

## Foreword

It is my pleasure to present the analysis of the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB) regarding the world precursor situation in 2022. The situation has never been more complex, as reflected in the current report, which highlights the issues relating to chemicals not under international control. Governments have nevertheless identified these chemicals as having been used in illicit drug manufacture and have brought them to the attention of the Board pursuant to article 12, paragraph 12 (b), of the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988.

The Board commends those Governments that share information about emerging chemicals and methods of diversion and acknowledges the increasing volume of data provided on form D. The Board urges Governments to submit complete information, including information on methods of diversion and illicit manufacture. Such information will enable meaningful analysis and the identification of emerging trends.

The Board reiterates its support for providing, through its secretariat, the needed technical assistance to Governments to bridge this gap and ensure an effective international response to address the diversion and misuse of both scheduled and non-scheduled chemicals for the illicit manufacture of drugs.

In March 2022, following the Board's recommendation, the Commission on Narcotic Drugs decided to place three precursors of fentanyl and of a number of fentanyl analogues under international control. Two of those substances are close chemical relatives, an issue that the Commission has also addressed for the first time in its resolution 65/3. The resolution encourages Governments to place domestic controls not only on individual substances but also on groups of related chemicals. The Board welcomes this approach as a means to disrupt the emergence of the use of a series of closely related substitute chemicals in response to scheduling action at the international level. This development of substitution with non-scheduled chemicals has been noted with concern over the past years.

To support Governments in their efforts in an increasingly complex and dynamic global context, the Board has consolidated its work under articles 12 and 13 of the 1988 Convention in a new strategy that covers precursors and illicit drug manufacturing equipment. The strategy builds on the successes in international precursor control and extends proven concepts to address non-scheduled chemicals, as well as essential drug manufacturing equipment. In addition, the strategy highlights the importance of engagement with a wide range of industries along the supply chain and the need to support Governments in their efforts to enhance public-private partnerships in different national contexts.

The importance of industry cooperation is also reflected in the thematic chapter of this year's report, which examines the crucial role played by the Internet-related industry, including Internet and email service providers, social media and business-to-business platforms, in facilitating precursor trafficking.

Finally, I wish to thank those Governments that have worked with the Board in developing and maintaining the international precursor control system since its establishment in 1992.

The Board looks to Member States to continue to support INCB in implementing the new strategy, which is required to help shape our collective response to the emerging challenges that we are facing.



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Narcotics Control Board