

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 2021¹ to prevent the diversion of chemicals and to implement the provisions of the 1988 Convention.

2. Following the summary and the present introduction, substantive reporting begins in chapter II, which provides statistics and information on action taken by Governments and the Board in accordance with the provisions of article 12 of the 1988 Convention. This includes information on the utilization of the PEN Online 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 precursors and the latest major trends in the trafficking and illicit use of chemicals, highlighting the most relevant cases of suspicious and stopped shipments, diversion and attempted diversion, and seizures, as well as activities associated with illicit drug manufacture.

4. Chapter IV provides a thematic examination of the facilitation of precursor trafficking through the Internet (the surface web), including activities ranging from the advertising for the sale or purchase of precursor chemicals through websites, or social media or business-to-business platforms, to the mediating of such activities. 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 included in the digital version of the report, 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 2021 on the Implementation of Article 12 of the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988* (E/INCB/2021/4).

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).