

the risk of detection to be reduced. In addition, hydroponically grown cannabis is preferred by cannabis abusers. Thousands of cannabis plants and hydroponic systems and equipment are seized in Australia every year. As a result of the strategy “Tough on Drugs”, introduced by the Government in 1997, large quantities of cannabis have been seized at Australian borders (640 kg were seized in 2004).

569. In Australia, the purity of seized heroin increased slightly in 2003 compared with previous years. Furthermore, there was an increase in the detection of heroin at borders while there was a decrease in the total amount of heroin seized, suggesting that the methods used by heroin traffickers in Australia might be shifting from well-organized importation of large quantities of the drug to smaller-scale, opportunistic smuggling. A similar trend was observed in the illicit cocaine market; however, the purity of seized cocaine decreased slightly.

570. In New Zealand, cannabis growers are also involved in the illicit manufacture of methamphetamine in clandestine laboratories.

#### *Psychotropic substances*

571. Demand for amphetamine-type stimulants, including MDMA (Ecstasy), remains high in Australia and New Zealand, as confirmed in both countries by seizures and the number of clandestine laboratories used to manufacture amphetamine-type stimulants that have been dismantled recently.

572. Precursors of amphetamine-type stimulants, such as ephedrine and pseudoephedrine, are also increasingly being seized at the borders of New Zealand; there are indications that medicines containing those substances are smuggled into the country by mail and using air passengers from China and countries in South-East Asia, to be used for the illicit manufacture of methamphetamine. An increased number of methamphetamine abusers have been brought to the attention of police and drug treatment centres, as serious violence and property crime have been associated with methamphetamine abuse.

573. Seizures of MDMA (Ecstasy) in Australia have been increasing since the mid-1990s. MDMA (Ecstasy), mainly of Western European origin, is smuggled into Australia by couriers using the “body carry” method.

574. The Board notes with concern that in New Zealand a foreign exchange company was used by a criminal syndicate to launder money believed to be profits derived from the importation of MDMA (Ecstasy) on a large scale. In New Zealand, some LSD in crystal and liquid form was intercepted in mail sent from Canada.

575. According to the *Party Drugs Initiative*, a national study to investigate and monitor trends involving MDMA (Ecstasy) and other recreational drugs in Australia, GHB, ketamine (a hallucinogenic sedative) and various anti-depressants are increasingly being abused in that country as dance party drugs. Control of GHB is becoming a matter of concern, as large quantities of its precursor *gamma*-butyrolactone (GBL) are imported for legitimate use. The Board urges the Government of Australia to develop strategies aimed at preventing the abuse of those substances.

(Signed)  
Hamid Ghodse  
President

(Signed)  
Alfredo Pemjean  
Rapporteur

(Signed)  
Koli Kouame  
Secretary

Vienna, 11 November 2004

#### *Notes*

<sup>1</sup> The Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961 as amended by the 1972 Protocol (United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 976, No. 14152), the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971 (United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1019, No. 14956) and the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988 (United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1582, No. 27627).

<sup>2</sup> *Report of the International Narcotics Control Board for 1993* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.94.XI.2), paras. 15 and 16.

<sup>3</sup> *Report of the International Narcotics Control Board for 1997* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.98.XI.1), paras. 22 and 134.

<sup>4</sup> *Report of the International Narcotics Control Board for 1998* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.99.XI.1), para. 103.

- <sup>5</sup> See *Report of the International Conference on Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, Vienna, 17-26 June 1987* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.87.I.18), chap. I, sect. A.
- <sup>6</sup> “Report of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs on the progress achieved in meeting the goals and targets set out in the Political Declaration adopted by the General Assembly at its twentieth special session” (A/58/124), sect. II.A.
- <sup>7</sup> *The Price of Illicit Drugs: 1981 through the Second Quarter of 2000*, report prepared for the Office of National Drug Control Policy of the United States of America (October 2001).
- <sup>8</sup> William Rhodes and others, *Illicit Drugs: Price Elasticity of Demand and Supply; Final Report* (Cambridge, Massachusetts, Abt Associates, 2000).
- <sup>9</sup> *The Price of Illicit Drugs ...*
- <sup>10</sup> *Global Illicit Drug Trends 2003* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.XI.5).
- <sup>11</sup> David F. Musto, “Historical perspectives”, *Substance Abuse: a Comprehensive Textbook*, 3rd ed., J. H. Lowinson and others, eds. (Baltimore, Maryland, Williams and Wilkins, 1997), pp. 1-9.
- <sup>12</sup> *Ecstasy and Amphetamines: Global Survey 2003* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.XI.15).
- <sup>13</sup> RAND Drug Policy Research Center, *The Benefits and Costs of Drug Use Prevention* (Santa Monica, California, RAND, 1999).
- <sup>14</sup> *Lessons Learned in Drug Abuse Prevention: a Global Review*, ODCCP Studies on Drugs and Crime (London, Mentor Foundation, 2002).
- <sup>15</sup> “Second biennial report of the Executive Director on the implementation of the outcome of the twentieth special session of the General Assembly, devoted to countering the world drug problem together: Action Plan for the Implementation of the Declaration on the Guiding Principles of Drug Demand Reduction” (E/CN.7/2003/2/Add.1), paras. 2-3.
- <sup>16</sup> United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, *Investing in Drug Abuse Treatment: a Discussion Paper for Policy Makers*, Drug Abuse Treatment Toolkit series (Vienna, 2003).
- <sup>17</sup> *Report of the Expert Working Group on Improving Intersectoral Impact in Drug Abuse Offender Casework: Vienna, 6-10 December 1999* (Vienna, Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention, 2000).
- <sup>18</sup> Steven Belenko, “Research on drug courts: a critical review”, *National Drug Court Institute Review*, vol. I, No. 1 (1998).
- <sup>19</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 520, No. 7515.
- <sup>20</sup> *Ibid.*, vol. 1019, No. 14956.
- <sup>21</sup> *Ibid.*, vol. 1582, No. 27627.
- <sup>22</sup> *Ibid.*, vol. 976, No. 14152.
- <sup>23</sup> *Ibid.*, vol. 976, No. 14151.
- <sup>24</sup> *Report of the International Narcotics Control Board for 2003 ...*, para. 83.
- <sup>25</sup> That information is requested on a voluntary basis in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1995/20, in which the Council, inter alia:
- (a) Urged Governments to inform the Board on a regular basis of the quantities of substances listed in Table I of the 1988 Convention that they had imported, exported or trans-shipped, and encouraged them to estimate their annual licit needs (para. 8);
- (b) Requested the Board to collect information pursuant to paragraph 8 above, and to further develop and strengthen its database in order to assist Governments in preventing diversion of substances listed in Table I of the 1988 Convention (para. 9);
- (c) Encouraged Governments to consider strengthening, where necessary, the working mechanisms to prevent diversion of substances listed in Table II of the 1988 Convention, as described in the resolution (para. 13).
- <sup>26</sup> *Precursors and Chemicals Frequently Used in the Illicit Manufacture of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances: Report of the International Narcotics Control Board for 2004 on the Implementation of Article 12 of the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.05.XI.6).
- <sup>27</sup> For more details see *Precursors and Chemicals Frequently Used in the Illicit Manufacture of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances: Report of the International Narcotics Control Board for 2004 ...*
- <sup>28</sup> *Narcotic Drugs: Estimated World Requirements for 2005; Statistics for 2003* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E/F/S.05.XI.4).
- <sup>29</sup> *Report of the International Narcotics Control Board for 2003 ...*, paras. 164-165.

- <sup>30</sup> Ibid., para. 139.
- <sup>31</sup> *Report of the International Narcotics Control Board for 2000* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.01.XI.1), para. 30.
- <sup>32</sup> *Report of the International Narcotics Control Board for 2003 ...*, paras. 119 and 123.
- <sup>33</sup> Ibid., para. 514.
- <sup>34</sup> See World Health Organization, *Fifty-sixth World Health Assembly, Geneva, 19-28 May 2003, Resolutions and Decisions, Annexes* (WHA56/2003/REC/1), resolution 56.1, annex.
- <sup>35</sup> *Report of the International Narcotics Control Board for 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.XI.1), paras. 106-108.
- <sup>36</sup> *Report of the International Narcotics Control Board for 1998 ...*, para. 34.
- <sup>37</sup> The following States sent representatives: Algeria, Burkina Faso, Central African Republic, Chad, Congo, Egypt, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Kenya, Mauritius, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Sudan, Swaziland, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe. Germany, Italy and the United States, as well as the African Union, Interpol and the Naif Arab University for Security Sciences, were represented by observers.
- <sup>38</sup> ESAAMLG was established in 1999 in Arusha, United Republic of Tanzania. The 14 States members of ESAAMLG evaluate each other's mechanisms for countering money-laundering and the financing of terrorism.
- <sup>39</sup> *Report of the International Narcotics Control Board for 2003 ...*, para. 293.
- <sup>40</sup> See, for example, *Report of the International Narcotics Control Board for 2003 ...*, para. 357.
- <sup>41</sup> The Paris Pact initiative emerged from the Paris Statement (S/2003/641, annex), which had been issued at the end of the Conference on Drug Routes from Central Asia to Europe, held in Paris on 21 and 22 May 2003.
- <sup>42</sup> *Health Services, Education and Community Action: Preventing Drug Abuse in Turkey; National Assessment on Drug Abuse 2003* (United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, Ankara, 2004).
- <sup>43</sup> *Report of the International Narcotics Control Board for 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.XI.1), para. 535.
- <sup>44</sup> *Report of the International Narcotics Control Board for 2003 ...*, para. 576.