

III. Analysis of the world situation

A. Africa

Major developments

238. Throughout Africa, cannabis cultivation, production, trafficking and abuse continue to be important drug control issues. Africa has remained a major supplier of cannabis to some countries outside the region. Illicitly grown cannabis is abused throughout the continent and has remained the main drug of abuse in most African countries, accounting for over 60 per cent of drug treatment demand in the region. A worrisome new development appears to be the increasing shift from cultivation of food crops to cannabis in some areas, resulting in food shortages. In view of the many problems related to cannabis abuse and trafficking in Africa, the Board calls on appropriate international institutions to prepare a comprehensive assessment of the impact of cannabis cultivation and trafficking on the economies of the countries in the region and the health and social conditions of their populations, including proposals for future action.

239. In addition to the abuse of cannabis, the abuse of psychotropic substances continues to be of concern in Southern, Eastern and Western Africa. Despite intensive law enforcement efforts aimed at interrupting the supply of methaqualone (Mandrax), the abuse of that substance continues unabated in countries in Eastern and Southern Africa, above all in South Africa. The abuse of opiates and cocaine has developed along the transit trafficking routes, mainly in Nigeria and South Africa and in some urban centres in other countries.

240. Illicit drug trafficking remains a major problem in the region. Information gathered from war-torn countries in Western and Central Africa, in particular in the Central African Republic, Côte d'Ivoire and Liberia, indicates that the arms and ammunitions used by rebel groups and criminal organizations to destabilize those subregions may have been partly procured with the proceeds of illicit drug trafficking. There have also been reports of widespread abuse of cannabis and other drugs by young insurgent combatants in the civil wars in Côte d'Ivoire and Liberia.

241. The Board is concerned about the continued diversion of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances from licit distribution channels into parallel markets. The sale of such substances by street vendors and health-care providers, without medical prescription, especially to young people, continues to represent a major problem for many countries in Africa.

Treaty adherence

242. The Board welcomes the accession of Algeria to the 1972 Protocol amending the 1961 Convention in March 2003.

243. Angola, the Congo and Equatorial Guinea have remained the only countries in Africa that are not yet parties to any of the three main international drug control treaties. In addition, Chad has 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 and Somalia are not yet parties to the 1988 Convention.

244. The Board has noted with appreciation that the Government of the Congo presented to parliament draft legislation that, once enacted, would allow it to ratify the three international drug control treaties and deposit its instruments of accession with the Secretary-General.

Regional cooperation

245. Throughout Africa, collaboration targeting the drug problem continued within intergovernmental organizations, such as the African Union, the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the Southern African Development Community (SADC) and the East African Community (EAC).

246. The African Union remains committed to the implementation of the Plan of Action on Drug Control in Africa: 2002-2006. This plan commits African Union member States and African regional organizations to take concrete action in identified drug control priority sectors and to integrate those measures into development, as well as social and health programmes. The Board is pleased to note that a drug

control and crime prevention unit has recently been established within the African Union secretariat.

247. In Tunisia, Arab ministers of information and of the interior held a meeting in Tunis in January 2003 to discuss money-laundering, terrorism and organized crime and to coordinate policies among member countries of the Council of Arab Ministers of the Interior. In the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, ministers of the interior of the western Mediterranean States coalition met in Tripoli in July 2003 to discuss their countries' cooperation in fighting terrorism, drug trafficking, organized crime and other issues.⁴³

248. In Ghana, a regional workshop that brought together the coordinators of inter-ministerial drug committees, national project coordinators and non-governmental organization representatives of the ECOWAS member States⁴⁴ was held in Accra in May 2003.

249. In Kenya, at the third annual meeting of the East Africa Drug Information System, held in Nairobi in October 2003, national focal points reported on the drug situation in their countries and on progress made towards the development of national drug information systems. In 2003, the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania ratified the EAC protocol on combating drug trafficking in East Africa, which is aimed at promoting cooperation in criminal and intelligence matters among the drug control units of Kenya, Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania.

250. In view of the rapidly growing number of clandestine laboratories for the illicit manufacture of drugs, especially amphetamine-type stimulants and methaqualone, SADC is to convene a regional seminar on precursor chemical monitoring for SADC member States in Johannesburg, South Africa, in November 2003. The objective of the meeting is to set up a more effective system for controlling the movement of the chemicals used in the manufacturing processes in such clandestine laboratories and to create the necessary information networks to facilitate the seizure of more substances currently used in illicit drug manufacture or abuse in the subregion.

251. Throughout Africa, there is a need to improve national capacities to collect, analyse and publish substance abuse and drug-related data that can be used to formulate policy. The Board appreciates the work of the SADC Epidemiology Network on Drug Use, which

has laid the basis for the regular collation and provision of data on drug abuse to be used by law enforcement, health and welfare authorities.

252. The Board notes that over 330 judges, magistrates, investigators and prosecutors were trained in drug-related casework during the period 2001-2002 in the training programme of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime for the judiciary in Southern and Eastern Africa. It is anticipated that about 720 judicial officials from 19 countries⁴⁵ will have been trained by the end of 2004. The Government of Uganda has also offered to host a training venue, in addition to those in South Africa and Zimbabwe.

National legislation, policy and action

253. After the enactment in 2002 of its first legislation against money-laundering,⁴⁶ the Government of Egypt is currently drafting related regulations to enhance the enforcement of the law. The Egyptian authorities are also strengthening their drug abuse prevention activities to complement the treatment services for drug abusers, including street children.

254. The Government of Ethiopia has introduced draft legislation against money-laundering and a bill updating the penal code in parliament. The updated bill would significantly increase the maximum sentence for drug trafficking. The Central Bank of Lesotho has recently issued a directive that any suspicious financial transactions must be reported to it by the banks. In 2002, legislation against money-laundering was enacted in Nigeria. The Government of that country also established an Anti-Terrorism, Economic and Financial Crimes Commission to coordinate government efforts against money-laundering and financial crimes.

255. In February 2003, the Parliament of the United Republic of Tanzania adopted a revised drug control legislation transforming the Pharmacy Board into the autonomous Tanzania Food and Drugs Authority, thereby ensuring better continuity in the technical work of the regulatory authorities. In Uganda, new drug control legislation aimed at harmonizing national laws with the provisions of the three international drug control treaties is expected to be presented to Parliament before the end of 2003.

256. To complement its efforts to strengthen the national and legal institutional capacities, the

Government of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya is in the process of improving existing procedures for drug law enforcement in international mail, including postal and courier systems.

257. The Board welcomes the steps taken by the Government of Morocco to conduct a comprehensive cannabis survey in 2003 to determine the extent, locations and patterns of cannabis cultivation in the northern part of the country. The Government intends to use the result of the survey to develop, implement and redirect action under the national development programme for the Northern Rif in order to achieve a lasting reduction of illicit cannabis cultivation. The Government has allocated a substantial amount of money to the national development programme, for lasting and sustainable development of the Rif area, the poorest and most underdeveloped area in Morocco.

258. The Board notes that, in South Africa, the joint police and customs container-profiling capacity, established at Johannesburg International Airport in April 2003, has been successful. It also notes that the demand reduction campaign “Ke Moja”, which began on a pilot basis in 2002, was launched nationwide in June 2003. The Board welcomes the implementation of legislation to combat money-laundering, and the establishment of a financial intelligence centre.

259. The Board notes with appreciation that the Government of the Sudan is developing a comprehensive multisectoral drug control programme with a view to building up a coordinated law enforcement programme, a demand reduction programme and a rural development programme for the illicit drug cultivation areas, with a view to promoting sustained alternative development.

260. The Board notes with appreciation that since 2002, drug control master plans have been adopted by Madagascar and Namibia. Furthermore, similar master plans are currently being drafted by the Governments of Algeria, Malawi and Mozambique.

Cultivation, production, manufacture, trafficking and abuse

Narcotic drugs

261. Cannabis continues to be the most widely grown, trafficked and abused drug on the African continent, accounting for approximately one quarter of global cannabis seizures in recent years, the bulk of the

cannabis being seized by South Africa. Large cannabis seizures have also been reported in Egypt, Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Morocco, Nigeria and the United Republic of Tanzania. Large-scale illicit cultivation of cannabis remains one of the prime concerns in Morocco. Morocco is one of the world’s leading cannabis producers and the source of 60-70 per cent of the cannabis resin seized in Europe. Estimates of the extent of the area under illicit cannabis cultivation vary considerably. There are indications that in recent years there have been increases in the number of hectares of illicit cannabis cultivation and in the yield due to favourable climatic conditions. It is suspected that the intensive illicit crop cultivation and illicit drug production, trafficking and smuggling activities are sustained by a fully developed system of networking among drug traffickers. Trafficking routes for Moroccan cannabis lead mainly through Spain to other European countries. Increased law enforcement activities on the Iberian peninsula have led to a diversification of trafficking routes for Moroccan cannabis resin through Algeria and, to a lesser extent, also Tunisia and the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya. Trafficking routes also increasingly pass through other African countries south of the Sahara, in particular in Western Africa, in an attempt to disguise the origin of the illicit shipments. In Egypt, where cannabis continues to be illicitly cultivated in the northern part of the Sinai, seizures of cannabis herb rose from 7 tons in 1996 to 31 tons in 1998 and to over 59 tons in 2002. In the Sudan, there has been a shift from the cultivation of food crops to the cultivation of cannabis, resulting in a concomitant widespread shortage of food. Although cannabis eradication efforts resumed in 2001 and 2002, law enforcement authorities believe that tons of cannabis herb are smuggled across the Red Sea into Saudi Arabia and other Arab countries on the Arabian peninsula, and into Egypt and the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya.

262. In Western and Central Africa, where there is a long tradition of cannabis cultivation for the limited local market, cannabis has become a significant economic crop following the downfall of prices of cash crops in international markets. Cannabis is produced on a large scale, in particular in Ghana, Nigeria and Senegal. It is alleged that some proceeds of illicit trafficking in cannabis herb are used to finance activities of rebel groups and criminal organizations operating in the region. The economic and environ-

mental impact of cannabis cultivation, particularly the abandonment of traditional crops, as well as deforestation, are of great concern. Cannabis continues to be cultivated in most, if not all countries in Eastern Africa, where it not only fuels local demand but is also a significant commercial crop.

263. Southern Africa continues to be the major source of cannabis herb in Africa. The major producers are South Africa, Malawi, Lesotho, Swaziland and Mozambique, in that order. Estimates of the crop size for these main producer countries vary. Considerable efforts are being made to eradicate cannabis crops and to intercept cannabis consignments. Large quantities of cannabis are seized by the police each year. Good quality cannabis is smuggled out of the region, mainly into Europe.

264. Cocaine originating in South America and shipped mainly from Brazil, continues to transit countries in Western and Southern Africa on its way to Europe. Angola, Nigeria and South Africa continue to be major drug transit countries for cocaine from South America destined for Europe. While there has been an increase in the number of seizures of cocaine reported in Nigeria and South Africa, similar seizures have been made in Algeria, Angola, Benin, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Côte d'Ivoire, the Gambia, Kenya, Malawi, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Swaziland, Togo and the United Republic of Tanzania. Many other countries have also reported transit cocaine trafficking. The abuse of cocaine in Africa is mostly limited to the spillover effects of drug trafficking. Cannabis and methaqualone (Mandrax) remain the primary and secondary illicit drugs of abuse in South Africa. Prevalence estimates among the general population show that cocaine is behind sedatives/tranquillizers and amphetamines. The increase in the demand for treatment for cocaine abuse of previous years has recently levelled off.

265. Illicit opium poppy cultivation continues on the Sinai peninsula in Egypt, but is limited and declining, as indicated by the fall in seizures and the number of crops eradicated. Opium is consumed locally, mostly in Upper Egypt. Since no heroin processing laboratories have been discovered in Egypt for over a decade, it is assumed that no illicit manufacture of heroin is taking place there.

266. Heroin from South-East and South-West Asia continues to be smuggled through countries in Eastern

and Western Africa to illicit markets in Europe, and to some extent, the United States of America. Some heroin is also smuggled into South Africa, where its abuse has increased, particularly among youth. Of particular concern is the increase in injecting drug abuse in the major urban areas of Johannesburg, Pretoria and Cape Town. That trend is particularly worrisome, as the HIV/AIDS prevalence rate is very high in sub-Saharan Africa. Furthermore, there is the potential risk for the transmission of HIV, hepatitis and sexually transmitted diseases through the use of contaminated needles and syringes. While heroin abuse in Africa is low compared with other regions, abuse trends show an increase, particularly from the spillover effects of drug trafficking. In Eastern and Western Africa, there has also been a shift in the mode of administration towards drug abuse by injection.

Psychotropic substances

267. While the abuse of amphetamine and methamphetamine are reported in countries in Africa, most psychotropic substances continue to be diverted mainly from licit distribution channels. In countries in Western Africa, especially in the Sahelian countries, the abuse of amphetamine, ephedrine and pemoline is widespread, and some abuse of methylenedioxy-methamphetamine (MDMA, commonly known as Ecstasy) is reported in major cities and tourist sites in the subregion. One subject of major concern continues to be the abuse of pharmaceutical products that should be supplied on prescription but are sold over the counter or in the streets, particularly in several Western and Central African countries. The diversion of drugs intended for the licit market into illicit channels has also become an issue in South Africa lately. Furthermore, the illicit manufacture of amphetamines occurs in South Africa and, on a small scale, Egypt. Methcathinone ("cat") has appeared on illicit markets in South Africa. In 2002, the South African police uncovered 14 laboratories for processing methcathinone, and, by September 2003, another 16 clandestine laboratories had been dismantled (compared with only one laboratory in 2001). Dealers are claiming that methcathinone is a "safe" alternative stimulant to cocaine.

268. The abuse of methaqualone (Mandrax) continues to be a matter of concern in countries in Eastern and Southern Africa, in particular South Africa, where it has remained the second most commonly abused illicit

drug. Methaqualone continues to enter that country from India and China, frequently through Mozambique, Swaziland and Zimbabwe, and from clandestine laboratories in Southern Africa. South African law enforcement authorities made a seizure of 4 tons of pure methaqualone powder, which originated in China, together with 100 million methaqualone (Mandrax) tablets, in June 2003 and arrested six persons. That seizure of methaqualone is the largest seizure ever made of the substance. Traffickers either set up laboratories themselves in the subregion or provide local residents with the necessary expertise and materials to do so. Large consignments of the required precursor chemicals, especially anthranilic acid, apparently destined for South Africa, have repeatedly been stopped or intercepted outside the country, in countries such as Mozambique and Swaziland.

269. The abuse of MDMA (Ecstasy) occurs in Southern Africa, in particular in South Africa. A new trend appears to be the increasing local manufacture of MDMA. Police uncovered the first illicit MDMA laboratory in 1996 and have made regular finds in subsequent years, the highest seizure of six such laboratories being recorded in 2001.

Missions

270. In March 2003, the Government of Algeria ratified the 1972 Protocol amending the 1961 Convention, just before the visit of the Board's mission in April 2003. A party to all three international drug control treaties, the Government has enacted several laws to give effect to the provisions of the 1961 Convention and the 1971 Convention at the national level. Similar legislation in respect of the 1988 Convention, aimed at strengthening the control of precursor chemicals, allowing the tracing, seizing and ultimate confiscation of proceeds of drug-related crime and also facilitating international legal cooperation in the prosecution of drug-related offences, is still to be drafted.

271. Diversions of psychotropic substances, mainly benzodiazepines, appear to occur in Algeria after the substances have been licitly imported. The Board calls on the Government of Algeria to strengthen its control of the distribution of pharmaceutical products. The Board strongly encourages the Government to request

the drug law enforcement agencies to investigate the nature and source of such illicit trafficking.

272. The Board also encourages the Government of Algeria to undertake a proper assessment of the extent of drug abuse in the country. The Board acknowledges the efforts made by non-governmental organizations in Algeria to increase the awareness of drug abuse in the country.

273. In March 2003, a mission of the Board visited Mali and found that various drugs, mainly diverted from licit distribution channels and humanitarian aid, were being sold in street markets. Cannabis and heroin are trafficked through Mali but the abuse of those drugs has so far remained limited. The Board notes with appreciation that despite limited technical, logistical and human resources, both the police and customs have made important seizures of various drugs in the illicit traffic in Mali.

274. The Board encourages the Government of Mali to empower the inter-ministerial commission, set up in 1996, to promote efficient cooperation and the sharing of information between the various drug control authorities. The Board welcomes the adoption in 2001 of the specific law for the control of drugs and precursors and urges the Ministry of Justice to develop and draft the appropriate implementing decree as soon as possible.

275. The Board has reviewed action taken by the Government of Senegal pursuant to recommendations made by the Board after its mission in September 2000. The Government has strengthened control over narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances and is in a position to resume its submission of some of the reports required under the international drug control treaties. The Government has put in place mechanisms for curtailing the supply of psychotropic substances to street markets and for increasing its capacity in controlling precursors. There are currently no indications that precursor chemicals are being trafficked in the country for use in illicit drug manufacture. The Government has also taken action against the cultivation of cannabis on its territory.

276. In Senegal, however, coordination of drug control activities at the national level remains in need of further improvement. The inter-ministerial committee on drug control continues to be seriously hampered in its work as a result of a lack of cooperation from

several of the authorities that make up the committee. That has resulted in the absence of effective drug control policy measures. The Board therefore again calls on the Government of Senegal to improve inter-ministerial coordination, particularly among the drug law enforcement services but also with the Ministry of Health.

B. Americas

Central America and the Caribbean

Major developments

277. Drug trafficking in Central America and the Caribbean continues to involve mostly cannabis and cocaine, although heroin seizures have increased to unprecedented levels. Drug trafficking in the region takes place by land, air and sea (both the Caribbean Sea and the Pacific Ocean). Arms trafficking continues to be reported in Central American countries; it is suspected that the arms shipments are mainly destined for armed groups in South America that abet drug trafficking. Drug trafficking and related crimes continue to have the potential to threaten political, social and economic development, especially on the smaller islands of the Caribbean.

278. The Central American and Mexican corridor and the Caribbean continue to be the transit route used for smuggling cocaine and heroin from Colombia into North America. The smuggling of cocaine through the Caribbean and into Europe appears to have been on the increase, while the smuggling of drugs into North America appears to have remained at approximately the same level since the mid-1990s.

279. Drug trafficking has contributed to the increase in drug abuse in Central America and the Caribbean. While sufficient up-to-date epidemiological data do not seem to be available, new drugs and methods of abuse are being detected sporadically, such as GHB, heroin, MDMA (Ecstasy), flunitrazepam and combinations of cocaine and cannabis or of cocaine and heroin.

280. The Board welcomes the increased attention being given to demand reduction in Central America and the Caribbean. Countries in the region have included more initiatives related to demand reduction in their national drug control strategies, have increased budget allocations to that end, have started to conduct

surveys in order to assess perception of risk and prevalence related to the abuse of drugs in certain segments of the population and have created more prevention programmes. Shortcomings remain in the level of financial support for treatment and rehabilitation and in the availability of relevant infrastructure.

Treaty adherence

281. All States in Central America and the Caribbean are parties to the 1961 Convention and the 1988 Convention. The Board calls once again on Haiti, Honduras and Saint Lucia to accede to the 1971 Convention and on Nicaragua to ratify the 1972 Protocol amending the 1961 Convention.

Regional cooperation

282. The Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD) of the Organization of American States continues to be the main forum of overall regional cooperation and exchange of information for Central American and Caribbean countries, which, together with other countries in the Americas, participate actively in the CICAD Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism. Cooperation in areas such as judicial cooperation, law enforcement operations, and border control is usually in the form of bilateral agreements between countries. A number of Central American countries have agreements of this kind with Colombia and Mexico. The United States remains the single most important bilateral partner in drug control matters for most countries and territories, providing much needed assistance in the interdiction of drug trafficking.

283. The Board welcomes the fact that the issue of drug trafficking and money-laundering through the postal system was addressed in a workshop held in Barbados in November 2002. While most other modes of drug trafficking in the Caribbean have been targeted by law enforcement, this is a new regional effort to address drug trafficking through the mail system.

284. Several successes have been achieved in maritime drug law enforcement operations in the Caribbean through cooperation at the regional level and cooperation with authorities in Colombia and in countries in Europe and North America. In view of further economic integration of the Caribbean countries and the increasingly significant large-scale

drug trafficking by use of containers, continuous cooperation and efforts involving maritime drug law enforcement are required.

285. A regional agreement for the Caribbean based on article 17 of the 1988 Convention opened for signature in April 2003. The agreement provides a framework for strengthened cooperation between parties in combating illicit air and maritime traffic in and over the waters of the Caribbean in order to ensure that suspect vessels and aircraft are detected, identified and continuously monitored.

286. The Board notes the cooperation of countries in the Caribbean with the Netherlands and the United Kingdom to address the smuggling of drugs into Europe by large numbers of individual couriers. The Board notes that, since 2002, Curaçao and Jamaica have taken special measures at their airports to prevent boarding of drug couriers. Such measures must be coordinated with measures at other airports to prevent the displacement of such trafficking. For example, cooperation between the authorities of Jamaica and the United Kingdom, within the framework of Operation Airbridge, has resulted in a significant increase in the arrests of cocaine couriers. The Board encourages countries and territories to continue such cooperation.

287. The very limited law enforcement capacity and cases of high-level corruption in Haiti have made sustained joint operations with the law enforcement authorities of other countries almost impossible. The Board calls on Governments of countries in which the drugs originate and countries to which the drugs are sent to cooperate closely with one another in order to combat trafficking in the region.

288. The Board notes the completion of school surveys on drug abuse in several countries in the Caribbean through the Caribbean Drug Information Network, ensuring comparable data collection on drug abuse prevalence. Apart from data on drug abuse, the surveys also explored perceptions of the harmfulness of drug abuse.

289. The Permanent Central American Commission for the Eradication of the Illicit Production, Traffic, Consumption and Use of Drugs and Psychotropic Substances continues to be the main forum for cooperation and harmonization of drug control

activities and the coordination of the implementation of a regional action plan.

National legislation, policy and action

290. El Salvador is currently considering a reform of its national drug control legislation. The Board hopes that the Comisión Salvadoreña Antidrogas, created in 1995, will be able to effectively coordinate the work of all entities involved in drug demand and supply reduction activities and to implement the national plan in those areas covering the period 2002-2008.

291. The Board notes the strengthening of the drug control infrastructure of Costa Rica through the start of operations of the Costa Rican drug institute that coordinates drug control activities under the national drug control law.

292. The Board hopes that Nicaragua's recently approved national drug control plan will receive adequate resources and be successfully implemented. Law enforcement efforts to intercept illicit drug consignments passing through Guatemala appear to have increased again during 2003 after having been disrupted by cases involving high-level corruption.

293. Nearly all countries in Central America and the Caribbean have adopted national drug control plans in recent years. The Board urges the Bahamas, which is used as a significant transit point for cannabis and cocaine consignments, to adopt a national drug control plan and implement regulations on precursors/chemicals.

294. The Board hopes that the national drug control plan covering the period 2003-2008 drafted by the national drug commission of Haiti will be adopted and implemented without delay. The Board is concerned that the relatively low level of drug seizures in that country in recent years may indicate insufficient law enforcement efforts; however, the Board is encouraged by the fact that cocaine seizures increased in 2002.

295. Treatment and rehabilitation activities continue to remain mainly the domain of non-governmental organizations in the region. The Board is pleased to note that Governments of countries in the region have made efforts to further strengthen education in therapy and counselling for drug abusers. Since the beginning of 2003, major campaigns have been launched to stop the spreading of drug abuse, which the Government has linked to the opening of the country to

international trade and tourism, as well as to the transit traffic affecting the country.

296. Central American countries continue to seek ways to strengthen their capabilities to combat drug trafficking. Belize has continued efforts to improve its national drug control system, including by increasing the number of drug control officers and international assistance for training law enforcement officers, establishing a forensics laboratory and enhancing the capacity to prosecute cases involving illicit drugs.

297. The Board notes that further progress has been achieved in combating money-laundering activities in the Caribbean. Dominica and Grenada addressed the deficiencies identified by the Financial Action Task Force on Money Laundering were removed from the list of countries that the Financial Action Task Force on Money Laundering considers uncooperative in efforts to counter money-laundering. Some of the islands in the Eastern Caribbean remain especially vulnerable to money-laundering, for example, Dominica and Saint Kitts and Nevis have not yet abolished the practice of granting citizenship on the basis of economic and financial criteria.

298. Costa Rica has strengthened its legislation against money-laundering. It is hoped that amendments to the act against money-laundering in Belize will facilitate international cooperation in the investigation and prosecution of such cases in that country. In Honduras, new legislation against money-laundering entered into force in the second half of 2002 and a financial intelligence unit was established; the Board hopes that positive results will soon be obtained in that area. While Guatemala has enacted and implemented a law criminalizing the laundering of proceeds of crime, full monitoring has not yet been ensured and the country has not yet been removed from the list of countries that the Financial Action Task Force on Money Laundering considers uncooperative in efforts to counter money-laundering.

Cultivation, production, manufacture, trafficking and abuse

Narcotic drugs

299. Cannabis continues to be cultivated in all countries in Central America, mainly to be abused locally or to be smuggled into neighbouring countries. Authorities report continued efforts to eradicate

cannabis manually. Cannabis continues to be the most widely abused substance, El Salvador and Honduras reporting the highest prevalence of abuse.

300. By far the largest seizures of cannabis in the Caribbean continue to be made in Jamaica, which is an important source of the cannabis trafficked outside the subregion. In the Eastern Caribbean, cannabis is grown mainly in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Saint Lucia and Dominica, primarily to be abused in the subregion. The smuggling of cannabis herb from the Caribbean into Europe and North America has continued to decline; cannabis produced in the subregion is increasingly abused locally or trafficked within the subregion.

301. Results from surveys indicate that cannabis is the most widely abused drug among students in secondary schools in the Caribbean. The percentage of students who abused cannabis in the previous year ranged from 3 per cent in Suriname to 16.6 per cent in Saint Lucia.

302. Cocaine production in the region remains insignificant. Panama continues to be the only country in the region to report minor sites of coca bush cultivation and cocaine laboratories. The transit traffic in cocaine continues to affect all countries in the region; cocaine consignments are transported both by air and by sea and, in the case of Central American countries, also by land. The volume of cocaine seizures is usually more than 1,000 kg annually in all countries in Central America except El Salvador and in almost one third of the countries and territories in the Caribbean. In a case uncovered in Guatemala, cocaine was smuggled into the Netherlands while MDMA (Ecstasy) originating in the Netherlands was smuggled into Guatemala. The volume of seizures has fluctuated in recent years, probably showing that drug trafficking organizations are constantly changing their modi operandi and trafficking routes in Central America and the Caribbean. In 2002, the volume of cocaine seizures increased significantly in Haiti, although it was still low; it also increased in El Salvador. Puerto Rico has remained the main point of entry into the United States for cocaine smuggled through the Caribbean. Eastern Caribbean countries and territories having strong ties with Europe are also used to a significant extent for smuggling cocaine into Europe.

303. The limited data available on drug abuse prevalence in Central America and the Caribbean show that the abuse of cocaine has increased and the age of

initiation into illicit drug consumption has decreased. Cocaine or crack cocaine is the second most widely abused drug in the Caribbean among students in secondary school, the annual prevalence rate ranging from 0.2 per cent in Guyana to 3.6 per cent in Anguilla. Countries through which cocaine is trafficked tend to have a higher level of cocaine abuse. In Curaçao, the abuse of crack cocaine has become a major problem.

304. Guatemala is the only Central American country reporting marginal cultivation of opium poppy; in that country, opium poppy was illicitly cultivated and eradicated in the area bordering Belize and Mexico. Heroin seizures, which have been reported in all countries in Central America and most countries in the Caribbean, have reached unprecedented levels; most of the seized heroin originated in Colombia. In recent years, the most important heroin seizures in Central America took place in Costa Rica, Guatemala and Panama, and the most important heroin seizures in the Caribbean took place in Aruba, the Dominican Republic, Netherlands Antilles and Puerto Rico. Heroin abuse continues to be marginal, except in Puerto Rico.

305. Central America is also a transit area for shipments of precursor chemicals used in the manufacture of narcotic drugs; those shipments are destined mainly for Colombia. There are, however, still shortcomings with respect to precursor control. Trinidad and Tobago imports significant quantities of chemicals for its petrochemical industry; the Board calls on the Government to exercise vigilance in order to prevent the diversion of such chemicals for use in the illicit manufacture of cocaine in South America. Trinidad and Tobago continues to be affected by trafficking in cocaine and heroin, mainly from Venezuela.

Psychotropic substances

306. Some Central American countries have reported sporadic seizures of MDMA (Ecstasy), mostly originating in Europe. In the past, only Costa Rica reported minor seizures of other amphetamine-type stimulants and lysergic acid diethylamide (LSD), while El Salvador and Guatemala reported single seizures of depressants. The abuse of MDMA (Ecstasy) is emerging in the region, but authorities maintain that an unspecified quantity of MDMA (Ecstasy) is trafficked mostly to the illicit markets in North America. As in

the case of narcotic drugs, there is a lack of recent data on the abuse of psychotropic substances, although it is generally acknowledged that pharmaceuticals containing psychotropic substances are routinely diverted from licit distribution channels; however, hardly any seizures of such drugs are made.

Missions

307. The Board reviewed progress made by the Government of El Salvador in the implementation of the Board's recommendations following its mission to that country in 2000. The Board notes that the Government has adopted a national drug control plan, covering the areas of supply reduction, demand reduction and the control of licit activities related to narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and precursors, and encourages the Government to fully implement the plan in a coordinated and coherent way. While noting an improvement in the submission by the Government of statistical data as required under the international drug control conventions, the Board expects that the Government will take the necessary measures to strengthen the capacity of the council on public health to monitor more effectively the licit distribution of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances.

308. The Board sent a mission to Panama in February 2003. The Board notes the vulnerability of Panama to illicit drug trafficking due to its geographical location, economic structure and intense commercial traffic. The Board appreciates the efforts made by the law enforcement authorities of Panama in the interdiction of drug trafficking. The Board notes that Panama has adequate drug control legislation but limited resources to implement it, although the national drug control strategy for the period 2002-2007 is aimed at improving the situation. The Board encourages the Government of Panama to ensure efficient coordination and communication between government entities and the recently created inter-institutional commission for chemical control.

309. The Board notes the increased attention being given to demand reduction in Panama's national drug control strategy for the period 2002-2007 and hopes that the Government will ensure adequate funding for such initiatives. For a variety of reasons, including financial constraints, the availability of basic health services in some areas of Panama are limited; the Board encourages the Government to expand, to the

extent possible, the access of its population in remote areas of the country to such services and include the treatment of pain with opioid analgesics. The international community may wish to provide assistance to the Government in its drug control efforts in general, including measures to ensure the medical availability of narcotic drugs for the population.

North America

Major developments

310. New regulations came into force in Canada for implementing the requirements of the 1971 Convention for all internationally controlled psychotropic substances and for introducing more adequate control over precursor chemicals. Canada's Parliament is currently considering legislation that would introduce alternative penalties for persons caught with small quantities of cannabis. Under the proposed legislation, persons apprehended possessing small quantities of this substance would no longer be subject to criminal prosecution; instead, they would be required to pay a fine.

311. The latest indicators for cocaine and heroin abuse in the United States do not show any clear trend. While the abuse of some illicit drugs appears to be falling among teenagers in the United States, it is increasing in Mexico; however, the level of drug abuse in Mexico is significantly lower than in the United States.

312. Mexico increased its law enforcement efforts against drug trafficking organizations and arrested a large number of major drug traffickers.

Treaty adherence

313. All three States in North America are parties to the three international drug control treaties.

Regional cooperation

314. The three countries in North America cooperated closely in their drug control efforts, conducting joint investigations and law enforcement operations. Cooperation between Mexico and the United States resulted in the arrest of a number of powerful drug traffickers suspected of numerous offences, including murder, money-laundering and racketeering. Some drug traffickers are also suspected of having negotiated

with Colombian guerrilla and paramilitary groups, arranging for Mexican trafficking organizations to provide arms in exchange for cocaine. There was also close cooperation in the region in matters concerning extradition, as Mexico extradited to the United States numerous suspected drug traffickers, including major figures in drug trafficking organizations.

315. In April 2003, the authorities of Canada and the United States completed a joint operation targeting trafficking in pseudoephedrine, a precursor used in methamphetamine manufacture. The operation resulted in 65 arrests in the two countries. Among those arrested were executives from three Canadian chemical companies, all of whom are alleged to have sold large quantities of pseudoephedrine to illegal manufacturers in the United States even though they knew that the chemical was intended for the illicit manufacture of methamphetamine.

316. Mexico has played an increasingly important role in drug control in both North America and Central America. A joint operation involving law enforcement authorities of El Salvador, Guatemala and Mexico resulted in a large seizure (roughly 2 tons) of cocaine. In December 2002, Mexico hosted the thirty-second meeting of CICAD, where high-ranking officials representing 34 countries met to discuss drug control issues. It was decided at that meeting that Mexico would provide the chairman for the 2003 meeting of CICAD.

317. The Board notes with appreciation that the Mexican authorities, in close cooperation with their Colombian counterparts, were able to stop the large-scale diversion in Mexico of potassium permanganate intended for use in the illicit manufacture of cocaine hydrochloride in Colombia. However, it was not possible to identify and arrest the drug traffickers involved.

National legislation, policy and action

318. The Board notes that new regulations came into force in Canada in January 2003 completing the inclusion under appropriate national control of all internationally controlled psychotropic substances. The Board expects that, in future, scheduling decisions of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs will be implemented by the Government of Canada in a more timely fashion, in accordance with international treaty obligations.

319. The Board notes that precursor control regulations in Canada came into force in January 2003, ensuring that internationally controlled precursors are subject to adequate national control. The diversion of certain precursors into the illicit traffic had reached such levels that it had become a matter of great concern to the Board, and the Board expects that the Canadian authorities will give high priority to the implementation of the new regulations.

320. The Board notes that Canada's Parliament is currently considering legislation by which simple possession of, in some cases, up to 30 grams of cannabis would result in a ticket and a fine. The new legislation would also introduce new penalties for the production of cannabis that vary according to the amount of cannabis produced. While the possession of cannabis would remain a criminal offence in Canada under the new legislation, the Board is concerned that the revisions could contribute to the mistaken perception that cannabis is a harmless substance.

321. In May 2003, Canada's Drug Strategy was adopted, significantly increasing the funding of drug-control activities over the next five years. The strategy contains provisions for a variety of community-based initiatives to address drug abuse issues, public education campaigns focusing on young persons and a biennial national conference to establish priorities in research and prevention. The strategy also expands the country's programme for drug treatment courts. There are currently two drug treatment courts in Canada, and there are plans for up to three new ones to begin operations in 2004. Preliminary findings indicate that drug treatment courts may be effective in ensuring that non-violent drug offenders undergo treatment.

322. In November 2002, the Government of Mexico introduced the National Drug Control Programme 2001-2006. The Programme designates drug trafficking as a national security issue and provides for greater involvement of local governments in combating drug trafficking and abuse. Under the new Programme, the Centre for Drug Control Planning (CENDRO), within the Office of the Attorney-General, will coordinate the efforts of local and regional committees. Government agencies are also to establish goals for their drug control efforts, which will be evaluated by CENDRO.

323. There are conflicting indications regarding recent trends in drug abuse among young people in the United

States. In its update to the National Drug Control Strategy, adopted in February 2003, the United States Government cited research showing that drug abuse among teenagers in the country had exhibited its "first significant downturn" in nearly 10 years, with levels of abuse for some drugs lower than they had been for nearly 30 years. The Strategy notes that the percentage of some age groups using illicit drugs was at its lowest level since the early 1990s. The Government states that it is progressing smoothly towards meeting the two-year goal of reducing illicit drug abuse by teenagers by 10 per cent, set out in the 2002 Strategy. However, the latest National Survey on Drug Use and Health appears not to confirm the downward trend in drug abuse among young people.

324. While evaluations of the National Youth Anti-Drug Campaign in the United States had shown little success, more recent evaluations suggest that the campaign has affected the attitudes of youth towards drugs. The Government has allocated funds to be provided to schools that wish to implement drug testing programmes, provided that it is ensured that students who test positive are able to undergo treatment. After the initial positive results, the United States Government is also expanding its drug court programme, which uses the coercive authority of a judge to require abstinence, as well as a change of behaviour through a combination of various programmes.

325. The Board notes with concern that, in June 2003, the Government of Canada approved the establishment of a drug injection room in the city of Vancouver, the first such site in North America. The drug injection room, which opened in September 2003, will be subject to an evaluation in three years' time.

326. The Board has on numerous occasions expressed its concern regarding the operation of drug injection rooms, where persons can inject drugs acquired with impunity on the illicit market. The Board reiterates its views that such sites are contrary to the fundamental provisions of the international drug control treaties, which oblige States parties to ensure that drugs are used only for medical or scientific purposes.

327. Mexico intensified its law enforcement efforts against drug trafficking and conducted many large-scale arrests of traffickers from a number of powerful drug trafficking organizations. The Government of Mexico also strengthened its efforts against corruption,

which is often linked with drug trafficking. In October 2002, a military battalion was dismantled after it was alleged that large numbers of soldiers had been involved in producing and trafficking in drugs. In January 2003, the special prosecutor's office dealing with drug-related crime was disbanded by the Government when it was learned that high-ranking officials had released drug dealers from detention and returned seized drugs to them. While appreciating the efforts of the Government, the Board notes that sustained efforts are required, as major drug trafficking organizations are still operating in the country.

328. The United States Government started substitution treatment, using buprenorphine, for persons dependent on opiates. Contrary to the practice of methadone prescription, which can only be dispensed in the United States by a small number of special drug treatment clinics, buprenorphine can be prescribed by doctors who have received special training. The Board notes that concern had been growing within the Government regarding increases in methadone-related deaths and reported diversions of methadone by persons in substitution treatment; the Board calls on the Government to take adequate measures to prevent diversions of buprenorphine, especially given the less stringent controls in place for the use of that substance.

329. In the United States, though the Government is a strong advocate of full implementation of the international drug control treaties, there is heated public debate in several states regarding the decriminalization or even legalization of cannabis. In November 2002, there were referendums considering such changes in the states of Arizona, Nevada, Ohio and South Dakota. The Board notes that, though support for the referendums had been organized by advocacy organizations, they failed, indicating a lack of public support for such initiatives. The Board is appreciative of the efforts of the Government, which had strongly expressed its concern regarding the intention of the referendums and had repeatedly expressed the necessity of compliance with the federal law, which is in line with international drug control conventions.

Cultivation, production, trafficking and abuse

Narcotic drugs

330. Cannabis, the most abused drug in North America, continues to be produced in large quantities in all three countries in the region. According to

estimates of the United States Government, more than 10,000 tons of cannabis herb are produced in that country; in addition, more than 5,000 tons of cannabis are smuggled into the country. Almost 40 per cent of all cannabis herb seizures reported worldwide are made in Mexico.

331. Admission figures from drug treatment centres in the United States indicate that there has been a fall in the demand for cocaine in at least some areas of the country. While there appears to be an overall decline in drug abuse among teenagers, at least with regard to some drugs, research has shown that the abuse of cocaine and crack has remained more or less at the same level.

332. It appears that more stringent controls at the border between Mexico and the United States have resulted in an oversupply of cocaine in Mexico, which for many years has been part of the main route used for smuggling cocaine from Colombia into the United States and Canada. National surveys in Mexico show that the abuse of cocaine and crack has increased (though less than during the 1990s), in particular among young persons, and that cocaine and crack are increasingly being used as initiation drugs.

333. There are indications, in particular from data on admissions in treatment centres, that heroin abuse is rising in Mexico, with increased availability, lower prices and higher purity levels. Though the majority of heroin smuggled into the United States and Canada is of Colombian origin, a significant share is also manufactured in Mexico. Despite sustained efforts by the Government of Mexico to reduce illicit opium poppy cultivation, resulting in the eradication of 19,000 hectares in recent years, such cultivation appears to have continued.

334. The high-purity heroin smuggled into the United States can be inhaled instead of injected, making it more acceptable to many middle-class Americans. In addition, in June 2003, United States authorities discovered a field with 40,000 opium poppies in a remote area in California, giving rise to concern that, as in the case of cannabis, trafficking organizations are attempting to establish large-scale cultivation sites within the country.

335. Surveys show that the abuse of heroin is also increasing in Mexico. Heroin abuse is particularly serious in the northern part of the country, the area

bordering the United States, which, for many years, had a high rate of drug abuse; however, heroin abuse is also spreading to other areas.

336. Though the majority of drug abusers in Mexico are male, drug abuse among female students in secondary schools is increasing at a faster pace than among male students. One recent survey indicates that lifetime drug abuse prevalence among female students (12.6 per cent) is fast approaching that of male students (16.8 per cent).

Psychotropic substances

337. The illicit manufacture of methamphetamine continues on a large scale in North America. Between 5 and 10 tons of methamphetamine are licitly manufactured worldwide each year; however, the United States Government estimates that between 106 and 144 tons of methamphetamine are illicitly manufactured in Mexico and the United States alone, and subsequently sold to approximately 1.3 million abusers of the substance in the United States alone. Clandestine laboratories have been found in all states in the United States; most of the uncovered laboratories have been small-scale facilities run by independent operators. During the period 1997-2001, the authorities in the United States dismantled a total of almost 30,000 such laboratories, accounting for 97 per cent of all detected methamphetamine laboratories reported in the world.

338. In 2002, the abuse of MDMA (Ecstasy) among teenagers in the United States declined for the first time in several years, though it remained at high levels, with a lifetime prevalence of 10.5 per cent among students in their final year of secondary school (aged 17-18). The abuse of amphetamine and methamphetamine remained stable, again at a high level; for example, the lifetime prevalence of amphetamine abuse among students aged 13-14 was 8.7 per cent, among students aged 15-16 was 14.9 per cent and among students aged 17-18 was 16.8 per cent.

339. In Mexico, the abuse of amphetamine-type stimulants has increased significantly among young persons and has reportedly become commonplace at rave parties. According to a recently released survey, the lifetime prevalence of abuse of amphetamine-type stimulants among students 15 years of age increased from 1.61 per cent in 1997 to 4.20 per cent in 2000.

Though the prevalence of illicit drug abuse in general is higher among male students than among female students, amphetamine-type stimulants are abused to the same extent by both genders.

340. Abuse of prescription drugs in the United States continues; it is exacerbated by the unlawful selling of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances by online pharmacies within and outside the United States. Between 1995 and 2002, there was an increase of 163 per cent in the number of emergency-room visits linked to the abuse of narcotic pain medication (see paragraphs 169-178 above).

Missions

341. A mission of the Board visited Canada in October 2003 to discuss recent policy developments in that country, including the functioning of Canada's Drug Strategy, new draft legislation regarding cannabis and newly introduced regulations strengthening the control of precursors and psychotropic substances. The Board notes that there is strong coordination among various ministries and agencies in the field of drug control in Canada and that the multifaceted nature of the drug problem is taken into account, for example, by the fact that the Royal Canadian Mounted Police plays a large role not only in law enforcement, but also in prevention activities. The Board also notes the initiatives of the Canadian authorities to deal with the persistent problem of indoor production of cannabis.

342. There has still been no survey at the national level in Canada focusing on drug abuse since 1994. The Board notes that Canada's Drug Strategy contains provisions for research on drug abuse trends. The Board hopes that those provisions will be adequately implemented, in order to ensure that the Government has adequate information on which to base its drug control policies.

343. The mission also visited the injection room that had recently been opened in the Canadian city of Vancouver. The Board remains concerned about that development and urges the Canadian Government to comply with its obligations under the international drug control conventions.

South America

Major developments

344. Drug control policy in South America has continued to receive increasing attention from Governments and gain in political importance. In Brazil, drug traffickers have defied the local authorities in a few cities and temporarily disrupted the public peace. In Colombia, the term “narco-terrorism” is increasingly being used to refer to the violent activities of armed groups that protect, or engage in, illicit drug production and trafficking. In Peru, insurgents protect illicit coca bush cultivation, and open clashes between police forces and drug traffickers are on the increase. There are continued reports of arms being exchanged for illicit drugs. Measures against the illicit drug trade and money-laundering are aimed partly at reducing the funds available to drug traffickers and insurgent groups, thereby reducing their operational capabilities. The increased focus on the political threat of the drug problem has led many South American Governments to devote an ever-increasing proportion of their limited resources to reducing illicit drug supply, including by the eradication of illicit crops, the interdiction of drug trafficking and the introduction of measures against money-laundering.

345. What was originally known as Plan Colombia, sponsored by the United States and aimed at reducing the illicit drug supply from Colombia and other South American countries, has evolved into a much broader effort named the Andean Counter-drug Initiative. As a result of that initiative, the United States Government is currently the most important provider of assistance in funds and in kind to countries in and around the Andean subregion for efforts aimed at drug control, drug abuse prevention and combating money-laundering. Colombia remains the principal recipient of assistance given under the Andean initiative. “Plan Colombia” now refers only to the social component of Colombia’s strategy, and it includes the development of alternative crops and sources of income, the strengthening of institutions and the creation of social infrastructure.

346. Since 2002, the debate over the decriminalization or legalization of cannabis and coca leaf has received renewed media attention in several countries in South America. The Board would like to remind all Governments to continue to ensure that activities

related to illicit crop cultivation and the production of and trafficking in illicit drugs, including their possession, are punishable offences, pursuant to article 36 of the 1961 Convention.

Treaty adherence

347. With the accession of Guyana to the 1961 Convention in July 2002, all States in South America are now parties to the 1961 Convention, the 1971 Convention and the 1988 Convention.

Regional cooperation

348. South American countries continue to participate actively in the CICAD Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism. Regional cooperation in South America often takes the form of bilateral or multilateral agreements between States with common interests and shared geographical traits, such as Andean States, member States of the Common Market of the Southern Cone (MERCOSUR) and States with Amazonian territories or shared borders. Those agreements address such issues as law enforcement and judicial cooperation, border controls and joint training of drug control officials.

349. The Board notes the enhanced cooperation between Brazil and Colombia, including Brazil’s offer of the use of its surveillance system to improve intelligence-gathering in the area of the Amazon. Successful joint police force operations of Brazil and Colombia to combat drug trafficking were extended to include Peru, Suriname and Venezuela and in support of that bilateral agreements between those States and Brazil were signed.

350. Close cooperation with countries outside of South America also continues. The United States remains the principal contributor of resources for drug control in South American countries, mostly through bilateral agreements. Law enforcement and judicial cooperation with the United States continued to be very visible through extraditions, several interdiction operations and cooperation in money-laundering investigations. There are also cooperation agreements between South American and European countries on a variety of drug control issues, such as alternative development assistance, combined law enforcement operations and educational programmes. For example, an online Ibero-American master of arts degree in addiction studies was created in 2002 with the support of the

Government of Spain and the participation of universities in Colombia, Costa Rica, Peru, Spain and Venezuela.

351. The Board appeals to South American States to continue bilateral and regional cooperation in precursor chemical control and to comply with the pre-export notification system. The Board notes the various regional operations initiated in South America to address the diversion of and trafficking in chemicals.

National legislation, policy and action

352. In Brazil, new legislation on chemical precursors significantly increased the number of chemicals being monitored. The Board welcomes the fact that in Brazil the judicial system has begun focusing on drug traffickers while providing drug abusers with increasing alternatives to imprisonment under a drug court system. However, since the treatment and rehabilitation services provided free of charge by the Government are still limited, persons with low income have almost no access to such alternatives.

353. The Drug Observatory of Ecuador has been established. The Board notes that Ecuador is still in the process of revising its national drug control law, with a view to resolving shortcomings in the control of precursor chemicals and the prosecution of cases involving drug trafficking. Although Ecuador had increased its financial and human resources for drug law enforcement and had obtained foreign assistance for the improvement of border and customs controls, recent austerity measures have impeded the implementation of several aspects of the national drug control plan. In Peru, new legislation for strengthening the control of precursor chemicals has been adopted and a financial intelligence unit has been created.

354. The Board welcomes the adoption in Paraguay in 2002 of reforms to the drug control law that are intended to improve the ability of competent authorities to investigate and prosecute drug traffickers; the Board looks forward to the implementation of those reforms. Suriname approved legislation against money-laundering in the second half of 2002; the Board hopes that draft legislation on the control of precursor chemicals will also be approved soon. In Uruguay, the legal framework for the control of precursor chemicals was strengthened, but control provisions against money-laundering still need to be expanded to cover

certain susceptible financial sectors (accountants, casinos, real estate brokerage etc.).

355. In Venezuela, the drug task force created in 2001 has proved to be a successful operator. However, the Board notes that the Organized Crime Bill, which will enhance law enforcement efforts against drug traffickers, and amendments to the national narcotic and psychotropic drug law that will strengthen control over chemicals are still pending approval by the National Assembly.

356. The Board notes that all South American countries except Guyana and Suriname have already adopted either mandatory or voluntary minimum standards of drug addiction treatment, as proposed by CICAD. Argentina has expanded action related to the prevention and treatment of drug abuse to include free training of health and social workers for the prevention and treatment of addiction, as well as a programme for the provision of syringes to injecting drug abusers in order to prevent the spread of HIV/AIDS.

357. The Board notes that there are general weaknesses in South America with respect to the control over the domestic distribution of pharmaceuticals, which may contribute to their diversion from licit channels and eventually to their abuse. There is mainly a need to enforce regulations on the prescription of controlled pharmaceuticals and the keeping of records on dispensation, distribution and sales. In addition, due to limited resources, the competent authorities are often unable to carry out sufficient inspections and to verify data related to end-user distribution. The Board hopes that increased attention will be given to that area and that adequate support will be provided to enable the relevant authorities to carry out their functions.

Cultivation, production, manufacture, trafficking and abuse

Narcotic drugs

358. Cannabis continues to be cultivated in almost every country in South America, mainly for local or regional markets. Unfortunately, there are almost no national data on the extent of illicit cannabis cultivation in the region. It is certain, however, that cannabis continues to be the most widely abused illicit drug in South America. Cannabis seizures in the region account for 6-8 per cent of such seizures worldwide.

Approximately one half of the cannabis seizures in South America were accounted for by Brazil; approximately one third of the seizures of that drug in the region were accounted for by Colombia. Those two countries also ranked among the top 10 countries in the world in terms of seizures of cannabis herb.

359. With respect to coca bush cultivation, combined data for Bolivia, Colombia and Peru indicate a decreasing trend in recent years. According to estimates of the Integrated System for Illicit Crop Monitoring (SIMCI) of Colombia, there were 69,000 hectares under illicit coca bush cultivation in the country in July 2003, a reduction of approximately 58 per cent compared with the peak year 2000. Most of the reduction has been attributed to aerial fumigation, while in some areas the coca bush cultivation sites were abandoned or the crops were eradicated voluntarily. Whether the overall reduction is sustainable will, to a large extent, depend on the creation of alternative sources of income for coca bush growers. Despite the reduction in illicit coca bush cultivation in most of the affected areas, in the provincial department of Nariño, which borders Ecuador, such cultivation appears to have increased sharply.

360. The success achieved through eradication efforts in Colombia may lead to a shifting of illicit coca bush cultivation, not only to the traditional coca-growing countries of Bolivia and Peru, but also to other countries such as Ecuador and Venezuela. The illicit cultivation of coca bush has no regard for political borders and thus it is very important for countries in the region to cooperate with each other in order to prevent the displacement of illicit crops.

361. In Peru, despite the continued eradication of coca bush crops, the total area under coca bush cultivation has remained stable. In Bolivia, after significant reductions in the area estimated under coca bush cultivation in previous years, there was a slight increase in 2002. The Board hopes that Bolivia will be able to add to its previous achievements in coca bush eradication. For various reasons, coca bush eradication in Bolivia and Peru is largely voluntary and, as in Colombia, its success depends on the Governments' ability to offer a sustainable alternative livelihood to small coca farmers and to take into account the fact that prices of coca are higher than those of licit crops. Continued support of alternative development

initiatives is essential to the reduction of coca bush cultivation in Bolivia and Peru. No illicit crop eradication campaigns have been conducted recently in Venezuela.

362. The potential total manufacture of cocaine remained at approximately 800 tons in 2002, showing a stable or declining trend in recent years, in line with total coca bush cultivation. The bulk of the illicit cocaine manufacture in South America continues to take place in Colombia, mainly in areas under the control of armed groups. In Colombia, cocaine is manufactured mainly from coca paste that is produced locally; however, it is also manufactured from coca base smuggled out of Peru. In 2002, Colombian authorities destroyed over 1,400 illicit chemical and drug laboratories. Cocaine laboratories have also been seized in recent years in Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Ecuador and Venezuela. Recent seizures of large quantities of cocaine in Peru may indicate that manufacture of cocaine is increasingly taking place in Peru.

363. In Colombia, a total of 80 tons of potassium permanganate were seized in 2002, the largest quantity ever seized in one year. Since seizures had continuously declined in previous years, this may indicate that traffickers have succeeded again in obtaining the chemical, possibly through diversion from domestic distribution channels in the countries in the region.⁴⁷

364. Besides the coca-producing countries, Brazil, Ecuador and Venezuela remain the transit countries reporting the largest seizures of cocaine. The United States is still the main market for South American cocaine, but since the early 1990s an increasing proportion of global cocaine seizures has been accounted for by European countries, mostly Spain. Other cocaine trafficking routes have been uncovered, such as a route leading from Peru to Australia via Argentina. Countries through which the Pan-American Highway passes should remain vigilant of the use of that thoroughfare by traffickers for transporting large-scale cocaine shipments in the region.

365. Unlike the case of illicit coca bush cultivation, a methodology has yet to be found for estimating illicit opium poppy cultivation in South America; due to the climate and geography, aerial reconnaissance and satellite imaging are of limited use in detecting fields of opium poppy. However, based on ground

reconnaissance and taking into account the total area of opium poppy eradicated, the Government of Colombia believes that in 2002 approximately 4,200 hectares were under opium poppy cultivation in the mountainous areas in the central and southern parts of the country. Eradication and seizure data indicate an increase in opium poppy cultivation in Peru, albeit on a small scale. The Government of Venezuela needs to monitor closely illicit opium poppy cultivation on its territory in order to prevent its expansion.

366. Heroin is manufactured in Colombia and smuggled mainly into the United States, using mostly individual carriers (“mules”); however, containerized ships and speedboats are also used. Routes from Colombia may lead directly through the Caribbean Sea or the Pacific Ocean, but also by land through several countries. In Argentina, for example, a trafficking network transporting Colombian heroin destined for the United States and cocaine destined for Europe was disrupted in late 2002. Total heroin seizures in South America have been increasing every year, the main seizures having been effected in Colombia, followed by Ecuador and Venezuela. There appears to be an increasing trend in heroin manufacture and trafficking in South America.

367. The low level of oxidation of the cocaine seized in recent years is evidence of the continued success of Operation Purple, the international tracking programme for the prevention of the diversion of potassium permanganate. The authorities of Colombia, which is the destination of most of the diverted chemical, have seized increasing quantities of precursors and dismantled clandestine laboratories for the illicit manufacture of potassium permanganate. Operation Topaz has prevented the diversion of large quantities of acetic anhydride, as evidenced by the significant decrease in seizures of that chemical in Colombia since 2001.

368. Governments of South American countries must increase their efforts to prevent the diversion of precursor chemicals under international control and of other materials used in illicit drug manufacture, such as gasoline and its by-products, grey cement and kerosene. In particular, the authorities of countries neighbouring Colombia should remain vigilant of their own imports and manufactures of precursor chemicals in order to prevent the subsequent smuggling of those chemicals into Colombia. Improved controls over the

end-use of precursor chemicals will also limit the opportunities for their diversion from licit channels.⁴⁸

369. According to competent national authorities in South America, drug abuse is continuing to increase in the region. Though cannabis is the most widely abused illicit drug in South America, the abuse of cocaine and crack cocaine is a problem in most countries in the region. In Chile, where regular surveys are carried out, annual prevalence of cocaine abuse among the general population was reported to be stable, after significant increases during the 1990s. The abuse of heroin is low in South America, compared with the situation in Europe and North America, and appears to be stable, although Argentina, Colombia and Venezuela have reported an increase in heroin abuse in recent years.

Psychotropic substances

370. There is no evidence that significant illicit manufacture of psychotropic substances is taking place in South America, although the Government of Colombia reported in 2002 the seizure of a laboratory for the manufacture of MDMA. However, there is growing awareness that South American drug traffickers could eventually engage in the manufacture of such synthetic drugs. Such drugs are increasingly being smuggled out of Europe and seizures of amphetamine-type stimulants and of hallucinogens, including MDMA (Ecstasy), have been reported in several countries in South America. Diversion and overprescription of a variety of psychotropic substances continue to be problems in most South American countries and the abuse of amphetamine-type stimulants is increasing, especially in the more affluent segments of society.

Missions

371. The Board sent a mission to Colombia in February 2003. The Board noted the significant efforts made by the Government of Colombia in combating illicit drug production and trafficking, which have resulted in the continued reduction of illicit crops since 2000 and in sizeable seizures of controlled substances, laboratories and assets derived from drug trafficking. The mechanisms for control over the licit movement of controlled substances are effective. In the past few years, each successive Administration has taken steps to make the country's legislative framework more effective in the fight against drug-related crime,

in particular by strengthening procedures for asset forfeiture, the penal code and cooperation with other countries in judicial and law enforcement matters.

372. The Board hopes that recent changes in the drug control structure of Colombia will contribute to the effective implementation of the Government's drug control strategy and that sufficient resources will be allocated to demand reduction initiatives. The Board recognizes the importance of providing alternative development opportunities for the local population in coca-growing areas and that, to that end, increased resources are needed. The Board invites the international community to provide support to Colombia in the areas of alternative development and demand reduction.

373. The Board sent a mission to Ecuador in July 2003. The Board appreciates the initiatives taken by the Government of Ecuador to combat corruption, drug trafficking and money-laundering. The Narcotic and Psychotropic Substances Control Board (CONSEP) of Ecuador has recently been reorganized, and the Board expects that it will be provided with sufficient resources to coordinate more efficiently the legal, judicial, administrative, educational and, above all, the regulatory and health aspects of drug control.

374. The Board welcomes the establishment in 2002 of the Drug Observatory of Ecuador, which has integrated the activities previously carried out by the Sistema Ecuatoriano de Vigilancia Integral para la Prevención de Droga (Ecuadorian system of integral monitoring for drug prevention) (SEVIP) and has noted the progress in drug abuse prevention activities carried out by a non-governmental organization that would need further support to expand its network to include rural areas.

375. As a result of measures taken in neighbouring Andean countries, Ecuador became more vulnerable to drug trafficking activities, in particular the smuggling of chemicals of Ecuadorian origin into Colombia for the illicit manufacture of cocaine. The Board notes with concern that large quantities of a solvent commonly called white gasoline is among those chemicals and looks forward to the introduction of controls similar to those already adopted in other Andean countries.

376. Although Ecuador is in dire need of resources to combat drug abuse and trafficking, international

contributions seem to be decreasing. The Board would like to emphasize that, to tackle illicit drug cultivation and trafficking in the Andean subregion, international assistance to Ecuador must be increased.

377. The Board reviewed progress made by the Government of Paraguay in the implementation of the Board's recommendations following its mission to that country in 2000. The Board acknowledges the improvements made by the Government, particularly in streamlining the functions of various government agencies involved in drug control. The Board notes, however, that a number of its recommendations have still not been addressed; in particular fiscal controls and foreign exchange controls are insufficient to prevent money-laundering, there is a lack of adequate measures for the control of the domestic movement of controlled substances for licit purposes and there is a need to strengthen human and material resources in drug control bodies. The Board hopes that the Government will continue to make efforts to ensure that further progress is made in implementing the Board's recommendations.

378. The Board sent a mission to Peru in July 2003. The Board encourages the Government of Peru to implement the comprehensive National Anti-Drug Strategy 2002-2007 and the National Commission for Development and a Drug-free Lifestyle (DEVIDA) to coordinate the activities of drug control institutions and ensure the adequate evaluation of such activities.

379. The Board notes the continued efforts of the Government of Peru towards the elimination of coca bush cultivation and hopes that adequate alternative development will ensure the sustainability of reductions in such cultivation. The Board notes the decision of the Government to update the registry of farmers for the production of coca leaf considered licit under its national law and to estimate actual needs for coca leaf to evaluate more accurately the required cultivation area. The Board reiterates, however, that the production and distribution of coca leaf and products containing coca leaf, for which medical value has not yet been scientifically recognized, are not in line with the 1961 Convention.

380. While the Board notes an adequate system of control for precursor chemicals in Peru, insufficient attention has been given to the control of the licit movement of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances. Adequate resources should be ensured for the

health authorities, so that the Government of Peru may fulfil its national and international responsibilities with regard to drug control, improve the quality of its reporting to the Board and offer better health care to its population.

381. The Board notes with appreciation that drug abuse prevention programmes carried out by the Ministry of Education of Peru are well structured. The Board expects that assistance will be provided to ensure their continuity and expansion to rural areas. Peru requires increased international assistance to ensure the sustainability of alternative development efforts and to combat drug trafficking and related crime.

C. Asia

East and South-East Asia

Major developments

382. In East and South-East Asia, the total area under illicit opium poppy cultivation continued to decline in 2003. As in the previous year, a reduction in illicit opium production was seen in the Lao People's Democratic Republic and Myanmar. As a result of the Government's continued efforts, in Myanmar, the world's second largest producer of illicit opium and heroin after Afghanistan, opium poppy cultivation has declined by almost two thirds since 1996. The Lao People's Democratic Republic is the third largest producer of illicit opium in the world. Due to the Government's successful opium elimination programme, the total area under illicit opium cultivation in the Lao People's Democratic Republic has decreased by about 55 per cent since its peak in 1998. In Thailand and Viet Nam, the level of opium poppy cultivation has remained insignificant.

383. The illicit manufacture of, trafficking in and abuse of amphetamine-type stimulants remains a major concern in East and South-East Asia. Judging from the demand for treatment, amphetamine-type stimulants, especially methamphetamine, have continued to be the main drug abuse problem in East and South-East Asia in recent years. The manufacture continues to take place mainly in China and Myanmar, and trafficking routes have developed considerably, reaching illicit markets in almost all countries in the region. There was

a significant decline in seizures of amphetamine-type stimulants in 2002 in China and Myanmar, where significant quantities used to be seized. In Thailand, more than 8 tons of amphetamine-type stimulants were seized in both 2001 and 2002. In Japan, seizures of amphetamine-type stimulants reached their peak in 1999, when approximately 2 tons were seized; however, such seizures have been declining since then, approximately 442 kg having been seized in 2002. The Board notes the dismantling of significant clandestine laboratories in the Philippines, where, in 2003, more than 4,000 kg of ephedrine were seized in only two laboratories. There appears to be a partial shift from ephedrine to 1-phenyl-2-propanone for use in the illicit manufacture of methamphetamine and the Board wishes to alert all Governments to monitor orders of phenylacetic acid, an immediate precursor of 1-phenyl-2-propanone. Increases in trafficking in and abuse of MDMA (Ecstasy) have been noted in South-East Asia.

384. Countries in South-East Asia continue to have a high rate of HIV/AIDS infection as a result of injecting drug abuse and the sharing of injection needles.

Treaty adherence

385. Of the 16 States in East and South-East Asia, 12 are parties to all three of the international drug control treaties. The Board notes that Cambodia, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and Timor-Leste have not yet become parties to any of the treaties. The Board, however, commends Cambodia on having completed the preparations for its ratification of the three international drug control treaties and calls on Cambodia to ratify those treaties as soon as possible. The Board also notes that the Democratic People's Republic of Korea is in the process of reviewing its national legislation with a view to becoming a party to the international drug control treaties.

386. The Board welcomes the accession of Mongolia to the 1988 Convention in June 2003 and the accession of Myanmar to the 1972 Protocol amending the 1961 Convention in August 2003.

387. The Board is concerned that the Lao People's Democratic Republic has not yet acceded to the 1988 Convention. The Board calls on that State to become a party to the 1972 Protocol amending the 1961 Convention without further delay.

Regional cooperation

388. The Board commends the sustained cooperation of the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) with China. Under the ASEAN and China Cooperative Operations in Response to Dangerous Drugs (ACCORD) Plan of Action, ASEAN member States and China have been meeting regularly to exchange experiences and to adopt and coordinate specific drug control measures. The six signatories to the 1993 memorandum of understanding on drug control between the countries in the Mekong area (Cambodia, China, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Myanmar, Thailand and Viet Nam) reconfirmed in September 2003 their agreement to strengthen subregional cooperation across borders in addressing the growing problems of the abuse of amphetamine-type stimulants and HIV transmission among injecting drug abusers in the subregion. Drug control authorities from China, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Myanmar and Thailand agreed to establish a network among their ports along the Mekong in order to reinforce their national campaigns against drug traffickers. In July 2003, ministers responsible for drug control from China, Cambodia, India, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Myanmar and Thailand agreed to intensify their cooperation for effective control of precursor chemicals used in the illicit manufacture of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances. Malaysia has launched a joint police initiative with Australia, Brunei Darussalam, Singapore and Thailand to combat drug trafficking.

389. The Board welcomes the continued bilateral efforts to combat illicit drug production and trafficking. In May 2003, the border liaison offices of the Lao People's Democratic Republic and Thailand pledged to strengthen cross-border law enforcement, particularly along the Mekong. Among the countries in the subregion, China and Thailand provided technical and financial assistance to alternative development initiatives in the Lao People's Democratic Republic and Myanmar. Cambodia and the Russian Federation signed an agreement to share information on drug-related transnational crime; the agreement provided for visits of experts.

390. The Board notes with satisfaction that such joint efforts are resulting in significant seizures of illicit drugs. The police in China and Myanmar joined forces

to dismantle a major drug and arms manufacturing plant in Myanmar in April 2003. Law enforcement agencies from China and the United States worked together to dismantle one of the world's largest heroin trafficking networks based in Fujian Province of China. Australian and Malaysian police dismantled a trafficking network smuggling MDMA (Ecstasy), mainly out of the Netherlands and into Australia.

391. The Board notes that cooperation in East Asia needs to be further developed in order to prevent, in particular, methamphetamine trafficking and to facilitate the investigation of drug seizure cases, and the existing good cooperation in the field of law enforcement must be extended to other areas of drug control.

National legislation, policy and action

392. The Board notes that the Drug Addict Rehabilitation Act was adopted in March 2003 by Thailand, introducing by law a compulsory treatment and rehabilitation programme.

393. In the Philippines, a revision of the Anti-Money Laundering Act of 2001 was signed in March 2003; the Board encourages the Government to implement the new legislation as soon as possible. Indonesia and Myanmar, together with the Philippines, have been on the list of countries and territories that the Financial Action Task Force on Money Laundering considers uncooperative in efforts to counter money-laundering. The Board underlines the importance for each country to implement appropriate legislation against money-laundering in order to enhance the fight against drug trafficking.

394. A bill on the administration of narcotic drugs was adopted by the Supreme People's Assembly of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea in August 2003 and the Government has requested legal assistance from the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime on appropriate implementation.

395. Thailand carried out an intensive campaign from February to April 2003 to address the problem of illicit drug trade. The Board notes that, while the Government states that the campaign was successful in curbing the drug problem, its unintended side effects have been widely criticized. The Board has requested the Government to be informed of the results of the campaign, which, it is hoped, would be sustainable.

396. As part of the follow-up to its previous Five-Year Drug Abuse Prevention Strategy, Japan adopted, in July 2003, a new five-year strategy with a view to targeting issues such as drug abuse among young persons, increasing penalties for drug abusers, strengthening international cooperation to combat illicit crop cultivation and providing treatment and rehabilitation for drug addicts and support for their families. At a meeting held in Amoy, China, in August 2003, Chinese government agencies involved in drug and customs control agreed to launch a five-year drug control programme covering the period 2003-2007 that included a national crackdown on the illicit manufacture of and trafficking in drugs.

397. Most countries in East and South-East Asia launch, on a regular basis, campaigns against the abuse of drugs, especially methamphetamine and heroin, among schoolchildren and youth in urban areas.

Cultivation, production, manufacture, trafficking and abuse

Narcotic drugs

398. The Philippines has reported a significant reduction in cannabis cultivation, attributing the success to its ongoing illicit crop eradication campaign. Cannabis also continues to be cultivated in and smuggled out of Cambodia, Indonesia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Myanmar and Thailand. Information from customs authorities suggest that Indonesia and Thailand are also sources of cannabis resin.

399. In all of the countries in East and South-East Asia except Cambodia, the Philippines and Viet Nam, cannabis appears not to be the main drug of abuse, although it continues to be widely abused in many of the countries in the region. Cannabis abuse has been declining in countries such as Malaysia and Thailand, where abusers of cannabis have shifted to other drugs, mainly methamphetamine and other stimulants. Cannabis abuse remains limited in China, Japan and the Republic of Korea.

400. The two major opium poppy producers in East and South-East Asia recorded further reductions in the total area under opium poppy cultivation. In Myanmar, the total area under opium poppy cultivation was reduced by 24 per cent, to 62,200 hectares in 2003, compared with 81,400 hectares in 2002. A significant decline in the total area under opium poppy cultivation

was also recorded in the Lao People's Democratic Republic. Under the opium elimination programme launched by the Government of the Lao People's Democratic Republic, pursuant to the Political Declaration adopted by the General Assembly at its twentieth special session (Assembly resolution S-20/2, annex), the total area under opium poppy cultivation declined by 15 per cent, to 12,000 hectares in 2003, compared with 14,100 hectares in 2002. The negotiation of voluntary and agreed eradication campaigns in low-income production areas appears to be leading to more sustainable results and is socially and economically more appropriate than forced eradication. In Thailand and Viet Nam, the other two countries where illicit opium poppy cultivation occurs, levels have remained insignificant.

401. Opium continues to be abused in countries where illicit opium poppy cultivation takes place, but the number of opium abusers appears to be decreasing. Many opium addicts have turned to heroin, and there are now serious heroin abuse problems in those countries. The abuse of drugs, primarily heroin, by injection has been a major factor contributing to the spread of HIV/AIDS in South-East Asian countries and in China. The number of registered addicts in China is increasing, though heroin remains the drug of choice. Heroin also continued to be the main drug of abuse in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of China.

402. There is very little cocaine trafficking and abuse in East and South-East Asia.

Psychotropic substances

403. Methamphetamine continues to be mainly manufactured in China, Myanmar and, to a lesser extent, in the Philippines. The Board notes that both the number and quantities of seizures of methamphetamine in East and South-East Asia have declined since 2001.

404. Over two thirds of global seizures of methamphetamine take place in East and South-East Asia. The largest seizures of methamphetamine were reported in China, Myanmar and Thailand. Over the past few years, half of all methamphetamine seizures in the region have taken place in China. Illicit manufacture of methamphetamine is taking place mainly in China and Myanmar, but more recently also in the Philippines. Most of the clandestine laboratories were

detected by the Chinese authorities in the provinces of Fujian and Guangdong. Of the 19 laboratories dismantled in the Philippines since 1996, 4 were detected in 2002 and 8 were detected in the first nine months of 2003. Precursors for methamphetamine continue to be smuggled into Myanmar and the Philippines out of China and India.

405. Over the past few years the abuse of methamphetamine has increased in most parts of East and South-East Asia. Methamphetamine is the most widely abused drug in Japan, the Republic of Korea and Thailand. The methamphetamine problem in Thailand has increased significantly during the past few years, the widespread abuse of that substance having been reported among school-aged children. A recent survey in Cambodia suggests an increase in the abuse of amphetamines among homeless children. While Japan continues to seize, on a regular basis, large amounts of such stimulants, overall annual seizures have been declining since 1999.

406. There has been a rise in the abuse of certain other amphetamine-type stimulants, particularly MDMA (Ecstasy). MDMA (Ecstasy) manufactured in Western Europe continues to be trafficked in East and South-East Asia, while there are indications that the substance has also been manufactured in the region itself. Seizures of MDMA (Ecstasy) in the region were reported mainly by China, the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of China and Japan. In Thailand, phentermine and a number of benzodiazepines continue to be diverted at the wholesale and retail levels and, to some extent, are smuggled into other countries in the region.

407. The illicit trade in precursor chemicals continues to be a major concern in the region. Traffickers are using increasingly diverse means to smuggle precursor chemicals for the manufacture of heroin and amphetamine-type stimulants. As a result of action taken by the Government of China to detect and prevent the diversion of precursor chemicals, a total of 119 cases involving illegal transactions and the smuggling of precursor chemicals were uncovered and over 300 tons of precursor chemicals were seized in that country in 2002.

Missions

408. The Board sent a mission to Cambodia in April 2003. The Board acknowledges the progress made by

the Government following its mission to that country in 1997, particularly in developing and updating the national drug control legislation, strengthening the national drug control administration and moving towards the ratification of the three international drug control treaties.

409. The Board, however, notes that the 1997 drug control law as amended is still in draft form, awaiting adoption by the National Assembly. The Board urges the Government of Cambodia to take concrete steps to ensure that amendments to that law and the various decrees for the implementation of the law are adopted as soon as possible.

410. The Board is concerned that the abuse of a variety of drugs, particularly methamphetamine and heroin, has increased rapidly in Cambodia within the past few years, mainly among the young members of the population. The increase in injecting drug abuse may contribute to the spread of HIV infection and, therefore, must be addressed in conjunction with the HIV prevention programme.

411. The Government of Cambodia should develop a national drug control master plan, comprising all aspects of drug control, including the strengthening of the judicial sector, in order to address more effectively major drug-related crimes, and the strengthening of the health sector, in order to address the smuggling of psychotropic substances. The Board welcomes the fact that the Government is considering enacting a bill against corruption, so as to ensure more adequate functioning of the judicial and law enforcement system in combating drug trafficking.

412. A mission of the Board visited the Lao People's Democratic Republic in March 2003. The Board notes with appreciation the consistent efforts of the Government to address the situation of drug abuse and illicit trafficking in the country. The opium elimination programme has led to a significant decline in illicit opium poppy cultivation since 1998. The Board urges the Government to take the measures necessary to ensure that the decline continues to be sustained, thus achieving its goal of complete elimination of such cultivation.

413. The Government of the Lao People's Democratic Republic has enhanced its national drug legislation, with a view to increasing its capacity to combat drug-related crime, in particular drug trafficking. As a result

of enhanced law enforcement measures in some neighbouring countries, the Lao People's Democratic Republic has been increasingly targeted by drug traffickers, which has also led to increased drug abuse. In addition to the large number of opium addicts in the country, the abuse of amphetamine-type stimulants has become a growing problem.

414. The Board encourages the Government of the Lao People's Democratic Republic to develop the national drug control master plan so that it can be adopted. The national demand reduction strategy and the opium elimination strategy already adopted in 2000 constitute important components of the master plan and will have to be complemented by a new law enforcement strategy that is being developed. The Government should consider establishing a monitoring system in order to determine new trends and define counter-measures at the earliest possible stage. The Board hopes that the international community will enhance its assistance to ensure further progress in opium elimination and ensure the sustainability of the achievements made so far.

415. The Board sent a mission to Viet Nam in March 2003 to review the drug control situation in Viet Nam and the progress made by the Government following its mission to that country in 1997. The Government has made significant progress in drug control in recent years, in particular in the strengthening of the national drug control legislation and drug control institutions, the implementation of the national drug control master plan and the eradication of illicit opium poppy cultivation. The Board welcomes the steps taken by the Government to implement the Law on Narcotic Drugs Prevention and Suppression and urges the Government to finalize all the decrees as planned for implementation by the respective government ministries.

416. In view of the fact that Viet Nam is increasingly being used as a transit country for illicit drug trafficking and is a potential target for money-laundering, the Government should take measures to exercise control over financial institutions and enact a law against money-laundering. The growing availability of illicit drugs, in particular heroin and increasingly amphetamine-type stimulants, has led to a significant increase in illicit drug demand in the country over the past few years, especially among urban youth. Since there is a close link between the needle-sharing practice of drug abusers and the

transmission of HIV/AIDS, the Board wishes to underline the necessity to undertake urgent measures to reduce the health and social consequences of that type of drug abuse.

417. The Board welcomes the preparation of the National Action Plan for Strengthening Precursor Control and expects that the Action Plan will soon be adopted by the Government of Viet Nam.

South Asia

Major developments

418. South Asian countries continue to be used by drug traffickers as transit countries because of their proximity to the world's most prolific opiate production areas in South-East Asia and South-West Asia. Cannabis continues to be illicitly cultivated in the region. India is a major licit manufacturer of precursor chemicals. Despite significant controls in South Asia, substances are diverted for use in illicit drug manufacture, both within and outside the region.

419. South Asia is facing increasing abuse of pharmaceutical products containing controlled narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances. There is also a significant shift towards drug abuse by injection. Heroin, buprenorphine, dextropropoxyphene, diazepam, morphine, pentazocine and pethidine are the commonly injected drugs.

420. Drug trafficking routes have not changed significantly. Heroin from Afghanistan or Pakistan enters India, mostly for transit, from the north-west; and heroin from Myanmar passes through the north-eastern states of India and Bangladesh. Considering the recent bumper crops of opium poppy in Afghanistan, Indian authorities fear a sharp increase in the smuggling of narcotic drugs.

421. Governments of countries in South Asia assume that drug trafficking is one of the major sources of funds for terrorist groups. Terrorism along national borders is considered a serious issue, as insurgent groups are relying on trafficking in narcotic drugs as a prime source of finances used to procure arms.

Treaty adherence

422. 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. Despite recurrent appeals by the Board, 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. The Board reiterates its appeal to Bhutan and Nepal to become parties to those conventions without further delay.

Regional cooperation

423. Bangladesh has signed a bilateral agreement with Myanmar for combating illicit trafficking in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, as well as precursors. India has concluded two additional bilateral agreements on combating trafficking in narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and precursor chemicals and 17 bilateral agreements or memorandums of understanding are at different levels of negotiation.

424. India holds regular cross-border meetings with Myanmar, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. A joint working group is discussing drug-related issues with Bangladesh, which has also maintained cooperation with India through drug liaison officers in New Delhi. India has hosted international, regional and bilateral exchange programmes under the aegis of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation, the International Criminal Police Organization (Interpol) and the Colombo Plan. The Colombo Plan has continued extensive training programmes for the prevention of drug abuse and the rehabilitation of drug abusers.

National legislation, policy and action

425. In Bangladesh, provisions on money-laundering offences, as well as all precursor chemicals listed in the 1988 Convention, have been taken into account in the revision of the Narcotics Control Act, 1990. Rules relating to licensing of companies dealing with precursor chemicals have been adopted.

426. In India, a comprehensive bill against money-laundering has been passed by both houses of Parliament and is awaiting presidential assent.

427. In Nepal, legislative action on mutual legal assistance and witness protection was stalled in 2002. The Board notes that legislation on precursor control has been drafted and urges the Government of Nepal to adopt such legislation without delay. In addition, no

action has been taken in Nepal to amend current provisions under the Foreign Exchange Regulation Act, 1982, which are not adequate to deal with money-laundering and to promote the investigation of drug proceeds. Sri Lanka has not yet finalized its new comprehensive drug control legislation, which would enable that State to implement fully the provisions of the 1971 Convention and the 1988 Convention. The import and distribution of psychotropic substances, therefore, continue to take place in Sri Lanka without adequate control. The Board urges the Governments of Nepal and Sri Lanka to ensure that legislative action is taken as quickly as possible so that they may fully comply with the international drug control treaties.

428. The Narcotics Control Bureau of India has been transferred from the Ministry of Finance, Department of Revenue, to the Ministry of Home Affairs, Department of Internal Security, to ensure better coordination with intelligence agencies. The Board hopes that reforms will also contribute to improved coordination between the Narcotics Commissioner of India, responsible for control of licitly manufactured drugs, and the Narcotics Control Bureau.

429. The Government of Bhutan is considering the establishment of a board consisting of all responsible agencies in order to better coordinate drug control. The Government of Nepal has taken measures to strengthen customs and border control along that country's borders with China and India.

430. In India, the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment is in the process of drafting a national policy and study for drug demand reduction to address the spread of drug abuse. Sri Lanka maintains a strong nationwide demand reduction programme, including a national public education campaign and the provision of training in prevention techniques.

Cultivation, production, manufacture, trafficking and abuse

Narcotic drugs

431. Cannabis is illicitly cultivated in all countries in South Asia except Maldives. In Bangladesh, scattered but increasing illicit cannabis cultivation has been reported in the Hill Tract area and the north and north-western parts of the country; cannabis eradication campaigns have been carried out, although not in a systematic manner. Cannabis continues to be smuggled

out of India and Nepal. While most of the cannabis herb smuggled into Bangladesh is destined for illicit markets in that country, cannabis resin originating in India and Pakistan is transiting Bangladesh on its way to Europe.

432. The north-west of India has emerged as a significant source of cannabis resin. Cannabis resin from Nepal is also smuggled into India by land in the states of Bihar and Uttar Pradesh, from where it proceeds to Delhi and Mumbai.

433. Cannabis grows wild in the high hills of the central, mid-western and far western parts of Nepal, where illicit crop eradication is expensive due to the difficult terrain. In the southern part of Nepal, cannabis cultivation has increased; most of the cannabis grown there is destined for the illicit market in India. Law enforcement agencies in Nepal have been carrying out eradication campaigns and have intercepted consignments of locally produced cannabis resin en route to India, the larger consignments weighing as much as several hundred kilograms. The abuse of both locally grown and wild cannabis remains widespread.

434. Cannabis illicitly cultivated in Sri Lanka is predominantly destined for illicit markets in the country. Most of the illicit cannabis cultivation occurs in hard-to-reach areas in the south-eastern part of the island, adjacent to former areas of conflict. Cannabis eradication campaigns are regularly carried out by law enforcement authorities.

435. India is a traditional producer of opium for medical and scientific purposes; the opium poppy is grown in the states of Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh under a stringent licensing policy controlled by the Central Bureau of Narcotics. The use of satellite surveys was initiated in 2001; that practice was refined in 2002 in an effort to monitor licit opium poppy cultivation, in order to ensure that the allotted areas were not being exceeded, as well as to detect possible illicit opium poppy cultivation within the country.

436. Although an elaborate system of regulatory and preventive controls has been established, in India, diversion of opium to illicit channels still occurs. In recent years, Indian authorities have been increasingly seizing, particularly in large urban centres, locally manufactured white heroin intended to be shipped through Sri Lanka to Europe.

437. In India, the bulk of the illicit opium poppy cultivation is confined to the most remote north-eastern states. The production of opium, not only to be abused locally but also for sale to heroin manufacturers across the border with Myanmar, appears to be rising. The Government of India is carrying out eradication campaigns and has initiated a special project to explore income-substitution and alternative development programmes aimed at the eradication of illicit opium poppy cultivation.

438. Illicit laboratories throughout India continue to manufacture low-quality brown heroin base known as "brown sugar". Most of the illicitly cultivated opium poppy in India is destined for local abusers, but "brown sugar" heroin from India is available in neighbouring countries.

439. Most of the heroin originating in Afghanistan and smuggled through the border between India and Pakistan is in transit, passing through the southern states of India and destined for Europe. Significant heroin seizures in the southern part of India, in particular in Tamil Nadu, confirm that heroin from India continues to be smuggled into Sri Lanka by sea.

440. In Bangladesh, a large number of abusers of phensedyl (codeine-based cough syrup) are changing to heroin because of the high price of phensedyl and the increased availability of heroin in the country. Most of the heroin abused in Bangladesh reportedly originated in India. The illicit cultivation of small amounts of opium poppy was detected in the Hill Tract area of Bangladesh, adjacent to that country's border with Myanmar. Eradication efforts by the military resulted in a sharp decrease in illicit opium poppy cultivation in Bangladesh.

441. In Nepal, the smuggling and abuse of heroin from South-West Asia and South-East Asia are on the rise. The illicit cultivation of opium poppy occurs on a small scale, but it is increasing. It is difficult to detect illicit crops since they are interspersed among licit crops.

442. Sri Lanka continues to be used as a transit point for shipments of heroin from Asia bound for Europe and other parts of the world. The percentage of injecting drug abusers has remained low. Significant increases in street prices for brown heroin resulted in peddlers resorting to the use of adulterants and diluents such as caffeine, diazepam, sucrose, lactose and paracetamol. Opium abuse has become insignificant.

443. In most countries in South Asia, licitly manufactured narcotic drugs are diverted to the illicit markets. The abuse of cough syrup, smuggled out of India, has been reported in Bangladesh and Nepal.

444. India, a large manufacturer of pharmaceuticals, has stringent laws to control their manufacture and distribution. However, improvements are needed in the monitoring of compliance with the law, particularly with regard to prescription requirements. Codeine-based cough syrups, such as phensedyl, are sold without medical prescription and their sales, according to surveys of pharmacists, are among the highest compared with other pharmaceuticals.

445. In countries in South Asia, cases of cocaine abuse are rarely encountered; in most cases the cocaine is abused by members of the more affluent segments of society.

Psychotropic substances

446. India manufactures a wide range of precursor chemicals, including acetic anhydride and ephedrine and pseudoephedrine. All manufacturers, traders and users of such chemicals are required to maintain records and comply with other control measures under the Narcotics Control and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985, in line with requirements of the international drug control conventions.

447. Despite those strict controls and periodically conducted training programmes on precursor control for law enforcement officials, diversion of such precursors from licit channels occurs in India. In a recent joint action, drug law enforcement agencies in China, India and the United States arrested a total of 37 traffickers as they were to embark on a large-scale trafficking operation involving amphetamine-type stimulants. For the first time, law enforcement agencies in India foiled an attempt to set up a laboratory for illicit methamphetamine manufacture. The Board requests the Government of India to maintain its vigilance, since this case might indicate a new trend in the illicit manufacture of amphetamine-type stimulants in India, one of the world's largest licit manufacturers of precursors for such stimulants.

448. In India, which is a major manufacturer of pharmaceuticals, lack of uniformity among states in monitoring compliance with the law concerning domestic distribution contributes to the increasing

abuse of psychotropic substances. Pharmaceuticals containing psychotropic substances are easily obtainable, even without prescriptions, as chemists, poorly informed about the abuse liability of the drugs, believe that commonly prescribed substances such as some of the benzodiazepines are generally harmless and therefore dispense them without prescription.

449. The most commonly abused benzodiazepines are alprazolam, diazepam and nitrazepam. These benzodiazepines are also abused in conjunction with heroin to enhance its effects. A substantial percentage of patients admitted to addiction treatment centres had previously abused psychotropic substances by injection. Bangladesh and Nepal have also reported the abuse of diverted diazepam and nitrazepam, mainly of Indian origin. Benzodiazepines are also abused in Sri Lanka, where they are diverted from retail trade.

450. While the Board notes the continuous efforts of the Indian authorities to maintain effective control over international trade in psychotropic substances, it urges the Government of India to enforce laws more effectively at the retail level in order to prevent illicit sales of psychotropic substances. Efforts should focus on building the awareness of and educating pharmacists, as well as the general public, about the abuse liability of psychotropic substances.

451. In India, controls over licit distribution of buprenorphine have been strengthened considerably over the last few years. Despite the fact that buprenorphine is not easily available because of the requirement of a triplicate prescription, the diversion of buprenorphine still occurs, as evidenced by the availability of the substance on illicit markets in India and the smuggling of the substance into neighbouring countries. Indian authorities should investigate and address the reasons.

452. The smuggling of methaqualone of Indian origin into Southern and Eastern Africa continues. In 2002, seizures of methaqualone in India totalled more than 11 tons, the highest level since the mid-1990s. The main chemicals used for the manufacture of methaqualone are controlled in India. However, traffickers may still have obtained those chemicals or are using substitute chemicals for such illicit manufacture. Indian authorities are urged to investigate those developments, which are most disturbing considering that the illicit manufacture of

methaqualone had almost ceased at the end of the 1990s.

453. Methaqualone from India is smuggled into Nepal to be abused in that country or trans-shipped to other countries. Methaqualone is also available in powder form in local markets in Nepal, where it is sold under the fake name "Brown Sugar".

454. Trafficking in and abuse of amphetamine-type stimulants are growing concerns for Indian authorities. While precursors for amphetamine-type stimulants are smuggled out of India and into Myanmar, where significant illicit manufacture of such stimulants occurs, amphetamines from Myanmar are smuggled, though in small quantities, into India.

Missions

455. A mission of the Board visited India in May 2003. The Board notes with satisfaction that the Government is committed to combat illicit drug activities and commends it for having introduced changes in the drug control legislation to better combat drug trafficking. Licit production and processing of opiates in India is well regulated and the Government continues to tighten controls to make diversion of licitly produced opium more difficult. India is the main exporter of licitly produced opium in the world and the Government cooperates well with the Board in ensuring a lasting balance between the supply of and demand for opium worldwide. Law enforcement successes have been achieved by identifying and eradicating illicit cultivation of opium poppy and in dismantling international and national syndicates trafficking in heroin and diverting precursors. Similar success is needed in identifying and dismantling trafficking rings involving cannabis and methaqualone.

456. In India, control over precursors is well implemented, as is the control over imports and exports of controlled substances. However, controls over the licit manufacture of, trade in and distribution of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances in India have been found to be inadequate, as evidenced by the Government's incomplete reporting to the Board and the diversion of pharmaceutical products manufactured in India. The Board urges the Government to take the necessary steps to monitor the domestic distribution of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances and to identify and sanction persons or enterprises facilitating the diversion of drugs. In this connection the Board

recommends that the Government streamline the administrative structure for drug control at the national level.

457. The Board commends the Government of India for investigating the extent and patterns of drug abuse and for improving treatment services for drug addicts, despite the limited resources available. The Board trusts that the Government will continue to expand its demand reduction activities and to extend those activities to other segments of the population.

West Asia

Major developments

458. Despite the armed intervention and political change in Afghanistan and the fight against terrorism, illicit cultivation of and trafficking in opiates has expanded, resulting in more political instability. The Board is of the opinion that, unless the Transitional Authority of Afghanistan, with the full support of the international community (which is indispensable), makes progress in drug control efforts, any successes in the construction of that nation in the areas of peace and development and in other areas, including the fight against terrorism, will not be sustainable. The fight against drugs has to be among the highest priorities of the Transitional Authority.

459. Opium poppy cultivation in Afghanistan continued on an even larger scale in 2003, after having reached a low level in 2001 due to the ban on such cultivation issued by the Taliban. The extent to which the laudable drug control plans and initiatives of the Transitional Authority of Afghanistan will be implemented country-wide remains a major concern. Drug crop cultivation has also resumed in Pakistan, mainly in non-traditional poppy-growing areas.

460. In 2003, seizures of opiates, mainly heroin and morphine, increased throughout West Asia. Particularly large increases were noted in Central Asia. The purity level of heroin also appears to have increased. Facilities within Afghanistan for processing opium into other opiates continue to exist. Precursor chemicals used in manufacturing processes continue to flow into the region along the same routes used for smuggling opiates but in the opposite direction.

461. The drug problem remains a major challenge for most countries in West Asia, undermining the social and economic stability of some countries and jeopardizing peace and security in the region as a whole. Corruption linked to drug trafficking also remains a serious problem throughout the region. The Board is pleased to note that many national and regional cooperation activities focusing on law enforcement and border control have been carried out in countries in the region as part of efforts to combat drug trafficking. As emphasized by the Board in the past, addressing the drug problem must remain high on the agenda of regional security consultations.

462. In a number of countries in West Asia, initiatives were taken to assess the extent of drug abuse and establish demand reduction activities. Some of those assessments revealed worrying levels of drug abuse and an increase in drug abuse by injection. The main drugs of abuse remain cannabis and opiates. In addition, amphetamine-type stimulants, in particular MDMA (Ecstasy), have become increasingly available in the region. Finally, the abuse of other psychotropic substances, including benzodiazepines, appears to be at a relatively high level in some countries in the region, especially among women.

Treaty adherence

463. The Board notes with satisfaction that all of the 24 States in West Asia are parties to the 1961 Convention, the 1971 Convention and the 1988 Convention. Afghanistan remains the only State in the region that has not become party to the 1972 Protocol amending the 1961 Convention. The Board encourages the authorities of Afghanistan to take appropriate action to accede to the 1972 Protocol.

Regional cooperation

464. The Board notes with appreciation the continued commitment to drug control of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO).⁴⁹ Initiatives have begun for an operational mandate on drug control and related security issues within the ECO secretariat, to enhance drug control cooperation among the ECO member States.

465. The Board welcomes the fact that during 2003 Afghanistan participated in a number of meetings and other activities at the regional level, such as the fourth meeting of drug liaison officers, hosted by the Islamic

Republic of Iran, in March 2003, and the Intergovernmental Technical Committee meetings, a forum for the exchange of drug law enforcement information in the region.

466. The Third Anti-Narcotics Regional Training Exercise was held in Tehran in December 2002. The participating police and customs officers were from the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Russian Federation and the countries in the Caucasus and Central Asia (except Turkmenistan). During 2003, several countries continued to cooperate within the framework of memorandums of understanding by exchanging information and participating in joint political and technical meetings on drug control issues. At the Conference on Drug Routes from Central Asia to Europe, held in Paris in May 2003, possible ways for strengthening cooperation in stemming the illicit production of and trade in heroin and opium from Afghanistan to Central Asia were discussed (see para. 517 below).

467. The Board welcomes the regional initiatives on demand reduction in Central Asia. Representatives from all Central Asian countries met in Tashkent in February 2003 to discuss the establishment of a Central Asian drug epidemiology network. In June 2003, national focal points and other key experts from the region met in Osh, Kyrgyzstan, for the diversification of HIV prevention and drug treatment services for injecting drug abusers.

468. A seminar on measures of national and international control over the licit movement of narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and precursors was held in Almaty, Kazakhstan, in August 2003. At the seminar, which was organized jointly by the Board and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the competent authorities of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, the Russian Federation, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan discussed the current drug control situation in their countries and the possible harmonization of control measures and joint action in the future. The Board regrets that the authorities of Turkmenistan did not participate in the seminar.

469. Other meetings dealing with issues of terrorism, organized crime and money-laundering in West Asia, held within or outside the region, also served to strengthen drug control cooperation.

470. The Turkish International Academy against Drugs and Organized Crime (TADOC) continues to serve as a national and regional training centre for law enforcement. Training is also provided to law enforcement officers from Afghanistan. The Board welcomes the regional focus of TADOC, which, in addition to training activities, facilitates regional cooperation.

471. The Board notes with satisfaction that regional and subregional cooperation, especially in the field of drug law enforcement, is well developed in West Asia. Steps have been taken to integrate Afghanistan in regional law enforcement activities. A number of cooperative activities continue to be carried out between the Islamic Republic of Iran and Pakistan. The Islamic Republic of Iran has also cooperated, for example, with Saudi Arabia and Uzbekistan on the exchange of specialized law enforcement expertise. In addition, numerous joint law enforcement operations continue to be carried out by countries in Central Asia. The system for exchanging intelligence and other information among law enforcement agencies in the region and beyond is mostly working well. The Board encourages all countries in the region to cooperate and strengthen further collaboration and information exchange with all other countries. The Board in particular urges Turkmenistan to strengthen its regional cooperation efforts and to join the international community in the fight against drugs. The Board further encourages all countries in the region to cooperate in the field of drug demand reduction, in particular regarding exchange of information and expertise.

National legislation, policy and action

472. The Board notes the adoption of a new law on narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances in Armenia in December 2002. In Georgia, a new law on narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, precursors and narcological aid was also adopted in December 2002.

473. In the field of drug law enforcement, the Board acknowledges the challenging situation for countries in West Asia and appreciates the active role that Governments have played in that field.

474. While, in Afghanistan, for the time being, the United Kingdom maintains the lead coordination role for counter-narcotics, Germany for police reform, Italy for judicial matters and the United States for the security sector, the Board understands that the

Transitional Authority of Afghanistan will take over as soon as possible the overall coordination and monitoring role on drug control matters. The establishment of a Counter-Narcotics Directorate to coordinate all government actions and of a Counter-Narcotics Unit within the Ministry of the Interior are positive steps in that direction.

475. The National Security Council of the Transitional Authority of Afghanistan, with the assistance of the international community, prepared a national drug control strategy that was endorsed by the President in May 2003. The strategy serves as a framework for the implementation of drug control activities and addresses all areas, including institution-building, legal and judicial reform, drug law enforcement, alternative livelihoods, demand reduction and monitoring and assessment. The Counter-Narcotics Unit, with its investigation and intelligence functions, is being expanded to cover the various provinces as well. Capacity is being built to enable the monitoring of illicit crop cultivation and carrying out of an annual survey. It is anticipated that more responsibilities currently being undertaken by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime will be taken over by the Afghan authorities in future.

476. As a first step to put in place the necessary legal framework, a new Afghan drug control law was adopted in 2003. The key issue will be to ensure its effective implementation. Training of legal authorities is scheduled, especially in areas outside Kabul. The Board emphasizes that further development of the legal framework, as well as a strong commitment to its implementation by the Afghan authorities throughout the country, is of the utmost importance for drug control in Afghanistan.

477. The Board noted with great concern that in Afghanistan the political will and commitment to drug control expressed by the government authorities of the Transitional Administration is not being fully followed throughout the country, due to lack of nationwide control and insufficient support by or even opposition from provincial authorities. Furthermore, it appears that short-term interventions, especially in the area of elimination of opium poppy cultivation, are not sufficiently complemented by long-term, sustainable development strategies.

478. In Pakistan, the preparation of a new drug control master plan is being planned. A pilot initiative has been

proposed to strengthen maritime export control of containerized cargo from Karachi to prevent heroin and other drugs, including psychotropic substances, from being smuggled into Africa and other regions. The Board urges the Government of Pakistan to devise similar control mechanisms for goods passing through the country towards Afghanistan. It can be suspected that chemicals needed for the illicit manufacture of heroin might pass through the port of Karachi. A ministry for the control of narcotics has been established in Pakistan in order to strengthen overall drug control measures.

479. Initiatives have been undertaken in the Islamic Republic of Iran with regard to legislative changes aimed at introducing less severe punishments for minor drug-related offences to facilitate drug abuse treatment. That puts the law enforcement authorities also in a better position to focus on large-scale drug trafficking operations.

480. The Board welcomes the initiatives in drug law enforcement undertaken in Central Asia. Activities in Kyrgyzstan have focused on the establishment of the Drug Control Agency, similar to the Drug Control Agency of Tajikistan, which has been in existence for a few years. Law enforcement efforts in Tajikistan continue to be aimed at strengthening drug trafficking interdiction along the Tajik-Afghan border. Similar activities have been undertaken by Kazakhstan, which has reinforced controls on its border with the Russian Federation and along its southern border. Initiatives in Uzbekistan focused on improving the sharing of information between national drug law enforcement bodies, strengthening law enforcement capacities and reinforcing interdiction at the most vulnerable border points with Afghanistan and Tajikistan. The Board notes with satisfaction that Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan are participating in Operation Topaz.

481. In the area of drug abuse and demand reduction, the Board notes that information about the nature and extent of drug abuse in most countries in West Asia remains fragmented and that activities in demand reduction appear to receive less priority than those in supply reduction. The Board, however, welcomes a number of important initiatives in that area.

482. Drug abuse assessment studies have been carried out in several countries in West Asia. National surveys have been undertaken in Pakistan and Turkey. In

Afghanistan, an assessment has been carried out on the prevalence of drug abuse in Kabul, in addition to earlier studies which focused on specific drug problems or at-risk groups such as refugees. Data on identifying the extent and specific problems of drug abuse have also been collected in the Islamic Republic of Iran. Furthermore, rapid situation assessment studies, focusing on limited target groups and/or specific subject areas, were conducted in Jordan and Lebanon and demand reduction activities were initiated aiming at prevention of drug abuse and drug-related HIV/AIDS infection. In Pakistan, demand reduction activities have been integrated into a process of decentralizing drug abuse control to the district level. District drug abuse prevention committees have been established in eight target districts.

483. Demand reduction activities in Afghanistan were aimed at the provision of drug prevention training to a wide range of organizations, as well as the establishment of detoxification and treatment services for drug addicts in Kabul. Efforts have also been increased in the Islamic Republic of Iran to expand treatment and rehabilitation and to provide assistance for drug abusers and their families. A national strategic plan against HIV/AIDS is addressing the concerns over the high prevalence of injecting drug abuse among persons infected with HIV/AIDS. A five-year programme was launched in Tajikistan and Uzbekistan aimed at reducing drug demand by treating drug addiction and raising public awareness. Draft action programmes on HIV prevention and the establishment of drug treatment services for injecting drug abusers have been prepared in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan.

484. TADOC has assumed the role of focal point for Turkey, when joining the European information exchange network of the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction.

485. The Board strongly encourages all countries in West Asia to strengthen their efforts to develop drug abuse assessment systems and to expand demand reduction activities.

486. In tackling money-laundering, various international activities in West Asia have been initiated and linked to the fight against terrorism and organized crime. A seminar was held in Bahrain on combating money-laundering and the financing of terrorism, promoting international "best practices" and stressing

the country's commitment to maintain an effective regime against money-laundering and terrorist financing. In the Islamic Republic of Iran, a national conference on combating money-laundering was held in Tehran in May 2003 and a new bill against money-laundering is expected to be approved by the parliament.

487. Israel has launched new activities against money-laundering, focusing, inter alia, on the installation of a computerized system linking various relevant institutions. In Pakistan, new legislation against money-laundering is under review. Amendments proposed to the Anti-Terrorism Act should help to cut off financial supply lines that may be used for channelling illicit funds. In a move to curb illegal money transactions, Saudi Arabia has taken measures to ensure the authenticity of licensed firms and the legitimacy of all financial transfers. The United Arab Emirates has made progress in regulating the system of informal overseas money transfers known as *hawala*. Yemen endorsed a new law against money-laundering in April 2003, which should help in fighting corruption and restrict funding sources for terrorists.

488. The Board notes that in Georgia the law on the prevention of legalization of illicit income adopted in June 2003 will come into force on 1 January 2004. Since 2002, when its name was removed from the list of countries and territories considered by the Financial Action Task Force Against Money Laundering to be uncooperative in efforts to counter money-laundering, Lebanon has intensified its campaign against suspects and criminal activities. A report issued in March 2003 indicated that banking secrecy was lifted in 79 out of 138 pending cases. The Board expects that Lebanon is now in a position to withdraw its reservation on the provisions against money-laundering in the 1988 Convention.

489. The Board draws the attention of countries in West Asia to the specific risks of and their vulnerability to money-laundering in the region and urges those Governments which have not yet done so to develop appropriate legislative measures and ensure their implementation.

Cultivation, production, manufacture, trafficking and abuse

Narcotic drugs

490. Cannabis continues to be the most widely grown and abused drug in West Asia. Illicit cannabis cultivation takes place in several countries in the region. Cannabis also continues to grow wild in countries in the region, including in Afghanistan, Kazakhstan and Pakistan. Some cannabis cultivation was destroyed in Tajikistan and, in connection with that action, a few cases of opium poppy cultivation were discovered. Cannabis continues to be widely abused in the region and smuggled in large quantities, mainly in the form of cannabis resin, out of South-West Asia and into Europe. In Lebanon, illicit cultivation of both cannabis and opium poppy has re-emerged in the Bekaa valley in recent years. The recurrence of illicit crop cultivation in that area is linked to its economically deprived status. The Government of Lebanon has carried out regular eradication campaigns.

491. The Board notes with great concern that in Afghanistan the cultivation of opium poppy, which had re-emerged on a large scale in 2002, has further spread in 2003, amounting to 80,000 hectares. Opium poppy has been cultivated in the traditional growing areas and its cultivation has also spread to several new districts. Opium poppy cultivation has been found in 28 out of 32 provinces. Farmers tend to grow opium poppy increasingly in remote and inaccessible areas. Production of opium increased to 3,600 tons, compared with 3,400 tons in 2002. This overall increase occurred despite significant reductions, due to eradication, in some traditional cultivation areas such as Helmand and Kandahar. Increases in opium production were noticeable mainly in the province of Badakhshan, where no eradication campaign took place.

492. Farm-gate prices for opium, an important indicator used to assess the incentive for farmers to grow opium, decreased during 2003. Following the relatively high price levels in 2002, prices for opium in Afghanistan started to decline in January 2003 and have been falling since then.

493. The Board notes with great concern the resurgence of opium poppy cultivation in Pakistan in 2003, after it was reduced to almost nil during the late 1990s through intensive eradication programmes. By then, opium poppy had been eradicated from the last

traditional poppy-growing areas of the Dir and other districts. However, in 2003, a total of 6,700 hectares of poppy cultivation, mostly in non-traditional poppy-growing areas, was reported, of which more than 60 per cent has been eradicated.

494. Manufacture of heroin in West Asia continues on a large scale, primarily in Afghanistan, although hardly any laboratories have been detected in Afghanistan in recent years. Only Turkey regularly reports the confiscation of clandestine heroin laboratories. In recent years, no such laboratories have been reported to have been detected in Pakistan or countries in Central Asia.

495. Opiates from Afghanistan continue to be smuggled on a large scale into other countries in West Asia, destined for Europe and other regions, as well as for abuse in West Asia. The so-called Balkan route (through the Islamic Republic of Iran, Turkey and Balkan countries) as well as, increasingly, more recent alternative routes through Central Asia and the Russian Federation, continue to be used. Pakistan and countries on the Arabian peninsula are also affected by transit trafficking. The Board notes with concern that links between drug trafficking, organized crime and terrorism have allegedly become more prominent in recent years.

496. Seizures of opiates increased considerably in 2003 in many countries in West Asia. It appears that such seizures are made in Afghanistan but not in the significant quantities recorded in its neighbouring countries. In the Islamic Republic of Iran, seizures of opiates have increased again after declines were recorded in 2001 and 2002. Tajikistan noted a huge increase in heroin seizures in 2003, along with a significant increase in the purity of that drug. Other countries in the region, including Pakistan, Turkey and several member States of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), recorded increased seizures of opiates in 2003.

497. Although drug trafficking has not yet been reported as a serious problem in Iraq, given its geographical location and current political and economic instability, the Board is concerned about a possible increase in drug trafficking to and through that country.

498. Drug abuse assessment studies, which have been carried out in several countries in West Asia, revealed

some alarming trends. In Pakistan, the findings from the national survey, published at the end of 2002, indicated high rates of drug abuse, not only in urban areas but also in rural areas. Cannabis-type drugs (mainly cannabis resin and "charas"), followed by heroin, psychotropic substances and alcohol, were the substances most commonly abused. Additionally, drug abuse by injection was found to be very high, and there was a shift from inhaling and smoking drugs to injecting drugs. In June 2003, for the first time, an increase in HIV cases was reported among injecting drug abusers in Pakistan.

499. So far limited drug abuse assessments in Afghanistan have revealed that the substance most commonly abused is cannabis resin, followed by pharmaceutical drugs, opium, heroin and alcohol. One major concern is the reported rate of drug injection. In Turkey, the prevalence of drug abuse is estimated to be relatively low but increasing. In particular, increasing trends have been noted in adolescents seeking treatment for drug-related problems. The three main substances showing a steady increase are opioids (mainly heroin), cannabis and inhalants. Another alarming trend has been the increase in injecting drug abuse. Rising drug abuse, including drug abuse by injection and the spread of HIV, was also noted in countries in Central Asia. The subregion has a high rate of HIV/AIDS infection related to injecting drug abuse.

500. The Board continues to be concerned about the high level of drug abuse in West Asia. The increasing trend with regard to injecting drug abuse is particularly worrying.

Psychotropic substances

501. Trafficking in and abuse of illicitly manufactured stimulants (often reported as Captagon) continue to be of concern in the eastern Mediterranean area and on the Arabian peninsula. Eastern Europe continues to be the main source of such drugs, but the clandestine manufacture of such drugs has also been detected in Turkey. Several countries in West Asia continue to make seizures of Captagon.

502. Rising trends in West Asia have also been noted in the abuse of MDMA (Ecstasy). In Turkey, seizures of Ecstasy, mainly originating from Western Europe, have increased considerably in 2003. Increasing abuse of Ecstasy, Captagon and inhalants has been noted among young people in Turkey. Israel made several

large Ecstasy seizures in 2002. The availability of Ecstasy may have also increased in the Islamic Republic of Iran, as prices of that drug dropped significantly in early 2003. Other amphetamine-type stimulants originating in South-East Asia seem to have also become available. In several countries in West Asia, the abuse of benzodiazepines appears to be widespread and particularly high among women. Oman reported having seized relatively large quantities of sedatives and tranquillizers in 2002.

Missions

503. A mission of the Board visited the Islamic Republic of Iran in September 2003. The territory of that country continues to be used by drug traffickers as a main conduit for illicit drugs originating in Afghanistan. The majority of the opiates illegally brought into the Islamic Republic of Iran are smuggled out of the country, to be processed and trafficked in Europe and the Middle East. The authorities estimate that about 2 million persons abuse drugs and that the number is increasing. The Government is particularly concerned about a group of 120,000-130,000 addicts, who inject heroin. Drug abuse and the illicit drug traffic create significant economic and social problems for the country.

504. The Board appreciates the continuous strong commitment of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the fight against illicit drug trafficking and acknowledges the significant costs of that struggle borne by the Islamic Republic of Iran, including the high number of losses suffered by the Iranian law enforcement authorities. The Board welcomes the active cooperation of the Government with the other countries in the region and encourages the authorities to further strengthen their co-operation with and support to the authorities in Afghanistan.

505. The Board appreciates that the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran recently started to increase its demand reduction efforts. The Board recommends to the Government to carry out continuous studies to allow for the realistic assessment of the extent of drug abuse, including the abuse of pharmaceutical products containing narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances. The Government could significantly strengthen its treatment capacities by using, for example, the existing primary health-care establishments for drug treatment.

The Board requests the authorities to ensure adequate control of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances used in substitution treatment which the Government plans to develop. The Board urges the Government to improve monitoring of private institutions providing treatment of addiction.

506. The Board appreciates the intention of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran to modify some penalties foreseen by the national anti-drug legislation to make them more adequate to the respective offences. The Board requests the Government to urgently enact and implement the legislation concerning money-laundering and control of precursor chemicals. The Board trusts that the Government will strengthen its control system over licit activities related to drugs and chemicals and cooperate more closely with other Governments and the Board.

507. In June 2003, the Board sent a mission to Turkey to review developments regarding drug control issues and in particular to assess that country's position as a traditional licit supplier of opiate raw materials. The Board notes with satisfaction that Turkey has made considerable efforts to improve its position as a competitive supplier of opiate raw materials on the world market, while ensuring the implementation of sufficient control measures and achieving a balance between supply and demand.

508. In addition, the Board appreciates the commitment of the Government of Turkey in combating drug trafficking and notes with satisfaction the comprehensive set of measures that have been implemented. In particular, the Board welcomes the activities undertaken by TADOC, which focuses on drug law enforcement training and promotes national and regional cooperation.

509. In the area of drug demand reduction, the Board welcomes the initiatives undertaken in Turkey with regard to establishing epidemiological data collection and improving the health-care system aimed at prevention and treatment. In that context, the Board strongly encourages the Government of Turkey to strengthen efforts in drug demand reduction and ensure the sustainability of the activities initiated in this field.

D. Europe

Major developments

510. Cannabis remains the most commonly abused drug in Europe and is increasingly being cultivated and trafficked in the region. The Board is concerned about the widespread experimental and recreational abuse of cannabis among young people in Europe, particularly in Western Europe, as revealed in several epidemiological studies. A trend towards promoting the drug, through the media, and the significant expansion of drug abuse, particularly in recreational settings, have resulted in the abuse of cannabis being perceived as less risky than it really is, especially among young people.

511. The cocaine market in Europe continues to be one of the world's biggest, second only to that of North America. The volume of cocaine seizures in Europe has constantly increased over the past few years. The abuse of all forms of cocaine, including crack cocaine, has also steadily increased in several countries in Western Europe; however, the abuse of crack cocaine appears to be confined to metropolitan areas of some Western European countries.

512. Heroin abuse has been spreading in countries in Central and Eastern Europe, replacing the abuse of locally produced opiates in most of those countries. As a result of two years of bumper crops of opium poppy in Afghanistan, it is expected that heroin trafficking along the Balkan route and in Central Europe will increase and stocks, which were drastically depleted during the years of reduced opium poppy cultivation, will be replenished. This may also lead to the reversal of the declining trends in the abuse of heroin and the number of heroin-related deaths in Western Europe, in spite of efforts to treat and rehabilitate drug abusers. Law enforcement authorities continue to play an important role in reducing the availability of illicit drugs, while health authorities have focused on drug abuse prevention. The spread of HIV infection among injecting drug abusers remains alarmingly high in the Baltic States, as well as in the Russian Federation and Ukraine; the Board urges those States to increase their efforts aimed at reducing illicit drug demand.

513. Europe remains a major producer of synthetic drugs. The Netherlands continues to be the source of the vast majority of MDMA seized worldwide. The Government of the Netherlands has been implementing measures targeting the illicit manufacture of and trafficking in MDMA and other synthetic drugs; that has resulted in a significant increase in MDMA seizures. As synthetic drugs cannot be manufactured without chemicals, the Board calls on the Governments of all European countries, as well as the European Commission, to strengthen the control of precursors and increase their cooperation with other countries in preventing the shipment of the required chemicals.

514. Ambiguity towards drug abuse is common in countries in Western Europe. Drug abuse prevention campaigns call on young people to refrain from drug abuse; in practice, however, authorities do not take measures against incitement of drug abuse, and drug abuse may even be promoted through certain media or other channels. Drug abuse prevention strategies should therefore take into greater consideration the fact that drug abuse is often, directly or indirectly, willingly or unwittingly, encouraged in the environment of young people and should be aimed at the improvement of critical skills so that young people may learn to take a stand against drug abuse.

Treaty adherence

515. Since the last report of the Board was published, Albania has become a party to the 1971 Convention. Of the 44 States in Europe, 43 are parties to the 1961 Convention, 43 are parties to the 1971 Convention and 41 States and the European Community are parties to the 1988 Convention.

516. Andorra is the only country in Europe that is not a party to the 1961 Convention or to the 1971 Convention.

517. The Board regrets that the Holy See, Liechtenstein and Switzerland have not become parties to the 1988 Convention.

Regional cooperation

518. At the Conference on Drug Routes from Central Asia to Europe, organized by the Government of France in Paris in May 2003, ministers of foreign affairs from 55 countries seriously affected by the traffic in opium and heroin produced in Afghanistan

reconfirmed their commitment to assist Afghanistan and transit countries in combating opium poppy cultivation and trafficking in opiates, most of which are destined for illicit markets in Europe. The Board calls on Governments to meet their commitments.

519. The Board notes the efforts made by Greece, the State that held the rotating Presidency of the European Council during the first half of 2003, to forge a common European Union drug control policy—efforts exemplified by, inter alia, the holding of a conference on the theme “Towards an effective policy on drugs: scientific evidence, day-to-day practice and policy choices” in Athens in March 2003. Since all States members of the European Union are parties to all of the international drug control treaties, such a common policy must be based on full implementation of the provisions of the treaties. The Board notes that, during the ministerial segment of the forty-sixth session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, held in April 2003, the representative of Greece, speaking on behalf of the European Union member States, expressed support for the treaties and their full implementation.

520. In April 2003, the European Parliament rejected a report that contained a proposal to amend the international drug control treaties. Instead, the European Parliament called for the full implementation of the treaties and reaffirmed the central role of preventing drug abuse.

521. The Board notes the efforts of the European Monitoring Centre on Drugs and Drug Addiction to integrate the 10 States that are expected to join the European Union in 2004 into the European Information Network on Drugs and Drug Addiction (Reitox) in the framework of a Phare project launched in November 2002.

522. The Board notes the mid-term evaluation of the European Union Action Plan on Drugs (2000-2004), which provides guidelines for activities to be undertaken to implement the European Union Drugs Strategy (2000-2004). The Board also notes that the Council of Ministers of Justice and Home Affairs of the European Union adopted an implementation plan on action against the illicit supply of synthetic drugs in November 2002. The plan outlines a series of measures that should be taken to address the issue of synthetic drugs. The Board urges the member States of the European Union to ensure the implementation of the plan.

523. A workshop on the implementation of provisions of the international drug control treaties in the national legislation of CIS member States, organized jointly by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the Inter-Parliamentary Assembly of CIS, was held in the Russian Federation in March 2003. The Board urges the Governments of the 12 CIS member States to remain committed to bringing their national legislation in line with the treaties.

524. The Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia continued to cooperate with each other in various areas, such as in the area of information systems on treatment for drug abuse, in the training of providers of treatment for drug abuse, in the training of drug-detecting dogs and in the area of law enforcement cooperation in Central Europe.

525. In September 2003, government ministers of Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Iceland, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway and Sweden adopted the Lund Declaration, which lays down common political objectives and priorities for long-term partnership between the Nordic States and the Baltic States on drug policy issues and which foresees closer cooperation in all aspects of the drug problem, including drug abuse prevention and treatment and law enforcement. The States involved will also develop a joint strategy based on the international drug control treaties.

National legislation, policy and action

526. In December 2002, the Government of the United Kingdom presented its Updated Drug Strategy. Using the main elements of the 10-year strategy entitled “Tackling Drugs to Build a Better Britain”, the Updated Drug Strategy places renewed emphasis on education, prevention, enforcement and treatment. In addition, the new strategy focuses on cocaine, heroin and MDMA (Ecstasy), with a view to reducing both their abuse levels and their availability. The new strategy also includes an action plan on crack cocaine that will be implemented in the years 2003 and 2004. The Board notes that the targets with respect to the reduction of drug abuse have been revised downwards.

527. In January 2003, a new drug action plan entered into force in Norway. The new plan is to increase the effectiveness of law enforcement and to improve community-based prevention programmes, early intervention programmes, assistance to drug addicts

and coordination and cooperation. The plan calls for a performance measuring system to evaluate results.

528. In June 2003, the Government of Germany adopted a national action plan on drugs and addiction, thereby replacing a similar action plan dating back to 1990. The new action plan sets out the strategy on the basis of which addiction problems should be addressed in the future. Some of the areas emphasized in the action plan are prevention based on target groups, international cooperation in the fight against drugs and action against the abuse of prescription medicines containing psychotropic substances.

529. There have been several developments regarding the control of cannabis in Western European countries. In Belgium, a new law on cannabis entered into force in June 2003, according to which possession of up to 3 grams of cannabis will be punishable by a police fine unless there are other aggravating circumstances, such as abusing the drugs in the presence of minors. In the Netherlands, in September 2003, cannabis became available in pharmacies, where it is sold as a prescription drug. The Board notes that the Government of the United Kingdom reaffirmed that its bill to reclassify cannabis, which was approved in October 2003 by Parliament, in no way underestimates the harmfulness of cannabis. The supply and possession of cannabis will remain illegal. Indeed, there will be legislation to increase the maximum penalty for Class C drugs to 14 years of imprisonment, as well as the power to arrest for the possession of a Class C drug. The Government's emphasis on prevention, treatment and education alerts young people to the harm of all drugs, including cannabis, ensures that young people understand what will happen to them if they are found to be in possession of cannabis or any other illegal drugs. Ways must be found to inform young people that cannabis is harmful, but without damaging the credibility of the messages about other drugs.

530. The Board notes that the project for the revision of the Swiss law on narcotic drugs, which included legislation on cannabis not in line with the provisions of the international drug control treaties, was rejected by the second chamber of the Swiss Parliament in September 2003. The Board trusts that any new proposals will be in line with the treaties.⁵⁰

531. According to a study financed by the European Commission on the abuse of drugs in recreational

settings there has been a significant expansion of drug abuse in recreational settings, particularly among young people. The study also noted a cultural dynamic towards the direct and indirect promotion of drugs that has resulted in a positive perception image of drugs being installed in the minds of young people, which acts to attenuate preventive discourse. The Board calls on Governments to take the results of the study into account when devising activities for drug abuse prevention.

532. The Board is concerned about any relaxation of controls over cannabis in Europe, which might promote further illicit cultivation and abuse in Europe and counteract required efforts of eradicating illicit cultivation and combating trafficking in Europe and elsewhere in the world.

533. In December 2002, the Government of Ireland presented the report of the Benzodiazepine Committee, which had been set up by the Minister for Health and Children in June 2000 to examine the current prescribing and use of benzodiazepines. In the report, the Committee recommends that monitoring systems be established in order to be able to analyse prescribing patterns and allow appropriate action where there is a suspicion of irresponsible prescribing. Since the abuse of benzodiazepines and other prescription medications containing psychotropic substances is a problem in many countries in Europe, the Board encourages other Governments to take similar steps. The Board also calls on Governments to take into consideration Commission on Narcotic Drugs resolution 44/13, entitled "Contribution to the appropriate use of benzodiazepines".

534. The Board welcomes the decision by the Government of Spain to use funds generated by the forfeiture of assets seized in drug trafficking cases for supporting drug control activities carried out by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. Spain is only the second country in the world (after Luxembourg) to implement article 5, paragraph 5 (b) (i), of the 1988 Convention, in which parties to the Convention are invited to consider contributing proceeds generated by the forfeiture of assets in drug trafficking cases, including money-laundering, to international organizations specializing in the fight against drugs. The Board encourages Governments to use such funds in a similar way for demand reduction.

535. The Board notes with disappointment that in Bosnia and Herzegovina the law on the classification of narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and plants has not yet been adopted. The legislation has been in draft form since a mission of the Board visited that country in October 2000. The Board calls on the Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina to make every effort to strengthen its currently weak legal and institutional capacities. The Board notes efforts in countries on the Balkan route, in particular Serbia and Montenegro, to thwart the diversion of precursor chemicals from international trade for the illicit manufacture of drugs, in Europe and elsewhere.

536. The 10 European States that are to become members of the European Union in 2004 have continued to strengthen their drug control legislation and administrative and coordination structures. Bulgaria, Croatia, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia adopted multi-disciplinary national drug control strategies in 2002 and 2003, in close cooperation with European Union member States.

537. In the Russian Federation and Ukraine, as well as in the Baltic States, HIV continues to spread, particularly among young people, mainly through needle-sharing. In St. Petersburg, almost all of the 100,000 people with HIV were infected through injecting drug abuse. In the Baltic States, in a high percentage of HIV cases, the virus was transmitted through drug-injecting behaviour, in particular injecting drug abuse, and the HIV infection rate has continued to grow. The Board urges the Governments concerned to allocate adequate resources to contain the epidemic and fight the disease in the context of drug abuse.

538. To address the high-risk behaviour among injecting drug abusers, the Czech Republic, Poland, Romania and Slovakia have introduced programmes for the exchange of needles and syringes. In the Russian Federation, the number of programmes for the prevention of HIV infection and for the treatment of injecting drug abusers has been increasing continuously. In order to allow more comprehensive demand reduction and HIV prevention programmes, legislative changes may be necessary.

539. In December 2002 and January 2003, legislation against money-laundering was amended in Ukraine. The Government also adopted a programme of action

against money-laundering, which outlines, with a detailed time frame, the measures that have to be carried out in 2003 in order to establish an effective system of action against money-laundering. As a result of that action, the Financial Action Task Force on Money Laundering decided to withdraw its countermeasures with respect to Ukraine. The Board welcomes the programme for the implementation of state policy to combat illicit trafficking, covering the period 2003-2010, which was approved by the cabinet of ministers of Ukraine.

540. The State Committee of the Russian Federation for Control over Trafficking in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances was established in March 2003 to spearhead and coordinate all drug control activities. The upgrading of Russian drug control authorities will include a significant increase of staff. The Board calls on the Government of the Russian Federation to complete the restructuring as quickly as possible. The Board urges the newly established State Committee to give priority to the development of a drug control strategy to address the problems associated with narcotic drugs, as well as the related spread of HIV infection, without delay. The Board also urges the Committee to develop measures to prevent the spread of drug abuse through both law enforcement and demand reduction activities.

541. The Board welcomes the progress made by the Government of Romania in strengthening its national drug control system. In addition to the establishment of a national drug control coordination committee, the Government has intensified cooperation among its national law enforcement agencies, which has resulted in a significant increase in heroin seizures in the country. The Board calls on the Government to implement the other recommendations made by the Board following missions to that country in 1997 and 2002.

Cultivation, production, trafficking and abuse

Narcotic drugs

542. Over the past few years, cannabis herb has been increasingly cultivated in Europe. In Switzerland, it is estimated that between 300 and 500 hectares are being cultivated for the production of cannabis and that 50-200 tons of cannabis herb are being produced in the country every year, enough to satisfy local demand. Furthermore, cannabis products are being sold in about

400 cannabis shops in Switzerland, particularly in areas bordering other countries. A study undertaken in the United Kingdom estimated that about 50 per cent of all cannabis abusers grow their own cannabis. Cannabis seeds are available without restriction in most countries. Albania remains a large supplier of cannabis herb, which is smuggled into some countries in Europe and West Asia. Cannabis seizures have shown a stable or upward trend in many countries in Europe. Cannabis accounts for almost three quarters of all drug seizures in the United Kingdom.

543. Cannabis is widely available in Europe, especially among young people. According to one study, 46.2 per cent of young people (persons between 15 and 24 years of age) in the European Union had been offered cannabis and 28.9 per cent reported having abused cannabis at some point in their lives. More than 10 per cent of the young people had abused cannabis in the previous month in France (19.8 per cent), Spain (15 per cent), the United Kingdom (13.4 per cent), Denmark (12.2 per cent) and the Netherlands (12.2 per cent). The countries least affected were Austria, Greece, Luxembourg, Portugal and Sweden.

544. National prevalence studies undertaken in the Netherlands, Spain and Switzerland show that the number of people who abused cannabis during the previous month has significantly increased. In the Netherlands, that number increased from 2.5 per cent in 1997 (326,000) to 3.0 per cent in 2001 (408,000). In Spain, the estimated proportion of the population that abused cannabis during the previous month almost doubled from 12.2 per cent in 1994 to 22 per cent in 2002. In Switzerland, an estimated 11,000 young people aged 15-16 abuse cannabis more than 40 times a year. Cannabis abuse is also on the increase in many countries in Central and Eastern Europe.

545. There are indications that the volume of cocaine from South America smuggled into Europe every year continues to increase. Spain, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom remain the three main ports of entry for cocaine in Europe. Spain ranks third in the world (after the United States and Colombia) for the volume of cocaine seized. The volume of cocaine seized in Spain has more than doubled over the past 10 years.

546. Many countries in Europe report that the abuse of cocaine is on the rise. Stable or declining levels of cocaine abuse were reported in several countries in the

middle of Europe, such as Austria, Germany and Switzerland.

547. In Europe, the illicit market for heroin is primarily supplied by heroin of Afghan origin, which is mainly smuggled into the region either on the Balkan route or, to an increasing extent, via Central Asia, the Caspian Sea and the Russian Federation (on the so-called "Silk route"). The growing importance of the "Silk route" for heroin originating in Afghanistan is a development that continues to be reflected in seizure statistics. In July 2003, 420 kg of heroin were seized in the Russian Federation in a single operation. In contrast, in most countries in Western Europe, heroin seizures have remained stable or declined. Therefore, the existence of significant heroin depots in several transit countries must be assumed. Heroin seizures are expected to increase in Western Europe, in view of the increasing amount of heroin produced in Afghanistan.

548. The Board notes the recent removal from the illicit traffic of 41 kg of fentanyl and the dismantling of three laboratories in Ukraine. Authorities fear that the locally produced illicit opium poppy extracts and the heroin from Afghanistan could be replaced by the synthetic opioid, which is more than 100 times more potent.

549. In South-Eastern Europe, trafficking in heroin continues via the Balkan route. The northern branch of the Balkan route leads through Bulgaria, Romania, Hungary and Austria; the southern branch leads through Bulgaria, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Albania, partly to Italy, Serbia and Montenegro and Bosnia and Herzegovina. The worrying trend is that, in addition to those countries being used as transit countries because they are situated on the main drug trafficking routes, drug abuse in those countries has shown an upward trend.

550. For several years, the abuse of heroin has remained stable or declined in member States of the European Union. The decline in the number of heroin abusers has been most pronounced in Spain, which had a very high rate of heroin abuse in the 1980s. The number of persons dependent on opiates in the Netherlands is the lowest in all member States of the European Union. The recent strengthening of drug abuse prevention and treatment efforts in Western Europe has contributed to that positive development. In

countries in Eastern Europe, however, the abuse of heroin continues to increase.

Psychotropic substances

551. Europe retains its leading position in the area of illicit manufacture of synthetic drugs. While synthetic drugs produced in Asia and Latin America are primarily manufactured for local illicit markets, synthetic drugs manufactured in Europe, particularly those of the MDMA variety, are trafficked all over the world. While MDMA and related drugs are mostly manufactured in and distributed from Belgium and the Netherlands, amphetamine is increasingly being manufactured in other parts of Europe as well. For example, the number of uncovered clandestine laboratories has been on the increase in Ukraine. The illicit manufacture of amphetamine continues to take place in Poland, and there are also reports that it is taking place in the Baltic States, as well as in Romania. Home-cooked methamphetamine (pervitin) continues to be manufactured in the Czech Republic and trafficking in the substance is no longer confined to the local illicit markets, as the substance is often smuggled into Austria, Germany and Slovakia, where it is frequently sold as "crystal speed".

552. The percentage of abusers of amphetamine-type stimulants is highest in Ireland, the United Kingdom (England and Wales only) and the Netherlands (in that order). In Finland, France, Portugal and Sweden, the prevalence of abuse of those drugs in the previous month does not exceed 1 per cent. Amphetamine-type stimulants are also widely available and frequently abused in the tourist centres in Europe, for example, on the Spanish island of Ibiza.

553. As synthetic drugs cannot be manufactured without the necessary chemicals, the Board urges Governments of European countries to take more action to control the chemicals used in illicit drug manufacture. Over 100 tons of 3,4-methylenedioxyphenyl-2-propanone, a precursor for MDMA with almost no legitimate uses, are smuggled into Europe out of China each year. The Board encourages the European Community, which, in this case, is the responsible competent authority for precursors, to cooperate with the authorities of China, in order to stop this type of trafficking.

554. Ketamine, a substance which is widely used in veterinary medicine but which is not under

international control, is abused in some countries in Europe, where it is often sold as Ecstasy or combined with amphetamines, ephedrine and MDMA in Ecstasy tablets.

Missions

555. In March 2003, a mission of the Board visited the Czech Republic. The Board notes with appreciation the political commitment and activities of the Government of the Czech Republic to deal with problems of drug abuse and trafficking. The Board was informed about the consideration of amending the criminal code in order to introduce different penalties for possession of different types of drugs. The intention is to reduce social impacts of excessive criminalization and to enhance proportionality of punishment to the nature of the crime.

556. The existing legal framework covers all areas relating to drug trafficking and drug abuse, as well as the manufacture of and trade in controlled drugs and precursors in accordance with the provisions of the international drug control treaties. The existing national lists of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances of the Czech Republic fully correspond to the schedules of the 1961 Convention and the 1971 Convention. If the Government considers a possible rearrangement of those national lists, the Board would recommend harmonizing them with lists applied by and in line with most other European countries.

557. The Board is of the opinion that the present legislation on precursors in the Czech Republic is in line with its recommendations and would rather welcome the intended strengthening of controls by European Union member States than a weakening of the Czech legislation to the present level of the European Union. With regard to cultivation of opium poppy for alkaloid extraction, the Board recommends that all countries include in their existing national licensing systems measures that allow for limitation, if so required, of the area under opium poppy cultivation.

558. The Government of the Czech Republic intends to expand substitution treatment provided by special medical facilities. The introduction of drug injection rooms does not constitute a part of the official national drug control policy. Drug testing has been the subject of debate at the official level as part of a broader discussion on the abuse of synthetic drugs. Drug

testing at dance-floor parties is carried out at the level of non-governmental organizations. In that respect the Board repeats its opinion that such programmes are against the provisions of the international drug control conventions.

559. At the invitation of the Government of Germany, the Board sent a mission to that country in July 2003. The primary objective of the mission was to visit drug injection rooms in operation in that country and to discuss with the authorities the Board's concerns regarding such facilities. The Board also viewed numerous facilities in several cities for the treatment and rehabilitation of drug-dependent persons.

560. The Government had underlined that the drug injection rooms in operation in Germany were not in contravention of the international drug control treaties, as they were subject to stringent regulations and had been incorporated into the general health system. In this regard, the Government had argued that the drug injection rooms served an important function in ensuring that drug-dependent persons who otherwise could not be reached by the authorities were referred to therapy and other public services.

561. The Board notes the efforts of the German authorities to ensure that drug injection rooms are integrated into the general health-care services for drug addicts and are well maintained and clean. The Board also notes that the establishment of such injection rooms is perceived as a success by a large part of the local authorities and the local population. However, the Board also notes that, according to the data collected by the Government, there is little evidence that drug injection rooms actually serve to ensure that the drug-dependent persons undergo treatment and that their existence contributes to a reduction in drug-related deaths. The Board reiterates its views that, insofar as they serve as forums in which drugs acquired on the illicit market can be abused, they are not in compliance with the international drug control treaties. The existence of facilities aimed at ensuring that drug-dependent persons are encouraged to undergo treatment is desirable, but such facilities must be in compliance with the treaties. The Board urges the Government to take the necessary measures to ensure compliance with the international drug control treaties.

562. The Board reviewed progress made by the Government of Ireland in the implementation of the Board's recommendations pursuant to its mission to

that country in 2000. The Board notes that the National Drugs Strategy 2001-2008, launched in May 2001, contains 100 individual actions to be taken by the Government of Ireland under the four pillars of supply reduction, prevention, treatment and research. In particular, the Strategy includes a number of actions providing education and prevention programmes for young people, with abstinence from all substances of abuse being the primary aim. The Board hopes that the results of a mid-term review, to be undertaken in 2004, will be carefully reviewed by the Government to ensure an efficient implementation of the Strategy.

563. The Board notes with concern that there continue to be a number of controlled substances under the 1961 Convention and the 1971 Convention that have yet to be placed under adequate national control in Ireland. The Board urges the Government to adopt, as soon as possible, legislative provisions required by the two conventions in order to ensure that all required regulatory controls are in place, including the timely inclusion of substances in the national control regime whenever the Commission on Narcotic Drugs decides on the scheduling of substances.

564. A mission of the Board visited Poland in February 2003. The Board commends the Government for taking a balanced approach in combating illicit activities related to drugs, as evidenced by law enforcement successes and recently upgraded treatment services for drug addicts. The legislative basis for drug control appears to be adequate. The Board encourages the Government to expedite the planned establishment of a national centre for drug law enforcement and a unified system for the collection of drug law enforcement data. In view of the fact that the clandestine manufacture of amphetamine-type stimulants is taking place at significant levels in Poland and that the stimulants are subsequently abused in the country or smuggled into neighbouring countries, the Board recommends to the Government to take appropriate steps, in particular, for more effective repression of the manufacture of and trafficking in such substances.

565. Controls over the licit manufacture of, trade in and distribution of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances in Poland are reasonably well implemented. The Board is confident that controls over precursor chemicals will soon be adjusted to meet European Union standards.

566. In January 2003 the Board made a technical visit to Slovakia. Cooperation between the Slovak authorities and the Board is functioning well, as is cooperation between the various government offices responsible for drug control matters in Slovakia. In recent years, two major legislative acts on narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and precursor chemicals have been adopted. Legislation presently in force in Slovakia for the cultivation of opium poppy and for poppy straw is in line with the position of the Board that all countries cultivating opium poppy should have a strict licensing system for opium poppy and strict control measures for poppy straw. The Board is of the opinion that the present legislation on precursors is in line with its recommendations; the Board would, therefore, strongly discourage any weakening of the existing legislation, especially at a time when European Union member States intend to strengthen controls further.

567. In recent years, Slovakia has been targeted for diversion of and trafficking in psychotropic substances, including flunitrazepam and temazepam. The Board appreciates the efforts of the Slovak law enforcement authorities, in cooperation with their Czech counterparts, in counteracting such illicit activities. Diversion of and trafficking in pharmaceutical products have to be considered by the judiciary with the same priority as trafficking in other drugs of abuse.

E. Oceania

Major developments

568. Australia and New Zealand remain among the main destinations for shipments of heroin and amphetamine-type stimulants from South-East Asia. The Board notes that both countries have strengthened legislation and action aimed at detecting and preventing the clandestine manufacture of amphetamine-type stimulants and to intercept consignments of such stimulants and their precursors. Cannabis abuse has declined but remains at a high level; cannabis continues to be the drug of choice in Australia and New Zealand. In Australia, 72 per cent of all drug-related offences relate to cannabis. More sophisticated hydroponic growing techniques are contributing to increasing cannabis yields.

569. In recent years, successful law enforcement operations in Australia have led to a sharp reduction in the supply of heroin to illicit markets. This has resulted in price increases, lower purity levels and a decline in the rate of heroin overdose deaths. At the same time, there has been an increase in the abuse of cocaine and synthetic drugs, which have continued to be widely available despite record seizures at borders.

570. The Board notes the progress made in several Pacific island States to prevent money-laundering. Those States continue to be vulnerable to the drug transit traffic and to drug abuse.

Treaty adherence

571. Of the 15 States in Oceania, Kiribati, Nauru, Niue, Samoa, Tuvalu and Vanuatu are not parties to any of the three international drug control treaties. All nine of the remaining States in the region are parties to the 1961 Convention and eight of them are also parties to the 1971 Convention; however, only Australia, Fiji, New Zealand and Tonga are parties to the 1988 Convention. The Board urges the States that have not yet acceded to the international drug control treaties to do so without delay.

Regional cooperation

572. The Pacific Islands Forum continues to play an active and essential role in coordinating drug control efforts in Oceania. The leaders attending the thirty-fourth session of the Forum held in Auckland, New Zealand, in August 2003 agreed to increase awareness among law enforcement officials about the spread of trafficking in and abuse of drugs, in particular amphetamine-type stimulants. The Board notes the increasing use of the Customs Asia Pacific Enforcement Reporting System, the Internet-based secure communication platform for customs administration, which makes possible the exchange of information to help detect and prevent transnational crime, including drug trafficking.

573. The Board notes the signing of a memorandum of understanding in March 2003 by Australia and Indonesia for cooperation in the exchange of information to better enforce customs laws.

574. The Board welcomes the key role played by the Australian Federal Police and the New Zealand Police in terms of regional technical assistance. The police

and customs of Australia and Papua New Guinea continue to participate in joint border patrols.

575. Successful joint operations involving the Australian Federal Police and police authorities from outside of Oceania, such as Argentina, Malaysia and Taiwan Province of China resulted in major seizures of heroin, cocaine and MDMA (Ecstasy), as well as precursors, and the arrest of many drug traffickers.

National legislation, policy and action

576. In previous reports,⁵¹ the Board expressed its concern about the decision on the establishment in Australia of a drug injection room in the State of New South Wales. The Board notes that the Government of Australia does not support that decision but has no power to intervene since it leaves certain matters of health and law enforcement under the jurisdiction of its states and territories. That, however, puts into question the capacity of the Commonwealth of Australia to ensure the implementation of the provisions of the international drug control treaties throughout its territories.

577. Different jurisdictions within Australia also led to difficulties in the implementation of the control of certain precursors, as some states in Australia followed strictly the provisions of article 12 of the 1988 Convention, as well as Economic and Social Council resolutions, and other states did not.

578. The Board notes that New Zealand has tightened its control over domestic licit distribution of ephedrine and pseudoephedrine through close cooperation between police and pharmacists, in order to prevent the availability of those substances for clandestine methamphetamine manufacture. In May 2003, the Government of New Zealand announced a methamphetamine action plan that provides, inter alia, greater search and seizure powers for police and customs and includes provisions for demand reduction and treatment.

579. The Board encourages the Government of New Zealand to act on the recommendation of the parliamentary health committee to develop a policy to reverse the trend of heavy abuse of cannabis by persons 18-24 years old and its increasing abuse among persons 15-17 years old.

580. The Board appreciates the progress achieved in the fight against money-laundering in several States in

Oceania and notes with satisfaction that some States in Oceania, namely the Marshall Islands and Niue have been removed from the list of countries and territories that the Financial Action Task Force on Money Laundering considers uncooperative in efforts to counter money-laundering. The Cook Islands and Nauru remain on the list. While the Cook Islands has made significant steps by passing several new acts, the necessary regulation has yet to be promulgated, and Nauru still has to ensure that "shell banks" are no longer operational.

Cultivation, production, manufacture, trafficking and abuse

Narcotic drugs

581. Large-scale hydroponic cultivation of cannabis continues to be reported in Australia. There is also significant cannabis cultivation in Fiji, which contributes to the substance being widely abused. Cannabis cultivation also occurs on some other islands and is grown on a large scale in the highlands in Papua New Guinea for local illicit markets and for illicit markets in Australia.

582. The amounts of cocaine detected and seized in Australia and at the borders have increased sharply. Heroin abuse in Australia has declined since 2001, mainly due to successful interdiction activities at its borders and cooperation with national authorities in South-East Asia and the resultant shortage of supply.

583. In all countries in Oceania except Australia and New Zealand, heroin and cocaine trafficking and abuse have been sporadic and at a low level.

Psychotropic substances

584. In Australia, border detections of synthetic drugs, amphetamine-type stimulants and MDMA have steadily increased; the number of uncovered clandestine laboratories for the manufacture of amphetamine-type stimulants has increased as well. Both in Australia and New Zealand, local illicit manufacture and distribution of amphetamine-type stimulants have increased.

585. In some parts of New Zealand, cannabis abuse is being surpassed by the abuse of amphetamine-type stimulants. During the first half of 2003, custom seizures of ephedrine and pseudoephedrine soared, indicating increasing demand for such precursors from overseas following the introduction of more stringent

controls in New Zealand. The abuse of MDMA (Ecstasy) continues to spread.

586. GHB, ketamine and various anti-depressants have become popular party drugs in Australia. Control of GHB is of a significant concern, as large quantities of its precursor chemical *gamma*-butyrolactone (GBL) are imported for legitimate use. The combination of both the availability of GBL and its easy conversion into GHB means that those substances are inexpensive and is therefore a cause for increased concern. The Board calls on the Government of Australia to develop strategies to prevent the abuse of these substances.

Missions

587. A mission of the Board visited Fiji in January 2003. The Board notes that regulatory controls for drugs and chemicals and law enforcement are coordinated and functioning well. Those authorities also have good working relationships with their counterparts in other countries in Oceania.

588. The Board invites the Government of Fiji to establish a comprehensive national master plan for drug control. There is a need to conduct an assessment of the drug abuse situation in the country and then to establish proper treatment and rehabilitation programmes. Further efforts of the Government are required to ensure adequate availability of drugs for medical purposes through rational prescribing, particularly those for pain treatment, and to provide more adequate scientific support for drug law enforcement.

589. A mission of the Board visited Papua New Guinea in January 2003. The Board notes with concern that the findings and recommendations made following its earlier mission to the country in 1995 remain valid. There is a pressing need for the Government to revise the current drug control legislation, which has been pending for over a decade. The Board also notes that the central policy-making body, the National Narcotics Control Board, is not functioning as provided for under current laws, and a clear definition of its roles and of its secretariat, the National Narcotics Bureau, is lacking. Furthermore, working mechanisms among relevant government agencies do not appear to exist. Lack of appropriate inter-agency coordination, coupled with legislative or institutional deficiencies, have frequently nullified, or otherwise undermined, ministerial authority. The Board is concerned that such a situation continued to affect the work of various drug

control authorities, resulting in compartmentalized activities and yielding insufficient or unsatisfactory outcomes.

590. The Government of Papua New Guinea should initiate, as soon as possible, collective consultations among relevant departments involved in drug control with a view to introducing necessary revisions to the current drug control laws by drawing up a consolidated bill that clearly defines the respective functions and establish the necessary working links between those departments. In so doing, the Government should accede to the 1998 Convention and introduce all necessary legislative and administrative measures to comply with the provisions of that Convention.

591. The Board also invites the Government of Papua New Guinea to conduct an assessment of the drug abuse situation with a view to introducing proper treatment and rehabilitation programmes. In view of the latest developments observed in attempts at diversion of precursors for amphetamine-type stimulants, the Board has requested the Government to re-launch its law enforcement investigations into the case of attempted diversion of large quantities of ephedrine uncovered in 2000 and transmit the findings to the Board as soon as possible.

(Signed)

Philip O. Emafo
President

(Signed)

Madan Mohan Bhatnagar
Rapporteur

(Signed)

Herbert Schaepe
Secretary

Vienna, 14 November 2003

Notes

¹ Trevor Bennett, *Drugs and Crime: the Results of the Second Developmental Stage of the NEW-ADAM Programme*, Home Office Research Study 205 (London, Home Office, 2000).

- ² Dennis Rogers, *Youth Gangs and Violence in Latin America and the Caribbean: a Literature Survey*, LCR Sustainable Development Working Paper, No. 4 (Washington, D.C., World Bank, 1999).
- ³ *Report of the International Narcotics Control Board for 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.XI.1), paras. 1-63.
- ⁴ Caroline Moser and Jeremy Holland, *Urban Poverty in Jamaica*, World Bank Latin America and Caribbean Studies (Washington, D.C., World Bank, 1997).
- ⁵ Etienne G. Krug and others, eds., *World Report on Violence and Health* (Geneva, World Health Organization, 2002).
- ⁶ United Nations, Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention, *A Participatory Handbook for Youth Drug Abuse Prevention Programmes* (Vienna, 2002).
- ⁷ See the report of the Meeting of the Group of Experts on Crime Prevention, held in Vancouver, Canada, from 21 to 24 January 2002 (E/CN.15/2002/4); see also Economic and Social Council resolution 2003/26, entitled "Prevention of urban crime".
- ⁸ See the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Administration of Juvenile Justice (the Beijing Rules) (Assembly resolution 40/33, annex) and the United Nations Guidelines for the Prevention of Juvenile Delinquency (the Riyadh Guidelines) (Assembly resolution 45/112, annex).
- ⁹ See Economic and Social Council resolution 2002/12, entitled "Basic principles on the use of restorative justice programmes in criminal matters".
- ¹⁰ These courts apply restorative justice principles and procedures in diverting appropriate drug-abusing offenders from the traditional criminal justice process into court-supervised treatment and rehabilitation. Examples of best practice in establishing such courts and the success factors and principles underlying them are provided on the web site of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (www.unodc.org/unodc/en/legal_advisory_courts.html).
- ¹¹ The Declaration on the Guiding Principles of Drug Demand Reduction (General Assembly resolution S-20/3, annex) and the Action Plan for the Implementation of the Declaration on the Guiding Principles of Drug Demand Reduction (Assembly resolution 54/132, annex) specifically target drug-abusing offenders and call on Governments to take effective multidisciplinary remedial initiatives.
- ¹² United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 520, No. 7515.
- ¹³ *Ibid.*, vol. 976, No. 14152.
- ¹⁴ *Ibid.*, vol. 976, No. 14151.
- ¹⁵ *Ibid.*, vol. 1019, No. 14956.
- ¹⁶ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.XI.1.
- ¹⁷ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1582, No. 27627.
- ¹⁸ Extent of competence: article 12.
- ¹⁹ For details on the new method of reporting on opiate raw materials, see *Report of the International Narcotics Control Board for 2001* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.XI.1, para. 190).
- ²⁰ *Report of the International Narcotics Control Board for 2001* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.XI.1), para. 4.
- ²¹ *Report of the International Narcotics Control Board for 2002 ...*, para. 121.
- ²² *Report of the International Narcotics Control Board for 2002 ...*, para. 123.
- ²³ *Precursors and Chemicals Frequently Used in the Illicit Manufacture of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances: Report of the International Narcotics Control Board for 2003 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.04.XI.4).
- ²⁴ *Ibid.*
- ²⁵ Such codes are set up by the Customs Co-operation Council (also called the World Customs Organization) for specific commodities to facilitate the collection of trade data and the compilation of trade statistics. At the request of the Board, the Customs Co-operation Council has also set up specific Harmonized System codes for all 23 substances in Tables I and II of the 1988 Convention, which are widely utilized by competent national authorities in compiling their trade statistics for submission to the Board.
- ²⁶ Operation Purple is the international operation focusing on potassium permanganate, an important chemical used in the illicit manufacture of cocaine, which the Board launched in cooperation with concerned governments in 1999.
- ²⁷ The competent authorities of the following States and territories participate in Operation Purple: Argentina, Austria, Belgium, Bolivia, Brazil, Bulgaria, China, Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of China, Colombia, Czech Republic, Ecuador, Germany, Greece, India, Italy, Mexico, Netherlands, Peru, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United States, Uruguay and Venezuela. Furthermore, Interpol, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the World Customs Organization

- support Operation Purple in their respective areas of responsibility.
- ²⁸ Operation Topaz is the international operation focusing on acetic anhydride, a critical chemical used in the illicit manufacture of heroin, which the Board launched in 2001 in cooperation with the Governments concerned.
- ²⁹ *Precursors and Chemicals Frequently Used in the Illicit Manufacture of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances: Report of the International Narcotics Control Board for 2002 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.03.XI.4), para. 51.
- ³⁰ *Report of the International Narcotics Control Board for 2001 ...*, para. 158.
- ³¹ *Report of the International Narcotics Control Board for 2002 ...*, para. 135.
- ³² *Narcotic Drugs: Estimated World Requirements for 2004; Statistics for 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E/F/S.04.XI.2).
- ³³ *Report of the International Narcotics Control Board for 1997* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.98.XI.1), para. 108.
- ³⁴ WHO/EDM/QSM/2000.4.
- ³⁵ *Narcotic Drugs: Estimated World Requirements for 2004; Statistics for 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E/F/S.04.XI.2).
- ³⁶ *Psychotropic Substances: Statistics for 2002; Assessments of Annual Medical and Scientific Requirements for Substances in Schedules II, III and IV* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E/F/S.04.XI.3).
- ³⁷ *Report of the International Narcotics Control Board for 1993* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.94.XI.2), para. 29.
- ³⁸ *Report of the International Narcotics Control Board for 2000* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.01.XI.1), para. 445.
- ³⁹ *Ibid.*, para. 446.
- ⁴⁰ *Report of the International Narcotics Control Board for 1987* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.87.XI.3), para. 2.
- ⁴¹ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 12, No. 186.
- ⁴² *WHO Expert Committee on Drug Dependence: Sixteenth Report*, WHO Technical Report Series, No. 407 (Geneva, World Health Organization, 1969).
- ⁴³ The States represented at the meeting included the Maghreb States (Algeria, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Mauritania, Morocco and Tunisia) as well as five European States in the western Mediterranean (France, Italy, Malta, Portugal and Spain).
- ⁴⁴ Benin, Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Côte d'Ivoire, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone and Togo.
- ⁴⁵ Angola, Botswana, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Seychelles, South Africa, Swaziland, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe.
- ⁴⁶ Law No. 80/2002 will allow the Anti-Narcotics General Administration of Egypt to keep for its use in operations a portion of the assets seized from drug traffickers who have been prosecuted and sentenced. The law criminalizes the laundering of proceeds from various crimes, including illicit drug trafficking, terrorism, fraud and organized crime. It also contains provisions on customer identification and record-keeping and stipulates the establishment of a financial intelligence unit within the Central Bank of Egypt.
- ⁴⁷ *Report of the International Narcotics Control Board for 2003 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.04.XI.04).
- ⁴⁸ The Board examines the recent implementation by countries of article 12 of the 1988 Convention, which is aimed at preventing the diversion of precursor chemicals for use in the illicit manufacture of drugs, in the supplement to the present report entitled *Precursors and Chemicals Frequently Used in the Illicit Manufacture of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances: Report of the International Narcotics Control Board for 2003 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.04.XI.4).
- ⁴⁹ The ECO member States include Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Turkey, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.
- ⁵⁰ *Report of the International Narcotics Control Board for 2002 ...*, paras. 180-184.
- ⁵¹ *Report of the International Narcotics Control Board for 2002 ...*, para. 535.