

I. Introduction

1. The United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988¹ provides for measures to prevent the diversion of chemicals from licit channels for use in the illicit manufacture of drugs. The International Narcotics Control Board (INCB) monitors the Governments' control over those precursor chemicals and assists Governments in preventing the diversion of such chemicals into illicit trafficking.

2. The present report has been prepared by the Board pursuant to article 23 of the 1988 Convention and provides an overview of action taken by Governments and INCB since the 2013 report on precursors.² In the light of the importance of the special session of the General Assembly to be held in early 2016,³ chapter II of this report contains the Board's assessment of the effectiveness and challenges of global precursor control for 2019 and beyond, as a contribution to preparations for the special session by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs.

3. Chapter III provides information on action taken by Governments and the Board pursuant to article 12 of the 1988 Convention, including reporting to the Board, legislation and control measures, a review of the functioning of Pre-Export Notification Online (PEN Online), and a summary of the activities and results achieved under Project Prism and Project Cohesion, including usage of the Precursors Incident Communication System (PICS).

4. Chapter IV provides a review of legitimate trade in precursor chemicals and major trends in trafficking in, and the illicit use of, those chemicals. It also contains an overview of the most important cases of suspicious and stopped shipments; diversions or attempted diversions; and

seizures of those chemicals. In the light of the focus of the present report on the special session to be held in 2016, chapter IV not only provides an overview of major trends since the Board's last report on precursors but also puts them in the context of longer time frames, with a view to contributing to a better understanding of current challenges.

5. Chapter V provides a summary of salient conclusions and recommendations as a basis for Governments to take the necessary action in order to prevent the diversion of, and trafficking in, precursor chemicals, including non-scheduled chemicals, and their use in illicit manufacture.

6. The annexes to the present report⁴ contain practical information to assist competent national authorities in carrying out their functions, including information on estimated annual legitimate requirements for the import of selected precursors of amphetamine-type stimulants, a list of Governments that require pre-export notifications, information on the use of scheduled substances in illicit drug manufacture and a summary of applicable treaty provisions.

II. Making precursor control fit for 2019 and beyond (a contribution to the special session of the General Assembly in 2016)

7. Each year, in its annual report on precursors, the Board reviews the implementation of article 12 of the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988. The report, which is mandated under the 1988 Convention, also contains observations and recommendations to address weaknesses identified in national and international precursor control systems. It is submitted to the Economic and Social Council, through the Commission on Narcotic Drugs.

8. For the past three years, the report has included thematic chapters that reviewed, in a consolidated manner, the achievements, progress and challenges of international precursor control since the 1988 Convention entered into force on 11 November 1990, and outlined practical action

¹ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1582, No. 27627.

² *Precursors and Chemicals Frequently Used in the Illicit Manufacture of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances: Report of the International Narcotics Control Board for 2013 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.14.XI.4).

³ The General Assembly, in its resolution 67/193, decided that a special session be held "to review the progress in the implementation of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem, as well as assess its achievements and challenges in countering the world drug problem, within the framework of the three international drug control conventions and other United Nations instruments".

⁴ The annexes are not included in the printed copies of the present report but are available in the CD-ROM version of the report and in the version on the website of the International Narcotics Control Board (www.incb.org).