

401. Under the joint UNODC/WHO project entitled “Treating drug dependence and its health consequences” (Treatnet II), assistance is provided to participating States to increase their technical competence in providing effective treatment and rehabilitation of drug-dependent persons tailored to the needs of different geographical regions. In Africa, the project is being implemented in Côte d’Ivoire, Egypt, Kenya, Morocco, Mozambique, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, the United Republic of Tanzania and Zambia. In Kenya, over 700 health workers were trained in drug dependence treatment. A regional training-of-trainers seminar held in Nairobi in September 2012 trained 54 health professionals from 11 countries in Africa.

402. In Algeria, a multi-year project has been put in place aimed at setting up a network of over 50 drug addiction treatment centres. So far, seven addiction care centres are already operational, in addition to existing facilities.

403. In Kenya, the National Authority for the Campaign against Alcohol and Drug Abuse has started to develop an opiate substitution therapy programme and a syringe exchange programme.

404. The commitment of the Government of Morocco to prevention, treatment and rehabilitation of drug-dependent persons is reflected in its national programme launched in 1999, which provides for the establishment of treatment centres for young people with addictive behaviours and offers awareness-raising, diagnosis, prevention and social reintegration to patients. Since 2010, Morocco has also had a methadone substitution programme in place.

405. In the United Republic of Tanzania, where a methadone maintenance programme was launched in 2011 for persons who abuse drugs by injection, one further opioid treatment centre was opened in 2012. It is expected that the programme will be able to serve up to 1,500 injecting drug abusers.

B. Americas

Central America and the Caribbean

1. Major developments

406. The region of Central America and the Caribbean continues to be used as a major transit area for South American cocaine heading northwards to the North American market. In general, the region experienced a decline in seizures of cocaine in 2010, possibly as a result of declining demand in North America. That

notwithstanding, the increasing power of drug gangs has helped to raise corruption and homicide rates in the region, especially in Belize, El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras, the “Northern Quadrangle”, which are particularly affected by significant levels of drug-related violence. Areas exposed to intense drug trafficking in Central America show higher homicide rates. Drug trafficking has corrupted some State institutions, which in a number of cases have been overwhelmed by the resources deployed by trafficking organizations.

407. UNODC estimates that about 280 tons of South American cocaine (purity-adjusted) are destined for North America. Much of it travels by way of Central America and the Caribbean, where cocaine use is also increasing. Recently, cocaine shipments destined for countries in Central America, with further deliveries for Mexico and the United States of America, have increased. Cocaine prevalence rates in Central America and in the Caribbean have been estimated by UNODC at 0.5 per cent and 0.7 per cent (2010), respectively.

408. In 2011 and 2012, there was increased trafficking in precursor chemicals in countries in Central America, in particular non-scheduled chemicals used in the illicit manufacture of methamphetamine. El Salvador, Guatemala and Nicaragua reported incidents in 2011 and 2012 involving significant seizures of esters of phenylacetic acid and methylamine. Illicit laboratories have also been reported in the region. Similarly, seizures of chemical precursors, raw material (coca paste) and laboratories in Guatemala and Honduras indicate the likely existence of both cocaine- and heroin-refining facilities. Large seizures of chemicals effected over a short period present a challenge to the local authorities in terms of safe handling and environmentally friendly disposal. Furthermore, the abuse of MDMA (“ecstasy”), generally imported from Europe, has been spreading in Central America and the Caribbean since the period 2010-2011.

409. The destabilizing effects of drug trafficking and their impact on regional security have increased and the region has been affected by links between drug trafficking and increased levels of violence. The links between drug trafficking, trafficking in weapons and the related higher levels of violence that characterized drug-related crime in a number of countries of the region over the past year continue to exist, including an increased homicide rate. According to the latest data of UNODC, Honduras and El Salvador are the most violent countries in the world, with homicide rates of 92 and 69 per 100,000 population, respectively, and Central America is the most violent region, with a rate of 41 per 100,000 population — one third higher than Southern Africa and twice the rate of

Central Africa and South America. The situation regarding crime- and drug-related violence in the region is critical, as in some areas people's security continues to be threatened by increasing rates of violence, in particular drug-related crime. The number of recent arrests and extraditions of key drug traffickers in Guatemala, some with links to Mexican cartels, underscores the presence of drug cartels in Guatemala, as do reports of increasing violence in the country, where the homicide rate is 38.5 per 100,000 population.

410. Jamaica continued to be the largest producer of cannabis in the Caribbean and has been exploited by cocaine traffickers as a trans-shipment point for other illicit drugs. The illegal drug trade continues to play a critical role in providing capital to gang members and other organized criminal groups operating in Jamaica. In 2010, the re-emergence of Curaçao as a major point of exchange (cannabis/cocaine) via drug mules was noted; nevertheless, in 2011 there was a shift back to Barbados and Trinidad and Tobago. Furthermore, Colombian traffickers are increasingly using routes through Panama, as a hub, and other Central American countries to move drugs to the United States.

411. The Board is deeply concerned about the recent developments in Central America, in particular the high-level call in some countries to pursue legalization of illicit drugs, on the assumption that decriminalization of trafficking would reduce drug-related violence, which appear to be proposals that would be inconsistent with the obligations of parties under the international drug control conventions. The Board notes with concern the increasing influence of powerful drug cartels on the *maras* (local gangs), which have become diversified and internationalized and are now conducting their illicit drug-related activities and trafficking with the support of small- and medium-sized cartels. This poses a new challenge to the Governments of the region in tackling illicit drug trafficking and drug-related violence.

412. UNODC has been implementing its regional programme for Central America for the period 2009-2012, which is being revised and will have a second phase for the period 2013-2015, and is also finalizing a regional programme for the Caribbean in close cooperation with the secretariat of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM). This work is being led by the regional hub for Central America and the Caribbean in Panama recently developed by UNODC. On 15 October 2012, UNODC established the Liaison and Partnership Office in Mexico as the first of its kind. This initiative may serve as a model for other countries in various regions and reinforces cooperation between Mexico and UNODC,

taking advantage of Mexico's expertise and experience in combating illicit drugs and organized crime. As a sign of regional cooperation, centres of excellence are being created in the Dominican Republic and Mexico with a view to promoting evidence-based drug demand reduction programmes and criminal justice responses. Criminal justice in Central America has been reinforced by the Central American Network of Organized Crime Prosecutors (REFCO) using best practices to strengthen transnational investigations to counter organized crime. Furthermore, the global Container Control Programme, a joint initiative of UNODC and the World Customs Organization, continued to expand, operating in more countries in the region and controlling containers transported by sea.

2. Regional cooperation

413. The Twenty-first Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Latin America and the Caribbean, was held in Santiago in October 2011. The Meeting considered three main issues: building partnerships with the chemical industry to strengthen precursor control, implementing effective border controls, and addressing the proceeds of drug trafficking. Participants discussed measures taken to counter drug trafficking, practical problems that impede cooperation at the regional and subregional levels, as well as measures to overcome such problems. The Board acknowledges the recommendations made at the Meeting, in particular that, in order to better target attempts at illicit diversion of precursor chemicals, Governments of the region should review the information they share on cocaine analysis and seized chemical precursors so as to ensure that such information supports trend analysis. The Board encourages continued and enhanced regional cooperation, coordination and exchange of information among law enforcement authorities of the region. The Board notes the important role and contribution of drug liaison officers in sharing of information and conducting joint investigations.

414. The secretariat of CICAD Group of Experts on Chemical Substances and Pharmaceutical Products held a meeting in Santo Domingo from 25 to 29 June 2012, with the participation of the Board. The Board provided an overview of shortcomings in the control of precursor chemicals in the region and of tools available to Governments to counter such weaknesses, referring to article 12, paragraph 10 (a), of the 1988 Convention and encouraging registration with the new Precursors Incident Communication System (PICS) and establishing annual legitimate requirements for the import of amphetamine-type stimulant precursors.

415. The Ministry of Health of Belize hosted the Fifth Meeting of the Directors of National Drug Councils in Belize City on 3 and 4 May 2012. Building human resources in drug demand reduction for sustainable development was the theme of the annual regional gathering, which brought together 20 directors of drug councils of CARICOM States. Participants discussed Caribbean strategies to reduce the demand and supply of illicit drugs in the countries of the subregion in order to improve treatment and expand access to care for substance abuse disorders, and to reduce the psychosocial costs of substance addiction.

416. The Dominican Republic hosted a regional conference on organized crime on 16 and 17 May 2012, organized by REFCO, a network of prosecution units in Central America and the Caribbean. Twelve representatives of public prosecutors' offices discussed issues such as drug gangs and strategies to strengthen public prosecutors' offices and to combat money-laundering.

417. The President of the Republic of Honduras hosted the Presidents of the Central American Integration System (SICA) in Tegucigalpa on 6 March 2012. Presidents of the following countries participated in the event: Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama. The meeting issued a joint declaration on the importance to the region of the safety and welfare of its citizens, and the need to continue the dialogue on the Central American Security Strategy and its importance in relation to the economic and social development of the region. The Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Dominican Republic and the Vice-President of the United States of America also participated in the meeting. Issues discussed included drug trafficking, money-laundering, arms trafficking, trafficking in precursor chemicals and the human, social and economic costs that those illegal activities had for the countries of the region. Participants recalled the commitments made by the international community in the framework of the International Conference in Support of the Central American Security Strategy in Guatemala City on 22 and 23 June 2011. Participants also recognized the importance of strengthening regional mechanisms for information exchange between Central America and other countries in the international community, as well as the need to address the problem of drug trafficking in a comprehensive manner, taking into account not only interdiction efforts but also the reduction of supply and consumption in particular.

418. The transregional Airport Communication Project (AIRCOP) and the Container Control Programme are both being actively implemented in Central America and

the Caribbean. AIRCOP was activated at the UNODC Regional Office for Central America and the Caribbean in Panama in July 2012. Joint airport interdiction task forces will be set up for the project in a number of countries in Latin America and the Caribbean and will be connected to international law enforcement databases. Communication networks of INTERPOL and the World Customs Organization will be secured to enable the real-time transmission to international airports of operational information aimed at identifying illicit networks and intercepting illicit shipments. This initiative provides targeted programmes of training in the methods, techniques and systems of risk analysis, drug detection and criminal network investigation. In the Central American and Caribbean region, implementation of the project was planned for the Dominican Republic and Jamaica, and is expected to expand to other key locations in the region. The Container Control Programme is in operation in Costa Rica, Guatemala and Panama, as well as other South American countries. This joint effort enables countries to improve the information exchange between law enforcement agencies, enhance capabilities with counterparts, provide information exchange and container alerts, plan target operations, deploy special investigative techniques and aid in post-seizure investigations. In 2011, law enforcement officers cooperating with the Container Control Programme in Latin America seized about 10 tons of drugs and 166,000 litres of various chemicals. The Programme will keep expanding in the region, with units planned to go into operation in the period 2012-2013 in Chile, the Dominican Republic, Guyana, Jamaica and Suriname. Comprehensive port assessments are being conducted, and memorandums of understanding are being negotiated with each of those countries.

3. National legislation, policy and action

419. Costa Rica reported that it had continued to implement its national drug control plan for the period 2008-2012. The strategy included a drug demand component, as well as areas relating to education, security, justice and non-governmental organizations.

420. In 2011, Cuba continued its Operation Hatchet, led by the Ministry of the Interior and with the participation of other ministries, with a view to reducing the supply of illicit drugs through increased observation of the coastline and borders for detection and interdiction efforts. The Government of Cuba continued to interdict suspicious vessels and aircraft and to share information on "go-fast" vessels with neighbouring countries, including the United States. In 2011, some 45 real-time

reports of go-fast drug trafficking incidents were made by Cuba to the United States Coast Guard.

421. In 2011, in order to better counter illicit drugs, the Government of El Salvador created a series of innovative procedural mechanisms to enhance criminal investigation from a scientific perspective, such as the use of special techniques — controlled delivery, controlled purchase and covert operations — as well as regulations on the forfeiture of assets of crime. The Government of El Salvador is implementing, in cooperation with OAS, drug-related programmes such as the Training and Certification Programme for Prevention, Treatment and Rehabilitation of Drug Abuse and Violence (PROCCER). In March and June 2012, REFCO provided a national training programme and workshop on wiretapping, organized by the Office of the Public Prosecutor of El Salvador for national prosecutors. These activities encouraged the exchange of information based on the needs and opinions of those involved in implementing wiretapping legislation. The Special Law on Telecommunications Intervention was adopted in 2010 and includes provisions for wiretapping.

422. Guatemala continued to support the United Nations-led International Commission against Impunity in Guatemala in order to investigate high-profile corruption cases and organized criminal activity, with a view to reinforcing the national justice system. In November 2011, the President, in an unprecedented measure, signed the final extradition order to extradite the former President to the United States on money-laundering charges. With the support of the United States Government, the Government of Honduras engaged in bolder narcotics interdiction operations, while also working to develop institutions capable of preparing criminal cases, bringing suspects before a judge and sending convicted criminals to prison.

423. The Government of Jamaica continues to work with its regional counterparts, such as Cuba, to combat trafficking in illicit narcotics. The Government is in the process of developing bilateral agreements with Cuba and Haiti to address the illicit drug trade, the “guns-for-drugs” trade and other organized criminal activities. Regarding trafficking by sea, Jamaica reported that it had in place bilateral agreements with Cuba and the United States, and also envisaged cooperation agreements with the Bahamas and the Dominican Republic. Concerning individuals arrested for being involved in the illicit drug trade and other drug-related offences, the total number of Jamaicans arrested in 2011 amounted to 20,216, which surpassed the number of overall arrests for 2010. However, there has been an increase in the number of foreign nationals being used as couriers to smuggle drugs

into Canada, the United Kingdom and the United States. In Jamaica, the recently re-established Ian Fleming International Airport and Falmouth Pier presented opportunities for drug traffickers to smuggle drugs, but this threat has been mitigated by the vigilance of the country’s law enforcement institutions. The Ministry of National Security was in the process of finalizing the National/Master Drug Abuse Prevention and Control Plan for the period 2012-2016. During 2011-2012, an annual anti-drug strategy was established under the Narcotics Review Committee in order to disrupt and dismantle major criminal drug groups and to speed up the cannabis eradication programme.

424. Trinidad and Tobago continues to be a trans-shipment point for narcotics and precursor chemicals and for other illicit transnational activities. The Government is actively pursuing supply and demand reduction initiatives through legislative review, institutional strengthening, enhanced inter-agency collaboration, capacity-building, border control initiatives, information- and intelligence-sharing, public awareness and standardization of the operations of treatment and rehabilitation centres. To further those initiatives, several law enforcement and security agencies in the country have engaged in a number of interdiction strategies to tackle drug trafficking. In 2010-2011, the country’s law enforcement authorities participated in joint investigations with counterparts in France, Germany, Spain, the United Kingdom and the United States, which led to a number of seizures and arrests.

4. Cultivation, production, manufacture and trafficking

(a) Narcotic drugs

425. While Central American and Caribbean countries produce cannabis and some opium and their residents also consume drugs, the primary risk in the region arises from its use in the transit of South American cocaine. In some countries in the region, higher homicide rates are linked to organized crime and conflicts between criminal groups over the control of drug trafficking routes to illicit markets further north. Organized criminal groups based in Colombia and Mexico have had an increasing influence over the illicit drug trade and growing violence throughout the region. In April 2012, Guatemalan law enforcement authorities arrested the head of a major drug trafficking and money-laundering organization based in Guatemala. The suspect had smuggled thousands of kilograms of cocaine to Mexico and into the United States, and was believed to be responsible for bringing the Mexican criminal group Los Zetas into Guatemala in 2008. The individual had close ties to Los Zetas and

represented a dangerous and critical figure in the trade in illicit drugs in Central America.

426. After a decline in recent years, there are indications that trafficking in cocaine through the Caribbean is increasing. Colombian authorities reported that most of their recent seizures pointed to the increasing importance of the Caribbean route as opposed to previous years, when seizures occurred mostly in the Pacific. In May 2012, United States authorities seized 1,288 kg of cocaine packaged in 50 large bales on a go-fast vessel in Caribbean international waters. Colombian authorities reported that, of 155.8 tons of cocaine seized in 2011, 55 per cent had been seized in territorial and international waters. Traffickers are now usually sending shipments by sea, using boats or semi-submersibles, through the Caribbean to the Central American/Mexican corridor and afterwards overland into the United States. Jamaica reported that there had been a significant increase in the amount of cocaine seized in 2011 compared with the previous year — 553 kg in 2011 compared with 178 kg in 2010. About 1.5 kg of “crack” cocaine was seized in Jamaica in 2011. According to the report of the Twenty-first Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Santiago from 3 to 7 October 2011, a new issue in the region has been the emergence of trafficking by air of liquid cocaine ingested by individuals. This method of concealment is on the increase, and airports of the region should take further measures to facilitate the identification of such cases. At that meeting, attention was also drawn to the trafficking of ingested cannabis products, a development that was reportedly the consequence of the high price of cannabis products in illicit markets.

427. The Dominican Republic remains an important transit country for illicit drugs; however, due to increasing interdiction efforts, drug smuggling through the territory of that country has declined. The country’s efforts resulted in an increase in the amount of narcotics seized in 2011 as compared with 2010, with most seizures being made at the country’s six international airports and seaports. In 2011, Dominican authorities seized 6.7 tons of cocaine, 42 kg of heroin, 845 kg of cannabis and 5,551 MDMA (“ecstasy”) tablets. During 2010, 4.85 tons of cocaine, 30 kg of heroin, 642 kg of cannabis and 138 “ecstasy” tablets were seized by law enforcement authorities.

428. In Trinidad and Tobago, the local drug problem is two-pronged, consisting of cocaine, originating primarily in Colombia, and potent varieties of cannabis trafficked from Colombia, Jamaica and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines for domestic consumption. Most of the

cocaine transiting Trinidad and Tobago arrives via Guyana, Suriname and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), and is transported in cargo containers destined primarily for Europe and smaller boats operating between Trinidad and South America. In 2010, according to the Trinidad and Tobago Police Service, 85 kg of cocaine were seized in the country, compared with 98 kg seized in the first half of 2011. During the same period (2010-2011), cannabis seizures decreased from approximately 1,848 kg to 825 kg.

429. In 2010, Jamaica eradicated an area of cannabis plant cultivation equivalent to 447 ha, and, as at September 2012, 373 ha of cannabis plant (1,053,000 plants) had been eradicated by the Government. However, because of the lack of reliable information, the exact area under cultivation, the harvestable area and the extent of production of cannabis in Jamaica are not known. Jamaica continues to be a significant exporter of cannabis herb in the region. The country is also a source for trafficking in cannabis resin (“hashish”). In 2011, Jamaica seized about 36,732 kg of cannabis herb, 9 kg of hashish, 170 kg of cannabis oil and 130 kg of cannabis seeds.

430. Illicit cultivation of opium poppy in Central America, notably in Guatemala, is of increasing concern. Eradication reports suggest that illicit cultivation is increasing in Guatemala, which could substitute for the declining opium production in Colombia, where abuse of heroin has apparently increased, leaving less heroin for trafficking to other consumer countries. The amount of opium poppy eradicated in Guatemala rose from 489 ha in 2005 to 1,490 ha in 2011. Heroin seizures also increased along Central American trafficking routes, supporting the likelihood of increased opium production and supply of heroin. However, at present, no remote sensing or ground reviews of opium poppy cultivation and eradication activities are being carried out in Central America: so few precise cultivation and yield data or estimates of production currently exist.

431. El Salvador reported cases involving criminal organizations trafficking in pharmaceutical preparations, in particular oxycodone, methadone and hydrocodone — medications that are used licitly for pain relief and for the treatment of heroin addicts. Investigations resulted in arrests of individuals involved in those activities, including medical personnel. The Board draws attention to the risks of abuse of such substances and calls upon Governments to monitor the situation in the region and to exercise effective control over distribution mechanisms.

432. In Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, an important producer of cannabis, officials estimated that more than 300 acres (121 ha) of cannabis plants were under cultivation. During 2011, the Government eradicated 70 acres (28 ha) of cannabis plant cultivation, destroying 1,696,021 plants and seizing 10.1 tons of cannabis, 39 kg of cocaine and 180 cocaine rocks. According to the UNODC *2011 Global Study on Homicide: Trends, Contexts, Data*, homicide rates in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines reached a high of 33 per 100,000 inhabitants in 2007. The latest figure for 2010 is estimated at 22 per 100,000 inhabitants. In 2011, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines also reported 522 drug-related prosecutions, 322 convictions and 432 persons arrested for drug offences.

(b) Psychotropic substances

433. The misuse of pharmaceutical preparations, including those containing tranquilizers, sedatives and stimulants, continues to be a serious concern in Central America, especially among women. Central America remains a region of concern regarding the abuse of pharmaceutical preparations that contain stimulants, as well as of prescription stimulants. General data on prevalence for the region of Central America and the Caribbean are either not available or are not reported by countries.

434. Central America has a high prevalence of abuse of amphetamine-type stimulants. Illicit manufacture of amphetamine-type stimulants and increased seizures of their precursors have been reported in several countries, in particular Guatemala, where a methamphetamine laboratory was dismantled by the authorities in December 2011. The laboratory was located in San Marcos, some 275 km from Guatemala City. At least 500 kg of methamphetamine, estimated in value at more than 32 million United States dollars, were believed to have been manufactured by the clandestine laboratory. Guatemalan law enforcement authorities also confiscated manufacturing equipment and chemicals that could have been used in the synthesis of methamphetamine. In 2011, clandestine laboratories producing amphetamine-type stimulants were also dismantled in Nicaragua.

435. According to a recent report released by CICAD, with respect to seizures, countries in Central America have reported on seized pharmaceutical products in terms of quantities and types of controlled substances, which varied from one country to another. These included primarily tranquilizers, such as the benzodiazepines diazepam, alprazolam and clonazepam. Smaller seizures of stimulants, such as methylphenidate,

and anorectics such as amfepramone, phentermine and mazindol were also recorded.

(c) Precursors

436. During 2011, measures taken by the police in El Salvador helped to expose a number of international drug trafficking networks using, as a modus operandi, imports of substantial quantities of precursors (ephedrine, pseudoephedrine, ethyl phenylacetate and methylamine) from China through the port of Acajutla. Those substances were then transported in small amounts by land to Guatemala for the illicit manufacture of synthetic drugs. In 2011, approximately 213 kg of such precursors were seized in El Salvador.

437. In Guatemala, approximately 100 kg of ephedrine, 95 kg of pseudoephedrine and 550,310 pseudoephedrine tablets were seized by the National Civil Police in 2011-2012. Some 212 litres of sulphuric acid and 512 litres of acetic anhydride were also seized during that period.

438. In January 2012, the Tax Administration Service, the secretariat of the Navy and the Attorney General's Office of Mexico seized 12 containers of monomethylamine, a non-controlled chemical used to manufacture methamphetamine, with an approximate weight of 195 tons. The containers had arrived at the Mexican port of Lázaro Cárdenas from China. Ten of the containers were bound for Puerto Quetzal in Guatemala and the remaining two were headed for the port of Corinto in Nicaragua.

5. Abuse and treatment

439. The annual prevalence of cocaine abuse among the general population in Central America and the Caribbean (0.5 per cent and 0.7 per cent, respectively) remains higher than the global average as trafficked cocaine spills into the general population.

440. Annual prevalence of abuse of amphetamine-type stimulants has been reported as considerably higher in Central America than the global average, in particular in El Salvador (3.3 per cent), Belize and Costa Rica (1.3 per cent) and Panama (1.2 per cent). UNODC has estimated that some 330,000 and 220,000 people abuse amphetamine-type stimulants (excluding "ecstasy") in Central America and in the Caribbean, respectively. Those numbers correspond to an estimated annual prevalence of abuse of amphetamine-type stimulants of 1.3 per cent in Central America and 0.8 per cent in the Caribbean. Some 30,000 and 80,000 people are estimated to be MDMA ("ecstasy") abusers in Central America and in the Caribbean, respectively, which would represent

respective estimated annual prevalence rates of abuse of “ecstasy” of 0.1 per cent and 0.3 per cent.

441. The annual prevalence of cannabis abuse has been estimated at 2.4 per cent in Central America and 2.8 per cent in the Caribbean, with some 590,000 persons abusing cannabis in Central America and 760,000 persons in the Caribbean. According to UNODC, the annual prevalence of abuse of opioids was 0.5 per cent in Central America and 0.4 per cent in the Caribbean. Some 120,000 and 100,000 people are estimated to be opioid abusers in Central America and in the Caribbean, respectively. As regards opiates, UNODC has estimated the annual prevalence at 0.1 per cent and 0.3 per cent for Central America and the Caribbean, with a low estimate of opiate abuse by 20,000 and 80,000 people, respectively.

442. In Central America and the Caribbean, according to the latest figures available, an estimated 0.1 million people abuse cocaine in each subregion, which represents 2 per cent of the total population of cocaine abusers in the Americas (8.4 million people). The tentative estimate of the amount of cocaine consumed in Central America was 5 tons, with an estimated 6 tons consumed in the Caribbean (of the tentatively estimated total of 275 tons of cocaine consumed in the Americas).

443. According to the Caribbean Regional Strategic Framework on HIV and AIDS 2008-2012, a study conducted by CARICOM and the Pan Caribbean Partnership against HIV and AIDS, the HIV epidemic in the Caribbean is due primarily to sexual, mainly heterosexual, transmission. Surveys conducted in the region have suggested that there is an adequate level of knowledge about HIV in the Caribbean, although that knowledge has yet to sufficiently change behaviours. Countries have attempted to implement specific targeted interventions among most-at-risk populations, including drug abusers.

444. The global programme for the prevention of drug use, HIV/AIDS and crime among young people continues in El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama, with evidence-based family skills, training programmes intended to prevent drug abuse, HIV/AIDS and crime and delinquency among young people by strengthening and improving the capacity of families to take better care of children. In addition, 115 families from the Panamanian provinces of Panamá and Colón have participated in outreach groups; 28 parent groups have been established in Honduras; and training has been given in Nicaragua to professionals of the National Institute against Alcoholism and Drug Addiction, the community police, the Ministry of Education and certain non-governmental organizations. To ensure the

sustainability of the programme, additional train-the-trainer programmes have been organized in Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama, reaching approximately 80 facilitators, who are expected to continue the programmes at the national level for prevention and for strengthening the family.

445. In Cuba, the national policy against drug abuse focuses primarily on preventive measures. Prevention programmes are oriented towards the promotion of healthy lifestyles and are tailored according to the particularities of each province (urban, rural or coastal areas). These programmes aim at improving identification of and support for groups at risk, early detection and suitable treatment of drug-dependent persons and rehabilitation through community participation. Family doctors are trained in the early detection of drug abuse. In Cuba, the network of specialized services for the treatment of addictions consists of mental health teams in polyclinics, community mental health centres, hospitals and detoxification centres.

North America

1. Major developments

446. Despite declining prevalence rates for some drugs, North America remains the biggest illicit drug market in the world, as well as the region reporting the highest drug-related mortality rate. According to figures contained in the *World Drug Report 2012*,³² approximately 1 in every 20 deaths among persons aged 15-64 in North America is related to drug abuse. That figure takes into account overdose deaths and HIV/AIDS acquired through shared use of contaminated drug paraphernalia, as well as trauma-related deaths, including motor vehicle accidents caused by driving under the influence of drugs.

447. Annual prevalence of cocaine use fell in North America from 2.4 per cent of the population aged 15-64 in 2006 to 1.5 per cent in 2011, equivalent to a decrease of some 38 per cent over that five-year period. The decline was linked to important drops in the clandestine manufacture of cocaine in Colombia over that period, as well as intensified measures by the Mexican authorities to prevent drug cartels from smuggling cocaine from the Andean countries to Mexico and the United States.

448. Prescription drug abuse in North America continues to represent a major threat to public health and

³² United Nations publication, Sales No. E.12.XI.1.

remains one of the biggest challenges to the drug control efforts being deployed by Governments in the region. In the United States, overdose deaths caused by the abuse of prescription opioids are reported to have quadrupled since 1999. According to figures released by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the number of deaths from opioid drug overdoses in the country since 2003 exceeded those attributable to cocaine and heroin combined. It is also estimated that, for every death related to opioid overdoses, there were an estimated nine admissions to treatment for addiction to that category of drug.

449. Drug-related data in the United States released in 2012 confirmed significant increases in per capita sales of oxycodone and hydrocodone between 2000 and 2010 in several states. The increases in oxycodone sales were on the order of 565 per cent in Florida, 519 per cent in New York, 515 per cent in Tennessee and 439 per cent in Delaware, while hydrocodone sales increased by 322 per cent in South Dakota and 291 per cent in South Carolina and Tennessee. While part of those increases may be explained by an ageing population and a greater willingness of physicians to prescribe such medications for the treatment of pain, their greater availability has also contributed to increased abuse and addiction. The Board notes this development with concern and reiterates the importance for Governments of establishing effective control measures for the prescribing of drugs by medical practitioners, their distribution by wholesalers and their sale by pharmacies and continuing to develop and implement prevention and treatment programmes. It notes the measures taken by Governments in the region to control these drugs more effectively through such steps as more effective record-keeping and oversight of individual physicians and encourages broader adoption of such procedures.

450. According to research published in the *Journal of the American Medical Association*, the number of babies born in the United States showing symptoms of opiate withdrawal tripled from 2000 to 2009, affecting 1 of every 1,000 newborns. In 2009 alone, approximately 13,500 babies were born with withdrawal symptoms, which include seizures, breathing problems and feeding difficulties.

451. On 6 November 2012, voters in the states of Colorado, Washington and Oregon voted on ballot initiatives to legalize the use of cannabis for recreational purposes in their respective states. In Colorado and Washington, the initiatives passed while voters in Oregon rejected cannabis legalization for non-medical and non-scientific purposes. The Board reiterates that the

legalization of cannabis for non-medical and non-scientific purposes would be in contravention to the provisions of the 1961 Convention as amended by the 1972 Protocol.

452. As in other regions, traffickers in North America have continued to develop so-called “designer drugs”, substances whose chemical composition is engineered to remove them from the scope of existing control already applicable to substances with analogous properties. The two categories of “designer drugs” that are the most commonly abused are synthetic cathinones and synthetic cannabinoids. According to data released by the American Association of Poison Control Centers, calls to poison control centres in 2011 for human exposure to synthetic cannabinoids or synthetic cathinones more than doubled over the number reported for 2010. The Board urges Governments in the region to take cognizance of the content of chapter II of the present report, on emerging substances of abuse, and to consider implementing the recommendations to Governments which are contained therein. It takes note of the steps taken by Governments in North America to better control these substances through new statutes, as well as effective use of existing legal measures.

453. In early 2012, Canada reported shortages of certain injectable drugs, caused by problems related to manufacturing standards at one of the country’s leading suppliers of generic drugs. Shortages were also compounded by a fire which destroyed part of a manufacturing plant, as well as by a recall of 57,000 vials of injectable morphine from health facilities across the country owing to incorrect labelling. The Board wishes to remind Governments in the region of the importance of diversifying sources of controlled medications and of the necessity of developing contingency plans to be implemented should the supply of these drugs be disrupted.

454. The issue of drug shortages was also addressed by United States lawmakers through their adoption of the Food and Drug Administration Safety and Innovation Act, which was signed into law in July 2012. The Act is a comprehensive piece of legislation concerning a wide range of issues surrounding the manufacturing of drugs and medical devices, with a focus on safety, affordability and biomedical innovation. In order to prevent shortages of important drugs in the United States, the Act requires manufacturers of certain drugs to notify the Food and Drug Administration of any circumstances they encounter that may lead to shortages of the drugs they produce.

455. In Mexico, drug-related violence continued to constitute a major threat to public security nationwide. According to figures released by the Government of Mexico, over 60,000 people have been killed as a result of drug-related violence since 2006. The Attorney General reported that 12,903 people were killed between January and September 2011 alone, representing an 11-per-cent increase over the same period the previous year. Journalists reporting on organized crime continued to be targeted by traffickers and subjected to threats, intimidation, violence and murder. The President of Mexico has stated that the extent of drug-related violence in his country is attributable to sustained demand for illegal drugs in the United States. The Board notes that solutions to drug abuse and drug-related violence can be effective only if they are built upon supply and demand reduction initiatives, based on the principle of shared responsibility, and takes note of the joint efforts by the United States and Mexico, including measures to curb both supply and demand, to address this extraordinary challenge.

2. Regional cooperation

456. In March 2012, Mexico hosted a high-level hemispheric meeting on transnational organized crime. The meeting, which was attended by representatives of 33 members of OAS, was aimed at identifying new threats posed by international criminal syndicates and at identifying effective strategies to deal with organized crime in its many forms. The participants agreed on the need for closer regional cooperation based on the principle of shared responsibility. During the meeting, the Secretary General of OAS announced the creation of the Centre for Cooperation in Combating Transnational Organized Crime.

457. Also in March 2012, the first-ever trilateral meeting of North American Defence Ministers was held in Ottawa. The meeting was intended to lead to the development of a common threat assessment mechanism for the region, as well as to foster increased cooperation to jointly address common security threats, including drug trafficking.

458. On 2 April 2012, the sixth North American Leaders' Summit was convened in Washington, D.C., bringing together the Presidents of the United States and Mexico and the Prime Minister of Canada. The three leaders discussed the regional economy, trade and energy, as well as transnational drug trafficking, and issued a joint statement reaffirming their commitment to continue to work together to address security threats, based on the principles of shared responsibility, mutual trust and respect. They also announced their intention to enhance interregional cooperation with Central America, in

particular by launching a Central American Integration System — North America dialogue on security challenges. The Board acknowledges the commitment demonstrated by North American leaders in improving regional cooperation and welcomes initiatives aimed at fostering greater interregional cooperation.

459. The leaders of Canada, Mexico and the United States participated in the Sixth Summit of the Americas, held in Colombia in April 2012. The Summit focused on regional cooperation and economic integration, as well as security challenges, including those related to drug abuse and drug-trafficking-related violence (see para. 514 below).

460. The President of Mexico participated in the Second Mexico-Caribbean Community Summit, which was held in Bridgetown on 20 and 21 May 2012. The issues discussed during the summit included economic development and integration, environmental protection and transnational organized crime. The participating States agreed to continue to work together to develop regional solutions to the challenges with which they were confronted.

461. On 30 and 31 August 2012, the Meeting on Social Integration and Drugs in Latin America, organized by CICAD, was held at OAS headquarters in Washington, D.C. The meeting, which was financed jointly by OAS and the Government of Spain, was aimed at providing a forum for discussion of issues related to social integration and vulnerability to drug abuse in order to contribute to the development of comprehensive policies to address that problem.

462. Throughout 2012, the Governments of Canada and the United States continued to implement measures under their joint "Beyond the Border Action Plan for Perimeter Security and Economic Competitiveness". The action plan provides for greater cooperation between customs and law enforcement authorities in both countries, including through the sharing of intelligence and an increase in the joint screening of land and air cargo and passenger baggage. In June 2012, both Governments announced the creation of binational port operations committees, mandated with streamlining implementation of the action plan, at eight Canadian airports.

463. In August 2012, the United States Drug Enforcement Administration and the Government of Mexico announced the conclusion of a memorandum of understanding aimed at coordinating their efforts to address the significant increase in illegal methamphetamine laboratories on both sides of their shared border. The agreement is aimed at bolstering the

exchange of information and intelligence, joint chemical control efforts and training and resources for dismantling illegal laboratories.

464. The United States State Department has also set aside Merida Initiative funding to increase the capacity of Mexican law enforcement to detect and dismantle illegal drug laboratories operated by Mexican traffickers, to gather evidence and to destroy chemical precursors used in the manufacturing of illicit drugs.

465. Drug trafficking networks have continued to use submersible and semi-submersible vessels to smuggle large quantities of drugs from South America along the Central American coast to northern markets. In response to that threat, the United States and Canada have continued to participate in Operation Martillo, a collaborative law enforcement programme that brings together 14 countries from the Americas and Europe and is aimed at disrupting maritime smuggling along both sides of the Central American isthmus. According to United States authorities, in 2011 the operation resulted in the interception of 119 tons of cocaine, with a wholesale value of \$2.35 billion, before it could reach destinations in the United States. The Board acknowledges the positive results achieved by the States participating in Operation Martillo and encourages them to continue to implement this project, as well as to explore further avenues of cooperation.

3. National legislation, policy and action

466. In April 2012, the United States Administration released its 2012 National Drug Control Strategy, which is aimed at building upon the framework established by the 2010 and 2011 strategies, as well as the Prescription Drug Abuse Prevention Plan. The strategy lays out the Administration's proposed measures to: prevent drug abuse in the community; expand treatment and rehabilitation support and integrate them into the health-care system; address problems related to drug abuse, delinquency and incarceration; disrupt domestic drug trafficking and production and strengthen international cooperation; and improve information systems for analysis and assessment. The 2012 strategy also continues the Administration's focus on the prevention of prescription drug abuse and driving under the influence of drugs and retains the emphasis on "special populations", a term encompassing college and university students, women and families, former and serving members of the military and their families, and groups considered to have particular treatment needs. Projected expenditures for prevention and treatment

initiatives undertaken under the strategy for the 2012 fiscal year are \$10.1 billion.

467. Throughout 2012, the Government of Mexico continued to implement the strategic objectives for that year set out in its action plan for the prevention and treatment of addictions, including opening additional Nueva Vida ("New Life") referral centres, increasing training of health-care workers working with addiction, fostering a national and international approach to prevention activities and further developing and integrating the addiction treatment network.

468. In April 2012, the fourth National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day was held in the United States, allowing the Drug Enforcement Administration and its partners across the country to collect 276 tons of unneeded prescription medications at 5,659 collection points. The total amount of prescription drugs collected in 2012 brought the four-year total to more than 680 tons. According to new figures released by the Office of National Drug Control Policy, 68 per cent of new past-year abusers of prescription pain relievers obtained the pills from a friend or family member for free or took the pills from them without asking. INCB welcomes this initiative by the United States authorities and wishes to remind Governments that the development of effective disposal mechanisms for unneeded pharmaceuticals is an essential component in any effective strategy against prescription drug abuse.

469. In response to the problem of prescription drug abuse, several states in the United States have introduced legislation aimed at curbing abuse, including through the creation of prescription monitoring systems designed to ensure that doctors are not overprescribing prescription drugs and that the same individuals are not obtaining them from multiple doctors and pharmacies. At the federal level, the Food and Drug Administration in July 2012 approved a risk evaluation and mitigation strategy for extended-release and long-acting opioid drugs. The strategy is aimed at increasing the number of health-care professionals trained on how to prescribe certain painkillers and help patients use the drugs safely.

470. The Government of Canada announced plans to comprehensively review existing regulations governing its Marihuana Medical Access programme, based on extensive public consultations held in 2011. The consultation process, which solicited input from individuals licensed under the current programme, provincial and territorial health and public safety officials, physicians and medical associations, pharmacists and municipalities, was undertaken with the stated purpose of reducing the risk of abuse and

exploitation by criminal elements, increasing community safety and improving the way programme participants access medical cannabis. According to information provided by Health Canada, changes to the programme are expected to include the phasing out of personal cultivation by licensed individuals in order to reduce the risk of diversion to illicit channels, as well as the tightening of controls on cannabis producers licensed under the programme. These changes are expected to enter into force in 2013. The Minister of Health of Canada has publicly acknowledged that strengthening the current compliance and enforcement regime is necessary to ensure adequate regulation of licensed producers. The Board notes the steps taken by the Government of Canada to adopt measures to reduce the risk of diversion of cannabis administered under this programme and will continue to monitor the outcomes of the consultation process.

471. In the United States, the issue of the sale and use of cannabis for medical purposes has remained a contentious one. In May 2012, Connecticut became the seventeenth state to enact legislation allowing such sale and use, which is also permitted in the District of Columbia despite the existence of the Controlled Substances Act, a federal statute explicitly prohibiting the possession, manufacture and distribution of cannabis except for limited legitimate uses. In November 2012, the electorate of the states of Arkansas, Massachusetts and Montana were asked to vote on ballot initiatives related to the use of “medical cannabis” in their respective states. Voters in Massachusetts approved the initiative in their state, while those in Arkansas and Montana rejected the establishment of state-sanctioned medical cannabis schemes.

472. The Los Angeles City Council voted in August to instruct the city’s police department to work with the Drug Enforcement Administration and the city’s district attorney to enforce its municipal ban on “medical” cannabis dispensaries. The ban is currently being challenged before the California Supreme Court. Throughout California, concerted action by state officials and law enforcement agencies has led to the closure of nearly half of the 1,400 cannabis dispensaries operating in the state. The Board notes that the control requirements that have been adopted in the 17 states in question and in the District of Columbia under the “medical” cannabis schemes fall short of the requirements set forth in articles 23 and 28 of the 1961 Convention as amended by the 1972 Protocol.

473. In June 2012, the Chicago City Council voted to decriminalize possession of 15 grams of cannabis or less. The Council ordinance confers discretion upon Chicago

police to issue citations of between \$250 and \$500 for possession of up to 15 grams. Police will continue to arrest individuals smoking cannabis in public, individuals under the age of 17 caught with the drug and any individual they believe to be selling the drug. In addition to the fine imposed for violations of the ordinance, the director of administrative hearings is also authorized by the ordinance to require violators to attend a drug awareness programme and/or perform community service. Also in June 2012, the Governor of New Jersey vetoed a bill adopted by the New Jersey General Assembly that would have decriminalized the possession of up to 15 grams of cannabis and making it subject to fines of between \$150 and \$500, with mandatory drug education classes for repeat offenders. The Governor based his opposition to the bill on its incompatibility with federal law, which classifies cannabis as an illegal drug. In New York state, a cannabis decriminalization bill put forward by the Governor was defeated by lawmakers on the same grounds. The Board requests that the Government of the United States take effective measures to ensure the implementation of all control measures for cannabis plants and cannabis, as required under the 1961 Convention, in all states and territories falling within its legislative authority.

474. In January 2012 and as part of the process aimed at strengthening the capacity of the federal institutions of Mexico to combat criminal and drug trafficking organizations, the Ministry of Public Security requested UNODC to evaluate the New Police Model, developed by the Government of Mexico as a cornerstone of its new security policy, which has been gradually implemented since 2007. The evaluation was undertaken by a team of international experts recruited, coordinated and advised by UNODC. The process was completed in May with the submission to the Ministry of Public Security of a detailed report on the structure, capacity and processes of the newly established Federal Police, as well as a set of recommendations for the further strengthening of the model.

475. In February 2012, the Canadian Centre on Substance Abuse hosted a national dialogue on the abuse of prescription drugs in Canada. The consultation process with expert advisory committees on treatment, education, prevention and monitoring and enforcement was expected to culminate in the elaboration of a national strategy, to be released in 2013.

476. At a meeting held in July 2012, the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police approved a draft resolution on the illicit use of pharmaceuticals, to be presented at the Association’s next annual meeting. The

resolution calls for increased cooperation between police and other stakeholders, including health-care professionals, in collecting data on the issue and calls for the creation of a national prescription drug drop-off day. A drop-off day for unused prescription drugs was held in the Niagara region of the province of Ontario in May 2012, allowing the collection by local authorities of large quantities of oxycodone, codeine, fentanyl and hydromorphone.

477. In February 2012, the Drug Enforcement Administration of the United States issued a six-month extension of the placement of five synthetic cannabinoids in schedule I of the Controlled Substances Act, subjecting them to strict control measures. The comprehensive Food and Drug Administration Safety and Innovation Act, mentioned above, also contained the Synthetic Drug Abuse Prevention Act, which places 15 specific cannabimimetic agents, 2 synthetic cathinones and 9 synthetic phenethylamines under national control. The Act also extends the validity period of orders issued by the Attorney General under the Controlled Substances Act, temporarily placing a substance in schedule I “to avoid an imminent hazard to the public safety” for a period of between one and two years and extends temporary scheduling from six months to one year when rule-making proceedings to permanently schedule the drug are in progress.

478. Also, in July 2012, the Drug Enforcement Administration conducted Operation Log Jam, a coordinated enforcement action targeting synthetic cannabinoids and synthetic cathinones in which 250 search warrants were served at locations across the United States. The operation resulted in 90 arrests and seizures of 4.9 million packets of synthetic cannabinoids and material to process an additional 13.6 million packets, 167,000 packets of synthetic cathinones and \$36 million in United States currency. While acknowledging that several of the substances seized in Operation Log Jam were not prohibited as such by the Controlled Substances Act, the Drug Enforcement Administration has stated that federal prosecutions related to these substances will take place pursuant to the Controlled Substance Analogue Enforcement Act, which allows drugs to be treated as controlled substances if they are proven to be chemically or pharmacologically similar to substances already controlled under the Controlled Substances Act.

479. On 20 September, the Government of Canada added methylenedioxypropylvalerone (MDPV), a synthetic cathinone marketed as “plant food” and “bath salts”, to schedule I of the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act

banning possession, trafficking, import, export and production of the substance without Government authorization.

480. In response to persistent attacks by drug syndicates against members of the media in his country, the President of Mexico in June 2012 signed the Law for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders and Journalists. The law contains concrete measures aimed at addressing acts of violence and intimidation against journalists; the measures include increased cooperation between the federal and state governments and the strengthening of protective and preventive measures. The law also calls for the creation of a special fund for the implementation of the law, as well as the creation of a governing body, an advisory board and a national executive coordinating office. The Ministry of the Interior of Mexico also supported UNODC in the completion of a pilot project supported by Germany on violence committed by drug trafficking and criminal organizations against members of the media in Mexico. The project analysed patterns and causes of violence against members of the media, with the involvement of local academia, media representatives and state and local institutions. One of the outcomes of the analysis was the identification of existing best practices aimed at reducing the exposure to risk of members of the media and the formulation of a set of recommendations aimed at improving institutional capacity in responding to requests for protection of members of the media and reducing their exposure to risk.

4. Cultivation, production, manufacture and trafficking

481. Drug-smuggling syndicates have continued to innovate in their efforts to smuggle drugs into and within the region, including through the use of submersible and semi-submersible vessels to smuggle drugs from South America along the Central American coast to northern markets. In addition, the building of sophisticated cross-border tunnels has continued. According to Immigration and Customs Enforcement of the United States, more than 150 tunnels equipped with lighting, ventilation and, in some cases, railcar systems, have been discovered since 1990. The discovery of the tunnels has resulted in the seizure of several tons of illegal drugs, mostly cannabis.

(a) Narcotic drugs

482. Cannabis continues to be widely produced and trafficked in all three countries in the region, with substantial seizures being reported by each of them. Cross-border cannabis trafficking within North America also remains an issue of great concern. Information

provided to the Board by the Government of Mexico shows a significant decline in cannabis seizures, from over 2,248 tons in 2010 to 1,795 tons in 2011. Meanwhile, United States seizure data for 2011 reveal a decrease in cannabis seizures, from over 1,895 tons in 2010 to 1,834 tons in 2011. In contrast, the quantity of cannabis seized in Canada in 2011 increased slightly, from 105 tons in 2010 to a five-year high of 111 tons. In addition to the large quantities of cannabis produced in the United States for internal consumption, Canada and Mexico remain major source countries.

483. Extensive outdoor production of cannabis has continued to be identified by national law enforcement agencies in North America. United States authorities have identified increased attempts by traffickers to cultivate cannabis on public lands, such as in forests. Widespread indoor production of cannabis has also continued in the region, mainly in the United States and Canada. According to United States law enforcement data, indoor growing operations discovered in 2010 were heavily concentrated in Florida and California.

484. According to Statistics Canada, although the general crime rate in Canada continued to decline in 2011, drug-related crime increased slightly, reflecting a trend which began in the 1990s. Of a total of 113,100 drug-related crimes reported by police in 2011, more than half (54 per cent) were related to cannabis possession, a 7-per-cent increase over the previous year.

485. The cultivation of opium poppy in Mexico has increased, with Mexican authorities reporting opium seizures in 2011 totalling 1.45 tons, representing a significant increase over the 1 ton reported in 2010. After a spike in 2010, when over 2.9 tons of opium were reported seized in the United States, seizure numbers for 2011 showed a considerable drop, to slightly over 48.5 kg.

486. Large-scale law enforcement operations targeting the cultivation of opium poppy and the manufacturing of heroin in Mexico have yielded unprecedented results. While the country reported heroin seizures for 2011 totalling more than 685 kg, National Defence Ministry officials confirmed having seized 3,640 litres of a liquid which laboratory tests revealed to be heroin. The seizure represented the largest of its kind ever carried out in Mexico.

487. According to the United States Office of National Drug Control Policy, Mexico and Colombia have remained the main source countries for heroin abused in the United States, with Mexican heroin more prevalent in states west of the Mississippi river and Colombian heroin more prevalent to the east of it. After nearly doubling between 2005 and 2010, reported heroin seizures in the

United States continued their increase, to 2.95 tons in 2011 compared with 2.42 tons in 2010. Afghanistan remained the primary source of heroin in Canada. In 2010, Canada seized 98 kg of heroin, while reported seizures for 2011 totalled 39 kg, continuing a decline that was first observed in 2008.

488. Although North America still represents the largest global market for cocaine, abuse of the drug in the region has continued to decline. That can be attributed in part to reduced supply caused by a 47-per-cent drop in cocaine manufacturing in Colombia, the primary source country for cocaine smuggled into the region, as well as the disruption of supply routes through Mexico owing to both the efforts of law enforcement authorities and the conflict between criminal syndicates in that country. The decline is also the result of traffickers increasingly targeting emerging markets in Europe, South America and Oceania. The decrease in the availability of cocaine in the region has led to increased prices and decreased purity.

489. Cocaine seizures in Mexico remained relatively stable in 2011 at 9.4 tons, following a substantial decline from 21.6 tons in 2009 to 9.4 tons in 2010. Cocaine seizures in the United States in 2011 declined slightly, from 66.7 tons in 2010 to 58.2 tons. In Canada, cocaine seizures plummeted to 4.64 kg in 2011 from more than 1.1 tons reported in 2010.

490. Prescription drug abuse, mostly of opioid analgesics, has remained an issue of considerable concern for Governments in the region. Efforts to control abuse of these drugs have been hampered by their widespread availability and by the ease with which they can be obtained from friends and family members, who remain by far the primary source of abused pharmaceuticals. Abusers of prescription medications have also continued to exploit weak control measures for monitoring prescriptions in many jurisdictions. With the strengthening of control measures and a growing awareness among pharmacists and health-care professionals of the dangers of prescription drug abuse, illegal Internet drug sites and dealers have become a growing source of prescription drugs.

491. Large-scale abuse of prescription drugs in North America has led to widespread diversion and counterfeiting of these substances. According to information provided by Health Canada, over 3 million tablets were diverted in Canada between 2009 and 2011, with over 70 per cent having been stolen in armed robberies or as a result of breaking and entering and 3 per cent having been lost in transit; the disappearance of a further 19 per cent remained unexplained. The vast majority of the tablets stolen were

opioids, with oxycodone, hydromorphone and morphine constituting the main drugs sought by traffickers. In the United States, the Drug Enforcement Administration has continued to focus on drug wholesalers and pharmacies in an effort to counter prescription drug diversion. In 2012, it moved to revoke the controlled substances authorizations of several pharmacies suspected of having diverted controlled substances, primarily opioid analgesics.

(b) Psychotropic substances

492. Illicit large-scale manufacturing of methamphetamine in Mexico has continued to expand, and falling prices and increased purity levels have spurred increased availability of the drug in the United States. Another factor that has increased the availability of methamphetamine has been the further development of new manufacturing processes, which have led to faster and easier manufacturing of the drug.

493. According to UNODC, 22 tons of methamphetamine were seized in North America in 2010, accounting for approximately half of all such seizures globally. Figures released jointly by the Government of Mexico and the Drug Enforcement Administration of the United States reveal that Mexico experienced a 1,000-per-cent increase in seizures of clandestine methamphetamine laboratories between 2010 and 2011. The figures also show that seizures of methamphetamine by United States law enforcement officers at the country's border with Mexico in 2011 totalled 7.4 tons, more than double the amount seized in 2009.

494. The resurgence of MDMA ("ecstasy") abuse in the United States, noted by the Board in its previous annual report, has continued, with availability of the drug steadily increasing. Canada remains a significant source country for "ecstasy" abused in the United States, with Canadian drug syndicates also increasingly targeting emerging markets. Law enforcement authorities in Canada have also identified possible incidences of polydrug manufacture in which "ecstasy" was being manufactured in methamphetamine laboratories.

(c) Precursors

495. Over the past decade, Governments in North America have introduced increasingly stringent control measures for precursors and have bolstered efforts to prevent diversion, in particular through the use of the Pre-Export Notification (PEN) Online system, as well as through participation in successful multilateral precursor control initiatives such as Project Prism and Project Cohesion.

496. Despite decisive action taken by Governments in the region, traffickers have persisted in their attempts to smuggle precursors into the region and to divert them from licit trade. Traffickers have also increasingly sought to circumvent existing control measures by substituting controlled substances, such as ephedrine and pseudoephedrine, in their manufacturing processes with alternative chemicals such as esters of phenylacetic acid, which are not under international control. Thus, while declines in the use of ephedrine and pseudoephedrine have been noted, they have not necessarily translated into a long-term reduction in illicit methamphetamine manufacturing.

(d) Substances not under international control

497. Illicit drug manufacturers in North America have continued to innovate in developing new substances of abuse and in identifying ways to circumvent existing controls on the ingredients they require for their manufacturing activities. As was discussed in chapter II, new psychoactive substances, which are being marketed as "spice", "plant food", "bath salts" and so-called "legal highs" and which have analogous effects to cannabis, "ecstasy" and amphetamines, are becoming increasingly available through commercial outlets and on the Internet.

498. The smuggling of khat into Canada has continued, with the Canada Border Services Agency reporting having made seizures of khat 9,482 times between January 2005 and July 2011, making it the third most commonly seized drug at the Canadian border, after cannabis plant and steroids.

499. According to the *World Drug Report 2012*, *Salvia divinorum*, a perennial herb native to Mexico, where it is used by indigenous groups in religious ceremonies, is increasingly being abused in Canada for its hallucinogenic effects. Although *Salvia divinorum* is not currently scheduled under the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act, Health Canada has proposed including it as a controlled substance. In the United States, it is not under national control under the Controlled Substances Act but has been placed on the Drugs and Chemicals of Concern list of the Drug Enforcement Administration. In addition, several United States states have banned the substance.

5. Abuse and treatment

500. According to the figures for 2010 contained in the *World Drug Report 2012*, the annual prevalence rate for cannabis abuse in North America remained stable at 10.8 per cent of the population aged 15-64 and continued

to be significantly higher than the estimated world annual prevalence rate of 2.6-5.0 per cent. Data for the United States, however, reveal an upward trend. The annual prevalence of cannabis use in the United States rose from 10.1 per cent of the population aged 12 and older in 2007, to 11.5 per cent in 2011.

501. North America had a considerably higher estimated opioid prevalence rate, at 3.8-4.2 per cent, than the global average of roughly 0.6-0.8 per cent. The report pointed out, however, that the level of abuse of prescription opioids in the region was greater than that of heroin. At 0.9 per cent, past-year “ecstasy” use in North America was also higher than the global average of 0.2-0.6 per cent.

502. UNODC data for 2010 (the most recent year available) reveal that cocaine abuse continues to represent a major problem in North America. There were an estimated 5 million past-year cocaine users in the region, representing nearly one third of the global total. The data did indicate a decrease in the annual prevalence of cocaine use, from 2.4 per cent among the population aged 15-64 in 2006 to 1.9 per cent in 2009, 1.6 per cent in 2010 and 1.5 per cent in 2011.

503. The United States National Survey on Drug Use and Health for 2011 released in August 2012 shows decreases in the estimates of non-medical use of psychotherapeutic drugs (a term used to describe both over-the-counter pharmaceuticals and prescription drugs) in the United States, compared with the estimates for 2010. The survey for 2011 estimates that 2.4 per cent of the population aged 12 or older used psychotherapeutic drugs for non-medical purposes in that year (down from 2.7 per cent in 2010 and 2.8 per cent in 2009). This included declines in the percentage of those aged 12 or older using pain-relieving drugs “non-medically” from 2.1 per cent in 2009 to 2 per cent in 2010 and 1.7 per cent in 2011, and a decline in the percentage of those using tranquilizers for non-medical purposes from 0.9 per cent in 2010 to 0.7 per cent in 2011. The proportion of those individuals aged 12 or older using stimulant and sedative psychotherapeutic drugs remained constant, at 0.4 per cent and 0.1 per cent respectively.

504. The same survey also presented data on the methods used to obtain psychotherapeutic drugs for non-medical use. As in the previous National Survey on Drug Use and Health (for 2010), the most recent data show that over one half of non-medical users of pain relievers, tranquilizers, stimulants and sedatives aged 12 or older obtained the prescription drugs they most recently used “from a friend or relative for free”.

505. According to figures for 2011 contained in the Canadian Alcohol and Drug Use Monitoring Survey, the

rates for both lifetime and past-year abuse of several drugs in Canada declined. According to the survey, lifetime cannabis use reported among Canadians 15 years of age or older in 2011 was 39.4 per cent, compared with the 44.5 per cent reported for 2004. The number of respondents reporting having used cannabis in the past year also significantly declined to 9.1 per cent in 2011, from 14.1 per cent for 2004. Rates of past-year abuse of cocaine for 2011 (0.9 per cent), MDMA (“ecstasy”) (0.7 per cent) and methamphetamine (0.7 per cent) remained relatively unchanged. The survey also reveals that, in 2011, 22.9 per cent of Canadians aged 15 years or older used psychoactive pharmaceuticals (tranquillizers/sedatives, stimulants, opioid pain relievers).

506. According to figures for 2010/11 reported in the Youth Smoking Survey, past-year use of cannabis among Canadian students in grades 7 to 12 significantly decreased, from 27 per cent in 2008/09 to 21 per cent in 2010/11. At 23 per cent, past-year use among males continued to be higher than among females (19 per cent). The average age of first use of cannabis remained unchanged from 2008/09 at 13.7 years of age. The survey findings also reveal that the decline in abuse of other drugs in the general population, as reported in the Canadian Alcohol and Drug Use Monitoring Survey, was also observed among this age group. According to the Youth Smoking Survey, prevalence of past-year use of MDMA (“ecstasy”) declined from 6 per cent in 2008/09 to 5 per cent in 2010/11, while abuse of hallucinogens during the same period declined from 7 per cent to 4 per cent. A decrease in abuse of psychoactive substances among the students surveyed was also noted, with 5 per cent of respondents reporting having abused psychoactive substances, a 2-per-cent decrease over the same figures for 2008/09.

507. In the United States, the Monitoring the Future study revealed that the prevalence rates for past-month, past-year and lifetime abuse of cannabis among high school students had increased for the third consecutive year. The study also reported a significant increase in daily cannabis abuse among respondents in 2011, continuing a trend noted in 2010 data. According to the 2011 figures, 1.3 per cent of eighth graders, 3.6 per cent of tenth graders and 6.6 per cent of twelfth graders (representing 1 in 15 twelfth graders) reported abusing cannabis on a daily or near-daily basis. Those increases were accompanied by decreases in the perception of risks associated with the use of cannabis. The Board notes that this development occurred in the context of campaigns promoting the legalization of cannabis for medical purposes as well as the decriminalization of cannabis for

non-medical purposes. With respect to the abuse of synthetic cannabinoids by high school students, the study cited data from its 2011 survey (predating the scheduling of those substances) indicating that 11.4 per cent of twelfth graders had reported abusing those substances in the previous 12-month period, making the substance second only to cannabis among illicit drugs abused by twelfth graders.

508. According to figures released in June 2012 by the United States Department of Health and Human Services in its Treatment Episode Data Set, the percentage of admissions to state-funded substance abuse treatment facilities for non-heroin opiates as the primary substance of abuse continued to increase. The data reveal that, from 1997 to 2010, admissions for opiates other than heroin, including oxycodone, hydrocodone and codeine, as the primary substance of abuse increased from 1 per cent to 8.6 per cent, making those substances more likely than cocaine or methamphetamine to lead to admission for treatment. Admissions for primary abuse of cannabis increased from 16 per cent in 2007 to 18.4 per cent in 2010, while admissions for heroin remained stable.

509. In Canada, widespread abuse of OxyContin, particularly among the country's First Nations communities, led to its removal from the market in March 2012 and its replacement by OxyNeo, a new medication the manufacturer claimed was more difficult to abuse and less likely to cause addiction. In recent years, abuse of OxyContin continued to plague many First Nations communities, particularly in the country's vast north. Traffickers took advantage of the drug's highly addictive properties and of the scarcity of supply in remote northern regions to inflate prices and increase profits. In some communities, the rate of abuse of oxycodone was over 80 per cent of the working age population, leading one First Nations chief to declare a state of emergency in his community. Drug abuse among Canada's First Nations communities has remained a major threat to public health in these communities. Despite the challenges caused by widespread drug addiction among First Nations communities, the Government of Canada has reduced or eliminated funding for many First Nations health initiatives pursuant to austerity measures contained within the federal budget it presented in March 2012. The Board wishes to remind the Government of Canada of the importance of ensuring adequate support for community-based drug prevention, treatment and rehabilitation initiatives, including those within First Nations communities.

South America

1. Major developments

510. The region of South America suffers from the illicit cultivation of coca bush, opium poppy and cannabis plant, as well as the manufacture and production of and trafficking in the illicit drugs stemming from that cultivation. There is significant and growing abuse of these plant-based drugs among the region's population, as well as growing use of synthetic drugs of abuse, both those manufactured illicitly and those diverted from licit channels. In 2011, the total area of illicit coca bush cultivation significantly decreased in Bolivia (Plurinational State of) (27,200 ha) and slightly increased in Colombia (64,000 ha) and Peru (62,500 ha). The total area under illicit coca bush cultivation in South America in 2011 was estimated at 153,700 ha, indicating a minor decrease from the 154,200 ha reported in 2010.

511. As research is ongoing to determine the ratios for the conversion of coca leaf to cocaine in South America, UNODC did not provide any estimate of the global potential manufacture of cocaine in 2011. In 2010, UNODC estimated that the total global potential manufacture of cocaine ranged from 788 to 1,060 tons, indicating a decline in cocaine manufacture since the period 2005-2007.

512. Following the rejection of a proposal to amend article 49 of the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961 as amended by the 1972 Protocol, concerning the abolishment of coca-leaf chewing by the parties to the Convention, the Government of the Plurinational State of Bolivia formally deposited with the Secretary-General an instrument of denunciation of the 1961 Convention as amended by the 1972 Protocol. The denunciation of the Convention took effect on 1 January 2012. In 2012, the Government launched an international campaign to solicit the support of States parties to the 1961 Convention for its strategy to re-accede to that Convention with a reservation. The Board expressed its concern in its annual report for 2011 that if the international community were to adopt an approach whereby States parties would use the mechanism of denunciation and re-accession with reservations to overcome problems in the implementation of certain treaty provisions, the integrity of the international drug control system would be undermined.

513. The Board noted with concern that in August 2012, the Government of Uruguay presented to its national congress a proposed law to legalize the production and sale of cannabis in the country. According to the proposed

law, the Government would assume control and regulation over the activities of importing, producing, acquiring title to, storing, selling and distributing cannabis herb and its derivatives. If adopted, the law could be in contravention of the international drug control conventions to which Uruguay is a party. The Board, in line with its mandate, has sought a dialogue with the Government of Uruguay to promote the country's compliance with the provisions of the international drug control treaties, in particular the 1961 Convention.

514. The Heads of State and Government of the Americas attending the Sixth Summit of the Americas held in Cartagena de Indias, Colombia, in April 2012 released a final communiqué in which they expressed concern that criminal organizations involved in drug trafficking continue their attempts to infiltrate societies and undermine democratic institutions. The Heads of State and Government also mandated OAS to prepare a report on the drug problem in the Americas.

515. The abuse of cocaine in the Americas is no longer confined to North America and a few countries in the Southern Cone, but has spread across Latin America and the Caribbean. According to a CICAD report entitled *Report on Drug Use in the Americas: 2011*, in the period 2002-2009 about 27 per cent of cocaine abusers in the hemisphere were found in South America. The report, released in March 2012, also warns about the adverse health effects of the abuse of a variety of smokeable substances that are produced during the processing of cocaine hydrochloride.

2. Regional cooperation

516. The aim of the CICAD Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism is to make periodic recommendations to CICAD member States on improving their capacity to address drug trafficking and abuse and enhance multilateral cooperation. At its fiftieth regular session, held in Buenos Aires from 2 to 4 November 2011, CICAD approved a draft resolution entrusting an intergovernmental working group with the development of a draft proposal for a new assessment instrument to replace the current Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism questionnaire, considering the objectives of the current Hemispheric Drug Strategy.

517. In an effort to strengthen the fight against drug trafficking and organized crime in the region, the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) Regional Bureau for South America held the American Meeting of National Agencies Related to the Fight against Drugs Traffic in South America, in Buenos Aires

from 9 to 11 November 2011. The meeting, among other things, approved the establishment of a permanent group of national experts in the fight against drugs to foster efforts to build and implement future joint transnational operative activities in the region.

518. The Cooperation Programme between Latin America and the European Union on Drug Policies organized the International Conference on the theme "Synthetic drugs, an emerging phenomenon in Latin America", held in Cartagena de Indias, Colombia, from 1 to 4 November 2011. Experts from counter-narcotics police units and national prosecution agencies from Argentina, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Chile, Colombia, Ecuador and Uruguay, together with delegates from Europe, Central America and North America and international organizations including the Police Community of the Americas (AMERIPOL), EMCDDA and Europol shared their experiences regarding the use of the early warning system, the importance of reference laboratories for forensic analysis and police research and investigations on legal psychoactive substances ("legal highs"), precursors and chemical substances used to manufacture synthetic drugs.

519. The issue of combating microtrafficking of illicit drugs received increased attention from experts from Argentina, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) who attended the meeting of the Union of South American Nations South American Council on the World Drug Problem, held in Asunción, on 22 and 23 March 2012. The participants in the meeting called for a major commitment at the international level to address the problem.

520. "Drugs in severely excluded populations" was the theme of the XIV Ibero-American Seminar on Drugs and Cooperation, which took place in Santiago from 16 to 20 April 2012. The event was jointly organized by the Ibero-American Network of Non-Governmental Organizations Working in Drug Addiction, the National Service for the Prevention and Rehabilitation of Drug and Alcohol Use of Chile (SENDA) and the Central University of Chile, and was sponsored by CICAD and the National Plan on Drugs of Spain.

521. In Lima in June 2012, the Andean Community, the European Union and the Pan American Health Organization launched an Andean region drug-abuse prevention programme entitled "Strong families: love and limits". The initiative will be implemented jointly through workshops in households with teenagers between 10 and 14 years of age from Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Colombia, Ecuador and Peru. The project is based on

validated experiences and work carried out in several countries in Central and South America.

522. The Government of Peru hosted the International Conference of Ministers of Foreign Affairs and Heads of Specialized National Agencies against the World Drug Problem, in Lima on 25 and 26 June 2012. The heads of delegation adopted the Lima Declaration recognizing the need to intensify efforts to achieve the goals established in the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem. It was also re-emphasized at the meeting that this issue must be addressed in a multilateral, regional and bilateral framework, under the principle of common and shared responsibility.

3. National legislation, policy and action

523. Reduction of drug abuse and the strengthening of policies and prevention programmes, focused in particular on vulnerable population groups, as well as the regular conduct of drug-abuse surveys, were among the objectives of a drug strategy for 2011-2015 adopted by the Government of the Plurinational State of Bolivia. In the area of drug supply reduction, the objectives of the strategy also include eradication of any coca bush cultivation in excess of the 20,000 ha authorized by the Government of the Plurinational State of Bolivia (12,000 ha of coca in the Yungas of La Paz, 7,000 ha in the Tropics of Cochabamba and 1,000 ha in Caranavi), and strengthening of activities addressing drug trafficking and the diversion of precursors.

524. In 2011, the Brazilian authorities increased control of the psychoactive substances lisdexamfetamine and atomoxetine (which are not currently under international control) by placing those substances under national control and including them on the national list of substances under special control. The Government also included the psychoactive substance mephedrone on the list of substances of prohibited use in Brazil.

525. In 2011, the Chilean Congress approved the law that created the Ministry of Interior and Public Safety and the National Service for the Prevention and Rehabilitation of Drug and Alcohol Use. The National Service will assume responsibility for the implementation of drug abuse prevention, treatment, rehabilitation and social reintegration policies, as well as the development of a national strategy for drugs and alcohol, and will cooperate with the Ministry of Interior and Public Safety in that regard.

526. In March 2012, representatives of the Chilean Government, including judicial authorities, and of the private sector signed an agreement that institutionalizes drug treatment courts as public policy. The agreement allows drug abusers who commit minor crimes, if it is their first offence, to receive a therapeutic intervention, on a voluntary basis, in order to reduce the recurrence of drug abuse and commission of crime.

527. The drug control legislation adopted by the Government of Colombia on 31 July 2012 recognizes that the consumption and abuse of and addiction to psychoactive substances is a matter of public health and the welfare of the family, the community and individuals. According to that law, drug addicts have the right to comprehensive care by the State and drug abuse and drug addiction should be treated as illnesses.

528. In January 2012, the Board of the National Narcotic and Psychotropic Substances Control Board of Ecuador approved the National Plan for Integrated Drug Abuse Prevention 2012-2013. The National Plan awaits approval by the President.

529. UNODC estimates that Paraguay is the largest illicit producer of cannabis in South America. In addition, large amounts of cocaine are trafficked through its territory from Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Colombia and Peru. The Board notes that in October 2011, the Government of Paraguay, in cooperation with UNODC, launched a four-year national integrated programme, to increase the responsiveness, effectiveness and efficiency of the Paraguayan State in facing the challenges posed by organized crime and drug trafficking in the country.

530. In March 2012, the Government of Peru approved the National Drug Control Strategy 2012-2016. The Strategy promotes the development of projects and activities supporting integrated and sustainable development in areas where coca bush is grown, control of the drug supply and the prevention and rehabilitation of drug abuse. Its main goals include reduction of the potential production of coca leaf by 30 per cent by 2016.

531. To improve port security and prevent the illegal use of sea containers in transnational organized criminal activities, including drug and precursor trafficking, the Governments of Guyana and Suriname joined the UNODC Container Control Programme in August 2012. In addition, in 2011 the Suriname Government approved the National Drug Master Plan 2011-2015 and the National Drug Prevention Plan 2011-2014.

532. The Government of Uruguay, to address the risk of diversion of pharmaceutical preparations containing ephedrine and pseudoephedrine, adopted a decree in

January 2012 requiring the issuance of a prescription for their dispensation.

4. Cultivation, production, manufacture and trafficking

(a) Narcotic drugs

533. In recent years, most countries in South America have registered increases in cannabis herb seizures. In the Plurinational State of Bolivia, aggregate seizures of cannabis plant and cannabis herb rose gradually from 125 tons in 2006 to 1,900 tons in 2009. Although such seizures declined to about 1,100 tons in 2010 and about 380 tons in 2011, the amount of cannabis plant and cannabis herb seized in the Plurinational State of Bolivia from 2008 to 2011, amounting to 3,500 tons, continued to be a matter of concern.

534. In Brazil, seizures of cannabis herb increased by 12 per cent, from 155 tons in 2010 to 174 tons seized in 2011. Most of the seized cannabis originated in Paraguay.

535. In the period 2004-2006, Colombian authorities seized an average of 130 tons of cannabis herb per year; in the period 2007-2009, that figure rose to about 215 tons per year. In 2011, the seizures of cannabis herb further increased to 321 tons. According to the past reports of the national authorities, cannabis seized in some parts of the territory contained high levels of tetrahydrocannabinol (THC), ranging from 8 to 20 per cent. Cannabis cultivated in Colombia is abused locally but also has been smuggled to countries in Central America.

536. Seizures of cannabis herb in Chile increased from 8.4 tons in 2010 to 14.6 tons in 2011; in Ecuador such seizures almost doubled, from 2.5 tons in 2010 to 4.6 tons in 2011. The 310 tons of cannabis herb seized in Paraguay in 2011 was more than three times as much as that seized in 2009; the 2 tons of cannabis herb seized in Uruguay in 2011 was the largest amount seized in the country in the past decade; and in Peru, the 157 tons of eradicated cannabis plants was the largest amount eradicated in the country in the past decade.

537. In the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, the Government increased sanctions for trafficking in genetically modified cannabis in order to discourage trafficking of cannabis with a high THC content. According to the Government, cannabis trafficking towards the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela significantly decreased, as corroborated by the amounts of seizures of cannabis herb, which dropped from 39 tons in 2010 to 15.8 tons in 2011. Seizures of cannabis with high levels of THC, however, still occurred.

538. The large seizures of cannabis in South America are a source of concern, as they might be a sign of a significant increase in the magnitude of cannabis production in the region. The Board calls upon the Governments of the countries in South America to determine, to the extent possible and in cooperation with UNODC, the magnitude of and current trends in the illicit cultivation and use of cannabis plants in their territories and to further strengthen their efforts to combat such cultivation.

539. The Bolivian drug strategy for 2011-2015 envisages measures to limit the cultivation of coca bush to 20,000 ha that have been authorized by the Government for that use. The measures include the publication of maps delimiting areas of authorized cultivation, voluntary eradication of at least 5,000 ha per year, forced eradication and activities to prevent the cultivation of new coca plants.

540. From 2006 to 2010, the area of eradicated, illicitly cultivated coca bush in the Plurinational State of Bolivia ranged from 5,070 to 8,200 ha. In 2011, eradication efforts increased in the country. The Bolivian authorities eradicated a total of 10,500 ha under illicit coca bush cultivation, 2,300 ha more than in 2010. The Board notes with appreciation that the area under illicit cultivation in the Plurinational State of Bolivia decreased by 12 per cent, from 31,000 ha in 2010 to 27,200 ha in 2011, and wishes to encourage the Government to further step up its efforts to prevent the illicit cultivation of coca bush in the country.

541. The area under coca bush cultivation in Colombia rose to 64,000 ha in 2011, up by 2,000 ha (or 3 per cent) compared with 2010. More than half of the area under coca bush cultivation (63 per cent) was concentrated in four departments: Nariño, Putumayo, Guaviare and Cauca. In 2011, the Government manually eradicated 34,170 ha of coca bush and sprayed a total of 103,302 ha. While aerial spraying remained at 2010 levels, manual eradication decreased by 22 per cent.

542. Recent studies carried out by the Government of Colombia and UNODC indicate that the coca leaf yield per hectare has decreased. According to these studies, a number of factors, including reduced use of fertilizers and the pressure exerted by eradication leading to smaller coca bush plots further away from settlements could have contributed to the decreased coca leaf yield. The potential cocaine manufacture in Colombia in 2011, 345 tons (down 1 per cent, from 350 tons in 2010), was the smallest since 1998.

543. The goals of the Peruvian National Drug Control Strategy 2012-2016 include reducing the potential

production of coca leaf by 30 per cent by 2016. To achieve that goal, the strategy envisages gradually increasing eradication efforts, starting with 14,000 ha to be eradicated in 2012 and up to 30,000 ha in 2016. In 2011, the Peruvian authorities eradicated 10,290 ha under illicit coca bush cultivation, about 1,700 ha less than in 2010.

544. In 2011, Peru changed its methodology for calculating the area under illicit coca bush cultivation. The area under such cultivation increased, and at the end of 2011 amounted to 62,500 ha.

545. The illicit cultivation of coca bush, albeit on a small scale, slightly increased in Ecuador in 2011. During that year the national competent authorities eradicated 14 ha of coca bush.

546. Although global seizures of cocaine remained rather stable in the period 2006-2010, the purity of cocaine seized over that period decreased. As a result, the total amount of pure cocaine seized worldwide actually decreased.

547. In 2011, cocaine seizures decreased in several countries, including Brazil, Colombia, Peru and Uruguay. In Colombia, seizures of cocaine (salts) decreased from 164.8 tons in 2010 to 146.1 tons in 2011, and in Peru seizures of cocaine (base and salts) decreased from 31.1 tons in 2010 to 24.7 tons in 2011.

548. In Brazil, seizures of cocaine (base and salts) decreased from 27.1 tons in 2010 to 24.5 tons in 2011. More than 50 per cent of cocaine seized in Brazil originated in Bolivia (Plurinational State of), about 40 per cent in Peru and less than 10 per cent in Colombia.

549. In the Plurinational State of Bolivia, seizures of cocaine (base and salts) increased from 29.1 tons in 2010 to 34 tons in 2011. Seizures of cocaine (base and salts) also increased in Ecuador, from 15.5 tons in 2010 to 21.3 tons in 2011, and in Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), from 24.9 tons in 2010 to 26.3 tons in 2011. In Ecuador, microtrafficking in drugs has increased. In Chile and Paraguay seizures of cocaine remained relatively stable.

550. Semi-submersible and submersible vessels have been used by drug trafficking organizations operating in South America to minimize the risk of detection of the smuggling of cocaine from the region at least since 1993, when the first semi-submersible vessel was seized. From that time until mid-2012, law enforcement agencies seized over 70 submersible and semi-submersible vessels worldwide. In 2011, 33 per cent of cocaine seized by the Colombian army was transported by "go-fast" vessels and 17 per cent by submersible and semi-submersible vessels. In June 2012, the Colombian army seized a 20-metre-long

semi-submersible vessel made of fibreglass. It is estimated that the construction of the vessel cost about \$1 million.

551. In 2011, laboratories illicitly manufacturing cocaine hydrochloride were dismantled in all main coca leaf-producing countries. In Bolivia (Plurinational State of) 25 laboratories were dismantled, in Colombia 200 laboratories and in Peru 19 laboratories. In Colombia, farmers process about 1 per cent of coca leaf into coca paste and 66 per cent into coca base; only 33 per cent of coca leaf is sold unprocessed. Currently, the traffickers use the process of reoxidation of coca base before its conversion into cocaine hydrochloride.

552. Cocaine processing laboratories were also destroyed in Ecuador and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) in 2011. In Ecuador, police authorities dismantled five laboratories processing cocaine base originating in Colombia and Peru. In the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, in the states of Táchira and Zulia, bordering Colombia, the national authorities destroyed a total of 17 illicit drug laboratories.

553. Although the illicit cultivation of opium poppy still exists in some countries in South America, the magnitude of that cultivation is much less than that of cannabis plant and coca bush cultivation. In Colombia, the potential manufacture of heroin was estimated to be one ton in 2011.

554. In recent years, small areas of opium poppy were reportedly eradicated in Colombia, Ecuador and Peru. In 2011, the illicit cultivation of opium poppy in Colombia (338 ha) represented about 0.2 per cent of worldwide cultivation. Heroin manufactured in Colombia is destined for markets in Europe, Mexico and the United States. There are also indications of increased demand for the substance within the country. In 2011, the Colombian authorities destroyed one illicit laboratory manufacturing heroin and seized 522 kg of heroin and 205 kg of opium.

555. From 2001 to 2010, the Peruvian authorities eradicated a total of 585 ha of opium poppy in the country. No eradication of opium poppy was reported in 2011. In addition to five ha of illicit opium poppy eradicated in Ecuador in 2011, the national competent authorities reported over 100 incidents of heroin seizures, totalling 155 kg. Seizures of small amounts of opium or heroin were also reported by other countries in South America.

(b) Psychotropic substances

556. Although the issue of the non-medical use of pharmaceutical drugs and the use of prescription drugs without a medical prescription, whether as

self-medication or for recreational use, has gained greater attention in the Americas, specific information on such non-medical use in the region is still limited. For example, standardized surveys on drug abuse among high school students in the Americas enquire about the use of pharmaceuticals in the broad categories of tranquillizers and stimulants.

557. According to the recent *CICAD Report on Drug Use in the Americas: 2011*, the past-year prevalence of the use of tranquillizers without a medical prescription among secondary school students in Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Colombia and Paraguay was higher than 6 per cent. The report also indicates that although the prevalence of non-medical use of pharmaceutical substances varies a great deal from country to country, many countries in the Americas that have relatively low rates of abuse of illicit drugs showed higher rates of misuse of pharmaceutical and prescription drugs.

558. Justifiable concerns over the spreading abuse of synthetic drugs in South America can be corroborated by seizures of sizeable amounts of amphetamine-type stimulants in the region, including in Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador and Uruguay in 2011. For example, in Brazil alone, 170,000 units of amphetamine, 48,000 units of methamphetamine and 259,000 units of MDMA (“ecstasy”) were seized in 2011.

(c) Precursors

559. Most of the world’s reported seizures of Table II acids and solvents occur primarily in the three coca-producing countries of the Andean region. Between 2005 and 2011, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Colombia and Peru accounted for roughly 40 per cent of global seizures of sulphuric acid and hydrochloric acid.

560. In Colombia, traffickers recycle liquid precursors in order to minimize the risk of disclosure of illicit manufacture of cocaine, as well as to minimize the costs of cocaine manufacture. Perhaps as a result, seizures of acids and solvents decreased in Colombia in the past two years. The Colombian authorities also reported cases of clandestine manufacture of sulphuric acid from sulphur that can be found in mines in volcanic areas in the country.

561. Although the extent of illicit use of potassium permanganate and the methods of its diversion have changed in South America in the past few years, the substance remains the key oxidizing agent used in the manufacture of cocaine hydrochloride in the region. In 2011, countries in South America accounted for 97 per cent of global seizures of potassium permanganate (36.9 tons). In that year Colombia seized 24.0 tons,

Bolivia (Plurinational State of) 9.9 tons and Peru 2.0 tons of the substance. In addition, the Colombian authorities dismantled seven illicit laboratories manufacturing potassium permanganate.

5. Abuse and treatment

562. According to UNODC and the latest Government sources, the annual prevalence rates of cannabis abuse in the general population in Bolivia (Plurinational State of) (4.5 per cent), Chile (4.9 per cent), Suriname (4.3 per cent) and Uruguay (8.3 per cent) were the highest in South America. Among youth, the prevalence of cannabis abuse is even higher. For example, in Chile, 16.2 per cent of young people 15 to 16 years old and in Uruguay 12.5 per cent of youth 13 to 17 years old used cannabis in the past year.

563. According to the preliminary results of a drug abuse survey released in 2012 by the National Institute of Public Policy for Alcohol and Other Drugs and the Federal University of São Paulo in Brazil, 7 per cent of the adult population in the country aged 19 to 59 have consumed cannabis at least once in their lives; over 60 per cent of those had done so before the age of 18. Even though cannabis consumption rates in Brazil are relatively low, the dependence rates are high; 37 per cent of cannabis users are dependent on the substance. The survey also found that three quarters of the Brazilian population was against the legalization of cannabis.

564. The results of the national survey on the consumption of psychoactive substances in the school population, conducted in Colombia in 2011, indicated that 7.0 per cent of the school population in the country, 11 to 18 years old, had abused cannabis herb at least once in their lives.

565. UNODC estimated that the overall average of the annual prevalence of cocaine abuse in South America in 2010 remained essentially stable, estimated at 0.7 per cent. The recent Brazilian drug abuse survey indicates that the last-year prevalence of cocaine abuse (any form of cocaine) among the adult population was 2 per cent. Despite a reported decline in cocaine abuse in some countries in the region, including Argentina and Chile, the demand for treatment for cocaine abuse exceeds demand for treatment for abuse of any other illicit drug.

566. Coca-based products obtained at various processing stages, mostly referred to as cocaine base paste, are likely to be some of the most addictive and noxious substances abused in several countries in South America. According to the recent CICAD survey on drug abuse in the Americas, the lifetime prevalence rates for cocaine base

paste in Argentina, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Uruguay were found to be 1 per cent or higher. There appears to be a variety of local forms of cocaine base paste, known as paco, basuco, pasta base or coca paste. More research, however, needs to be done in the different countries to determine whether these substances are indeed different substances or whether they should be classified as variants of the same substance.

567. The latest estimates of annual prevalence of the abuse of opioids for most of the countries in South America are at least five years old; therefore, a reliable comparison of opioid abuse within the region is not possible. According to the available data, the lowest rate of abuse of opioids in South America, 0.02 per cent, was reported in Colombia in 2008 and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) in 2011, respectively. The highest rates of abuse of opioids were reported in Bolivia (Plurinational State of) in 2007 (0.6 per cent) and Brazil, in 2005 (0.5 per cent). In Brazil, non-medical use of prescription opioids accounted for most of the opioids abused.

568. Concern over rising levels of the abuse of synthetic drugs among South American youth also continued to grow. High annual prevalence of abuse of amphetamine-type stimulants among young people was reported, for example, in Argentina, Chile and Colombia. According to the latest information provided by Governments, 1.4 per cent and 1.6 per cent of youth aged 15 to 16 years old in Argentina and Chile, respectively, used MDMA (“ecstasy”) in the past 12 months.

569. According to the *CICAD Report on Drug Use in the Americas: 2011*, inhalant abuse may be a growing problem in the Americas, as youth seek out licit and easily available substances. Once considered to be a drug used almost exclusively by street children, the report indicates that inhalant abuse is firmly established among high school students in Latin America and the Caribbean. In most countries in both Latin America and the Caribbean, inhalants are the most common substance of abuse after cannabis and, in some countries, the past-year prevalence of abuse of inhalants exceeds the prevalence of cannabis abuse.

C. Asia

East and South-East Asia

1. Major developments

570. In 2011, East and South-East Asia continued to be the region with the second largest total area under illicit

opium poppy cultivation, accounting for over 20 per cent of illicit opium poppy cultivation worldwide. Increased illicit opium poppy cultivation was reported by the Lao People’s Democratic Republic and Myanmar for six consecutive years, beginning in 2007. From 2011 to 2012, the total estimated area under cultivation in the two countries increased by approximately 66 per cent and 17 per cent, respectively, indicating potential growth in opium production. In view of the continued increase in illicit opium poppy cultivation in the region, the Board again urges the Governments of the Lao People’s Democratic Republic and Myanmar to take the necessary actions to curtail illicit opium poppy cultivation. The Board calls upon the international community, in particular UNODC, and other countries of the region, to strengthen assistance to the Lao People’s Democratic Republic and Myanmar, including for alternative development programmes and illicit crop eradication.

571. East and South-East Asia continued to be a manufacturing hub and a growing illicit market for amphetamine-type stimulants, in particular methamphetamine. Seizures of methamphetamine in East and South-East Asia accounted for almost half of the global total in 2010. In 2011, most countries of the region continued to report increased seizures of methamphetamine. Furthermore, evidence has shown that the illicit manufacture of amphetamine-type stimulants has expanded from traditional manufacturing countries such as China and Myanmar to other countries, including Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines and Thailand. Ephedrine and pseudoephedrine, substances used in the illicit manufacture of amphetamine-type stimulants, continued to be trafficked in large quantities in the region.

572. Trafficking in and abuse of prescription drugs and over-the-counter pharmaceutical preparations containing internationally controlled substances are serious problems in East and South-East Asia. In Malaysia, a clandestine laboratory manufacturing tablets containing nimetazepam (a sedative-hypnotic benzodiazepine, also known as Erimin 5) was dismantled in 2010. Few benzodiazepines had ever been illicitly manufactured in other countries. That operation, together with the recent seizures of nimetazepam tablets, raised concern about Malaysia emerging as a country used for the illicit manufacture of, and as a transit area for, benzodiazepines destined for illicit markets in other countries. Many countries of the region have also reported abuse and seizures of drugs containing morphine, codeine and benzodiazepines, some of which had been smuggled out of South Asia, stolen or obtained from pharmacies with forged prescriptions. The Board therefore urges