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## INCB PRECURSORS REPORT

### Prevention of chemical diversion beyond regulatory controls

In its 2016 report on precursors, INCB outlines how law enforcement authorities can help inform balanced and integrated strategies to prevent chemicals from reaching clandestine laboratories and prevent drugs and new psychoactive substances from reaching consumer markets.

### Seizure statistics and case information reveal numerous incidents where critical information goes unnoticed or underutilized

Institutional competition, and lengthy or non-existent international cooperation procedures hamper the resolution of cases. The report stresses that seizures should not be the end result of a law enforcement intervention, but rather the starting-point for identifying and disrupting the sources and criminal groups behind the trafficking of precursor chemicals.

### Improvements in regulatory and law enforcement cooperation

INCB notes that improvements in international law enforcement cooperation have denied illicit drug manufacturers significant amounts of precursor chemicals. Successful interventions have prevented attempts to divert acetic anhydride through countries in Africa and chemicals used in the illicit manufacture of tablets containing amphetamine, often referred to as “captagon”, to the Near and Middle East. Significant seizures of ephedrine and pseudoephedrine in South Asia highlight once again the need for better national control and understanding of legitimate manufacturing methods, domestic distribution channels, and the operators and their roles in national markets. The same applies to countries in South America in relation to potassium permanganate and other chemicals used in illicit cocaine manufacture. Countries in Africa also continue to be targeted by criminal organizations for precursor trafficking and illicit methamphetamine manufacture. The latest data indicate that there is now also a transfer of knowledge between illicit operators across continents.

### The international precursor control system

The 2016 INCB report on precursors notes the continued increase in the number of countries requesting pre-export notifications by invoking article 12, paragraph 10 (a) of the 1988 Convention, and the expanding use of the Pre-Export Notification Online (PEN Online) system and the INCB Precursors Incident Communication System (PICS). These tools are made available by the Board to support Governments in their efforts against diversion of chemicals. PICS is playing an increasingly important role in alerting law enforcement authorities and facilitating international operations regarding non-scheduled chemicals, including made-to-order “designer” chemicals.

In its 2016 report on precursors, INCB continues to advocate for a balanced application of enforcement and regulatory measures to effectively prevent the diversion of chemicals.