

measures required to prevent further diversion from domestic channels. The Board urges the competent authorities of the Netherlands, who have most frequently seized the substance and conducted investigations,¹³ to make every effort to enable such information-sharing with the competent authorities of China.

57. Recognizing the need for action at the international level relating not only to *3,4-MDP-2-P*, but also to other major precursors of amphetamine-type stimulants, the Board intends to organize an international meeting on such precursors in 2002, with the participation of major manufacturing and trading countries, and those in which the illicit manufacture of amphetamine-type stimulants takes place, to review the extent of the global trafficking of precursors and to devise working mechanisms and standard operating procedures that may be introduced between the countries concerned, and with the Board, specifically to prevent diversions of those substances into illicit traffic. That meeting will be preceded by a preparatory expert group meeting.

III. Analysis of data on seizures of, and illicit traffic in, precursors and trends in illicit manufacture of drugs

A. Overview

58. The analysis presented below provides an overview of major trends in diversion and trafficking of the substances frequently used in the illicit manufacture of drugs. In the analysis of available data, consideration has been given to information provided by the law enforcement and regulatory authorities not only on seizures, but also on known cases of diversion and attempted diversion, on stopped or suspended shipments in international trade, and on the illicit manufacture of drugs. The findings of investigations undertaken are also considered.

59. The present report contains seizure data for the five-year period from 1996 to 2000, furnished by Governments under the provisions of article 12 of the 1988 Convention (see annex I, tables 3a and 3b).

60. Seizures of most of the substances in Tables I and II have been reported for 2000, with the exception of *N-acetylanthranilic acid*, used in the illicit manufacture of methaqualone, *ergometrine*, used in the illicit manufacture of lysergic acid diethylamide (LSD) and *isosafrole*, used in the illicit manufacture of MDMA and its analogues. In that connection, it should be noted that many countries, including the major industrialized countries, are only supplying partial information regarding seizures of substances in Tables I and II and other chemicals used in the illicit manufacture of drugs, as well as on methods of diversion and illicit manufacture and stopped shipments. To analyse current trafficking trends accurately and to develop new mechanisms to prevent future diversions, the Board requests that every effort be made to collect and provide comprehensive information in a timely manner.

61. The seizures reported for 2000 for many of the substances in Tables I and II, and in particular those of *P-2-P*, *3,4-MDP-2-P* and *safrole*, all of which are used in the illicit manufacture of amphetamine-type stimulants, are the largest ever reported to the Board. Given the increasing problems presented by the abuse of illicitly manufactured amphetamine-type stimulants, concerted efforts are required by Governments to ensure the effective monitoring and control of the precursors used for their illicit manufacture at both the domestic and international levels and to prevent diversions of the substances from licit trade into illicit traffic.

62. On the basis of the available information, the following observations can be made:

(a) Diversion attempts are becoming increasingly sophisticated, with the methods uncovered now indicating that traffickers are monitoring licit markets and identifying companies with licit requirements for controlled chemicals. The names of those companies are then used in diversion attempts, in the hope that authorities will recognize established company names and release shipments without conducting background checks;

(b) Traffickers are relying on corrupt employees of chemical companies to obtain the chemicals they require. Those employees remove small amounts of the chemicals at a time so as not to attract attention, with the losses, if detected, being attributed

to acceptable losses during transportation, manufacture or spillage;

(c) In many instances, the authorities appear to cease investigations when a smuggled consignment of chemicals is intercepted and seized. Authorities making such interceptions or seizures should also initiate comprehensive follow-up investigations to identify those responsible for originally diverting the chemicals. Similar investigations also need to be initiated in the countries from which a consignment was shipped and, if necessary, in the countries of destination. Without such investigations, the traffickers responsible for planning and organizing consignments cannot be identified and their activities stopped;

(d) Controlled deliveries have been effectively used by a few countries to identify and arrest traffickers responsible for diversions of precursors. The technique, however, is still underutilized and only carried out on an ad hoc basis. Concerned authorities should examine the possibility of developing standard mechanisms and operating procedures for controlled deliveries to encourage the use of the technique and enhance the possibility of success;

(e) Drug and precursor characterization and impurity profiling provide an essential method whereby the chemicals actually used in the illicit manufacture of drugs and, where possible, the sources of those chemicals can be identified. Very little detailed information is, however, available on the dismantling of illicit laboratories used in the illicit manufacture of amphetamine-type stimulants, especially with regard to the chemicals seized at laboratories. Comprehensive seizure data, supported by forensic analysis of seized chemicals and drugs, need to be obtained in order to identify the precursors being used by traffickers for illicit drug manufacture and to prevent diversions of those substances;

(f) Traffickers continue to place orders for chemicals used in the illicit manufacture of drugs through brokers located in countries other than those through which the shipment is destined to travel. In many countries, no legislation exists to monitor and control such activities by brokers, creating a loophole which traffickers are attempting to exploit.

B. Trends in the illicit traffic in precursors and other chemicals and the illicit manufacture of drugs

1. Substances used in the illicit manufacture of cocaine

(a) Potassium permanganate

Seizures

63. For 2000, Colombia reported the largest seizures of *potassium permanganate*, totalling over 70 tons. That amount represents over 90 per cent of the global seizures reported for that year, and, as in previous years, the Colombian authorities intercepted consignments of the substance being smuggled into the country, as well as seizing the substance at, or en route to, illicit laboratories.

64. In its last report, the Board noted that the consignments being smuggled into the country had originated in Mexico, the Netherlands, the Republic of Korea, Spain and the United States. During 2000 and the first three quarters of 2001, the Colombian authorities intercepted three smuggled consignments amounting to over 50 tons of *potassium permanganate*, and, in contrast to 1999, all three consignments originated in one country, Mexico. The Mexican authorities are carrying out follow-up investigations to identify the traffickers responsible, as well as the sources and methods of diversion. The Board trusts that the Governments of Colombia and Mexico will work closely together to prevent future smuggling via that route.

65. In addition to the interception of smuggled consignments, the Colombian authorities have also seized over 10 tons of *potassium permanganate* that was illicitly manufactured in Colombia specifically for use in the illicit manufacture of cocaine. The illicit manufacture of the precursor emerged during May 2000, and the Colombian authorities dismantled a total of six laboratories during the rest of that year, with a further four such laboratories being dismantled in 2001.

66. The laboratories were first located close to the areas where the illicit manufacture of cocaine takes place, but in December 2000, a laboratory was also dismantled in Bogota. The fact that traffickers are now themselves trying to manufacture *potassium*