

# I. Introduction

1. The present report provides an overview of action taken by Governments and by the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB) since the publication of its report on precursors for 2019<sup>1</sup> 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. As in reports for previous years, chapter II contains information on developments relating to the scheduling of substances, accession to the 1988 Convention and the treaty-mandated furnishing of data to the Board and highlights major changes to national control measures. Chapter II includes the latest information on the estimated annual legitimate requirements for precursors of amphetamine-type stimulants, a review of the functioning of the pre-export notification system and a snapshot of data furnished on licit trade in, uses of and requirements for precursors. A summary of the activities under Project Cohesion and Project Prism, the international initiatives focusing on precursor chemicals used in the illicit manufacture of cocaine and heroin and of synthetic drugs, respectively, is also contained in chapter II.

3. Chapter III provides an overview of licit trade in individual chemicals and significant trends and developments in their trafficking and illicit use. The chapter also contains an overview of the most important cases of suspicious and stopped shipments, diversion and attempted diversion, as well as activities associated with illicit drug manufacture.

4. Chapter IV, on the impact of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic on licit and illicit activities related to precursors, continues the series of thematic chapters, introduced in 2011, that have addressed a particular precursor-related theme in greater depth in each of the respective reports. Throughout the report, specific recommendations and conclusions are highlighted to facilitate the taking of specific actions by Governments to prevent diversion.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> *Precursors and Chemicals Frequently Used in the Illicit Manufacture of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances: Report of the International Narcotics Control Board for 2019 on the Implementation of Article 12 of the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988 (E/INCB/2019/4).*

<sup>2</sup> A 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](http://www.incb.org)).

5. Chapter V provides a summary of salient conclusions and recommendations. The recommendations are presented to facilitate the taking of necessary actions by Governments to prevent trafficking in precursor chemicals.

6. 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.