controls in New Zealand. The abuse of MDMA (Ecstasy) continues to spread.

586. GHB, ketamine and various anti-depressants have become popular party drugs in Australia. Control of GHB is of a significant concern, as large quantities of its precursor chemical \( \text{gamma}-\text{butyrolactone} \) (GBL) are imported for legitimate use. The combination of both the availability of GBL and its easy conversion into GHB means that those substances are inexpensive and is therefore a cause for increased concern. The Board calls on the Government of Australia to develop strategies to prevent the abuse of these substances.

**Missions**

587. A mission of the Board visited Fiji in January 2003. The Board notes that regulatory controls for drugs and chemicals and law enforcement are coordinated and functioning well. Those authorities also have good working relationships with their counterparts in other countries in Oceania.

588. The Board invites the Government of Fiji to establish a comprehensive national master plan for drug control. There is a need to conduct an assessment of the drug abuse situation in the country and then to establish proper treatment and rehabilitation programmes. Further efforts of the Government are required to ensure adequate availability of drugs for medical purposes through rational prescribing, particularly those for pain treatment, and to provide more adequate scientific support for drug law enforcement.

589. A mission of the Board visited Papua New Guinea in January 2003. The Board notes with concern that the findings and recommendations made following its earlier mission to the country in 1995 remain valid. There is a pressing need for the Government to revise the current drug control legislation, which has been pending for over a decade. The Board also notes that the central policy-making body, the National Narcotics Control Board, is not functioning as provided for under current laws, and a clear definition of its roles and of its secretariat, the National Narcotics Bureau, is lacking. Furthermore, working mechanisms among relevant government agencies do not appear to exist. Lack of appropriate inter-agency coordination, coupled with legislative or institutional deficiencies, have frequently nullified, or otherwise undermined, ministerial authority. The Board is concerned that such a situation continued to affect the work of various drug control authorities, resulting in compartmentalized activities and yielding insufficient or unsatisfactory outcomes.

590. The Government of Papua New Guinea should initiate, as soon as possible, collective consultations among relevant departments involved in drug control with a view to introducing necessary revisions to the current drug control laws by drawing up a consolidated bill that clearly defines the respective functions and establish the necessary working links between those departments. In so doing, the Government should accede to the 1998 Convention and introduce all necessary legislative and administrative measures to comply with the provisions of that Convention.

591. The Board also invites the Government of Papua New Guinea to conduct an assessment of the drug abuse situation with a view to introducing proper treatment and rehabilitation programmes. In view of the latest developments observed in attempts at diversion of precursors for amphetamine-type stimulants, the Board has requested the Government to re-launch its law enforcement investigations into the case of attempted diversion of large quantities of ephedrine uncovered in 2000 and transmit the findings to the Board as soon as possible.

(Signed)  
Philip O. Emafo  
President

(Signed)  
Madan Mohan Bhatnagar  
Rapporteur

(Signed)  
Herbert Schaepe  
Secretary

Vienna, 14 November 2003

**Notes**


7 See the report of the Meeting of the Group of Experts on Crime Prevention, held in Vancouver, Canada, from 21 to 24 January 2002 (E/CN.15/2002/4); see also Economic and Social Council resolution 2003/26, entitled “Prevention of urban crime”.


9 See Economic and Social Council resolution 2002/12, entitled “Basic principles on the use of restorative justice programmes in criminal matters”.

10 These courts apply restorative justice principles and procedures in diverting appropriate drug-abusing offenders from the traditional criminal justice process into court-supervised treatment and rehabilitation. Examples of best practice in establishing such courts and the success factors and principles underlying them are provided on the web site of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (www.unodc.org/unodc/en/legal_advisory_courts.html).

11 The Declaration on the Guiding Principles of Drug Demand Reduction (General Assembly resolution S-20/3, annex) and the Action Plan for the Implementation of the Declaration on the Guiding Principles of Drug Demand Reduction (Assembly resolution 54/132, annex) specifically target drug-abusing offenders and call on Governments to take effective multidisciplinary remedial initiatives.


13 Ibid., vol. 976, No. 14152.

14 Ibid., vol. 976, No. 14151.

15 Ibid., vol. 1019, No. 14956.

16 United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.XI.1.


18 Extent of competence: article 12.


24 Ibid.

25 Such codes are set up by the Customs Co-operation Council (also called the World Customs Organization) for specific commodities to facilitate the collection of trade data and the compilation of trade statistics. At the request of the Board, the Customs Co-operation Council has also set up specific Harmonized System codes for all 23 substances in Tables I and II of the 1988 Convention, which are widely utilized by competent national authorities in compiling their trade statistics for submission to the Board.

26 Operation Purple is the international operation focusing on potassium permanganate, an important chemical used in the illicit manufacture of cocaine, which the Board launched in cooperation with concerned governments in 1999.

27 The competent authorities of the following States and territories participate in Operation Purple: Argentina, Austria, Belgium, Bolivia, Brazil, Bulgaria, China, Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of China, Colombia, Czech Republic, Ecuador, Germany, Greece, India, Italy, Mexico, Netherlands, Peru, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United States, Uruguay and Venezuela. Furthermore, Interpol, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the World Customs Organization
support Operation Purple in their respective areas of responsibility.

28 Operation Topaz is the international operation focusing on acetic anhydride, a critical chemical used in the illicit manufacture of heroin, which the Board launched in 2001 in cooperation with the Governments concerned.


39 Ibid., para. 446.


43 The States represented at the meeting included the Maghreb States (Algeria, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Mauritania, Morocco and Tunisia) as well as five European States in the western Mediterranean (France, Italy, Malta, Portugal and Spain).

44 Benin, Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Côte d'Ivoire, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone and Togo.

45 Angola, Botswana, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Seychelles, South Africa, Swaziland, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

46 Law No. 80/2002 will allow the Anti-Narcotics General Administration of Egypt to keep for its use in operations a portion of the assets seized from drug traffickers who have been prosecuted and sentenced. The law criminalizes the laundering of proceeds from various crimes, including illicit drug trafficking, terrorism, fraud and organized crime. It also contains provisions on customer identification and record-keeping and stipulates the establishment of a financial intelligence unit within the Central Bank of Egypt.


49 The ECO member States include Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Turkey, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.
