

III. Analysis of the world situation

A. Africa

Major developments

237. Cannabis illicitly cultivated throughout Africa is abused locally and smuggled within the region and into Europe and North America. Illicit cultivation and abuse of and trafficking in cannabis have continued in several countries throughout Africa despite increasing seizures and continued eradication efforts. Cannabis resin is smuggled out of Morocco and into the Iberian peninsula, as well as into other countries in northern Africa. In addition, cannabis and other drugs are smuggled through the northern part of Africa. Countries in eastern, western and southern Africa continue to be used as transit points for smuggling cocaine from South America into Europe and for smuggling heroin from Asia into Europe and North America.

238. While cannabis is the main drug of abuse in Africa, the abuse of psychotropic substances is widespread. While the abuse of amphetamine, benzodiazepine, ephedrine and pemoline is currently more pronounced in the countries in western Africa, methaqualone continues to be abused mainly in southern and eastern Africa, in particular, in South Africa. The abuse of MDMA (Ecstasy) is also spreading in South Africa. The abuse of opiates has remained relatively limited in the region, although increased abuse of opiates has been reported in cities in African countries along the Indian Ocean, as well as in some countries in western Africa. Cocaine continues to be mainly abused in cities and tourist centres in southern and western Africa.

239. There has been a decrease in the age at which a growing number of young people and women start abusing drugs. Among those who abuse heroin, the mode of administration is also shifting, particularly in eastern, western and southern Africa, towards injection, which will contribute to the further spreading of human immunodeficiency virus (HIV)/AIDS infection, which is already widespread in those subregions. In view of the major economic, political and social problems faced by many African countries, there is a risk that unemployed youth and the urban and rural poor will be further exposed to drug abuse and

experience a further deterioration of their situation as a result of drug abuse.

240. In general, the countries in Africa have weak systems for controlling the licit manufacture and distribution of pharmaceutical products. Internationally controlled drugs are sold over the counter, either because national laws are not updated or the prescription requirement is insufficiently enforced or implemented. In addition, distribution of illicitly manufactured or diverted pharmaceutical products occurs.

241. In many countries in Africa, there is an urgent need for policy makers to update and ensure the enforcement of existing drug control legislation. The Board urges the Governments concerned to share information with each other in a more systematic manner, to harmonize their drug control legislation, to make possible the provision of mutual legal assistance in the prosecution of drug-related offences and to allow the extradition of drug traffickers.

Treaty adherence

242. In May 2001, Djibouti became a party to the 1961 Convention as amended by the 1972 Protocol, the 1971 Convention and the 1988 Convention, and the Central African Republic acceded to those conventions in October 2001. In addition, the United Republic of Tanzania acceded to the 1971 Convention in December 2000 and Mauritius acceded to the 1988 Convention in June 2001.

243. Angola, the Congo, Equatorial Guinea and Eritrea are not yet parties to any of the three main international drug control treaties. In addition, Algeria, Chad and Morocco have not yet acceded to the 1972 Protocol amending the 1961 Convention. Liberia is not yet a party to the 1971 Convention, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Gabon, Liberia, Namibia, Rwanda and Somalia are not yet parties to the 1988 Convention. As treaty adherence by all countries is essential to the effective functioning of the international drug control system, the Board urges the States concerned to accede to those conventions as a matter of urgency.

Regional cooperation

244. The Organization of African Unity (OAU) has strengthened its focal point for drugs for more sustained cooperation with the Governments of African countries and its drug control cooperation and coordination with African subregional organizations such as the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the Southern African Development Community. The first OAU ministerial conference on drug control and crime prevention will be held in February 2002.

245. ECOWAS is now conducting new activities against money-laundering, organized crime and trafficking in human beings and will also become a repository for drug control information and expertise from its member States.

246. In January 2001, the ministers for foreign affairs of Kenya, Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania signed the protocol on combating illicit drug trafficking in the East African Community. The three countries, together with Rwanda, have strengthened their cooperation in drug control through biennial meetings of heads of departments of investigation and drug control units.

247. The launching of a regional project on the control of licit substances in eastern Africa brought together in November 2000 the heads of the national drug regulatory authorities from the 13 countries in the subregion.⁵⁹ The meeting discussed the formulation of effective licit drug control policies and strategies in order to limit the use of controlled drugs to medical and scientific purposes.

248. The Board notes with appreciation the progress made in the judicial system through training in drug-related cases in southern and eastern Africa. By October 2001, training courses for a total of 92 investigators and prosecutors, 50 magistrates and 38 judges had been held in Harare, Zimbabwe, and Pretoria, South Africa. The South African Police Service has continued to provide drug interdiction courses and training on border control for police and customs officers from countries in southern Africa. The Board notes that the Centre for Judicial Training was established in Maputo, Mozambique, in April 2001 to provide training for public prosecutors, drug law enforcement officials and judicial officials.

National legislation, policy and action

249. Efforts are currently being made by a number of countries in Africa to update existing drug control laws and to prepare legislation to combat money-laundering.

250. The Board notes that the parliament of the Central African Republic has adopted new drug control legislation. In Egypt, a law was passed that will allow the Anti-Narcotics General Administration to keep for use in its operations a portion of the assets seized from drug traffickers who have been prosecuted and sentenced. At the same time, the Board notes with concern that the Financial Action Task Force on Money Laundering has included Egypt and Nigeria in the list of non-cooperative countries. The Board urges the Governments of those countries to expedite the drafting of legislation against money-laundering (see paragraph 263 below).

251. The Government of Malawi completed in 2001 a draft bill to update its drug control legislation so that it conforms with the 1988 Convention. Laws against money-laundering were adopted in Mauritius and Mozambique. Mauritius has also enacted a new drug control law that authorizes the freezing of assets used in or derived from drug trafficking and that facilitates undercover operations. In Morocco, the Government is updating legislation against money-laundering in order to fully meet the requirements of the 1988 Convention. The Government of Swaziland has completed a draft bill to update drug control legislation so that it conforms with the three international drug control treaties; the draft bill will be considered in the parliament before the end of 2001. The United Republic of Tanzania is currently reviewing drug control legislation in order to provide better control over licit narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and precursor chemicals.

252. The Government of Kenya appointed a national coordinator for drug abuse prevention activities in March 2001, and a national programme is being developed to increase public awareness of the dangers and consequences of drug abuse. In Nigeria, which has comprehensive drug control legislation and policies, the Government continues to accord high priority to drug control. In South Africa, several facilities for the treatment and rehabilitation of drug abusers were established in disadvantaged communities in three provinces in 2000. Plans are under way to provide similar assistance to three other provinces in 2001.

253. While many countries in Africa have already finalized or adopted national strategies and plans of action against drugs, the Board notes with concern that the necessary resources have not always been made available to implement those plans. The Board notes with satisfaction that, under a new national initiative addressing various aspects of drug control, the Government of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya is finalizing a new comprehensive strategy for drug control. In the Seychelles, a national drug control master plan was formulated in May 2001, in line with the Protocol on Combating Illicit Drugs Trafficking in the Southern African Development Community Region. The Governments of Madagascar and the United Republic of Tanzania are finalizing national drug control master plans. Concerned about the increased abuse of drugs, especially among youth, the Government of Rwanda has intensified its cooperation with other countries in eastern Africa to combat drug abuse and trafficking (see paragraph 246 above) and is taking steps to accede to the 1988 Convention. In Togo, the Government is implementing the comprehensive national drug control strategy that was adopted in 2000. The strategy provides for, inter alia, the strengthening of drug law enforcement and improvement of the drug control capacity at the port of Lomé, as well as drug abuse prevention and the treatment of drug addicts.

Cultivation, production, manufacture, trafficking and abuse

Narcotic drugs

254. Illicit cultivation of, trafficking in and abuse of cannabis continue throughout Africa. According to Interpol, 22 per cent of the cannabis herb seizures made worldwide in 2001 were effected in Africa. The main African source countries for cannabis smuggled into Europe continue to be Morocco and South Africa and, to a lesser degree, Ghana, Nigeria and Senegal. Morocco is the source of 60-70 per cent of the cannabis seized in Europe. Efforts of Moroccan law enforcement agencies have led to significant increases in seizures in recent years. The amount of cannabis smuggled into and out of sub-Saharan Africa continues to be significant, in spite of the fact that cannabis eradication efforts have been intensified. As for western Africa, it was reported that in 2000 more than 264 tons of cannabis were seized and more than 1,000 tons of cannabis plants were eradicated in

Nigeria; large seizures of cannabis were also effected in Ghana and Senegal. The potential for cannabis production in southern Africa (Lesotho, Malawi, South Africa and Swaziland) is estimated to exceed that of Morocco. While most of the cannabis grown in southern Africa is abused locally, some of it is being smuggled into Europe and North America. In eastern Africa, particularly in the Comoros, Ethiopia, Kenya, Madagascar, Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania, cannabis, which was once grown to supply a limited local market, has in recent years become a commercially significant crop. Law enforcement agencies are actively involved in countering the spillover effect of cannabis cultivation in eastern Africa. In February 2001, over 328 tons of cannabis grown in the area of Mount Kenya were destroyed by Kenyan law enforcement officers, and in June 2001 a joint operation led by the law enforcement agencies of Kenya and Uganda resulted in the destruction of large cannabis cultivation sites concealed in fields of maize along the common borders of those countries. Similar operations took place in the United Republic of Tanzania.

255. In Egypt, limited illicit opium poppy cultivation continues in the Sinai. Such cultivation seems to be moving towards more remote areas. Opium produced in the Sinai is abused locally, mostly in northern Egypt, though no illicit manufacture of heroin appears to be taking place in Egypt. No laboratories for illicit heroin manufacture have been discovered in Egypt in over 10 years. Although the abuse of heroin smuggled into Egypt is limited, it is increasing.

256. Africa continues to be a major transit area for heroin trafficking. Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana and Nigeria are used as major transit points for smuggling heroin from South-East Asia and South-West Asia. The heroin traffic is controlled by groups mainly from western Africa that are well entrenched in India, Pakistan and Thailand. According to Interpol, heroin from South-West Asia and South-East Asia and, more recently, from South America is packaged in Africa to be smuggled into Europe and North America. The total quantity of heroin seized in Africa has increased over the past few years. In eastern Africa, Uganda, Kenya and the United Republic of Tanzania have reported increases in heroin seizures. In that subregion, the transmission of HIV/AIDS via injecting drug abuse is still limited to the coastal areas of Kenya and to Mauritius. While heroin abuse continues to be at a

relatively low level in most countries in Africa, South Africa has seen an increase of 40 per cent in the number of intravenous heroin abusers over the last three years, raising concerns about the increased spread of HIV/AIDS infection in that country.

257. Trafficking in and abuse of cocaine have been increasing, particularly in western and southern Africa. In African countries, seizures of cocaine consignments from South America, intended for illicit markets in those countries and in Europe, continue to increase. While most of the cocaine seizures have involved consignments discovered at airports and in parcels from Argentina, Brazil, Ecuador and Peru, there is concern that the smuggling of cocaine by sea in containers may increase. Increased abuse of both cocaine powder and cocaine base ("crack") was reported in Mozambique, Senegal and South Africa. Because it is more affordable, the abuse of "crack" in South Africa is growing faster than the abuse of any other drug. Important transit points for the cocaine traffic are located in Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Lesotho, South Africa and Swaziland. Cocaine from Brazil is also shipped to Angola and then transported on roads through Namibia to South Africa. There is evidence of the spillover effect of the cocaine transit traffic: cocaine abuse has increased significantly in Angola and Namibia. There is growing concern that Morocco is becoming a transit country for Latin American cocaine consignments destined for Europe and that the abuse of cocaine and synthetic drugs in Morocco is increasing. Criminal organizations mainly smuggling drugs out of Morocco and into Europe appear to be the same or are closely linked to those smuggling migrants and engaged in money-laundering.

Psychotropic substances

258. The abuse of psychotropic substances continues to be a problem in many countries in Africa, particularly in major cities in southern, eastern and western Africa. Self-medication, the sale of licit drugs through unregulated channels (street hawkers, drug vendors, unauthorized retailers) and the sale of psychotropic substances without prescription are believed to be contributing to this development. In Nigeria and other countries in western Africa, various preparations containing amphetamine-type stimulants and benzodiazepines are still widely available in parallel markets. In view of the extensive abuse of ephedrine tablets in Ghana, the Government has

banned the manufacture and use of such tablets. The Government of Egypt has introduced stricter controls and penalties for stimulants. Most seizures of amphetamine-type stimulants in Africa are made in western Africa; in 1999, Nigeria alone accounted for three quarters of all seizures of amphetamine-type stimulants in Africa. In eastern Africa, a wide range of licit narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances are diverted into illicit channels and openly sold by street vendors in several cities. Those drugs, which include sedatives and codeine-based syrups, are used to offset the stimulant effects of khat (*Catha edulis*), while diazepam and phenobarbital are used in combination with other products to enhance the effects of locally brewed spirits.

259. Methaqualone continues to be abused mainly in countries in southern and eastern Africa and to some extent in western Africa. It is estimated that up to 80 per cent of the methaqualone illicitly manufactured worldwide may be abused in South Africa. As a result of the strengthening of control measures in South Asia, methaqualone is now illicitly manufactured in South Africa, as well as in some countries in eastern and southern Africa, as indicated by the detection in Mozambique and the United Republic of Tanzania of laboratories illicitly manufacturing methaqualone for the market in South Africa. Because the essential chemicals for the substance are being monitored, operators of clandestine laboratories are turning to chemicals not usually associated with methaqualone manufacture. In addition, methaqualone from India continues to be smuggled into South Africa through a number of countries in eastern and southern Africa, such as Kenya, Mozambique, Swaziland and the United Republic of Tanzania. Furthermore, according to Interpol reports, several large seizures of methaqualone effected in South Africa indicate that the substance is being smuggled along a route leading from China to Africa.

260. In Africa, trafficking in and abuse of MDMA (Ecstasy) are still largely confined to South Africa. According to Interpol, since 1998, there has been a large increase in the amount of MDMA (Ecstasy) being smuggled out of Europe and into South Africa; there is some concern that African groups trafficking in cocaine, heroin and other illicit drugs may soon begin trafficking in MDMA (Ecstasy).

Other issues

261. Khat, a substance not under international control, continues to be cultivated and abused in eastern Africa. It is also smuggled into some countries in Europe and North America. Khat is a substance currently under control only in the United Republic of Tanzania, though Eritrea is also taking steps to place it under control. In Nigeria, the use of "zakami" (*Datura metel*), a plant that grows wild in some parts of the country, is an emerging problem. The abuse of solvents, glues and thinners, currently most prevalent among marginalized youth and street children, continues in most countries in Africa.

Missions

262. The Board sent a mission to Egypt in May 2001. The Board highly appreciates the commitment of the Government of Egypt to international drug control. That commitment is reflected in vigorous measures to prevent illicit drug trafficking, such as eradicating the illicit cultivation of opium poppy and cannabis in the Sinai peninsula. Those efforts have been facilitated by close cooperation between the various law enforcement agencies. The Board invites the Government of Egypt to share with other Governments its commendable approaches to dealing with various aspects of the drug problem and its experience in implementing the international drug control treaties.

263. The Board trusts that the authorities of Egypt will maintain the high intensity of their drug interdiction activities and will continue to enhance their efforts to seize and confiscate the proceeds of crime and to implement measures against money-laundering (see paragraph 250 above).

264. The Government of Egypt should continue to strengthen its efforts to reduce illicit drug demand, in order to ensure a balance between reducing illicit drug supply and demand. Through more continuous assessment, detailed information can be obtained on the extent of and trends in drug abuse. The Board appreciates the activities already under way in the area of primary prevention, in particular activities aimed at protecting youth. The Board welcomes the emphasis placed by the authorities on following an integrated multidisciplinary approach. The Board appreciates that the Government is taking initiatives to strengthen its services for the treatment of addicts and to develop diverse activities for the rehabilitation and social

reintegration of addicts, in cooperation with non-governmental organizations. The Board welcomes the holding of the National Conference on Demand Reduction in Cairo in April 2001 for the development of a comprehensive strategy for the reduction of illicit drug demand.

265. Pharmaceutical preparations containing psychotropic substances continue to be available in Egypt without prescription, resulting in the abuse of those preparations, especially by youth. The competent authorities should strictly enforce the prescription requirement for such preparations in order to prevent their diversion and abuse. At the same time, however, the availability of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances for the sick has to be enhanced. The Board acknowledges the efforts of the authorities of Egypt to cooperate with the Board in the control of licit activities related to narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances. The Board welcomes the determination of the Government to strengthen coordination among the agencies responsible for the control of precursors.

266. The Board sent a mission to Eritrea in April 2001. Eritrea is making preparations to accede to the three international drug control treaties. The Board recognizes that accession to the treaties may have been difficult for Eritrea in the years following its independence because of the conflicts prevailing in the area. The Board urges Eritrea to accede to the treaties as peace returns to the country.

267. The Board notes that, while illicit drug-related activities in Eritrea are currently being reduced to a minimum, there is a need for the country to be better prepared to prevent it from being targeted by criminal organizations. The coast of the Red Sea is a particularly vulnerable area, given that drug trafficking is known to occur along the east coast of Africa.

268. The Board welcomes the efforts of Eritrea to prevent the development of a market for khat, as has happened in other countries in Africa. The Board looks forward to the planned revision of domestic criminal law that will make khat illegal.

269. A mission of the Board visited Morocco in June 2001 to discuss with the Government the problems of national and international drug control, particularly cannabis cultivation and illicit trafficking in cannabis products. Large-scale cannabis cultivation

has continued in Morocco, which remains one of the world's main sources of cannabis resin.

270. Cannabis is cultivated in Morocco to satisfy domestic demand and to produce cannabis resin that is smuggled into Europe. There are no reliable estimates of the extent of cannabis cultivation. The Government of Morocco has recognized that there is an urgent need to initiate action aimed at eradicating cannabis. The Board would like to emphasize that the eradication of the cannabis plants from which drugs are extracted is the responsibility of the Government. The Board urges the Government of Morocco to elaborate a concrete eradication plan. At the same time, as Europe constitutes the main market on which Moroccan cannabis is sold, the Board calls upon the Governments of European countries to provide adequate assistance to those eradication efforts.

271. The Board notes the willingness expressed by the Government of Morocco to ratify the 1972 Protocol amending the 1961 Convention and expects that Morocco will quickly proceed to become a party to the 1961 Convention in its amended form. Morocco ratified the 1988 Convention in 1992; however, almost 10 years later, legislation translating the provisions of the 1988 Convention into national law has still not been adopted. The Board urges the Government of Morocco to accelerate the enactment of such legislation.

272. In May 2001, the Board reviewed the progress by the Government of Gabon on recommendations made by the Board pursuant to its 1998 mission to that country. The Board is pleased to note that, after nearly 10 years, Gabon has resumed submitting data related to the licit trade in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, as required under the 1961 Convention as amended by the 1972 Protocol and under the 1971 Convention.

273. The Board notes that Gabon has not yet deposited its instrument of accession to the 1988 Convention and that the country continues to lack the necessary legislation to control precursor chemicals. The Board encourages Gabon to act on those issues without further delay.

B. Americas

274. At the Summit of the Americas held in Québec City, Canada, in April 2001, States pledged to cooperate on regional measures against organized crime, money-laundering, diversion of precursor chemicals, and trafficking in drugs and arms, all of which pose major challenges to the Americas.

275. Under the Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism, the Inter-American Drug Abuse Commission (CICAD) of OAS has issued several recommendations for member States, including one on strengthening international cooperation with countries outside the Americas and international organizations, in order to respond more effectively to transnational developments in the drug problem. Moreover, in the recommendations, States are encouraged to adopt and ratify international conventions and other instruments on drug control and related matters, in particular those addressing corruption and organized crime. Bilateral and multilateral agreements are also promoted, including agreements for the exchange of expertise and intelligence in law enforcement and demand reduction. States are also encouraged to make use of and support regional mechanisms such as the Inter-American Observatory on Drugs. The Board requests all States to carefully review the recommendations and take the necessary steps to improve regional cooperation in matters concerning drug control and the prevention of drug abuse.

276. The first hemispheric report of the Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism, approved by CICAD in December 2000, provided an initial frame of reference for further evaluation of the progress made by individual OAS member States, and the Americas in general, in the Anti-Drug Strategy in the Hemisphere, agreed upon by OAS member States in 1997. The report emphasized the need to assess the human, social and economic cost of the drug problem in the Americas. The Inter-American System of Uniform Drug-Use Data (SIDUC) is providing support to the Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism by establishing a framework for unifying and comparing data from different sources. The Board welcomes the extensive data collection by CICAD; however, the Board wishes to remind Governments that reporting to CICAD is not a substitute for the reporting obligations of countries under the international drug control treaties.

277. Combined operations by law enforcement agencies of nearly 30 countries in Central America and the Caribbean and South America, part of a joint task force initiated by the United States, continue to be successful. During 2000, drug trafficking organizations based in different countries in the Americas were dismantled and over 50 tons of cocaine were seized, representing a significant share of the total amount of cocaine reported seized in those regions in that year. Large amounts of assets, precursor chemicals, weapons, planes, vehicles and boats were confiscated, and several key criminals in drug trafficking were arrested.

278. The Board appreciates that the CICAD Meeting of the Group of Experts on Chemicals (Pharmaceuticals), held in Washington, D.C., in August 2001, proposed further study of the problems of diversion and abuse of pharmaceuticals. Recommendations of the Experts included the development of model regulations to assist countries in updating their legislation, an integrated national information system for pharmaceuticals and a reference guide of elements that should be included in national control systems.

Central America and the Caribbean

Major developments

279. Main routes used by traffickers to transport illicit drugs from South America to illicit markets in North America continue to pass through Central America and the Caribbean. In addition to the smuggling of cannabis produced in the region and of cocaine and heroin from South America, traffickers have diversified their activities so that they also smuggle psychotropic substances, mainly MDMA (Ecstasy) from European sources.

280. There has been a noticeable increase in firearms trafficking along drug trafficking routes, together with an increase in other criminal activities associated with the illicit drug trade, such as trafficking in persons and motor vehicle theft. There is also evidence that drug abuse has increased as a spillover effect of the drug trafficking in Central America and the Caribbean. Governments of countries in the region are increasingly becoming aware of the need to have better information about the magnitude of the drug problem

and to make efforts at the national and international levels to respond to the problem in various areas, such as drug abuse evaluation, reduction of illicit drug supply and demand, interdiction, fighting money-laundering and corruption, and chemical and pharmaceutical controls.

Treaty adherence

281. All States in Central America and the Caribbean are parties to the 1988 Convention. The Board calls once more on Belize and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines to accede to the 1961 Convention as amended by the 1972 Protocol and to the 1971 Convention. The Board also calls on Haiti, Honduras and Saint Lucia to become parties to the 1971 Convention and on Nicaragua to ratify the 1972 Protocol amending the 1961 Convention.

Regional cooperation

282. The Caribbean Drug Control Coordination Mechanism continues to act as a forum for monitoring progress in implementing measures of the Plan of Action on Drug Control Coordination in the Caribbean (also known as the Barbados Plan of Action), which was agreed to by the Governments of Caribbean States in 1996 and reviewed in 2001. The Board trusts that Governments will carefully assess the progress made under the Barbados Plan of Action.

283. The increasing use by drug traffickers of new technology such as improved communications technology or the electronic transfer of funds is a particular challenge to States in the Caribbean. Significant progress has been made in combating transnational crime and money-laundering in the subregion, as well as in judicial reform and developing national drug control strategies, through coordinating bodies such as CICAD, the Caribbean Community and the Caribbean Financial Action Task Force.

284. A computerized system that enables customs authorities to track small vessels, which was introduced by the Caribbean Customs Law Enforcement Council in 1999, has been further extended. That Council has also assessed controls at major airports in the Caribbean and completed a number of training initiatives, including training in container profiling.

285. The Board notes that progress has been achieved in improving regional cooperation in combating

money-laundering; the Office of National Drug and Money-Laundering Control Policy in Antigua and Barbuda has been proposed as the base for a rapid response unit for handling drug-related crime. The Caribbean Council of Forensic Laboratory Heads has established an office in Barbados, and the capabilities of forensic laboratories in some Caribbean States and in Belize have been improved. The Board also notes several initiatives to coordinate and enhance activities aimed at drug abuse prevention and the reduction of illicit drug demand throughout the Caribbean.

286. In Central America, countries continue to participate in multilateral law enforcement and illicit crop eradication operations. The Board encourages the permanent Central American commission for the eradication of illicit drug production, trafficking and use, to finalize the agreed subregional plan of action, which is based on the first hemispheric report of the Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism.

287. There are numerous bilateral arrangements for maritime law enforcement in Central America and the Caribbean. Costa Rica and Honduras have each signed a bilateral agreement with the United States of America, and Guatemala and Nicaragua are each negotiating such an agreement with the United States. Considering the large number of island States and territories in the Caribbean and their vulnerability to maritime drug trafficking, the Board urges States to conclude the planned maritime law enforcement agreement for that subregion.

National legislation, policy and action

288. In Central America and the Caribbean, significant progress has been made in preparing legislation and formulating policies on drug control, often with the assistance of regional or international organizations. That progress will provide the framework for enhanced law enforcement capabilities, improved monitoring of the movement of controlled substances and more effective action in drug abuse prevention and demand reduction.

289. Most countries in Central America and the Caribbean have adopted national drug control strategies in recent years. In 2001, Saint Kitts and Nevis adopted a national drug control plan with specific targets for reducing illicit drug trafficking over a five-year period. The Governments of the Bahamas, Barbados and Haiti are finalizing similar national plans

and the Board hopes that they will be adopted soon and effectively implemented. The Board urges Antigua and Barbuda, El Salvador, Nicaragua and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines to prepare and adopt comprehensive national drug control plans to ensure coordination between the different agencies responsible for national drug control policy.

290. Few of the island States in the Caribbean have undertaken studies to assess the drug situation, even when conducting such studies is included as a priority in their national drug control master plans. Reliable and comparable data on substance abuse in the subregion are still not available. States are urged to establish data collection systems, in order to determine patterns of drug abuse, and to disseminate such data, including the results of epidemiological studies. States are encouraged to take full advantage of regional and international technical assistance, where necessary. The Board notes that a Caribbean drug information network was launched in July 2001 to increase the available knowledge about drug abuse in the subregion and thereby improve responses to changing drug abuse problems and trends.

291. The Board encourages the Governments of countries in Central America and the Caribbean to ensure that adequate funds are allocated to initiatives for the reduction of illicit drug demand, including initiatives for the treatment and rehabilitation of drug abusers, as well as drug abuse prevention. It notes that some countries in the region have demonstrated their resourcefulness by using the seized assets of drug traffickers to implement drug control initiatives. Although many Caribbean countries depend heavily on donor aid to implement drug control policy, balancing domestic spending between supply reduction (interdiction) activities and demand reduction activities remains an important task of national coordinating bodies.

292. In Costa Rica, drug control activities have been streamlined by merging three separate drug control bodies into the national institute on drugs, which will be able to utilize seized assets.

293. The Board encourages the expansion of initiatives in Central America and the Caribbean that promote life skills to help young people resist pressure to become involved in drug abuse and illicit trafficking. While there have been initiatives throughout the region to introduce programmes for the treatment and

rehabilitation of drug abusers, some countries still lack programmes and have not yet adopted minimum care standards. The Board notes action taken on this issue by CICAD member States and trusts that further progress will be made in countries in which such programmes are inadequate.

294. Although there is hardly any illicit drug manufacture in Central America and the Caribbean, traffickers may use countries in the region for the diversion of precursors used to manufacture illicit drugs in North America or South America. The Board therefore urges those countries that have not yet done so to introduce adequate legislation on, and mechanisms for, monitoring international trade in precursors without delay. States without precursor control legislation should take steps to implement at least minimum levels of control, not only to prevent the diversion of precursors, but also to prevent the manufacture of synthetic drugs and their abuse from gaining a foothold in the region.

295. Further progress in the implementation of money-laundering legislation is crucial to Central America and the Caribbean. Recently, some countries in the region have succeeded in convicting criminals for money-laundering offences. The Board encourages States to adopt all the necessary instruments to prevent money-laundering. In June 2001, the Financial Action Task Force on Money Laundering removed the Bahamas, the Cayman Islands and Panama from the list of countries and territories that it considered uncooperative in efforts to counter money-laundering, while Grenada and Guatemala were added to the list. Dominica, Saint Kitts and Nevis and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines remain on the list, although Dominica and Saint Kitts and Nevis both introduced further legislation related to money-laundering in 2001. Antigua and Barbuda and Grenada have also strengthened their legislation against money-laundering. Haiti has introduced new legislation against money-laundering and a system for reporting suspicious transactions and has become a member of the Caribbean Financial Action Task Force. Following the enacting of various decrees in December 2000 to enhance measures against money-laundering, the Bahamas established a financial intelligence unit. In Barbados, an authority for combating money-laundering and a financial intelligence unit began operations in September 2001. Proposals for a financial investigation unit for the eastern Caribbean are being considered.

296. A number of countries in Central America and the Caribbean still do not have legislation in place to allow the transfer of court proceedings from one national jurisdiction to another, as recommended in the Barbados Plan of Action. Many States in the region have signed bilateral agreements on mutual legal assistance and extradition, but progress on signing an intra-Caribbean treaty has been slow. The Board welcomes the agreement by the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States on ground rules for mutual legal cooperation and a checklist designed to expedite requests for legal assistance. There has been a proposal for a study to be conducted on the feasibility of establishing a regional pool of prosecutors to handle major criminal cases. Alternatives to criminal sentencing for drug offences are also being considered in the Caribbean; for example, in Barbados and Trinidad and Tobago, community service is being considered as an alternative. In Jamaica, special courts for hearing cases involving drug-related offences have been introduced. The Cayman Islands is preparing to introduce such courts, and Belize and Bermuda are also considering them. It is important that judicial personnel receive the necessary training; the Board notes initiatives such as mentor programmes in the eastern Caribbean and the training of drug control investigators in the Dominican Republic.

297. The Board welcomes the continued cooperation of the authorities in Cuba with their counterparts in other countries in the Caribbean and in the United States in drug law enforcement activities, including marine interdiction efforts. In 2000, 12 tons of illicit drugs were seized in Cuba. Cuba amended its penal code so that drug traffickers may be punished more severely.

Cultivation, production, manufacture, trafficking and abuse

Narcotic drugs

298. Cannabis, the only drug crop cultivated in the Caribbean, remains an important source of income in Jamaica and on certain other islands in the subregion. The Board calls on all States in the Caribbean where cannabis is cultivated to ensure they have a mechanism in place to determine the cannabis cultivation sites in order to eradicate them and combat trafficking in the substance. All countries in Central America have also reported cannabis cultivation, although the extent of

that cultivation is limited. Small-scale opium poppy cultivation continues to be reported in Guatemala.

299. Cannabis trafficking and cocaine transit trafficking are predominant in Central America and the Caribbean. There is also increasing evidence that synthetic drugs from Europe and heroin from South America are being smuggled through Central America and the Caribbean and into the United States. The Caribbean route used for smuggling cocaine into North America continues to be important, as controls at the Mexican border with the United States tighten, particularly in reaction to the recent terrorist attacks in the United States. Drug traffickers have been taking advantage of the unstable political situation in Haiti by routing drugs through that country and the Dominican Republic to the United States, as indicated by the fact that the amount of cocaine seized in the Dominican Republic during the first six months of 2001 was three times higher than the amount seized during the same period of the previous year. Nonetheless, it is estimated that nearly one half of the cocaine that arrives in the United States each year (approximately 375 tons) comes through Central America and the Mexican land corridor. The fact that law enforcement authorities are intercepting illicit drug consignments weighing several tons on boats along the Pacific route shows how important that route has become.

300. Most of the drug consignments from Central America and the Caribbean that are smuggled into Europe are hidden on commercial airliners rather than in containers. At Schiphol airport near Amsterdam, seizures of cocaine totalled 4.3 tons in 2000; the seized consignments had been sent by airfreight or by courier, and one consignment from Netherlands Antilles weighed 750 kg. Costa Rica and Panama are also important transit points used for shipping on a small scale illicit drug consignments by air to Europe.

301. Governments of countries in Central America have expressed concern that Colombian drug trafficking organizations may establish laboratories for processing cocaine in the subregion, with a view to developing the subregional market as a response to the increased pressure created by Plan Colombia. All transit countries in the subregion have reported an increase in drug abuse, as middlemen are being paid in kind and the availability of illicit drugs at the local level has risen, as have drug-related crime and violence. The abuse of "crack" cocaine is of particular

concern. For example, the preferred drug of abuse among street children in the Dominican Republic is reported to be shifting from inhalants to cocaine and "crack" because they are more readily available. Heroin abuse is also on the increase. Although comparative drug abuse studies have not been carried out in countries in Central America and the Caribbean, existing data indicate that the average age of first use of illicit drugs has fallen and the annual incidence of new drug abusers has risen in several countries in the region.

Psychotropic substances

302. In Central America and the Caribbean, reporting on illicit activities involving psychotropic substances remains limited, but trafficking in such substances is increasing throughout the subregion. Traffickers smuggling cocaine into Europe return with MDMA (Ecstasy), most of which is then smuggled into the United States. Seizures of amphetamine, MDMA (Ecstasy) and lysergic acid diethylamide (LSD) have been reported in the Bahamas, the Cayman Islands, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic and Netherlands Antilles. In 2000, law enforcement cooperation between Panama and the United States resulted in the dismantling of a trafficking ring based in the Netherlands that had been using Panama as a bridge for smuggling MDMA (Ecstasy) and heroin into the United States.

Missions

303. In March 2001, the Board sent a mission to the Dominican Republic. Its geographical position, including its border with Haiti, has made the Dominican Republic an important trans-shipment point for illicit drug consignments destined mainly for the United States.

304. Free trade zones, the strong gambling sector and government promotion of foreign investment in the construction and tourist industries make the Dominican Republic attractive to money-launderers. The Board notes the recent successes achieved in prosecuting money-laundering activities in the country and urges the Government to take all steps necessary to strengthen its prosecution capability. Controls in free trade zones are essential to ensuring that such zones are not exploited by drug traffickers.

305. The Board urges the Government of the Dominican Republic to formally adopt a five-year national master plan against drugs that had been prepared some years ago, including the modifications necessary to meet its criteria. Due attention has to be paid to the institutional framework for coordinating drug control policies and to reallocating sufficient resources for the implementation of the plan.

306. The Board commends the efforts made by the National Directorate of Drug Control and the National Drug Council of the Dominican Republic to meet drug control treaty obligations but believes that further efforts are needed to strengthen coordination with other agencies responsible for the control over licit activities related to narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances. The existing control mechanisms should be reviewed to prevent criminal activities such as falsifying prescriptions of controlled substances, the diversion of such substances from wholesalers and the operation of illicit laboratories or pharmacies.

307. In March 2001, the Board sent a mission to Jamaica. The Board notes the efforts made by the Jamaican law enforcement authorities to manually eradicate cannabis, the most widely available drug in the country, which is illicitly cultivated in mountainous and swampy areas that are difficult to access.

308. The Board is concerned about the widespread opinion in Jamaica that cannabis is not a harmful drug. This view, which is widespread among the younger members of the population, is believed to contribute to the high levels of cannabis abuse throughout the country, despite the fact that health education has been introduced in the school curriculum. The possession and abuse of cannabis should continue to be criminally sanctioned in accordance with the international drug control treaties. The Board is concerned over the high cannabis-related crime rate and the smuggling of substantial quantities of cannabis out of the country, mainly into the United States.

309. The Board shares the concern of the Jamaican authorities about the sharp increase in the smuggling of cocaine from South America through Jamaica into North America over the last 2-3 years and the related flow of smuggled firearms in the opposite direction. The Board is satisfied that, in order to address that situation, Jamaica is actively cooperating in drug control matters with its neighbours, especially with the

United States in the area of extradition and maritime law enforcement.

310. In May 2001, the Board reviewed action taken by Belize pursuant to recommendations by the Board after its mission to that country in April 1998. The Board notes with satisfaction the steps taken by Belize towards monitoring the trade in and movement of psychotropic substances, including the creation of an inspectorate programme in April 2001, and the drafting of legislation for the control of chemical substances. The Board notes that the Government has adopted a national drug control strategy that covers all areas of drug control and contains an evaluation component. However, despite repeated calls by the Board and other international bodies, Belize remains the only country in Central America that has not acceded to either the 1961 Convention or the 1971 Convention. The Board urges Belize to become a party to those treaties without further delay.

North America

Major developments

311. In Canada and the United States, cocaine abuse appears to be stabilizing and, in many parts of those countries, even declining. The abuse of “crack” is diminishing in the United States as the addict population is ageing. While heroin abuse is generally stagnating in those countries, an upward trend among young people may be emerging.

312. The Board remains concerned about the health and social costs of cannabis abuse in North America. In the United States, cannabis is commonly used in combination with other illicit drugs such as stimulants, and the number of primary treatment admissions for cannabis abuse has increased.

313. In the United States, widely prescribed narcotic drugs such as oxycodone and amphetamine-type stimulants are finding their way to illicit markets. In Mexico, drug abuse continues to be much lower than in Canada and the United States; however, in the northern border area, drug abuse levels are as much as three times the national average.

314. Established drug trafficking organizations are involved in the synthetic drug market, and “polydrug trafficking” is spreading. A wide range of drugs have

become more easily available, and polydrug abuse has increased. MDMA (Ecstasy) from western Europe is increasingly being smuggled into North America, where the substance has started to be illicitly manufactured as well.

315. Mexico continues to be a major gateway for cocaine consignments from Colombia destined for North America. The Board notes with appreciation that the Government of Mexico has stepped up its law enforcement efforts, which include intensified patrolling operations by the Mexican Navy and law enforcement agencies in the Gulf of Mexico and along the Pacific coast.

316. The Government of Canada has passed a regulation allowing individuals to access cannabis for medical purposes, although the medical usefulness of the drug has not been proved and the action was explicitly opposed by the Canadian Medical Association. There has been legislative activity in the same direction in various states in the United States; however, United States authorities have forestalled moves towards such use of cannabis. The issue of control of cannabis is covered more extensively in chapter II of the present report.

Treaty adherence

317. All States in North America are parties to the 1961 Convention as amended by the 1972 Protocol, the 1971 Convention and the 1988 Convention.

Regional cooperation

318. The Board notes the high-level cooperation between the Governments of Mexico and the United States in the area of drug control policy. The Attorney General of each of those countries and the National Security Advisor of Mexico are leading a new working group on legal affairs and drug control cooperation. The Board welcomes confidence-building measures on both sides of the border that will be useful in joint operations against drug trafficking groups. The Board notes that anti-corruption measures have been strengthened in Mexico. A memorandum of understanding signed by the Governments of Mexico and the United States will allow each of them an equal share of seized drug assets, to be used in the fight against drug trafficking.

319. The Government of Mexico is promoting closer cooperation with other Latin American States to ensure adequate exchange of information on drug trafficking by air and sea. Such cooperation is not limited to combating the smuggling of cocaine through Mexico into the United States and Canada; it also includes combating illicit manufacture of and trafficking in methamphetamine in Mexico and the western parts of the United States.

320. Close cooperation between the law enforcement authorities of Canada and the United States in intelligence-sharing and conducting joint investigations and operations continues to yield positive results. In 2000, those successes included the seizure of a total of over 2 tons of cocaine in the Bahamas and in Florida, in the United States, the arrest of airport employees involved in shipping illicit drugs from South America to Canada and the investigation of a methamphetamine trafficking group.

National legislation, policy and action

321. A regulation allowing individuals to access cannabis for medical purposes came into effect in Canada in July 2001, after an appeal court ruled that prohibiting cannabis possession under the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act was unconstitutional. Patients with certain terminal or chronic illnesses can now apply for exemption from prosecution if they use cannabis. The Board shares the concerns expressed by the Canadian Medical Association, pointing to the burden on physicians to approve the use of cannabis by patients in the absence of conclusive research into the safety of its use for medical purposes.

322. The Board, recalling the concerns expressed in its previous reports over the absence of adequate controls in Canada over precursors and other chemicals used in illicit drug manufacture,⁶⁰ welcomes the progress made by the Government of Canada in introducing legislation to control precursor chemicals. Consultations with the chemical industry and other interest groups have been conducted, and the Board now urges the timely adoption and implementation of that legislation. Clandestine methamphetamine laboratories in the United States often obtain chemicals from Canada; almost 43 million pseudoephedrine tablets of Canadian origin were seized at a border crossing in April 2001, enough to produce 2,300 kg of methamphetamine. The Board therefore also welcomes the establishment of the

National Precursor Chemical Diversion Program by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police.

323. In Canada, as a result of Operation Springtime 2001, 138 members and associates of motorcycle groups in Quebec were arrested for drug trafficking, and considerable assets and information concerning their operations were seized. The motorcycle groups are believed to have distributed at least 2,400 kg of cocaine in 2000.

324. The Board notes that the Government of Canada has included all benzodiazepines in its national legislation, thereby enabling the authorities to better prevent their diversion to illicit markets. The Board also notes that authorities in Canada and the United States have recalled, for health reasons, all products containing the controlled substance norephedrine.

325. In Mexico, additional national legislation against money-laundering has been adopted to facilitate the reporting of large financial transactions and automated systems have been introduced to assist in the investigations of cases involving money-laundering, although so far there have been few convictions. In Canada, the Financial Transactions and Report Analysis Center became fully operational in 2001; and police authorities hosted in Montreal in October 2001 the International Money Laundering Conference, where new trends in money-laundering were examined.

326. In Mexico, a decision of the Supreme Court of Justice of the Nation has resulted in the extradition of several well-known drug traffickers to the United States. Mexican police have also arrested key traffickers involved in smuggling cocaine and amphetamines into the United States.

327. Judicial and law enforcement bodies in Mexico are being restructured and strengthened. In 2002, three bodies dealing with organized crime, drug control and money-laundering will be brought together under the Office of the Attorney General to improve consistency in the judicial process and law enforcement powers. Other restructuring measures are aimed at increasing the effectiveness of the Federal Judicial Police, which has recently been renamed the Federal Investigation Agency.

328. The Government of Mexico is taking steps to ensure coordination between the various agencies responsible for implementing the national drug control programme, and numerous actions have been planned

to address drug dependency. A programme for the reduction of illicit drug demand was introduced in all schools, a media campaign to increase drug awareness was launched and controls on the sale of inhalants to minors are being enforced. The Government is looking at ways to make drug addiction prevention councils available in all districts.

329. The United States, in its National Drug Control Strategy, has set a number of targets for illicit drug supply and demand reduction under its performance measures of effectiveness, the first of which are to be achieved by the year 2002. The Board welcomes the continuation of demand reduction initiatives, including the National Youth Anti-Drug Media Campaign, and notes that significant additional government funds have been allocated to law enforcement participation in initiatives such as the Safe and Drug-Free Schools Program. The Board trusts that the findings from the evaluation of the next phase of the Media Campaign, to take place in 2002, will be shared with other interested Governments.

330. Penalties for illicit manufacture of methamphetamine have been increased in the United States, where the abuse of that substance has spread from the western and south-western states to new areas and social groups. An inter-agency task force has proposed recommendations and research priorities for gathering information to be used to prepare a national strategy for prevention, education, treatment and law enforcement. Penalties for trafficking in MDMA (Ecstasy) have also been increased.

Cultivation, production, manufacture, trafficking and abuse

Narcotic drugs

331. The level of abuse of cannabis, the most common drug of abuse in North America, has remained relatively stable in Canada and the United States; however, it is increasingly being used in combination with stimulants. Mexican authorities continue to seize large consignments of cannabis destined for Canada and the United States. Illicit cannabis cultivation in Canada and the United States continues to be a lucrative, well-organized industry and a major concern to the law enforcement agencies of those countries.

332. In the United States, there has been an increase in the number of persons admitted primarily for treatment

of cannabis abuse. Analysis of data on persons admitted for treatment will further clarify the cause of admission, such as judicial system referrals, use of more potent cannabis strains or multiple drug abuse.

333. After having stabilized in recent years, there is now evidence that heroin abuse may be increasing among young people in Canada and the United States. Heroin prices have plummeted and the increased purity of heroin has made it easier for addicts to snort or smoke the substance rather than inject it. In British Columbia, Canada, injection of heroin has led to high rates of overdose and HIV/AIDS and hepatitis C infection. Local authorities have reacted by introducing more drug abuse prevention and treatment programmes for youth. The Board encourages authorities to increase their efforts to reduce the demand for heroin but discourages them from considering proposals for opening sites where addicts can inject illicit drugs, which would be in contravention of the international drug control treaties.

334. On the west coast of Canada, much of the illicit heroin is smuggled into the country from South-East Asia. The criminal groups involved in those operations are becoming more and more organized. They are also becoming more active in cocaine trafficking in Canada.

335. The results of surveys and studies indicating stabilization of cocaine abuse in North America correlate with the fact that there was no increase in cocaine seizures in the region between 1999 and 2000. As law enforcement pressure in Mexico and the Caribbean increases, more of the cocaine being smuggled into Canada and the United States out of South America is arriving via the eastern Pacific route, in containers and aboard “go-fast” boats and fishing vessels. A number of seizures of several tons of cocaine each were made in the Pacific in 2001, including one that amounted to 13 tons—the largest maritime seizure of cocaine ever made. Trafficking groups that bring cocaine overland from the United States to British Columbia in Canada sometimes trade the cocaine for Canadian cannabis.

336. In Mexico, data show that the abuse of cannabis, cocaine and heroin is increasing, although it has remained at a level that is considerably lower than the level in Canada and the United States. In Mexico, seizures of cannabis and heroin have increased in recent years, while seizures of cocaine have fluctuated.

The level of drug abuse in Mexico is highest in the districts closest to the border with the United States.

Psychotropic substances

337. In North America, criminal groups are competing for control over a growing illicit market for MDMA (Ecstasy) that is mainly trafficked from western Europe but is also increasingly being manufactured locally. In Canada, clandestine laboratories found to be manufacturing MDMA (Ecstasy) and MDA were also manufacturing other synthetic drugs. MDMA (Ecstasy) tablets often contain other controlled chemicals or illicit drugs. Deaths resulting from the ingestion of MDMA (Ecstasy) tablets containing paramethoxy-amphetamine (PMA) continue to be recorded in the United States.

338. The availability and abuse of MDMA (Ecstasy) have continued to spread beyond the “rave” scene to other settings, such as the military, and other age groups, such as schoolchildren as young as 12 years old. Multiple drug abuse is common. In the United States, a rise in the abuse of benzodiazepines and other prescription drugs to alleviate the stimulant effects of MDMA (Ecstasy) has been noted among adolescents; for the same reason, stimulant abusers also abuse cannabis.

339. There has also been a rise in the abuse of the “club drugs” ketamine and GHB. In Canada, cash sales of *gamma*-butyrolactone (GBL), the main precursor chemical for GHB, have increased significantly and there are also reports of GBL being sold through the Internet. Canadian law enforcement officers have seized ketamine, often together with methamphetamine, in shipments originating in China.

340. The illicit supply of and demand for methamphetamine continue to be widespread in North America. Clandestine laboratories in Mexico are still a primary source of the methamphetamine sold on illicit markets in Canada and the United States, but the number of clandestine methamphetamine laboratories in Canada and the United States is also increasing. In the year 2000, 26 clandestine methamphetamine laboratories were dismantled in Canada and thousands were dismantled in the United States. In addition to the health problems caused by the abuse of methamphetamine, the laboratories themselves create a large amount of toxic waste that poses a significant threat to the environment.

341. In 2000, a national survey in the United States showed that 3.8 million people were abusing prescription drugs (pain relievers, tranquilizers, stimulants and sedatives), most of which were under international control. The Board notes an initiative launched by the National Institute on Drug Abuse, together with other organizations in the United States, to raise public awareness of the dangers of abusing prescription drugs; the Board urges continued action in that area. The Board also welcomes guidelines for doctors, pharmacists, law enforcement and regulatory authorities and the public concerning the use of the Internet for dispensing, purchasing and importing medications. In the guidelines it is explained that only properly licensed importers can use the Internet to import controlled substances and that consumers cannot.

342. The Board is concerned about legal loopholes in the United States that make possible public advertising of prescription drugs; in particular, methylphenidate is now being advertised. Methylphenidate, which is widely prescribed for the treatment of ADD in children, is being diverted for abuse by schoolchildren.

343. In Canada and the United States, the abuse of benzodiazepines continues to be common and the abuse of licit opiates, including hydrocodone, hydromorphone and, above all, oxycodone, is also increasing. The seizure in the United Kingdom of tablets of oxycodone from the United States is an indication that a global illicit market for that substance may be developing. The Board notes that one pharmaceutical supplier has agreed to reformulate its oxycodone product to prevent its abuse.

Other substances

344. Canadian police are concerned about the increasing number of operations involving hallucinogenic mushrooms of the genus *Psilocybe* that have emerged on Vancouver Island in British Columbia, fuelled by the trend towards psychedelic "rave" drugs. Spores and instructions for growing are easily obtained through advertising on the Internet.

South America

Major developments

345. Coca bush continues to be cultivated exclusively in South America, the overall levels of production of coca leaf remaining stable despite fluctuations in individual countries and the abuse of cocaine increasing for the most part, particularly in transit countries such as Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Ecuador and Venezuela. Bolivia and Peru are the only countries in the region in which the abuse of cocaine appears to have decreased. Cultivation of coca bush has been significantly reduced in those countries in recent years. Opium poppy cultivation and heroin production appear to be on the increase in some countries in the Andean subregion, where the extent of cultivation and production capacity is uncertain. The level of abuse of heroin in South America is still low compared with that of other drugs and other regions, although the level of heroin abuse has increased in Argentina, Colombia and Ecuador. Cannabis cultivation continues to be widespread in South America. Cannabis cultivated in South American countries is mostly abused within those countries.

346. In Colombia, increased interdiction efforts within the framework of the Plan for Peace, Prosperity and the Strengthening of the State (Plan Colombia) have raised concerns that traffickers are moving some narcotics activities into neighbouring countries. A regional counter-drug initiative aimed at expanding the scope of Plan Colombia with related actions in other countries has been put forward to address those concerns. The initiative will cover interdiction, illicit crop eradication, alternative development, enhancing security and strengthening institutions in Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Panama, Peru and Venezuela and will have the financial and technical support of the United States. National activities to counteract the displacement of narcotic activities, such as the programme for alternative development and social care launched by Ecuador in April 2001, are also under way.

347. Within the framework of Plan Colombia, aerial fumigation is being used to eradicate coca bush and opium poppy in those areas where access by land is difficult due to geographical or political reasons or where manual voluntary eradication has not been achieved. During the first half of 2001, the total area

sprayed amounted to more than 50,000 hectares. Fumigation has encountered many protests because it is claimed that high concentrations of glyphosate in combination with other chemicals may damage licit crops, the environment and human health. Colombian courts have ruled that indigenous land in the Amazon area is exempted from spraying pending further assessment of the environmental and health impact of fumigation. The Board hopes that an adequate and balanced assessment of the impact of the Government's fumigation programme, including the environmental impact of illicit cultivation, will be made.

348. The Board notes with satisfaction that treaties between countries in South America and with other countries for the extradition of individuals involved in drug-related crimes have been frequently applied during the past year.

Treaty adherence

349. All States in South America except Guyana are parties to the 1961 Convention. The Board calls once again on the Government of Guyana to accede to the 1961 Convention without delay. All States in the region are parties to the 1971 Convention and the 1988 Convention.

Regional cooperation

350. Regional cooperation in South America has continued in many areas of drug control. Many countries in the region are also cooperating bilaterally with each other and with countries in Central America and the Caribbean or in North America; for example, Colombia is cooperating with Mexico through a high-level group for sharing information on the control of chemical substances and pharmaceutical products. Bilateral cooperation frequently involves the Government of the United States, which is the main country outside of South America that is contributing resources to drug control efforts in the region. There have also been multilateral cooperation agreements. For example, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Panama, Peru and Venezuela have begun designing a common training programme for drug law enforcement agencies. The programme is aimed at improving electronic communication between agencies in those countries in order to facilitate the sharing of intelligence and other information on drug and crime

databases. The possibility of expanding the programme to include Chile is being discussed.

351. The Board notes with appreciation the active involvement of Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Uruguay and Venezuela in Operation Purple, aimed at preventing the diversion of potassium permanganate for the illicit manufacture of cocaine. The Board hopes that, with their cooperation, the operation will continue to be successful. The results of tests conducted on cocaine samples indicate that cocaine traffickers have considerable difficulties in obtaining potassium permanganate for use in the illicit manufacture of cocaine. Some cocaine traffickers have tried to manufacture the chemical themselves, as evidenced by the dismantling of a number of clandestine laboratories by the Colombian authorities. The Board also appreciates the active participation of Argentina, Brazil and Colombia in Operation Topaz, aimed at preventing the diversion of acetic anhydride for the illicit manufacture of heroin. The Board requests all countries in South America that are not yet participating in those international programmes for the tracking of chemicals to consider their participation in the programmes.

352. The Financial Action Task Force on Money Laundering in South America (GAFISUD) was established in Colombia in December 2000. Since then, the Government of Colombia has signed several bilateral agreements with its trade partners for the control of capital flows and has provided technical assistance to neighbouring countries. The Board encourages other members of GAFISUD to follow this example and cooperate effectively with each other. The Board notes that the countries in the Andean subregion intend to harmonize their national legislation and systems for the prevention of money-laundering, focusing on the enforcement, financial and judicial aspects. At a workshop held in Lima in November 2000 a set of important recommendations were prepared, including one on the creation of a regional financial intelligence unit to enhance the capabilities of law enforcement authorities and the justice system to detect and prosecute cases involving money-laundering and financial crime.

National legislation, policy and action

353. The Board notes that the Government of Bolivia has made important changes in the national legislative

and administrative framework for drug control, such as a new penal procedure code. A recently approved law allowing, inter alia, administrative careers in government will help to keep technical expertise among staff members, including those dealing with drug control. Activities being carried out under the Anti-Drug Strategy 1998-2002, the national drug control strategy that is also known as the Dignity Plan, include precursor control, the upgrading of institutional capacities in drug control and management of seized assets and the improvement of financial investigation.

354. The Board notes the appointment by the Government of Peru of a drug coordinator with ministerial status who will be in charge of formulating and implementing national drug control policy. The Board trusts that the Government will continue to forcefully address all aspects of illicit crop cultivation, illicit trafficking and drug abuse. In addition, legislation was adopted in December 2000 to enhance the investigative capabilities of law enforcement authorities in cases involving money-laundering and financial crime, and a decree was promulgated in July 2001 for the implementation of provisions of the 1997 General Health Law related to narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and chemicals.

355. In Brazil, chemical control systems have been strengthened in order to prevent the smuggling of precursors into other countries, mainly Colombia. As part of the activities being conducted under Operation Cobra, which calls for strengthened patrolling and law enforcement along the border between Brazil and Colombia, specific measures have been taken in Brazil to counter the spillover effect of drug trafficking activity in Colombia. The Board again calls on the Government of Brazil to improve the timeliness and accuracy of its reporting to the Board under the international drug control treaties.

356. The Board notes that a new law is to be adopted in Chile to make the fight against illicit trafficking in narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and chemicals more effective and to sanction related offences. The Board welcomes the fact that the new law will provide for, inter alia, the establishment of a unit for financial investigation and analysis and the introduction of additional measures to prevent and counter money-laundering.

357. In June 2001, Uruguay modified legislation against money-laundering to include provisions

covering proceeds from activities other than drug trafficking. In February 2001, the Central Bank of Uruguay adopted measures aimed at preventing money-laundering through capital markets. Those measures followed the creation in December 2000 in Uruguay of a financial information and analysis unit. Specialized training for investigators, prosecutors and judges in investigative techniques and cases involving money-laundering was carried out in Ecuador. The Board appreciates the progress achieved in Argentina in activities to prevent money-laundering, including the adoption of amendments to the penal code for the prosecution of financial crime, the promulgation of a law establishing a national financial information unit and the creation of a special investigative commission against money-laundering. In Colombia, law enforcement operations have resulted in arrests and significant seizures of financial assets related to drug trafficking and money-laundering.

358. Most countries in South America have established comprehensive strategies for reducing illicit drug demand. The Board is pleased to note that there is increasing awareness in the region about the importance of evaluating the incidence of drug abuse in order to prevent it more effectively. In Chile, for example, governmental and non-governmental institutions are currently evaluating community-based drug abuse prevention and education programmes, as well as treatment and rehabilitation programmes for drug abusers. The Board encourages the Governments of Guyana and Suriname to support with adequate resources the effective implementation of their demand reduction strategies. The Board also encourages the Governments of Paraguay and Venezuela to develop an evaluation system for their national drug control policies. The Board further encourages Guyana, Paraguay, Peru and Suriname to develop their capabilities to collect and integrate statistical information on reducing the demand for and supply of illicit drugs, which will support the evaluation of drug abuse.

Cultivation, production, manufacture, trafficking and abuse

Narcotic drugs

359. The successes of coca bush eradication and alternative development efforts in Bolivia and Peru have been offset by renewed cultivation in formerly eradicated areas in Peru and an increase in coca bush

cultivation in Colombia, despite both countries' interdiction efforts. During the 1990s, coca bush cultivation in Colombia almost tripled; however, from 1999 to 2000, there was a modest increase in the area under cultivation: from 160,000 to 163,000 hectares. The Board notes the importance of the efforts of the Government of Colombia in establishing a more accurate system for measuring the total area under coca bush cultivation. Such technologies may also be considered for evaluating the extent of opium poppy fields.

360. Seizures of cocaine and its derivatives in Colombia, which amounted to nearly 64 tons in 1999, increased by more than 100 per cent in 2000, while seizures of coca leaf increased by almost 200 per cent. In addition, significant quantities of both solid and liquid chemicals for illicit drug manufacture were seized and numerous clandestine processing laboratories were dismantled. Coca leaf is converted into cocaine mostly in Colombia but also in other countries in the Andean subregion. According to Interpol, in 2000, the countries in the Andean subregion produced an estimated 700-900 tons of cocaine, approximately one half of which was destined for illicit markets in North America.

361. Almost all countries in South America are used by traffickers as transit points for transporting illicit drug consignments destined for illicit markets in other countries in the region, in Europe and in North America. Law enforcement authorities in countries in South America, mainly in Colombia, continue to seize significant amounts of cocaine; the total quantity seized has fluctuated between 100 and 160 tons over the past five years. During 2000, law enforcement operations discovered that Colombian and Mexican drug trafficking groups were making increased use of the Pacific trafficking route. Shipments of cocaine originate in Colombia, Ecuador and Peru and are mostly unloaded on the Pacific coast of Mexico to be transported onward to the United States and Canada. In addition, concerns have been raised over the misuse by drug traffickers of the Common Market of the Southern Cone (MERCOSUR) trade pact, which allows the free flow of goods between Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Paraguay and Uruguay and may make it easier for precursor chemicals and illicit drugs to be smuggled across borders. The Board notes with satisfaction that the member States of MERCOSUR have already addressed the matter: an agenda for action was set at the first specialized meeting of drug control and

abuse prevention authorities from MERCOSUR member States, held in Buenos Aires in April 2000.

362. The abuse of cocaine is increasing in transit countries in South America. Argentina and Chile appear to have the highest annual prevalence of cocaine abuse in the region. In Brazil, cocaine abuse among youth is increasing and urban centres in Brazil are increasingly being affected by drug-related crime. For example, in Rio de Janeiro, approximately 3,000 street children are estimated to be involved in drug trafficking. The only countries in the region in which the abuse of cocaine has not increased since 1999 are Bolivia and Peru. The Board, bearing in mind the increase in cocaine manufacture in Colombia since 1996, urges the Government of Colombia to update its overall evaluation of the situation regarding the abuse of cocaine, with a view to supporting its demand reduction efforts.

363. Heroin seizures have significantly increased in recent years in Colombia. In June 2001, 67 kg of heroin were seized on the Pacific coast of Colombia, the largest single heroin seizure ever made in the country. In 2001, a regional law enforcement operation uncovered a new heroin trafficking route leading from Colombia, through Central America, to the United States. Traffickers may be organizing the growing of opium poppy also in Peru, where a morphine laboratory and 710 kg of latex gum were seized in 2000. South American heroin is increasingly affecting the main illicit market in the United States, where it offers commercial advantages over Asian heroin because of its higher purity levels and shorter distances to the supply source, which may be reflected in lower prices or higher profits.

364. The cultivation and abuse of cannabis continue to be widespread in South America, according to recent seizure data. The cannabis cultivated in the region is mainly destined for illicit markets in the countries of cultivation and in their neighbouring countries. According to seizure data, Colombia continues to be the main producer of cannabis that is smuggled into Europe or North America, although significant seizures of cannabis have also been made in Brazil and Paraguay. The total amount of cannabis seized in Colombia decreased from more than 200 tons in 1996 to 70 tons in 2000, while the amount of cannabis seized in Paraguay has fluctuated widely over the past five years, ranging from 17 tons to 200 tons. The only

countries in South America that have followed a consistently upward overall trend in cannabis seizures are Argentina and Brazil; that trend coincides with the apparent increase in cannabis abuse in those countries. Brazil appears to be the country in South America with the highest annual prevalence of cannabis abuse.

365. The precursors smuggled into South America are transported mainly to Colombia, where most drug processing laboratories are located. In addition to potassium permanganate, the more common substances seized in Colombia are gasoline, acetone, sodium carbonate, grey cement and motor oil; significant amounts of those substances originate in Mexico, the United States and Venezuela, in European countries and in some Caribbean countries. In spite of the increasing heroin manufacture, seizures of acetic anhydride are still not significant compared with seizures of substances used for cocaine manufacture. Colombia has noted that improved controls at the local level have reduced diversion from the licit market, resulting in a significant decrease in the importation of controlled chemical precursors. As a result of reduced diversion, Colombian traffickers have attempted to refine gasoline and produce their own potassium permanganate for the manufacture of cocaine.

Psychotropic substances

366. Colombian drug traffickers have diversified their operations, as evidenced by increased seizures of substances other than cocaine and heroin, such as MDMA (Ecstasy). It appears that South American cocaine is smuggled into Europe, where it is exchanged for MDMA (Ecstasy) that is then smuggled back into South America. That MDMA (Ecstasy) is destined for the growing illicit market for the substance in South America, as well as for the established illicit market for that substance in North America.

367. The Board wishes to remind all States in South America that are parties to the 1971 Convention of the importance of complying with their obligations to report to the Board in accordance with article 16 of that Convention. In particular, the Board has noted a lack of reporting on the part of Uruguay. Lack of reporting may indicate deficiencies in national control systems for psychotropic substances, which may result in diversion of those substances into the illicit markets. The Board notes that the authorities of Brazil have

started to improve their exchange of data with the Board.

Missions

368. In June 2001, the Board sent a mission to Bolivia. In Bolivia, the chewing of coca leaf and related coca leaf production continue. Provisions of the 1961 Convention, which call for the phasing out of that practice, at the latest within 25 years from the coming into force of that Convention, continue not to be applied since the production of coca leaf for chewing continues to be considered licit under national law. Illicit production of coca leaf is currently taking place only to a limited extent. In the past, illicit production of coca leaf was an important source for illicit cocaine manufacture in South America. The Board notes with satisfaction that, pursuant to the Dignity Plan's goals of taking Bolivia out of the international illicit market for coca/cocaine and of reducing illicit coca bush cultivation to zero, the Government has almost succeeded in eradicating illicit coca bush cultivation in the Chapare area. As a consequence, the illicit manufacture of cocaine in Bolivia and in other countries with coca leaf of Bolivian origin has been reduced significantly, and Bolivia is now mainly used as a transit country for smuggling coca leaf and cocaine from Peru into Brazil. The Board encourages the Government of Bolivia to maintain its efforts to eliminate the remaining illicit cultivation of coca bush and to ensure that such cultivation does not reoccur in those areas or emerge in other areas of the country.

369. In Bolivia, coca leaf production that is considered licit under national law may result in coca leaf being diverted for use in the illicit manufacture of coca paste (cocaine sulphate) in Bolivia or to be sold on illicit markets in neighbouring countries. The Board therefore urges the Government of Bolivia to take the steps necessary to prevent such diversion, including introduction of stricter controls over all activities related to such coca leaf production.

370. In Bolivia, controls over precursor chemicals to prevent them from being diverted for use in the illicit manufacture of cocaine are well implemented. However, controls over narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances to be used for medical purposes in Bolivia continue to be insufficient. The Board trusts that the Government will take the action required under the international drug control treaties.

371. In June 2001, the Board sent a mission to Chile. The Board notes with satisfaction that the policies of the Government of Chile concerning drug abuse and illicit trafficking provide for a balanced system of measures for the reduction of illicit drug demand and supply. Procedures for assessing the extent and nature of drug abuse are in place. Control of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances to be used for medical purposes is strict, allowing for early detection of drug abuse patterns. Drug law enforcement authorities have been successful in seizing significant quantities of illicitly manufactured drugs entering or passing through Chile.

372. Chile is an important manufacturer and importer of precursor chemicals. Some of those precursor chemicals have been diverted for use in the illicit manufacture of cocaine, mainly in neighbouring countries. During the year 2000, two clandestine laboratories for processing coca paste (cocaine sulphate) into cocaine hydrochloride were detected in Chile. The Board therefore welcomes a new law in Chile that deals more effectively with offences related to precursors; at the same time, the Board urges the Government to review and strengthen existing mechanisms for precursor control in order to prevent the diversion of precursors and facilitate the detection and prosecution of attempts to divert such substances.

373. In March 2001, the Board sent a mission to Venezuela. The Board notes the important and effective role of the Comisión Nacional contra el Uso Ilícito de las Drogas (CONACUID) in the overall coordination of all drug control activities in Venezuela. The Board trusts that the several legislative, judicial and administrative reforms, including the restructuring of several institutions involved in drug control, will strengthen the national drug control system.

374. The Board appreciates that the Government of Venezuela will review the practices that may prevent easier access to narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances for medical purposes while efficiently preventing their diversion into illicit channels by streamlining distribution channels and control procedures. The Board notes with satisfaction the active role played by the Venezuelan authorities in cooperating in the area of drug control with their counterparts in other countries in South America and in other regions.

375. In May 2001, the Board reviewed action taken by the Government of Argentina pursuant to recommendations by the Board after its mission to that country in September 1998. The Board is satisfied that most of its recommendations have been implemented. While recognizing the economic difficulties that the country is currently facing, the Board wishes to underline the importance of maintaining the ability of the Secretariat for Planning the Prevention of Drug Abuse and the Fight against Drug Trafficking (SEDRONAR) to effectively coordinate drug control activities in the country and the ability of the National Administration for Medicaments, Food and Medical Technology (ANMAT) to control all licit activities related to narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances.

C. Asia

East and South-East Asia

Major developments

376. Eradication efforts by the Government of Myanmar and ongoing alternative development activities resulted in illicit opium poppy cultivation decreasing by one third from 1996 to 2000; however, there are indications that such cultivation increased again in 2001. Myanmar accounted for most of the world's illicit opium poppy cultivation in 2001, taking into consideration the results of the ban on such cultivation in the areas of Afghanistan controlled by the Taliban and the prolonged drought in that country. In the Lao People's Democratic Republic, there was a reduction in the total area under illicit opium poppy cultivation. Opium poppy cultivation in Thailand remains at negligible levels. In Viet Nam, illicit opium poppy cultivation, which is concentrated in the mountainous areas in the north-west part of the country, has been significantly reduced in the past decade.

377. In some countries in East and South-East Asia, illicit manufacture of, trafficking in and abuse of amphetamine-type stimulants appear to have become matters of greater concern than illicit activities related to opiates. A number of countries in the region, including Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Japan and Thailand, have reported that the abuse of opiates such as raw opium, codeine and heroin has declined while the abuse of amphetamine-type stimulants has increased. The spread of HIV infection is closely

linked to injecting drug abuse. However, many new drug abusers are increasingly choosing to abuse drugs through other forms of administration. The wide availability of and increasing illicit demand for amphetamine-type stimulants have been confirmed by seizure figures, which have increased sharply in the region since the end of the 1990s. The Board is particularly concerned that MDMA (Ecstasy), which was virtually unknown in the region about a decade ago, continues to gain in popularity among youth.

378. The illicit manufacture of methamphetamine in East and South-East Asia is no longer affecting only countries in the region, as evidenced by seizures of methamphetamine in Switzerland and the arrest of more than 100 members of a methamphetamine trafficking group operating between countries in East and South-East Asia and Switzerland.

Treaty adherence

379. Of the 15 States in East and South-East Asia, 9 are parties to all of the international drug control treaties. Cambodia and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea continue to be the only two States in the region that have not yet become parties to any of the international drug control treaties.

380. Although the Lao People's Democratic Republic and Myanmar are parties to the 1961 Convention, those States are not yet parties to the 1972 Protocol amending the 1961 Convention. The Lao People's Democratic Republic, Mongolia and Thailand have yet to accede to the 1988 Convention.

381. The Board is concerned about the fact that Viet Nam continues to maintain reservations on the extradition provisions of the 1988 Convention. The Board wishes to emphasize that extradition is an important element of the 1988 Convention and is a valuable tool used by Governments worldwide to combat criminal organizations involved in drug trafficking and other illicit activities and therefore urges the Government of Viet Nam to re-examine its position.

Regional cooperation

382. The main mechanisms for multilateral drug control cooperation in East and South-East Asia continue to be the Association of South-East Asian Nations and the 1993 memorandum of understanding on drug control between the countries in the Mekong⁶¹

area (Cambodia, China, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Myanmar, Thailand and Viet Nam) and UNDCP. Meetings continue to provide important opportunities for countries in the region to update each other on developments, to take stock of progress made in reducing the problems of drug abuse, illicit crop cultivation and illicit drug trafficking and manufacture, to discuss modalities for increased cooperation and to consider new projects.

383. East Asian countries, including Japan and the Republic of Korea, participate in and support, in various ways, drug control efforts throughout the region of East and South-East Asia.

384. Significant bilateral efforts are being made, for example, by Myanmar and Thailand, which intend to exchange drug liaison officers, to improve contact between drug control officers along their common border and to cooperate in combating drug trafficking at the international airports of Bangkok and Yangon. The Board welcomes that development, as it views such cooperation as an essential element in efforts to curb the substantial flow of illicit drugs between those two countries. Significant results such as the arrest of top-level drug traffickers have been achieved because of improved cross-border cooperation between China and Myanmar.

385. Cambodia and Thailand have made arrangements for increased bilateral cooperation against a number of illicit activities, including drug trafficking. A memorandum of understanding was signed by the Governments of those countries in July 2001.

National legislation, policy and action

386. The Board takes note that, in September 2001, the legislature of the Republic of Korea adopted measures to strengthen the country's ability to deal with money-laundering by, inter alia, providing for the establishment of a financial intelligence unit. The Board is concerned, however, that, in 2001, a number of jurisdictions in East and South-East Asia, including Indonesia, Myanmar and the Philippines, were classified by the Financial Action Task Force on Money Laundering as non-cooperative. The Board notes with appreciation the adoption in September 2001 of a bill against money-laundering in the Philippines and urges countries that have not done so to enact as soon as possible comprehensive legislation against money-laundering, as envisaged in the 1988 Convention.

387. In the Lao People's Democratic Republic, where the eradication of illicit opium poppy cultivation has become a national priority, the Prime Minister issued an order in November 2000 calling for, inter alia, local authorities to develop a five-year plan to eliminate such cultivation using annual targets; the progress of the five-year plan will be monitored by the Government.

388. The Government of Mongolia began undertaking in 2001 a rapid situation assessment to ascertain the extent of problems related to injecting drug abuse and HIV prevalence in the country and to propose potential intervention strategies to prevent the spread of HIV.

389. The Ninth National Economic and Social Development Plan of Thailand, covering the period 2002-2006, is the first development plan in that country to include a section on drug control strategies. The Ministry of Education of Thailand has instructed schools nationwide to set up drug control committees with a view to preventing the spread of drug abuse. In order to curb the abuse of drugs and the commission of other illegal acts by youth, Thailand has started to ensure that night-time entertainment areas, where illicit substances are widely abused, are located away from temples, schools and residential areas. Licence fees for operating an entertainment establishment will be introduced to fund the Government's drug control operations. The Board urges the Government to take further actions to ensure that such entertainment establishments are becoming free from drug abuse and trafficking.

Cultivation, production, manufacture, trafficking and abuse

Narcotic drugs

390. In East and South-East Asia, cannabis is illicitly cultivated mainly in Cambodia, Indonesia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, the Philippines and Thailand. In Indonesia, a marked increase in the illicit cultivation of and trafficking in cannabis was reported; in that country, cannabis is illicitly cultivated mainly on the islands of Java and Sumatra. Illicit cannabis cultivation is believed to contribute considerably to the flow of cash into Cambodia. Since 1996, significant quantities of Cambodian cannabis have been seized in Australia, the United States and countries in Europe. The level of cannabis abuse varies from country to

country but is low in most of the countries in East and South-East Asia.

391. Significant illicit opium poppy cultivation continues to occur in Myanmar and, to a lesser extent, in the Lao People's Democratic Republic. Opium poppy is also illicitly cultivated in Thailand and Viet Nam to a more limited extent. Efforts are being made by the Governments of all of those countries to eradicate opium poppies illicitly cultivated within their borders and to provide the persons affected by those operations with opportunities for alternative development. In Myanmar, significant illicit opium poppy cultivation continues in difficult-to-access mountainous areas that are controlled by armed groups. Major trafficking routes for heroin manufactured mainly in the border areas of Myanmar include corridors that lead through Yunnan Province of China, then further east to points along that country's coast and through the Lao People's Democratic Republic to coastal areas in Cambodia and Viet Nam. From the coastal areas, the heroin is shipped to illicit markets in Australia, Canada, the United States and countries in Europe. Acetic anhydride, which is necessary for the manufacture of heroin, is smuggled into Myanmar mainly out of China and India.

392. While the abuse of opiates is declining in a number of countries in East and South-East Asia, statistics on drug injection and HIV/AIDS prevalence show that injection is now the most common mode of transmitting HIV in a number of countries in the region, including China, Malaysia and Viet Nam. The Board encourages the Governments of the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Myanmar, Thailand and Viet Nam to continue to work towards the elimination of illicit opium poppy cultivation, to provide alternative income-generating activities for persons living in areas under illicit cultivation, such as the hilltribe areas, and to deal with the problem of opium addiction.

393. Although the abuse of cocaine in East and South-East Asia as a whole is very limited, seizure data indicate that drug traffickers are using islands in the Philippines and other Pacific islands as transit points for shipping cocaine to illicit markets in Australia. The Board is concerned that in East and South-East Asia there have been an increasing number of attempted diversions of potassium permanganate possibly destined for South America, to be used in the illicit manufacture of cocaine.

Psychotropic substances

394. Amphetamine-type substances, which have long been the most popular drugs of abuse in Japan and the Republic of Korea, have now become the most popular drugs abused also in several other countries in East and South-East Asia, including the Philippines and Thailand. Law enforcement authorities in the region continue to make significant seizures of ephedrine, a substance used in the illicit manufacture of amphetamine-type stimulants.

395. Seizure data indicate that methamphetamine is being illicitly manufactured on a large scale along Myanmar's border with Thailand. There are signs that the Lao People's Democratic Republic is also being used for the illicit manufacture of methamphetamine. In Thailand, the alarming series of sharp year-to-year increases in methamphetamine seizures that began in 1996 continued in 2000. There is evidence that, in addition to land routes, boats on rivers are used to transport illicit consignments of methamphetamine to points in Thailand. From there, the drug is distributed to large illicit markets in urban areas of Thailand or other countries throughout East and South-East Asia. A large seizure in the Andaman Sea in January 2001 indicates that ocean routes are also being used to transport methamphetamine. In addition, Cambodia and Viet Nam continue to be used as key transit routes for smuggling methamphetamine.

396. Laboratories seized in 2001 by law enforcement authorities in China and the Philippines indicate that methamphetamine hydrochloride (commonly called "ice" or "shabu") is also illicitly manufactured in those countries. Methamphetamine hydrochloride is being smuggled into countries throughout East and South-East Asia and elsewhere, including Australia and, to a lesser extent, the western part of the United States. Seizure data indicate that the volume of methamphetamine hydrochloride being smuggled out of China and into the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Japan and the Republic of Korea is increasing significantly. While drug abuse in general is thought to be relatively low in Brunei Darussalam, a sharp increase in the abuse of methamphetamine hydrochloride was reported in that country in 2000.

397. The Board is concerned that MDMA (Ecstasy) is also becoming more widely available in East and South-East Asia. The MDMA (Ecstasy) available in the region appears to be illicitly manufactured in western

European countries such as Belgium and the Netherlands, as evidenced by seizures of MDMA (Ecstasy) and arrests of couriers carrying the substance through the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of China, Indonesia, Malaysia and Singapore. There were also seizures of MDMA (Ecstasy) and arrests of couriers carrying the substance from mainland China, which is the main manufacturer of one of the precursors most frequently used in the illicit manufacture of MDMA (Ecstasy). Illicit demand for MDMA (Ecstasy) appears to have increased in many large cities in East and South-East Asia, particularly among club patrons in urban areas of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of China and Japan. Therefore, the Board calls on all Governments in the region to increase their efforts to prevent drug abuse and to remain vigilant in order to prevent the local manufacture of MDMA (Ecstasy) from taking root by carefully monitoring its precursors.

Other substances

398. The Board is concerned that ketamine, a hallucinogenic sedative, is increasingly being abused at dance clubs in large metropolitan areas in East and South-East Asia, such as the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of China and Singapore. At the end of 2000, police in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region discovered a facility for the illicit manufacture of ketamine.

Missions

399. In May 2001, the Board reviewed the progress of the Government of Myanmar on recommendations made by the Board pursuant to its 1998 mission to that country. Because of the need to confirm the extent to which progress had actually been made with respect to the Board's recommendations and because the country accounts for a large proportion of the world's illicit opium as well as for significant illicit methamphetamine manufacture, the Board decided to send a follow-up mission to Myanmar.

400. In September 2001, the Board sent a mission to Myanmar. The Board found that continuous efforts were being made to implement its recommendations following its mission to Myanmar in 1998.

401. Although the widespread opium poppy cultivation remains a serious problem in Myanmar, illicit opium poppy cultivation and opium production have

decreased, drug seizures have increased and “opium-free zones” have been established over the last few years. The Board notes that the Government of Myanmar has been fully committed to the eradication of illicit opium poppy cultivation in the country and that continuous efforts have been made to deal with the situation regarding drug abuse and illicit trafficking, as evidenced by the initiation in 1999 of a 15-year plan to eliminate illicit drugs in the country.

402. The Board further notes that the limited resources and the low level of external assistance provided to Myanmar have had a negative impact on the Government’s ability to achieve the goals set out in its eradication programme and to consolidate the gains already made. The Board therefore calls upon the international community to provide the necessary assistance to Myanmar as long as its efforts to fight against drug abuse and illicit trafficking are sustained.

403. The illicit manufacture of methamphetamine remains a serious problem in border areas of Myanmar. The Board calls on the Government to continue to cooperate with the Governments of neighbouring countries in law enforcement activities and, in particular, to make additional efforts to identify sources and routes of seized precursor chemicals and to share such information with those Governments. The Board notes the ministerial meeting on drug control cooperation between China, the Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Myanmar and Thailand held in Beijing on 28 August 2001 and hopes that the drug problems in East and South-East Asia will be dealt with in a more effective way through coordinated subregional and regional mechanisms.

404. In April 2001, the Board sent a mission to Thailand. Drug control issues have a high priority in the Government’s policies and activities. The Office of the Narcotics Control Board, which coordinates drug control among the various competent authorities, is functioning well.

405. The Board is nevertheless concerned about reports that certain psychotropic substances, including phentermine and diazepam, as well as combination products, have been diverted and misused in Thailand and smuggled into and out of the country. The Board requests the Thai authorities to give further attention to controls over psychotropic substances, especially stimulants, with a view to preventing their diversion into the illicit traffic.

406. Methamphetamine currently poses the most serious drug trafficking and abuse problems in Thailand. Further practical means of cooperating with neighbouring countries should be explored in order to improve the effectiveness of law enforcement activities, particularly at the borders, including the real-time exchange of intelligence and other information. At the same time, more comprehensive nationwide assessments of the drug abuse situation need to be made at regular intervals in order to monitor trends. The Board notes that the Government is establishing programmes to strengthen, in particular, primary prevention efforts in communities and schools and to develop strategies to address addiction to amphetamine-type stimulants.

407. In addition, appropriate controls applied to precursor chemicals in Thailand should be extended to include potassium permanganate, especially in view of the recently uncovered attempts in South-East Asia to divert that substance into the illicit traffic. The Board trusts that the Government has given priority to its efforts to enable Thailand to accede to the 1988 Convention as swiftly as possible.

South Asia

Major developments

408. As South Asia is situated between the world’s two main opiate-producing areas, the region’s drug trafficking and drug abuse problems are mostly related to transit traffic. Additionally, illicit opium poppy cultivation and heroin manufacture have increased for several years, and illicit cannabis cultivation and abuse continue unabated. In almost all countries in the region heroin abuse has spread and there has been a shift from smoking and inhalation of heroin to injecting drug abuse.

409. There has been an increase in polydrug abuse involving, in addition to illicitly manufactured drugs, a range of pharmaceutical products containing narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances. In India, the first national rapid assessment survey of drug addiction indicates that prescription drug abuse has increased in almost every major city in the country. On average, about 10 per cent of all drug abuse in India involves prescription drugs. The main reasons for this

development are the low cost of prescription drugs and deficiencies in the drug control system.

410. Southern parts of West Asia continue to supply most of the heroin smuggled into and through India and Nepal. New Delhi has become a major transit point for heroin trafficking; most of the heroin is smuggled into countries in Europe and North America, occasionally through Sri Lanka. To a much lesser extent, heroin is smuggled out of Myanmar and into the north-eastern states of India and Bangladesh, mostly in small quantities, to be abused by the local population. Myanmar is also the source of illicitly manufactured methamphetamine smuggled into India and, most likely, Bangladesh. Intelligence reports suggest that the smuggling of methamphetamine and heroin from Myanmar may be organized by the same drug trafficking group and that the total quantity of methamphetamine being trafficked may exceed that of heroin.

411. Efforts to fight drug trafficking groups in South Asia are hampered by insurgencies and political instability, by the difficult terrain in most of the countries in the region and, sometimes, by the involvement of local politicians and law enforcement officers in drug trafficking activities. It is claimed in some countries in the region that organized crime, terrorist activities and drug trafficking are related. The Board welcomes the establishment by the Governments of India and the United Kingdom of a joint working group on international terrorism and drug trafficking.

412. Countries in South Asia are responding to these developments by adapting their laws, administrative regulations and control systems. The Board welcomes preventive measures adopted in Bhutan and Maldives.

Treaty adherence

413. Of the six States in South Asia, five are parties to the 1961 Convention, four are parties to the 1971 Convention and all six are parties to the 1988 Convention. The Board notes with regret that, despite its recurrent appeals, Bhutan is still not a party to the 1961 Convention or the 1971 Convention and Nepal is still not a party to the 1971 Convention.

Regional cooperation

414. The Board welcomes ongoing bilateral and multilateral efforts to combat drug trafficking in South

Asia, including activities involving both countries in South Asia and countries in other regions. A number of bilateral agreements have been signed; for example, Bangladesh and Myanmar have signed an agreement on efforts to combat illicit trafficking in narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and precursors, and India and Tajikistan have signed an agreement on the reduction of illicit drug demand and the prevention of trafficking in narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and precursors. India has also signed similar agreements with other States.

415. The Board notes with appreciation the relaunching of the activities of the regional precursor control project for member States of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC). A regional workshop on precursor control was held in Kathmandu at the beginning of 2001 for persons from SAARC member States. The workshop focused on the improvement of precursor control laws in the region, training and law enforcement. Also at the beginning of 2001, the Government of India organized in New Delhi a training course on precursor control for drug control officers from Central Asian countries.

416. The Board notes the ongoing bilateral cooperation between India and Pakistan involving high-level talks on matters related to drug law enforcement, as well as quarterly meetings on operational matters.

National legislation, policy and action

417. The Board is expecting that the Parliament of Bangladesh will, without further delay, approve the revision of the Narcotics Control Act, 1990, which is not consistent with the Code of Criminal Procedure and does not contain certain provisions required by the 1988 Convention. The revised act will include provisions on precursor control, money-laundering offences, punishment of drug traffickers and the use of controlled delivery.

418. The Board notes that the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (Amendment) Bill 2000 was passed by the Parliament of India. The Bill incorporates statutory provisions relating to the use of controlled delivery, confers powers of entry, search and seizure and provides for the tracing, freezing, seizing and forfeiture of illegally acquired property. Rationalization of the sentencing structure will ensure deterrent sentences for traffickers dealing in significant

quantities of drugs and less severe sentences for drug addicts committing minor offences.

419. The Board welcomes the efforts of the National Dangerous Drugs Control Board of Sri Lanka in the preparation of comprehensive amendments to and the consolidation of the Poisons, Opium and Dangerous Drugs Ordinance. The amendments will take into account the provisions of the 1988 Convention relating to money-laundering, extradition and mutual legal assistance and will also include provisions on the treatment and rehabilitation of drug-dependent persons.

420. The Board notes that the provisions of the Foreign Exchange Regulation Act of Nepal are not adequate to deal with financial crime such as money-laundering and the investigation of proceeds suspected of being derived from drug-related offences. The Board expects that legislation to cover those areas will be adopted in the near future. The Board also notes that there is no regulation on the control of precursor chemicals in Nepal. The Board hopes that initiatives will soon be taken to remedy the situation.

421. The governments of seven states in India have amended the 1985 Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Rules in order to increase the availability of morphine for terminally ill cancer patients. However, while the availability of morphine in India has increased, the number of cancer patients receiving adequate treatment for the alleviation of pain is still low in some states.

422. Countries in South Asia are increasingly attaching importance to activities for drug abuse prevention, including the collection and analysis of data on drug abuse. In India, a national survey of the extent of, patterns of and trends in drug abuse and a rapid assessment survey have been carried out. The Government of Maldives is planning to carry out a rapid assessment study on the extent of drug abuse in that country; the assessment will provide essential input for the formulation of a comprehensive national master plan to combat the drug problem. Information on the extent of drug abuse in Bhutan is limited; however, the Government of Bhutan has initiated a campaign to increase public awareness of substance abuse. In Nepal, authorities have developed educational material on drug abuse prevention for the formal and non-formal educational system.

423. The Board welcomes the fact that in countries in South Asia there is increasing recognition of the significant role of non-governmental organizations in the field of drug abuse prevention, treatment and rehabilitation. The Government of India supports more than 300 non-governmental organizations engaged in the reduction of illicit drug demand and has established a national centre for training and capacity-building in that field. In Bangladesh, India and Sri Lanka, non-governmental organizations have established national federations for drug abuse prevention.

Cultivation, production, manufacture, trafficking and abuse

Narcotic drugs

424. Cannabis is the most widely abused drug in South Asia. In all countries in the region except Bhutan and Maldives, there have been reports of cannabis growing wild or being illicitly cultivated. Nepal has long been a source of both cannabis herb and cannabis resin, which are sold locally or smuggled into other countries in the region, such as India, and in western Europe. Cannabis grows wild in the high hilly areas of the central and western parts of Nepal, where illicit crop eradication is difficult and expensive because of the topography. In the southern part of Nepal, where the terrain is easier to patrol, illicit crops are detected and destroyed by law enforcement officers every year.

425. In Bangladesh, illicit crop cultivation in areas of the Chittagong Hill Tracts is increasing, and it has been reported that cannabis is being produced in and smuggled out of the southern district of Rangamati. No systematic programme for illicit crop eradication is being carried out in Bangladesh. Cannabis is being cultivated on a large scale in the provinces of eastern and southern Sri Lanka, and campaigns have been launched to curtail that activity. In Sri Lanka, seizures have been made of cannabis smuggled out of neighbouring countries.

426. In India, illicit cannabis cultivation continues in several states. Illicit drug consignments, each containing tons of cannabis resin, mainly from Nepal, have recently been seized, indicating that that substance is being smuggled through India on a large scale. In addition, courier facilities in India are increasingly being misused to smuggle cannabis into other countries.

427. Cocaine abuse remains very limited in South Asia. In the last few years, however, it has been reported that the number of seizures of cocaine has increased, particularly in India, where cocaine is increasingly being abused by affluent members of the population.

428. The Board is concerned about the increasing incidence of heroin injection in countries in South Asia, in particular, in Bangladesh, India and Nepal. In Maldives and Sri Lanka, the most common methods used to administer heroin continue to be smoking and inhalation. In India, illicit opium poppy cultivation and opium abuse continue to pose problems in eastern Arunachal Pradesh, where plans for alternative development and income substitution projects will soon be realized. In Bangladesh, there are illicit opium poppy cultivation sites in the remote areas of the Chittagong Hill Tracts, where the movement of security forces is restricted. That problem has re-emerged in the area of Bandarban.

429. India, one of the world's main licit producers of opium, has designed an elaborate system to prevent the diversion of licitly produced opium into illicit channels. The system includes maintaining control of licensing, demanding minimum qualifying yields, maintaining the government monopoly on purchasing, and meeting strict monitoring requirements. Despite the strict controls, government officials believe that limited quantities of the licitly produced opium may have been diverted into illicit channels. Laboratories manufacturing heroin have been detected in and around Indian states licitly producing opium. The Government of India is urged to increase its vigilance in order to prevent such diversions.

430. Most of the heroin smuggled out of south-west Asia into South Asia is destined for countries in western Europe and for the United States. Heroin consignments are smuggled either directly out of India or along the maritime route leading from the coast of Tamil Nadu to Sri Lanka and Maldives, mostly to be shipped further. Ports in southern India are increasingly being used for smuggling drugs, as evidenced by the sharp increase in the number of seizures made of consignments of narcotic drugs being smuggled by sea along routes leading from India to Sri Lanka. Indian authorities suspect that the same routes used for smuggling narcotic drugs out of India are also

used for smuggling counterfeit money, arms, ammunition and explosives into the country.

431. India is an important producer of chemicals, such as acetic anhydride, ephedrine, pseudoephedrine, anthranilic acid and *N*-acetylanthranilic acid. The Government of India has introduced a number of regulatory and control measures and its progressively improving precursor control regime has become an important barrier to the diversion of precursor chemicals. Because of those strict controls and the cooperation of manufacturing companies, the diversion of precursor chemicals, mainly acetic anhydride, into countries in Central Asia and into Afghanistan has been significantly reduced.

432. Seizures of acetic anhydride revealed that traffickers had tried to use Nepal as a transit country, in order to divert that substance into Pakistan. The Board therefore welcomes the fact that, in Nepal, an interdepartmental coordination committee on precursor control has been established and that regulatory measures and controls have been introduced for all substances in Table I of the 1988 Convention and for seven substances in Table II.

433. The Board notes with concern that, in almost all countries in South Asia, there has been an increase in the abuse of prescription drugs that have been either diverted from domestic distribution channels or smuggled out of neighbouring countries. The abuse of the pharmaceuticals in question constitutes a serious health risk.

Psychotropic substances

434. The Board notes with appreciation that the dismantling of facilities for the illicit manufacture of methaqualone in India had a significant impact on the smuggling of that substance into Africa. In most cases, the raided facilities were misused laboratories on the premises of chemical or pharmaceutical companies.

435. India is an important manufacturer and trader of pharmaceuticals, including a number of widely used psychotropic substances. The Board notes with appreciation that Indian authorities have established an effective system of control over international trade in psychotropic substances and have introduced additional measures to control domestic distribution channels. However, information on the abuse of licitly manufactured psychotropic substances indicates that

India continues to encounter problems in monitoring the compliance of domestic distributors with the law and that Indian states do not uniformly apply the law. A number of psychotropic substances, including benzodiazepines such as alprazolam and diazepam and analgesics such as buprenorphine, may be obtained without medical prescription, contrary to Indian laws and regulations. The diverted substances are then sold on the local market in India or are smuggled by land into neighbouring countries such as Nepal or by air into countries in Central Asia. In India, the growing abuse of psychotropic substances is also one of the reasons for the increase in polydrug abuse involving psychotropic substances in combination with other pharmaceuticals (opiates and non-opiates), illicit drugs and alcohol.

436. In Nepal, many abusers of opiates may have reverted to the abuse of pharmaceutical products containing nitrazepam, diazepam and buprenorphine due to their easy availability and low prices. The Board shares the concern of the Nepalese authorities about the increased injecting drug abuse and polydrug abuse involving psychotropic substances in combination with heroin and alcohol. Benzodiazepines are also abused in Maldives, mostly by polydrug abusers (in combination with cannabis or heroin). The Board notes with concern that, in Sri Lanka, controlled substances requiring a prescription are being illegally sold in pharmacies as over-the-counter drugs. This may be a sign that an illicit market for psychotropic substances is developing in that country.

437. In Bangladesh, mainly the availability of buprenorphine in the illicit market is causing the increase in the number of persons who abuse drugs by injection. In addition, the abuse of tranquillizers, such as benzodiazepines, is reported to be widespread in Bangladesh.

438. Methamphetamine from Myanmar is smuggled into India. Some of the ephedrine used for its illicit manufacture continues to be smuggled out of India and into Myanmar; however, because of the efforts made by both law enforcement authorities and manufacturing companies in India, the quantities being smuggled are decreasing. The Board notes with appreciation that India and Myanmar have begun cooperating in the investigation of cases involving the diversion of ephedrine.

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439. A visit to India took place in April 2001. The Board welcomes the additional efforts that have been made to strengthen, in particular, measures at the Neemuch Opium and Alkaloid Factory, in line with the recommendations made by the Board following its previous missions to that country. The Board remains concerned about leakages from licit opium production and expects that the Government of India will continue efforts to prevent diversion both at the farm gate and at the factory.

440. The Board notes, however, that in India there is still no adequate system for collecting the required information and that there is insufficient coordination among government agencies responsible for reporting. The Board urges the Government to take the steps necessary to ensure that all data required under the international drug control treaties are submitted to the Board accurately and in a timely manner.

West Asia

Major developments

441. In Afghanistan, as a result of the prolonged drought and the ban on opium poppy cultivation issued in July 2000 for the implementation of provisions of a drug control law promulgated in 1998 by the Taliban, such cultivation was significantly reduced in the areas controlled by the Taliban. Political and military events after September 2001 may result in the situation changing during the coming year. Illicit opium poppy cultivation has increased in the parts of Afghanistan controlled by the Northern Alliance. Opiates originating in Afghanistan continue to be smuggled into and through the Islamic Republic of Iran and Pakistan. There has been a significant increase in the quantity of drugs from Afghanistan seized in some countries in Central Asia. For example, the quantity of heroin seized in Tajikistan in the first six months of 2001 is equal to the quantity seized in that country in the entire year 2000. The situation in Kyrgyzstan is similar. That development may also reflect in part the increased interdiction efforts in those countries.

442. Because of the recent political and military events, there is concern that illicit opium poppy cultivation may emerge elsewhere in West Asia. Governments of countries in the region should remain extremely vigilant in order to prevent such a

development. The smuggling of opiates in West Asia has become more organized, profitable and violent and is jeopardizing the economic and social stability of some countries in the region. Therefore, the fight against drug and chemical trafficking has to continue to be a priority for Governments in the region.

443. In Afghanistan, the harvest in the crop year 2000/2001 is estimated to be less than one tenth of the harvest in the previous crop year. As a result of the implementation of the ban, opium and morphine had become much less available on illicit markets in West Asia; however, in response to the military events after September 2001, large quantities of opiates were made available from illicit stocks. The availability of heroin originating in Afghanistan remained high in the region, even following the ban. No effects on the availability of heroin have been observed in countries outside of the region.

444. As a result of the implementation of the ban, prices of opiates in West Asia increased considerably, although prices of heroin on illicit markets were not affected in the same manner. As at 1 November 2001, no conclusions could be drawn on the development of prices in the region as a result of the recent military events.

445. Most countries in West Asia are used as transit points for smuggling opiates into Europe and other regions. Precursors and chemicals used in the illicit manufacture of heroin continue to flow from outside the region into countries in West Asia where such manufacture is taking place. Seizure statistics for countries throughout West Asia show that opium had been increasingly processed into other opiates in Afghanistan.

446. Illicit crop cultivation and drug trafficking activities in West Asia continue to have a considerable impact on the extent of drug abuse in the region. Opiate addiction rates in the Islamic Republic of Iran and Pakistan continue to be among the highest in the world. Opium addicts are increasingly abusing heroin because it has become more available than opium. There has been a significant increase in the abuse of opiates in Central Asia. The Board is concerned that, throughout West Asia, heroin abuse and HIV infection resulting from the sharing of needles are spreading.

Treaty adherence

447. Of the 24 States in West Asia, 22 are now parties to the 1961 Convention in its amended form and 2 continue to be parties to the 1961 Convention in its unamended form. All States in the region are parties to the 1971 Convention and 23 are parties to the 1988 Convention. The Board urges Israel, the only State in the region that is not a party to the 1988 Convention, to accede to that Convention.

448. The Board notes with satisfaction that Turkey has acceded to the 1972 Protocol amending the 1961 Convention and that Kuwait has acceded to the 1988 Convention. The Board notes that the Islamic Republic of Iran is taking steps to accede to the 1972 Protocol.

Regional cooperation

449. The Board notes the extensive regional cooperation activities related to drug control in West Asia.

450. The "Six plus Two" group, comprising China, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan, plus the Russian Federation and the United States, was determined, inter alia, to deal with the illicit drug supply from Afghanistan and in the subregion as a whole. The Board is of the opinion that the countries neighbouring Afghanistan and the international community should cooperate with the future authorities in Afghanistan to prevent the resumption of illicit opium poppy cultivation and related production of and trafficking in opiates in West Asia (see paragraphs 231-234 above).

451. The Board notes the cooperation that has taken place within the framework of the memorandum of understanding on drug control cooperation in Central Asia, involving Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, the Russian Federation, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan, as well as UNDCP and the Aga Khan Development Network. The Board notes with appreciation that, in September 2001, Azerbaijan joined the group of signatories to the memorandum of understanding.

452. The Board also notes that, in 2001, the European Union adopted a Central Asian action plan on drugs, which is aimed at, inter alia, providing assistance in the areas of drug law enforcement and gathering drug-related information.

453. Several meetings were held in 2001 in Central Asia with a view to strengthening cooperation in combating drug trafficking and crime. The Shanghai Cooperation Organization was established by the heads of State of China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, the Russian Federation, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan at a summit held in Shanghai in June 2001. Numerous security issues, including the fight against drug trafficking, were discussed. At the meeting of the Council of Interior Ministers of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) held in Erevan in June 2001, participants agreed to carry out a large-scale operation called "Channel" targeting drug smuggling in CIS member States; in previous years, such operations had led to significant drug seizures.

454. The Economic Cooperation Organization continues to foster cooperation among its member States through its drug control coordination unit. The Turkish International Academy against Drugs and Organized Crime, established in June 2000, has organized two training courses for law enforcement personnel from its member States.

455. Training for precursor control for member States of the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf (GCC) was provided in the United Arab Emirates in April 2001. GCC is planning to offer more general training for law enforcement personnel in 2002.

456. The Board welcomes the agreement between the Islamic Republic of Iran and Turkey to strengthen drug control cooperation and the continued close cooperation between law enforcement agencies from the Islamic Republic of Iran and Pakistan. The Board also welcomes the fact that the Islamic Republic of Iran has assisted farmers in Afghanistan who have stopped illicit opium poppy cultivation.

457. The Council of Arab Ministers of the Interior and the League of Arab States continue to promote regional and international cooperation and harmonization of drug control efforts by Arab countries. The Organization of the Islamic Conference is also actively assisting its member States in harmonizing drug control laws.

458. The Board notes with appreciation that, as a result of closer cooperation between the Governments of countries in West Asia, law enforcement authorities in those countries are in a better position to combat drug trafficking organizations, as evidenced by the

many drug-related arrests and seizures in the region. For example, the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran, in cooperation with the Governments of Pakistan and Turkey and those of countries outside of the region, dismantled a large international drug trafficking ring in February 2001. While noting the deteriorated political situation and the difficulties of the peace process in the Near East, the Board is concerned that lack of cooperation between the competent authorities of Israel and their counterparts in the Palestinian Autonomous Areas has had a negative effect on drug control, resulting in increased drug trafficking and drug abuse.

National legislation, policy and action

459. The Board notes with satisfaction that the Government of Lebanon adopted a law on the control of narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and precursors in February 2001.

460. The Board notes with appreciation that all five countries in Central Asia (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan) have made progress in establishing legislative and administrative mechanisms necessary for efficient drug control and crime prevention. In June 2001, Turkmenistan adopted a national action plan for combating illicit drug trafficking and for providing assistance to drug addicts for the period 2001-2005. All of the countries in Central Asia except Tajikistan and Uzbekistan have now adopted comprehensive national drug control plans. The Board encourages the Governments of Tajikistan and Uzbekistan to adopt national drug control strategies as soon as possible. Each of the countries in Central Asia has established a national entity for drug control coordination. However, effective systems for the collection, analysis and use of criminal intelligence have not yet been established, and cooperation among the various agencies involved in drug control should be strengthened. There continues to be a need to provide training for prosecutors and judges dealing with drug-related cases.

461. In view of the increased smuggling of drugs through Kyrgyzstan in recent years, the Government initiated in June 2001 a new programme aimed at preventing drug addiction and stepping up the fight against drug traffickers and drug-related crime.

462. The Board notes that the Government of Pakistan has tightened controls at that country's border with

Afghanistan to curb smuggling in general, which should also result in better detection of drug smuggling. The Board also notes that the Government has established, in five major cities, special courts for cases related to drug trafficking. In view of the persistent backlog of drug-related cases in Pakistan, the Board encourages the Government to continue upgrading its judicial system and to take steps to proceed with those cases in a more expeditious manner.

463. The Board urges Governments to continue their efforts to assess the nature and extent of drug abuse. The Board welcomes the fact that the Government of Jordan is undertaking such an assessment and that in Lebanon an assessment of patterns of and trends in drug abuse is being finalized. The Board also welcomes the fact that the Islamic Republic of Iran has established the National Drug Abuse Institute, which is expected to function as the main centre for monitoring programmes for the reduction of illicit drug demand. The Board further welcomes a draft regulation currently before the Turkish parliament that would allow the setting up of councils for surveillance in cases involving substance abuse.

464. The Board continues to be concerned about the lack of adequate treatment centres in a number of the countries in West Asia most affected by drug abuse; in some instances, due to economic reasons, treatment for drug abuse is limited to emergency care or detoxification. The Board is further concerned that, in many countries in the region, the treatment of female drug addicts is particularly inadequate. Similarly, the treatment of drug addicts in prisons is often inadequate. Detoxification and rehabilitation programmes are largely insufficient to deal with the growing drug abuse problem in Central Asia. The Board encourages all the Governments concerned to continue to review current treatment and rehabilitation activities for drug addicts and to provide proper guidance to non-governmental organizations involved in such activities.

465. There has been no systematic approach followed in activities aimed at reducing illicit drug demand in Central Asia. In Turkmenistan, the Government has started to set up specialized clinics in Ashgabat in which addicts may receive treatment anonymously; but Turkmenistan, like other countries in the region, still lacks a comprehensive strategy for the reduction of illicit drug demand. The Board also encourages the

countries in Central Asia to continue to review existing activities for the prevention of drug abuse, based on the current patterns and extent of drug abuse. All Governments in West Asia should also pay particular attention to cannabis abuse and to the abuse of pharmaceutical preparations diverted from licit channels.

466. The Board continues to be concerned that many countries in West Asia have not yet adopted measures against money-laundering. The Board welcomes the fact that, in January 2001, the Government of Bahrain adopted a law to combat money-laundering. The Board notes that Lebanon promulgated a regulation in May 2001 that addresses some major concerns of the Financial Action Task Force on Money Laundering with regard to bank secrecy. At the same time, the Board continues to be concerned that Lebanon is not taking steps to withdraw its reservation on the provisions against money-laundering in the 1988 Convention.

467. Privatization and the rapid expansion in the private banking sector, together with the lack of adequate control over those processes, make the five Central Asian States particularly vulnerable to money-laundering activities. As those States have not yet adopted legislation on combating money-laundering and confiscating the proceeds of criminal offences, including drug-related offences, the Board invites them to prepare and establish the necessary legislative and administrative controls without further delay.

468. Legislation on precursors has been enacted in all the countries in Central Asia except Turkmenistan, and in Turkmenistan such legislation is before the parliament; however, there are difficulties in the implementation of that legislation. The Board is satisfied that the voluntary agreements reached under Operation Topaz have led to more effective control over acetic anhydride in Central Asia. The Board trusts that the successes achieved in Operation Topaz have demonstrated to the countries involved the need to tighten controls over chemicals used for illicit drug manufacture and that those countries will now take the necessary steps. The Board urges all Governments not participating in Operation Topaz to review existing controls over chemicals used for illicit drug manufacture and to strengthen those controls if necessary.

**Cultivation, production, manufacture,
trafficking and abuse***Narcotic drugs*

469. Cannabis continues to be the most widely abused substance in West Asia. Huge quantities of cannabis continue to be illicitly cultivated or grow wild in Afghanistan and, to a lesser degree, in Pakistan. Cannabis resin continues to be smuggled into other countries in West Asia and Europe. The total amount of cannabis and cannabis resin seized in most countries in West Asia increased in 2000 and in the first half of 2001. There is some concern that criminal groups that were previously smuggling opiates are now increasingly becoming involved in smuggling cannabis. Seizures in 2001 and the results of annual eradication campaigns confirmed that cannabis continues to grow wild on extensive areas in Kazakhstan.

470. The Board is concerned about the fact that in Lebanon illicit cannabis cultivation, which had been eradicated in the early 1990s, resumed in 2001. The Government of Lebanon did not carry out a campaign to eradicate illicit cannabis cultivation, as it had done in previous years. The Board urges the Government to take the necessary measures to prevent illicit cannabis cultivation in its territory.

471. In Afghanistan, the ban on opium poppy cultivation introduced by the Taliban in July 2000 was successfully implemented, as such cultivation virtually disappeared in the areas under its control. Opium production in Afghanistan is estimated to be less than 200 tons in 2001, which is comparable to the amount of opium produced in that country in the mid-1980s. However, there is evidence that opium poppy cultivation has expanded in other districts, many of which are close to the northern border of Afghanistan.

472. In Pakistan, only isolated cases involving illicit opium poppy cultivation in the Khyber Agency continue to be identified. In Turkey, poppy straw from licit cultivation continues to be used for the extraction of alkaloids. No diversion of opiates into illicit markets has been reported in that country.

473. Small-scale illicit opium poppy cultivation in Central Asia, limited to remote areas in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan, has been reported.

474. In Afghanistan, the Taliban reported in 2000 the destruction of 25 clandestine heroin laboratories. In

Turkey, clandestine heroin laboratories continue to be detected and dismantled. In Lebanon, the small-scale processing of opium into heroin continues. There have been no more reports of the processing of heroin in Pakistan.

475. There is no evidence of processing of opium or morphine into heroin in any of the countries in Central Asia. Attempts at smuggling opium on a large scale out of Afghanistan and into Tajikistan (there was a record seizure of 2.2 tons of raw poppy products along the Afghan-Tajik border in July 2001) may indicate the existence of opium-processing facilities on the territory of Tajikistan, although no such facilities have been discovered.

476. In West Asia, key chemicals used in the manufacture of heroin and methamphetamine are produced. In addition, many countries in the region are used as transit points for the diversion of those chemicals, which continue to be imported from or smuggled out of China, India and countries in Europe. Since 2000, in particular, suspicion has been confirmed that countries in the eastern Mediterranean area that were previously not being used by traffickers for the diversion of chemicals (the Islamic Republic of Iran, Israel, Saudi Arabia and the Syrian Arab Republic) are being used to divert acetic anhydride for the illicit manufacture of heroin. Countries in Central Asia continue to be used as transit points for smuggling into Afghanistan chemicals used in the manufacture of heroin. The Board is concerned that, despite steps to tighten control over chemicals used in the manufacture of heroin, such chemicals are still readily available.

477. Since the Taliban banned opium poppy cultivation in the areas under its control, the total amount of opiates from Afghanistan seized in the Islamic Republic of Iran has decreased and the purity of heroin has declined until the events of September 2001. In Pakistan, trends in seizures of opiates have been less recognizable since the Taliban banned opium poppy cultivation. When the recent military action started in Afghanistan, the influx of opiates from Afghanistan into Pakistan increased significantly.

478. Despite the banning of opium poppy cultivation in the areas of Afghanistan controlled by the Taliban, it appears that, in the countries in Central Asia, the flow of illicit drugs, in particular heroin, from Afghanistan increased in 2001, marking a continuation of the trend

in 2000. In addition, drug dealers have reportedly established storage and trans-shipment points in Kyrgyzstan along the trafficking route leading from Afghanistan to the Russian Federation, as evidenced by the seizure in June 2001 of large amounts of opium hidden in farms in Osh, Kyrgyzstan.

479. As in recent years, while a significant portion of the opiates produced in West Asia is destined for illicit markets in Europe and, to a lesser degree, Africa, East Asia and South Asia, a considerable amount of those opiates remains in West Asia. In some countries in West Asia, drug addiction is one of the main social problems and drug-related crime is the main reason for being arrested.

480. In the Islamic Republic of Iran and Pakistan, the relative shortage of opium and opium residue until September 2001 had a large impact on the illicit market for opium. The proportion of drug abusers who are heroin abusers continued to increase, since heroin was more readily available than opium, though the purity of heroin declined. The number of drug-related deaths in the Islamic Republic of Iran was higher in 2001 than in previous years. In both the Islamic Republic of Iran and Pakistan, drug abuse by injection is still not the most widespread method of administration, though it is becoming more common. In the Islamic Republic of Iran, 70 per cent of HIV-infected patients are reported to be heroin addicts.

481. Data on the extent of drug abuse in Central Asia are limited; however, there are clear indications of a serious increase in the number of drug abusers. In recent years, the most serious drug abuse trend in Central Asia has been the rapid increase in drug abuse by injection, which has contributed to the spreading of HIV infection. In Uzbekistan, the number of injecting drug abusers has doubled over the last three years. In Tajikistan, the number of persons abusing opiates is rapidly growing. In Turkmenistan, health authorities are alarmed by the increasing levels of drug abuse, particularly among women and young people. While 80 per cent of addicts in that country abuse opium, heroin has recently become easier to obtain.

482. A parallel market for pharmaceutical preparations, obtained through overprescription, under-the-counter sales in pharmacies or diversions from licit channels, is reported to exist in some countries in West Asia, in particular, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Pakistan and countries in the eastern Mediterranean

area. The Board urges all the countries concerned to take the steps necessary to comply with the provisions of the international drug control treaties and to prevent the diversion of such drugs from licit trade into illicit channels.

483. The extent of cocaine abuse and trafficking in West Asia remains insignificant. However, numerous seizures of small quantities of cocaine were made in countries in the eastern Mediterranean area (in Lebanon and Turkey). In Israel, cocaine appears to be readily available on the illicit market, although that has not been reflected in the seizures effected in recent years.

Psychotropic substances

484. Stimulants continue to be smuggled and abused in West Asia, mainly in the eastern Mediterranean area and on the Arab peninsula. In 2000, there were significant seizures of MDMA (Ecstasy) in Israel and Turkey. Jordan, the Syrian Arab Republic and Turkey continue to report seizures of stimulants illicitly manufactured in southern and eastern Europe under the brand name Captagon. The precise composition of most of those stimulants has not been made known by the authorities. The majority of the stimulants seized continue to be destined for countries on the Arab peninsula, although data on the actual extent of abuse of such products in those countries remain scarce.

485. In many countries in West Asia, the abuse of benzodiazepines is widespread, indicating that controls over the licit distribution of such products are weak. The abuse of benzodiazepines in tablet form is assumed to be particularly common among women in countries in the eastern Mediterranean area, where opiate abuse is reported to be less common. In Afghanistan, the Islamic Republic of Iran and Pakistan, benzodiazepines are often abused in conjunction with opium and heroin and they continue to be added to heroin as adulterants.

486. The abuse of LSD continues to be reported in Israel.

Missions

487. In March 2001, the Board sent a mission to Jordan. The Board notes with satisfaction that the activities planned in the national plan for combating drugs and psychotropic substances for the period

1999-2001 are beginning to be implemented. The Board trusts that the activities will enhance the coordination among all the government authorities concerned.

488. Considering the extent of the desert areas in Jordan, the length of its borders and its increasing trade through the recently established free port of Aqaba, the Board encourages the Government to join efforts with Governments of its neighbouring countries and strengthen the interdiction capacity of national institutions in order to improve border surveillance. The Board noted with appreciation that the Government of Jordan is drafting provisions for the control of precursor chemicals. The Board welcomes the decision of the Government to adopt more comprehensive legislation against money-laundering as part of the ongoing process of amending relevant laws and regulations in the country.

489. While drug abuse does not seem to be, at present, a serious problem in Jordan, the Board welcomes the initiatives taken by the Jordanian authorities on the treatment and prevention of drug abuse, including the establishment of a national centre for the rehabilitation of addicts.

490. In April 2001, the Board sent a mission to Pakistan. The Board notes with appreciation that the Government of Pakistan has attached great importance to tackling the problems of drug abuse and illicit trafficking and has been fully committed to the eradication of illicit opium poppy cultivation in the country. As a result, the opium-harvesting areas in the Dir district were effectively cleared of illicit opium poppy cultivation in 2000. The Board encourages the Government to continue its law enforcement and alternative development efforts in order to prevent a resurgence of illicit opium poppy cultivation.

491. The Board notes that drug abuse continues to be a serious problem in Pakistan. The Board welcomes the efforts of the Government in reassessing the situation using a rapid situation assessment undertaken in 2000. The Board appreciates that the Government is reviewing the findings of the assessment and trusts that the results will soon be made available. Health and regulatory aspects have to be incorporated into a well-coordinated approach to reducing illicit drug demand, and all parts of the Government, as well as non-governmental organizations should contribute to that effort.

492. The Board continues to be concerned that control of licit activities related to narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances is inadequate in Pakistan, particularly with respect to the distribution and sale of psychotropic substances at the provincial level. The lack of control and monitoring mechanisms has contributed, to a large extent, to the abuse of psychotropic substances in the country. The Board requests the Government to identify loopholes in the control system and take measures to improve monitoring at the retail level.

493. A mission of the Board visited the Syrian Arab Republic in June 2001. The Government has taken the steps necessary to give effect to the provisions of the international drug control treaties in national law. However, in view of the high consumption of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances for licit purposes, the Board encourages the Government to continue monitoring the situation, in order to detect irregularities such as overprescription or possible abuse. The Board also encourages the Government to further strengthen its precursor control system, since it appears that countries in West Asia are being used for the diversion of chemicals.

494. A large amount of synthetic drugs, mostly packaged as Captagon tablets, are seized each year in the Syrian Arab Republic. The Board encourages the Government, together with the Governments of other countries in West Asia, to establish an effective information network in order to address the issue of trafficking in synthetic drugs.

495. Money-laundering has not become an issue in the Syrian Arab Republic since the banking sector is State-controlled. However, with the impending liberalization of the banking sector and the financial sector, the country may well become a target for money-laundering. The Board welcomes the fact that the Government has approved a law on bank secrecy and has begun developing mechanisms to prevent possible fraudulent use of the financial system. The Board encourages the Government to establish an effective framework and procedures for the prevention of money-laundering.

D. Europe

Major developments

496. Europe remains a major source of illicitly manufactured synthetic drugs, abused widely by young people both within and outside the region. The Board is concerned about the easy availability of synthetic drugs throughout the region. In central and eastern Europe, a noticeable increase in the illicit manufacture and abuse of amphetamine-type stimulants has been reported. The Board calls for more cooperation among countries in the region in order to effectively address those problems. Europe remains the second largest illicit market for cocaine in the world, after North America.

497. In the past decade, the countries in central and eastern Europe have experienced a significant increase in drug abuse and illicit trafficking. While cannabis remains the most widely abused drug, the availability of opiates originating in south-west Asia has increased. Authorities in some countries are concerned by the appearance of “open-drug scenes”, which is a new phenomenon in central and eastern Europe.

498. Drug trafficking in Europe often involves organized criminal groups. For example, Russian law enforcement authorities reported that the number of drug-related crimes committed by such groups increased sixfold from 1996 to 2000. Drug trafficking in the region continues to be in the hands of transnational organized criminal groups. International drug trafficking organizations are increasingly smuggling more than one type of drug.

499. Some countries in western Europe have decriminalized offences related to the possession and abuse of controlled drugs and openly tolerate the abuse of drugs, particularly cannabis and MDMA (Ecstasy). The Governments of those countries should consider whether that is the proper strategy for achieving the targets set by the General Assembly at its twentieth special session, in particular the target of significantly reducing drug abuse by the year 2008. So far, none of the Governments concerned have been able to provide to the Board information showing that the application of such measures reduces the demand for illicit drugs.

500. As long as there is no significant reduction of the demand for cannabis in most parts of western Europe, where cannabis abuse is increasingly tolerated, the

success of all eradication efforts made by Governments outside of Europe is bound to be limited.

Treaty adherence

501. Since the last report of the Board was published, Albania has ratified the 1961 Convention and the 1988 Convention and Belarus and Ukraine have acceded to the 1972 Protocol amending the 1961 Convention. Of the 44 States in Europe, 43 are parties to the 1961 Convention, 42 are parties to the 1971 Convention and 41 States and the European Community are parties to the 1988 Convention.

502. The Holy See, Liechtenstein and Switzerland remain the only States in Europe that have not yet ratified the 1988 Convention.

503. The Board notes with satisfaction that Albania, the only State in Europe that was not a party to any of the international drug control treaties, has acceded to the 1961 Convention and to the 1988 Convention. The Board encourages Albania to become a party to the 1971 Convention as well.

Regional cooperation

504. On their way to becoming integrated into the European Union, a number of countries in central and eastern Europe benefit from assistance provided by institutions of the European Union. For example, the Phare programme has been active in providing assistance to strengthen the capacity of law enforcement authorities to deal with drug-related and cross-border crime and to develop chemical controls. Regional cooperation could be further fostered by including the surrounding States in those efforts, in particular in efforts aimed at strengthening criminal intelligence capabilities and the exchange of information at the regional level. CIS member States operate a common database on drug-related cases, created under a multilateral intergovernmental agreement on cooperation in combating the trafficking in narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and precursors.

505. Another example of subregional cooperation are the activities of the centre for combating transborder crime, established by the Southeast European Cooperative Initiative in Bucharest, which serves as a focal point for sharing information, including information on drug trafficking, among countries in the subregion.

506. Member States of the European Union have started to implement the European Union Action Plan to Combat Drugs (2000-2004), a political framework guiding the activities of the European Union in the field of drug control. The Board appreciates the fact that the European Commission, in cooperation with the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction, has begun examining existing drug co-ordination arrangements in the member States of the European Union, with a view to further strengthening them. The Board encourages each presidency of the European Council to focus its programme on the implementation of the Action Plan, in order to ensure its full implementation by the end of 2004.

National legislation, policy and action

507. A new law on the medical use of analgesics entered into force in Italy in March 2001. The law significantly simplifies the procedures for the prescription of opioids. Prescriptions no longer have to be handwritten and they may cover medication for a period of up to 30 days of treatment (the previous maximum period was eight days). Opioids needed to meet urgent requirements may now be held and transported by doctors and can be administered in the patient's home. Sanctions for violation of administrative procedures on the prescription of opioids were significantly reduced. The new law should enable an increase in the medical use of opioids in Italy, which has one of the lowest average levels of consumption of narcotic analgesics in Europe.

508. In Germany, regulations amending the Narcotics Prescription Regulation in order to increase security and control of drugs used in maintenance programmes went into effect in June 2001. Physicians who prescribe substitution drugs for heroin addicts must show that the addicts qualify for drug substitution therapy. In addition, all prescriptions of substitution drugs will be registered in a central register. The Board welcomes the efforts by the Government of Germany to curb the diversion of drugs used in maintenance programmes and encourages the Governments of other countries with drug maintenance programmes to take similar steps.

509. According to a new law that entered into force in Luxembourg in May 2001, prison sentences are no longer given for the abuse of cannabis or the possession of cannabis for personal abuse. Prison

sentences might still be applied, however, if cannabis is abused in the presence of minors, in schools or at the workplace. Similarly, effective July 2001, penal sanctions in Portugal no longer apply to the illicit use, possession and acquisition for personal abuse of all drugs; instead, those offences are now subject to administrative sanctions such as fines or other limitations of rights. The Board would like to remind States that article 3, paragraph 2, of the 1988 Convention requires each party to that Convention to establish as a criminal offence under its domestic law, when committed intentionally, the possession, purchase or cultivation of narcotic drugs or psychotropic substances for personal consumption contrary to the provisions of the 1961 Convention, the 1961 Convention as amended by the 1972 Protocol, or the 1971 Convention, keeping in mind that parties have to meet their fundamental obligation under all three conventions to limit the use of controlled substances to medical and scientific purposes.

510. The Board wishes to reiterate⁶² that the establishment of drug injection rooms, where addicts can abuse drugs obtained from illicit sources, under direct or indirect supervision of the Government, is contrary to the international drug control treaties.

511. The Board notes that most countries in central and eastern Europe have made substantial steps towards developing their national drug control legislation, as well as in upgrading their administrative and coordination structures. That is partly related to the process of expanding the membership of the European Union, as many candidate countries have adjusted their drug control measures and begun to adapt their legislation to meet the standards of the European Union. Although the process varies in intensity throughout central and eastern Europe, most Governments have elaborated and implemented in a more consistent manner multidisciplinary national drug control strategies.

512. The Board urges the Government of the Russian Federation to complete the adoption and promulgation of all remaining regulations for ensuring the full implementation of the 1997 law on narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances.

513. Even when legal and institutional frameworks are in place, Governments' capacities to implement effectively the adopted measures remain limited in central and eastern Europe. The problem is largely at the working level and it stems from limitations in

financial, material and human resources. Some authorities experience difficulties related to lack of, for example, legislation on the use in courts of evidence collected during controlled deliveries or legislation on the substitution of drugs during such operations. Since relevant legislative texts have already been drafted, the Board invites the Governments concerned to finalize their adoption.

514. The Board welcomes the entry into force of legislation on precursor control in Slovakia in January 2001. The Board wishes to reiterate its call to the Governments of Albania⁶³ and Croatia⁶⁴ for the adoption of such legislation, the drafts of which have already been prepared.

515. As a matter of principle, the Board wishes to underline the importance of effective legislation on the control of precursors and other chemicals used in illicit drug manufacture. Such legislation should also provide for sanctions that will have the appropriate deterrent effect on trafficking in such chemicals.

516. The Board appreciates the adoption of legislation against money-laundering in Poland in January 2001 and in the Russian Federation in August 2001. The Board invites the Governments of the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine to accelerate the adoption of such legislation.

517. In May 2001, a comprehensive action plan aimed at, inter alia, intensifying the criminal investigation and prosecution of cases involving synthetic drugs, particularly MDMA (Ecstasy), in the period 2002-2006, was presented by the Government of the Netherlands. The action plan foresees research on the neurotoxic effects of synthetic drugs and the implementation of campaigns for the prevention of drug abuse. The action plan also calls for considerable funds to be devoted to improving the handling of criminality related to synthetic drugs as well as strengthening international legal assistance and cooperation. In this regard, the Board requests the Government of the Netherlands to cooperate closely with the Government of China in order to prevent the smuggling into western Europe of chemicals used in the clandestine manufacture of stimulants. Those chemicals are mainly manufactured in China for licit purposes.

518. In May 2001, the Government of Ireland adopted a national drug control strategy for the period 2001-

2008 entitled "Building on Experience". The overall objective of the strategy is to significantly reduce the harm that drug abuse causes to individuals and society through concerted efforts focusing on the reduction of illicit drug supply and on drug abuse prevention, treatment and research. The strategy sets concise targets and specifies key performance indicators.

519. In Germany, a project on the administration of heroin to addicts is expected to commence in late 2001. In the project, about 1,200 heroin addicts in seven cities will be monitored over a three-year period to investigate whether management with heroin is a suitable way of retaining them in the addicts' support system in order to eventually move them towards abstinence. In addition to health outcomes, social and criminological effects are to be studied. The Board trusts that any such project rests on scientifically and medically sound protocols. The Board wishes to emphasize the importance of formally involving WHO in the evaluation of the results. Furthermore, the Board, recalling the experience of Switzerland, wishes to reiterate its reservations towards such maintenance programmes.⁶⁵

520. There are substitution treatment programmes for heroin addicts in all 15 member States of the European Union, where it is estimated that over 300,000 addicts receive drug substitution care from general practitioners, treatment centres, methadone clinics or similar outlets. As there is no information on how those programmes have influenced the illicit market for heroin, the Board invites Governments of member States of the European Union to assess the impact of such programmes on the illicit market for and the abuse of heroin.

521. Albania, which faces growing problems concerning illicit drug production and drug abuse, has undertaken some primary and secondary prevention activities but needs to finalize a comprehensive national strategy for reducing illicit drug demand. In Bulgaria, a five-year national programme for the prevention, treatment and rehabilitation of drug addicts was adopted. In Latvia, the authorities have started a programme aimed at reducing illicit drug demand among young people. As such programmes are often short of funds, the Board invites Governments of countries in central and eastern Europe to allocate sufficient resources to such demand reduction activities.

522. In its report for 1999,⁶⁶ the Board again encouraged countries in eastern Europe to establish drug abuse information systems and to collect data on the prevalence of drug abuse in that subregion. The Board is therefore pleased to note that progress has been made in that area by, for example, expanding the multi-city network of the Pompidou Group to include the countries in central and eastern Europe. In Latvia and the Russian Federation, research on drug availability was finalized, providing useful information on the drug situation in those countries.

523. Because of the evidence that organized criminal networks are involved in drug trafficking, government activities against organized crime and corruption are of particular importance. The Board therefore welcomes anti-corruption measures and campaigns that have taken place in several countries in central and eastern Europe.

Cultivation, production, trafficking and abuse

Narcotic drugs

524. Cannabis remains the most widely abused and trafficked drug in Europe. Much of the cannabis available in Europe is grown in the region. Despite some eradication efforts and large seizures effected by the authorities, Albania has continued to be a major source for cannabis herb. Indoor cannabis cultivation continues in Europe, facilitated by the unrestricted sale of cannabis seeds and growing accessories in so-called "hemp shops" and on the Internet. Unless Governments take action, there will continue to be no significant reduction in cannabis cultivation and abuse in the region.

525. In 2001, illicit opium poppy cultivation was discovered for the first time in Albania. In several other countries in central and eastern Europe, the illicit cultivation of opium poppy has continued on a small scale.

526. The Balkan route continues to be the main route used to smuggle heroin into Europe. There has been an increase in the flow of Afghan heroin into the Russian Federation. Most countries in central and eastern Europe, having been used for a long time as transit countries, are now facing serious problems of heroin abuse. HIV infection and hepatitis C infection are spreading among injecting drug abusers in many countries. At the beginning of the 1990s, most of the registered drug addicts in CIS member States and the

Baltic States abused home-made substances prepared from poppy straw ("kompot" or "liquid heroin"). There have been numerous reports that addicts in Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, the Russian Federation and Ukraine have replaced such home-made substances with more potent drugs, particularly heroin, in part because it is more readily available.

527. Most of the cocaine in Europe has been smuggled into the region through transit countries in South America or the Caribbean. The most significant entry point in Europe for cocaine consignments continues to be Spain, followed by the Netherlands; however, Portugal is also increasingly being used as an entry point, as indicated by an increase in cocaine seizures in that country. Drug trafficking organizations have continued to use countries in central and eastern Europe for transporting consignments of cocaine to western Europe. The extent of abuse of cocaine in that part of central and eastern Europe remains limited, mainly because of the relatively high price of the drug on local markets.

Psychotropic substances

528. Seizures of MDMA (Ecstasy) and similar synthetic drugs increased during 2000 throughout western Europe. A particularly large number of seizures were effected in France, Germany and the United Kingdom. In France, the number of seizures doubled in 2000. The authorities in Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Romania, the Russian Federation and Ukraine have reported a marked increase in the abuse of MDMA (Ecstasy). MDMA (Ecstasy) continues to be smuggled out of some countries in western Europe and into North America. Western Europe remains the source of most of the MDMA (Ecstasy) seized throughout the world.

529. Seizure statistics for 2000 show a decline in amphetamine seizures in Europe for the second year in a row. As in past years, the principal source country was reported to be the Netherlands, although several laboratories were located in countries in eastern Europe, particularly in Poland.

530. In August 2001, the national law enforcement agency of Switzerland discovered and dismantled a major methamphetamine trafficking ring, the first of its kind in Europe, which had been smuggling methamphetamine from South-East Asia into Europe. The discovery shows that the traffic in stimulants between

Asia and Europe goes in both directions. The illicit manufacture of methamphetamine has continued in the Czech Republic, where 14 laboratories for manufacturing that substance were seized in 2000. The methamphetamine manufactured in the Czech Republic is mainly sold on the illicit market in that country, though some of it is smuggled into Germany. Despite resolute action by the regulatory and law enforcement authorities in the Czech Republic, ephedrine, the main precursor for methamphetamine, continues to be available in that country. A clandestine laboratory manufacturing meth-amphetamine was also discovered in Bulgaria.

531. In addition to the widespread abuse of amphetamine and MDMA (Ecstasy), the abuse of methamphetamine, which was not previously a concern, is spreading in several parts of Europe. For example, the number of methamphetamine abusers in Poland has increased. The abuse of methamphetamine is becoming more common, particularly among women and young people, reportedly because of its low price and the variety of methods by which it can be abused.

532. In CIS member States, there continues to be concern over the large-scale abuse of home-made ephedrone. The drug is made from over-the-counter preparations containing ephedrine and from plants of the genus *Ephedra*, which grow in abundance in Central Asia.

533. Very few European countries have data on the abuse of prescription drugs, and the Board again⁶⁷ calls on Governments to examine this issue further, in order to detect and counteract possible overconsumption and abuse of such substances. The Board is concerned that, for example, studies conducted in Germany have shown that more than one third of all parents are willing to cure their children's problems in school with prescription drugs.

Missions

534. The Board sent a mission to Croatia in May 2001. Branches of the Balkan route, leading through Bosnia and Herzegovina to Croatia, are increasingly being used for trafficking in illicit drugs, mostly heroin and cannabis but also synthetic drugs and cocaine. The Board encourages the Croatian authorities to establish close cooperation with their counterparts in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Yugoslavia in order to develop a comprehensive regional approach to counteracting

such criminal activities. The increasing involvement of organized criminal groups in drug trafficking activities in Europe has made it necessary for law enforcement officers to receive training in investigative and surveillance techniques, as well as in the installation of sophisticated technical equipment.

535. The Board notes with appreciation that, in Croatia, the Commission to Combat Drug Abuse has become fully operational and is planning to prepare a national strategy on narcotic drugs. The Board hopes that the national strategy will cover all aspects of illicit drug supply and demand reduction, including law enforcement cooperation and programmes for the treatment and prevention of drug abuse, as well as a system for controlling the licit manufacture of and trade in narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and precursors.

536. The Board notes with appreciation the achievements of the Croatian health authorities in the treatment of drug addicts and in strategies for drug abuse prevention. Treatment programmes in Croatia are of a high standard and, because of the variety of inpatient and outpatient treatment options, treatment can be adjusted to suit individual cases. Programmes for drug abuse prevention are designed and regularly carried out for specific target groups, such as children, parents, teachers, social workers and doctors.

537. The Board sent a mission to Finland in September 2001. The Board wishes to commend the Government of Finland for its comprehensive policy for drug control, based on a sound general welfare approach and on a balance between law enforcement on the one side and prevention and treatment on the other. The policy is also adequately supported with resources. Legislative and administrative structures for drug control in Finland are efficient.

538. The Board notes with appreciation the resolution on drug policy adopted by the Finnish Government, which is destined to intensify measures against drug trafficking, to prevent experimenting with and abuse of drugs and to provide, and facilitate access to, adequate care and treatment for drug abusers.

539. The Board finds that Finland's experience in early drug prevention may be useful to other countries. Finland has set up in the last few years a comprehensive system for community-based drug prevention. By relying on a large network of central

and local institutions and non-governmental organizations, the authorities have built up a strong system for primary and secondary prevention. Education and information, in particular through the Internet, are considered essential means to influence attitudes and to encourage young people to lead a drug-free way of life.

540. The Board visited the Holy See in March 2001. The Board appreciates the activities of the Roman Catholic Church in the area of drug demand reduction, freeing people from the scourge of drug addiction. The Board appreciates the stand taken by the Holy See against the opening of drug injection rooms, where addicts take drugs obtained from illicit markets, which echoes the view expressed by the Board in its report for 1999.⁶⁸

541. The Holy See is a party to the 1961 Convention and the 1971 Convention. The Board calls on the Holy See to reaffirm its support for international drug control by becoming a party to the 1988 Convention, which provides valuable tools for addressing the world drug problem in all its forms, including drug abuse and illicit trafficking and related activities such as money-laundering.

542. The Board visited the Netherlands to assess the implementation of the European Commission regulations for the control of subsidized licit cultivation of low-THC cannabis for industrial purposes and their conformity with the respective requirements of the 1961 Convention.

543. The controls implemented by the authorities of the Netherlands in accordance with the relevant European Commission regulations are effective. The Board notes with satisfaction that the above-mentioned regulations of the European Commission are strict and that the misuse of those regulations or the diversion of cannabis licitly cultivated in member States of the European Union is unlikely.

544. At the same time, the Board is concerned that seeds of cannabis varieties from the Netherlands with a high THC content continue to be advertised via the World Wide Web and that the authorities of the Netherlands appear to have no legal instruments to deal with that problem.

545. The Board sent a mission to Norway in September 2001. The Board wishes to congratulate the Norwegian authorities for the strict implementation of

the international drug control conventions. The Government has consistently followed a comprehensive drug control policy in accordance with the provisions of the conventions, which includes efficient control measures and consistent efforts for prevention and treatment. Necessary legislative and administrative mechanisms for drug control have been put in place. Coordination among various authorities and Norway's reporting to the Board in accordance with the conventions have been excellent.

546. While drug abuse and trafficking have remained relatively limited in Norway compared with other countries in Europe, the country has experienced an alarming increase in the number of deaths from overdose in recent years. The Board therefore encourages the authorities of Norway, a country with a well-developed social and health-care system, to continue their efforts aimed at preventing drug abuse and providing adequate medical facilities for the treatment of drug addicts.

547. The Board sent a mission to Ukraine in July 2001. Ukraine adopted comprehensive drug control legislation in February 1995, developed a national drug control policy and enacted a number of supporting regulations. In 1999, the legislation was amended to include several new provisions, including the lifting of the prohibition of the cultivation of opium poppy. The Board urges the Government of Ukraine to take all measures necessary to prevent the diversion of poppy straw from licensed farms cultivating poppy for culinary purposes.

548. The Board notes the commitment of the authorities to meeting their obligations under the international drug control treaties and to building a system of measures to deal with the serious problems of drug abuse and illicit trafficking in Ukraine. The smuggling of illicit drugs into and through Ukraine has significantly increased in recent years, accompanied by the rapid spread of drug abuse. The Board notes the absence of resources to adequately implement the drug control legislation and to ensure the functioning of the drug control mechanisms.

549. While Ukraine has put into place mechanisms for inter-agency coordination at the policy level, coordination at the working level could be strengthened by supporting the national narcotics control commission with adequate executive powers and resources. Mechanisms to identify and counter

money-laundering activities are not yet adequate and the Board therefore encourages the authorities to enact legislation against money-laundering as soon as possible.

550. The Board sent a mission to Yugoslavia in May 2001. Drug abuse and illicit trafficking increased during the years of upheaval and international isolation that followed the secession from Yugoslavia of its former republics, as law enforcement structures and health facilities were partly destroyed. After the political situation in Yugoslavia stabilized, the transit traffic in heroin and cannabis resumed, leading to an increase in activities involving organized crime.

551. The Board encourages the Yugoslav authorities to develop a comprehensive drug control master plan, covering all areas relating to trafficking in and abuse of illicit drugs, as well as a system for controlling the licit manufacture of and trade in substances under international control. The Board suggests that a high-level national coordinating body for drug issues be established to ensure cooperation between all national offices and between the competent authorities of the Government and the republics.

552. The Board notes with appreciation that the international donor community, particularly the European Union, is providing support to Yugoslavia within the framework of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the Stability Pact for South-Eastern Europe and UNDCP. However, a concerted international or regional approach to responding to drug trafficking and organized crime is still lacking. The Board, therefore, urges the Government of Yugoslavia to work closely with the Governments of neighbouring countries in formulating coordinated and effective responses to the problem of organized crime and drug trafficking in Europe. The Board also appeals to the international community to support the efforts of the Yugoslav authorities in drug control matters through concerted technical cooperation and financial support.

553. The Board has reviewed action taken by the Government of the Netherlands pursuant to recommendations made by the Board after its mission in March 1998. The Board is concerned that the country remains the source of a significant proportion of the world's illicitly manufactured MDMA (Ecstasy) despite efforts by law enforcement agencies to curtail the illicit manufacture of and trade in the substance.

The Board is also disturbed by the widely reported plans of the local authorities in the city of Venlo to open drive-through "coffee shops" that sell cannabis, as it is a sign that the authorities have become more actively involved in organizing the distribution of that drug. The Netherlands continues to maintain a policy, introduced in the 1970s, of tolerating the consumption and sale of cannabis products in so-called "coffee shops", which is not in compliance with the international drug control treaties.

554. The Board notes, on the other hand, that the policy of tolerance has become more restrictive in recent years with the tightening of legislation governing the growing of cannabis, the reduction of the number of so-called "coffee shops" and the like.

555. Work continues to be done on a project in the Netherlands that involves, inter alia, prescribing heroin to heroin addicts. The Board trusts that efforts are being made to ensure that the basis for the project is scientifically and medically sound and that the results are carefully evaluated before any changes are made in policy or regulations.

E. Oceania

Major developments

556. Hydroponically grown cannabis has become the most popular form of cannabis abused in Australia. In all Australian states and territories, the majority of the cannabis seizures involved cannabis grown indoors. Seizure data confirm that sizeable quantities of heroin from South-East and South-West Asia continue to be smuggled into Australia, with Sydney being a key focal point for domestic distribution. In 2000, the total amount of cocaine seized by Australian law enforcement officers reached a record-high level—more than twice the total amount seized in 1999; they also made their first seizure of solutions of cocaine. The number of clandestine laboratories manufacturing amphetamine-type stimulants in Australia is also increasing, as is the number of seizures of MDMA (Ecstasy) at its air and sea borders.

557. Seizure data indicate that for the past 2-3 years, New Zealand and many of the smaller Pacific island countries in Oceania have been used more and more as trans-shipment points for smuggling illicit drugs into Australia. In late 2000, for example, a sizeable amount

(357 kg) of heroin was seized in Fiji; it is believed that the heroin originated in South-East Asia and was destined for Australia.

558. An increasing number of Pacific islands are becoming offshore financial centres. The Board is concerned about the fact that, in 2001, a number of jurisdictions in Oceania, including the Cook Islands, the Marshall Islands, Nauru and Niue, were classified as non-cooperative by the Financial Action Task Force on Money Laundering. If inadequately supervised, offshore financial centres provide those engaged in criminal activity, including drug trafficking, with an opportunity to launder their illicit profits.

559. The Board regrets that local authorities in the Australian state of New South Wales have permitted the establishment of a drug injection room, setting aside the concerns expressed by the Board⁶⁹ that the operation of such facilities, where addicts inject themselves with illicit substances, condones illicit drug use and drug trafficking and runs counter to the provisions of the international drug control treaties. The Board notes that the national policy in Australia does not support the establishment of drug injection rooms. The Board urges the Government to ensure that all of its states comply fully with the provisions of the international drug control treaties, to which Australia is a party.

Treaty adherence

560. Of the 15 States in Oceania, 9 are parties to the 1961 Convention and 8 are parties to the 1971 Convention; only 4 are parties to the 1988 Convention. The Board is particularly concerned that a number of Pacific island States, namely Kiribati, Nauru, Samoa, Tuvalu and Vanuatu, have not yet become parties to any of the international drug control treaties. Insofar as a number of Pacific island States are at risk of being used as trans-shipment points by persons engaged in illicit drug trafficking and money-laundering, the Board urges Governments in the region to accede to all of the international drug control treaties without further delay and to implement fully the provisions of those treaties. The Board also urges regional organizations in Oceania to encourage all their members to accede to the international drug control treaties if they have not already done so.

Regional cooperation

561. Regional organizations, including the Pacific Islands Forum (formerly called the South Pacific Forum) and the Asia/Pacific Group on Money Laundering, as well as the United Nations and the Commonwealth Secretariat, continue to be important bodies through which coordinated action to implement the provisions of the international drug control treaties in the Pacific island States can be achieved.

National legislation, policy and action

562. The National Illicit Drugs Campaign, launched by the Government of Australia in March 2001, is aimed at motivating parents of teenagers to talk with their children about drugs. It is the most extensively funded national public information campaign against illicit drugs that has ever been launched in Australia. The Board requests that the results of any evaluation of the campaign be shared with those Governments planning to conduct similar campaigns.

563. The Board notes that, in 2001, the Government of Australia developed an international drug strategy to complement its National Drug Strategic Framework.

Cultivation, production, manufacture, trafficking and abuse

Narcotic drugs

564. In Australia, the hydroponic cultivation of cannabis continues to increase and the outdoor cultivation of cannabis continues to decrease. In response to that situation, one state in Australia has initiated measures to make the hydroponic cultivation of any quantity of cannabis a criminal offence, thereby revising its policy of issuing only fines for growing a small number of cannabis plants for personal consumption. Power companies in several Australian states and territories have reported an increased incidence of theft of electricity by persons engaged in the hydroponic cultivation of cannabis. Significant cannabis cultivation also continues in Papua New Guinea. Cannabis is cultivated primarily in the highlands of Papua New Guinea, to be abused in that country or smuggled into other countries, mainly Australia, often in exchange for small arms. In a number of smaller Pacific island States, such as Fiji and Tonga, there have been reports of cannabis growing wild, being illicitly cultivated or being seized.

565. Fiji and Vanuatu are known to be used by drug traffickers as transit points for large consignments of heroin originating in South-East Asia and destined for Australia, which is the main area of heroin abuse in Oceania. In 2000, there was an increase in the number of seizures of heroin at the border of Australia. Heroin continued to be widely available in that country during that year, as prices have either remained stable or, in the case of the states of New South Wales and Victoria, fallen. In Australia, the number of cases involving opioid overdose was on the increase during the 1990s. Other countries in the region do not appear to have a significant heroin abuse problem at the present time.

566. Both the availability of and demand for cocaine remain limited in all countries in Oceania except Australia, where the quantity of the drug seized at the border in 2001 was more than twice the figure for the preceding year. Drug traffickers continue to move cocaine from South America to Australia through the Pacific islands.

Psychotropic substances

567. In Australia, an increased number of clandestine laboratories manufacturing amphetamine-type stimulants were detected in 2001. In response to the increased illicit manufacture in that country, all state and territorial police have established chemical diversion units to monitor suspicious purchases of the precursor chemicals used in the illicit manufacture of, inter alia, amphetamine-type stimulants. Drug abusers in Australia are increasingly injecting methamphetamine with a high purity level (methamphetamine at the penultimate stage of manufacture, before it is converted into crystal form). In New Zealand, it has been reported that the illicit manufacture of methamphetamine is increasing. Drug traffickers, in addition to using the Pacific islands as trans-shipment points for smuggling narcotic drugs, are also using the same route for smuggling certain psychotropic substances, as evidenced by the fact that seizures of crystal methamphetamine in Palau have averaged 3-7 kg per year for the last several years and there have been seizures both in that country and in Guam of crystal methamphetamine manufactured in the Philippines.

568. Increased seizures and abuse of MDMA (Ecstasy) are being reported in countries throughout the region of Oceania. As in the past, the MDMA (Ecstasy) that is

seized is predominantly from countries in western Europe, although there have been isolated cases where law enforcement authorities in Australia have seized laboratories manufacturing the substance. The Board urges the Governments of countries in the region to maintain vigilance in order to prevent the manufacture of that substance from taking root within their borders and to cooperate with the source countries of MDMA (Ecstasy) in order to detect and prevent trafficking in that substance.

569. In New Zealand, illicit trafficking in LSD, mainly by post from Europe and the west coast of North America, and the abuse of that substance, while still posing a serious problem, are reported to have stabilized in 2000.

(Signed) Hamid Ghodse (Signed) Philip O. Emafo
President Rapporteur

(Signed) Herbert Schaepe
Secretary

Vienna, 15 November 2001

Notes

¹ *Report of the International Narcotics Control Board for 1997* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.98.XI.1), paras. 8-23.

² *Official Records of the United Nations Conference for the Adoption of a Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, Vienna, 25 November-20 December 1988*, vol. I (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.94.XI.5).

³ *Report of the International Narcotics Control Board for 1997* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.98.XI.1), para. 23.

⁴ *Report of the International Narcotics Control Board for 1998* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.98.XI.1), para. 241.

⁵ *Report of the International Narcotics Control Board for 2000* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.01.XI.1), paras. 30, 100 and 133-137.

- ⁶ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1019, No. 14956.
- ⁷ This is the working definition adopted by the Customs Cooperation Council (also called the World Customs Organization). It covers not only computers but also telephony, electronic payment cards etc.
- ⁸ Department of Justice, Drug Enforcement Administration web site: <http://www.usdoj.gov/dea/programs/cfp.htm>
- ⁹ D. R. Marshall, Acting Administrator of the Drug Enforcement Administration, statement before the Subcommittee on the Western Hemisphere, Committee on International Relations, United States House of Representatives, 3 March 1999: <http://www.usdoj.gov/dea/pubs/cngrtest/ct990303.htm>
- ¹⁰ Organization of American States, Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission, *Evaluation of Progress in Drug Control: Hemispheric Report 1999-2000* (Washington, D.C., December 2000).
- ¹¹ D. R. Marshall, Acting Administrator of the Drug Enforcement Administration, statement before the Subcommittee on Crime, Judiciary Committee, United States House of Representatives, 29 July 1999: <http://www.house.gov/judiciary/mars0729.htm>
- ¹² "New Colombian smugglers hold tech advantage", *Washington Post*, 15 November 1999.
- ¹³ http://www.apbnews.com/newscenter/internetcrime/2000/05/26/pharmacy0526_01.html
- ¹⁴ *Report of the International Narcotics Control Board for 1997* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.98.XI.1), paras. 8-23.
- ¹⁵ Financial Action Task Force on Money Laundering, "Report on money laundering typologies 2000-2001", Paris, 1 February 2001.
- ¹⁶ National Criminal Intelligence Service, "Project Trawler: crime on the information highways", June 1999, at <http://www.cyber-rights.org/documents/trawler/htm>
- ¹⁷ McConnell International, "Cyber crime ... and punishment? Archaic laws threaten global information", December 2000, www.mcconnellinternational.com/services/securitylawproject.cfm
- ¹⁸ K. H. Tan, "Prosecuting foreign-based computer crime: international law and technology collide", presented at the Symposium on the Rule of Law in the Global Village, Palermo, Italy, 12-14 December 2000.
- ¹⁹ "Crimes related to computer networks: background paper for the workshop on crimes related to the computer network" (A/CONF.187/10), para. 37.
- ²⁰ McConnell International, "Cyber crime ... and punishment? Archaic laws threaten global information", December 2000, www.mcconnellinternational.com/services/securitylawproject.cfm
- ²¹ Dorothy D. Denning and William E. Baugh, Jr., "Encryption and evolving technologies as tools of organized crime and terrorism", 1997: <http://www.cs.georgetown.edu/~denning/crypto/oc-rpt.txt>
- ²² United Kingdom, Cabinet Office, "Encryption and law enforcement", May 1999: <http://www.cabinet-office.gov.uk/innovation/1999/pdf/report.pdf>
- ²³ Council of Europe, *European Treaty Series*, No. 185.
- ²⁴ *Report of the International Narcotics Control Board for 1997* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.98.XI.1), paras. 8-23.
- ²⁵ D. M. Kerr, Assistant Director, Laboratory Division, Federal Bureau of Investigation, statement before the Subcommittee on the Constitution. Committee on the Judiciary, United States House of Representatives, 24 July 2000: <http://www.fbi.gov/congress/congress00/kerr072400.htm>
- ²⁶ D. M. Kerr, Assistant Director, Laboratory Division, Federal Bureau of Investigation, statement before the Committee on the Judiciary, United States Senate, 6 September 2000: <http://www.fbi.gov/congress/congress00/kerr060900.htm>
- ²⁷ C. Callanan, "Between freedom and control: dilemmas of Internet service providers", presented at the Symposium on the Rule of Law in the Global Village, Palermo, Italy, 12-14 December 2000.
- ²⁸ "Conclusions of the study on effective measures to prevent and control high-technology and computer-related crime: report of the Secretary-General" (E/CN.15/2001/4).
- ²⁹ *International Review of Criminal Policy*, Nos. 43 and 44 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.94.IV.5).
- ³⁰ See "Crimes related to computer networks: background paper for the workshop on crimes related to the computer network" (A/CONF.187/10).
- ³¹ See "Conclusions of the study on effective measures to prevent and control high-technology and computer-related crime: report of the Secretary-General" (E/CN.15/2001/4).
- ³² <http://birmingham.g8summit.gov.uk/prebham/washington.1297.shtml>
- ³³ <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/>
- ³⁴ Decision No. 276/1999/EC of 25 January 1999.
- ³⁵ General Assembly resolution 55/25, annex I.
- ³⁶ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 520, No. 7515.
- ³⁷ *Ibid.*, vol. 976, No. 14152.

- ³⁸ *Report of the International Narcotics Control Board for 2000* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.01.XI.1).
- ³⁹ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 976, No. 14151.
- ⁴⁰ Extent of competence: article 12.
- ⁴¹ See *Report of the International Narcotics Control Board for 2000* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.01.XI.1), paras. 111 and 112; and *Precursors and Chemicals Frequently Used in the Illicit Manufacture of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances: Report of the International Narcotics Control Board for 2000 on the Implementation of Article 12 of the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.01.XI.4), paras. 49-52.
- ⁴² See *Report of the International Narcotics Control Board for 1999* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.00.XI.1), paras. 100-105; *Report of the International Narcotics Control Board for 2000* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.01.XI.1), paras. 105-110; *Precursors and Chemicals Frequently Used in the Illicit Manufacture of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances: Report of the International Narcotics Control Board for 1999 on the Implementation of Article 12 of the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.00.XI.3), paras. 40-50; and *Precursors and Chemicals Frequently Used in the Illicit Manufacture of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances: Report of the International Narcotics Control Board for 2000 on the Implementation of Article 12 of the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.01.XI.4), paras. 40-48.
- ⁴³ Obtaining considerably more prescriptions than clinically necessary in the course of a year.
- ⁴⁴ *Report of the International Narcotics Control Board for 2000* ..., para. 98.
- ⁴⁵ *Precursors and Chemicals Frequently Used in the Illicit Manufacture of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances: Report of the International Narcotics Control Board for 2001 on the Implementation of Article 12 of the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.XI.4).
- ⁴⁶ *Ibid.*
- ⁴⁷ *Ibid.*
- ⁴⁸ Competent authorities from Belgium, China, France, India, Germany, Romania, Slovakia, the United Kingdom and the United States, as well as the European Commission, participated in the round table. Competent authorities from the Netherlands, where most seizures of precursors for MDMA (Ecstasy) are effected, were also invited but were unable to attend.
- ⁴⁹ *Report of the International Narcotics Control Board for 1998* ..., paras. 105-107.
- ⁵⁰ *Report of the International Narcotics Control Board for 2000* ..., paras. 119-127.
- ⁵¹ *Ibid.*
- ⁵² *Ibid.*, paras. 146-150.
- ⁵³ *Narcotic Drugs: Estimated World Requirements for 2002; Statistics for 2000* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E/F/S.02.XI.2).
- ⁵⁴ See, for example, *Report of the International Narcotics Control Board for 1999* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.00.XI.1), paras. 1-50.
- ⁵⁵ WHO/EDM/QSM/2000.4.
- ⁵⁶ See *Psychotropic Substances: Statistics for 2000; Assessments of Animal Medical and Scientific Requirements for Substances in Schedules II, III and IV* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E/F/S.02.XI.3).
- ⁵⁷ *Report of the International Narcotics Control Board for 1998* ..., para. 89.
- ⁵⁸ League of Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. LXXXI, p. 317.
- ⁵⁹ Burundi, Comoros, Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Madagascar, Mauritius, Rwanda, Seychelles, Somalia, Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania.
- ⁶⁰ See, for example, *Report of the International Narcotics Control Board for 1998* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.99.XI.1), para. 238.
- ⁶¹ Called Lancang Jian in China.
- ⁶² *Report of the International Narcotics Control Board for 1999* ..., paras. 176 and 177.
- ⁶³ *Report of the International Narcotics Control Board for 2000* ..., paras. 448 and 484.
- ⁶⁴ *Ibid.*, para. 463.
- ⁶⁵ *Report of the International Narcotics Control Board for 1999* ..., para. 452.
- ⁶⁶ *Ibid.*, para. 446.
- ⁶⁷ See, for example, *Report of the International Narcotics Control Board for 2000* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.01.XI.1), para. 177.
- ⁶⁸ *Report of the International Narcotics Control Board for 1999* ..., paras. 176 and 177.
- ⁶⁹ *Ibid.*