the region. Reported seizures of methaqualone precursors worldwide were limited to a single instance, in Ukraine, of 6 kg of anthranilic acid.

2. Lysergic acid diethylamide

86. In 2008, no evidence of illicit manufacture of lysergic acid diethylamide (LSD) was reported. In 2007 there had been only one report of a seizure of precursor chemicals for the manufacture of that substance. While Central America and South America figured significantly in prior diversion attempts involving precursors for this hallucinogen, Oceania was the focus of the limited activity in this reporting period, with 32 grams of ergotamine being seized by the Australian authorities.

IV. Conclusions

87. **With adherence to the 1988 Convention now almost universal, the Board urges the 12 Member States that are not yet parties to the Convention to become parties as soon as possible.** Eight of those States are in Oceania and three are in Africa, where recently identified cases of attempted diversion and trafficking in precursors, involving Nauru as well as many countries in Africa, clearly show that those two regions have been targeted by trafficking organizations.

88. Numerous Governments have continued to tighten their controls over the movement of precursors. Nevertheless, some Governments have not yet adopted measures to criminalize the diversion of precursors, and that loophole has been identified and used by traffickers. **The Board urges the Governments in question to adopt, as a matter of priority, necessary legislative measures to prevent such activity. In accordance with the Political Declaration adopted by the General Assembly at its twentieth special session (Assembly resolution S-20/2, annex), Governments should report to the Board in a regular and timely manner on the adoption of, or changes to, national regulations to control precursors.**

89. In the short time since its introduction, the publishing by the Board of estimated legitimate national requirements for precursors of amphetamine-type stimulants has helped Governments to successfully identify suspicious transactions. Those estimates have also assisted the competent authorities of exporting countries in preventing diversions. **The Board encourages all Governments to continue to provide to the Board the most accurate information possible, and to review their published requirements and inform the Board of any necessary changes.**

90. Results achieved during the reporting period have once again demonstrated the efficacy of the pre-export notification system for identifying suspicious transactions and preventing the diversion of controlled substances. **The Board particularly welcomes the support of the Security Council and the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, which have urged all Governments that have not yet done so to register with and utilize the PEN Online system for the exchange of pre-export notifications. The Board stands ready to provide any clarification or assistance to national competent authorities regarding their participation in the system.**

91. While the Board has received seizure-related data from Governments in accordance with the provisions of article 12 of the 1988 Convention, only a few of those Governments have supplemented those reports with the additional data required on non-scheduled substances with regard to method of diversion, illicit manufacture and stopped shipments. **The Board urges all Governments that have effected seizures to adequately collect and report that additional information, which is essential for determining emerging trends in illicit drug manufacture and in trafficking in precursors.**

92. As a result of the successes achieved in the monitoring of the international trade in scheduled chemicals, diversion from domestic distribution channels and smuggling across national borders have become the most common methods of obtaining precursor chemicals for use in clandestine laboratories. Competent authorities should adequately monitor the licit manufacture and distribution of precursors in accordance with article 12, paragraph 8, of the 1988 Convention. **The Board strongly encourages all countries, particularly those with large chemical industries, to closely monitor their domestic environment to identify suspicious orders for precursors.**

93. Activities carried out within the framework of Project Prism provided evidence that traffickers

are attempting to obtain large amounts of pharmaceutical preparations containing ephedrine and pseudoephedrine. **The Board again recommends that pharmaceutical preparations containing scheduled substances be controlled in the same way as the substances themselves.**

94. Because of the increased monitoring of precursors, trafficking organizations have turned to seeking out non-scheduled substances, including derivatives especially designed to circumvent existing controls. **The Board invites all Governments to make use of the limited international special surveillance list of non-scheduled substances that is provided to national competent authorities. Competent authorities should also put in place mechanisms for identifying suspicious transactions involving non-controlled substances and for effecting seizures, and should provide to the Board detailed information on such cases.**

95. The Board notes the results achieved under Project Prism in preventing the diversion of large quantities of precursors destined for the illicit manufacture of amphetamine-type stimulants. **The Board recommends to all Governments to continue to participate actively in such international initiatives.**

96. The Board welcomes the results achieved by participants in Project Cohesion. Intensified international activities in the interdiction and the exchange of information on shipments and seizures of precursor chemicals used in the manufacture of heroin have led to an increase in the number of identified diversions to Afghanistan. In contrast to previous years, large seizures have been reported. Where suspicious shipments in international trade have been identified, hundreds of tons of acetic anhydride have been prevented from reaching Afghanistan. The Board, within the scope of its mandate, will continue to assist in those initiatives.

97. At the same time, the smuggling within the region and into Afghanistan of precursor chemicals used in the manufacture of heroin continues. **The Board reminds all exporting countries of the need to thoroughly check all shipments of scheduled chemicals to countries neighbouring Afghanistan. In addition, further measures to prevent the diversion of acetic anhydride from domestic manufacture and commerce are necessary in all countries, but particularly in member States of the European Union and in countries in East Asia.**

98. The Board is concerned that the control mechanisms currently in place in Afghanistan are not sufficient to prevent the flow of chemical substances into the country and their diversion for use in clandestine heroin laboratories. **The Board urges the Government of Afghanistan to take additional measures, including formally prohibiting the importation of acetic anhydride, to control some non-scheduled chemicals that are used in the illicit manufacture of heroin, to strengthen cooperation with foreign partners in enhancing the capacity of the national competent authorities and to adequately report to the Board detailed information on seizures of chemicals.**

99. There continues to be a decrease in the number of prevented diversions in the international trade of potassium permanganate, the principal oxidizing agent used in the illicit manufacture of cocaine. The continuing occurrence of large seizures of this key precursor in cocaine-manufacturing areas may indicate that traffickers have found ways to circumvent international trade controls. The experience accumulated and the results achieved within the framework of Project Cohesion in targeting acetic anhydride in Asia could be used by Governments in the Americas to devise similar strategies to address the smuggling of precursor chemicals used in the manufacture of cocaine. **The Board reiterates its call to all Governments in the Americas to undertake such activities**.