

I. Introduction

1. The present report has been prepared by INCB pursuant to article 23 of the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988. It provides an overview of action taken by Governments and by INCB since the publication of the Board's report on precursors for 2020¹ to prevent chemical diversion and implement the provisions of the 1988 Convention.

2. Chapter II of the report contains updates on the treaty-mandated furnishing of data to the Board, major changes to national legislation and control measures, a review of the functioning of the pre-export notification system and a summary of the operational activities under Project Cohesion and Project Prism. The chapter also contains an overview of international cooperation and other initiatives related to precursor control.

3. Chapter III provides an overview of the licit trade in precursor chemicals and major trends 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 provides a thematic examination of the scope and extent of domestic controls, summarizing the responses to a global survey conducted between June and September 2021. Throughout this report, specific recommendations and conclusions are highlighted as a basis for Governments to take the necessary action to prevent the diversion of, and trafficking in, precursor chemicals and their use in illicit manufacture.² Chapter V provides recommendations to Governments on the way forward for effective international and domestic precursor control.

5. Annexes I to XI contain updated statistics and practical information intended to assist competent national authorities in carrying out their functions. The annexes are not included in the printed copies of the present report but are available on the INCB website.

¹*Precursors and Chemicals Frequently Used in the Illicit Manufacture of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances: Report of the International Narcotics Control Board for 2020 on the Implementation of Article 12 of the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988 (E/INCB/2020/4).*

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).