

spread to other countries in the region, including Argentina, Chile and Uruguay. The study calls attention to the quick onset of dependence to cocaine base paste and the challenges of its clinical treatment. According to the study, in Peru, 59.6 per cent of persons who had abused cocaine base paste in the past 12 months showed signs of drug dependence, compared with 47.8 per cent of those who had abused cocaine.

472. The annual prevalence of opioid abuse (mainly non-medical use of prescription opioids) in South America is estimated to be 0.3 per cent of the adult population, corresponding to 790,000 to 860,000 people aged 15 to 64.

473. Past-year prevalence of abuse of amphetamine-type stimulants (excluding MDMA (“ecstasy”)) among the general population in South America (0.4-0.6 per cent) is lower than in Central America or North America (1.3 per cent). Past-year prevalence of “ecstasy” abuse among the general population is even lower, at 0.1-0.2 per cent.

474. The second Andean epidemiological study also pointed to the increasing abuse of hallucinogenic substances in the Andean countries. According to the study, the past-year prevalence of LSD abuse had increased four-fold among the university population in the region, from 0.23 per cent in 2009 to 0.95 per cent in 2012. In Colombia, the past-year prevalence of abuse of LSD was 3.16 per cent and that of hallucinogenic mushrooms 1.02 per cent. Abuse of hallucinogenic mushrooms had also increased recently in the Plurinational State of Bolivia, in particular among university students, and became the second most abused drug in the country, after cannabis, among that population.

C. Asia

East and South-East Asia

1. Major developments

475. The manufacture of and demand for heroin in East and South-East Asia continues to be of major concern to the Board. In the mid 2000s the Governments of the Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Myanmar and Thailand undertook successful opium poppy eradication programmes. In recent years, there has been an upsurge in cultivation, threatening the positive gains made over the

past decade. From the low of 24,157 ha reported to have been cultivated in 2006, the total area of illicit cultivation of opium poppy in the Lao People’s Democratic Republic and Myanmar increased substantially, amounting to 58,000 ha in 2012. In the Lao People’s Democratic Republic, the area of cultivation in 2012 amounted to about 25 per cent of the area of cultivation in 1998, when illicit cultivation reached its peak. Myanmar, which also reported an increase in cultivation, had the largest total area of opium poppy cultivation in the region, at 51,000 ha. However, the increase in demand for heroin in East and South-East Asia is so great that even with the reported increase in illicit cultivation in the three above-mentioned countries, Afghan opium is reportedly now being smuggled into East and South-East Asia in order to satisfy demand—in an area where approximately one quarter of the world’s opiate abusers live.

476. The region’s long-established demand for amphetamine-type stimulants showed no signs of weakening. Demand for amphetamine-type stimulants both increased and diversified, with a growing demand for crystalline methamphetamine among the new trends in the region. Illicit manufacture of amphetamine-type stimulants continued to be prevalent, and in 2011 hundreds of illicit synthetic drug manufacturing facilities were reported to have been dismantled by the Governments of Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines and Thailand. In addition, the abuse of non-controlled substances has become more prevalent, with the abuse of synthetic cannabinoids and synthetic cathinones being reported. Ketamine remained the most widely reported abused substance among those substances not under international control.

477. As part of the regional response aimed at reducing high levels of drug abuse, in particular of amphetamine-type stimulants, there was a noticeable move by Governments towards enhancing community-based treatment programmes.

2. Regional cooperation

478. Countries in the region continued to look at ways to enhance cooperation at the ministerial level and between law enforcement agencies in order to focus on combating the supply of illicit drugs. The increasing number of regional meetings on drug control issues highlights the existing political will to use multilateral mechanisms to exchange information and enhance cooperation in order to more effectively combat illicit manufacture and use of drugs.

479. A list of selected regional cooperation meetings in East and South-East Asia is available in English in electronic form on the INCB website (www.incb.org), published in conjunction with the annual report.

3. National legislation, policy and action

480. In June 2012, Brunei Darussalam introduced the Criminal Asset Recovery Order, which consolidates procedures and powers in asset recovery and removes the complexities of previous legislation containing measures to counter money-laundering.

481. The newly formed China Food and Drug Administration, which started operations in March 2013, merged the functions of a number of separate departments in an effort to improve supervision and regulation. In 2011, China also carried out a nationwide campaign to stop the use of the Internet for drug-related crime. The campaign resulted in the arrest of over 800 persons and the dismantlement of 144 groups suspected of using the Internet to commit drug-related offences, the destruction of 22 sites used for illicit drug manufacture and the seizure of 308 kg of illicit drugs.

482. Cambodia's Law on Drug Control, promulgated on 2 January 2012, extends the scope of activities related to drug control in the country and contains provisions on, among other things, money-laundering and access to treatment for drugs users. The Law is aimed at reducing drug abuse and drug-related offences in the country.

483. In early 2013, Indonesia increased controls on the import and export of pharmaceutical preparations containing precursors with medical applications, such as ephedrine, pseudoephedrine, ergotamine, ergometrine and calcium permanganate. It also introduced controls over raw materials, and bulk, intermediate and end products containing those substances.

484. In April 2013, the Government of Thailand enhanced measures to prevent the diversion of pseudoephedrine and preparations containing that substance by issuing a ministerial notification prohibiting the transport of those preparations through the country.

485. In August 2012, the Government of Viet Nam adopted the national target programme on drug abuse prevention and control for the period 2012-2015. The new programme updated the country's drug control strategy and focuses on expanding methadone substitution treatment

among the country's large population of HIV-vulnerable injecting drug users.

486. In January 2013, the Government of the Lao People's Democratic Republic amended article 146 of the penal code so that a person who consumes, purchases or possesses less than two grams of heroin, morphine, cocaine, amphetamines or other psychotropic substances shall be considered a victim and be sent for treatment.

4. Cultivation, production, manufacture and illicit trafficking

(a) Narcotic drugs

487. The worrying trends of increased illicit cultivation of opium poppy and increased demand for heroin have continued. The rebound in illicit opium poppy cultivation in the Lao People's Democratic Republic since the country's low in cultivation in 2005 has attracted international attention. Taken together with the already high and rising cultivation levels in Myanmar, this indicates increasing demand for heroin in the region. The area of cultivation in the Lao People's Democratic Republic continued its upward climb, reaching 6,800 ha by the end of 2012. Similarly, cultivation in Myanmar has risen from its record low of 21,600 ha in 2006 to 51,000 ha in 2012.

488. China reported having nearly 1.3 million registered opioid abusers in 2012. That represented nearly 60 per cent of all drug abusers in China and an increase from the 1.2 million registered abusers in 2011. This increase in demand in China may be driving the increased demand for heroin produced elsewhere in the region.

489. Although significantly high, cultivation levels are below the peaks recorded in 1998. Thailand continued to report almost zero cultivation and the era of large-scale cultivation which once gave rise to the area's designation as the Golden Triangle, has not returned. Nevertheless, the gains made in eradication are at risk of being rolled back. The Board therefore urges the Governments of the Lao People's Democratic Republic and Myanmar to continue their efforts to eliminate opium poppy cultivation.

490. There are indications that Afghan heroin is being smuggled into the region to cater to the rising demand. This suggests that the traditional sources supplying the drug, i.e., the Golden Triangle, are not satisfying regional demand and that demand may increase pressure to expand opium poppy cultivation. Seizures of heroin also suggest that the region is increasingly being targeted by

traffickers attempting to smuggle heroin manufactured outside the subregion. For example, authorities in Malaysia seized nearly 750 kg of heroin in 2011, compared with just over 300 kg in 2010; Thailand seized nearly 550 kg of heroin in 2011 compared with about 150 kg in 2010; and China seized just over 7.2 tons of heroin. Other countries, such as Viet Nam and Indonesia, have not reported declines in the amounts seized over the same period. The Lao People's Democratic Republic seized 45 kg of heroin in 2012, compared with about 43.4 kg in 2011.

491. The cultivation of cannabis plant in East and South-East Asia continues to be centred in Indonesia and the Philippines, although cultivation is also reported in the Lao People's Democratic Republic. With respect to eradication efforts, in 2011 the Philippines destroyed over 1.1 million cannabis plants; Indonesia seized over 22 tons of cannabis herb, China seized 4.2 tons of cannabis herb and the Governments of Cambodia, Japan, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Myanmar, the Republic of Korea and Thailand all reported seizures. The Lao People's Democratic Republic seized 2,836 kg of cannabis in 2012 compared with about 1,617 kg in 2011.

492. The great potential for more widespread abuse of cocaine in the region is also a source of serious concern for the Board. From the period 2008-2009 to the period 2010-2011, seizures of cocaine increased by almost 70 per cent throughout the region, with Hong Kong, China, seizing 650 kg in one seizure alone in 2012. Philippines also reported large quantities of seizures.

(b) Psychotropic substances

493. The high levels of abuse of amphetamine-type stimulants in the region have shown no sign of abating. A total of 227 million tablets were seized in the region in 2012, and abuse of amphetamine-type stimulants expanded, with 11 countries reporting increased abuse of methamphetamine. China reported seizing 16 tons of methamphetamine in 2012, an increase of nearly 2 tons over the preceding year. In 2011, large seizures of amphetamine-type stimulants in Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand highlighted the fact that the problem remained significant. Japan reported that quantities of methamphetamine seized were the largest in the past decade. Japan customs officials seized 482 kg of methamphetamine in 2012, with a marked increase in the abuse of international mail service and commercial cargo, used to smuggle amphetamine-type stimulants into the country. While high levels of methamphetamine abuse are not new, of note were the 8.8 tons of crystalline methamphetamine

seized, indicating that the regional market of amphetamine-type stimulants had become more diversified. Record seizures of that substance were made in Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand in 2011. The Lao People's Democratic Republic seized 10.7 million tablets of amphetamine-type stimulants in 2012 compared with about 4.6 million tablets in 2011.

494. Amphetamine-type stimulants abused in the region appear to be mostly supplied by clandestine laboratories located within the region, with 401 illicit synthetic drug manufacturing laboratories dismantled in 2011. China remained the country with the highest number of illicit laboratories dismantled: 357 laboratories were dismantled in 2011 and 326 in 2012. However, in terms of amount manufactured, Myanmar was the main source of methamphetamine and crystal methamphetamine, a situation that has not changed from when the Board highlighted that fact in its annual report for 2012. However, clandestine laboratories have also been dismantled by authorities in Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia and the Philippines, highlighting in stark terms that illicit manufacture of methamphetamine is a problem shared by many countries in the region.

495. In 2011, the majority of MDMA ("ecstasy") seizures were made in China and Indonesia. Although large increases in seizures were reported in 2011 by Cambodia, Japan, Malaysia, the Philippines and Thailand, the overall trend across East and South-East Asia is one of declining seizures of MDMA. This may indicate reduced availability of MDMA as use of amphetamine-type stimulants has become more diversified in recent years, with increased abuse of crystalline methamphetamine in particular. Arrests in the region for possession, manufacture or trafficking of "ecstasy" fell by 34 per cent from 2010 to 2011, and overall seizures were down by 13 per cent. The fact that ketamine was being sold as "ecstasy" suggests there may be difficulty in manufacturing MDMA, which may be linked to China's decision to increase control over 3,4-MDP-2-P, a key precursor used in illicit MDMA manufacture.

(c) Precursors

496. The region continued to be a major centre for trafficking in precursors used in the illicit manufacture of amphetamine-type stimulants. The Board has raised this issue in the past, and countries in the region, including China, the Republic of Korea and Thailand, have responded positively by broadening their legislation in order to reduce the diversion of pharmaceutical preparations containing ephedrine and pseudoephedrine. In

particular, the region continues to experience cases of diversion of large amounts of pseudoephedrine preparations. Given that situation, it is clear that regulating in the region access to pharmaceutical preparations containing pseudoephedrine, for example through the systematic use of a prescription system, could have a strong positive impact on the availability of the main precursor used to make amphetamine-type stimulants in the region.

(d) Substances not under international control

497. East and South-East Asia did not escape the world trend of growing abuse of new psychoactive substances. Brunei Darussalam, China, including Hong Kong, Indonesia, Japan, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Viet Nam all reported evidence of their abuse. This worrying trend manifested itself in the indications of increased availability of synthetic cannabinoids, with seizures and abuse reported in Hong Kong, China, the Republic of Korea and Singapore. Mephedrone, a synthetic cathinone, has been identified in China and Thailand. In the face of increasing abuse of new psychoactive substances, Thailand decided to include BZP, TFMP, mephedrone, methylone and methylenedioxypropioverone (MDPV) on its national list of controlled substances.

498. Ketamine and kratom (*Mitragyna speciosa*) were identified as the two main substances of abuse not under international control. High levels of ketamine abuse continued in the past year, with it being widely reported as one of the top five drugs of abuse in Asian countries. The fact that 86 per cent of global seizures of ketamine took place in Asia confirms that trend. Furthermore, the drug is often sold as a substitute for or misrepresented as “ecstasy”. The abuse of kratom, a plant with stimulant effects and hallucinogenic properties, is increasing, and seizures and related arrests have soared dramatically in countries such as Thailand (23 tons were seized in 2012, up from 1.7 tons in 2005), Malaysia and Myanmar.

5. Abuse and treatment

499. Rates of methamphetamine abuse in the region remained high. Indications are that abuse of amphetamine-type stimulants has diversified, with seizures of crystalline methamphetamine increasing by 23 per cent, indicating a large increase in supply of and demand for the substance. Methamphetamine is the most common drug of abuse in the Lao People’s Democratic Republic and Thailand, and is the secondary illicit drug of abuse in Cambodia, China

and Viet Nam. However, China represents the region’s largest consumer market in absolute terms, with half of the region’s seizures occurring in that country.

500. The level of cannabis abuse in the region remained high. While a decrease in abuse was noted in Indonesia, cannabis continued to be the most abused drug in the country, with a 7.1 per cent lifetime prevalence rate among the general population. The Philippines reported a lifetime prevalence rate of about 10.5 per cent.

501. Life-time prevalence rates for cocaine abuse in the region remain relatively low, at about 0.03 per cent of the population aged 15-64. However, the rising per capita wealth suggests that cocaine traffickers might consider the region to be a market with considerable prospects for expansion.

502. East and South-East Asia reported high levels of injecting drug abuse, accounting for 27 per cent of all injecting drug users worldwide injecting heroin, amphetamine-type stimulants, tranquillizers and sedatives. The public health risks include a higher prevalence of HIV/AIDS among drug injecting users. Statistics from Indonesia indicate a 42 per cent prevalence rate of HIV among injecting drug users. In Myanmar, there has also been a reported shift from smoking opium to injecting heroin and amphetamine-type stimulants, which has contributed to the high HIV infection rates among drug abusers in the country. Heroin is the most widely abused illicit drug in Viet Nam. The HIV prevalence rate among drug abusers injecting heroin is 20 per cent and up to 50 per cent in some provinces, with the result that Viet Nam has one of the highest rates of HIV transmission through injecting drug use. In 2012, the HIV prevalence rate among the estimated 1,900 injecting drug users in Cambodia was 24.8 per cent, an increase from the previous year.

503. Across East and South-East Asia, community-based treatment initiatives have been expanded as an alternative to compulsory drug treatment, with the active support of the international community and support from Governments in the region. Community-based treatment promotes local access to treatment and drug prevention services for all drug users. Community-based drug treatment programmes supported by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime were expanded in Cambodia, the leading country in the region in terms of support for that approach to drug treatment. The approach has also been introduced recently in the Lao People’s Democratic Republic. In Timor-Leste, availability of drug treatment facilities is extremely limited. The extent of drug abuse in the country is not well known, and, as such, prevention,

treatment and rehabilitation facilities for drug abusers remain underdeveloped. The Board encourages Governments in the region to continue to expand treatment services provision, including the introduction and development of voluntary treatment alternatives, such as community-based treatment, and to facilitate access to treatment and drug prevention services for all drug users.

504. China reported that there were 2.1 million drug-dependent persons in 2012. Of those 60 per cent reported abuse of heroin, with abuse of amphetamine-type stimulants at less than 29 per cent, (602,481 individuals). China referred 136,000 people to community-based drug treatment programmes, and a further 202,000 individuals were placed in 678 compulsory drug treatment centres. In 2012, there were 756 methadone maintenance treatment clinics providing services to 384,000 patients. Abuse of “ecstasy” was prevalent in Timor-Leste, according to a recent study, and is now more abused than methamphetamine.

505. The Board has noted that data on the nature and extent of drug abuse in many countries in the region are out of date and unreliable. The Board once again urges Governments in the region to conduct new national assessments to determine the true extent and nature of the drug abuse problem in the region and so aid in planning and implementing prevention, treatment and rehabilitation efforts.

South Asia

1. Major developments

506. South Asia is facing a serious and growing drug abuse problem, including the abuse of pharmaceutical preparations containing narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances. For example, abuse of codeine preparations and “yaba” tablets containing methamphetamine has reached a high level and is growing rapidly in Bangladesh; drug abuse among youth is growing in Bhutan; prescription drug abuse is growing in India; in Maldives, where the first national drug use survey revealed a serious drug abuse problem, and in Nepal, the recorded number of users of drugs is increasing rapidly. Governments of countries in the region continue to implement measures to prevent and tackle drug abuse and drug trafficking. Drugs enter South Asia’s illicit drug markets through a number of different channels, including diversion from India’s pharmaceutical industry, illicit cultivation and/or manufacture within the region, and smuggling from other

countries, including Afghanistan (through Pakistan) and Myanmar.

2. Regional cooperation

507. Governments in South Asia continue to respond strongly to the threat of drug trafficking and abuse in the region, including through an array of cooperation arrangements, both within and extending beyond the region. That cooperation takes the form of information-sharing among law enforcement agencies, training and technical assistance, cooperation on drug abuse prevention and treatment activities and training for treatment practitioners, as well as other activities in the area of reducing drug demand.

508. Bangladesh has close partnerships on drug abuse prevention and control with the Colombo Plan for Cooperative Economic and Social Development in Asia and the Pacific and 19 countries including China, Myanmar and the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation member States. Those partnerships involve the exchange of information and technical assistance.

509. Bangladesh and India have close cooperation mechanisms for law enforcement and drug control, including regular meetings at the political and technical levels. The two countries have also agreed to share information on drug trafficking on a real-time basis and to assist one another in the investigation of drug cases. The Board welcomes those measures taken by Bangladesh and India. Given the continuing high levels of drug smuggling across the India-Bangladesh border, ensuring that border’s security is paramount.

510. India currently has mutual legal assistance treaties with 36 countries and territories, including Bangladesh and Sri Lanka, providing a legal framework for legal assistance in criminal matters. India has bilateral agreements or memorandums of understanding on drug-related matters with Bangladesh, Bhutan and a further 27 countries. India also has an ongoing agenda of cooperation with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations on combating drug trafficking.

511. Bhutan and India have a joint group on border management to take joint action against threats to the security of their common border. India and Nepal maintain mechanisms to prevent cross-border drug trafficking and other cross-border threats.

512. At a meeting in New Delhi in January 2013, the Ministers for External Affairs of India and Sri Lanka

signed an agreement on combating international terrorism and illicit drug trafficking.

513. The Colombo Plan for Economic and Social Development in Asia and the Pacific's Asian Centre for Certification and Education of Addiction Professionals has published new curricula, including a curriculum on psychoeducation for clients and families in drug treatment and rehabilitation.

514. The Colombo Plan also carries out a number of other initiatives targeting the drug problem, including treatment, rehabilitation and aftercare services and facilities, in partnership with Governments, non-governmental organizations and communities; preventive drug education and early intervention, in partnership with civil society, including youth leaders; and training of law enforcement officers in chemical testing and control. The Colombo Plan has also launched the *International Journal of Prevention and Treatment of Substance Use Disorders* in order to advance scientific literature in this area.

3. National legislation, policy and action

515. The authorities of Bangladesh have continued their efforts to raise awareness of and provide education on the dangers of drug abuse among prison inmates. Prison authorities in Bangladesh have partnered with UNODC and non-governmental organizations to deliver, over the period 2007-2013, training sessions in prisons on drug abuse and associated health risks.

516. FATF has developed action plans with the Governments of Bangladesh and Nepal to address weaknesses in their frameworks against money-laundering and terrorist financing. Both countries have made progress in implementing the respective action plans, but as of June 2013 some measures had not yet been implemented. The Board reminds Governments that anti-money-laundering measures are a key element of tackling drug trafficking.

517. The Governments of India and Sri Lanka have been strengthening their frameworks against money-laundering and terrorist financing. In June 2013, FATF recognized that both countries had made significant progress in this area, and as a result removed them from FATF regular follow-up process.

518. In the context of the five-year plan for the period 2008-2013, the Bhutan Narcotic Control Agency is to carry out a survey on drug abuse in the country and

produce annual drug status reports and drug prevention education materials.

519. In March 2013, the Ministry of Finance of India issued an order under the country's legislation on narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances that, among other measures, specifies that the Government can schedule any substance under the schedules in India's national legislation. Accordingly, ketamine was placed under national control.

520. In addition to its existing plans to improve border security, as referred to in the Board's annual report for 2012, the Government of India has decided to build approximately 1,400 kilometres of strategic roads along its border with Nepal. India has also deployed 13 battalions of troops and established 131 border outposts along its border with Bhutan. Along its border with Myanmar, India has deployed 15 battalions of border guards, who are responsible for action against cross-border drug smuggling, among other duties.

521. In response to problems with the abuse of and trafficking in phensedyl (a codeine-based cough syrup), the Indian State of Bihar, which is close to India's border with Bangladesh, has placed restrictions on the sale of phensedyl within its territory. Pharmacists have been instructed not to stock more than 1,000 bottles of phensedyl at any one time.

522. The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment of India collaborates with Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan (an autonomous body under the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports) and the National Bal Bhavan (an autonomous body under the Ministry of Human Resource Development) on a public-awareness campaign on drug abuse. Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan has reached young people in 3,750 villages in two provinces in India. The Narcotics Control Bureau of India is also undertaking a campaign in cooperation with the authorities of Delhi to raise awareness of the consequences of drug trafficking and abuse in Delhi.

523. The National Drug Agency of Maldives has partnered with UNODC to support non-governmental organizations in Maldives in raising awareness of drug abuse and improving access to aftercare and support services for former drug abusers and their families. The Board welcomes the current initiative of the Government of Sri Lanka of undertaking a national drug abuse survey. The Cosmetics, Devices and Drugs Technical Advisory Committee of Sri Lanka decided on 18 April 2013 that all tablets and syrups containing ephedrine or pseudo-ephedrine should be removed from the country's market.

The Committee also decided not to accept the registration of cough and cold products that contain, inter alia, analgesics or caffeine in combination with ephedrine and/or pseudoephedrine.

524. The National Dangerous Drugs Control Board of Sri Lanka has launched a project to develop a drug-free model village in an area within a high prevalence of drug abuse, for which it will provide services in the village. The National Dangerous Drugs Control Board has also launched an outreach and awareness-raising campaign targeting underserved settlements in Colombo, which has been identified as an area with a high prevalence of drug abuse.

525. Access to internationally controlled substances for medical purposes (particularly opiates for pain relief) is limited in the region. Some of the main opioids used for pain management are codeine, dextropropoxyphene, dihydrocodeine, fentanyl, hydromorphone, ketobemidone, morphine, oxycodone, pethidine, tilidine and trimiperidine. Average consumption of those opioids in Bhutan in the period 2010-2012 was 635 defined daily doses for statistical purposes (S-DDD) per million inhabitants²⁴ (i.e., for every 1 million inhabitants in Bhutan, 635 daily doses of opioids were consumed). In Maldives, 71 S-DDD per million inhabitants were consumed, and 24 S-DDD per million inhabitants in Sri Lanka. In countries with a larger population, the number of daily doses consumed per million inhabitants was considerably lower: India, 10 S-DDD; Bangladesh, 8 S-DDD; and Nepal, 8 S-DDD. The Board has identified levels of consumption that it considers to be inadequate (consumption of opioid analgesics in quantities between 100 and 200 S-DDD per million inhabitants per day) or very inadequate (consumption of opioid analgesics in quantities equal to or less than 100 S-DDD).

4. Cultivation, production, manufacturing and trafficking

(a) Narcotic drugs

526. Pharmaceutical preparations containing narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances continue to be diverted from India's pharmaceutical industry and are trafficked domestically or at the international level, including

²⁴The term "defined daily doses for statistical purposes" are technical units of measurement defined by the Board for the purpose of statistical analysis and not recommended prescription doses. More details are available in part four of the technical publication on narcotic drugs for 2013 (E/INCB/2013/2), in the notes on table XIV.

through illegal Internet pharmacies. Despite the efforts made by the Government of India to tackle the problem, diversion from licit channels in the country remains a major source of pharmaceutical preparations trafficked in the region. For example, one of the most commonly trafficked pharmaceutical preparations is phensedyl; seizures of phensedyl in neighbouring Bangladesh continued to rise significantly in 2012. The Board recognizes the steps taken by the Government of India to prevent diversion from its pharmaceutical industry, including through implementation of previous recommendations of the Board, and calls on the Government of India to maintain and, where appropriate, strengthen its efforts to prevent the diversion of pharmaceutical preparations and their trafficking within and out of the country's territory.

527. In addition to phensedyl, the narcotic drugs that are most commonly smuggled into or trafficked within Bangladesh include heroin and other drugs that are abused by injection. In Bangladesh in 2012, about 1.3 million bottles of codeine preparations were seized, compared with some 900,000 bottles in 2011, and about 2,500 loose litres of codeine-based solutions were seized, an amount that has decreased over the past two years, as about 4,000 litres were seized in 2010. Seizures of heroin in Bangladesh increased from about 107 kg in 2011 to about 125 kg in 2012. Heroin smuggled into Bangladesh is mostly sourced from India. There is also some trafficking of heroin originating in the countries of the Golden Triangle that is intended to be smuggled onward by sea to Europe and the Americas. While trends in the quantities of seized drugs can be observed, it is not always possible to infer that the actual volume of trafficking of those drugs follow the same trend.

528. Drugs that tend to be abused by injection are being smuggled into Bangladesh in rapidly increasing amounts, as reflected by seizure data: about 70,000 ampoules of drugs for abuse by injection (pethidine and morphine) were seized in 2010, and about 160,000 ampoules of drugs for abuse by injection were seized in 2012. Seizures of opium in Bangladesh have fallen progressively, from about 12 kg in 2010 to about 5 kg in 2012.

529. Seizures of cannabis in Bangladesh have fluctuated in recent years but fell from 2011, when about 54 tons were seized, to 2012, when seizures totalled about 39 tons. Cannabis is smuggled into Bangladesh mostly from India and Nepal. Illicit cultivation of cannabis plant also takes place in remote areas of Bangladesh, and cannabis plant grows wild in Bangladesh. The level of illicit cultivation of cannabis plant has declined dramatically in recent years in Bangladesh. Quantities seized have also declined dramatically: in 2007, about 25,000 cannabis plants were

seized, while in 2012 fewer than 500 such plants were seized. There is illicit cultivation of opium poppy plant in Bangladesh, close to the border with Myanmar. Bhutan did not record seizures of pharmaceutical preparations in 2012.

530. In India, data on seizures give a mixed picture of developments in trafficking in that country. However, the overall number of convictions for drug trafficking fell from about 8,600 in 2011 to about 6,200 in 2012. In evaluating those statistics, it should be kept in mind that the prosecution of individual cases may take years to complete. Seizures of cannabis herb have been steadily decreasing, down from 209 tons in 2009 to 69 tons in 2012. Seizures of cannabis resin also fell, from 4.3 tons in 2010 to 2.2 tons in 2012. The area of illicit cannabis cultivation eradicated by the authorities has also been falling, from about 3,000 acres in 2011 to none in 2012. Large quantities of the illicit cannabis of India are exported: India remained one of the five main source countries for illicit cannabis resin mentioned by Governments worldwide in seizure reports in 2011. In addition, India was identified as the source country for over 10 tons of cannabis herb recorded in the World Customs Organization's Customs Enforcement Network database in 2012. Seizures of heroin in India have fluctuated since 2009 and increased from 528 kg in 2011 to 853 kg in 2012. In addition, heroin is smuggled from India to countries including Bangladesh and Kenya. The quantity of opium seized in India has been increasing since 2009, when about 1.7 tons were seized, to more than 3 tons in 2012. However, the area of opium poppy cultivation destroyed by authorities decreased significantly, from about 14,000 ha in 2011 to about 2,900 ha in 2012. Seizures of morphine in India have risen since 2010, when 25 kg were seized, to 131 kg in 2012.

531. In Maldives, the amount of heroin seized by the authorities decreased to 2.6 kg in 2012; in 2011, 3.2 kg had been seized by the Maldives customs service. The authorities of Maldives seized about 2.4 tons of cannabis resin in 2012. Maldives did not report seizures of pharmaceutical preparations in 2012.

532. In Nepal, locally sourced cannabis and foreign-sourced opium are the drugs most commonly trafficked. Authorities in Nepal seized 47 tons of cannabis in 2012, which is a 30 per cent increase from 2011. State authorities in Bihar, India, indicate that phensedyl is also being smuggled from India into Nepal. Some of the drugs that transit through Nepal are destined for the United States.

533. In Sri Lanka, 2,547 people (some 0.01 per cent of the population) were arrested for drug-related offences in

the first half of 2012, which was about 70 per cent less than in the first half of 2011. The number of arrests related to heroin declined by around 70 per cent and the number of arrests related to cannabis declined by about 50 per cent. Seizures of heroin in Sri Lanka decreased from 142 kg in 2010 to 39 kg in 2011 and to 33 kg in 2012. The amount of cannabis seized in Sri Lanka fell from about 200 tons in 2011 to about 74 tons in 2012. Over 60 per cent of those arrested had between 5 and 10 years of school education. Sri Lanka did not report seizures of pharmaceutical preparations in 2012.

534. Although cocaine trafficking has historically been very limited in South Asia, it appears to be rising significantly. Forty-two kg of cocaine were seized in India in 2012, up from 14 kg in 2011. In Sri Lanka, 7.5 kg of cocaine were seized in 2012, down from the approximately 10 kg seized in 2011, but significantly higher than in the period 1999-2009, when annual seizures of cocaine in Sri Lanka were less than 1 kg.

(b) Psychotropic substances

535. Amphetamine-type stimulants are both smuggled into South Asia and illicitly manufactured in the region. In South Asia, Bangladesh, India, Nepal and Sri Lanka have reported seizures of methamphetamine. Crystalline methamphetamine manufactured in South Asia is smuggled to Oceania and South-East Asia.

536. Seizures of amphetamine declined significantly from a peak of about 470 kg in 2011 to 30 kg in 2012. However, India continued to be a main source of illicit amphetamine-type stimulants manufactured and trafficked in South Asia. Amphetamine and methamphetamine in powder form are illicitly manufactured in India. Tablets containing amphetamine-type stimulants trafficked in India are mostly smuggled into the country from Myanmar. In 2012, 30 kg of amphetamine were seized in India. Amphetamine is smuggled from India to Bangladesh, often by people travelling on foot.

537. Seizures of methaqualone in India have increased steadily from 5 kg in 2009 to 178 kg in 2012, although that amount is still much lower than the approximately 2.4 tons seized in 2008. However, from 2010 to 2012 (the latest year for which data are available), no illicit methaqualone manufacturing facilities were detected in India. Buprenorphine is smuggled into Bangladesh from India through Bangladesh's south-west border.

538. "Yaba" (methamphetamine) is smuggled into Bangladesh from Myanmar. The quantities being

smuggled into the country are rapidly increasing. In 2012, authorities seized almost 2 million tablets containing amphetamine-type stimulants—often “yaba”—which was a sizeable increase from the some 1.4 million tablets seized in 2011. Overall seizures of methamphetamine exceeded 550 kg. Most of the “yaba” smuggled into Bangladesh is illicitly manufactured in the region of Myanmar that borders China (in Shan State and Kachin State) and is smuggled through Yangon and then by sea to Bangladesh, or smuggled to Maungdaw and then overland to Bangladesh.

539. Drug traffickers are attempting to smuggle amphetamine-type stimulants from India to Australia. India and China (including Hong Kong, China) were the origin of over 62 per cent of illicit shipments of amphetamine-type stimulants (excluding MDMA) detected entering Australia in 2010 and 2011.

(c) Precursors

540. India is frequently cited as a source country for ephedrine and pseudoephedrine smuggled into Myanmar. Ephedrine is often smuggled from India to Myanmar, where the substance is used in the illicit manufacture of “yaba”. In India, 4.4 tons of ephedrine were seized in 2012, down from 7.2 tons in 2011. Seizures of acetic anhydride increased from none in 2011 to about 360 kg in 2012.

541. Drug traffickers in South Asia extract ephedrine and pseudoephedrine from pharmaceutical preparations and manufacture ephedrine from 1-phenyl-1-propanone (P-1-P). Asia continues to be targeted by organized criminal groups as a source of precursors for the illicit manufacture of amphetamine-type stimulants, in particular ephedrine and pseudoephedrine.

(d) Substances not under international control

542. India remains one of the two countries in Asia (China is the other) most commonly mentioned as the source of new psychoactive substances. Nepal has also reported that new psychoactive substances are being sold in its territory.

543. Ketamine is smuggled from India to destinations in East and South-East Asia. A large proportion of the seizures of ketamine effected in India have been made in southern India. Ketamine is seized at airports, from courier parcels and sea cargo and during the drug’s

transportation within the country. Ketamine is now controlled under national law.

544. Khat is smuggled to India mainly from Ethiopia, the Kenyan highlands and Yemen. Khat is illegal in India.

5. Abuse and treatment

545. Most countries in South Asia do not have national drug surveys; information on abuse and prevalence in the region must therefore be obtained from other sources.

546. According to UNODC, the prevalence of drug abuse by injection among the population aged 15-64 years in South Asia in 2011 was 0.03 per cent, which is the lowest prevalence of any region. The prevalence of drug abuse by injection is also 0.03 per cent in India, according to UNODC.

547. In Bangladesh, cannabis continues to be the most commonly abused drug; while there is no official survey on cannabis abuse, some estimates indicate that 1.2 million people in the country abuse cannabis. An estimated 300,000 people receive outpatient counselling services for drug addiction in Bangladesh, while an estimated 100,000 receive inpatient drug treatment. About 43 per cent of those admitted for treatment in 2011 were treated for heroin addiction, about 28 per cent were admitted for buprenorphine addiction, 17 per cent were admitted for cannabis addiction, and 1.4 per cent were admitted for sedative, hypnotic and/or tranquillizer addiction. Two per cent of drug abusers admitted for treatment in Bangladesh in 2011 indicated that they abused codeine cough syrup. Women make up a very low proportion of those receiving drug treatment in Bangladesh.

548. In Bangladesh, there have been many cases of women working for drug traffickers—transporting, peddling, packing or storing drugs—who are forced to become addicted to drugs, as can be women who are married to male drug addicts. The most commonly cited cause of drug abuse among those who are admitted for drug treatment in Bangladesh is peer pressure (in 55 per cent of cases). Codeine-based cough syrups are often abused in Bangladesh, in part owing to the taste of those products and to their easy availability. Drug abusers belonging to the educated upper class tend to abuse codeine-based cough syrups instead of heroin due to previous public awareness campaigns highlighting the health dangers of heroin abuse. According to the Department of Narcotics Control of Bangladesh, drug abuse can be construed as a symbol of sophistication in affluent urban Bangladeshi society.

549. The abuse of volatile solvents is common in Bangladesh, mainly among street children, but such abuse has been spreading to other segments of the population. About 1 per cent of people admitted for drug treatment in Bangladesh in 2011 were admitted for sniffing adhesives. Adhesives abused in Bangladesh often contain toluene, a precursor that is under international control and under national control in Bangladesh. Drug abuse by injection, while currently at a very low level, is also growing rapidly, mainly due to buprenorphine abuse.

550. Abuse of prescription drugs is increasing in India. India's National AIDS Control Organisation supports more than 50 opioid substitution treatment centres providing treatment for about 4,800 people who abuse drugs by injection. Opioid substitution treatment centres run by non-governmental organizations are contracted by state AIDS control societies to implement opioid substitution treatment after the centres have undergone an independent accreditation by the National Accreditation Board for Hospitals and Health-care Providers. A national plan currently being implemented seeks to establish 300 opioid substitution treatment centres, which would serve 20 per cent of the estimated number of people in India who abuse drugs by injection. By December 2012, India's National AIDS Control Organisation had provided free opioid substitution treatment to approximately 11,500 people who abused drugs by injection. The Organisation has also established a programme for mentoring and building the capacity of staff working in opioid substitution treatment centres, delivered by experts in the field. Opioids are the drugs most commonly abused by injection in India.

551. The Government of India has also started to implement a scheme under which non-governmental organizations working with people who abuse drugs by injection partner with state hospitals to improve the effectiveness of opioid substitution treatment. The non-governmental organizations encourage people who abuse drugs by injection to visit a state-run hospital for opioid substitution treatment and follow up with the hospital if they drop out of the treatment.

552. In February 2013, Maldives published a report on the results of its first national drug use survey (covering people aged 15-64 years for the period 2011-2012). The estimated annual prevalence of illicit drug use was 6.64 per cent in Malé and 2.02 per cent in the atolls. Since different methodologies were used to estimate illicit drug use prevalence in different localities, a national prevalence cannot be accurately calculated. The drugs most commonly abused, in addition to alcohol, were cannabis and opioids. The survey provides a picture of the drug abuse

problem in the country, which seems to affect mostly men who have been in conflict with the law, are sexually active and engage in buying sex. In Malé, more than one third of opioid and cannabinoid users were likely to be dependent, while in the atolls 65 per cent of opioid users were likely to be dependent. Among drug abusers in Malé, 5 per cent are injecting drug users, and in the atolls, 10 per cent are injecting drug users. The Board commends the Government of Maldives for undertaking the survey and looks forward to being informed of action taken on the basis of the results of the survey. The Board also looks forward to hearing the results of similar initiatives by other countries in the region.

553. In Nepal, about 0.34 per cent of the population currently abuse cannabis resin, hallucinogens, inhalants, opiates, stimulants, tranquilizers or other drugs, as measured in the Government's 2013 survey. The survey did not include those who abuse only cannabis herb. The number of those reported to abuse the above-mentioned drugs doubled from 2012 to 2013, and the vast majority were male. About 94 per cent reported abuse of opiates, and about 57 per cent indicated drug abuse by injection.

554. The first ever "Low-cost community-based care and support camp" in Nepal for drug abusers took place in November 2012, organized by UNODC in collaboration with non-governmental organizations. The camp used the sublingual administration of buprenorphine for the medical management of opioid withdrawal. A further five such camps are planned to be held in Nepal.

555. In Sri Lanka, from January to June 2012, a total of 2,547 persons were arrested for drug-related offences. Of that group, about 2,000 people were drug abusers. The Sri Lankan Drug Abuse Monitoring System collects information on drug-related arrests and the number of drug abusers seeking treatment. The System recorded 217 people as having sought treatment for drug abuse in 2012, which was 40 per cent less than in 2011. No women were reported to have received drug abuse treatment in Sri Lanka in 2012.

West Asia

1. Major developments

556. West Asia remains central to the global illicit opium economy. Illicit opium poppy cultivation in Afghanistan set new records in 2013, reaching 209,000 ha, 36 per cent more than the previous year. More than half of Afghanistan's 34 provinces now cultivate illicit opium poppy, with production of opium in 2013 jumping by

49 per cent over the previous year, to 5,500 tons, even as poor weather conditions persisted.

557. In 2013, illicit cultivation of opium poppy and cannabis plant continued to take place throughout Afghanistan, involving nearly 200,000 farmers. The majority of the farmers surveyed in 2012 cited the high income derived from the sale of opium poppy as the predominant reason for cultivation, and increased cultivation was reported in nearly every opium-producing province in 2013. Illicit crops continue to be attractive for Afghan farmers as their sale value far exceeds the value of licit crops such as wheat. However, new initiatives have been undertaken by the Government to try and address that situation, such as expanding the “food zone” programme and other programmes (see chapter II.B.2, above).

558. Owing to its geographical location and the continuing instability in the Middle-East, particularly in Egypt and the Syrian Arab Republic, West Asia is vulnerable to criminal activities and drugs syndicates operating in the region. Drug trafficking in the region has brought an increase in drug abuse and related crimes, which continue to represent a threat for countries neighbouring Egypt and the Syrian Arab Republic, in particular Lebanon. The growing number of displaced persons and refugees may create additional tension within the region. Firearms, cash and communication equipment are often found together with illicit drugs in seizure.

559. Abuse of stimulants, including amphetamine, methamphetamine and, to a lesser degree, cocaine, is increasing in parts of West Asia, where seizures and prevalence levels have increased. Saudi Arabia reported having seized a total of 48.6 million tablets containing amphetamine sold as Captagon in 2012, the largest amount of total seizures in the region. Methamphetamine abuse has been identified for the first time in Pakistan, where an estimated 22,000 adults abused the substance in the past 12 months. Methamphetamine seizures and abuse have also been reported to be on the rise in Iran (Islamic Republic of) and Israel—in the latter country primarily in the form of “yaba” tablets from South-East Asia. Cocaine trafficking in the Middle East has been growing, with consignments from South America arriving via air courier and by sea.

560. Trafficking in and abuse of amphetamine-type stimulants continue to be the principal concern in the region. Seizures of illicitly manufactured amphetamine sold as Captagon, which is the most frequently seized substance in the region, continues unabated as indicated by the detection of an illicit Captagon laboratory and seizures of significant amounts of such tablets in Lebanon.

The region has also witnessed an increase in seizures of methamphetamine, smuggled and trafficked mainly by means of express couriers.

561. There are indications that illicit drug shipments may be increasingly smuggled through the Middle East, in particular through Iraq. Iraq has become an important hub in the drug trafficking route leading from the “Golden Crescent” (Afghanistan, Iran (Islamic Republic of) and Pakistan) to the Gulf States as well as to Lebanon and the Syrian Arab Republic. There has been an increase in the smuggling of drugs across Iraq’s eastern border with the Islamic Republic of Iran to the Gulf countries, Lebanon and Israel and smuggling from Central Asia through northern Iraq to Eastern Europe.

562. Trafficking in and abuse of prescription medicines, in particular benzodiazepines such as alprazolam, diazepam and clonazepam, has spread throughout the region and has been reported by almost all countries in the Middle East. In some countries, the prevalence of abuse of such substances among women has increased noticeably. Further, trafficking in and abuse of substances not yet under international control, in particular the synthetic opioid analgesic tramadol, have continued to increase, as shown by the numerous seizures reported by authorities in various countries in the region and have been associated with drug-related deaths in some countries.

563. Another matter of great concern to the Board is the rapidly developing synthetic drug market and the emergence of new psychoactive substances in the Middle East, including synthetic cannabinoids (e.g. Spice). Attempted smuggling and seizures of such substances were reported by Bahrain, Israel, Jordan, Oman, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates.

564. The costs of corruption have an increasingly significant impact on the people and institutions of West Asia. For example, the estimated cost of corruption in Afghanistan has increased by 40 per cent over the past three years, costing the people of the country an estimated \$3.9 billion in 2012, costs associated in part with the region’s significant illicit drug economy. It was estimated that in that same year half of the citizens of Afghanistan paid a bribe to receive a public service, and almost 30 per cent of the population paid a bribe when requesting a non-government service. Corruption is increasing and becoming more pervasive and an acceptable part of day-to-day life in the country; in 2009, less than half (42 per cent) of those surveyed found it acceptable for government employees to augment their income by accepting bribes for service, and the number finding it acceptable grew to 68 per cent by 2012. In addition,

the frequency of bribery increased, from an average of 4.7 bribes to 5.6 bribes per bribe-payer, with the average bribe amount paid increasing 29 per cent to \$214 per bribe and a total of \$1,198 a year. Twelve per cent of Iraqi citizens also paid bribes to speed up or receive better public service in 2012, with bribe-payers paying an average of just under four bribes annually. More than half (54 per cent) of Iraqis now indicate corruption to be more widespread than in the previous two years.

2. Regional cooperation

565. West Asia is an important hub for global trafficking in drugs and precursors, making the region an important area for regional cooperation. UNODC operates programmes in most countries throughout the region. In 2013, regional cooperation focused on the international community's shared responsibility of development and drug control support after the planned conclusion of the ISAF mission in Afghanistan in 2014.

566. The Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf (GCC) is the main regional forum for cooperation among its six member countries and with other regional entities. The enhanced cooperation made possible by the joint action programme of GCC and the European Union promotes the fight against money-laundering and terrorist financing.

567. The Board notes the inauguration of the GCC Criminal Information Centre to Combat Drugs in February 2013 in Doha. The Centre aims to promote and facilitate the collection of information, investigation and surveillance operations in coordination with competent entities in the region and the suppression of drug trafficking. It also gathers information on all illicit trade in drugs and chemicals.

568. The Centre and UNODC undertook several activities related to technical cooperation and signed memorandums of understanding and letters of intent, or were preparing to do so, notably for training Dubai police. The Centre also concluded agreements with INTERPOL, the World Customs Organization Regional Intelligence Liaison Office for the Middle East and the Police Training Institute of the Ministry of Interior of Qatar.

3. National legislation, policy and action

569. The Government of Kazakhstan approved its programme of measures against drug abuse and the drug

trade for the period 2012-2016, aimed at further developing the system of effective countermeasures by introducing a range of legislative initiatives including the establishment of compulsory treatment programmes, instead of incarceration, for drug addicts committing minor criminal offences.

570. In recent years Kyrgyzstan has adopted several resolutions and amendments to strengthen its drug control legislation. Resolution No. 54 (2011) established requirements for recording, storage and use of narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and precursors for all pharmaceutical, health-care and educational organizations. Resolution No. 132 (2011) strengthened the State Drug Control Service apparatus. Resolution No. 654 (2012) established the composition and regulation of the State coordination committee for drug control.

571. Turkey's Council of Ministers amended national legislation in 2011, adding synthetic cannabinoids to the table of controlled substances. The change was a response following the first seizures of synthetic cannabinoids to occur in the country, in 2010—substances found to have originated in China, the United States of America and various European countries.

572. Bahrain and Saudi Arabia have introduced emergency scheduling to temporarily ban new psychoactive substances. Furthermore, the United Arab Emirates has recently placed synthetic cannabinoids, such as Spice and K2, together with other synthetic cannabinoids, in table I of banned narcotics drugs and psychotropic substances of its Federal Law No. 14 of 1995. It is the first Arab country to take legal measures to include synthetic cannabinoids within its drug law. It is expected that the measure will reinforce the law enforcement response to the increasing smuggling of synthetic cannabinoids into the country.

573. Furthermore, in their efforts to control new synthetic drugs, the Government of Israel included analogues of amphetamine, methamphetamine, cathinone and methcathinone in its Dangerous Drug Ordinance. Since 2012, the country has added several synthetic cannabinoids to the Dangerous Drugs Ordinance, and in May 2013 the Government adopted a comprehensive amendment to the Ordinance, which included synthetic cannabinoid families and their derivatives. The legislation is similar to that adopted in areas of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Ireland and in some states of the United States.

574. The Board welcomes the steps taken by the Government of Saudi Arabia against money-laundering, notably the adoption of a law that sets stiff penalties for

money-laundering offenders. The Government of Israel has taken legislative measures to combat criminal activities linked to drug trafficking, including by providing for stricter penalties in anti-money-laundering cases involving trafficking in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances.

4. Cultivation, production, manufacture and trafficking

(a) Narcotic drugs

575. According to a 2013 joint survey by the Ministry of Counter-Narcotics of Afghanistan and UNODC, illicit opium poppy cultivation in Afghanistan was estimated at a record 209,000 ha, an increase of 36 per cent over 2012. The number of opium poppy-free provinces in Afghanistan, which increased notably from 2004 to 2011, has since fallen with opium poppy cultivation in excess of 100 ha now occurring in more than half of the country's 34 provinces. Opium poppy cultivation remained concentrated in the south, notably Helmand province, but increased

cultivation was reported in nearly every opium poppy-producing province in 2013.

576. An estimated 191,500 households in Afghanistan depend on illicit drug crops such as opium poppy and cannabis for income, for which prices remain high. The 2012 farm-gate price for fresh opium was \$163 per kilogram, triple the value just five years ago, but dropped in 2013 to \$143 as production soared. Three quarters of Afghan village leaders surveyed in 2013 said the high sale price of illicit opium poppy was their primary reason for growing opium poppy, as it offered farmers far greater profitability than licit agricultural products (see table below).

577. Eradication of fields of illicit opium poppy is but one component of reducing the amount of opium available for heroin production. The greatest eradication efforts in West Asia are those of Afghanistan, where in 2013, 7,348 ha of opium poppy cultivation were verifiably eradicated in 18 provinces (see figure I). That represents roughly a third of the amount eradicated at the peak of eradication efforts in 2007, when 19,000 ha were eradicated.

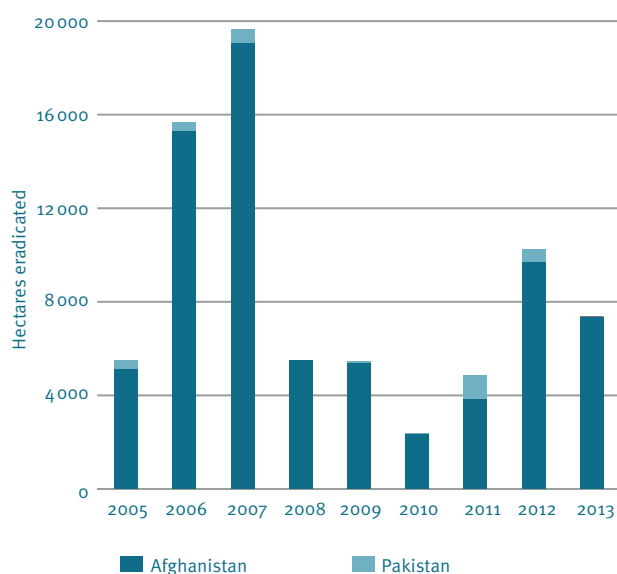
Table 1. Changes in Afghanistan farm-gate prices of select licit and illicit crops, 2009-2013

Agricultural product	Price (United States dollars per kilogram)				
	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Fresh opium	48	128	180	163	143
Dry opium	64	169	241	196	172
Cannabis (first garda/resin)	35	86	95	68	..
Cannabis (second garda/resin)	24	66	63	41	..
Cannabis (third garda/resin)	12	39	39	26	..
Rice	1.1	1.0	1.0	1.2	..
Wheat	0.6	0.3	0.4	0.5	..
Maize	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.3	..

Sources: UNODC and Afghanistan, Ministry of Counter-Narcotics, *Afghanistan: Opium Survey 2013* (November 2013) and previous years, and the opium surveys of previous years; UNODC and Afghanistan, Ministry of Counter-Narcotics, *Survey of Commercial Cannabis Cultivation and Production 2012* (Vienna 2013) and the surveys of previous years; UNODC, *Afghanistan Cannabis Survey 2010* (June 2011).

Note: Garda is powdered cannabis resin, with the highest level of quality being "first garda". Two dots (..) indicate that data are not available.

Figure I. Opium poppy eradication efforts in selected West Asian countries, 2005-2013



Sources: UNODC and Afghanistan, Ministry of Counter-Narcotics, *Afghanistan: Opium Survey 2013* (November 2013); UNODC and Afghanistan, Ministry of Counter-Narcotics, “Afghanistan: opium risk assessment 2013”, and risk assessments of previous years; *World Drug Report 2013* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.13.XI.6).

Note: Data for Pakistan for 2013 were not available at the time of publication.

578. According to UNODC, Afghanistan, Lebanon and Pakistan are among the five countries worldwide most commonly identified as the source of seized cannabis resin. A 2011 survey on illicit cannabis plant cultivation in Afghanistan identified 12,000 ha of cultivation—among the world’s largest known cultivation amounts—most of which was destined for the production of cannabis resin. The area of cultivation declined to 10,000 ha in 2012. However, production of cannabis resin increased by 8 per cent from 2011, to 1,400 tons. In Kyrgyzstan, about 10,000 ha of cannabis grows wild, with cannabis herb and resin produced illicitly in the country (see paras. 49-53, above). Cannabis plant eradication efforts in 2012 were reported in other countries of Central Asia (including the South Caucasus), such as Tajikistan (2.2 million plants eradicated) and Azerbaijan (7,538 plants eradicated).

579. Illicit cultivation of cannabis plants continued in some areas throughout the Middle East, in particular in the Bekaa valley in Lebanon, where eradication efforts are rendered difficult by the instable security that prevails in the region. Cannabis plants and seeds are frequently seized in Bahrain. It also appears that indoor cannabis plant cultivation is getting more sophisticated in that country, as seen by the indoor cultivation site seized in May 2013.

580. Cannabis seizures in Kuwait amounted to 944 kg in 2012, more than double the quantity seized in 2011. There has been a considerable number of cannabis seizures in Israel, near the border with Egypt, from where the drug is smuggled to other destinations in Israel. In the first half of 2013, more than 300 kg of cannabis were seized in Israel.

581. UNODC estimates suggest that most Afghan heroin (44 per cent) is trafficked via Pakistan, with 32 per cent being smuggled via the Islamic Republic of Iran and the remaining quarter of it transiting a variety of Central Asian countries. Total heroin seizures by Central Asian authorities have steadily declined since 2003 primarily due to the decreases reported in Tajikistan, suggesting the expansion of other trafficking routes. Increasingly, maritime routes are being utilized for Afghan heroin via ports in Iran (Islamic Republic of) and Pakistan, with countries in East Africa a frequent destination.

582. Turkey is a significant crossing point from West Asia into Europe, and accordingly, significant amounts of Afghan opiates are seized there annually, primarily in the form of heroin. In 2012, authorities of the Anti-Smuggling and Organized Crime Department of Turkey seized 11 tons of heroin destined primarily for Albania, Germany and the Netherlands (a 72-per-cent increase over seizures in 2011). For the third consecutive year, no morphine seizures were reported in Turkey. Cannabis is the most widely trafficked and abused illicit drug in Turkey, and seizures have increased 262 per cent over the past five years, with 74.6 tons seized in 2012. Most cannabis seized by Turkish authorities originated in the country. However, the total of 4 tons of cannabis resin seized originated primarily in Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq and the Syrian Arab Republic.

583. New heroin smuggling routes through the region are reportedly emerging. Heroin is smuggled out of Afghanistan through Iran (Islamic Republic of) or Pakistan, and is then smuggled through Iraq and other countries in the Middle East. According to national data provided, seizures of heroin in Lebanon increased from less than 3 kg in 2008 to more than 20 kg in 2012, and seizures of heroin in Oman totalled nearly 100 kg in 2012, compared with less than 9 kg in 2008.

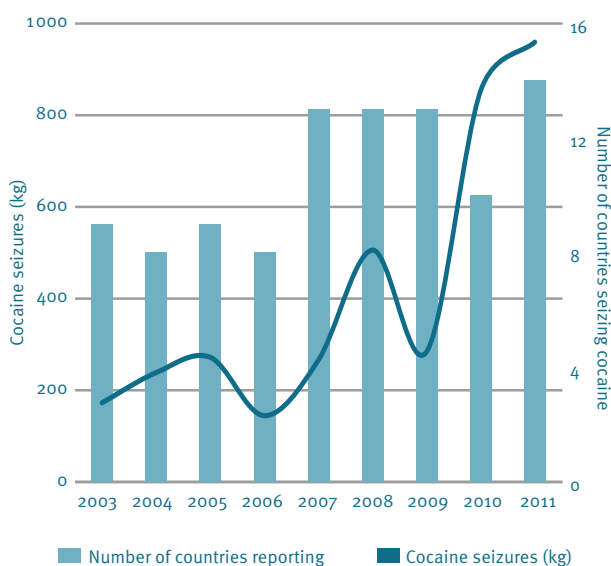
584. There has been an increase in seizures of heroin in Bahrain; in most cases, the heroin is ingested by so-called “mule smugglers”, arriving from Pakistan. In addition, numerous controlled deliveries led to seizures of parcels containing heroin sent by express courier. The parcels originated in Afghanistan and Iraq and were destined for the United Kingdom and Greece. One exceptional seizure

of heroin took place at the Bahrain international airport in August 2012, when more than 4.5 kg of heroin impregnated in clothing was seized.

585. Cocaine seizures reported by countries in West Asia have increased—both in number and amount—with total seizures in the region rising to nearly 1 ton in 2011 (see figure II). Turkey's Anti-Smuggling and Organized Crime Department seized 402 kg of cocaine in 2012—nearly double the amount reported in 2010—and reported that the number of cocaine seizures was increasing steadily, as was the average amount per seizure. Heroin trafficking networks have increasingly shifted to trafficking in cocaine, while West African crime syndicates appear to be taking a more significant role in the supply of cocaine to Turkey. Bartering heroin for cocaine is an emerging phenomenon in Pakistan, where cocaine enters the country via Africa, as well as through East Asia and Europe.

586. Illicit trafficking and abuse of cocaine has also increased in the Middle East, as consignments from South America are reaching the region via air courier and by sea. Cocaine originating in the Americas is transported to the Middle East mostly using express mail companies or concealed in shipping containers sent by sea. In Yemen, 115 kg of cocaine were seized from a container sent from Brazil. In Lebanon, 13 kg of cocaine were seized in an aircraft arriving from Brazil via Qatar. In Saudi Arabia, a parcel from the Americas containing 153 g of cocaine was seized.

Figure II. Cocaine seizures in West Asia, 2003-2011



Sources: *World Drug Report 2013* (United Nations Publication, Sales No. E.13.XI.6) and previous years; *World Customs Organization, Drugs Report 2010* (Brussels, 2011).

(b) Psychotropic substances

587. Global seizures of amphetamine-type stimulants grew by 66 per cent in 2011 to a record total of 123 tons, driven by increases in methamphetamine and amphetamine seizures. The largest total seizures of amphetamine continue to be those of countries in West Asia, where seizures in 2011 totalled 20 tons, a 55-per-cent increase over the previous year. The largest amount of amphetamine seizures was that reported by Saudi Arabia (11 tons), where tablets containing amphetamine sold as Captagon continue to be in high demand. The Syrian Arab Republic and Jordan each reported having seized 4 tons of amphetamine. Large seizures of amphetamine tablets sold as Captagon in West Asia confirm that the demand for that drug, in particular in the countries of the Middle East, remains high. Most tablets seized were en route to the countries of the Arabian peninsula.

588. According to the World Customs Organization, the main destination of the 3,881 kg of Captagon tablets that were seized in the Middle East in 2012, was, as in the past, Saudi Arabia. Almost 83 per cent of all seizures in the region were effected in Saudi Arabia, followed by Jordan and the United Arab Emirates. Jordan and the Syrian Arab Republic were the main countries of consignment of the seized drugs reported by Saudi Arabia.

589. There are indications that local clandestine manufacture of Captagon is expanding. Laboratory equipments and chemicals used for the manufacture of drugs including amphetamine sold as Captagon were seized by the Lebanese customs services. The material seized had arrived from China. In March 2013, Lebanese law enforcement authorities dismantled an illicit laboratory for the manufacture of amphetamine sold as Captagon and more than 1 million amphetamine tablets sold as Captagon pills were also seized. The Board is concerned about the observed growing capacity of illicit manufacture of that drug in the region, which will increase the drug's availability and demand for it. The Board therefore urges countries in the region, in particular Lebanon, to increase their vigilance and strengthen cooperation and joint operations to fight criminal networks involved in illicit drug manufacture.

590. In Turkey, methamphetamine seizures increased between 2009 and 2012, with 403 kg of methamphetamine seized by authorities of the Anti-Smuggling and Organized Crime Department in 2012. The Islamic Republic of Iran, which has one of the highest rates of seizure of the substance in the world, was identified as the source of almost all methamphetamine seized in Turkey primarily destined to markets in East Asia.

591. In several controlled deliveries, parcels sent by express courier from the Philippines to Saudi Arabia were intercepted in Bahrain. The parcels were found to contain methamphetamine, a drug being seized in increasing quantities. One parcel seized in November 2012 contained 1.16 kg of the drug.

592. The growing abuse of pharmaceuticals containing psychotropic substances, in particular benzodiazepines, continues to be a serious concern in the region. Some 65 kg of clonazepam were seized in a single incident at the Istanbul airport; the substance was being smuggled by a passenger arriving from Pakistan via Dubai.

(c) Precursors

593. Most acetic anhydride destined for use in Afghanistan continues to be smuggled into the country after diversion from other countries' domestic distribution channels. Although seizures of the chemical occur throughout the region, backtracking investigations, subsequent communications remain inconsistent. For example, Afghanistan did not provide the Board with an annual report of information on seizures of chemicals used in the illicit manufacture of drugs for 2012 (form D). However, the continuing decline in the black market price of acetic anhydride in Afghanistan suggests that the precursor's availability has increased relative to the illicit demand. The Board urges more use of backtracking investigations of seizures of acetic anhydride and other chemicals to determine their source of diversion and to communicate seizures of those substances through PICS without delay.

594. The Board noted in its annual report for 2012 that few countries in the region had exercised their right to be informed of chemical shipments prior to their departure from the exporting country under article 12, paragraph 10 (a), of the 1988 Convention, putting those shipments at heightened risk of diversion. The Board notes with satisfaction that in 2013, Armenia, Iraq, Kyrgyzstan, Qatar and the Syrian Arab Republic invoked their rights to require pre-export notification for all substances included in Tables I and II of the Convention. The Board calls on the eight Governments of the region yet to do so, namely Bahrain, Georgia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Israel, Kuwait, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan and Yemen, to exercise their rights under article 12, paragraph 10 (a) of the 1988 Convention.

(d) Substances not under international control

595. The misuse of tramadol, a synthetic opioid analgesic, in the Gulf countries is becoming a matter of genuine concern, with some countries even reporting tramadol-related fatalities. The trafficking and abuse of tramadol, which is not under international control, is being reported by many countries in the Middle East. Significant seizures of tramadol are regularly made by enforcement authorities in the region. In Jordan, tramadol is diverted from domestic distribution channels, at the retail level, and through sales without the requisite medical prescription.

596. According to information collected by the Board, tramadol has been placed under national control in almost all the countries in the region. The substance is already controlled under national legislation for psychotropic substances and/or narcotic drugs in Bahrain, Jordan, Qatar and Saudi Arabia. In Lebanon, where more than 5 per cent of individuals in treatment for polydrug abuse are found to abuse tramadol, the authorities are considering placing the substance under national control.

597. According to the information available, Egypt is the country of origin of the tramadol seized in Qatar, and Saudi Arabia has reported increasing smuggling of that drug from Egypt into its territory. Likewise, most of the tramadol seized in Lebanon arrives from Egypt, where its abuse is widespread. The Board calls on the countries in the region to remain vigilant vis-à-vis the apparently growing non-medical use and/or abuse of tramadol and urges countries where diversion and illicit trafficking already occur to consider the adoption of more stringent control measures over the trade in and distribution and dispensing of tramadol to ensure that preparations containing tramadol are dispensed for legitimate medical use and to limit their diversion into illicit distribution channels.

598. New psychotropic substances were reported by some countries in the Middle East such as Bahrain, Israel, Jordan, Oman, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates. In addition to ketamine, the emergence of synthetic cannabinoids (Spice) and mephedrone (4-methylmethcathinone) was also reported. In Israel, synthetic drugs such as synthetic cannabis products have been sold as "incense" for several years, with most of the consumers being teenagers between the ages of 14 and 17. According to the customs authorities of the United Arab Emirates, 126 smuggling attempts involving a total of 23.5 kg of synthetic cannabinoids were intercepted in the

first eight months of 2012. All consignments had arrived in parcels. It is believed that the drug was destined for both local market and other destinations.

599. Khat (*Catha edulis*) remains the main substance of abuse in Yemen, where the plant is cultivated, in addition to being imported from East Africa. A large proportion of the Yemeni adult population of both genders chews fresh khat leaves on a regular basis. The authorities of Bahrain and Oman reported the seizure of 1.7 kg and 748 kg of khat, respectively, in 2012.

5. Abuse and treatment

600. The annual prevalence of opiate abuse (heroin and opium, excluding prescription opioids) remains high in many countries of West Asia. UNODC estimates the highest rates of past-year opiate abuse among adults aged 15-64 years to be those of Afghanistan (2.3-3 per cent), Azerbaijan (1.3-1.7 per cent), Iran (Islamic Republic of) (2.3 per cent) and Pakistan (0.6-1.2 per cent). However, the true extent of abuse is unclear as most prevalence estimates in West Asia are either unrepresentative of the country's total population or are outdated. For example, the estimated prevalence rates for past-year opiate abuse among the general population (aged 15-64) for countries in the region are, on average, more than six years old (i.e., many are based on data from around 2007 or even earlier). But since 2007, annual Afghan opium poppy cultivation, global heroin seizures and heroin treatment admissions in West Asia have all been reported to have increased notably. Additionally, there are many countries in West Asia, particularly countries in the Middle East such as Bahrain, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar and Yemen, for which there are no reliable estimates of opiate use. The Board calls on UNODC to assist Governments in West Asia so that reliable, accurate and timely estimates of prevalence of drug abuse can be carried out.

601. A new joint report of the Government of Pakistan and UNODC on drug abuse in Pakistan estimates that 5.8 per cent of adults aged 15-64 years in Pakistan (6.4 million individuals) used drugs in 2012, of which nearly two thirds (4.1 million individuals) are thought to be drug dependent. Cannabis was found to be the most commonly abused drug in Pakistan, with an adult annual prevalence of 3.6 per cent, followed by opioids, at 2.4 per cent. Compared with other national estimates, opiate use is very high in Pakistan, with 1 per cent of the population using heroin or opium and 1.5 per cent abusing opioid-based prescription painkillers for non-medical purposes over the last year. There are about 420,000 people who inject drugs in Pakistan, which is 0.4 per cent of

the adult population. Addiction treatment capacity is low compared with demand and is able to serve less than 30,000 drug abusers per year. However, new drug treatment protocols aimed at enhancing the capacity of drug treatment professionals were launched in November 2012, in collaboration with the World Health Organization.

602. Methamphetamine abuse is spreading among some countries of West Asia. Abuse in the Islamic Republic of Iran is increasingly widespread, with research now documenting cases across a variety of community settings, including in emergency departments of hospitals, among students and patients in opioid substitution treatment and among people who inject drugs. Although smoking is the most common route of methamphetamine administration, a new trend of methamphetamine injection has been reported, bringing increased risks of blood-borne infections, such as hepatitis and HIV/AIDS. In Pakistan, the first study to generate data on the use of amphetamine-type stimulants in the country has revealed a new pattern of drug consumption; an estimated 22,000 adults abuse amphetamine-type stimulants—often methamphetamine.

603. The Board notes that a number of countries in the Middle East are devoting special attention and efforts to the treatment and rehabilitation of drug abusers. Saudi Arabia has developed a triple-faceted strategy addressing prevention and suppression and drug abuse rehabilitation. In response to the increasing number of drug addicts, Oman plans to set up drug rehabilitation centres in each governorate of the country.

604. The Government of Qatar has made increasing efforts in awareness-raising and drug abuse prevention by organizing seminars and lectures at schools, colleges, sports and cultural clubs, places where young people gather and military institutes. Similarly, the Board notes the commitment of the Government of Kuwait in the area of drug prevention and its dedication to implementing security and awareness plans and projects to combat the abuse of drugs. In that context, the personnel of the national anti-drug abuse media project "Ghiras" has signed cooperation agreements with, among other organizations, UNODC, the World Health Organization, the Gulf Cooperation Council Health Bureau and the Mentor Foundation for drug prevention.

605. There have been no recent epidemiological studies providing an assessment of the extent of drug abuse in Lebanon in recent years. However, the number of people who inject drugs is estimated at between 2,000 and 4,000 individuals, and about 5.7 per cent of people with HIV in Lebanon are injecting drug users.

606. Drug trafficking in prisons raises the risk of the spreading of HIV among prisoners, in particular those who inject drugs. More than 70 per cent of the people who inject drugs had injected drugs on the day they entered prison, and 7 per cent shared needles while in the prison.

607. The Government of Lebanon launched an opioid substitution treatment programme at the beginning of 2012. The programme is now fully operational, and since its launch about 700 patients have joined the programme.

608. Treatment admissions data reported by the countries of the Central Asian and Transcaucasian subregion in 2011 showed that the proportion of those entering treatment primarily for opioid abuse ranged widely: in Tajikistan, 99 per cent of those admitted for treatment had primarily abused opioids; in Georgia, 96 per cent; in Uzbekistan, 89 per cent; in Kyrgyzstan, 84 per cent; and in Kazakhstan, 64 per cent. However, treatment capacity throughout this subregion remains limited.

D. Europe

1. Major developments

609. Rates of abuse of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances in Western and Central Europe appear to be continuing to stabilize or decline, although at historically high levels. The use of amphetamine-type stimulants remains stable in Eastern and South-Eastern Europe, with a small increase reported in few countries. Cannabis remains the most widely abused drug in Europe. Heroin is the most abused opiate, followed by opium and morphine in Eastern and South-Eastern Europe. The emerging abuse of prescription opioids is of concern in Western and Central Europe, with seizures reaching record levels in a few countries of the subregion and with treatment demand for abuse of opioids other than heroin increasing. Opioid-related deaths have decreased overall in Western and Central Europe, but the proportion of deaths attributable to fentanyl and methadone has increased in some countries.

610. The abuse of new psychoactive substances poses a major challenge, especially in view of the unprecedented number and variety of substances identified in 2012, often sold as “bath salts”, “legal highs” or “plant food”. New psychoactive substances are an emerging drug phenomenon in Eastern and South-Eastern Europe, where they have

recently begun to have an impact. While those substances are primarily transported in bulk from Asia, for processing, packaging and distribution in Europe, there are indications of limited manufacture in Europe. The supply of new psychoactive substances poses increasing challenges, as some are legally commercialized.

611. Illicit indoor cannabis cultivation continues to increase in the subregion of Western and Central Europe, although with a tendency towards the use of multiple, smaller sites. Cannabis resin seizures have decreased in the subregion, while seizures of cannabis herb have increased. Cannabis herb is grown throughout Eastern and South-Eastern Europe, with large-scale cultivation detected in many countries, particularly Albania.

612. While the Balkan route remains the most commonly used route for drug trafficking in the subregion of Eastern and South-Eastern Europe, the amount of heroin trafficked declined in the past year. Consequently, declines in heroin seizures have been reported by countries in the subregion.

613. Cocaine trafficking routes are increasingly diversified, for instance with some trafficking of cocaine through the Baltic countries or along the Balkan route traditionally used for the trafficking of heroin from Afghanistan to Europe. An increase in cocaine trafficking has been reported in particular through ports of the Black Sea, together with the increasing influence of foreign criminal organizations in the region.

614. Illicit methamphetamine manufacture appears to be spreading to new locations in Europe. New laboratories for its manufacture have been uncovered in Bulgaria, Romania, the Russian Federation and Ukraine. Seizures of MDMA (commonly known as “ecstasy”) have increased in Western and Central Europe, indicating a possible resurgence of the substance; at the same time, illicit manufacture of the substance has shifted away from Europe.

2. Regional cooperation

615. The regional Operation Channel Transport took place in the framework of the regional anti-drug initiative, Operation Channel, under the auspices of the Collective Security Treaty Organization, in December 2012. The main objective of Operation Channel Transport was to detect and prevent drug trafficking and to suppress channels of trafficking of synthetic drugs from Western and Central Europe to States members of the Collective Security Treaty Organization, as well as trafficking of heroin and cannabis from Afghanistan to the