



VEREINTE NATIONEN
Informationsdienst

For information - not an official document Zur Information - kein offizielles Dokument Pour information - document sans caractère officiel
INCB ANNUAL REPORT 1995 28 February 1996
Background Note No. 6

How the INCB Monitors the World Drug Situation

The Report of the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB) each year contains a section providing an analysis of the world drug situation, based on information from a number of sources, including reports provided to the Board in accordance with the international drug control treaties. The treaties which assign this task to the Board are:

- The 1961 Single Convention on **Narcotic Drugs, as amended by the 1972 Protocol;**
- **The 1971 Convention on Psychotropic Substances; and**
- **The 1988 United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances.**

The Board also obtains other information which are regarded as indicators of national, regional and international trends in drug abuse and illicit **trafficking**. The sources of that other information include reports of the International Criminal Police Organization (Interpol) and the World Customs Organization on illicit trafficking and drug seizures throughout the world, reports and special studies issued by the World Health Organization (WHO) on drug abuse and direct case investigations by the INCB.

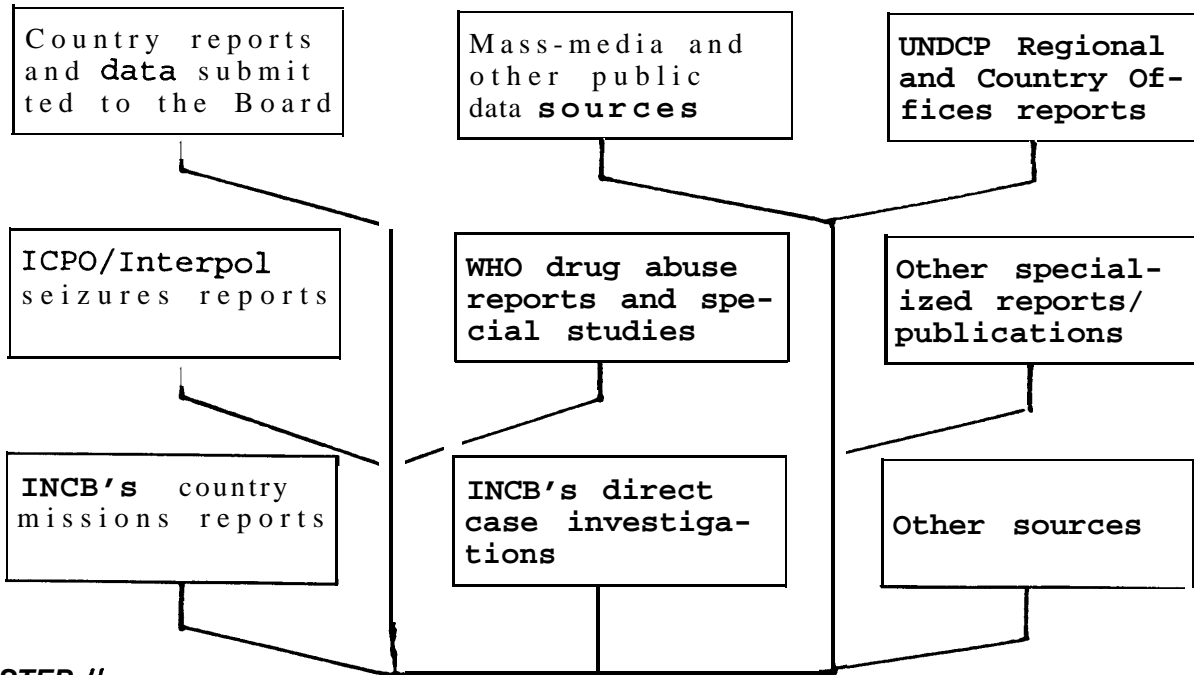
The Board takes into account reports from regional and country **offices** and the various

departments of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP) as well as reports in the mass media and specialized publications. Each year Board members travel to selected countries to follow up on concerns related to treaty implementation and reports of significant developments in abuse and **trafficking**. Over the course of the year, this information and data is analyzed and the relevant section of the annual report is drafted. At the Board's fall session, this text is discussed and approved.

Difficulties

Among the **difficulties** experienced by the Board in this process are that data on certain countries or issues may not be available, and that indicators are often only approximate, misleading or not comparable between countries. Part of the problem is that indicators are not universally defined. Examples of indicators considered by the INCB in assessing the world drug situation are the number of drug abusers, number of drug-related arrests, seizure data, drug-related deaths, and the types of drugs abused, cultivated, produced and trafficked in a particular **country** or region. Other indicators are Governments' accession to international drug control treaties, governmental drug control structure and cooperation with international organizations and other Governments. A country's treatment and rehabilitation programmes also serve as an indicator.





STEP II

Analysis and Drafting

STEP III

INCB
(Fall session)
Discussion and approval

FOR PUBLICATION

* * * * *