

III. Analysis of the world situation

A. Africa

1. Major developments

288. The threats posed by drug trafficking through Africa have remained high on the agenda of the international community. The political commitment to the issue was illustrated at a debate held by the Security Council in December 2009 on the transnational threats posed by drug trafficking to peace and security, during which specific reference was made to West Africa as one of the areas most affected by drug trafficking. The Council returned to the issue on subsequent occasions and called upon local authorities to take action. In January 2010, a United Nations integrated office was established in Guinea-Bissau, to be headed by a personal representative of the Secretary-General.

289. The Board notes the steps taken by the African Union to implement its Plan of Action on Drug Control and Crime Prevention (2007-2012). At the fourth session of the African Union Conference of Ministers for Drug Control and Crime Prevention, held in Addis Ababa from 28 September to 2 October 2010, African ministers and experts responsible for drug control and crime prevention in the member States of the African Union agreed to fight the illicit cultivation and abuse of cannabis, to actively address the control of precursor chemicals and to develop adequate monitoring and regulatory systems for ensuring the availability of drugs for medical purposes while, at the same time, curbing the availability of drugs on unregulated markets.

290. For the past several years, West African countries have been used by drug traffickers as trans-shipment areas for large quantities of cocaine from South America destined for Europe and North America. The large-scale smuggling of cocaine through West Africa by criminal organizations appeared to peak in 2007; in 2008 and 2009, the number of seizures reported in the subregion fell, possibly because heightened international awareness of the threat posed by drug trafficking had made such trafficking via that subregion more difficult. Recently, however, the large-scale smuggling of cocaine via the subregion appears to have resumed, as indicated by several large seizures

of cocaine effected in or linked to the subregion in 2010.

291. East Africa is the major conduit for smuggling heroin from South-West Asia into Africa, mainly through the major airports of Addis Ababa and Nairobi. From East Africa, heroin is smuggled into Europe and North America, either directly or indirectly through countries in West Africa (especially Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana and Nigeria) and, to a lesser extent, through countries in North Africa. The abuse of heroin has become a matter of concern in some East and Southern African countries, in particular Kenya, Mauritius, South Africa and Zambia.

292. The Board is concerned about the fact that in Africa there has been an increase in the abuse of almost all types of drugs over the past few years. Illicit cannabis production, trafficking and abuse continue to represent major challenges in Africa. Cannabis is the main drug of abuse in Africa. Cannabis that is illicitly produced in Africa is sold on the illicit markets in that region or smuggled into other regions, mainly Europe and North America. While cannabis herb is illicitly produced in many countries throughout Africa, the illicit production of cannabis resin is concentrated in North Africa, with Morocco being one of the world's largest producers of that drug.

293. The use of Africa as a transit area for the traffic in precursor chemicals appears to have decreased in the past few years. While some years ago a number of large shipments of ephedrine and pseudoephedrine destined for African countries and ultimately Central and North America were identified and stopped, no further cases involving the attempted diversion of ephedrine and pseudoephedrine on a large scale through Africa were reported in 2009 or 2010. This may be attributable to the improved controls applied by some African countries over imports of those precursor chemicals and to the intensified screening by the authorities of exporting countries of shipments of precursor chemicals destined for Africa. However, Africa continues to be used by traffickers as an area for the diversion of precursor chemicals, as indicated by the continued diversion and smuggling of small shipments of ephedrine, pseudoephedrine and other precursor chemicals used in the illicit manufacture of drugs.

2. Regional cooperation

294. Within the framework of the African Union Plan of Action, the African subregional economic communities are playing a key role in the implementation of the Plan of Action at the subregional and national levels. A five-year programme to improve drug and crime control in North Africa and the Middle East was adopted by the Council of the League of Arab States in the second half of 2010. The programme addresses the main challenges faced by the subregion, including trafficking, organized crime and drug abuse. The programme, together with a political declaration and the terms of reference for a steering committee, was elaborated at a regional expert meeting held in Cairo in April 2010.

295. In West Africa, member States of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) continue to demonstrate their support for the ECOWAS Political Declaration on the Prevention of Drug Abuse, Illicit Drug Trafficking and Organized Crime in West Africa, and many of them have taken action to implement the ECOWAS Regional Action Plan to Address the Growing Problem of Illicit Drug Trafficking, Organized Crime and Drug Abuse in West Africa (2008-2011), which was adopted at the ECOWAS Ministerial Conference on Drug Trafficking as a Security Threat to West Africa, held in Praia in October 2008. Progress has been made by the ECOWAS Commission in putting into effect its operational plan, adopted in Abuja in June 2009, for implementation of the Regional Action Plan, and in setting up a monitoring and evaluation mechanism. In December 2009, support and funds for implementation of the ECOWAS Regional Action Plan were pledged at a donor round table in Vienna organized by the ECOWAS Commission and UNODC including 15 million euros pledged by the European Commission.

296. In February 2010, the Dakar Initiative, an alliance of West African States, was established at a ministerial conference held in Dakar. The aim of the Dakar Initiative is to create a trans-Saharan network to counter the growing threat posed by cocaine trafficking through West African countries. The States currently participating in the Dakar Initiative are Cape Verde, the Gambia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Mali, Mauritania and Senegal.

297. At a ministerial meeting of the West Africa Coast Initiative held in Freetown in February 2010, the Freetown Commitment was adopted by the four States currently participating in the Initiative (Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia and Sierra Leone). The Freetown Commitment supports implementation of the ECOWAS Regional Action Plan and is designed to strengthen the capacity of specialized drug law enforcement agencies and of national criminal justice systems. The West Africa Coast Initiative was launched in 2009 as a joint technical assistance programme for capacity-building at the national and subregional levels. It is expected that the Initiative will eventually be expanded to include all 15 ECOWAS member States and Mauritania.

298. In East Africa, a programme to promote the rule of law, health and human security in that subregion, covering Burundi, Comoros, Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Madagascar, Mauritius, Rwanda, Seychelles, Somalia, Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania, was endorsed by a regional ministerial conference held in Nairobi in November 2009.

299. At the Twentieth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Africa, held in Nairobi in September 2010, participants examined current illicit drug trends in Africa and ways in which to strengthen the investigation of drug trafficking and related offences. The Meeting focused in particular on issues relating to drug trafficking and its corrupting influence on law enforcement agencies.

300. The Board notes that Governments of African countries have continued to establish legislative and administrative mechanisms to identify, trace, freeze, seize and confiscate the proceeds of drug trafficking with technical support by UNODC and the relevant subregional groups, notably the Eastern and Southern Africa Anti-Money Laundering Group and the Intergovernmental Action Group against Money Laundering in West Africa (GIABA). In January 2010, a GIABA workshop on the theme "Laundering the proceeds of illicit trafficking in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances in West Africa" was held in Bissau to examine the techniques and methods used to launder the proceeds of drug-related crime in the subregion and to identify gaps in the national regulatory and institutional frameworks for countering money-laundering.

301. A high-level meeting of heads of drug law enforcement agencies of six West African countries (Cape Verde, the Gambia, Ghana, Guinea-Bissau, Sierra Leone and Togo), as well as Colombia, the Dominican Republic, Jamaica and Peru, was organized by UNODC in Bogota in January 2010 as part of its transatlantic intelligence exchange project. At the meeting, a total of 24 bilateral agreements were signed in order to facilitate joint investigations and the rapid exchange of operational information between law enforcement agencies with the aim of promoting intelligence-led investigations resulting in the interception of illicit drug shipments in South America, Central America and the Caribbean, West Africa and Europe.

302. Relevant international organizations have continued to provide joint technical assistance to West African States in support of the efforts of those States to combat drug trafficking through their territory. The Board notes the various initiatives implemented by UNODC in 2009 and 2010 to provide technical assistance to West Africa in the areas of drug control and fighting organized crime, notably the development of the UNODC programme for West Africa for the period 2010-2014. The Container Control Programme, which is implemented jointly by UNODC and the World Customs Organization in Africa, Central America, South America and Central Asia, is assisting Governments in establishing effective container controls to prevent the smuggling of drugs and contraband while facilitating legal trade. The programme is fully operational in Senegal (the port of Dakar) and in Ghana (the port of Tema) and will be extended to Benin, Cape Verde, Côte d'Ivoire, Mali and Togo in the near future. The Airport Communication Project, developed by UNODC in cooperation with INTERPOL and the World Customs Organization and with funding from the European Commission, enhances border controls and border management systems in international airports on drug trafficking routes in Brazil and countries in Africa and links them with the communication systems of INTERPOL and the World Customs Organization. Joint units to counter drug trafficking are to be set up under the project in Cape Verde, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Guinea, Mali, Morocco, Nigeria, Senegal and Togo.

3. National legislation, policy and action

303. In 2009, the Government of Benin established three new bodies to monitor implementation of and enforce the drug control legislation adopted by that State in 1997: the inter-ministerial committee to combat the abuse of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances (CILAS), the central office against drug trafficking (OCERTID) and the unit for combating money-laundering (attached to the economic and financial brigade). It also adopted a plan for combating drugs.

304. An inter-ministerial coordination committee on drug control was established in Ethiopia, comprising all ministries and key Government agencies responsible for the prevention of drug trafficking and drug abuse. The committee's role is to oversee implementation of the national drug control master plan, provide policy advice on the updating of national drug control legislation, monitor compliance by Ethiopia with its obligations under the international drug control treaties and provide guidance on drug abuse prevention strategies for the general public and specific target groups.

305. Ghana has undertaken major restructuring of its national drug law enforcement agency, the Narcotics Control Board, and has also improved national inter-agency cooperation and collaboration with international partners. The number of interceptions and seizures of drug shipments has increased markedly as a result of Operation Westbridge, a passenger and cargo profiling operation carried out jointly with United Kingdom customs officials to improve drug interdiction at airports. The operation is to be extended to three airports in Nigeria.

306. In November 2009, the Government of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya signed an agreement with UNODC to open a UNODC subregional office in Tripoli for the Maghreb countries. The new office, which is to be opened in December 2010, will focus on promoting cooperation between Algeria, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Morocco and Tunisia in strengthening drug and crime control at their national borders.

307. The Government of Namibia is currently reviewing its national drug control master plan for the period 2003-2008. The Board encourages the Government to pass, as soon as possible, the

Combating of the Abuse of Drugs Bill, which would ban trafficking in and the sale, possession and use of addictive substances and bring Namibia into full compliance with the requirements of the 1988 Convention, and the Drug Control Bill, which provides for up-to-date tools for the prosecution of drug related crime.

308. In March 2010, the South African Police Service held its second national chemical monitoring and precursor control conference. The objectives of the conference were to bring together representatives of the chemical industry, pharmaceutical companies and the South African Police Service to develop strategies for countering the diversion of precursor chemicals for use in the illicit manufacture of drugs and to acquire international expertise on current international trends and best practices in the dismantling of clandestine drug laboratories. In October 2010, the Government of South Africa held a national conference to review its national drug control master plan for the period 2006-2011 and adopt a master plan for the period to follow.

309. In the State of Zanzibar, United Republic of Tanzania, a draft law on illicit drugs was passed by the Zanzibar House of Representatives in 2009. The new law enhances the powers of police officers to conduct searches and seize narcotic drugs and provides for controlled delivery. It also establishes a commission to coordinate drug control efforts.

310. In 2009, the Government of Tunisia adopted new drug control legislation focusing on the storage, transportation, prescription and dispensation of psychotropic substances. In addition, buprenorphine, methylphenidate and oripavine were added to the list of narcotic drugs subject to State control.

311. The Parliament of Uganda is currently considering comprehensive draft national legislation on drug control that would introduce stiffer penalties for traffickers and provide for the establishment of a national body for coordinating drug control, the treatment and rehabilitation of drug abusers, regional and international cooperation, and the confiscation and forfeiture of assets.

312. At the end of November 2009, a comprehensive national plan for combating drugs and crime for the period 2009-2013 was drawn up and approved by the Government of Togo under the auspices of UNODC.

The Government of Togo has established a financial intelligence unit, managed by the Ministry of Security, to fight money-laundering.

313. With regard to efforts to counter money-laundering, the Government of Ethiopia passed legislation to combat that phenomenon in November 2009, while in Kenya, the Proceeds of Crime and Anti-Money-Laundering Act entered into force in December 2009. Despite the efforts undertaken by Ethiopia, the Financial Action Task Force on Money Laundering has identified Ethiopia as having significant anti-money-laundering deficiencies that pose a risk to the international financial system. The Government of Ethiopia may wish to seek technical assistance through UNODC in order to address those shortcomings.

4. Cultivation, production, manufacture and trafficking

Narcotic drugs

314. Cannabis continues to be the drug most widely trafficked and abused, and cannabis plant the illicit crop most widely cultivated, throughout Africa. The African region remains among the world's largest producers of cannabis. Cannabis plants continue to be illicitly cultivated chiefly by small farmers and cannabis distributed by small groups or individuals.

315. Significant illicit production of cannabis resin continues to take place in countries of North Africa, notably Morocco. From 2003 to 2005 there was a marked decline in illicit cannabis plant cultivation in Morocco; that downward trend continued in subsequent years. The land used for cannabis plant cultivation was reported to have decreased from 134,000 ha in 2003 to 56,000 ha in 2009, while cannabis resin production decreased from 3,070 tons to 820 tons over the same period. The Board notes that while Moroccan authorities are actively engaged in efforts to interdict illicit drug shipments, data from European countries show that large quantities of Moroccan cannabis resin continue to be smuggled into Europe, the world's largest market for cannabis resin. The Board commends the Government of Morocco for its endeavours and calls upon it to continue its efforts to achieve the total eradication of cannabis plant cultivation on its territory. At the same time, the Board calls upon Governments of European countries, which are among the main countries of destination of

shipments of African cannabis to take all necessary measures to curb cannabis abuse in their countries. The Board encourages the Government of Morocco to continue to monitor the situation in its country by collecting and analysing pertinent statistical data on the extent of cannabis plant cultivation in Morocco and to share its experience with the international community. In that connection, the Board notes with regret that the survey on cannabis plant cultivation and cannabis production that was to be conducted by the Government of Morocco in cooperation with UNODC in 2010 was not carried out. The Board encourages the Government of Morocco and UNODC to take all steps necessary to ensure that the survey is conducted as soon as possible.

316. Cannabis herb production and trafficking are reported in practically all African countries. Cannabis herb is abused locally or smuggled within the region. Africa is also one of the main sources of the cannabis herb seized in Europe. The largest producers of cannabis herb in Africa are countries in West Africa (Ghana, Nigeria, Senegal and Togo), Central Africa (the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Equatorial Guinea), Southern Africa (Malawi, South Africa, Swaziland and Zambia) and East Africa (Comoros, Ethiopia, Kenya, Madagascar, Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania).

317. In Nigeria, more than 900 ha of cannabis plants were destroyed by the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency during 2009. As a result, the farm-gate price of cannabis quadrupled in that country during the same year. The quantity of cannabis seized in Nigeria decreased sharply, from 334 tons in 2008 to 115 tons in 2009. In Ghana, irrigation farming has been introduced on sites where cannabis plants are illicitly cultivated, making it possible for the illicit crops to be grown throughout the year. Cannabis from Ghana is shipped primarily to Europe, in particular to the United Kingdom. A Government pilot scheme launched in Ghana in 2003 to provide cannabis farmers with the means to cultivate alternative cash crops was discontinued in 2008, as the scheme was not sustainable and some farmers continued to grow cannabis plants despite receiving incentives to cultivate alternative crops. South Africa ranks among the world's largest producers of cannabis. While most of the cannabis illicitly produced in that country is abused locally, some is smuggled into countries in Europe, primarily the United Kingdom. In Egypt,

cannabis plants continue to be illicitly cultivated in the north of the Sinai peninsula and in Upper Egypt, and about 75 ha of illicit crops were eradicated on the Sinai peninsula and 30 tons of cannabis seized during 2009.

318. While there is no evidence of the illicit cultivation of coca bush or the illicit manufacture of cocaine in Africa, for the past several years, West African countries have been used as trans-shipment areas for smuggling large quantities of cocaine from South America into Europe. As a result, two key trans-shipment areas have emerged in West Africa: one in Guinea and Guinea-Bissau in the north of the subregion; and the other in the Bight of Benin in the south. The preferred modus operandi of traffickers has been to transport the cocaine shipments using mother ships that offload the shipments onto smaller sea vessels near the West African coast, which then transport the shipments to Portugal and Spain. Large cocaine shipments are also sent in modified small aircraft from Brazil or Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) to various destinations in West Africa. West African traffickers then traffic the cocaine onward to Europe, usually using commercial air courier services and often receiving a portion of the drug in payment for their services.

319. In 2008, a decrease in the number of reported seizures suggested that cocaine trafficking through West Africa was beginning to subside, possibly because drug trafficking as a whole had become more difficult as a result of heightened international awareness of the threat posed by such trafficking. By 2009, there were almost no seizures of cocaine trafficked by sea or on flights originating in West Africa. However, there were indications that cocaine continued to be smuggled through West Africa, such as the discovery in the Mali desert of the wreckage of a large cargo plane suspected of having carried a multi-ton cocaine shipment from the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela. By mid-2010, large-scale cocaine trafficking via West Africa appeared to have resumed. In May 2010, members of a trafficking network were arrested in Liberia on charges of having attempted to smuggle at least 4 tons of cocaine from South America into European countries and the United States via Liberia. In June 2010, a record seizure of 2.1 tons of cocaine was effected in the Gambia and 12 suspects were arrested as a result of a joint investigation by Gambian and British law enforcement services. In July 2010, a shipment of

450 kilograms (kg) of cocaine from Chile was intercepted in Nigeria. Those seizures indicate that multi-ton shipments of cocaine are arriving in West Africa and will continue to do so in the future, particularly since the factors that previously facilitated such flows of illicit drugs continue to prevail.

320. It appears that traffickers are adapting their modus operandi, for instance by using light aircraft to transport shipments of less than one ton of cocaine to coastal countries, notably Guinea-Bissau and Sierra Leone, and inland desert countries, such as Mali, which are closer to Europe and whose territory is more difficult to control. Drug traffickers constantly change their routes in response to successful law enforcement efforts; for instance, cocaine shipments are increasingly being routed from Argentina and Uruguay to Central and Southern Africa, while small-scale cocaine trafficking by air between North Africa and Europe — for example, from Morocco to Spain, from Algeria to France and from Tunisia to Italy — is increasing. In contrast, no major maritime seizures have been reported off the West African coast or by the Lisbon-based Maritime Analysis and Operations Centre – Narcotics (MAOC-N) since late 2009. There was also a significant decrease, between 2006 and 2009, in the number of arrests of cocaine couriers arriving at European airports on flights originating in West Africa.

321. A serious danger posed by cocaine is its enormous value relative to the size of local economies, a factor that allows traffickers to use bribery to protect their operations. For instance, in March 2010, 11 top-level officials of Gambian law enforcement agencies were arrested in connection with drug trafficking.

322. Some cocaine is also smuggled into South Africa, both via West Africa and directly out of South America using courier, air freight or express mail services. South Africa is becoming an important hub for cocaine shipments destined for illicit markets in Southern Africa and Europe. As regards East Africa, a series of cocaine seizures at the international airport of Nairobi in 2009 highlighted the continuing drug trafficking problem in Kenya. A growing number of cocaine seizures have been reported in North Africa, notably in Egypt and the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya.

323. The illicit cultivation of opium poppy continues to take place on the Sinai peninsula and in Upper Egypt. Such cultivation has also been reported in Algeria. The opium produced in Algeria and Egypt is

abused locally. There is no illicit manufacture of heroin in Africa. Heroin from South-East and South-West Asia enters Africa through East African countries, from where it is trafficked first to West Africa and then to the United States and, to a lesser extent, countries in Europe. According to UNODC estimates, about 35 tons of heroin are smuggled into Africa each year, of which some 25 tons are used to supply Africa's population of drug addicts, which is tentatively estimated at 1.2 million.

324. Within Africa, heroin flows to South Africa and countries in North Africa. In recent years, Ethiopia has become a significant transit area for heroin. Heroin is trafficked through Ethiopia and Kenya primarily because those countries have good air transport connections. From Kenya, heroin is transported to the Indian Ocean islands of Comoros, Madagascar, Mauritius and Seychelles. South Africa is used as a transit country for heroin shipments destined for illicit markets in Southern Africa and Europe and is also a country of destination. Heroin seizures have increased in North African countries, notably Egypt and the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya. Countries in West Africa have also emerged as important trans-shipment areas for heroin trafficking, as corroborated by a series of significant seizures of heroin (each of quantities greater than 5 kg) linked to Côte d'Ivoire, Nigeria and Ghana in 2009 and 2010. West African trafficking organizations are playing a key role in heroin trafficking throughout the world.

Psychotropic substances

325. In Africa, the illicit manufacture of psychotropic substances for local abuse takes place mainly in South Africa, but also in other Southern African countries and in East Africa. The illicitly manufactured drugs are predominantly methamphetamine, methcathinone and methaqualone (Mandrax). The precursor chemicals needed for the manufacture of methamphetamine, namely ephedrine and pseudoephedrine, are usually imported into South Africa legally but then diverted from domestic distribution channels. Legally imported cathine is also being used for the illicit manufacture of methamphetamine. Methaqualone originating in South Asia enters Africa through ports in East Africa and is smuggled via Mozambique into Southern Africa. Amphetamines appear to continue to be illicitly manufactured in Egypt (albeit to a lesser extent than previously) as evidenced by the discovery in Egypt in

April 2010 of a laboratory suspected to have been used for the illicit manufacture of methamphetamine.

326. Amphetamines and other amphetamine-type stimulants continue to be smuggled into countries in West and Central Africa, to be sold on the illicit markets or smuggled into other countries. According to the *World Drug Report 2010*,²⁷ prepared by UNODC, West and Central Africa accounted for almost 90 per cent of global seizures of unspecified amphetamines in 2008. In 2009, more than 700 kg of psychotropic substances were seized in Nigeria, a considerable increase compared with the 530 kg seized in 2008. Nigeria may be at risk of becoming a transit country for methamphetamine trafficking, as indicated by two seizures effected in Lagos, Nigeria, in April 2010: one of 36 kg of crystalline methamphetamine destined for Tokyo and the other of 26.5 kg of amphetamine destined for the United States via South Africa. In both cases, the substances were detected by the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency of Nigeria in air cargo shipments.

327. African countries continue to be vulnerable to the problems posed by illicitly manufactured or counterfeit pharmaceutical preparations containing narcotic drugs or psychotropic substances. In many African countries, it is possible to purchase pharmaceutical preparations without presenting a valid prescription. Many pharmaceutical preparations, some of them smuggled or imported without authorization, are sold on street markets. There is a need to increase the capacity of African countries to address the counterfeiting of medicines and the problems related to such medicines; lack of resources hampers the detection and investigation of such counterfeiting. The fact that counterfeit medicines can be easily obtained on African markets represents a serious risk to public health.

Precursor chemicals

328. In 2008 and 2009, there was a decrease in the number of reported cases involving suspicious or stopped shipments of precursor chemicals being smuggled through Africa. During the period 2006-2007, a large number of suspicious shipments of ephedrine, pseudoephedrine and preparations containing those substances were identified and

stopped and a total of more than 75 tons of ephedrine and pseudoephedrine were prevented from being diverted to or through the region. In 2008, however, the smuggling of those substances through Africa began to decrease markedly, although the diversion and smuggling of small shipments have continued. In April 2010, the Egyptian authorities dismantled an illicit drug manufacturing laboratory in Alexandria and seized various precursor chemicals (pseudoephedrine, hydrochloric acid, toluene and sulphuric acid), as well as tools and equipment, used in the illicit manufacture of methamphetamine. In April 2010, two businesswomen were arrested in Lusaka for smuggling 4 kg of ephedrine and 1 kg of cocaine. In South Africa, large quantities of ephedrine and pseudoephedrine continue to be diverted for use in the illicit manufacture of methamphetamine, which is abused mainly in the Western Cape province.

329. West Africa is at risk of being used by traffickers as a source of precursor chemicals that are used to illicitly manufacture drugs in the subregion or smuggled to other subregions, as indicated by the interception by the customs authorities of Côte d'Ivoire, in June 2010, of a shipment of 960 kg of acetone and 2,145 kg of methyl ethyl ketone, precursor chemicals used in the illicit manufacture of cocaine and other drugs. The traffickers had intended to transport acetone to Benin and the methyl ethyl ketone to Guinea without the required authorizations. Subsequent investigations carried out jointly with those two States confirmed that the addresses to which the shipments were to be sent were false. The Board urges the Governments of the African countries that have not yet done so to put in place, as a matter of priority, the legislative and institutional framework necessary to combat effectively the smuggling of precursors into or through their territories.

Substances not under international control

330. Khat continues to be cultivated in countries in East Africa, mainly Ethiopia and Kenya, and is used as a stimulant locally and in parts of the Arabian Peninsula. Despite the fact that the use of khat is associated with health risks, khat is prohibited only in some countries in the subregion, such as Eritrea, Madagascar, Rwanda and the United Republic of Tanzania, and in Canada, the United States and some European countries.

²⁷ *World Drug Report 2010* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.10.XI.13), p. 207.

331. The abuse of tramadol, an opioid analgesic that is not under international control, is of increasing concern in North African countries. In 2009, the Egyptian authorities seized 1.2 million tablets containing that substance which had been placed under national control in Egypt in 2008.

5. Abuse and treatment

332. Cannabis has remained the primary drug of abuse throughout Africa. The annual prevalence rate in Africa for cannabis abuse among the population aged 15-64 years fluctuates between 5 and 9.6 per cent, which is among the highest rates in the world and approximately double the global annual average. One matter of concern is that cannabis abuse in Africa appears to be increasing, the highest annual prevalence rates for such abuse being recorded in West and Central Africa (between 7.8 and 12.3 per cent), followed by Southern Africa, North Africa and East Africa. Zambia and Nigeria remain the African countries with highest prevalence of cannabis abuse (17.7 per cent and 13.8 per cent, respectively). According to the South African Community Epidemiology Network on Drug Use (SACENDU), in South Africa, the only country in Africa that systematically monitors drug abuse, 9 per cent of the population abuses cannabis and 26-58 per cent of patients attending specialist treatment centres reported cannabis as their primary or secondary drug of abuse.

333. Cocaine abuse appears to be rising in Africa, albeit from low levels. In Africa, the annual prevalence rate for cocaine abuse among the population aged 15-64 years is estimated at 0.2-0.5 per cent, which corresponds to the global average rate for such abuse. Within Africa, the rate of cocaine abuse is highest in countries in West and Central Africa — where the transit traffic in cocaine has fuelled an increase in local abuse — followed by countries in Southern Africa. SACENDU has noted an increase in the number of persons admitted for the treatment of cocaine abuse in South Africa.

334. There are estimated to be about 1.2 million heroin abusers in Africa. Within Africa, the subregion with the highest prevalence rate for opiate abuse is East Africa, followed by North Africa, Southern Africa, and West and Central Africa. The African countries with the highest annual prevalence rate for opiate abuse are Mauritius (1.9 per cent), Kenya (0.7 per cent) and

Egypt (0.4 per cent). According to the *World Drug Report 2010*, in South Africa, the prevalence rate for heroin abuse has reportedly remained stable over the past few years.²⁸ The abuse of buprenorphine, including by injection, has been reported in Mauritius and Tunisia.

335. South Africa is possibly the world's largest consumer of methaqualone. In that country, methaqualone is the preferred drug of abuse, and it is often abused in combination with cannabis. Another matter of serious concern is the abuse of methamphetamine (locally known as "tik") and methcathinone in South Africa. Methamphetamine is illicitly manufactured in South Africa, to be sold on the illicit market. It is abused mainly in the Western Cape province, especially in Cape Town and, more recently, in Pretoria. According to police estimates, at least 30,000 addicts use more than a gram of methamphetamine every day. In Cape Town, methamphetamine is reported to be a primary or secondary substance of abuse among two thirds of drug abusers. Abuse of methamphetamine is believed to be spreading to other provinces of South Africa. In order to address the seriousness of the drug abuse problem, the provincial government of the Western Cape has adopted new substance abuse policies and in 2010 appointed a substance abuse coordinator at the Office of the Premier of the Western Cape.

336. In many African countries, national health-care systems, owing to lack of resources, are unable to meet medical needs adequately, particularly as regards facilities for the treatment and rehabilitation of drug-dependent persons. As a result of limited treatment options and in many cases no treatment programmes or facilities specifically for drug abusers, persons seeking assistance are often referred to the psychiatric wards of general hospitals, where only a small number of drug-dependent persons can be accommodated. The Board therefore welcomes the launch by UNODC and WHO of the project "Treating drug dependence and its health consequences" in Africa in 2009. The objective of the project is to improve the treatment available to drug-dependent persons and to facilitate their access to quality and affordable treatment services by providing support for the development and strengthening of such services and capacity-building for the entities that provide such

²⁸ *Ibid.*, p. 157.

services. To date, a total of 70 national trainers from 13 sub-Saharan countries have been trained under the project. The training programme is to be implemented at the national level between September 2010 and October 2011, and participating countries will be provided with technical support for policy development and service provision.

337. Capacity-building initiatives have been launched in Algeria, Egypt, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya and Morocco to provide a comprehensive response to drug abuse and HIV/AIDS, including community outreach services for drug abusers, drug abuse prevention services and treatment services for drug abusers, including prison inmates.

338. In Morocco, the programme for opioid substitution therapy launched by the Government in 2009 became operational in June 2010 as part of a comprehensive package of services for the treatment of heroin dependence. Morocco is the first country in North Africa (and in the Arab world) to adopt legislation allowing the use of methadone in the treatment of drug dependence.

B. Americas

Central America and the Caribbean

1. Major developments

339. Because of its geographical location, at the crossroads of the main producing countries and the consumer markets, the Central American and Caribbean region continues to be used as a transit area for the large-scale smuggling of illicit drugs. The region's long coastlines, porous borders and limited law enforcement and institutional capacity have facilitated trafficking activities, further compounding the impact of drug-related crime.

340. Despite the considerable efforts made by Governments in the region, the drug problem facing Central America and the Caribbean has been exacerbated by endemic corruption, widespread poverty and high unemployment. It is estimated that the street value of all drugs transiting through the Caribbean alone exceeds that of the legal economy. Proceeds of drug trafficking have been used to bribe public officials, increasing corruption within government, law enforcement agencies and the

judiciary and further undermining already weak institutions.

341. In some instances, the resources amassed by drug trafficking syndicates through illicit activities have enabled them to challenge the Government for effective control of parts of the national territory, jeopardizing the State's security and political stability. The Board notes with concern the negative effect that corruption has had on drug control efforts in Central America and the Caribbean and urges the Governments of all countries in the region to take urgent measures to combat corruption in all its manifestations.

342. In Central America, drug-related violence has continued to plague El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras, the countries of the so-called "Northern Triangle", as national gangs are forming alliances with international criminal syndicates. According to the *World Drug Report 2010*,²⁹ the "Northern Triangle" currently has the world's highest murder rate and high rates of other forms of crime. It is reported that in Honduras alone about 60 per cent of all crimes are drug-related. In Panama, the murder rate more than doubled between 2006 and 2009, and the authorities attributed the increase to drug-related violence. In an effort to destabilize the Governments of countries in the area, drug syndicates have also targeted senior governmental officials; in Honduras, for example, the chief of the counter-narcotics police was murdered in December 2009.

343. In the Caribbean, Jamaica has also been affected by significant drug-related violence. In the summer of 2010, a police operation aimed at arresting the alleged head of a drug trafficking ring led to a stand-off between heavily armed gang members and police. The gravity of the ensuing violence, which caused over 70 deaths, prompted the Government of Jamaica to declare a state of emergency in Kingston and mobilize the largest contingent of armed forces in the history of the country. The suspect was eventually arrested by police and extradited to the United States to face drug trafficking charges.

344. The Board notes that natural disasters have also posed new challenges to the drug prevention efforts in Central America and the Caribbean. In January 2010, an earthquake of a magnitude of 7.0 struck Haiti, killing upwards of 200,000 people and causing

²⁹ Ibid., p. 239.