

I. Introduction

1. The General Assembly at its twentieth special session, in 1998, adopted resolutions aimed at significantly reducing the world drug problem by 2008. The resolutions on the Action Plan against Illicit Manufacture, Trafficking and Abuse of Amphetamine-type Stimulants and Their Precursors (Assembly resolution S-20/4 A) and on the measures to control precursors (Assembly resolution S-20/4 B) contain references to the International Narcotics Control Board, which has responsibilities under the international drug control treaties: the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961 as amended by the 1972 Protocol,¹ the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971² and the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988.³

2. Pursuant to the Action Plan, international and regional bodies should continue to advocate implementation of the extensive framework of the international drug control treaties, as well as resolutions or decisions addressing various aspects of the problem of amphetamine-type stimulants (ATS) adopted by the Economic and Social Council, the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and the Board. International bodies such as the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (now called the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)), the Board and the World Health Organization (WHO) should strengthen their work on the technical and scientific dimensions of the problem of ATS and disseminate the results in regular publications for States and the general public.

3. Pursuant to the measures to control precursors (General Assembly resolution S-20/B), States should review regularly and take appropriate steps to strengthen existing precursor controls should any weaknesses be identified, giving full consideration to the related recommendations of the Board as contained in the annual reports of the Board on the implementation of article 12 of the 1988 Convention. Further, States should submit timely reports to the Board on national regulations adopted to control the export, import and transit of precursors; States should improve their mechanisms and procedures for monitoring trade in precursors, including through the exchange of information between exporting, importing and transit States and, with the Board, on suspicious transactions involving precursors; and States should cooperate with the Board in the preparation of a limited international special surveillance list of substances currently not in Table I and Table II of the 1988 Convention.

4. In its resolution 62/176 of 18 December 2007, the General Assembly encouraged the Board to continue its useful work on the control of precursors and other chemicals used in the illicit manufacture of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances.

5. In the decade following the twentieth special session of the General Assembly, Governments have increased their efforts to deal more effectively with the world drug problem. The Board, an independent and quasi-judicial body that monitors the implementation of the international drug control treaties, has played an important role in assisting Governments in that endeavour.

¹ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 976, No. 14152.

² *Ibid.*, vol. 1019, No. 14956.

³ *Ibid.*, vol. 1582, No. 27627.

6. The present report has been prepared by the Board in response to the resolutions adopted by the General Assembly at its twentieth special session. It contains the major findings of the Board with respect to the implementation of the tasks assigned to it in the Action Plan and issues that were dealt with by the Assembly but not addressed to the Board. In its assessment of the progress made in those areas, the Board has emphasized the implementation by Governments of the international drug control treaties and the relevant resolutions of the Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, as well as the implementation of the recommendations of the Board on issues related to the control of ATS and precursors.

II. Responses of the International Narcotics Control Board to resolutions adopted by the General Assembly at its twentieth special session

7. In response to the resolutions adopted by the General Assembly at its twentieth special session, the Board has taken a series of actions to counter the illicit manufacture of, trafficking in and abuse of ATS and to strengthen the control of precursors. Such actions have been based on its regular evaluation of the progress made by Governments in the implementation of the provisions of the international drug control treaties, in particular the provisions contained in the 1971 Convention and article 12 of the 1988 Convention.

8. The Board has continued to monitor closely the consumption of stimulants, including ATS, in various countries, in order to identify trends that may lead to the abuse of those substances and has maintained an ongoing dialogue with the Governments concerned. The Board has also made a number of general and specific recommendations on how to strengthen precursor control that have been published in its annual reports and in its reports on the implementation of article 12 of the 1988 Convention.

9. In 2004, following a midterm review of the progress made on the implementation of the Action Plan, the Board established a working group with a specific mandate to follow up on the outcome of the twentieth special session of the General Assembly. Based on its ongoing evaluation, the working group identified areas requiring further progress, on the basis of which the Board made specific recommendations with regard to Government accession to and implementation of the international drug control treaties.

10. In 2007, the Board carried out a survey to review the worldwide implementation of the international drug control treaties, inviting all States and territories to complete a questionnaire designed by the Board for that purpose. The survey was aimed at evaluating the efforts made by Governments to implement the provisions of the international drug control treaties, identifying weaknesses and loopholes in drug control at the national and international levels and providing recommendations on national and international drug control regimes.

11. Further, pursuant to Commission on Narcotic Drugs resolution 51/4, the Board has been actively involved in the preparations for the high-level segment of the fifty-second session of the Commission relating to the follow-up to the twentieth