



Factsheet 6

PRECURSORS REPORT 2014 – MAKING PRECURSOR CONTROL FIT FOR THE FUTURE

As international precursor control enters its third decade, INCB has been advocating fine-tuning the control system—placing more emphasis on voluntary measures and cooperation with a range of industries at all levels, domestic controls and international cooperation in investigating the points of, and trafficking organizations behind, actual or attempted diversions.

INCB notes that precursor chemicals can be diverted at all stages of the distribution chain, regardless of whether a country has a manufacturing industry. Diversion from domestic distribution channels is therefore as much a risk as it is from international trade. Political considerations such as the desire not to impede the free movement of goods also impact on the choice and implementation of control measures.

Traffickers are increasingly seeking purpose-made chemicals that are not available off-the-shelf. INCB notes the importance of considering approaches that allow intervention in cases of suspicious transactions without imposing undue burdens upon regulatory authorities and industry. Approaches that do not rely exclusively on identifying individual chemicals by name, such as that known as “immediate precursors” and the reversal of the burden of proof could allow for the refocusing of controls. Such approaches would also prepare the international precursor control system for the challenges presented by the precursors of new psychoactive substances.

New pre-precursor under international control

Following a decision by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs in March 2014, alpha-phenylacetone nitrile (APAAN) and its optical isomers were included in Table I of the United Nations Convention against Illicit Trafficking in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988. The decision became effective on 9 October 2014, thus bringing the number of substances in the tables of the 1988 Convention to 24.

Timor-Leste becomes 189th State party to the 1988 Convention

Timor-Leste became a State party to the 1988 Convention as of 1 September 2014, leaving just nine States worldwide yet to accede to the Convention, the primary vehicle for international precursor control.