

the Government that the only legal uses of coca leaf foreseen in the 1961 Convention are for medical or scientific purposes or for the manufacturing of a flavouring agent from which all alkaloids have been removed. The Board requests the Government of Peru to take steps to abolish as soon as possible activities that are not in line with those provisions.

490. The Board was impressed by the efforts undertaken to address the low availability of analgesics in Peru. The Board notes that mandatory reporting on the licit movement of narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and precursors in Peru has improved. However, the Government should increase its capacity for inspection, in order to prevent the diversion of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances from licit sources and improve the control of precursor chemicals further, in view of the continued availability of those substances for the illicit manufacture of drugs. With regard to interdiction efforts, coordination between the agencies involved should be strengthened. The Board encourages the Government to strengthen the cooperation of its national law enforcement agency with its counterparts in Africa and Europe, in view of the current trafficking routes and links with criminal organizations in those regions. With respect to demand reduction, the Board notes with satisfaction the action taken to assess the extent and type of drug abuse, to prevent such abuse and to treat drug abusers and reintegrate them into society. The Government should continue expanding its efforts to reverse the increasing trend in drug abuse, including by offering treatment services to the affected segments of society.

C. Asia

East and South-East Asia

Major developments

491. The region of East and South-East Asia is no longer a major source of illicit opium poppy cultivation. However, some illicit manufacture of heroin remains in the region, and several laboratories involved in the clandestine conversion of cocaine hydrochloride to "crack" have been dismantled. Illicit manufacture of and trafficking in ATS is increasing in countries throughout the region, such as Cambodia, China and Myanmar. Large amounts of precursor

chemicals used in the illicit manufacture of methamphetamine have been seized in the region.

492. The abuse of ATS, methamphetamine in particular, is also increasing throughout East and South-East Asia. The increasing rate of abuse of heroin and methamphetamine by injection is contributing to the spread of HIV/AIDS in the region. In several countries in the region, a large percentage of the HIV infections has been attributed to drug abuse by injection. In order to combat the spread of HIV/AIDS through drug abuse by injection, Governments are taking action at both the national level and the regional level.

Regional cooperation

493. The countries in East and South-East Asia continued to work together in the area of drug control through regional organizations such as the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), as well as through bilateral and multilateral channels.

494. The twelfth ASEAN Summit was held in Cebu, Philippines, in January 2007. Participating countries agreed to continue to take collective action to address the challenges posed by regional and international issues such as transnational crime, including drug control.

495. Task Forces of the ASEAN and China Cooperative Operations in Response to Dangerous Drugs (ACCORD) held a number of meetings in 2007: the Task Force on Civic Awareness and the Task Force on Demand Reduction held meetings in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam, from 30 July to 1 August; and the Task Force on Law Enforcement and the Task Force on Alternative Development held meetings in Yangon in July. The annual meetings bring together the ASEAN member States and China, as well as UNODC and the ASEAN secretariat, to share information, monitor progress and prioritize areas for future activities.

496. Critical issues addressed at the meetings in 2007 included ways to improve the evaluation of the impact of public awareness campaigns; the emergence of ATS as a major drug of addiction; substitution therapy for opioid addicts; priority issues related to drug abuse by injection and HIV; treatment modalities for ATS abuse as well as regional intelligence-sharing; clandestine

drug laboratory seizure and clean-up issues; and the cultivation of cannabis plants.

497. The twenty-seventh annual ASEAN Chiefs of Police (ASEANAPOL) Conference was held in Singapore in June 2007. The ASEANAPOL Conference is the regional platform used by police chiefs from ASEAN member States for interaction, discussion, exchanging views and bringing each other up to date on the latest developments in law enforcement issues. The issues discussed during the Conference included drug trafficking, cybercrime, the provision of training, the exchange of personnel and the launching of the Electronic ASEANAPOL Database System, to facilitate the sharing of intelligence among the police forces of ASEAN member States. Those police forces signed a joint communiqué that included resolutions on cooperation in regional security concerns such as drug trafficking. In addition, in order to foster greater cooperation between ASEANAPOL and Interpol, the two organizations agreed to formalize collaboration involving the Electronic ASEANAPOL Database System and the secure global police communications system (I-24/7) of Interpol, which operates 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

498. Thailand hosted the 27th Meeting of ASEAN Senior Officials on Drug Matters in Chiang Mai in August 2006. Senior officials from ASEAN member States exchanged information on drug seizures, recent trends in drug trafficking, the treatment and rehabilitation of drug abusers, the use of alternative development to address the problem of illicit crop cultivation and progress related to the implementation of drug control. Participants noted with concern the increasing abuse of and trafficking in ketamine in South-East Asia and agreed to strengthen their efforts to control ketamine through national legislation.

499. The seventh Ministerial Meeting of Signatory Countries of the 1993 Memorandum of Understanding on Drug Control was held in Beijing in May 2007. At the meeting, representatives of Cambodia, China, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Myanmar, Thailand and Viet Nam pledged to strengthen existing partnerships and commitments related to drug control. The importance of broadening their resource base was also underlined. Moreover, the sixth revised subregional action plan was adopted, including two new thematic areas: "International cooperation on judicial matters" and "Drugs and HIV/AIDS".

500. The annual study programme on drug abuse and narcotics control was held in Tokyo in June 2007. Participants from a number of countries, including Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Thailand and Viet Nam, exchanged information on recent developments in drug control in their countries. A study programme for drug control officials from the Democratic People's Republic of Korea was organized by the National Narcotics Control Commission of China in Beijing in June 2007. Six Government officials from the Democratic People's Republic of Korea involved in drug control were trained in various aspects of drug control to facilitate compliance with the provisions of the international drug control treaties, to which the Democratic People's Republic of Korea had recently acceded.

501. Japan is providing training to national and provincial authorities in Cambodia in matters related to drug control, through a project to be implemented from January 2007 to January 2009; the training includes the identification, analysis and control of drugs. Moreover, Japan, through its project for the period 2005-2009, is providing assistance in the form of improving infrastructure, agriculture, health and education in the areas of Cambodia most affected by the eradication of illicit opium poppy cultivation. China is supporting alternative development in Myanmar by providing 10,000 tons of rice in September 2006 to farmers in the northern part of that country who were formerly involved in the illicit cultivation of opium poppy. Thailand continued to provide technical training in areas such as drug interdiction and investigation for law enforcement officers in Cambodia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic and Myanmar.

502. The second meeting of the Asian Collaborative Group on Local Precursor Control and the third International Forum on Control of Precursors for Amphetamine-type Stimulants were held in Tokyo in February 2007. The meetings were organized jointly by the Attorney-General's Department of Australia and the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare of Japan. The objective of the Asian Collaborative Group is to promote the adoption of best practices in national regulatory, administrative and legislative policies and practices that address the threat of diversion of precursor chemicals in East and South-East Asia. In the framework of regional cooperation, the International Forum aims to identify and adopt measures for more effective control of precursors used in the illicit

manufacture of ATS. The meetings resulted in the adoption of a joint work programme of the Asian Collaborative Group and the International Forum calling for a regional response to precursor diversion, including the implementation of effective regulations and controls, the exchange of intelligence, cooperation with industry and the development of relevant national technical capacities.

503. Cooperation among law enforcement authorities from China, Myanmar and Thailand, which began in 2005, resulted in major seizures and an arrest in April 2006. Acting on intelligence from their counterparts in Thailand, the authorities in Myanmar seized approximately 15 million methamphetamine tablets, 1 ton of heroin and a significant amount of precursor chemicals, including 1,727 litres of acetic anhydride and 721 kg of ephedrine. Based on information provided by law enforcement authorities in Myanmar, the authorities in China arrested a person who had been under surveillance for suspected involvement in drug trafficking. As a result of the Regional Joint Action against ATS-Related Crimes initiative, an investigation conducted jointly by authorities from China and the Philippines, a clandestine ATS laboratory was uncovered in the Philippines in December 2006. Under the initiative, ASEAN member States and China identify ongoing transnational ATS-related cases, syndicates and fugitives for joint follow-up action. The investigation led to five arrests and the seizure of 30 kg of processed methamphetamine and 200 litres of liquid methamphetamine, along with a large amount of precursor chemicals and laboratory equipment.

504. Although forensic laboratories in East and South-East Asia are collaborating to some extent to improve the use of laboratory data for law enforcement and judicial purposes and for the work of regulatory and health authorities, there is a need for improvement of collaboration among the laboratories, as well as with regulatory and health authorities.

National legislation, policy and action

505. China continued to enforce its fight against drugs through the implementation of national campaigns including components such as the prevention of drug abuse, the education, treatment, rehabilitation of drug abusers and the control of narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and precursor chemicals. The Government

of China has placed emphasis on preventing heroin abuse. The Government has established treatment and rehabilitation centres for drug abusers, including 320 clinics that are currently providing methadone maintenance treatment for 38,000 patients. While the Board notes the efforts by the Government to provide treatment for drug abusers, it calls on the Government to ensure that such activities are comprehensive, evidence-based and carried out in compliance with the provisions of the international drug control treaties.

506. In Cambodia, the drug control master plan for the period 2006-2010 is currently being implemented. The plan is aimed at eliminating illicit drug abuse, trafficking and production and the cultivation of illicit drug crops, improving the control of precursor chemicals and strengthening law enforcement. Areas covered by the plan include supply and demand reduction, law enforcement, the reduction of risks caused by drug abuse through a comprehensive approach to HIV/AIDS and the strengthening of international cooperation.

507. Following the decision by the Government of Cambodia to strengthen and reform its drug control system, a new royal decree was issued on 23 June 2006 to replace the decree of 7 September 1995, on the establishment of the National Authority for Combating Drugs of Cambodia. With the new decree, the secretariat of the National Authority was established as an entity in the Ministry of the Interior with its own budget and staff. Since then, the resources allocated to the secretariat have increased considerably. In 2006, the Government initiated the Community Competitive Plan against Drug Offences. The objectives of the plan include: raising the capacity of law enforcement to prevent drug abuse by providing training to law enforcement officers; and disseminating information to raise the awareness of the community about the dangers of drug abuse.

508. In 2006, the Department of Health of the Philippines approved approximately 1,300 drug-testing laboratories, which have been utilized to analyse the results of random drug testing for employees of Government agencies, as well as students.

509. Several countries in East and South-East Asia, including Viet Nam, strengthened their activities related to precursor control. Following the examples set by other countries in the region, such as Cambodia, China, Indonesia, the Lao People's Democratic

Republic, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines and Thailand, Viet Nam has drafted a national action plan on precursor control to identify and address precursor control issues in a more systematic manner. Law enforcement agencies in Thailand worked at the national and regional levels to control the diversion of precursor chemicals, including by becoming involved in regional training on precursor control. Since 2004, Thailand, in collaboration with the Drug Advisory Programme of the Colombo Plan, has hosted and conducted an annual training course on precursor control for drug law enforcement officers from ASEAN member States, as well as China and India. The Board encourages China and India to continue to strengthen controls over the illicit manufacture of and trafficking in precursor chemicals.

510. Several countries in East and South-East Asia, including Malaysia and Viet Nam, introduced measures to combat HIV/AIDS. In order to face the problem of the growing rate of HIV/AIDS in Malaysia, in 2006, the National Strategic Plan on HIV/AIDS 2006-2010 was launched to provide a framework for the country's response to that threat. The Plan is to integrate prevention, treatment and care, with a view to reducing the impact of the high prevalence of HIV infection. One of the priority areas is reducing HIV infection among persons who abuse drugs through the provision of education, counselling, testing, medically supervised drug substitution, treatment and care programmes for such persons. In Viet Nam, the Law on HIV/AIDS Prevention and Control, which includes provisions on needle exchange programmes and drug substitution therapy, entered into effect in January 2007.

511. In 2007, the Government of Malaysia announced its plans to expand its needle exchange programme and methadone maintenance therapy to include all states in the country. Under the expanded programme, 15,000 drug abusers would receive methadone maintenance therapy and 15,000-25,000 persons who abused drugs by injection would be participating in the needle exchange programme by 2010. In Viet Nam, the Ministry of Health approved a pilot project to provide methadone substitution therapy for 700 drug abusers. The project is to be completed by the end of 2008.

512. In 2006, Malaysia strengthened its regulations to restrict the number of wholesale outlets selling tablets or capsules containing buprenorphine, midazolam, zolpidem and zopiclone.

513. In October 2006, the Financial Action Task Force on Money Laundering removed Myanmar from the list of countries and territories considered to be not cooperating in the efforts to counter money-laundering or to have critical deficiencies in their systems for countering money-laundering, as the Financial Action Task Force had determined that Myanmar had made good progress in implementing its system for countering money-laundering.

Cultivation, production, manufacture, trafficking and abuse

Narcotic drugs

514. Cannabis plants continued to be illicitly cultivated in countries throughout East and South-East Asia, including in Cambodia, Indonesia, the Philippines and Thailand. In the Lao People's Democratic Republic, the illicit cultivation of cannabis plants remains a problem mainly in the central provinces. Such cultivation continued to decline in Cambodia. Cannabis plants are illicitly cultivated along the borders of Cambodia with the Lao People's Democratic Republic and Thailand. Such plants are also illicitly cultivated in some parts of Indonesia, particularly in Aceh and, to a lesser extent, Sumatra and Java. In the Philippines, over 100 illicit cannabis cultivation sites have been identified, including in northern Luzon and central and southern Mindanao.

515. In Indonesia, law enforcement authorities eradicated cannabis plants covering 290 hectares of land in 2006; over 1 million cannabis plants were eradicated, a considerable increase over the figure for the previous two years (215,000 cannabis plants in 2004 and 188,000 in 2005). In many countries, significant seizures of cannabis were reported during 2006. In Malaysia, 2.2 tons of cannabis were seized in 2006, almost twice the amount seized in 2005. In Indonesia over 11.7 tons of cannabis were seized in 2006. Viet Nam reported having seized more than 0.6 ton of cannabis in 2006.

516. Illicit opium poppy cultivation remained at a low level throughout East and South-East Asia in 2007. Myanmar continued to be the country with the largest total area under illicit opium poppy cultivation in the region; it was followed by the Lao People's Democratic Republic.

517. In Myanmar, 90 per cent of the illicit cultivation of opium poppy takes place in Shan State. The total area under illicit opium poppy cultivation in Myanmar decreased from 130,000 hectares in 1998 to 21,500 hectares in 2006, but increased to 27,700 hectares in 2007. That is the first increase recorded after several consecutive years of decline. The area under illicit opium poppy cultivation in the Lao People's Democratic Republic decreased from 2,500 hectares in 2006 to 1,500 hectares in 2007, the lowest level recorded since 1992.

518. In 2006, over 2 tons of opium were seized in Myanmar, the largest total amount of the substance seized in the country in recent years. Viet Nam reported the seizure of a total of 184 kg of opium in 2006, more than triple the amount seized in 2005; the majority of the seizures occurred in 25 border provinces. Japan seized a total of 28 kg of opium in 2006, the largest total amount of the substance seized in that country in recent years.

519. In the Hong Kong SAR of China, two illicit heroin laboratories were dismantled in 2006. A number of States in East and South-East Asia continued to report a large total amount of seized heroin. In 2006, law enforcement authorities in Viet Nam seized a total of 277 kg of heroin. In Cambodia, a total of 21 kg of heroin were seized in 2006, almost double the figure for 2005 (12 kg). Law enforcement authorities in Myanmar detected a new development in trafficking in heroin: between April and October 2006, they identified four cases of trafficking in heroin by air. In the Macao SAR of China, there was an increase in the total amount of heroin seized during 2006. The Islamic Republic of Iran was the source of 16 of 26 heroin consignments seized at their destination, the Hong Kong SAR of China. In China, the total amount of heroin seized decreased from 11 tons in 2004 and 9 tons in 2005 to 6 tons in 2006, the lowest level in seven years.

520. Law enforcement authorities in the Hong Kong SAR of China uncovered five clandestine laboratories involved in the conversion of cocaine hydrochloride to "crack" in 2006. In the Republic of Korea, approximately 5 kg of cocaine were seized during 2006, the largest amount seized in four years.

521. In China (including the Hong Kong SAR and the Macao SAR), Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar and Viet Nam heroin is reported to be the most widely

abused drug. Of the 800,000 registered drug abusers in China, 600,000 abuse heroin.

522. HIV/AIDS continued to pose a major threat in many countries in East and South-East Asia. Of the 183,733 registered cases of HIV/AIDS in China, 39 per cent are attributed to drug abuse. In Viet Nam, over 12,900 cases of HIV infections in 2006 were attributed to drug abuse, 52 per cent of newly detected cases of HIV infection were attributed to drug abuse by injection and HIV prevalence among drug abusers was 23 per cent.

Psychotropic substances

523. An increase in the illicit manufacture of ATS was reported in countries throughout East and South-East Asia, including in Cambodia, China and Myanmar. China dismantled 51 clandestine ATS laboratories in the first half of 2006. Laboratories involved in the clandestine manufacture of methamphetamine continued to be uncovered in countries in East and South-East Asia.

524. In April 2007, for the first time, a laboratory involved in the clandestine manufacture of methamphetamine was dismantled in Cambodia: an estimated 5 tons of precursor chemicals, including more than 3 tons of thionyl chloride (a substance currently not under international control) and acetone and some equipment, were seized at the site, and about 1 ton of chemicals were uncovered in a warehouse in Phnom Penh and 18 suspects were arrested in connection with the seizure; the Cambodian authorities safely disposed of the seized chemicals with the assistance of UNODC. In addition, eight laboratories involved in the clandestine manufacture of methamphetamine were dismantled in Cambodia during 2006. In August 2007, a clandestine methamphetamine laboratory was dismantled in Phnom Penh; the processing equipment included a machine with the capacity to produce 10,000 methamphetamine tablets per hour.

525. In the Philippines, four clandestine methamphetamine laboratories were dismantled during 2006. Law enforcement authorities in Myanmar raided two clandestine laboratories in the eastern part of Shan State in May 2006 and seized 400,000 tablets of methamphetamine, 380 kg of ephedrine, 115 kg of phenylacetic acid and some equipment. In Malaysia, the authorities dismantled the largest clandestine

methamphetamine laboratory ever uncovered in the country in April 2007; the first part of the drug synthesis had been carried out on an oil palm plantation in the southern tip of the country, while the finishing stages had taken place in a town west of Kuala Lumpur; law enforcement authorities seized 123 kg of liquid methamphetamine and some cash. In July 2006, a clandestine laboratory purportedly involved in the illicit manufacture of methamphetamine was dismantled in Malaysia; 160 kg of methamphetamine were seized at the site.

526. In several countries in East and South-East Asia, the total amount of seized ATS continued to be large. During 2006, a total of 1,755,989 tablets of ATS, mostly methamphetamine, were seized in the Lao People's Democratic Republic. The smuggling of ATS in the form of tablets from Myanmar into China and Viet Nam through the Lao People's Democratic Republic remains a problem. Indonesia seized approximately 467,000 amphetamine tablets during 2006, considerably more than the 255,000 tablets seized in 2005. In 2006, Viet Nam reported having seized a total of 62,870 tablets of ATS. Myanmar seized 1.1 million methamphetamine tablets in February 2007 alone. Law enforcement authorities in Cambodia continued to report increasing seizures of methamphetamine tablets: a total of 428,553 methamphetamine tablets was seized in 2006, compared with 338,655 in 2005. In Indonesia, 1,214 kg of methamphetamine were seized in 2006, a significant increase compared with the 368 kg seized in 2005 and the largest total annual amount of seized methamphetamine recorded in the country in seven years. In the Republic of Korea, the total number of seizures of methamphetamine has been steadily increasing, nearly doubling between 2005 and 2006. Smuggling methamphetamine through the postal system was identified as the main method used in the Republic of Korea. Law enforcement authorities in the Republic of Korea detected 36 cases of trafficking in methamphetamine via the Internet in 2006, compared with only 10 in 2005.

527. Countries in East and South-East Asia continued to seize large amounts of MDMA. In Indonesia, approximately 350,000 MDMA tablets were seized in 2006, compared with 255,000 in 2005. Over 242,730 MDMA tablets were seized in Malaysia during 2006, the largest total annual amount of the substance seized in the country in seven years. In Japan,

approximately 195,300 MDMA tablets were seized in 2006, a sharp decrease compared with the 515,483 tablets seized in that country in 2005. Law enforcement authorities in Japan seized over 20,000 tablets of MDMA in December 2006 at Narita International Airport. The Republic of Korea seized 3,000 MDMA tablets in December 2006. In 2006, tablets containing alprazolam and lorazepam were seized in Myanmar; the tablets originated in Pakistan and had been concealed in hand luggage.

528. In Cambodia, Japan, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, the Philippines and Thailand, methamphetamine is the most common drug of abuse. Methamphetamine accounts for approximately 80 per cent of the drugs abused in Cambodia. The abuse of methamphetamine increased in China in 2006. There were an estimated 40,000 methamphetamine abusers in the Lao People's Democratic Republic in 2006. The abuse of MDMA increased in 2006 in China and Viet Nam.

Precursors

529. Cambodia reported a significant increase in its seizures of safrole and safrole-rich oils, which are frequently used in the illicit manufacture of MDMA, from 570 litres in 2006 to 1,260 litres in 2007.

Substances not under international control

530. Trafficking in substances not under international control continued to be a matter of concern to the Governments of several countries in East and South-East Asia. Approximately 2 tons of ketamine were seized in China during 2006. Law enforcement authorities in the Hong Kong SAR of China seized 1 ton of ketamine during 2006. Seizures of ketamine also increased in Cambodia during 2006. Law enforcement authorities in Myanmar seized over 3 litres of ketamine hydrochloride in October 2006. An increase in seizures of ketamine hydrochloride during 2006 was reported in the Philippines. A total of 16 kg of ketamine from India was seized in Myanmar in June 2006. Brunei Darussalam reported an increase in seizures of dimethylamphetamine, ketamine and nimetazepam in 2006.

531. Countries in East and South-East Asia, including Cambodia, China and Japan, continued to note with concern the abuse of substances not under international control. Non-governmental organizations working with

drug abusers in Phnom Penh reported a notable increase in ketamine abuse in 2006. During 2006, China reported an increase in the abuse of ketamine; in particular, the Hong Kong SAR of China noted a significant increase in the abuse of ketamine by injection. Japan placed ketamine and methylone under national control as narcotic drugs in 2007.

Missions

532. The Board sent a mission to the Republic of Korea in October 2007. Through effective drug law enforcement, the Government of the Republic of Korea has achieved some success in reducing the illicit manufacture of methamphetamine on its territory.

533. Drug abuse is reported to be very limited in the Republic of Korea; however, it appears that the Government has not recently undertaken a systematic and comprehensive assessment of drug abuse and instead uses the number of drug-related offenders as an indication of the size of the drug abuse problem. The Board stresses that the number of drug offenders is an imperfect proxy in estimating the extent of the problem. Therefore, the Board urges the Government to carry out an assessment of drug abuse, involving the collection and analysis of data on the incidence, prevalence and other characteristics of drug abuse. Such an objective assessment will assist the Government in developing more targeted drug abuse prevention policies and further improve the efficiency of programmes for the treatment and rehabilitation of drug abusers.

534. The Republic of Korea has one of the highest rates of prescribed stimulants used as anorectics, such as phendimetrazine, in the world. The reason for that high consumption level has not been established. The Board therefore strongly encourages the Government to learn more about the reason behind the extraordinarily high consumption of stimulants, by, inter alia, monitoring and analysing prescription patterns more closely. The Government should take the initiative in educating the medical profession, as well as the public, on the rational use of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances and in promoting sound medical prescription practices.

535. The Government of the Republic of Korea has introduced an electronic system for drug import authorization with a validation website that, because it is not in an official language of the United Nations, is

of little use to the majority of countries exporting internationally controlled drugs to that country. The system is also deficient in several other essential aspects. The Board urges the Government to suspend the electronic system for drug import authorization until the problems are resolved.

536. Precursor chemicals frequently transit the Republic of Korea, which is situated close to countries where methamphetamine is illegally manufactured. There are some indications that the Republic of Korea has already been targeted by traffickers of precursors. The Board therefore calls on the Government to increase its vigilance with regard to precursors, particularly those used in the manufacture of methamphetamine and other ATS. More efforts should be made to examine the legitimate requirements for precursors in the country, to seize suspicious shipments of precursors and to prosecute traffickers of precursors.

537. The Board sent a mission to Viet Nam in October 2007. The Board notes the continued commitment of the Government to the eradication of illicit opium poppy cultivation. The Board encourages the Government to continue its efforts to achieve the goal of complete eradication of illicit opium poppy cultivation, in order to contribute to the ongoing efforts to make ASEAN free of illicit drugs by 2015.

538. The Board is concerned that the compliance of the Government of Viet Nam with its mandatory reporting obligations pursuant to the international drug control treaties has not been satisfactory, particularly with respect to narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances. The Board urges the Government to take all the steps necessary to enhance coordination and cooperation among the institutions and agencies, both regulatory and law enforcement, that are responsible for drug control issues and to ensure full implementation of its treaty obligations and to give that matter the highest priority.

539. The Board notes with concern the high rate of relapse among drug abusers in Viet Nam who have undergone treatment. The Board reminds the Government of the importance of evaluating different modalities for the treatment of drug dependence and ensuring that the treatment addresses all types of drugs. The Board recommends the Government to explore the possibility of entering into partnerships with non-governmental organizations and self-help groups working in the field of drug addiction in East and

South-East Asia, as such work may be particularly effective at the local level, targeting voluntary patients.

540. The Board urges the Government of Viet Nam to continue to cooperate with the Governments of neighbouring countries in strengthening regional law enforcement activities targeting drug trafficking and money-laundering. In that connection, the Board notes that in 2005, a decree on money-laundering entered into force in Viet Nam. The Board encourages the Government to draft and implement legislation against money-laundering as soon as possible, with the assistance of UNODC and other international entities.

South Asia

Major developments

541. During the past few years, the Board has noted that South Asia has been targeted as an area for cocaine trafficking. The smuggling of cocaine into India, while remaining at a modest level, seems to be organized by West African traffickers who exchange South American cocaine for South-West Asian heroin destined for illicit markets in Europe or North America. International drug trafficking syndicates, mostly involving West African organized criminal groups, have been using India as a major transit country for Europe-bound drug consignments and also as a destination country. Cocaine seizures in 2007 continued to occur with regularity (usually about 1 kg per month).

542. Trafficking in and abuse of cannabis and heroin have increased in countries in South Asia. The porous borders between Bangladesh, Bhutan, India and Nepal contribute to the cross-border smuggling and consequent increased availability of illicit drugs in the region. The quantity of heroin entering India from Pakistan has increased. Law enforcement agencies in the north-western part of India are seizing ever-increasing quantities of heroin originating in Afghanistan and Pakistan and en route to Europe via Pakistan and India.

543. There is evidence that heroin consignments destined for Europe are increasingly passing through Bangladesh. The most common methods and routes used for smuggling heroin into Bangladesh are as follows: by courier along a route leading from Pakistan to Bangladesh; by commercial vehicle or train along a route leading from India to Bangladesh; and by sea via

the Bay of Bengal or overland by truck or public transport along a route leading from Myanmar to Bangladesh. It has been reported that Indian heroin is increasingly becoming available in Bangladesh.

544. According to the Maldives-European Community Strategy Paper 2007-2013, drug abuse has become a serious problem in Maldives, where three quarters of the prison inmates are serving sentences for drug offences. Unemployed young people are the group most vulnerable to drug abuse.

545. In South Asia, the abuse of heroin and pharmaceutical preparations by injection is one of the main factors contributing to the spread of HIV/AIDS infection. In India, the areas most affected by drug-related HIV/AIDS infection continue to be the north eastern part of the country bordering Myanmar and large urban areas; in those areas, there is an extremely high incidence of HIV/AIDS among the population. The HIV/AIDS situation analysis done in Maldives revealed rising levels of drug abuse and addiction. Of the persons who abuse drugs in that country, 20-25 per cent abuse drugs by injection. Of the persons who abuse drugs by injection in Maldives, the majority (90 per cent) are male and about 20 per cent are less than 20 years of age. The percentage of Maldivian drug abusers who have injected drugs increased from 8 per cent in 2003 to 29 per cent in 2006.

546. The smuggling of licitly manufactured pharmaceutical preparations, such as codeine-based syrups, benzodiazepines and buprenorphine, from India into neighbouring countries such as Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal and Sri Lanka remains a major concern.

547. Internationally controlled pharmaceutical preparations manufactured locally in India are increasingly being diverted to some European countries and the United States. Each year, the United States Customs and Border Protection intercepts in the mail system thousands of illegal parcels containing pharmaceutical preparations and marked "for personal use". Most of those pharmaceutical preparations appear to have been sold illegally over the Internet.

Regional cooperation

548. A workshop on capacity-building for law enforcement officials responsible for investigating cases involving money-laundering was held in Colombo in January 2007. Senior officials from

various investigative agencies in Bangladesh, India, Malaysia, Maldives, Pakistan and Sri Lanka participated in the workshop.

549. The fourteenth summit of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), held in New Delhi in April 2007, admitted Afghanistan as a new member of SAARC. The Heads of State or Government participating in the summit agreed to work towards the implementation of the provisions of the SAARC conventions to combat transnational crimes, counter trafficking in narcotics and psychotropic substances and counter trafficking in women.

550. In South Asia, bilateral efforts to combat drug trafficking continued. The fourth round of talks at the Home/Interior Secretary level between India and Pakistan on Terrorism and Drug Trafficking was held in New Delhi in July 2007. It was agreed that both countries would enhance mutual cooperation to effectively combat drug trafficking. They also agreed that a memorandum of understanding between their drug control agencies would be signed soon.

551. Bangladesh and Myanmar have signed a bilateral agreement to address the problem of trafficking, including trafficking in precursors. The agreement deals mainly with information exchange and intelligence-sharing.

National legislation, policy and action

552. Under the current drug control legislation in Sri Lanka, not all the substances under international control are controlled. For example, the current legislation does not contain any provision that allows for the monitoring of precursors and some psychotropic substances to prevent their diversion. The Board notes with satisfaction that, in February 2007, the Sri Lankan Cabinet ordered the drafting of legislation to control precursors. The Board encourages the Government of Sri Lanka to ensure that the amended legislation will also take into account provisions of the 1971 Convention, the 1988 Convention and the 1961 Convention.

553. The national drug control agency of Sri Lanka announced in June 2007 that a rehabilitation programme would be in place for drug-dependent prison inmates. The announcement came after over 400 inmates demanded key reforms, including the

introduction of rehabilitation services at a prison. Around 12,000 Sri Lankans are currently serving prison sentences for drug-related offences.

554. In order to involve the population in apprehending drug smugglers, the Maldives Customs Service decided to give cash awards to those who provide assistance in apprehending persons trying to smuggle drugs and other contraband into Maldives.

555. In Bangladesh, a Financial Intelligence Unit was formed in March 2007 with technical assistance from the United States to combat financial crimes. Established within the framework of the amended money-laundering prevention ordinance of 2007, the Unit will operate as part of the Anti-Money Laundering Department of the Bangladesh Bank.

556. The implementation of the national drug control strategy in Bangladesh involves various partners such as non-governmental organizations and law enforcement agencies; however, proper implementation of the drug control strategy is hampered by the lack of resources and training. The Board encourages the Government of Bangladesh to continue to attach high priority to drug control issues and to ensure that all partners involved in the implementation of the national drug control strategy have the support and resources necessary to enable them to carry out their activities.

557. In Nepal, a comprehensive national narcotics control policy drafted by the Ministry of Home Affairs was adopted by the Cabinet in 2006. The policy consists of strategies for supply control, demand reduction, risk reduction, research and development, and collaboration and resource mobilization. The policy includes provisions for controlling drug production, abuse and trafficking. However, there is still no legislation in place for the control of precursors.

558. In India, the national policy on demand reduction mainly consists of building awareness and educating people about the ill effects of drug abuse, taking into account the culture-specific aspects of the problem. Drug addicts are dealt with through programmes involving motivational counselling, treatment, follow-up and social reintegration. Training in the prevention of drug abuse and the rehabilitation of drug addicts is made available to service providers. There are currently 428 centres that provide counselling, detoxification and rehabilitation services for drug

addicts; those centres are run by non-governmental organizations and funded by the Government.

559. Drug control officials of the SAARC Drug Offences Monitoring Desk based in India and Pakistan regularly share information with their counterparts in Sri Lanka. The Ministry of Home Affairs of Nepal has recently set up a SAARC Drug Offences Monitoring Desk at the international airport at Kathmandu. The Board encourages the SAARC Drug Offences Monitoring Desk in Nepal to increase cooperation with its counterparts in India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka and to share information on drug control efforts.

Cultivation, production, manufacture, trafficking and abuse

Narcotic drugs

560. Cannabis continues to be illicitly cultivated and abused in most of the countries in South Asia. In Sri Lanka, cannabis grows wild and is also illicitly cultivated on a total of 500 hectares, mostly in dry areas in the eastern and southern provinces of the country; the illicitly cultivated cannabis is for use in the country. Small quantities of cannabis are also cultivated in Bangladesh for local use. About 1-2 tons of cannabis are seized yearly in Bangladesh.

561. In India, large areas of illicitly cultivated opium poppy were destroyed in May 2007. Illicit opium poppy cultivation is reported to cover thousands of hectares in some remote areas of India, including along the border with Bangladesh.

562. In a joint operation conducted in July 2007, the Drug Enforcement Unit and the Internal Intelligence Department of Maldives, with the assistance of DEA of the United States, the Anti-Narcotics Force of Pakistan and the Narcotic Bureau of Sri Lanka, seized 7.8 kg of heroin.

563. The geographical nature of Bangladesh, in particular its long borders with India and Myanmar, makes it particularly suitable for heroin trafficking. The Bangladeshi police believe that drugs are smuggled out of the country via the provincial airports at Sylhet and Chittagong; the seaport of Chittagong seems to be the main exit point for drugs leaving the country. It was reported that a number of individuals have attempted to carry heroin through the international airport at Dhaka, on their way from Pakistan to Europe. Drug abuse has spread to rural

areas in Bangladesh. The most frequently abused drug is heroin, followed by codeine based cough syrup and cannabis.

564. Pharmaceutical preparations containing narcotic drugs, mainly codeine, are widely trafficked and abused in South Asia. Codeine-based syrups are diverted from the licit market in India and smuggled into Bangladesh, where they are abused.

565. According to research conducted in Sri Lanka in 2006, people from rural areas seeking jobs in the cities are vulnerable to drug abuse. In 2006, 12,551 drug-related arrests took place; 4 per cent of the persons arrested were women. Drug-related arrests increased by 6 per cent in 2006, compared with 2005; most of those arrested in the western province of the country were aged 30 or younger. The drug abuse situation in Sri Lanka continues to be stable: it is estimated that 200,000 persons abuse cannabis and 45,000 persons abuse heroin.

Psychotropic substances

566. The smuggling into Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal and Sri Lanka of pharmaceutical preparations containing psychotropic substances such as buprenorphine originating in India continues to be a major problem in the countries concerned. The Board again calls on the Government of India to reinforce its control over the national and international trade in psychotropic substances.

567. In Bangladesh, prescription controls are not adequately enforced at the retail level. In addition, pharmaceutical preparations are stolen from hospitals and pharmacies. The Board urges the Government of Bangladesh to strengthen controls over the distribution of pharmaceutical preparations at all levels.

568. In Bangladesh, "Yaba", a tablet containing methamphetamine and caffeine that is widely available in South-East Asia, is reported to be gaining popularity among young people from middle-class and upper-middle-class families and in areas near the border with Myanmar.

569. Organized criminal groups are involved in trafficking in ATS in India. In 2006, the Narcotics Control Bureau and the Central Bureau of Narcotics of India dismantled a clandestine ATS laboratory in the vicinity of New Delhi. In February 2007, Operation Pharma resulted in the dismantling in India of an

international drug trafficking operation that had been involved in distributing psychotropic substances, primarily phentermine, and money-laundering through Internet pharmacies.

570. According to recent seizure data reported by both Bangladesh and India, the use of courier services for drug trafficking seems to be on the rise. In 2007, drug traffickers used Bangladeshi and Indian courier services to ship illicit drugs to Canada and South Africa. In February 2007, a parcel containing 550 kg of ephedrine was seized in a Bangladeshi company providing courier services; the parcel was destined for Canada. In July 2007, the Narcotics Control Bureau of India stopped two parcels containing more than 1 kg of heroin in a courier office in New Delhi; one parcel was destined for Canada and the other was destined for South Africa.

Missions

571. In February 2007, the Board sent, for the first time ever, a mission to Bhutan. For many years, information on the drug control situation in Bhutan had been lacking. The purpose of the mission was to obtain information on how the Government of Bhutan was meeting its obligations under the international drug control treaties.

572. The Government of Bhutan has adopted comprehensive drug control legislation and has established an administrative structure for drug control. The Board encourages the Government to continue strengthening its administrative structure for drug control and ensuring the proper functioning of the structure through the provision of adequate human and material resources. The Board recommends that the Government make the prevention of drug trafficking one of the key priorities of law enforcement agencies.

573. The Board notes that, in Bhutan, there are no facilities to provide adequate treatment for drug addiction and no reliable data on drug abuse in the country. The Board encourages the Government to take the necessary measures to address and remedy the situation. Those measures should be taken in full collaboration with the medical professionals in the country. The measures could include the expansion of the current facilities in the national hospital for the treatment of alcohol abuse so that those facilities could be used for the treatment of drug abuse as well.

574. The Board notes with concern the considerable difficulties that Bhutan is facing in controlling the licit trade in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances from India. The Board recommends that urgent measures be taken to establish control mechanisms in that area.

575. The Board sent a mission to Nepal in March 2007 to discuss with the Government progress in implementing the Board's recommendations pursuant to its previous mission to the country, in 1992. The Board notes that Nepal has taken several positive steps in recent years to strengthen drug control, including acceding to the 1971 Convention in February 2007. The Government of Nepal has also made considerable effort in the areas of law enforcement and supply reduction, for example by the establishment of a specialized unit dealing with drug-related offences.

576. The Board is concerned that, despite the fact that Nepal has been a party to the 1988 Convention since 1991, legislative provisions for the control of precursors have yet to be adopted by the Government. In view of the geographical location of Nepal, which is particularly vulnerable to trafficking in precursors, the Board urges the Government to take such measures as a matter of priority. The Board is also concerned about the lack of legislation to ensure the full implementation of the 1971 Convention. The Board urges the Government to remedy that situation as well.

577. The Board, noting the lack of adequate data on the abuse of drugs in Nepal, encourages the Government to collect such data on a regular basis, with the assistance of UNODC, as appropriate.

West Asia

Major developments

578. The illicit cultivation of opium poppy in Afghanistan has continued to increase at an alarming level, despite the Government's efforts and the assistance provided to the Government by the international community over the past five years. In 2006, the total area under illicit opium poppy cultivation in Afghanistan reached 165,000 hectares, an increase of 59 per cent compared with 2005. In 2007, that figure increased by 17 per cent, to 193,000 hectares. The estimated crop yield reached a record 8,200 tons in 2007, an increase of 34 per cent

over the figure for 2006 (6,100 tons). Given that sharp increase in potential opium production, the Board is seriously concerned that precursor chemicals, acetic anhydride in particular, continue to be available for the illicit manufacture of heroin in Afghanistan. All Governments are reminded that Afghanistan has no legitimate need for the substance.

579. Afghan opiates are smuggled predominantly through Iran (Islamic Republic of) and Pakistan and countries in Central Asia. Those countries are faced with a wide range of problems related to large-scale drug trafficking, such as organized crime, corruption and relatively high illicit demand for opiates. For example, the Islamic Republic of Iran has the highest rate of abuse of opiates in the world.

580. The Board once again urges the Government of Afghanistan, as well as the international community, to take effective measures to eradicate illicit opium poppy cultivation and to ensure that opium poppy growers are provided with sustainable, legitimate livelihoods. The Board wishes to emphasize that eradication of opium poppy cultivation in Afghanistan will require a strong political will and determination by the Government of Afghanistan and by all the major donors and neighbouring countries.

581. Trafficking in narcotic drugs along the northern route, through Central Asia, persists: an estimated 21 per cent of heroin and morphine of Afghan origin passed through Central Asia in 2006. The total amount of opium seized in the subregion doubled, mostly because of a large increase in the amount of opium seized in Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan, countries that share a border 2,300 km long with Afghanistan. The increased availability of opiates in Central Asia, with its population totalling 60 million, resulted in an alarming rise in drug-related crime, the abuse of narcotic drugs and the spread of HIV/AIDS.

582. The southern Caucasus is increasingly being used as a transit area for consignments of opiates from Afghanistan and, as a result, drug abuse is on the rise in that subregion. In view of their long borders with Iran (Islamic Republic of), the Russian Federation and Turkey and their access to the Black Sea and the Caspian Sea, the Board remains concerned that the situation with regard to drug trafficking and abuse in Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia will deteriorate further unless increased attention is given to information-sharing, more efficient border control and

regional and national coordination of drug control activities.

583. The abuse of ATS continues to spread in various countries in West Asia, including Iran (Islamic Republic of), Turkey and several countries on the Arabian peninsula.

Regional cooperation

584. The Governments of Afghanistan, Iran (Islamic Republic of) and Pakistan are intensifying their regional cooperation. The Governments of Afghanistan and Iran (Islamic Republic of) signed a memorandum of understanding on counter-narcotics cooperation at a meeting held in Kabul in June 2006, pursuant to the Kabul Declaration on Good-neighbourly Relations.⁹¹ During a meeting held in June 2007 on strengthening border control and activities to deal with the drug problem, the Inter-Governmental Technical Committee was re-established.

585. A trilateral ministerial meeting held in Vienna in June 2007 brought together high-level officials from Afghanistan, Iran (Islamic Republic of) and Pakistan. The Board notes with appreciation that the representatives of all three countries expressed their full commitment to stepping up regional cooperation in the form of the Triangular Initiative. The Triangular Initiative will lead to the implementation of the strategic policy outline, developed by UNODC, through joint border projects in Afghanistan, Iran (Islamic Republic of) and Pakistan, other exchanges at the technical level and regular meetings on policy coordination.

586. The twenty-first conference on anti-narcotics policy and strengthening Arab cooperation was held in Tunis in June 2007. Representatives of members of the League of Arab States attended the conference, which was organized by the secretariat of the Council of Arab Ministers of the Interior. Participants discussed the need to improve efforts to control drugs and counter various types of drug-related crime, such as the illegal sale of drugs via the Internet and the smuggling of drugs by couriers, which had emerged in recent years in several Arab countries. The participants adopted

⁹¹ "Letter dated 24 December 2002 from the Permanent Representative of Afghanistan to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council" (S/2002/1416, annex).

recommendations on, among other things, action against money-laundering and the financing of terrorism and on the creation of additional rehabilitation centres for drug abusers.

587. The Government of Kuwait has intensified its participation in regional and international cooperation mechanisms in recent years. Representatives of Kuwait participated in the Arab Conference for Protecting Youth from Drug Abuse, held in Cairo in June 2005, the nineteenth Arab conference on combating drugs, held in Tunis in July 2005, and the eighth meeting of the neighbouring countries of Iraq, held in Istanbul, Turkey, in April 2005, which concluded with the signing of security cooperation agreements on the sharing of information and cooperation to counter drug trafficking and organized crime.

588. Governments of countries in Central Asia are increasing their bilateral and multilateral cooperation in areas such as reduction of illicit drug supply and demand, precursor control, border management, countering spread of HIV/AIDS and fighting organized crime and money-laundering. They have also been participating in various regional projects and international operations under the auspices of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO), the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) and the signatories to the 1996 Memorandum of Understanding on Subregional Drug Control Cooperation (Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, the Russian Federation, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan). Similarly, an increasing number of joint programmes are being implemented and supported by the United Nations, the European Union, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the World Bank, the World Customs Organization, Interpol, the Paris Pact⁹² Policy Consultative Group, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)-Russia Council, mini-Dublin groups and individual Governments.

589. At a coordination conference held in Astana in April 2007, competent national authorities of CIS member States adopted a cooperation programme on countering organized crime and illicit drug and

precursor trafficking for the period 2008-2010. At the Shanghai Cooperation Organization summit held in Bishkek in August 2007, heads of SCO member States discussed regional security matters and common threats, including border control concerns and joint action against drug trafficking; the Heads of State of Afghanistan, India, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Pakistan and Turkmenistan also attended the summit. The drug trafficking situation and possible ways to expand cooperation among CSTO member States were discussed at several high-level meetings and working sessions organized by the secretariat of CSTO in 2007.

590. CSTO member States (Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russian Federation, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan) are actively involving Afghanistan, as well as Interpol and the Governments of Azerbaijan, China, Estonia, Finland, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Latvia, Lithuania, Mongolia, Poland, Ukraine and the United States, in intergovernmental operations such as operation Channel, which in 2006 resulted in the detection of over 9,000 cases related to drug trafficking and the seizure of 24 tons of illicit drugs, including 774 kg of heroin, 838 kg of "hashish" (cannabis resin) and 165 tons of precursors. In 2007, the operation resulted in seizures of illicit drugs totalling 10.8 tons, including 194 kg of heroin, 4.3 tons of opium, 4.8 tons of cannabis and cannabis resin and over 223 tons of precursors.

591. The Governments of Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, the Russian Federation, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan continued to cooperate in subregional drug control initiatives within the framework of the 1996 Memorandum of Understanding. The necessary legal and institutional basis for establishment of the Central Asia regional information and coordination centre has already been developed and finalized. All but one of the Governments (the Russian Federation) have signed the agreement on the establishment of the centre. While the centre is expected to be fully operational as soon as the agreement is ratified by the parliaments of at least four of the countries, a pilot phase of the operation of the centre will commence soon. The Board urges the Governments involved to support the pilot phase and expedite the process of ratification of the agreement and to consider including other countries in West Asia and the Caucasus, in order to ensure greater cooperation in collecting, exchanging and analysing drug-related intelligence, organizing and coordinating

⁹² The Paris Pact initiative emerged from the Paris Statement (S/2003/641, annex), which had been issued at the end of the Conference on Drug Routes from Central Asia to Europe, held in Paris on 21 and 22 May 2003.

joint international operations and carrying out other supply reduction efforts and training in West Asia.

592. Under the auspices of the Paris Pact Policy Consultative Group, several round-table meetings of experts, focusing on drug trafficking routes in Central Asia, were held in 2006. The meeting held in Vienna in May 2007 focused on the control of precursors used in the manufacture of heroin and on the evaluation of various international initiatives, such as Operation Trans-shipment and Operation Containment. The meeting resulted in, among other things, the endorsement of the UNODC action plan targeting precursors used in heroin manufacture. As follow-up to the meeting held in May 2007, a meeting on operations targeting the smuggling of acetic anhydride in and around Afghanistan was held in Vienna in October 2007. Under the auspices of the NATO-Russia Council pilot project on counter-narcotics training for law enforcement personnel from Afghanistan and countries in Central Asia, training is being provided by mobile teams travelling to those countries, as well as at training facilities in the Russian Federation and Turkey.

593. The European Union continues to implement various programmes in Central Asia, such as the Central Asian Drug Action Programme, the Border Management Programme in Central Asia, and the Central Asian Regional Drug Information Network (CARDIN), focusing on strengthening capacities at main airports and border crossings, improving the effectiveness of border control and supporting forensic training, HIV prevention in prisons, research into drug trafficking, awareness-raising campaigns and the training of sniffer dogs. The fifth annual review meeting of CARDIN, held in Tashkent in March 2007, was attended by national focal points and representatives of services for the treatment of abuse from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan.

National legislation, policy and action

594. The Counter-Narcotics Trust Fund (CNTF), established by the Government of Afghanistan to provide funding for drug control, continues to have difficulties. As at 30 June 2007, 22.3 million United States dollars have been allocated to 27 projects in 29 provinces, and US\$ 42.3 million (of the US\$ 74.6 million in pledges) have been received for CNTF. The approved projects include 21 projects in the

area of alternative livelihoods and 2 projects in each of the following areas: drug demand reduction, institution-building and raising public awareness.

595. According to the Ministry of Counter Narcotics of Afghanistan, the main reasons behind the slow progress in the implementation of CNTF projects are the limited capacity and resources in the Government ministries, conflicting procurement procedures between the ministries and the United Nations Development Programme and lack of knowledge regarding new rules of procurement. In response, CNTF launched a project to enhance the capacity of the ministries, to fast-track the procurement process and to increase the quality and coordination of CNTF project proposals.

596. The Government of Afghanistan implemented measures, such as the Good Performance Initiative, under which each province that is free of opium poppy receives US\$ 500,000 in funding for development projects and an additional US\$ 500,000 if the poppy-free status is maintained. Provinces in which only a small amount of opium poppy is cultivated also receive funding. In addition to being compensated for having reduced opium poppy cultivation, provincial governments are rewarded for having increased their eradication efforts. For example, Balkh province has been awarded a total of US\$ 3 million in recognition of its outstanding performance and for maintaining its poppy-free status.

597. In 2006, in a move to strengthen provincial institutions, the Ministry of Counter Narcotics of Afghanistan established five provincial offices to handle all areas of counter-narcotics at the local level. Those new provincial offices will implement pilot programmes for the development of alternative livelihood projects. Within the framework of the Afghanistan National Development Strategy,⁹³ a national regulatory body was created to supervise the import and export of licit drugs. The Government of Afghanistan also created, within the Intelligence Department of the Counter-Narcotics Police, a unit specializing in precursor control.

⁹³ "Letter dated 14 February 2006 from the Permanent Representative of Afghanistan to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council" (S/2006/105, annex).

598. The Government of Afghanistan has also been taking measures to deal with the growing problem of drug abuse. By May 2007, the Government had established facilities for the treatment of drug abuse in 17 of the 34 provinces in the country, and another 8 further centres were being planned for the same year. Campaigns for the prevention of drug abuse are conducted by religious organizations in Afghanistan, and drug abuse prevention has been incorporated in the curricula of primary schools.

599. The Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran has adopted general policies on the fight against narcotic drugs and, in addition to special treatment programmes designed for male drug addicts, has been strengthening measures for the provision of treatment for female drug addicts. In late 2006, the Government opened the first rehabilitation centre for female drug addicts in Tehran, providing facilities for 3,000 addicts; the centre also includes a kindergarten. Two other provinces in the country have similar facilities. A drop-in centre for female addicts was established in Tehran in March 2007, and the Government has announced that it is considering proposals for conducting research on the situation of female drug addicts in the country.

600. The Board is concerned that, in Pakistan, the Policy Review Board, a committee responsible for the coordination of national drug control policy, bringing together all the relevant agencies, is not functioning properly. A mission of the Board to Pakistan in 2004 identified the need for improving coordination among Government agencies involved in drug control. Subsequent to those findings, the Board recommended that the Policy Review Board be strengthened accordingly. In September 2007, Pakistan promulgated legislation against money-laundering in the form of an ordinance providing for the establishment of an independent financial monitoring unit and a national executive committee to combat money-laundering. The Government of Pakistan is preparing a draft of the national drug control master plan for the period 2008-2012, which is to be submitted to the Federal Cabinet.

601. Drug trafficking and abuse are deteriorating on the Arabian peninsula. In particular, the Board notes that drug control legislation in Palestine needs to be examined and updated, with the assistance of UNODC.

602. Governments of countries in Central Asia have continued to improve their national laws, bringing

them in line with the provisions of the international drug control treaties. The parliament of Kyrgyzstan is reviewing a draft law that would amend the Narcotic Drugs, Psychotropic Substances and Precursors Act of the Kyrgyz Republic of 24 April 1998. The amendment would enhance the provisions of the Act relating to licit drug control, drug abuse prevention and the treatment of drug abusers.

603. In 2006, Kyrgyzstan adopted legislation on countering money-laundering and on confiscating assets derived from criminal activity; in addition, financial intelligence units were established in the country. In Uzbekistan, in accordance with the presidential decrees issued in 2007, the implementation of the main provisions of the law against money-laundering, which had entered into force in 2005, has been suspended until 2013. The Office of the President of Tajikistan is preparing a draft law against money-laundering.

604. National strategies aimed at preventing the spread of HIV/AIDS have been drafted and are in the process of being adopted by the Governments of countries in Central Asia. Following the adoption of a similar programme in Tajikistan in 2006, the Government of Uzbekistan is expected to adopt in 2007 a national programme for the period 2008-2010 addressing HIV/AIDS and the problem of drug abuse.

605. While implementation of its national programme against drug abuse and trafficking in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, covering the period 2001-2006, continues, the Government of Azerbaijan is in the process of adopting a new programme, covering the period 2007-2012.

606. In 2006, the Government of Georgia created a consultative council for drug control policy. The council, which includes representatives of the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Internal Affairs, as well as non-governmental organizations and medical practitioners, has developed a national drug control strategy and an action plan, to be implemented in 2007.

Cultivation, production, manufacture, trafficking and abuse

Narcotic drugs

607. According to the Afghanistan Opium Survey 2007, in Afghanistan opium poppy cultivation covered 193,000 hectares in 2007, an increase of 17 per cent

over 2006. A larger share of opium production in provinces where yields have traditionally been higher resulted in a proportionally larger increase in opium production compared with the increase in the total cultivated area. As a result, the average opium yields in all areas of Afghanistan (42.5 kg per hectare) in 2007 were also higher than in 2006 (37.0 kg per hectare). Given the increase in the total area under illicit opium poppy cultivation and the favourable weather conditions, Afghanistan produced an extraordinary 8,200 tons of opium in 2007 (34 per cent more than in 2006), supplying 93 per cent of the global market for opiates.

608. In south-western Afghanistan, opium poppy cultivation has reached an unprecedented level. In 2007, 70 per cent of the opium poppy cultivation in Afghanistan took place in five provinces along that country's border with Pakistan. The province of Helmand currently accounts for more than 50 per cent of the entire opium production in Afghanistan.

609. In some areas of Afghanistan opium cultivation has diminished. In the northern and central parts of the country, illicit opium poppy cultivation was almost brought to a halt; in Balkh province, for example, the area under opium poppy cultivation fell from 7,200 hectares in 2006 to nil in 2007. However, the Board continues to be concerned that in some areas, such as Balkh province, illicit opium poppy cultivation is being replaced by the illicit cultivation of cannabis plants, which reached 68,850 hectares in 2007. In addition, the Board urges the Government to ensure that farmers are provided with means for alternative livelihoods, which should contribute to the elimination of poverty and discourage the illicit cultivation of drug crops.

610. There is a strong link between security conditions and illicit opium poppy cultivation in the southern provinces of Afghanistan. Information collected by UNODC indicates that the overwhelming majority of villages with poor security are involved in opium poppy cultivation. Drug traffickers and criminal groups encourage villagers to grow opium poppy, guaranteeing the protection of their opium poppy fields and, in some cases, using threats and intimidation to force the villagers to engage in illicit opium poppy cultivation.

611. Information released by UNODC in August 2007 indicates that some 19,000 hectares of opium poppy

have been eradicated in Afghanistan, 24 per cent more than the area eradicated in 2006 (15,300 hectares) and 280 per cent more than the area eradicated in 2005 (5,000 hectares). However, taking into account the large scale of opium poppy cultivation in Afghanistan in 2007, the area eradicated represents only 9 per cent of the total area cultivated with opium poppy (compared with 8 per cent in 2006). In Helmand, the main province in which opium poppy is cultivated, the official target set for the eradication of opium poppy cultivation was 50 per cent; only a fraction of that area was eradicated.

612. Though eradication efforts in Afghanistan were much more intense in 2007 than in 2006, resistance to eradication was much more severe. Several security incidents, including violent incidents involving armed resistance, took place, resulting in over a dozen deaths. In areas of the country controlled by the Taliban, eradication efforts have had little chance of success.

613. In the Islamic Republic of Iran, no significant illicit cultivation of opium poppy takes place and no manufacture of illicit drugs was reported in 2006. As the Islamic Republic of Iran has not reported seizures of precursor chemicals since 2002 and acetic anhydride is manufactured in the country, the Board urges the Government to ensure that mechanisms for the control of domestic distribution of such chemicals are sufficient to prevent their diversion.

614. The Islamic Republic of Iran continues to seize more opiates than any other country in the world. In the first half of 2007, a total of 180 tons of opium were seized in the Islamic Republic of Iran (an increase of 37 per cent over the first half of 2006), mainly on that country's eastern border with Afghanistan. While opium accounts for 71 per cent of the total amount of opiates seized in the Islamic Republic of Iran, in 2007 heroin seizures almost doubled, seizures of morphine increased by 51 per cent and seizures of cannabis increased by 22 per cent. Over 50 per cent of the inmates in the country's prisons are reported to have been convicted for drug-related crimes.

615. Pakistan continues to be used as a major transit area for Afghan opiates, but to a lesser extent than the Islamic Republic of Iran. According to Pakistan officials, 35 per cent of illicit opiates of Afghan origin are smuggled through Pakistan.

616. Government data show a dramatic increase in Afghan opiates seized in Pakistan in 2006, the last year for which data are available. The total amount of seized opiates increased from 25 tons of heroin equivalent in 2005 to 36.4 tons of heroin equivalent in 2006, an increase of 46 per cent. Analysis of seizure data suggests that there is increased smuggling of Afghan opiates through Pakistan into China. The total amount of cannabis resin seized in Pakistan also increased, from 93.5 tons in 2005 to 115.4 tons in 2006, an increase of 23 per cent, partly reflecting an increase in cannabis production in Afghanistan.

617. Until recently, Iraq had been used as a transit area for smuggling Afghan heroin through the Islamic Republic of Iran into Saudi Arabia and other countries in the area of the Persian Gulf. Illicit drug trafficking and the risk of illicit cultivation of opium poppy have been increasing in some areas with grave security problems. Though official data are lacking, it appears that drug abuse in Iraq has increased dramatically, including among children from relatively affluent families.

618. Some cultivation of opium poppy and cannabis takes place in Lebanon, mainly for local use. According to the Internal Security Forces of Lebanon, approximately 27 hectares of opium and 64 hectares of cannabis were eradicated in 2005. In 2006, the Government's eradication efforts resulted in the destruction of 380 hectares of illicitly cultivated crops. Despite some successes achieved in curtailing drug trafficking, heroin, cocaine and psychotropic substances, such as MDMA and counterfeit Captagon tablets (which nowadays contain mainly amphetamine and caffeine instead of fenetylline), are reportedly being smuggled through Lebanon into Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, out of Jordan, the Syrian Arab Republic and Turkey, as well as from countries in Europe and South America.

619. According to law enforcement authorities in Israel, there is a high demand for cannabis, "hashish" (cannabis resin), opium, heroin, cocaine and MDMA ("ecstasy") in that country. Police data indicate that, while the total amount of cannabis seized is declining, the total amount of heroin and cocaine seized is increasing and there continues to be a significant amount of "ecstasy" seized. In 2005, 12.5 tons of cannabis, over 1 ton of cannabis resin, 145 kg of

heroin, 161 kg of cocaine and 245,000 MDMA tablets were seized in Israel.

620. According to officials in Palestine, cannabis is illicitly cultivated both on the West Bank and in the Gaza Strip. Drug trafficking is increasing in Palestine, as evidenced by the fact that 1 out of 10 cases involving serious crime is drug-related. In 2005, 1.2 tons of opium, 12.9 tons of cannabis and over 10 kg of heroin and various heroin mixtures were seized.

621. The Syrian Arab Republic is used as a transit country for illicit consignments of cannabis, cocaine and heroin (mainly from Lebanon and Turkey), morphine (from Afghanistan, Iran (Islamic Republic of) and Turkey) destined for Jordan and Lebanon, as well as counterfeit Captagon tablets (containing mainly amphetamine) destined for countries in the area of the Persian Gulf. The total amount of drugs seized has been increasing in recent years in the Syrian Arab Republic.

622. Cannabis grows wild in Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan, and small-scale cultivation of opium poppy continues to take place in several countries in Central Asia and the southern Caucasus. The opium produced is mostly used locally or smuggled, on a small scale, into the Russian Federation. The Governments of those countries should continue their efforts aimed at identifying and eradicating illicitly cultivated drug crops.

623. A total of 36.4 tons of drugs were seized in Central Asian countries in 2006. That total includes 27 tons of cannabis, 84 per cent of which was seized in Kazakhstan. Opium seizures more than doubled, from 2.7 tons in 2005 to 5.7 tons in 2006, and a significant change in the incidence of seizures of opiates was noted throughout Central Asia. While, from 2005 to 2006, there was a decrease in the share of the opium seized in Kazakhstan (from 24 to 11 per cent) and in Tajikistan (from 40 to 24 per cent), there was an increase in the share of the opium seized in Turkmenistan (from 27 to 46 per cent) and Uzbekistan (from 4 to 13 per cent).

624. In 2006, the quantity of heroin seized in Central Asia decreased from 3.8 to 3.7 tons. Compared with 2005, there was a decrease of 11 per cent in the quantity of heroin seized in Kazakhstan (from 626 to 555 kg) and Tajikistan (from 2.3 to 2.1 tons), although

those two countries still accounted for 73 per cent of the total quantity of heroin seized in countries in Central Asia. The quantity of seized heroin increased in Kyrgyzstan (by 29 per cent), Turkmenistan (by 11 per cent) and Uzbekistan (by 15 per cent).

625. Turkmenistan, with its extensive borders with Afghanistan (745 km), Iran (Islamic Republic of) (992 km), Kazakhstan (379 km) and Uzbekistan (1,621 km), continues to be used as a transit country for Afghan opium and heroin destined for illicit markets in the Russian Federation and countries in Western Europe. Afghan opiates are smuggled in trucks and automobiles, in maritime shipments (on the Caspian Sea) and in air cargo through Azerbaijan and Turkey. Official statistics released by the Government of Turkmenistan indicate that, in 2006, the total quantity of seized heroin, opium and cannabis exceeded 3 tons, almost tripling the figure for the year before. That sharp increase was attributed mainly to an increase of 255 per cent in the quantity of opium seized.

626. Uzbekistan continues to be used as a transit country for Afghan opiates that are being smuggled into the Russian Federation, mainly by road and rail, out of Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan, as well as directly out of Afghanistan. In 2006, the total quantity of drugs seized in Uzbekistan increased by 70 per cent, mostly as a result of an extraordinary increase of 605 per cent in the quantity of opium seized, which increased significantly from 108 kg in 2005 to 759 kg in 2006. The combined quantity of cannabis, opium and heroin seized in Kyrgyzstan increased from 2.3 tons in 2005 to 3 tons in 2006.

627. The available data suggest that, while the quantity of cannabis trafficked through the southern Caucasus remains stable, the combined quantity of heroin, opium and cocaine is increasing. In 2006, 531 kg of drugs were seized in Azerbaijan, including 141 kg of cannabis (down from 150 kg in 2005) and 49 kg of heroin (up from 13 kg in 2005). However, according to some estimates, the total quantity of drugs being smuggled through Azerbaijan is approaching 1,000 tons per year, and Afghan opiates are entering the country from the Islamic republic of Iran and countries in Central Asia on their way to Georgia, the Russian Federation and countries in Western Europe.

628. The quantity of drugs seized in Armenia, while remaining low, has increased. In 2006, a total of

26.3 kg of narcotic drugs (mostly cannabis) were seized, representing an increase of 33 per cent compared with the previous year. Due to weak border control, drugs appear to be entering Armenia from its neighbouring countries: cannabis is entering Armenia from Georgia; opium, mainly from the Islamic Republic of Iran; heroin, from Iran (Islamic Republic of) and Turkey; and buprenorphine (Subutex[®]), from France.

629. In 2006, drug-related crime increased by 31 per cent in Georgia. In addition, trafficking in heroin increased (from 2.59 kg in 2005 to 4.8 kg in 2006), while the quantity of seized cannabis declined (from 23.3 kg in 2005 to 11 kg in 2006). The quantity of seized buprenorphine (Subutex[®]) continued to rise in Georgia.

630. The abuse of opiates continues to pose a major problem in countries neighbouring Afghanistan and even in countries near Afghanistan. Nearly all those countries have high rates of drug abuse; the Islamic Republic of Iran, for example, has the world's highest abuse rate for opiates: an estimated prevalence rate of 2.8 per cent. Drug addiction continues to be a growing problem in the Islamic Republic of Iran: reportedly over 2 million people in the country abuse drugs. Pakistan also has a high abuse rate for opiates: the estimated prevalence rate among the population aged 15-64 in 2006 was 0.7 per cent. Many countries in Central Asia have similar levels of drug abuse, with heroin abuse having replaced cannabis and opium abuse as the main drug problem. In Central Asia, the incidence of heroin dependence among registered drug abusers ranges from 50 to 80 per cent, the highest rates being recorded in Tajikistan and Uzbekistan.

631. Despite their high estimates of drug abuse, many countries in West Asia, including the Islamic Republic of Iran, have not collected comprehensive data on drug abuse for some years. The Board notes that some Governments are taking measures in that area; for example, the results of a national drug abuse assessment survey carried out in Pakistan in 2006 have been recently released. The survey suggests that 77 per cent of the 628,000 opioid users in that country abuse heroin. The prevalence of drug abuse by injection (125,000 persons) was estimated to be about 0.14 per cent of the adult population in 2006, which is twice the rate in 2002. The Board encourages other Governments to follow suit and conduct comprehensive surveys and

rapid assessments of the drug abuse situation in their countries.

632. Drug-related crime and drug abuse are growing in Palestine. While the smoking of cannabis and the injection of heroin have increased significantly in recent years, polydrug use and the abuse of over-the-counter medicines are also spreading. According to the available data, 10,000 people in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank are registered as drug abusers, and there may be another 15,000 drug abusers in Jerusalem. There are currently no rehabilitation facilities for drug abusers in the West Bank or the Gaza Strip.

633. Oman is increasingly being used as a transit country for illicit drug consignments. Because of the porous land borders, cannabis, opium and heroin shipments from Afghanistan, Iran (Islamic Republic of) and Pakistan are smuggled through Oman. The latest statistics indicate that there are over 1,000 individuals registered as drug abusers and receiving free treatment for drug abuse in Oman.

634. Cannabis, ephedra, opiates and synthetic drugs are abused in Central Asia. Increasing drug addiction and a shift from cannabis and opium abuse to heroin abuse are common to all countries in the subregion.

635. In 2006, the number of officially registered drug addicts in Kazakhstan increased by 834 to 54,411 persons (or 0.5 per cent of the population aged 15-64); there has been a continued shift from cannabis abuse to opium and heroin abuse. A total of 7,842 persons in Kyrgyzstan (or 0.2 per cent of the adult population) were officially registered drug abusers in 2006, an increase of 8 per cent over 2005. The number of persons abusing illicit drugs is increasing in Tajikistan as well; according to official statistics, in 2006, there were 7,865 registered drug abusers in the country (or 0.2 per cent of the adult population), of which 91 per cent were abusing opioids. In Uzbekistan, 19,964 persons (or 0.1 per cent of the adult population) were officially registered as drug addicts in 2006; according to some estimates, 80,000 persons in the country abuse heroin by injection. No statistics on drug abuse or the spread of HIV/AIDS are available for Turkmenistan.

636. Drug abuse by injection is increasing in many countries in West Asia, often contributing to a growing HIV problem. It is a major factor behind the spread of HIV in Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan, the two countries

in the region in which the virus has spread the fastest. Up to 93 per cent of new cases of HIV infection in Tajikistan are related to drug abuse. The same phenomenon has been noted in Pakistan and countries in the southern Caucasus.

637. The number of officially registered cases of HIV/AIDS in Central Asia increased by 30 per cent, from 14,799 cases in 2005 to 19,197 in 2006, drug abuse by injection being a major factor contributing to that increase. That total includes an increase of 31 per cent in Kazakhstan (from 5,657 to 7,402 cases), an increase of 30 per cent in Kyrgyzstan (from 826 to 1,070 cases), an increase of 40 per cent in Tajikistan (from 506 to 710 cases) and an increase of 28 per cent in Uzbekistan (from 7,810 to 10,015 cases).

Psychotropic substances

638. In Turkey, the quantity of seized synthetic drugs, predominantly MDMA and Captagon (mainly amphetamine), increased in 2006 to the highest level ever (an increase of 71.6 per cent, compared with 2005). The quantity of MDMA seized in the country continued to increase rapidly, from 94,027 units in 2002 to 1,457,698 units in 2006. In 2006, the amount of Captagon seized also reached the highest level: 19,971,625 units. According to the Government, Turkey is used as a transit country for illicit consignments of Captagon, while MDMA is smuggled into the country largely to be sold on its growing illicit market.

Precursors

639. The amount of acetic anhydride seized in Turkey has increased in recent years, but it remains at a low level compared with the large amount of seizures before. A total of 5.2 million litres of acetic anhydride were seized in 2006, compared with over 18.0 million litres in 2002. Although the number of illicit heroin laboratories dismantled in the country is decreasing and there are indications that Afghan morphine base is largely being transformed into heroin before it reaches Turkey, the Board calls on the Government of Turkey to continue its supply reduction and border control measures in order to ensure that no illicit manufacture of heroin takes place on its territory.

D. Europe

Major developments

640. After a decade of significant increases, cannabis use appears to have stabilized or even declined in most Western European countries. However, cannabis continues to be the most commonly abused drug in Europe. Western Europe remains the largest market for cannabis resin in the world. Seizures of cannabis resin have decreased in some countries in Europe, a development that may be linked to the decline in cannabis resin production in Morocco.

641. Europe is the second largest illicit market for cocaine in the world. In most countries in Western Europe, particularly those on the Iberian peninsula, a significant increase in cocaine seizures has been reported. In Portugal, for example, cocaine seizures, which were already at a high level, have almost doubled. Cocaine is increasingly being smuggled into Europe via countries in Western Africa. The abuse of cocaine has increased in Western Europe but has remained stable in Central and Eastern Europe. The Board welcomes the launching of an action plan in Spain to address the increasing level of cocaine abuse and encourages other States in Europe with high prevalence rates to adopt similar measures.

642. Increased seizures of opiates of Afghan origin in the Russian Federation reflect the rise in trafficking in opiates in the region. The southern branch of the Balkan route, which passes through Istanbul, Sofia, Belgrade and Zagreb, is being increasingly used. The abuse of opiates has remained stable or declined in Western and Central Europe but has reportedly been increasing in the Russian Federation and in countries in Eastern Europe, as well as in some countries in South-Eastern Europe along the Balkan route. In Europe, the demand for treatment for the abuse of opiates is higher in Eastern Europe (61 per cent) than in Western Europe (55 per cent).

643. Europe remains an important source of ATS. The illicit manufacture of ATS in South-Eastern and Eastern Europe continues to rise. The dismantling of laboratories illicitly manufacturing such stimulants has been frequently reported in Moldova and Slovakia and occasionally reported in Bulgaria, Lithuania and Ukraine. The level of MDMA abuse is stable or declining in most countries in Western Europe. The

illicit manufacture and abuse of methamphetamine continue to be limited to only a few countries in Western and Central Europe (the Czech Republic, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and parts of Germany).

644. Over the past few years, the increased drug trafficking and abuse in Eastern Europe has contributed to an increase in the spread of HIV/AIDS. A significant number of new cases of HIV infection are attributable to the sharing of drug-injecting equipment or risky sexual behaviour resulting from the effects of the drugs. One of the fastest-growing HIV epidemics in the world is taking place in Eastern Europe.

Regional cooperation

645. A ministerial conference on the theme new signals for drug policies across Europe was organized by the Pompidou Group of the Council of Europe in Strasbourg, France, in November 2006. The conference adopted a six-platform programme against drug abuse that focuses on young people. Activities will be undertaken under each of the following six platforms in the fight against drug abuse and trafficking: prevention, treatment, ethics, airports, research and criminal justice. One such activity is the MedNET Network, initiated by France and the Netherlands, which is aimed at facilitating and supporting dialogue, cooperation and the exchange and transfer of knowledge and experiences between Europe and North Africa. As a follow-up to the ministerial conference, an online database of European research on drugs was launched in January 2007.

646. An operational body to tackle the smuggling of drugs into Europe by sea has been set up within the framework of the European Union. In September 2007, Ministers of seven European Union member States (France, Ireland, Italy, Netherlands, Portugal, Spain and United Kingdom) signed an agreement to establish the Maritime Analysis and Operation Centre-Narcotics (MAOC-N). The mission of MAOC-N is to enhance criminal intelligence and coordinate police action on the high seas, with a view to intercepting vessels carrying cocaine and cannabis. Naval and law enforcement bodies will participate in MAOC-N.

647. In Poland, the 18th International Conference on the Reduction of Drug Related Harm was held in Warsaw in May 2007. The Conference was organized by WHO, UNODC, UNAIDS, the World Bank and the Government of Poland. Some 1,200 persons