

## **Reports published by the International Narcotics Control Board in 2004**

The *Report of the International Narcotics Control Board for 2004* (E/INCB/2004/1) is supplemented by the following technical reports:

*Narcotic Drugs: Estimated World Requirements for 2005; Statistics for 2003* (E/INCB/2004/2)

*Psychotropic Substances: Statistics for 2003; Assessments of Annual Medical and Scientific Requirements for Substances in Schedules II, III and IV* (E/INCB/2004/3)

*Precursors and Chemicals Frequently Used in the Illicit Manufacture of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances: Report of the International Narcotics Control Board for 2004 on the Implementation of Article 12 of the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988* (E/INCB/2004/4)

The updated lists of substances under international control, comprising narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and substances frequently used in the illicit manufacture of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, are contained in the latest editions of the annexes to the statistical forms (“Yellow List”, “Green List” and “Red List”), which are also issued by the Board.

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The text of the present report is also available on the Internet at the web site of the Board ([www.incb.org](http://www.incb.org)).



INTERNATIONAL NARCOTICS CONTROL BOARD

# Report

of the International Narcotics  
Control Board for 2004



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## Foreword

The supply of and demand for illicit drugs at first seem to be quite separate: drugs are manufactured, trafficked and sold on the illicit market by one group of people; the drugs are bought and consumed by others. However, illicit drug supply and demand are in fact inextricably linked components of a single phenomenon. The demand for drugs stimulates the supply; the availability of drugs, in turn, creates demand, as more people become dependent upon drugs.

In chapter I of its report for 2004, the International Narcotics Control Board analyses this interaction between supply and demand and emphasizes the need for a balanced and integrated approach. It is all too easy for government action against the drug problem to focus on supply, which is just one element of the problem. While that may produce results, even dramatic results, in the short term, including large seizures of illicit drugs, it does not and cannot have a long-term effect because new sources soon emerge to meet continuing demand. Unfortunately, there are no quick ways to reduce demand; sustained preventive intervention is required to do that. It is therefore essential to develop comprehensive strategies, combining action to reduce both supply and demand. Then and only then will there be significant progress in dealing with drug abuse problems.

Chapter II of the report presents a review of the Board's consultations with Afghanistan pursuant to article 14 of the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961. In the first democratic elections, held in October 2004, Hamid Karzai was elected President of Afghanistan. Unfortunately, the widespread drug problem has become a severe threat to this new democracy, as well as the stability and economic recovery of the country as a whole. Illicit opium poppy cultivation continues to increase in Afghanistan, supplying three quarters of the world's heroin; in addition, Afghanistan has become a major source of cannabis resin for illicit markets in West Asia and beyond and a destination for smuggled psychotropic substances and precursors.

In response, Afghanistan has adopted a national drug control strategy aimed at eliminating the cultivation of illicit crops and the illicit production of and trafficking in narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and precursors within a 10-year period. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, together with the international community as a whole, is supporting Afghanistan in its efforts to achieve that goal and to comply with the international drug control treaties. Ultimately, however, it is the responsibility of the Government of Afghanistan to fulfil its commitments under the international drug control treaties and to ensure that its people are protected from the drug scourge.

In October 2004, the Board convened an expert group in Vienna to consider the problem of illicit sales of controlled substances through Internet pharmacies. Such sales contravene the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971 in several respects. Firstly, Internet pharmacies are not licensed to deal in internationally controlled substances as required by article 8 of the 1971 Convention. Secondly, the preparations that they sell are advertised to the general public, which is contrary to article 10. And thirdly, contrary to article 12, the requirements for import or export authorizations are not observed. Despite those contraventions, it is difficult to apprehend the traffickers involved and such illicit sales have increased continuously over the past few years. That is because if laws are strengthened and enforced in the country where an Internet pharmacy is located, the pharmacy can easily be "relocated" to another country. Moreover, there are no international standards for Internet pharmacies and no record-keeping requirements. Investigators cannot obtain information on subscribers from Internet service providers, nor can they, in many cases, prevent the drug traffickers from purging information on their customers.

The Economic and Social Council, in its resolution 2004/42 of 21 July 2004, entitled “Sale of internationally controlled licit drugs to individuals via the Internet”, called on States to actively pursue those that are in violation of the importing or exporting provisions of the international drug control treaties. To achieve that, it is essential that authorities work in close cooperation with Internet service providers and the pharmaceutical and chemical industries. It is also important to exploit the opportunities offered by the Internet by disseminating information aimed at discouraging people from abusing drugs.

The rate of HIV/AIDS infection among injecting drug abusers has been increasing rapidly in some parts of the world, particularly in Eastern Europe and Asia. In many cases, the alarming spread of HIV/AIDS and other infectious diseases is associated with shockingly low levels of awareness of the basic facts about those diseases and their modes of transmission. Governments must address such ignorance and find ways to limit the spread of HIV. In doing so, they must ensure that current drug control policies do not perpetuate the vicious circle of injecting drug abuse and HIV/AIDS. Measures to prevent the spread of infectious diseases must not be seen as facilitating or even promoting drug abuse, which is, after all, the root of the problem. In other words, the primary and overriding focus of all interventions must be to prevent drug abuse because it is a dangerous and damaging practice in its own right and it has the potential to create even more havoc by contributing to the spread of HIV/AIDS and other serious infectious diseases.



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## Contents

	<i>Paragraphs</i>	<i>Page</i>
Foreword .....		iii
<i>Chapter</i>		
I. Integration of supply and demand reduction strategies: moving beyond a balanced approach .....	1-51	1
A. Market perspectives .....	8-25	1
B. Goals of supply and demand reduction strategies .....	26-33	4
C. Global relationship between supply and demand .....	34-39	6
D. National and local perspectives .....	40-45	8
E. Criminal justice, health and social agencies working together .....	46-49	9
F. Recommendations .....	50-51	10
II. Operation of the international drug control system .....	52-221	11
A. Status of adherence to the international drug control treaties .....	52-58	11
B. Cooperation with Governments .....	59-83	12
C. Prevention of diversion into the illicit traffic .....	84-123	15
D. Control measures .....	124-132	21
E. Ensuring the availability of drugs for medical purposes .....	133-158	23
F. Follow-up to missions of the Board undertaken in 2001 .....	159-162	27
G. Special topics .....	163-221	27
III. Analysis of the world situation .....	222-575	37
A. Africa .....	222-263	37
B. Americas .....	264-353	42
Central America and the Caribbean .....	267-291	43
North America .....	292-321	46
South America .....	322-353	49
C. Asia .....	354-477	55
East and South-East Asia .....	354-394	55
South Asia .....	395-423	59
West Asia .....	424-477	63
D. Europe .....	478-551	72
E. Oceania .....	552-575	82
 <i>Annexes</i>		
I. Regional groupings used in the report of the International Narcotics Control Board for 2004 .....		87
II. Current membership of the International Narcotics Control Board .....		90



## Explanatory notes

The following abbreviations have been used in this report:

ACCORD	ASEAN and China Cooperative Operations in Response to Dangerous Drugs
ADD	attention deficit disorder
ADHD	attention deficit/hyperactivity disorder
ASEAN	Association of South-East Asian Nations
CICAD	Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission
CIS	Commonwealth of Independent States
ECO	Economic Cooperation Organization
ESAAMLG	Eastern and Southern Africa Anti-Money Laundering Group
ESPAD	European School Survey Project on Alcohol and Other Drugs
Europol	European Police Office
FATF	Financial Action Task Force on Money Laundering
GABAC	Action Group against Money-Laundering in Central Africa
GBL	<i>gamma</i> -butyrolactone
GHB	<i>gamma</i> -hydroxybutyric acid
GIABA	Groupe intergouvernemental d'action contre le blanchiment d'argent en Afrique de l'Ouest
Interpol	International Criminal Police Organization
LSD	lysergic acid diethylamide
MDMA	methylenedioxymethamphetamine
MINUSTAH	United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti
SAARC	South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation
SADC	South African Development Community
TADOC	Turkish International Academy against Drugs and Organized Crime
THC	tetrahydrocannabinol
UNAIDS	Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS
UNMISSET	United Nations Mission of Support in East Timor
WHO	World Health Organization



The designations employed and the presentation of the material in this publication do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the Secretariat of the United Nations concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries.

Countries and areas are referred to by the names that were in official use at the time the relevant data were collected.

Data reported later than 1 November 2004  
could not be taken into consideration in  
preparing this report.