

Precursors Control in Asia: Addressing the Challenges

Declaration

A quarter century since the signing of the 1988 United Nations Convention against illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substance, political will to support efforts aimed at preventing the diversion of precursors has become more important than ever. By finding new ways of preventing illicit manufacture of drugs, while also reinforcing existing mechanisms in this regard, we are effectively combating the drug problem which continues to pose a serious threat to the health, safety and welfare of humankind. We are determined to continue these efforts, in Asia in particular.

Therefore we, the assembled participants of the INCB/UNODC Conference on Precursor control in Asia: Addressing the challenges”, Bangkok, Thailand, 2 – 4 December 2013

Reaffirm the Political Declaration adopted by the General Assembly at its twentieth special session, and the Joint Ministerial Statement adopted during the forty-sixth session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, as well as other relevant United Nations resolutions, including General Assembly resolution 63/197 of 18 December 2008 and those on regional and international cooperation to prevent the diversion and smuggling of precursors;

Reaffirm further our unwavering commitment to chemical control as an effective means of combating illicit drug manufacture which is essential in order to minimize the abuse of illicitly manufactured narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances;

Support continued monitoring of the movement of and controls over precursor chemicals, as an effective way to prevent illicit manufacture and supply of drugs in Asia and beyond;

Encourage development and implementation of mechanisms to proactively monitor the movement and prevent the misuse of substances that substitute for scheduled precursors that are used to illicitly manufacture drugs.

Take note of the latest challenges in precursors control, namely the continuing misuse of: pharmaceutical preparations containing ephedrine and pseudoephedrine for the illicit manufacture of drugs; acetic anhydride as a key chemical for the illicit manufacture of heroin; large quantities of non-scheduled chemicals; and the diversion from domestic distribution channels as the most common method used by traffickers to obtain the chemicals they need;

Note with growing concern the escalating misuse of substances which have no known legitimate use such as New Psychoactive Substances (NPS) and the large quantities of non-scheduled precursor chemicals used in illicit drug manufacture;

Recognise the importance of actively promoting and taking part in international and multilateral efforts to control precursors and monitor their trade, in Asia in particular;

1. *Undertake* to develop industry-government partnerships to prevent the illicit use of precursors by establishing formal and informal mechanisms, to include legislation, codes of practice, memoranda of understanding and guidelines, with a view to enhancing cooperation between the authorities and relevant industries and increasing their vigilance with regard to suspicious trade involving precursors and other chemicals (both scheduled and non-scheduled) used in the illicit manufacture of drugs;
2. *Recognise* the need to address the serious problem of domestic diversion of precursors, in particular acetic anhydride and pharmaceutical preparations containing ephedrine and pseudoephedrine, used to illicitly manufacture heroin and amphetamine-type stimulants (ATS), respectively;
3. *Endeavour* to take measures for adequate control of domestic manufacture and distribution, including systems of end-user registration and declaration, establishing adequate estimates of legitimate requirements, setting realistic limits for chemicals with little or no legitimate use;
4. *Commit ourselves* to enhancing cooperation at all levels and exchange pertinent and timely information with all relevant national, regional and international counterparts on both controlled and non-listed chemicals to support domestic and international investigations targeting major organized chemical and drug trafficking organizations and enhancing operational and information-sharing activities to that end;
5. *Undertake* to use existing tools provided by the International Narcotics Control Board, in particular the automated Pre-export notification system (PEN Online), the Precursors Incident Communications System (PICS), mechanisms and operations under Projects Prism and Cohesion and the INCB Precursors Task Force for the exchange of information and common investigations, in order to address the diversion of and trafficking in precursors;
6. *Express concern* at the growing threat posed by non-scheduled chemicals and new psychoactive substances (NPS), take note of the latest developments and similarities in precursors control and in NPS, and *call*

for a complex of urgent practical measures including voluntary cooperation on targeting substances not under control, and support for consideration of controls as outlined in the drug treaties (1961 and 1971) for substances that have no medical or scientific use, as highlighted during this Conference, to effectively counter this new and dangerous trend

7. *Urge support* for the INCB's new task force on New Psychoactive Substances (NPS) and actively participate in its strategic and operational intelligence sharing activities; and encourage all countries to provide data on NPS, particularly forensics, abuse, and current domestic legislation to the UNODC Global Synthetics Monitoring, Analysis Reporting and Trends (SMART) Early Warning Network.