

# Foreword

It is my sincere pleasure to introduce the report on precursors for 2019 of the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB). The annual report on precursors has established itself over the years as a reference for professionals and government authorities in monitoring and analysing the latest trends in precursor control, but also as a practical tool for addressing emerging challenges.

In the three decades since the adoption of the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988, the global landscape of drugs has indeed changed significantly. Governments around the world are increasingly concerned about the misuse of non-scheduled precursors used in the manufacture of dangerous substances. Today, designer precursors of synthetically engineered and harmful drugs are made on demand and easily ordered online.

Given the diversity and almost infinite number of substances that could possibly be made, traditional scheduling, both nationally and internationally, represents the minimum among measures needed. Governments need to design new tools to address these continuously changing trends. To that end, this year's report highlights the possibilities offered under article 13 of the 1988 Convention, as a complementary tool in the fight against illicit drug manufacture.

Furthermore, through its global initiatives Project Cohesion and Project Prism, INCB has been successful for many years in facilitating operational cooperation, both bilateral and multilateral, among Member States to counter the diversion of and trafficking in precursors.

To effectively respond to the complex landscape of drug control matters, INCB has both developed and expanded practical and innovative partnerships. With the committed support of Governments, INCB is encouraging public-private partnerships in various industries to counter diversion and trafficking. A core element of the Board's approach is the provision of online communication platforms, such as the Precursors Incident Communication System (PICS), for the sharing of information and intelligence in real time.

I would like to thank Governments for supporting the Board's activities in the area of precursor control.

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'C' followed by several loops and a horizontal line at the bottom.

Cornelis P. **de Joncheere**  
President of the International  
Narcotics Control Board