

I. Introduction

1. The present report summarizes the action taken since the publication of the 2017 report on precursors¹ by Governments and by the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB) to prevent chemical diversion and implement the provisions of the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988.

2. Chapter II begins with an account of the activities carried out during the reporting period with regard to the scheduling of substances. The remainder of chapter II contains statistical data and other information on action taken by Governments and the status of implementation of the tools and mechanisms provided or coordinated by the Board to assist Governments in implementing the provisions of article 12 of the 1988 Convention.

3. Chapter III provides an overview of the major trends and developments in licit trade and trafficking in and illicit use of individual chemicals. It contains a summary of seizures, cases of suspicious and stopped shipments, diversions or attempted diversions, and activities associated with illicit drug manufacture.

4. As has been the practice since 2011, one precursor-related theme is addressed in greater depth. In this year's report, the theme explored in chapter IV is the proliferation of non-scheduled "designer" precursors and the options available for addressing it at the international level. Throughout the report, specific recommendations and conclusions are highlighted to facilitate the taking of specific actions by Governments to prevent diversion.²

5. Annexes I to XI contain updated statistics and practical information for use by competent national authorities. The annexes are not included in the printed copies of the present report but are available on the INCB website.

¹E/INCB/2017/4.

²A compilation of the recommendations relating to international precursor control made by INCB in previous years is available on the Board's website (www.incb.org).