The

Board reminds Governments of the need for drug abuse prevention efforts that specifically target adolescents.

304. The Board is concerned that the Senate Special Committee on Illegal Drugs of Canada, in a report issued in September 2002, proposed to amend the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act by introducing a criminal exemption and regulatory scheme for the production, possession and distribution of cannabis for non-medical purposes. The Board trusts that the Government of Canada will act in accordance with its obligations under the international drug control treaties.

305. Cocaine is smuggled primarily into North America via Central America and the Caribbean, Haiti and Jamaica being used as the two main trans-shipment points for illicit consignments transported by air. In addition, Canadian trafficking groups smuggle Canadian cannabis into the United States and often return with cocaine shipments. The purity level of cocaine in the United States declined from 86 per cent in 1998 to 78 per cent in 2001, according to an analysis of samples of cocaine that had been seized from traffickers or bought from street dealers.

306. While cocaine abuse had been stable or declining in the United States for some years, the 2001 National Household Survey on Drug Abuse showed that it has increased slightly. In Mexico, the abuse of cocaine has increased considerably over the past decade, the lifetime prevalence of cocaine abuse having increased from 1 per cent to 5.2 per cent among secondary school students. The number of cocaine abusers in Mexico has remained at a much lower level than in Canada and the United States.

307. The Government of Mexico has continued its campaign to eradicate a significant portion of the illicit opium poppy cultivation in that country. The heroin found on illicit markets in North America is primarily of Colombian origin, but Mexican and Asian heroin continues to account for an important share. Among young heroin abusers in the United States, there has been a continuation of the trend whereby fewer young heroin abusers are injecting heroin and more of them are sniffing or inhaling the substance.

308. There are indications of the illicit use of prescriptions for semi-synthetic narcotic drugs, particularly oxycodone and hydrocodone, in the United States. In chat rooms on the Internet, there are

discussions on how those substances can be purchased for non-medical use. The Board encourages relevant national authorities to introduce prescription monitoring programmes that require pharmacies to report all data on prescriptions to a state agency. Currently, only 17 states in the United States have such programmes, but those states have the lowest number of diversion problems. According to the National Household Survey on Drug Abuse of the United States, the number of persons reporting use of oxycodone for non-medical purposes at least once in their lifetime increased fourfold from 1999 to 2001 and was estimated at 957,000 in 2001.

Psychotropic substances

309. Methamphetamine continues to be manufactured in large quantities in North America. In the United States, nine large facilities used for the illicit manufacture of methamphetamines were dismantled in January 2002. Trafficking in pseudoephedrine, an essential chemical for the illicit manufacture of methamphetamine, continues along the United States-Canadian border. Pseudoephedrine is being diverted from companies that licitly import that chemical into Canada. In 2001, customs authorities of the United States seized more than 111 million pseudoephedrine tablets on that country's border with Canada. In June 2002, a consignment of 5 tons of pseudoephedrine was intercepted by the United States customs authorities. Methamphetamine is also smuggled into the United States out of Mexico.

310. The abuse of methamphetamine in the United States remains widespread, partly because of the erroneous belief that the drug is a "safe alternative to cocaine". The Drug Enforcement Administration of the United States has therefore launched a campaign aimed at increasing awareness of the consequences of methamphetamine abuse. In Mexico, admissions to treatment services show that the abuse of amphetamine-type stimulants has been increasing in recent years.

311. The abuse of MDMA (Ecstasy) in the United States continues to increase among teenagers, although the rate of increase is beginning to decline. The abuse of MDMA (Ecstasy) first began to rise sharply in 1999. The number of persons reporting that they had ever tried MDMA (Ecstasy) rose from 6.5 million in 2000 to 8.1 million in 2001, an increase of 24 per cent. The

number of MDMA (Ecstasy) tablets seized in Canada totalled over 1.8 million in 2001 and over 2 million in 2000, a fivefold increase from 1999. Although the bulk of the MDMA (Ecstasy) is smuggled into the region out of Western Europe, the substance is also manufactured in clandestine laboratories in Canada and the United States.

312. In the United States, law enforcement authorities are concerned about the increasing number of children who are exposed to illicit drug activities in their homes and who suffer through the neglect of parents, guardians or others who engage in activities involving illicit drugs. Children are exposed to toxic chemicals in clandestine laboratories used to manufacture methamphetamine. In 2001, 2,028 children were found at seized methamphetamine laboratory sites in the United States, more than double the number found at such sites in 1999.

313. Following the terrorist attacks of 11 September 2001, the number of new prescriptions for benzodiazepines in the United States increased by 11 per cent between September and October 2001. The number of such prescriptions rose by 23 per cent in New York and by 14 per cent in Washington, D.C.

Other substances

314. The amount of khat seized in the United States more than doubled from 1996 to 2001: 17.6 tons were seized in 1996 and 37.2 tons were seized in 2001. The abuse of khat appears to be limited to East African communities in the United States.

315. Health Canada issued a stop order for all products containing kava, a herb grown in Pacific Island States, after a safety assessment concluded that there was insufficient evidence supporting its safe use. Kava is found in herbal or homeopathic preparations and has been reported to be used as a treatment for anxiety, insomnia and similar conditions.

South America

Major developments

316. The drug problem in South America, particularly in the countries in the Andean subregion, is increasingly being linked to political issues and national security issues. In Colombia, guerrilla and

paramilitary groups not only provide protection to drug traffickers for a fee, but also control drug trafficking and laboratories for illicit drug manufacture in many parts of the country; in addition, the groups are exchanging illicit drugs for firearms. In Peru, the Government is concerned that insurgency groups that had been disbanded may be regrouping and liaising with drug traffickers in a similar fashion. Ecuador, Peru and Venezuela are concerned that Colombian insurgency groups may be entering their territories, bringing with them their drug trafficking activities.

317. Efforts by Governments of countries in South America to combat such groups are being combined with the efforts of other members of the international community, led by the Government of the United States, in the global war against terrorism; that has had a marked effect on the level and nature of the assistance that countries receive for combating the illicit drug trade. Although alternative development and drug abuse prevention and treatment are still important parts of national drug control strategies in South America, the emphasis in some countries in the region is on law enforcement and suppression, in which military forces have come to play a key role.

318. Plan Colombia, with the support of the United States, continues to be the single most significant effort aimed at reducing the illicit drug supply in South America. Action taken within the framework of Plan Colombia has been coordinated with similar action taken in other countries in the region. The Andean initiative covers Bolivia, Brazil, Ecuador, Panama, Peru and Venezuela. The United States provides to countries in South America not only significant financial assistance, but also assistance in kind, such as training and equipment.

Treaty adherence

319. The Board welcomes the accession of Guyana to the 1961 Convention in July 2002. All States in South America are now parties to the 1961 Convention, the 1971 Convention and the 1988 Convention.

Regional cooperation

320. CICAD continues to be the main body for regional cooperation among countries in South America, although there has also been significant cooperation among members of the Andean Community. There continues to be bilateral

cooperation between countries in South America and countries in Central America and the Caribbean and in North America. The United States remains the most important bilateral partner, contributing financial, technical and human resources to drug control efforts in South America.

321. The Board appreciates that the countries in the Andean subregion have cooperated in strengthening institutions in their national drug control systems, for example by planning subregional seminars. They have agreed to establish a mechanism for cooperation in the control of trade in chemical substances and for coordinated operations involving the International Criminal Police Organization (Interpol) and national law enforcement and customs authorities aimed at the detection of chemical substances.

322. Bilateral cooperation involving Colombia and other countries in combating illicit drug activities has been of particular importance, especially cooperation with Ecuador, Peru and Venezuela in the area of border control and with Ecuador in the area of illicit crop eradication. A high-level security and judicial cooperation mechanism was agreed upon by Colombia and Peru in order to strengthen efforts to combat drug trafficking, terrorism and firearms trafficking. There has been close bilateral cooperation among several countries in the region involving judicial matters, including extradition.

323. The Board notes with satisfaction the establishment in Buenos Aires of a secretariat for the Financial Action Task Force of South America against Money Laundering (GAFISUD). The secretariat will act as coordinator and organizer of training in countering money-laundering in the region. The Board also notes the continued implementation by GAFISUD of its mutual evaluation programme, which has contributed to the identification of ways to strengthen efforts to counter money-laundering.

National legislation, policy and action

324. Venezuela has created a drug task force to carry out criminal investigations and gather and analyse intelligence, with a view to enhancing its law enforcement efforts against drug trafficking. The Board encourages the Government of Venezuela to adopt and implement the Organized Crime Bill and the amendments to the national narcotic and psychotropic drug law in order to conduct interdiction operations,

combat money-laundering and control precursor chemicals in a more effective manner.

325. In Paraguay, a new law enforcement unit was created in 2001 for the interdiction of cocaine trafficking in the Chaco area, in the western part of the country. The Board encourages the Government of Paraguay to finalize the adoption of and implement reform concerning the drug control law that will improve the ability of competent authorities to investigate and prosecute drug traffickers.

326. Ecuador is revising its national drug control law in order to resolve some shortcomings regarding the control of precursor chemicals and the prosecution of drug trafficking cases. The Government of Ecuador has increased financial and human resources for drug law enforcement and has obtained foreign assistance for the improvement of border and customs controls.

327. The Board notes with satisfaction that, in August 2002, the Government of Colombia issued a decree on the development of a new law to replace the 1996 law on the confiscation of assets, which has not yielded the expected results.

328. During 2001 and the first half of 2002, Colombia took important steps in the development of its policy for the reduction of illicit drug demand. The steps include the formal establishment of a State programme addressing drug abuse; the issue of a resolution by the Ministry of Health for the regulation of centres for the treatment and rehabilitation of drug abusers, with a view to improving the quality of the technical, scientific and administrative work of those centres; and the creation of a system for the evaluation of drug abuse treatment centres. The Board urges the Government of Colombia to update its 1996 general evaluation of the drug abuse situation in the country.

329. Aerial fumigation continues to be used for the eradication of mainly large-scale illicit cultivation of coca bush and opium poppy. In its report for 2001,⁴⁸ the Board expressed its hope that the Government of Colombia would make an adequate and balanced assessment of the environmental and health impact of aerial fumigation. The Government of Colombia studied the issue and concluded that neither the herbicide used nor the way in which it is applied poses serious risks to the environment or human beings. The Government stated that the aerial eradication programme is one of the pillars of its national drug

control programme and that the eradication programme will be extended and strengthened in the coming year. In order to deal with the environmental impact of illicit crops on protected areas, Colombia is implementing its environmental management plan for illicit crop eradication and is seeking to strengthen the Ministry of the Environment. The Board is looking forward to the evaluation of the national alternative development plan (PLANTE) of Colombia.

330. The Board notes the motion in the Peruvian congress to ask the Government to support the idea of changing the status of coca leaf in the 1961 Convention. The Board is of the view that any action that might be taken should take into consideration the strict control required over the production of coca leaf, as coca leaf is the raw material used for the manufacture of cocaine.

331. The Board welcomes the measures that have already been taken by the Government of Chile since the Board sent a mission to that country in June 2001; those measures have been taken in order to strengthen mechanisms for precursor control in Chile with a view to preventing diversion and facilitating the detection and prosecution of cases involving the diversion of precursors. Chile has established a schedule for the development and establishment of a new system for identifying the legitimate needs of the national industry for precursor chemicals and for the establishment of a licensing system for the import and export of precursor chemicals and for their domestic manufacture and distribution. The Board urges the Government to continue working on the development of its new system for precursor control. The adequate control of precursor chemicals in Chile is vital to efforts to prevent the diversion or smuggling of such chemicals to be used for illicit drug manufacture. The Board encourages the member States of the Common Market of the Southern Cone (MERCOSUR) to continue to be on the alert for cases involving misuse of the free trade system by traffickers of drugs and precursor chemicals.

332. The Board notes with satisfaction that, in Chile, nearly 200 centres for drug abuse treatment have been established and/or strengthened and drug abuse prevention programmes for schools have been implemented throughout the country.

Cultivation, production, manufacture, trafficking and abuse

Narcotic drugs

333. Colombia continues to be the main source of illicit drugs, in particular cocaine and heroin, smuggled into North America and is also the source of cocaine smuggled into Europe. Drug trafficking organizations pose a significant threat to public order in most countries in which they are based, particularly in the countries of the Andean subregion and in Brazil, while drug abuse appears to be increasing throughout South America.

334. The cultivation and abuse of cannabis continue to be widespread in South America. The cannabis produced in South America is mainly destined for local or regional markets. Cannabis remains the most widely abused illicit drug in the region. Cannabis is also produced in Colombia to be smuggled into the United States. All the countries in South America have reported cannabis seizures; together, they account for approximately 8 per cent of global seizures of cannabis herb. Of all the seizures of cannabis in South American countries Brazil accounted for one half and Colombia for approximately one fourth. Those two countries were followed by Paraguay, Argentina, Ecuador and Venezuela, which also ranked among the top 20 countries in the world in terms of seizures of cannabis herb. Paraguay has experienced a significant increase in the illicit cultivation and abuse of cannabis, as well as in the smuggling of cannabis into other countries.

335. Government efforts to eradicate illicit coca bush cultivation in Bolivia and Peru were highly successful until 2000; since then, however, there have been mixed results. On the one hand, in both countries, those efforts have met with opposition from small farmers growing coca bush; thus, the rate of eradication has slowed and the areas under coca bush cultivation have increased slightly in Bolivia and barely decreased in Peru. On the other hand, voluntary eradication has continued (over 9,000 hectares of coca bush were eradicated in the Chapare area in Bolivia in the first six months of 2001 and over 6,000 hectares of coca bush were eradicated in Peru in 2001) and alternative development programmes continue to be implemented. Prices for coca leaf remained high during 2001 and 2002 and, for small farmers growing coca bush, were

an added incentive to replant. Illegal coca markets have remained active in the Andean subregion.

336. According to the Integrated System for Illicit Crop Monitoring (SIMCI) of Colombia, in 2001, Colombia witnessed, for the first time in many years, a decrease in the total area under illicit coca bush cultivation (from 163,000 hectares in 2000 to 144,000 hectares in 2001), the result of a combination of factors such as the aerial fumigation programme, voluntary manual eradication and higher farm-gate prices for several licit crop products. That is a significant achievement for Colombia, where most of the world's coca leaf is illicitly produced and most of the world's cocaine is manufactured. Experience has shown, however, that eradicating coca bush cultivation in one country may result in it emerging, reoccurring or increasing in other countries. Bolivia and Peru are countries in which such a development is a matter of particular concern. Small-scale coca bush cultivation has been detected in Ecuador and Venezuela.

337. Cocaine is manufactured in Colombia from coca paste produced locally and from coca leaf and coca paste smuggled out of Bolivia and Peru. Drug traffickers have based their activities in areas of Colombia controlled by insurgency groups, in particular in the southern part of the country, along its border with Ecuador and Peru, and in the north-eastern part of Colombia, along its border with Venezuela. Despite difficulties in accessing those areas, law enforcement authorities in Colombia have continued to intensify their efforts against illicit drug manufacture and trafficking, as evidenced by the seizure of over 1,500 illicit drug laboratories and the destruction of 55 clandestine runways in the country in 2001.

338. The eradication of coca bush and seizures of cocaine laboratories in Ecuador and Venezuela in 2001 indicate that illicit drug manufacture and trade in Colombia spread to neighbouring countries. Brazil and Venezuela are used as major trans-shipment areas for consignments of illicit drugs originating in Colombia and destined for the United States and countries in Europe. Illicit drug consignments are hidden mostly in container shipments. It appears that individual carriers ("mules") are used more frequently to transport illicit drug consignments to Europe than to the United States. Brazil and Venezuela are also the source of significant quantities of precursor chemicals diverted to Colombia.

Ecuador is the main transit country used for smuggling drugs across the Pacific.

339. Countries bordering Bolivia and Peru are also affected significantly by the cocaine trade. Argentina and Chile continue to be vulnerable to the cocaine transit traffic and the diversion or smuggling of precursor chemicals; a number of cocaine laboratories were seized in those two countries in 2000 and 2001. In Argentina, more than 90 tons of coca leaf and 350,000 litres of precursor chemicals were seized in 2001. The cocaine transit traffic in Paraguay appears to have increased. In Uruguay, the authorities have expressed concern that that country may be included in new routes for smuggling cocaine as a result of increased interdiction efforts in the Andes related to Plan Colombia.

340. Most of the cocaine manufactured in Colombia is mainly transported by ship in containers, although other means of transporting Colombian cocaine, such as "go-fast" boats on the Caribbean routes and fishing boats on the Pacific routes continue to be popular. South America accounts for more than 40 per cent of all the cocaine seizures made in the world. Of the cocaine seizures made in South America, Colombia accounts for approximately 70 per cent and Peru and Venezuela each accounts for approximately 8 per cent. Those three countries were followed by Bolivia, Brazil, Ecuador, Argentina and Chile, which also ranked among the top 20 countries in the world in terms of cocaine seizures.

341. The abuse of cocaine and its derivatives remains a problem in transit countries in South America, above all in Argentina, Brazil and Chile. In view of the significant manufacture of cocaine in Colombia, the Board welcomes the recently conducted national survey of psychoactive substance abuse among youth, which provided some up-to-date information for the evaluation of drug abuse in that country, thus contributing to the formulation of measures to reduce illicit drug demand. Brazil continues to promote demand reduction programmes, including in the area of drug abuse prevention, in border areas affected by drug trafficking.

342. The total area under illicit opium poppy cultivation in Colombia is larger than that of any other country outside of Asia. Intensified efforts to eradicate illicit opium poppy cultivation in that country contributed to a significant decrease in the total area

under such cultivation in 2001. Illicit opium poppy cultivation in Peru seems to be increasing, although it has not been possible to make a more precise assessment of the total area under such cultivation. The Board therefore welcomes the fact that the Government of Peru has started to map the areas under illicit opium poppy cultivation in order to be in a better position to assess the problem and respond to it adequately. Illicit opium poppy cultivation has begun in Venezuela on a small scale. It should be noted that illicit opium poppy cultivation also began on a small scale in Colombia in the early 1990s and it appears to have spread to other countries in the region.

343. The heroin manufactured in Colombia is mainly smuggled into the United States using individual carriers (“mules”), although there is increased heroin trafficking by sea along the same routes used for cocaine trafficking. According to the Government of the United States, approximately 60 per cent of the heroin seized in the United States has been of Colombian origin. Heroin seizures have increased continuously in the last few years in Colombia, having risen sharply from 80 kg in 1996 to over 790 kg in 2001. In Ecuador, heroin seizures also increased, from 53 kg in 1997 to more than 250 kg in 2001. Although heroin seizures in other countries in South America have fluctuated in recent years, heroin seizures in the region as a whole have increased.

344. Colombia has been the main destination of precursor chemicals smuggled into South America or diverted from licit international trade for the purpose of manufacturing illicit drugs. With the help of Operation Purple, Colombian authorities, in close cooperation with their counterparts at the national and international levels, have prevented the smuggling and diversion of potassium permanganate. Samples of cocaine seized in the United States and other countries show lower levels of cocaine oxidation than when Operation Purple started. There is increasing evidence that drug traffickers in Colombia are also manufacturing their own potassium permanganate. During 2001, Colombian authorities seized increasing quantities of precursors, in addition to 10 clandestine laboratories, used for the illicit manufacture of potassium permanganate. Seizures of acetic anhydride, used for the manufacture of heroin, also increased in 2001 as a result of the implementation of Operation Topaz. Drug traffickers in Colombia are also recycling

more of the precursor chemicals used in illicit drug manufacture.

345. The Board encourages countries in South America to pay continued attention to areas that offer drug traffickers opportunities to divert all types of precursor chemicals—that is, not only international trade in potassium permanganate and acetic anhydride, but also the controls over other chemicals (such as solvents) that may be used for illicit drug manufacture.

Psychotropic substances

346. In South America, seizures of methamphetamine and hallucinogens, including MDMA (Ecstasy), were reported in Brazil, Colombia, Suriname, Uruguay and Venezuela. Suriname continues to be used as a gateway for smuggling European MDMA (Ecstasy), mainly originating in the Netherlands, into South America and onwards to North America, mostly by air, using individual carriers (“mules”). In Colombia, a large MDMA (Ecstasy) laboratory was seized in 1999 and another was seized in May 2002, indicating that illicit drug manufacturers and traffickers in that country are diversifying their operations.

Missions

347. The Board reviewed the follow-up made by the Government of Brazil to recommendations of the Board pursuant to its mission to that country in 1999. The Board had repeatedly expressed its concerns about the problems of drug control in Brazil and of the Government’s reporting to the Board in line with the international drug control conventions.

348. The Board acknowledges Brazil’s efforts to carry out various actions to address drug trafficking and abuse and to comply fully with the provisions of the international drug control treaties. A number of legislative changes have recently come into effect to improve controls over narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and precursors. In December 2001, a national anti-drug policy was adopted and a national drug information observatory was to be established during 2002. A survey of the prevalence of drug abuse in 107 major cities in Brazil was completed in 2002.

349. The Board notes the active participation of the Government of Brazil in regional law enforcement programmes against trafficking in drugs and precursors. The Board welcomes improvements in the

Government's submission of data on narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, which were received in 2002 in a timely manner. The Board trusts that the Government will continue efforts to coordinate its various drug control activities.

350. The Board sent a mission to Guyana in July 2002. In the same month, Guyana acceded to the 1961 Convention as amended by the 1972 Protocol, thus becoming a party to each of the three international drug control treaties. The Board welcomes the accession of Guyana to the 1961 Convention in its amended form, as that move will further enhance the control over narcotic drugs and help to ensure that those substances are not diverted into illicit channels.

351. Guyana has adopted comprehensive drug control legislation and has developed a national drug control policy. The Board encourages the Government to strengthen the National Anti-Narcotic Commission in order to enable it to carry out its functions of coordination, monitoring and review. While Guyana has systems in place for the control of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, the Board invites the Government to further develop its control system for chemicals, in order to prevent the country from being used for the diversion of precursors for illicit drug manufacture.

352. A mission of the Board visited Suriname in July 2002 as follow-up to its mission to that country in 1998. While the nature and extent of drug abuse in that country have not yet been assessed, it appears that cannabis cultivation and abuse, in addition to the abuse of crack cocaine, are widespread.

353. Drug trafficking routes that lead from Colombia and Venezuela through Suriname appear to have gained in importance. The Board encourages the Government of Suriname to further streamline coordination and information-sharing among its national government agencies and the authorities of the countries along the drug trafficking routes. High priority should be given to securing adequate resources for the National Anti-Drug Council of Suriname and the national agencies involved in drug control. More cooperation is required with the authorities of the countries into which the drugs are being smuggled.

354. The Board trusts that the revised National Anti-Drug Strategy will be finalized and adopted without delay and that Suriname will soon have the legislation

and mechanisms necessary to counter money-laundering and to prevent the diversion of chemicals.

C. Asia

East and South-East Asia

Major developments

355. As a result of intensive law enforcement action and continuing efforts in alternative development and illicit crop eradication, illicit opium production in East and South-East Asia has decreased further. In particular, illicit opium poppy cultivation and illicit opium production in the Lao People's Democratic Republic and Myanmar have followed the downward trend of the previous five years. In Myanmar, it was reported that, in 2002, eradication efforts alone reduced by about 7 per cent the total area under illicit opium poppy cultivation, thus contributing significantly to the general decline in such cultivation in that country. Also, in the Lao People's Democratic Republic, the total area under illicit opium poppy cultivation decreased from 2001 to 2002. Thailand, with its continuing highland development programmes and sustained measures against illicit opium poppy cultivation, is no longer a major source of opium and heroin. Viet Nam has also significantly reduced its illicit opium poppy cultivation in the past decade; in that country, the level of such cultivation has become insignificant.

356. Because opium poppy cultivation has resumed at a relatively high level in Afghanistan, Myanmar has again become the second largest producer of illicit opium in the world, its opium production levels having decreased by some 50 per cent since 1996. In general seizures of opiates have been stable or declining in countries in South-East Asia, the exception being China, where increased seizures reflect both a growing drug abuse problem and intensified law enforcement efforts.

357. The increasing illicit manufacture of, trafficking in and abuse of amphetamine-type stimulants, particularly methamphetamine, in East and South-East Asia are a major concern. Many countries in the region have reported a significant increase in the abuse of methamphetamine in recent years. In Japan, the Philippines, the Republic of Korea and Thailand, amphetamines (above all, methamphetamine) are the

main problem drugs. In Thailand, the abuse of opiates continues to follow a downward trend, in sharp contrast with the situation regarding the abuse of methamphetamine in that country. Japan has been facing the third wave of stimulant abuse since the Second World War.

358. Law enforcement efforts have resulted in significant seizures of amphetamines in East and South-East Asia. It is estimated that over 70 per cent of all the seizures of amphetamines made in the world took place in countries in East and South-East Asia, mainly China and Thailand. In recent years, most of the world manufacture of amphetamine-type stimulants, with the exception of MDMA (Ecstasy), has taken place in the region. In particular, the manufacture of methamphetamine tablets poses a growing threat to other regions. That is evidenced by the fact that seizures and abuse of methamphetamine have been increasing in European countries and in the United States.

359. The incidence of HIV infection among injecting drug abusers continues to be very high in the region—over 70 per cent in some countries.

Treaty adherence

360. Of the 16 States in East and South-East Asia, only 11 are parties to all three of the international drug control treaties. The Board is concerned that Cambodia and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea have not yet become parties to any of the international drug control treaties. The Board encourages Cambodia, which has completed the preparatory work for its ratification of the treaties, to ratify the treaties without further delay. The Board welcomes information from the Democratic People's Republic of Korea indicating that the authorities of that State consider favourably its accession to the international drug control treaties; the Board urges the Government to take concrete steps in that direction. The Board encourages the newly independent State of Timor-Leste to become a party to the international drug control treaties as soon as possible.

361. The Board welcomes the accession of Thailand to the 1988 Convention in May 2002. The Lao People's Democratic Republic and Mongolia have not yet acceded to the 1988 Convention.

362. The Board also calls on the Lao People's Democratic Republic and Myanmar to become parties

to the 1972 Protocol amending the 1961 Convention without delay.

Regional cooperation

363. A cooperative response to the drug problem continues to be a priority for the signatories to the 1993 memorandum of understanding on drug control between the countries in the Mekong⁴⁹ area (Cambodia, China, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Myanmar, Thailand and Viet Nam) and UNDCP. The annual meeting of senior officials held in Beijing in May 2002 assessed progress in drug control cooperation under the memorandum of understanding and agreed on measures to counter the spread of HIV/AIDS infection among drug abusers in East and South-East Asia.

364. Activities within the framework of the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) also play a major role in drug control efforts in the region. The first meeting of the task forces of the ASEAN and China Cooperative Operations in Response to Dangerous Drugs (ACCORD) Plan of Action was held in Bali, Indonesia, in November 2001.

365. A number of other efforts have been made to deal with specific drug-related problems in the region. In August 2002, representatives of Australia, China, Japan, Myanmar, the Philippines, the Republic of Korea and Thailand held a forum in Zhongshan, China, focusing on cooperation in fighting trafficking in amphetamines in Asia.

366. The Board welcomes the continued bilateral efforts to combat illicit trafficking and drug abuse, including the bilateral agreement on setting up border liaison offices along the borders between Cambodia, China, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Myanmar, Thailand and Viet Nam. Such agreements are important to promoting cross-border cooperation in drug law enforcement. Several countries in the region have already exchanged drug liaison officers, including, most recently, China and Thailand.

National legislation, policy and action

367. The Board encourages the authorities of Thailand to enact the amended Narcotic Addict Rehabilitation Act to address the widespread addiction problems in the country.

368. In an attempt to deter trafficking in methamphetamine, some countries in East and South-East Asia have increased penalties for drug-related offences. In December 2001, the Senate of Thailand voted in favour of an amendment that would make a person possessing 15 or more methamphetamine tablets a dealer and therefore subject to harsher penalties. In the Philippines, harsher penalties for trafficking in methamphetamine were introduced in June 2002.

369. The Board is concerned that three countries in the region—Indonesia, Myanmar and the Philippines—continue to be on the list of countries and territories that the Financial Action Task Force on Money Laundering considers uncooperative in efforts to counter money-laundering, though the Financial Action Task Force has acknowledged that progress has been made in those countries. Laws against money-laundering were enacted in Indonesia in April 2002 and in Myanmar in June 2002. The law against money-laundering enacted in Indonesia includes harsh penalties for those convicted of money-laundering, reporting obligations for financial institutions and the establishment of a financial investigative office. In the Philippines, the Rules and Regulations Implementing the Anti-Money Laundering Act of 2001 went into effect in April 2002. The Board encourages Indonesia, Myanmar and the Philippines to implement the new legislation against money-laundering without delay.

370. In Japan, crimes involving stimulants account for 90 per cent of all drug-related crimes. In order to deal with that and other drug-related problems, the authorities in that country have been implementing the Five-Year Drug Abuse Prevention Strategy, covering the period 1998-2000. The Board would appreciate it if the experiences gained by the implementation of the Strategy could be shared with other interested Governments, as well as with the Board.

371. The Government of the Lao People's Democratic Republic is successfully implementing its five-year plan for elimination of illicit opium poppy cultivation by 2005. As a result of alternative development and law enforcement efforts, the total area under illicit opium poppy cultivation in that country was reduced between 2001 and 2002. The Board welcomes those developments and encourages the Government to continue its efforts and further strengthen its alternative development programme.

372. The treatment and rehabilitation of drug abusers have received increased attention from Governments of countries in the region. For example, the Government of Myanmar has opened 42 additional drug abuse treatment centres at public hospitals across the country, as part of its 15-year drug control plan. The treatment centres will also contribute to the prevention of drug-related diseases such as AIDS.

Cultivation, production, manufacture, trafficking and abuse

Narcotic drugs

373. There is limited information available on the situation with regard to cannabis production, trafficking and abuse in East and South-East Asia. However, reports suggest that abuse of cannabis continues to be widespread, especially in those countries in the region in which it is illicitly cultivated. Cambodia remains a major supplier of cannabis to countries in the region and in other parts of the world. Cannabis is cultivated not only in Cambodia, but also, on a smaller scale, on the islands of Java and Sumatra in Indonesia, in the southern part of the Lao People's Democratic Republic, in the Philippines and in the north-eastern part of Thailand.

374. In 2002, as in previous years, illicit opium poppy cultivation continued to decrease in the Lao People's Democratic Republic and Myanmar. In the Lao People's Democratic Republic, the total area under illicit opium poppy cultivation is larger than in any other country in the region except Myanmar. The total area under illicit opium poppy cultivation in the Lao People's Democratic Republic is approximately 20 per cent of the total area under such cultivation in Myanmar. In Thailand and Viet Nam, opium poppy cultivation still occurs but to a limited extent, having declined significantly during the last decade.

375. Despite the significant decline in illicit opium poppy cultivation in East and South-East Asia, the region remains the second largest source of opium and heroin in the world. Significant amounts of heroin manufactured in the border areas of Myanmar continue to be transported through Thailand; however, China has become the main destination and transit area for heroin consignments, as evidenced by the significant increase in seizures of heroin in China during the past five years. Large amounts of heroin are also smuggled through China, the Lao People's Democratic Republic,

Cambodia and Viet Nam. Heroin traffickers in the region have been quick to take advantage of improved transport facilities. Australia continues to be one of the main countries of destination for heroin originating in South-East Asia. It is believed that chemicals necessary for the conversion of morphine into heroin, especially acetic anhydride, continue to be smuggled into Myanmar out of neighbouring countries, above all, China and India.

376. The geographical proximity of countries in the region to the producing areas in the Golden Triangle has facilitated the widespread abuse of opiates. The abuse of opium has continued to decline in the region. Among the officially registered drug addicts in Myanmar, the number of heroin addicts has surpassed the number of opium addicts. In Shan State in Myanmar, however, 2.4 per cent of the population aged 15 and above smoke opium daily. Estimates for the Lao People's Democratic Republic are similar. There continue to be significant differences between countries in the region with regard to trends in heroin abuse. While the number of new heroin addicts in Thailand has declined, China, Myanmar and Viet Nam have experienced an increase in the number of heroin addicts. The number of heroin addicts in the Lao People's Democratic Republic continues to be low compared with the number in the other countries in the region.

377. One worrying trend is the accelerating spread of HIV/AIDS infection along drug trafficking routes in the region. Intravenous drug abuse has become one of the driving forces behind the HIV/AIDS epidemic in the region. According to the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), HIV epidemics are occurring among injecting drug addicts in some provinces in China, the prevalence rate being higher than 70 per cent in some groups of addicts. In addition, more than 50 per cent of injecting drug addicts in Myanmar and Thailand have already been infected with HIV. Surveys show a high rate of needle-sharing among drug abusers in Viet Nam, where more than 60 per cent of HIV-positive are drug abusers.

Psychotropic substances

378. The illicit manufacture of methamphetamine has increased significantly in the region. There continue to be indications that manufacturers of heroin are increasingly shifting their attention to methamphetamine, particularly in Myanmar. Methamphetamine continues

to be clandestinely manufactured on a large scale along Myanmar's border with Thailand and in China and the Philippines.

379. Ephedrine, used for the illicit manufacture of methamphetamine in the region, is diverted and smuggled out of China and India. Caffeine, which is used as an adulterant in the illicit manufacture of methamphetamine tablets, is mainly smuggled into Myanmar through its border with Thailand; the substance is being trafficked in such large quantities that the authorities of Thailand have imposed regulations on its control in the northern provinces of the country.

380. Methamphetamine continues to be the main drug of concern in Japan, the Philippines and Thailand. The Ministry of Health of Thailand has estimated that 3 million people, or about 5 per cent of the population, regularly abuse methamphetamine, which would make that country the world's largest per capita consumer of the substance. In Japan, authorities have also reported an increase in the abuse of stimulants; the quantity of stimulants seized, however, has declined in recent years.

381. A sharp increase in the abuse of methamphetamine has been reported in Cambodia, Indonesia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia and Viet Nam. In China, there has been a significant increase in arrests related to methamphetamine. In Cambodia, the abuse of amphetamines among street children has significantly increased.

382. The Board continues to be concerned by the increasing abuse of MDMA (Ecstasy) in the region, particularly among youth. The growing illicit demand for the substance is reflected in record seizures of MDMA (Ecstasy) tablets in China and Thailand. The illicit market for the substance is reported to be particularly large in Indonesia, where a clandestine laboratory manufacturing the substance was seized in May 2002. Although the illicit manufacture of MDMA (Ecstasy) in East and South-East Asia is reported to be increasing, it is believed that most of the MDMA (Ecstasy) seized in the region continues to originate in Western Europe.

Missions

383. A mission of the Board visited China in September 2002. The Board notes with satisfaction the consistent efforts of China to implement its obligations

under the international drug control treaties. In 2001, authorities in China uncovered more than 110,000 cases involving drug-related crime and seized 13.2 tons of heroin, 4.8 tons of methamphetamine and over 200 tons of precursors. The Government of China has made drug control one of its basic national policies and has incorporated it into its economic and social development programme. China's cooperation with the Board has been productive. China has regularly provided high-quality data to the Board.

384. The Board particularly appreciates the range of measures and activities introduced by the Government of China to effectively monitor international trade in precursors and to check the legitimacy of transactions involving such substances. The Government has been playing an active role in Operation Purple and Operation Topaz. Concerns continue to exist with regard to the diversion of precursors from domestic manufacture and distribution and their smuggling abroad, particularly from some provinces of China. The introduction of effective controls over the domestic manufacture and movement of all substances included in Tables I and II of the 1988 Convention would address those concerns.

385. The Board trusts that the authorities of China will continue to cooperate with it in finding the best ways and means of ensuring the application of the provisions of the international drug control treaties throughout the country.

386. In June 2002, the Board sent a mission to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to review the situation with regard to the Government's compliance with the international drug control treaties. The population of the country has been largely spared the problems of drug trafficking and abuse. Concerned about reports in recent years that the territory of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea may have been used for smuggling amphetamine-type stimulants into other countries, the authorities have expressed their willingness to cooperate at the regional and international levels in order to address drug control issues in a concerted manner.

387. The Board notes that the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea attaches considerable importance to the control of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances. The national drug control legislation and policy coincide with the aims of the international drug control treaties and the existing

regulations appear to have been adequate. The Board welcomes the initiative of the Government to prepare a new consolidated law with a view to bringing its national legislation fully in line with the international drug control treaties, particularly the 1988 Convention.

388. The Board acknowledges the improvement of its cooperation with the authorities of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and trusts that the Government will continue to make efforts to fulfil its reporting obligations under the international drug control treaties. The Board notes the willingness of the Government to ratify the international drug control treaties.

389. In May 2002, the Board reviewed action taken by Japan pursuant to recommendations made by the Board after its mission to that country in June 1999. The authorities in Japan continue to apply strictly the provisions of the international drug control treaties. The provisions continue to be incorporated into several different laws and decrees.

390. The authorities of Japan have begun providing to the Board in a timely fashion all the reports required by the international drug control treaties. The reports show that controls over licit manufacture and trade are comprehensive and efficient. The Five-Year Drug Abuse Prevention Strategy, covering the period 1998-2002, is a comprehensive list of all activities related to drug control in the country. The Board encourages the Government of Japan to evaluate carefully the impact of the Strategy on the drug abuse situation and to share with other Governments its experiences, including its experiences in the treatment of stimulant abusers. The quantity of stimulants seized has decreased in recent years, after having peaked in 1999. The number of cases involving stimulant-related offences and the number of stimulant-related arrests have remained approximately the same. The authorities have intensified their efforts to combat the third wave of stimulant abuse in Japan, which started in the 1990s.

South Asia

Major developments

391. The subject of terrorism has come to the forefront of discussions in national and regional forums dealing with drug control issues. For example, the eleventh summit of the South Asian Association for Regional

Cooperation (SAARC), held in Kathmandu, Nepal, in January 2002, acknowledged the relationship between terrorism and drug trafficking by reaffirming its commitment to strengthening the SAARC Terrorist Offences Monitoring Desk and the SAARC Drug Offences Monitoring Desk.

392. The military interventions in Afghanistan and increased security measures on the border between India and Pakistan led to temporary disruptions in the smuggling of South-West Asian heroin into India. The Board calls the attention of Governments of countries in South Asia to the resurgence of illicit opium poppy cultivation in Afghanistan and the possibility of large stocks of opiates existing in South-West Asia. Without strict measures to reduce the illicit drug supply in Afghanistan, drug trafficking will return to its previous high levels.

393. Cannabis and opium remain the main drugs of abuse in the countries of South Asia. However, the abuse of heroin and psychoactive pharmaceutical products is also widespread. The abuse of heroin (in the form of low-quality brown heroin base known as "brown sugar") has been reported even in Maldives, a country that until recently had not experienced any tangible drug abuse problem. In all countries in South Asia, the increasing heroin abuse is, in part, the result of the spillover effect of transit trafficking in consignments of heroin from South-West Asia and, to a lesser degree, from South-East Asia, mostly destined for European countries and, to some extent, the United States.

394. Measures for the control of the domestic manufacture and distribution of pharmaceuticals containing narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances are not always strictly adhered to. In India, a legal framework, including strict licensing procedures, control provisions and severe penal sanctions, is in place but the Board urges the Government of India to ensure the effective implementation of those controls in order to prevent the diversion and abuse of drugs.

Treaty adherence

395. Of the six States in South Asia, five are parties to the 1961 Convention, four are parties to the 1971 Convention and all six are parties to the 1988 Convention. Despite recurrent appeals by the Board, Bhutan is still not a party to the 1961 Convention or the 1971 Convention and Nepal is still not a party to

the 1971 Convention. The Board urges Bhutan and Nepal to become parties to those Conventions without further delay.

Regional cooperation

396. The Meeting of the SAARC Legal Advisors held in Colombo in May 2002 recommended several measures to ensure effective implementation of the SAARC Convention on Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, including the strengthening of the SAARC Drug Offences Monitoring Desk and the enacting of harmonized domestic legislation to give effect to that Convention. The newly established Technical Committee on Social Development will be in charge of issues relating to the prevention of drug abuse and the treatment and rehabilitation of drug addicts.

397. Since large quantities of precursor chemicals are manufactured and traded in South Asia, the Board welcomes the ongoing regional activities related to precursor control in SAARC member States aimed at strengthening control mechanisms and law enforcement capacities in order to prevent the diversion of chemicals for use in illicit drug manufacture.

398. India has entered into bilateral agreements on drug control matters with 15 States. A mutual legal assistance treaty was signed by India and the United States in October 2001. Cooperation between India and Myanmar includes holding, on a regular basis, meetings at the working level on the border or meetings at the policy level in New Delhi or Yangon. India and Sri Lanka continue to hold operational-level talks in order to coordinate efforts against drug trafficking. The Board appreciates that border coordination meetings between India and Pakistan, addressing security issues, including drug trafficking, have continued to be held.

National legislation, policy and action

399. The Government of India introduced in October 2001 significant amendments to the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985, in order to make it more effective. Those amendments include provisions relating to bail and provisions for the establishment as a criminal offence of the laundering of the proceeds of drug trafficking, for the rationalization of the sentence structure, for the

investigation of diversions of precursor chemicals and for controlled delivery operations.

400. In India, draft legislation to criminalize money-laundering has been finalized; the draft legislation would impose reporting requirements on financial institutions and intermediaries and would provide for the seizure and confiscation of assets related to the proceeds of crime. While India is not a major financial centre, money-laundering activities are organized in the informal banking system known as *hawala*. Large sums of money can be transferred from one country to another through that system.

401. The Board notes with concern that Nepal has not proceeded with legislative action against money-laundering and promoting mutual legal assistance and the protection of witnesses. The Government of Nepal has also not submitted scheduled amendments to its customs act to control chemicals, and legislation on the seizure of assets or against criminal conspiracy has not yet been drafted. The Board urges the Government of Nepal to proceed with those legislative actions without further delay.

402. In Maldives, a rapid assessment survey that has almost been completed will facilitate the development of the national drug control master plan. The Board encourages the authorities of Maldives to enhance their drug control activities.

403. In India, a national survey on extent, patterns and trends of drug abuse has been carried out that includes a rapid assessment survey and a national household survey, and a drug abuse monitoring system that utilizes information from treatment centres is being established. Programmes for the reduction of illicit drug demand are carried out in most states in India, as well as in Sri Lanka, and should be strengthened in view of the rising levels of drug abuse in those countries.

404. In Sri Lanka, the National Dangerous Drugs Control Board has continued its nationwide drug abuse education campaign, seminars for judicial officers, training courses for police officers, seminars for students, teachers and parents aimed at raising their awareness of the dangers of drug abuse, training programmes on drug abuse prevention and drug abuse treatment programmes at residential treatment centres. Prison diversion programmes for non-violent addicts are also being introduced in some prisons in Sri Lanka.

405. In Nepal, despite the enhancement of law enforcement capacity and expertise, customs and border control still remains weak, particularly along that country's border with India. The Board notes with appreciation the efforts of the Narcotics Drug Control Law Enforcement Unit to cooperate with their counterparts in countries in South Asia and in other regions in an effort to identify and arrest drug traffickers both in Nepal and in other countries.

Cultivation, production, manufacture, trafficking and abuse

Narcotic drugs

406. Cannabis is illicitly cultivated and abused in all countries in South Asia. Recently, Bhutan, a country that had never reported any drug abuse problems, has voiced concern about the cultivation and abuse of cannabis, particularly by the younger members of the population. Until recently, there was no abuse of cannabis in Bhutan, even though cannabis grows wild in abundance in remote areas of the country. The authorities of Bhutan are eradicating as many cannabis plants as possible and providing counselling to drug abusers.

407. Cannabis cultivation for the production of cannabis resin and herb and cannabis abuse are widespread in India and Nepal. Seizures in 2002 indicate that large amounts of cannabis are transported from Jammu and Kashmir to Gujarat and Mumbai. The cannabis produced in India, as well as the cannabis smuggled out of Nepal and into India is mostly for domestic abuse. In Nepal, the illicit cultivation of cannabis varieties that are more potent than those which grow wild is rising, particularly in lowland areas.

408. In Sri Lanka, cannabis is mostly abused in the southern and eastern parts of the country. In Bangladesh, cannabis is also a traditional drug of abuse. In Bangladesh, apart from some low-quality cannabis from domestic illicit cultivation, cannabis from India and Nepal is smuggled into the country. Cannabis eradication campaigns are carried out in all countries in South Asia where cannabis is illicitly cultivated. The most common drug abused in Maldives continues to be cannabis, which is smuggled out of other countries in the region; however, the abuse of other drugs is spreading.

409. In India, various agencies involved in drug control work, particularly the Central Bureau of Narcotics and the Narcotics Control Bureau, continue to take steps to curb drug trafficking and abuse in the country. While the Central Bureau of Narcotics oversees the licit opium production programme and the chemical industry of India, the Narcotics Control Bureau is responsible for efforts to counter drug trafficking and for drug law enforcement coordination.

410. Controls over the licit production of opiates in India were enhanced by improving surveys during the growing season and by increasing vigilance during the period in which the poppy capsules are lanced. In addition, the joint licit opium poppy survey agreed to by India and the United States will provide a firmer scientific basis for minimum qualifying yields for farmers in India. The Central Bureau of Narcotics of India continues to tighten controls to curtail the diversion of licitly produced opium. Illicit opium poppy cultivation occurs in India in the states of Himachal Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and, above all, Arunachal Pradesh, in the north-eastern part of the country. Most of the opium that is illicitly cultivated in India is used to meet the needs of local addicts.

411. India systematically is combating illicit opium poppy cultivation by combining remote sensing information with annual eradication efforts, as well as crop substitution programmes. The authorities in India are also considering the feasibility of increasingly using an aerial or satellite-based system to monitor licit and illicit opium poppy cultivation nationwide.

412. Some quantities of illicitly produced opium, as well as licitly produced opium that has been diverted, is processed into heroin in illicit laboratories in India. Those laboratories generally manufacture low-quality brown heroin base (known as "brown sugar"), but seizure and intelligence reports indicate that some heroin hydrochloride (known as "white heroin") is also manufactured. Seizures during the first half of 2002 indicate the continuation of trafficking in heroin illicitly manufactured in India.

413. Part of the heroin manufactured in India is for domestic abuse: persons addicted to opiates are shifting their drug of choice from opium to heroin, mostly the brown variety. Another part of the heroin manufactured in India is smuggled into neighbouring countries, such as Bangladesh and Sri Lanka, or into countries in other regions, although the quantity of

heroin involved is small compared with the quantities smuggled out of Afghanistan and Myanmar. India is also used as a transit country, mostly for heroin consignments from Afghanistan that are transported through India's border with Pakistan and, to a limited extent, for heroin consignments from Myanmar. It appears that most heroin consignments transported through India are destined for countries in Europe and, to a smaller extent, for the United States.

414. Illicit drug consignments continued to be smuggled by sea, mainly on small vessels, between the southern coast of India, especially the southern part of the Coromandel Coast, and the western coast of Sri Lanka. Colombo continues to be used as a trans-shipment point for illicit drug consignments that pass through India on their way to other countries. In Sri Lanka, the conflict with the Tamil Tigers has absorbed law enforcement and military capacities and has prevented more adequate patrolling of the country's 1,100 miles of coastline. In Sri Lanka, the trans-shipment of narcotic drugs from South Asia has increased. Sri Lanka has a comparatively modest drug abuse problem, but there continues to be slight but steady increases in the abuse of narcotic drugs, particularly heroin.

415. There may be some small-scale cultivation of opium poppy in Bangladesh and Nepal, but almost all of the heroin seized in those two countries originated in South-East or South-West Asia. Both countries are used by drug traffickers as transit countries. In both countries, as well as in Maldives and Sri Lanka, the locally abused heroin is of the brown variety. International drug traffickers may be using coastal areas of Bangladesh for trans-shipping illicit drug consignments from the Golden Triangle to larger vessels to be transported across the high seas to the west.

416. Pharmaceutical products containing narcotic drugs are abused in all countries in South Asia. In India, according to the national survey on the extent of, patterns of and trends in drug abuse, the intravenous injection of dextropropoxyphene and buprenorphine, both analgesics, has been reported in many states. Dextropropoxyphene has become the drug of choice in certain parts of India, as it costs about one tenth as much as heroin.

417. In India, codeine-based cough syrups continue to be diverted from the licit market and abused. They are also smuggled out of India and into Bangladesh and

Myanmar. In addition, large quantities of codeine-based cough syrups obtained using prescriptions in India are being brought into Bangladesh. The abuse of licit, codeine-based medicines has also been reported in Nepal. In Sri Lanka, drug abusers have been favouring, as an alternative to heroin, pharmaceutical preparations diverted from licit channels.

418. The large chemical industry in India produces a wide variety of precursors and essential chemicals, including acetic anhydride, *N*-acetylanthranilic acid, anthranilic acid and potassium permanganate, as well as ephedrine, pseudoephedrine, 1-phenyl-2-propanone and other chemicals used to manufacture amphetamine-type stimulants. The authorities of India fully control access to a number of chemicals scheduled under the 1988 Convention (such as acetic anhydride, *N*-acetylanthranilic acid, ephedrine and pseudoephedrine), control exports and imports of 3,4-methylenedioxyphenyl-2-propanone, 1-phenyl-2-propanone, methyl ethyl ketone and potassium permanganate, and control imports only of ergometrine, ergotamine and piperonal. The authorities have agreed to consider controls on additional chemicals as soon as evidence is presented that those chemicals have been diverted from companies in India.

419. In Sri Lanka, the preparation of precursor control legislation is still at an initial stage. A voluntary code of conduct has been prepared, together with the chemical industry of Sri Lanka, in order to monitor the licit manufacture of and trade in precursors for amphetamine-type stimulants and to prevent their diversion into illicit channels. Rules and regulations on precursor control have been drafted by the Ministry of Home Affairs of Nepal, but they have yet to be finalized and adopted.

Psychotropic substances

420. Pharmaceutical preparations containing psychotropic substances are abused in all countries in South Asia. The problem is most evident in India, where the large pharmaceutical industry manufactures a wide range of preparations containing various psychotropic substances. According to the national survey on the extent of, patterns of and trends in drug abuse in India, benzodiazepine-type sedatives and anxiolytics, such as diazepam and nitrazepam, and buprenorphine are among the abused substances.

421. India has significantly increased its measures for controlling manufacturers of psychotropic substances and retailers and prescriptions are required for all preparations containing controlled substances. However, the diversion of controlled substances from domestic distribution channels continues, supplying the illicit market in India as well as in other countries. In Bangladesh, there have been reports of the abuse by injection of buprenorphine smuggled out of India.

422. The abuse of sedatives and tranquillizers is a more recent problem in Bangladesh. In response to that development, the sale of psychotropic substances has been brought under a licensing system. In Sri Lanka, the abuse of diazepam is one of the most favoured alternatives to heroin abuse. The Board notes with concern that, despite its numerous appeals, controls of psychotropic substances in line with the 1971 Convention and the related Economic and Social Council resolutions have not been introduced in Sri Lanka.

423. While the abuse of methamphetamine is considered to be a relatively minor problem in India, there have been seizures of methamphetamine tablets smuggled out of Myanmar. Cases involving the abuse of MDMA (Ecstasy) have been reported by the authorities of Maldives.

424. The Board notes that, in India, full control will soon be established over anthranilic acid, a chemical used for the illicit manufacture of methaqualone, which continues to take place in that country. Seizures of methaqualone have been effected in recent years not only in South Africa but also in India; two laboratories illicitly manufacturing methaqualone were dismantled in India in May 2002, resulting in the seizure of more than 2 tons of methaqualone.

Missions

425. A mission of the Board visited Sri Lanka in June 2002. The Board appreciates the commitment of the Government to fully implementing its obligations under the international drug control treaties and to following a strict policy of drug control.

426. The Board is concerned that controls over psychotropic substances in Sri Lanka are not yet fully in line with the provisions of the 1971 Convention and the related Economic and Social Council resolutions and that the authorities of Sri Lanka have therefore

failed to provide adequate statistical reports on imports of substances listed in Schedules III and IV of the 1971 Convention. The Board wishes to remind the authorities that the lack of adequate control over psychotropic substances may lead to the increasing diversion of such substances to the illicit market. The Board therefore recommends that the Government of Sri Lanka give high priority to finalizing the draft drug control legislation prepared more than five years ago and to adopting that legislation so that it may fully implement the provisions of the 1971 Convention and the 1988 Convention.

427. The smuggling of heroin into Sri Lanka has been on the increase in recent years. Heroin abuse, which was once confined mainly to Colombo, has spread to the entire country. Law enforcement authorities should continue to strengthen action against trafficking in heroin. The Board urges the authorities of Sri Lanka to take special measures against the abuse of preparations made from cannabis, which are widely abused in the country.

West Asia

Major developments

428. In Afghanistan, the political and social situation has contributed to the continued opium poppy cultivation in that country and smuggling of opiates from that country. The ban on opium poppy cultivation introduced by the Interim Administration in January 2002 and its decree on the eradication of drug crops, issued in April 2002, could not be implemented in large areas of the country. Opium production in Afghanistan in 2002 is of the same order of magnitude as during the mid-1990s. The smuggling of opiates originating in Afghanistan into and through the Islamic Republic of Iran and Pakistan has returned to the levels attained prior to the ban on opium poppy cultivation introduced by the Taliban in 2000, as evidenced by seizures effected in those countries. The countries in Central Asia continue to be used as transit countries, forming one of the primary routes for transporting illicit drugs from Afghanistan to the Russian Federation and then to countries in Eastern and Western Europe.

429. The smuggling of opiates and cannabis in West Asia undermines the economic and social stability of some countries and jeopardizes peace and security in

the region as a whole. Addressing the problems of drug trafficking must remain high on the agenda of regional security consultations in the countries of Central Asia and the Caucasus. Corruption linked to drug trafficking remains a serious issue throughout West Asia. At the same time, the Board is convinced that measures to counter corruption and to alleviate poverty can help to resolve the drug problem in the region.

430. The anticipation of a good opium poppy harvest in Afghanistan in 2002 did not cause prices of opiates to decline, with the exception of the price of opium in the Islamic Republic of Iran. Prices of opiates continued to rise in Pakistan and Tajikistan. In 2002, as in the previous year, the price of heroin on illicit markets was not affected. Opium and morphine, of which there was a shortage during 2001, again appeared to be available in more than sufficient quantities on illicit markets in West Asia, and the availability of heroin remained high. Partly due to more effective interdiction methods, the quantity of heroin seized in countries in Central Asia continued to increase in 2002. The purity level of heroin also increased.

431. Most countries in West Asia are used as transit points for smuggling opiates into Europe and other regions. Chemicals used in the illicit manufacture of heroin continue to flow in the opposite direction. Seizure statistics for countries throughout West Asia show that in Afghanistan the processing of opium into other opiates has returned to levels reached prior to 2001.

432. Because of drug trafficking activities in West Asia and increased illicit crop cultivation, the extent of drug abuse in the region is not declining. Opiate addiction rates in the Islamic Republic of Iran and Pakistan continue to be among the highest in the world. The abuse of opiates by injection has been increasing rapidly in both countries. The Board is concerned that increased drug trafficking and in-kind payments to drug couriers throughout Central Asia is leading to the rapid spread of drug abuse. There is an apparent shift from cannabis to opium and heroin as the drugs of choice; that has been accompanied by a rapid increase in drug injection, which has had serious implications for the spread of HIV/AIDS in Central Asia and the Caucasus.

Treaty adherence

433. The Board notes with satisfaction that all of the 24 States in West Asia are parties to the 1961 Convention, the 1971 Convention and the 1988 Convention.

434. The Board notes with satisfaction that the Islamic Republic of Iran has acceded to the 1972 Protocol amending the 1961 Convention and that Israel has acceded to the 1988 Convention. The Board encourages Afghanistan, the only State in the region that is a party to the 1961 Convention in its unamended form, to accede to the 1972 Protocol.

Regional cooperation

435. The Board notes with appreciation that extensive regional cooperation activities related to drug control continue in West Asia. The seventh summit of Heads of State and Government of the Economic Cooperation Organization, held in Istanbul, Turkey, in October 2002, reiterated the importance of a regional approach to preventing illicit drug production, trade and use.

436. The Council of Arab Ministers of the Interior and the League of Arab States remain dedicated to promoting regional and international cooperation and harmonization of drug control efforts by Arab countries. The Organization of the Islamic Conference provided legal training for its member States in September 2002 to assist in harmonizing national drug control legislation. The Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf (GCC) and the Economic Cooperation Organization continue to be active in fostering cooperation and coordination among their member States in the field of drug control.

437. The Turkish International Academy against Drugs and Organized Crime became fully operational in December 2001; it offered several international and national training programmes during 2002. In September 2002, the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) decided to set up an agency to combat drug trafficking in Central Asia, to pursue joint measures in investigating drug-related crime and to promote drug abuse prevention activities.

438. The Third International Conference of Drug Liaison Officers was held in Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran, in November 2001; as in the previous conferences, many countries from West Asia and from other regions were represented. The South-West Asian

heroin strategy conference was organized jointly by the Government of Turkey and the Drug Enforcement Administration of the United States in February 2002 to promote international law enforcement cooperation. Attending the conference were law enforcement officers from countries in Europe and West Asia, as well as from the United States, who considered new ways of combating heroin trafficking.

439. In the first six months of 2002, multiple initiatives were launched in Central Asia to promote cooperation in sharing information, providing technical assistance and countering drug smuggling. Those initiatives led to the signing of several agreements and protocols on the coordination of efforts among the competent authorities of Afghanistan, China, Kazakhstan and Tajikistan among others. Furthermore, a conference on judicial cooperation in Central Asia in the framework of United Nations conventions was held in Alma-Ata, Kazakhstan, in March 2002, a conference on drug abuse in Central Asia was held in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, in June 2002 and a conference on drug trafficking via the Silk Route was held in Tashkent in October 2002.

440. The Board welcomes various new bilateral agreements on drug control between countries in West Asia, such as the bilateral agreements between the Islamic Republic of Iran and each of the following countries: Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan. The Board also welcomes the continued close cooperation between law enforcement agencies in the Islamic Republic of Iran and Pakistan.

National legislation, policy and action

441. While drug-related legislation in Afghanistan is inadequate, the Board notes that, in January 2002, the Interim Administration issued a decree banning the cultivation, production, processing and abuse of and illicit trafficking in narcotic drugs. A decree issued by the Interim Administration in April 2002 confirmed the ban and provided for measures to eradicate illicit drug crop cultivation; furthermore, the repayment of financial loans with opium was made illegal. Efforts to implement the ban, which was issued after the sowing season, have been unsuccessful for social and political reasons and because of strong opposition by local leaders and farmers. The Interim Administration remains committed to eradicating opium poppy cultivation and combating illicit drug trafficking.

442. The Board notes that, in Afghanistan, a national security adviser was appointed by decree to be in charge of all activities related to preventing illicit drug production, consumption and trafficking and that a Counter Narcotics Department was created within the National Security Council to coordinate all activities of the Government related to drug control. The Board encourages the Government to adopt as soon as possible efficient drug control legislation, including provisions for the control of international trade in and the domestic distribution of narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and precursors for licit purposes.

443. The Board notes with satisfaction that the Government of Turkey has introduced stricter controls over narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and precursors to and from free trade zones.

444. The Islamic Republic of Iran has drafted a new five-year national drug programme and has restructured and strengthened the Drug Control Headquarters, giving it a regular budget, independent of the proceeds of seized narcotic drugs and confiscated assets. The Islamic Republic of Iran has also drafted a new drug law amending criminal provisions and combining law enforcement elements with initiatives for the prevention and treatment of drug abuse. The Board notes that, in 2001, a significant corruption case involving drug trafficking was uncovered in the Islamic Republic of Iran.

445. The Board notes that in Pakistan direct controls by the North West Frontier Province will be extended to the Federally Administered Tribal Areas. In Pakistan, special narcotics courts dealing with cases related to drug trafficking are now functioning and civil and criminal courts are being separated. As a result, some of the backlog of drug-related cases has been dealt with. In view of different sentencing practices of drug cases and the persistent backlog of drug-related cases, the Board encourages the Government to continue upgrading its judicial system.

446. In March 2002, the Government of Uzbekistan adopted a programme for countering drug abuse and illicit drug trafficking in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances in the period 2002-2005, which provides for the strengthening of law enforcement activities, the prevention of drug abuse and the expansion of international cooperation in drug control. The Board notes with satisfaction that the Governments of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan

and Uzbekistan have designated their national authorities in charge of mutual legal assistance pursuant to article 7 of the 1988 Convention.

447. The Board continues to be concerned over the lack of adequate knowledge about the nature and extent of drug abuse in West Asia. The Governments of many countries in the region tend to focus solely on the abuse of opiates. The Board appreciates that Lebanon conducted an assessment of drug abuse covering different types of substances. Its findings, which pointed to the need for a continued central and standardized monitoring system that includes substance abuse data collected from different settings, may also apply to other countries in the region. A rapid situation assessment on drug abuse in all countries in Central Asia except Turkmenistan has been finalized. The Board encourages all Governments in West Asia to start monitoring, or to continue to monitor, all types of drug abuse in their countries, including the abuse of cannabis and pharmaceutical preparations diverted from licit channels.

448. The Board welcomes the fact that the Governments of some countries in West Asia, such as the Islamic Republic of Iran, Jordan and Kazakhstan, have strengthened their facilities for the treatment and reintegration of drug addicts. Approximately 90 government centres offering increasingly diverse types of drug abuse treatment are operating in the Islamic Republic of Iran; the number of such centres has tripled since 2000. In Pakistan, three "drop-in" centres for persons infected with HIV/AIDS have become fully operational and the establishment of a network of centres for the treatment and rehabilitation of drug abusers is under way. However, in most countries in the region, treatment and rehabilitation services for drug addicts are still inadequate; they are mostly run by private non-governmental organizations, and most drug addicts do not know of their existence. Moreover, in many countries in the region, drug abuse treatment is only offered to persons addicted to opiates. The Board urges all Governments to expand activities aimed at the prevention and treatment of drug abuse, including by raising the awareness of drug addicts regarding the services that are available to them.

449. In view of the illicit manufacture of heroin in West Asia, the Board stresses the need for tightened precursor control. Uzbekistan is the only country in Central Asia participating in Operation Topaz, under

which international trade in acetic anhydride is monitored. The Board urges all Governments not participating in Operation Topaz to become more involved in coordinated measures to prevent chemicals from being used in illicit drug manufacture, mainly in Afghanistan.

450. The Board welcomes recent efforts in several countries in West Asia to adopt or strengthen measures against money-laundering. The Board welcomes, in particular, the cooperation between Pakistan and the United Arab Emirates to prevent money-laundering through the *hawala* system. In Saudi Arabia, the first international conference on prevention and detection of fraud, economic crime and money-laundering was held in May 2002. In the United Arab Emirates, a financial intelligence unit was established in 2001. In Israel, such a unit became fully operational in 2002. In Lebanon, a workshop on combating money-laundering was held in January 2002; in May 2002, the Special Investigation Commission released its first findings about the cases that it had identified. In view of those positive developments, the Board encourages the Government of Lebanon to take the necessary steps to withdraw its reservation on the provisions against money-laundering in the 1988 Convention. The Governments of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Oman, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and Yemen have drafted new legislation against money-laundering.

451. Because they are becoming increasingly integrated into the global economy, countries in Central Asia are vulnerable to money-laundering activities. The Board welcomes the initiative of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe to conduct a series of workshops on combating money-laundering in the subregion, beginning with those held in Astana and Alma-Ata, Kazakhstan and in Bishkek in September 2002. However, as multiple cases of money-laundering were reported in the subregion, the Board urges the Governments of the five countries in Central Asia (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan) to enact a comprehensive legislative structure to combat money-laundering as soon as possible.

Cultivation, production, manufacture, trafficking and abuse

Narcotic drugs

452. Cannabis continues to be the most widely abused substance in West Asia. In Afghanistan, the extent of the illicit cannabis cultivation is not known but is assumed to be considerable. In that country and in Pakistan, cannabis also grows wild. Cannabis resin from both countries continues to be smuggled into countries in Europe, as well as into other countries in West Asia. Illicit cannabis cultivation has increased in the Bekaa valley in Lebanon, where it had been eradicated in the early 1990s, although eradication efforts are still being undertaken on a regular basis. Small cannabis cultivation sites have also been reported in Turkey. Among the arrested drug traffickers, most are arrested for trafficking in cannabis. It has been reported that in several countries (the Islamic Republic of Iran, Israel and Saudi Arabia) trafficking in cannabis has increased. In Kazakhstan, there are extensive areas where cannabis grows wild, for example, the Chu valley. There is a risk that the wild-growing hemp will be exploited by drug traffickers. The Board notes the ecological functions of such growth and the intention of the Government of Kazakhstan to replace it with a variety of cannabis with a low THC content, thereby allowing it to be used for industrial purposes and preventing possible misuse.

453. In Afghanistan, opium poppy cultivation is estimated to have reached the level of the mid-1990s, but that is still lower than the level in the peak years 1999 and 2000. In particular, opium poppy cultivation has increased in the north-eastern parts of the country. In addition, opium poppy cultivation in the summer, prior to the usual planting season, which is in the autumn, has been reported in some districts in the south of the country. Approximately 3,400 tons of opium are believed to have been harvested during 2002. Data on stocks of opiates held in Afghanistan from previous years are not available.

454. Eradication of illicit crop cultivation in Afghanistan must proceed in line with preventive measures against such cultivation in countries in Central Asia, given the favourable climatic conditions in those countries. While the Board notes that, fortunately, illicit opium poppy cultivation in the subregion is currently very limited, the Governments of the five Central Asian countries are urged to

strengthen their capacities for monitoring and for reducing illicit drug supply in order to prevent displacement (that is, the emerging, reoccurring or increasing of such cultivation in other countries).

455. In Pakistan, the Government was able to eradicate illicit opium poppy cultivation on 70 per cent of the total area under which such cultivation had resumed in 2001 (about 1,000 hectares). In Lebanon, small-scale illicit cultivation of opium poppy has also taken place in the Bekaa valley; eradication efforts are undertaken on a regular basis. In Turkey, poppy straw from licit cultivation continues to be used for the extraction of alkaloids. No diversion of opiates into illicit markets has been reported in that country.

456. In Afghanistan, the large-scale manufacture of heroin is believed to have resumed after the events of 11 September 2001, as indicated, for example, by the detection of chemicals for the conversion of morphine to heroin at the opium market in Ghani Khel, and by the increasing seizures of heroin in neighbouring countries. In Tajikistan, the purity level of heroin from seized consignments intended for illicit markets in Europe is becoming increasingly higher. No manufacturing of heroin in significant quantities has been reported in Pakistan. In Turkey, clandestine heroin laboratories continue to be detected and dismantled.

457. No laboratories used for illicit drug manufacture have been detected in Central Asia. However, there is a chemical industry in Central Asia and large shipments of chemicals used in the illicit manufacture of drugs destined for Afghanistan were detected in the recent past. During the period 1996-1999, over 120 tons of acetic anhydride were reported to have been seized in Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. Concerned by the lack of reporting on current seizures of precursor chemicals, the Board urges the Governments of all countries in West Asia to take measures to monitor border crossings so that the smuggling of chemicals and illicit drugs may be detected.

458. Since the ban on opium poppy cultivation issued by the Taliban in 2000 and the resulting decline in the total amount of opiates from Afghanistan seized in the Islamic Republic of Iran, the amount of opiates seized in that country has again increased. However, opium prices have fluctuated, reflecting the high demand for that drug in the Islamic Republic of Iran. In Pakistan, it is predominantly morphine and heroin that are being

seized, while seizures of opium have further decreased, underlining the role of Pakistan as a transit country and indicating that the abuse of heroin in that country is more common than the abuse of opium.

459. The volume of drugs seized in Central Asian countries continued to increase in 2001, reaching 10.5 tons, more than 80 per cent of which was seized in Tajikistan alone. No drug seizures were reported in Turkmenistan. A considerable part of the opium, morphine and heroin from Afghanistan is increasingly being smuggled out of Tajikistan via Kazakhstan into the Russian Federation and then towards the west. Authorities of the Russian Federation estimate that over 100 tons of heroin enters that country each year through its border with Tajikistan, while 93 per cent of the cannabis herb, 85 per cent of the cannabis resin and 78 per cent of the opium seized in the Russian Federation has entered that country through Kazakhstan.

460. Since heroin is more profitable and easier to transport than opium, its share in the total volume of seized opiates in Central Asia continued to increase, from 75 per cent in 2000 to over 90 per cent in 2001. In Tajikistan, the share of heroin in the total amount of drugs seized in the first half of 2002 tripled in comparison with the same period in 2001. Similarly, in Kyrgyzstan, four times more heroin was seized during the first months of 2002 compared with the same period in 2001.

461. As in the recent past, a significant portion of the opiates produced in West Asia is destined for illicit markets in Europe. However, a considerable amount of those opiates remains in countries in West Asia to meet illicit demand. In those countries, drug addiction remains one of the main social problems and drug-related crime and drug addiction are the main reasons for being arrested. Drug abuse in Afghanistan is expected to increase as a result of the return of refugees to areas where opium poppy is cultivated or opium is abused.

462. In Tajikistan, the Central Asian country most affected by increased drug trafficking activities, drug abuse has increased sharply in recent years. It is estimated that there are 720 drug addicts for every 100,000 inhabitants in Central Asia as a whole, the Central Asian country with the highest rate being Kyrgyzstan (1,644 drug addicts per 100,000 inhabitants), followed by Kazakhstan

(1,110 drug addicts per 100,000 inhabitants). Opiates, administered by injection, are becoming the drugs of choice in all Central Asian countries. At the same time, the age of first drug abuse is rapidly dropping throughout the subregion, while the proportion of women among drug abusers has increased.

463. Drug abuse by injection has been identified as the prime cause of the rapid spread of HIV/AIDS in Central Asian countries and in the Islamic Republic of Iran. In some parts of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan, up to 80 per cent of those persons who have contracted HIV are drug injectors; at least half of those drug injectors infected with HIV are under the age of 30. Despite limited resources, preventive measures against the spread of HIV are being intensified in Central Asian countries and in the Islamic Republic of Iran, especially in high-risk groups such as drug addicts. Throughout Central Asia, in addition to the efforts being made to raise public awareness about drug abuse, syringe exchange points are being opened and drug substitution programmes are to be launched.

464. As indicated in the report of the Board for 2001,⁵⁰ pharmaceutical preparations, obtained through overprescription, under-the-counter sales in pharmacies or diversions from licit channels, are often abused in West Asia. Preliminary findings of an assessment carried out in Lebanon confirmed that buying pharmaceuticals without prescription continues to be easy in that country, as well as in some other countries in the region. The Board urges all the countries concerned to take the steps necessary to comply with the provisions of the international drug control treaties and to prevent the diversion of such drugs from licit trade into illicit channels.

465. The extent of cocaine abuse and trafficking in West Asia remains insignificant. However, a very large seizure of cocaine was reported in the Syrian Arab Republic in 2001. In Lebanon, seizures of cocaine effected during 2001 increased considerably in comparison with previous years, as a result of successful international law enforcement operations. An increasing number of seizures of small quantities of cocaine has also been reported in Israel.

Psychotropic substances

466. Trafficking in and abuse of illicitly manufactured stimulants (often reported as Captagon) continue to be

causes for concern in the eastern Mediterranean area and on the Arab peninsula. Jordan, Saudi Arabia, the Syrian Arab Republic and Turkey continue to report seizures of Captagon, believed to be illicitly manufactured in the south-eastern part of Europe. The precise composition of most of the seized stimulants has not been made known by the authorities. The Board would welcome reports on the content of the seized drugs, following full laboratory analysis. In 2002, as in previous years, the majority of the stimulants seized were destined for countries on the Arab peninsula. Data on the actual extent of the abuse of the stimulants in those countries remain scarce. The abuse of MDMA (Ecstasy) is a problem in Israel, Lebanon and, to a lesser extent, Turkey, as reflected by seizure data.

467. In the West Asian countries suffering most from the abuse of opiates, the abuse of sedatives and analgesics, in lieu of or in addition to opiates, is a problem. For example, in the Islamic Republic of Iran, the abuse of ampoules of buprenorphine ("synthetic heroin") by persons addicted to opiates has been reported.

468. Israel is the only country in West Asia in which seizures and abuse of lysergic acid diethylamide (LSD) and other hallucinogens, including psilocine and psilocybine, have been reported. The abuse of flunitrazepam preparations (Rohypnol), *gamma*-hydroxybutyric acid (GHB) and ketamine has also been reported in Israel.

469. The wild-growing plants of the genus *Ephedra* are found in many parts of Central Asia, most notably in Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan. While no licences have been issued for the legal harvesting of *Ephedra*, law enforcement agencies have reported an increase in seizures of raw materials and illicit home-made drugs containing ephedrine, methamphetamine and methcathinone.

Missions

470. In August 2002, the Board sent a mission to Afghanistan to continue its consultations under article 14 of the 1961 Convention (see paragraphs 185-193 above).

471. In September 2002, the Board sent a mission to Kazakhstan. The Board notes with satisfaction that the Government of Kazakhstan is committed to fighting

illicit trafficking in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances and encourages the Government to strengthen the mechanisms for coordination among drug law enforcement agencies. The licit trade in and distribution of narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and precursors in the country has been found to be well regulated. While in Kazakhstan, as in other countries in Central Asia, drug abuse has increased, the Government of Kazakhstan has taken significant measures to upgrade drug abuse treatment and rehabilitation services in the country.

472. Due to the geographical position of Kazakhstan (on one of the key routes for smuggling opiates from Afghanistan into Europe) and because of the fact that Kazakhstan is a manufacturer of acetic anhydride (the key chemical used in the illicit manufacture of heroin), the Board invites the Government to consider participating in Operation Topaz, in order to tighten further the control over that substance.

473. In January 2002, the Board sent a mission to Tajikistan. The Board notes with satisfaction the commitment of the authorities to meeting their obligations under the international drug control treaties and undertaking a comprehensive set of measures to counter drug trafficking. The Board appreciates the fact that the authorities of Tajikistan have been cooperating closely with the authorities of the Russian Federation in the area of border control, particularly in dealing with the problem of trafficking in opiates from Afghanistan. Considering the increasing amount of illicit drugs being smuggled through Tajikistan and the increasing number of nationals of Tajikistan involved in those drug trafficking operations, the country may well become a target for money-laundering. The Board encourages the Government to enact legislation against money-laundering as soon as possible. As the share of heroin seizures in total volume of drugs seized is reported to be increasing, the Board welcomes the draft regulation on precursor control prepared by the Government and urges the Government to adopt the regulation, to tighten controls over chemicals used for illicit heroin manufacture and to participate in Operation Topaz with a view to enhancing control of the movement of acetic anhydride in West Asia.

474. In January 2002, the Board sent a mission to Turkmenistan to evaluate the progress made in the country in developing effective drug control strategies since its previous mission in 1997. While measures to

prevent the diversion of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances seem to be in place in Turkmenistan, the Board calls on the Government to improve its data collection and reporting mechanisms and to share its data with international organizations and other Governments. The Board notes with concern that the authorities have not reported any seizures of opiates and chemicals since 2000, although significant quantities had been seized in previous years.

475. Current legislation in Turkmenistan, which dates from the time of the former Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, imposes many restrictions on the health sector. The Board notes that the existing procedures for importing medicines are unnecessarily complex and stresses the importance of ensuring adequate availability of essential drugs, especially in the context of the State Health Programme of the President of Turkmenistan.

476. The Board encourages the Government of Turkmenistan to expedite the finalization of the law on narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances and the health law. Furthermore, given the fact that it is becoming increasingly integrated into the international economy, Turkmenistan is vulnerable to money-laundering activities. The Board urges the Government to enact legislation against money-laundering as soon as possible. Legislation on precursors has not yet been enacted in Turkmenistan. In view of its proximity to Afghanistan and the risk of diversion of acetic anhydride, the Board urges the Government of Turkmenistan to formally tighten the controls over precursor chemicals, adopt relevant legislation without further delay and participate in Operation Topaz.

D. Europe

Major developments

477. In Europe, there continues to be considerable illicit manufacture of synthetic drugs, particularly MDMA (Ecstasy), which are then smuggled not only within the region, but also into other regions throughout the world, predominantly North America and Oceania and, to a lesser extent, Africa and parts of Asia. Although there is no estimate of the volume of illicit manufacture of synthetic drugs, large seizures of such drugs indicate that there is a constant supply and high availability. The Board believes that further

international cooperation between law enforcement authorities is necessary to target large-scale trafficking in MDMA (Ecstasy) worldwide. At the same time, Governments should enhance their drug abuse prevention activities and provide potential abusers of synthetic drugs with carefully selected information on the harmful pharmacological effects of such drugs; for example, recent research indicates that the abuse of MDMA (Ecstasy) may cause irreversible brain damage.

478. In Europe, the problem of drug abuse appears to show no sign of abating. However, because comparable national surveys have been carried out regularly in only a few countries in Europe, it is difficult to monitor regional developments in drug abuse over time. Noting with appreciation the work in that area by the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction, the Board invites all Governments to carry out more regularly comparable surveys in line with those carried out by the European Monitoring Centre, with a view to enabling them to ascertain whether their policies are having the desired impact.

479. The increase in illicit opium poppy cultivation and heroin manufacture in Afghanistan is likely to have an adverse effect on Europe, which is one of the main destinations for heroin from South-West Asia. The Board therefore calls on the Governments of European countries to continue to support the authorities in Afghanistan in their efforts to deal with that problem.

480. During the 1990s, the south-eastern part of Europe was mainly used as a transit area for illicit consignments of opiates; however, there are indications that illicit drugs are increasingly being manufactured in that part of Europe, as evidenced by the detection of clandestine heroin laboratories and cases involving the diversion of acetic anhydride. There has also been growing abuse of opiates.

481. In the Russian Federation, major illicit markets for opiates and cannabis from Afghanistan and countries in Central Asia have developed; in addition, the country appears to have become part of an alternative trafficking route leading to Central Europe. In addition, the drug control authorities of the Russian Federation are confronted with small-scale illicit manufacture of narcotic drugs, mainly injectable opiates, which is widespread in the country. The number of detected laboratories for the illicit manufacture of such drugs, however, has been on the decline in recent years, falling from 816 in 2000 to 740

in 2001. The accompanying increased incidence of drug abuse suggests that drug abusers may be turning to opiates from Afghanistan and countries in Central Asia.

482. The Balkan route, which is used for smuggling drugs through Bulgaria, is supplemented by a route going to and through the Russian Federation, as evidenced by the sharp increase in seizures of illicit drugs in the Russian Federation: Russian law enforcement agencies confiscated over 75 tons of narcotic drugs, including 3.5 tons of heroin, in 2001. On several occasions, the Bulgarian police have succeeded in disrupting operations involving trafficking in not only heroin but also cocaine and amphetamine-type stimulants. Albania and some countries that were formerly republics of Yugoslavia will remain vulnerable to transit trafficking, particularly as infrastructure such as road networks develops.

Treaty adherence

483. Of the 44 States in Europe, 43 are parties to the 1961 Convention, 42 are parties to the 1971 Convention and 41 States and the European Community are parties to the 1988 Convention. With the exception of Albania, which has not yet acceded to the 1971 Convention, all of the States in Eastern Europe and the CIS member States are parties to all of the international drug control treaties.

484. Andorra is the only State in Europe that is not a party to the 1961 Convention or to the 1971 Convention.

485. The Board encourages the Holy See, Liechtenstein and Switzerland to become parties to the 1988 Convention, which is the basis for effectively addressing illicit trafficking in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances and other activities related to illicit drugs.

Regional cooperation

486. In February 2002, the Council of the European Union adopted decision 2002/188/JHA,⁵¹ in which it requested States members of the European Union to submit paramethoxymethylamphetamine (PMMA) to the same control measures and criminal penalties as those applied to the psychotropic substances listed in Schedule I and Schedule II of the 1971 Convention.

Since that substance poses a health risk and has already been associated with some deaths in the European Union, the Board encourages any member State of the European Union that holds the Presidency of the European Council, as a State party to the 1971 Convention, to notify the Secretary-General in accordance with article 2 of that convention. The Board would also encourage the sending, by the State holding the Presidency of the European Council, of such notifications on all future scheduling decisions of the Council of the European Union.

487. Countries in Europe continue to cooperate with each other on issues related to drug control within the framework of the Pompidou Group of the Council of Europe. The Board notes that, in January 2002, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe rejected a report that suggested that Governments of European countries should adopt policies that might not be in line with the international drug control treaties.

488. The Board and the Pompidou Group jointly organized the Conference on Control of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances in Europe in Strasbourg, France, in October 2002. The Conference requested all Governments to promptly report important seizures of diverted pharmaceutical products containing substances under international control, as well as new trends in the abuse of such products, to the competent international bodies and, if appropriate, to the other Governments concerned. The Conference requested the Pompidou Group to convene a meeting of experts on the monitoring of licit use of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances and the detection of their diversion or inappropriate use. To deal with the problem posed by new synthetic drugs, the Conference stressed the value of an early warning system and invited Governments to examine emergency scheduling mechanisms and/or generic scheduling mechanisms as possible ways of strengthening present control systems. The Conference noted the importance of setting minimal standards, in the form of guidelines, for substitution treatment for patients addicted to opiates. With respect to the availability of controlled substances for the treatment of pain, the Conference recommended that authorities of countries with low levels of licit opioid consumption review their opioid control regulations. The Conference also recommended that Governments examine their medical care reimbursement systems to ensure that those systems

are not indirectly restricting patients access to pain treatment.

489. In March 2002, several Western European States, as well as Australia, Canada and the United States, completed an international operation against trafficking in MDMA (Ecstasy). The operation, which focused on trafficking by air travel passengers, resulted in the seizure of 335,000 tablets of MDMA (Ecstasy). There is a need for Governments in Europe and in other regions to cooperate more closely in their efforts to counter trafficking in synthetic drugs.

490. The drug control authorities of the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia continued their cooperation within the framework of a 1995 memorandum of understanding, proposing projects in the areas of harm reduction and enhancement of the analysis of criminal intelligence. In 2001, special attention was given to the development of organizational and operational capacities of drug law enforcement at the subregional level.

491. The Board welcomes the agreement signed in July 2002 between the Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention⁵² of the Secretariat and the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction. Under the agreement, their cooperation in monitoring international drug trends would be expanded and there would be increased sharing of information on best practices and most effective strategies and increased use of laboratory results to support early warning systems monitoring the emergence and spread of the abuse of new drugs.

492. Because of an increase in trafficking, through the Baltic States, in precursor chemicals, including acetic anhydride and ephedrine, a new Phare project is being developed to harmonize the legislation of European Union member States and Baltic States on the control of precursors. Cooperation, information exchange and legal aspects of effective precursor control are being addressed as part of that multinational project, which was initiated by the European Commission and Eurocustoms.

493. In June and July 2002, 13 countries participated in Operation Containment, which was coordinated by the Southeast European Cooperative Initiative (SECI) regional centre in Bucharest; the operation was aimed at reducing the availability of heroin along the Balkan route. As a result of intelligence-sharing and joint

interdiction efforts at land, sea and air border checkpoints, substantial quantities of narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and precursor chemicals were seized. The Board encourages the Governments of those countries to continue to enhance cooperation with each other, focusing on heroin trafficking along the Balkan route, and urges them to improve existing mechanisms, such as the ones employed by SECI, for monitoring and coordinating bilateral and multilateral technical assistance activities.

494. The Board notes that representatives of Governments or local authorities of countries throughout Western Europe have been meeting in conferences to discuss their policy approaches towards trafficking in and possession and abuse of cannabis, with a view to harmonizing policies. The Board trusts that States will continue to meet their obligations under the international drug control treaties.

National legislation, policy and action

495. In June 2002, the Government of Germany laid the cornerstone for a new action plan on drugs and addiction. The Board welcomes the fact that more attention will be devoted to the estimated 1.5 million abusers of prescription drugs in Germany, two thirds of whom are women. The Board encourages other Governments to also deal with that issue in their countries.

496. A report on the comparative merits of treating addicts with heroin and/or methadone was published in the Netherlands in May 2002. The Board notes the evaluation of the heroin maintenance programme undertaken by the Government of the Netherlands, which highlights both advantages and disadvantages of such programmes. The Board wishes to reiterate its reservations concerning the medical prescription of heroin.

497. In January 2002, the Government of the Netherlands decided to make cannabis herb available in pharmacies as a prescription drug in the form of "magistral" preparations (made by the pharmacists themselves) and "extemporaneous" preparations (made by the pharmacist for each individual patient). The Board is concerned about the use of cannabis in such forms being authorized before research into the medical properties of that drug is finalized.

498. The Board, noting the response of the Government of the United Kingdom in July 2002 to the publication of the report of a parliamentary enquiry on drug policy, welcomes the fact that the Government, in line with its obligations under the international drug control treaties, has categorically ruled out legalizing or regulating the non-medical use of any internationally controlled drugs.

499. The Board notes the announcement by the Government of the United Kingdom that cannabis would be placed in a different schedule, requiring less severe controls, and the worldwide repercussions caused by that announcement (see paragraph 220 above), including confusion and widespread misunderstanding. A survey undertaken in the United Kingdom found that as many as 94 per cent of children believed that cannabis was a legal substance or even some type of medicine. The survey also discovered that nearly 80 per cent of teachers in the United Kingdom believed that the recent reclassification of cannabis would make educating pupils about the dangers of drug abuse more challenging and difficult. Several opinion polls taken in July and August 2002 found that the majority of the population did not support that reclassification.

500. The recent discovery of attempts to divert through Albania large quantities of 1-phenyl-2-propanone and ephedrine indicate that Albanian territory is used for smuggling precursors, in addition to heroin and cocaine, along the Balkan route. The Board notes that, in March 2002, the parliament of Albania passed a law on the control of precursor chemicals. The Board urges the Government of Albania to enhance the capacity of its drug control agencies to identify the persons involved in smuggling drugs and precursors and to disrupt their operational networks.

501. In Bosnia and Herzegovina and in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, the passing into law of existing drafts of comprehensive drug control legislation would provide the legal basis for the establishment of relevant drug control institutions at the national level and for more appropriate drug control in line with the requirements of the international drug control treaties.

502. In November 2001, the Governments of Hungary and Romania introduced measures against money-laundering, making anonymous bank accounts illegal and improving the maintenance of records on bank

customers, exchange offices and other financial institutions. In 2001, the Russian Federation became a party to the Council of Europe Convention on Laundering, Search, Seizure and Confiscation of the Proceeds from Crime,⁵³ and the President of the Russian Federation signed a comprehensive federal law on countering the legalization of criminal proceeds, which established a financial intelligence unit within the Ministry of Finance. The Board notes that Ukraine, because of the “serious deficiencies in its anti-money-laundering regime”, remained on the list of countries and territories considered by the Financial Action Task Force on Money Laundering to be uncooperative in efforts to counter money-laundering.

503. According to the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction, in member States of the European Union, there are between 500,000 and 1 million drug injectors, excluding occasional and former drug injectors. While that figure represents less than 0.4 per cent of the population aged 15-64, drug injection is concentrated in communities with high levels of social deprivation and the individuals involved have multiple problems relating to physical and mental health and social and personal behaviour. Drug injection is associated with most cases of HIV, hepatitis and death by overdose among drug abusers in Europe. The Board urges Governments to pursue policies that will reduce the incidence of drug injection. Establishing drug injection rooms, where drug abusers can inject drugs that they have acquired from illicit sources, is contrary to the international drug control treaties.

504. In Zurich, Switzerland, a drug inhalation room for abusers who administer drugs through inhalation was opened in April 2002, since inhaling drug abusers are banned from using facilities that primarily cater to injecting drug abusers. While the establishment of drug injection rooms was claimed to be necessary to reduce risks to the general public and to illicit drug abusers by the act of drug injection, similar reasons have not been advanced for the establishment of drug inhalation rooms. The Board wishes to reiterate that drug injection rooms (or any other similar outlets established in some developed countries) might even facilitate drug abuse, are contrary to the international drug control treaties and interfere with obligations of law enforcement authorities. The Board therefore encourages Governments to provide a wider range of facilities for the treatment of drug abuse that are in line

with sound medical practice and the international drug control treaties, instead of aiding and abetting drug abuse (and possibly illicit drug trafficking), through drug injection rooms and similar outlets.

505. Countries in Central Europe and Eastern Europe are stepping up measures aimed at reducing both the supply of and demand for illicit drugs. Considering the significant increases in the abuse of opiates in recent years in the Baltic States, the Board appreciates that a master plan for drug abuse prevention was reviewed and adopted in Lithuania in 2001 and that similar plans in the two other Baltic States (Estonia and Latvia) are under review. The Czech Parliament adopted several new laws to strengthen its policy of combating drug abuse within the framework of the National Drug Policy Strategy 2001-2004; the new laws will address issues such as the reduction of illicit drug demand and the punishment and repression of drug-related crime. In the Russian Federation, an action plan for drug control for the period 2002-2004 was adopted; to ensure its implementation, a state drug control committee was established in the Ministry of the Interior in September 2002.

506. Hungary is in the process of amending its national drug legislation to suspend the sentences of drug abusers willing to undergo treatment. In September 2002, needle-exchange programmes and counselling programmes for drug abusers were introduced in Budapest.

507. Countries in Central Europe and Eastern Europe are experiencing a sharp increase in the number of persons infected with HIV. That worrying development has been mainly attributed to the widespread availability of heroin, the increase in drug abuse by injection among young people and the absence of effective treatment facilities for drug abusers, as well as increased HIV infection among injecting drug abusers. In the Russian Federation alone, there were more than 80,000 new cases of HIV infection in 2001. In Ukraine, 1 per cent of the population is already infected with HIV and that figure is expected to double by 2010. In Estonia, in over 1,500 cases, HIV infection was linked to injecting drug abuse.

Cultivation, production, trafficking and abuse

Narcotic drugs

508. There continues to be significant illicit cultivation of cannabis throughout Europe. There appears to have been a notable increase in cannabis cultivation in member States of the European Union, which may be linked to policies in some of those States that are more lenient towards the possession of cannabis. Authorities in Switzerland seized in November 2001 51 tons of cannabis that had been illicitly produced in that country. Illicit cannabis cultivation continues on a large scale in the south of Albania. In Western Europe, the bulk of the cannabis resin seized continues to originate in Morocco, while the seized cannabis herb originates, to a large extent, in countries in Europe, in addition to countries outside of Europe, mainly Colombia, Jamaica, Nigeria and South Africa. In 2002, as in previous years, cannabis remained the most widely abused drug in Europe.

509. The main country through which cocaine enters Europe is Spain, followed by the Netherlands, Italy and Belgium. Cocaine abuse appears to be on the increase in some member States of the European Union. In some cities in Italy, cocaine abuse is more prevalent than the abuse of synthetic drugs. There has been an increase in lifetime prevalence of cocaine abuse among young adults aged 16-29 in the United Kingdom. The spreading abuse of crack cocaine has been reported in several countries in the region; the drug is often smoked together with tobacco.

510. Europe continues to be one of the main destinations for heroin, which is smuggled into the region mainly out of South-West Asia; heroin from South-East Asia continues to account for a smaller share of the heroin available in Europe. There appears to have been a shift in drug trafficking patterns: drug trafficking along the traditional Balkan route has continued while drug trafficking along the Central Asian route has been growing rapidly, although the amount of drugs being trafficked along the Central Asian route is still smaller. Heroin seizures have significantly increased in Bulgaria, which is on the Balkan route. In 2000 the amount of heroin seized by the authorities of Bulgaria increased from 280 kg in 1999 to 2 tons in 2000; 1.5 tons of heroin were seized in that country in 2001. Heroin abuse in Europe as a whole exceeds the level reported by the United States. The abuse of heroin (by smoking or injecting) has

become more common in Eastern Europe than in Western Europe. In Croatia, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania and the Russian Federation, heroin is the most widely abused drug among young persons aged 15-16.

511. The number of registered drug abusers in the Russian Federation reached 496,000 in July 2002, up from 156,000 in 1995. The total number of drug abusers is estimated by Russian authorities to be between 3 million and 4 million.

Psychotropic substances

512. The Netherlands, particularly the areas of that country bordering Belgium and Germany, continues to be one of the main sources of illicitly manufactured MDMA (Ecstasy), which is abused in countries throughout the world. While seizures of MDMA (Ecstasy) in the Netherlands decreased in 2001, seizures in other countries of MDMA (Ecstasy) that could be traced to the Netherlands continued to increase in volume. In the Netherlands, synthetic drugs are increasingly being manufactured in residential areas, increasing the risk that residents may be exposed to toxic chemicals or become victims of an explosion. In addition, the dumping of chemicals from illicit drug manufacture may result in significant environmental hazards.

513. The chemicals necessary for the illicit manufacture of MDMA (Ecstasy) are not freely available in Europe but are, to a large extent, smuggled into the region out of China. The Board therefore encourages the Governments affected by that problem to increase their cooperation in preventing the diversion of chemicals used for the illicit manufacture of MDMA (Ecstasy). The seizure of more than 10,000 litres of 3,4-methylenedioxyphenyl-2-propanone and 1-phenyl-2-propanone, two of the main chemicals used in illicit drug manufacture, in the Netherlands in 2001 indicates that supplies of those chemicals are plentiful.

514. It is estimated that Europe accounts for some 60 per cent of the total amount of MDMA (Ecstasy) abused in the world. A survey of secondary schools throughout Europe revealed that, among the member States of the European Union, the lifetime prevalence rate⁵⁴ for the abuse of MDMA (Ecstasy) was highest in Ireland, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. Experimental and habitual abuse of MDMA (Ecstasy)

had increased in Spain. The abuse of MDMA (Ecstasy) was increasingly spreading in Eastern Europe. The survey also found that the lifetime prevalence rate for the abuse of MDMA (Ecstasy) was highest in Latvia.

515. Seizures of methamphetamine and amphetamine in Europe have declined in recent years. The European country that seized the largest quantity of those substances was the United Kingdom, followed by France, Germany and the Netherlands. One of the largest laboratories for the illicit manufacture of amphetamine in the United Kingdom, capable of manufacturing an estimated 20 kg of amphetamine per day, was uncovered in July 2002. Although most of the amphetamine seized is manufactured in member States of the European Union, Poland has been an important source of the substance in Europe: about 60 per cent of the amphetamines seized in Scandinavian countries originated in Poland. Methamphetamine continues to be illicitly manufactured on a small scale in the Czech Republic, primarily to be abused in the Czech Republic itself or in parts of Germany, its neighbouring country. While the level of abuse of amphetamine continues to be stable in most of Western Europe, the abuse of that substance is reported to have increased in countries in Central Europe and Eastern Europe.

Missions

516. The Board sent a mission to Albania in September 2002. In spite of the encouraging results achieved through law enforcement action in the country, Albania continues to be used as a major transit area for illicit consignments of narcotic drugs. In addition, attempts to divert precursors in Albania have recently been discovered (see paragraph 500 above).

517. Following the enactment of new drug legislation in March 2001, Albania acceded to the 1961 Convention and the 1988 Convention in August 2001; however, it has not yet acceded to the 1971 Convention. The Board notes that, as the necessary legislation and practical control measures that conform with the provisions of the 1971 Convention have been put in place, Albania could accede to the Convention without further delay.

518. The Board urges the Government of Albania to activate the inter-ministerial drug control committee as soon as possible and to finalize the development of a coordinated national strategy on drug control with the participation of all relevant authorities. The Board

appreciates the initiatives to enhance the judiciary and encourages the Government to ensure better accountability of judges and the court system, in particular, by preventing corruption, so that arrested drug traffickers can be effectively dealt with through court proceedings. Drug addiction is spreading and more effort needs to be made in drug abuse prevention and the treatment of drug abusers.

519. The Board has reviewed action taken by the Government of France pursuant to recommendations made by the Board after its mission in April 1999. The monitoring of licit manufacture and distribution of and trade in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances is carried out in a well-established and well-functioning system, and information on such activities has been comprehensive and precise. The competent authorities have adapted regulations and procedures related to the prescription system for pain management in order to enhance efforts to prevent overprescription and the falsification of prescriptions.

520. The Board appreciates the close monitoring of the abuse of pharmaceutical products containing narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, which has enabled the Government of France to deal with any new developments in drug abuse.

521. The monitoring system for chemicals has been brought fully in line with the 1988 Convention and the authorities of France have been closely cooperating with their counterparts in other countries and with the Board.

522. The treatment facilities for drug addicts in France have been expanded, and the problem of diversion of drugs used in substitution treatment has been dealt with by special control measures.

523. The Board notes that the legislation in France against trafficking in and abuse of cannabis continues to be in line with the international drug control treaties; however, certain government officials have expressed views that convey unclear messages to the population on how the problems of cannabis trafficking and abuse should be dealt with.

524. A mission of the Board visited Romania in April 2002 pursuant to an assessment of the implementation of the recommendations made by the Board following its mission to that country in 1997.⁵⁵ The Board welcomes the fact that the Government has, in recent years, adopted additional legislative and

regulatory provisions to bring its national legislation in line with the international drug control treaties and legislative standards of the European Union. At the same time, the Board urges the competent authorities of Romania to strengthen the administrative structure for drug control in order to apply those provisions effectively. The Board expects the Government to ensure that the national drug control coordinating committee will soon become fully operational and to adopt a national drug control master plan as soon as possible.

525. Romania is increasingly being used by international drug traffickers both as a transit country and as a country of destination for illicit drug consignments. The Board is concerned about the relatively low level of heroin seizures in that country in recent years. The Board is also concerned about the number of cases involving the attempted diversion of chemical precursors that could not be properly investigated and prosecuted because of a lack of relevant legislation. The Board urges the Government of Romania to take all measures necessary to prevent the diversion of precursors and to improve the interdiction of heroin consignments in border areas. There have been few improvements in drug abuse prevention and in the treatment and rehabilitation of drug abusers since the 1997 mission of the Board. The Board encourages the authorities of Romania to carry out an assessment of the drug abuse situation in that country and to devise appropriate intervention strategies for the reduction of illicit drug demand and the rehabilitation of drug addicts.

526. In June 2002, the Board sent a mission to Slovenia. During the last few years, drug abuse has increased in Slovenia, partly because of the resurgence of drug trafficking along the Balkan route after the end of the recent armed conflict in Yugoslavia but also because of the increased purchasing power and mobility of the population and other major developments that have taken place in Slovenia since it gained its independence. Drug abuse patterns in Slovenia appear to be similar to those in other Central European countries.

527. The Board appreciates the strong stance that the authorities of Slovenia have taken against drug abuse and the effective measures that they have taken in all areas of drug control. The Board appreciates the increased law enforcement activities carried out in the

port of Koper with regard to ferries from Albania and container traffic.

528. In Slovenia, the legal framework on drug control is comprehensive, taking into account all provisions of the three international drug control treaties. Cooperation between Slovenian authorities and the Board with regard to the implementation of the provisions of the three treaties is functioning well. The administrative structure concerning drug control matters in Slovenia is highly developed. The relevant government bodies and the non-governmental organizations concerned with such matters take into account all aspects of drug control. However, the Board wishes to draw to the attention of the Slovenian authorities the fact that, in order to maintain the effectiveness of the increasing number of offices and bodies concerned with drug control matters, the national coordinating body, the Office for Drugs of Slovenia, needs to be strengthened.

529. In June 2002, a mission of the Board visited the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. The Board welcomes a number of efforts of the Government to deal with drug abuse and trafficking, in particular the adoption of a plan of action against synthetic drugs and the measures taken by the Ministry of Health to implement the provisions of the international drug control treaties. The Board, however, is concerned that, since its last mission to that country in 1996, no legislation has been enacted to bring the national legislation in line with the international drug control treaties, despite the fact that such draft legislation has been under consideration for several years. In view of the increasing incidence of drug abuse in the country, the Board is also concerned that facilities for the treatment of drug addiction are still very limited.

530. The Board recommends that the State Commission on Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, which has been largely inactive for a number of years, be revitalized as a fully functional, multidisciplinary body for coordinating drug control matters. Customs and police authorities are encouraged to work more closely with the Ministry of Health, especially in border areas, to ensure legitimate trade in pharmaceuticals and chemicals is not hindered and to prevent the smuggling and diversions of narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and precursors.

531. The Board sent a mission to Kosovo, Yugoslavia, in September 2002. The Board notes the establishment of the Kosovo Drug Regulatory Authority, the efforts of the United Nations Interim Administration in Kosovo to ensure the application of practical measures for drug control in the province and the support being provided by the European Agency for Reconstruction to the provincial authorities.

532. While the Board appreciates the efforts being made by the provincial authorities, Kosovo needs a more comprehensive legislative, regulatory and strategic framework for the control of drugs and chemicals, in line with international conventions and the laws of European countries.

533. Heroin abuse appears to have spread rapidly in Kosovo in recent years, and a growing number of young heroin addicts are beginning to inject the drug, thus increasing their chances of becoming infected with HIV through needle-sharing. The international community is therefore invited to give more attention to the health-related aspects of the drug problem in their programmes providing assistance to Kosovo.

E. Oceania

Major developments

534. Australia and New Zealand continue to account for the majority of drug seizures in Oceania. Australia, in particular, remains one of the main destinations for shipments of heroin and amphetamine-type stimulants from South-East Asia. In addition, numerous clandestine laboratories in the two countries manufacture amphetamine-type stimulants for the local markets. The number of such laboratories dismantled by the police in New Zealand grew from 6 in 1999 and 9 in 2000 to 41 in the first half of 2002.

535. The Board maintains its opposition, expressed in its report for 2001,⁵⁶ on the establishment in Australia of a drug injection room in the state of New South Wales, and regrets that the project has been extended.

536. Transnational criminal groups active in the region are constantly reassessing their strategies in an attempt to avoid detection. There is growing evidence that they have been increasingly targeting the Pacific islands for smuggling drugs and for money-laundering. The Board is particularly concerned about the drug control

situation in Papua New Guinea, where serious drug-related crime is linked to general political instability.

537. There is evidence that drug traffickers have targeted offshore financial centres in the region for the laundering of illicit profits. The Board therefore urges the Governments of the countries concerned to intensify their efforts to counter money-laundering activities.

Treaty adherence

538. The Board notes that of the 15 States in Oceania, only Australia, Fiji, New Zealand and Tonga are parties to all three international drug control treaties. Those States are also the only ones in the region that are parties to the 1988 Convention. Several Pacific island States, namely Kiribati, Nauru, Samoa, Tuvalu and Vanuatu, are not parties to any of the three treaties. The Board calls on the States concerned to accede to the international drug control treaties without delay. The Board also invites relevant regional organizations, such as the Pacific Islands Forum, to advise and assist Governments of countries in the region in that respect.

Regional cooperation

539. The Board encourages the Pacific Islands Forum to continue to play an active role in coordinating drug control. The Board notes that the Oceania Customs Organisation has succeeded in establishing a secure, Internet-based communications system, the Asia Pacific Enforcement Report System, that makes possible the exchange of information to help prevent transnational crime, including drug trafficking. The Board appreciates that Australia and New Zealand continue to play an important role in supporting the Pacific islands with technical assistance, particularly in the area of drug law enforcement.

540. The Board welcomes regional and bilateral agreements on fighting money-laundering, such as the memorandum of understanding signed in March 2002 by Australia and Vanuatu for cooperation in the exchange of financial intelligence. This memorandum of understanding is part of the establishment of an international network in Oceania to facilitate the prevention and detection of money-laundering.

541. In view of the recent trends in the smuggling of heroin and methamphetamine into and through Oceania, cooperation between Governments of

countries in the region and Governments of countries in South-East Asia is essential. Two good examples of such cooperation are the exchange of drug liaison officers between Australia and China in 2002 and the establishment of a Joint Transnational Crime Investigation Team that includes officers from Australia and Cambodia.

National legislation, policy and action

542. The Board notes the results of the evaluation of part one of Australia's National Illicit Drugs Campaign, released in May 2002, in particular the finding that half of all parents surveyed declared that the Campaign had prompted them to take preventive action. The Board once again requests the Government of Australia to share with interested Governments, as well as the Board, further findings of the evaluation of its National Illicit Drugs Campaign and the International Drug Strategy, developed to complement its National Drug Strategy.

543. The Board welcomes the progress made in the enactment of legislation against money-laundering in several countries in Oceania. In June 2002, Niue enacted the International Banking Repeal Act 2002, thereby eliminating its offshore banks as of October 2002. In January 2002, the Cook Islands promulgated the Money Laundering Prevention Regulations, and in May 2002 the Marshall Islands enacted regulations that provide standards for reporting and compliance. The Board notes with concern that the Cook Islands, the Marshall Islands, Nauru and Niue remain on the list of countries and territories that the Financial Action Task Force on Money Laundering considers uncooperative in efforts to counter money-laundering. Money-laundering also continues to be a problem in Fiji.

Cultivation, production, manufacture, trafficking and abuse

Narcotic drugs

544. Large-scale hydroponic cultivation of cannabis continues to be reported in Australia. There is also significant cannabis cultivation in Fiji, which contributes to the substance being widely abused on that island. Cannabis is also grown on a large scale in Papua New Guinea and to a lesser extent in Samoa. Cannabis remains the most abused drug in Australia.

545. Successful law enforcement operations have led to the dismantling of international trafficking rings that were transporting heroin from South-East Asia to Australia and the seizure of significant quantities of heroin. Since the end of 2000, the availability of heroin on illicit markets in Australia has been considerably reduced and the number of deaths caused by heroin overdose has been declining. The Board encourages the Government of Australia to analyse carefully those recent developments and show the link between the reduction of illicit drug supply and the development of drug abuse.

546. The Pacific island States are used as transit points for smuggling cannabis, heroin and cocaine. There have been a number of seizures in those States involving significant quantities of drugs that were obviously destined for larger illicit markets in Australia and in other regions. For example, seizures have involved significant quantities of cocaine from South America and heroin and methamphetamine from South-East Asia, destined for Australia and countries in North America. Seizures indicate that illicit drugs are smuggled through the Pacific islands by air and by sea.

547. Sydney is a focal point for the distribution of heroin in Australia. The detection in Brisbane, Australia, of a large consignment of heroin from China in March 2002 is an indication of successful law enforcement cooperation and a change in the tactics used by criminal groups from South-East Asia. The prevalence of cocaine abuse remains limited in Australia, except in New South Wales.

Psychotropic substances

548. In Australia and New Zealand, seizures of amphetamine-type stimulants, in particular methamphetamine, are at a record level, confirming the growing demand for those drugs. In response to the problem, the Government of Australia has committed funds to expand the National Heroin Signature Programme to include the profiling of cocaine and amphetamine-type stimulants. The Government has also continued its efforts to target the chemicals used in clandestine laboratories for the manufacture of amphetamines in Australia. In New Zealand, the increasing prevalence of methamphetamine is a matter of concern to the authorities.

549. Large seizures of MDMA (Ecstasy) tablets were made in New Zealand in May 2002, at the main airport near Sydney, Australia, in June 2002 and in Melbourne, Australia, in July 2002. As in the past, the substance allegedly originated in the Netherlands.

(Signed)

Philip O. Emafo
President

(Signed)

Maria Elena Medina-Mora
Rapporteur

(Signed)

Herbert Schaepe
Secretary

Vienna, 15 November 2002

Notes

¹ United Nations International Drug Control Programme, *Global Illicit Drug Trends 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.XI.9), p. 64.

² United States of America, Office of National Drug Control Policy, *The Economic Costs of Drug Abuse in the United States, 1992-1998*, Publication No. NCJ-190636 (Washington, D.C., Executive Office of the President, September 2001).

³ Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development, *Development Co-operation Report 2001* (Paris, 2002).

⁴ United States of America, Office of National Drug Control Policy, *National Drug Control Strategy: FY 2003 Budget Summary* (Washington, D.C., Executive Office of the President, December 2002), p. 10.

⁵ United States of America, Office of National Drug Control Policy, *What America's Users Spend on Illegal Drugs 1988-1998* (Washington, D.C., Executive Office of the President, December 2000).

⁶ E. Bramley-Harker, *Sizing the UK Market for Illicit Drugs* (London, Home Office, 2001).

⁷ United States of America, Office of National Drug Control Policy, *The Price of Illicit Drugs: 1981 through the Second Quarter of 2000*, Publication No. NCJ-190639 (Washington, D.C., Executive Office of the President, October 2001), pp. 30 and 33.

⁸ United Nations International Drug Control Programme, *Global Illicit Drug Trends 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.XI.9).

⁹ The combined multiplier, assuming a savings ratio of 20 per cent and an import ratio of 26 per cent, can be calculated as follows: $1 \div (1 - (0.8 \times 0.74)) = 2.45$.

¹⁰ World Bank, *World Development Indicators 2001* (Washington, D.C., 2002); and United Nations International Drug Control Programme, *Global Illicit Drug Trends 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.XI.9).

¹¹ Ronald D. Renard, *Opium Reduction in Thailand 1970-2000: a Thirty-Year Journey* (Chiang Mai, Silkworm Books, 2002).

¹² World Bank, *World Development Indicators 2001* (Washington, D.C., 2002).

¹³ United Nations Development Programme, *Human Development Report 2002* (New York and Oxford, Oxford University Press, 2002), pp. 194-197.

¹⁴ *World Drug Report 2000* (New York, Oxford University Press, 2000), p. 93.

¹⁵ Francisco Thoumi, *Economía, Política y Narcotráfico* (Bogotá, Tercer Mundo, 1994).

¹⁶ "Sixth United Nations Survey on Crime Trends and the Operations of Criminal Justice Systems (1995-1997)", available online at http://www.undcp.org/odccp/crime_cicp_survey_sixth.html.

¹⁷ *World Drug Report* (New York, Oxford University Press, 1997); United Nations International Drug Control Programme, *Drugs and Development*, UNDCP Technical Series, No. 1 (Vienna, 1994); United Nations International Drug Control Programme, *The Social Impact of Drug Abuse*, UNDCP Technical Series No. 2 (Vienna, 1995); Douglas I. Keh, *Drug Money in a Changing World: Economic Reform and Criminal Finance*, UNDCP Technical Series, No. 4 (Vienna, 1996); and United Nations International Drug Control Programme, *Economic and Social Consequences of Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking*, UNDCP Technical Series, No. 6 (Vienna, 1998).

¹⁸ According to the Action Plan, though the development and implementation of alternative development are primarily the responsibility of the State in which illicit drug crop cultivation takes place, States with illicit drug