

## I. Introduction

1. The present report provides highlights of the action taken by Governments and by the International Narcotics Control Board since the 2007 report on precursors<sup>1</sup> to implement the provisions of article 12 of the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988.<sup>2</sup>

2. The review begins with an account of the activities carried out during the reporting period with regard to the scheduling of substances. That section is followed by information on the status of adherence of Governments to the 1988 Convention, reporting by Governments to the Board as required under article 12 of the Convention and an overview of recent changes in legislative and control measures related to precursors. The chapter also includes an update of information provided by Governments on their estimated annual legitimate requirements for precursors of amphetamine-type stimulants, a review of the functioning of the pre-export notification system and an analysis of available data on licit trade in, uses of and requirements for precursors. The final section of chapter II focuses on the most significant activities and achievements related to Project Prism and Project Cohesion, the international initiatives targeting precursor chemicals used in the illicit manufacture of amphetamine-type stimulants and of heroin and cocaine, respectively.

3. Chapter III provides an analysis of the major trends identified in the diversion of and trafficking in precursor chemicals used in the illicit manufacture of amphetamine-type stimulants, cocaine and heroin; where data are available, the trends are analysed by region. The final chapter of the report summarizes the major conclusions, including recommended action for Governments to take in order to address the issues raised in the conclusions. Specific recommendations

are provided with a view to facilitating the work of the relevant competent national authorities.

4. The annexes to the report contain practical information, for use by competent national authorities, on the status of treaty adherence, submission of annual information on substances frequently used in the illicit manufacture of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, seizure data, data on licit trade in, uses of and legitimate requirements for scheduled substances, estimated annual legitimate requirements for precursors of amphetamine-type stimulants, requests for pre-export notifications, a list of scheduled substances, the licit and illicit uses of scheduled substances and relevant treaty provisions for the control of precursors.

## II. Action taken by Governments and by the Board

### A. Scope of control

#### **Continuation of procedures for the transfer of phenylacetic acid from Table II to Table I of the 1988 Convention**

5. In 2006 the Board, concerned that existing controls on phenylacetic acid, a precursor of amphetamine-type stimulants, were inadequate, convened a meeting of its advisory expert group<sup>3</sup> to assess information and relevant comments provided by Governments on licit and illicit trade in that substance. Based on the recommendation made by the group, the Board submitted a communication to the Secretary-General in January 2007 to formally initiate the procedures for the transfer of phenylacetic acid from Table II to Table I of the 1988 Convention.

6. To assess the impact of that recommendation, the Secretary-General invited Governments to submit comments by way of a questionnaire prepared and distributed by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs. The replies to the questionnaire were forwarded to the group, which was reconvened in February 2008 to evaluate the information and determine the level of

<sup>1</sup> *Precursors and Chemicals Frequently Used in the Illicit Manufacture of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances: Report of the International Narcotics Control Board for 2007 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.08.XI.4).

<sup>2</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1582, No. 27627.

<sup>3</sup> The advisory expert group consists of individual experts appointed by the Board to provide advice with regard to the 1988 Convention.