

injection rooms”, are not in conformity with the international drug control treaties. The Board considers the existence of establishments where the illicit possession and consumption of drugs that have not been medically prescribed are legally condoned by Government or local authorities is in violation of the 1961 Convention and the 1988 Convention.

93. A legal impasse has also emerged between international and national law in a few countries with regard to the implementation of the treaty provisions concerning coca leaf. At the time when the 1961 Convention was drawn up, the phasing out of coca bush cultivation was seen as beneficial for the people of the Andean subregion, as well as a means to eliminate or reduce the illicit manufacture of and trafficking in cocaine at the global level. However, a few Governments have continued not only to permit such practices but even to encourage them.

VI. Recommendations

94. While recognizing the achievements made, the Board notes that the drug problem continues to constitute a serious threat, undermining socio-economic and political stability and sustainable development. The Board calls upon individual Governments and the international community as a whole to continue their efforts, in the years to come, to achieve further progress in addressing the world drug problem. The Board wishes to put forward the recommendations below for consideration and implementation by Governments and relevant international organizations. Additional recommendations are contained in annexes I-V.

A. Preventing the diversion of controlled substances including amphetamine-type stimulants

95. The Board recommends that all Governments introduce mandatory import and export authorizations for all psychotropic substances in Schedules III and IV of the 1971 Convention, in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolutions 1985/15 of 28 May 1985, 1987/30 of 26 May 1987, 1991/44 of 21 June 1991, 1993/38 of 27 July 1993 and 1996/30 of 24 July 1996, as that measure, combined with the system of assessments, has proved particularly effective in the identification of diversion attempts.

96. The diversion from domestic distribution channels and the abuse of pharmaceutical preparations containing controlled substances pose problems in many countries. The Board recommends that the Governments concerned establish a mechanism for the systematic collection of data on the diversion and abuse of such preparations and use the data as the basis for taking appropriate countermeasures.

97. The Board urges the Governments of countries in which companies undertake direct-to-consumer advertising for drugs containing internationally controlled substances to adopt and implement regulations to ban such advertisements, in compliance with article 10 of the 1971 Convention. Governments should also consider invoking article 13 of the 1971 Convention to prevent substances that are not used for medical and scientific purposes from entering their territory.

98. The use of mail systems and the Internet has become an important means of obtaining internationally controlled substances to supply illicit markets. The Board recommends that Governments take adequate measures and, in particular, establish a mechanism for ensuring cooperation in the detection and investigation of diversion cases involving the mail and the Internet and to ensure that legislative and regulatory provisions are in force in their territory to counteract such illegal activities.

B. Control of precursor chemicals

99. Diversion from domestic channels and smuggling across borders are now the methods most commonly used by traffickers to obtain precursor chemicals. Therefore, the Board urges Governments to adequately monitor the licit manufacture and distribution of precursors used in the illicit manufacture of drugs, in addition to controlling international trade, in accordance with article 12, paragraph 8, of the 1988 Convention.

100. The Board recommends that all competent authorities provide information on annual legitimate requirements of ATS precursors, in accordance with Commission on Narcotic Drugs resolution 49/3. The Board invites national competent authorities to inform it of any methodologies that they have found useful in estimating their national requirements for those precursors. The Board encourages all Governments to regularly review their needs and to inform the Board of any necessary amendments.

101. The Board recommends that all Governments control pharmaceutical preparations containing substances scheduled under the 1988 Convention in the same way that they control the scheduled substances contained in those preparations. Because of the simple manufacturing process and the availability of those preparations, such preparations are increasingly being used for the illicit manufacture of ATS throughout the world. This recommendation applies, in particular, to preparations containing ephedrine and pseudoephedrine.

102. A concerted effort by all Governments is necessary to stop the smuggling of acetic anhydride and other substances used in the illicit manufacture of heroin. The Board urges Governments to strengthen controls over the movement of such chemicals within their territory. Given the large seizures of potassium permanganate currently being reported, the Board encourages the authorities in countries in the Americas to devise strategies to address trafficking in that substance. The Board stands ready to assist such activities within the scope of its treaty mandate.

103. As the PEN Online system represents an important development in the exchange of information through pre-export notifications, the Board urges the Governments of all importing and exporting countries that have not yet done so to register and utilize the system.

104. Because of strengthened precursor monitoring, trafficking organizations are seeking out non-scheduled substances, including derivatives specially designed to circumvent existing controls. The Board invites Governments to use the updated limited international special surveillance list of non-scheduled substances that was released to all competent authorities in June 2007. It also invites Governments to

put in place mechanisms for alerting them to suspicious transactions involving such substances and to provide the Board with detailed information of any seizures of non-scheduled precursors.

C. Achieving universal accession to the international drug control treaties

105. The Board notes with concern that although a number of countries in Oceania have achieved a great deal in terms of drug control, little progress has been made over the past 10 years in acceding to the international drug control treaties in that region. Of the 20 States that have acceded to at most two of the treaties, 10 are in Oceania. Three of the five States that are not parties to any of the treaties are also in that region. The Board urges the Governments concerned to take concrete steps to accelerate their accession to the treaties. The Board also encourages the international community, in particular regional organizations in Oceania such as the Pacific Islands Forum, to put this issue on their agenda with a view to promoting the accession to those treaties by States in the region.

D. Promoting full compliance with the international drug control treaties

106. An increased number of countries and territories have adopted or updated national legislation, policies and strategies in response to the resolutions adopted by the General Assembly at its twentieth special session, most countries and territories having established or updated their drug control strategies since 1998.

107. The Board notes, however, that there are a number of areas where appropriate action is required in order to ensure adequate compliance with the international drug control treaties. The Board brings to the attention of Governments the following issues in particular and urges the Governments concerned to take concrete steps to ensure that progress is made towards remedying the situation in those areas:

(a) Although most internationally controlled drugs and substances have been listed under national legislation in most countries and territories, certain substances, particularly precursor chemicals, have yet to be scheduled under national legislation in some countries; many States also lack specific measures for the control of those unscheduled substances without such legislation;

(b) A considerable number of countries need more than 180 days, as required by the treaties, in order to implement the decisions of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs with regard to the inclusion of new psychotropic substances under national control;

(c) Some countries continue to have no coordinating mechanisms at the national level to address drug-related issues;

(d) Many countries do not have a system in place to ensure a regular evaluation of the implementation of national drug control strategies, which is essential to achieving the goals set out in those strategies.

108. The low level of consumption of opioid analgesics for the treatment of pain in many countries, particularly developing countries, continues to be a matter of concern to the Board. The Board stresses that the medical use of narcotic drugs continues to be indispensable for the relief of pain and suffering and that it is the responsibility of Governments to ensure their adequate availability. The Board urges Governments to develop plans of action to facilitate the supply and availability of opiates for all appropriate indications, taking into consideration the Access to Controlled Medications Programme, which was prepared by WHO in consultation with the Board.

109. Although diversion of controlled substances from international trade is now rare, diversion from domestic distribution channels remains a problem, in particular with regard to pharmaceutical preparations containing internationally controlled substances. In some countries, controlled substances are often sold by unauthorized individuals or entities without following proper procedures. Efforts should be made to enhance legislation on the domestic distribution of such substances, which should include provisions targeting drug-related crimes in an electronic environment, as well as the manufacture of and trafficking in counterfeit drugs.

110. The Board notes with concern that “drug consumption rooms” and “drug injection rooms” continue to operate in a small number of countries, mainly in Europe. The Board urges the Governments of countries where such facilities are operated for the purpose of administering illicitly obtained drugs to put an end to such practice and provide appropriate evidence-based medical services and facilities for the treatment of drug abusers.

111. The practice of chewing coca leaves continues in the Andean subregion. The countries in that subregion and throughout the world are suffering from the illicit manufacture of and trafficking in cocaine. The Board calls upon the Governments concerned to take immediate action towards eliminating practices involving the uses of coca leaf that are contrary to the 1961 Convention, including the chewing of coca leaves. Furthermore, Governments should strengthen their efforts to counter the illicit manufacture of and trafficking in cocaine.

E. Measures to reduce the demand for illicit drugs

112. Although many Governments have adopted measures against drug abuse, more can be done in terms of demand reduction, including in the areas of drug abuse monitoring, prevention, treatment and rehabilitation. The Board notes that over 37 per cent of States and territories responding to the 2007 survey have yet to establish a monitoring system. Many Governments reported having been hindered in areas such as prevention because of lack of adequate assessment and understanding of the drug problem. The Board urges the States and territories where measures to address prevention, treatment and rehabilitation have not yet been adopted to take concrete steps towards ensuring the availability of services in those areas. Information gathered by such a system should be shared among national authorities in order to develop an updated and applicable strategy and to make concerted efforts in addressing all aspects of demand reduction.

113. The Board reminds Governments of their obligations under the drug control treaties, as well as commitments contained in the Declaration on the Guiding

Principles of Drug Demand Reduction. Governments should make it a priority to increase their demand reduction interventions in a comprehensive manner, on the basis of reliable information on drug abuse and paying due attention to the requirements of specific age and gender groups. In particular, Governments should take all practical measures to ensure the prevention of drug abuse and the early identification, treatment, education, aftercare, rehabilitation and social reintegration of the persons involved, in keeping with relevant provisions of the treaties. Measures to reduce the abuse of ATS, including in the form of pharmaceutical preparations, should be an integral part of demand reduction activities.

114. Many Governments continue to give higher priority and more resources to supply reduction than to demand reduction, even though supply reduction activities have been shown not to produce sustainable results if not coordinated with demand reduction interventions. The Board calls on Governments and relevant agencies to coordinate supply reduction and demand reduction strategies. Efforts among Government ministries and agencies responsible for law enforcement, health, education, social issues and economic development activities should all be involved in developing and implementing a comprehensive strategy. A central national authority, with a balanced representation of agencies on supply and demand reduction, should coordinate efforts and prioritize the distribution of financial and other resources.

F. International cooperation

115. A considerable number of countries have reported that cooperation with neighbouring countries in addressing drug trafficking must be improved. The Board urges Governments to explore further ways of ensuring effective and sustained international and regional cooperation in addressing drug trafficking issues, either through multilateral forums or on a bilateral basis. Where multilateral forums do not exist, the Board recommends that Governments consider the possibility of establishing them.

116. The efforts of the various international and regional organizations involved in drug control are often carried out in isolation from one another, resulting in unnecessary duplication and, at times, ineffective efforts. That is particularly true in the area of demand reduction. Although demand reduction is often considered to be a more context-specific area than law enforcement, international and regional organizations could make good progress by sharing knowledge and expertise in demand reduction as well. The Board urges international and regional organizations involved in drug control to cooperate and engage in joint efforts to the fullest extent possible in the area of supply and demand reduction.

117. The Board urges all Governments to implement the relevant provisions of the 1988 Convention and to establish an effective legislative and regulatory framework for countering money-laundering and to cooperate fully with relevant international institutions, in particular the Financial Action Task Force on Money Laundering.

118. Provisions of the 1988 Convention encourage States parties to use the Convention as the legal basis for the extradition of drug-related offenders, in order to facilitate extradition as a tool against drug trafficking. Nevertheless, a significant number of States, in particular in Asia, Africa and the Americas, have not

implemented those provisions and still require bilateral agreements for extradition. The Board recommends that all Governments that have not yet done so should adopt legislation and policies allowing the 1988 Convention to be used as the legal basis for extradition. The Board also recommends that Governments that choose not to extradite a particular person for drug-related offences should submit the case for prosecution domestically.

119. The record of the international community with regard to alternative development remains mixed. The Board urges the international community to adopt a long-term commitment towards sustainable development with regard to the eradication of illicit drug crop cultivation and to ensure a concerted approach that includes favourable terms of trade for alternative development crops and products.

120. The Board calls upon relevant international bodies, such as UNODC, WHO, INTERPOL and the World Customs Organization, as well as regional bodies involved in drug control, to continue strengthening their coordination and cooperation and to provide assistance to Governments in their efforts to address illicit drug abuse and trafficking.