

all law enforcement units and to improve technical equipment.

613. In Latvia, there has been an increase in the abuse of amphetamine and methamphetamine. Other major concerns of the Latvian authorities are the increasing polydrug abuse and the high drug abuse rates among adolescents. Former diversions and misuse of pharmaceuticals used in substitution therapy, particularly by tourists from Finland, have been countered by additional control measures. With regard to availability of narcotic drugs for treatment of pain, the Latvian authorities have considerably improved the situation by including morphine medications in the list of pharmaceuticals of their national health insurance system.

614. The Board sent a mission to Luxembourg in October 2006 to review the implementation of the international drug control treaties and maintain its ongoing dialogue with the Government on issues related to drug control. The Board notes with grave concern that a drug injection room has been in operation in Luxembourg since 2005, in violation of the provisions of the international drug control treaties. The Board urges the Government to close the facility immediately and to implement measures against the abuse of drugs that are in compliance with its international treaty obligations.

615. The Board recommends to the Government of Luxembourg that it improve coordination among the various ministries and agencies involved in drug control matters. Such coordination has not always been adequate; as a result, various reports required under the international drug control treaties have not always been submitted to the Board. The Board also recommends to the Government that it strengthen its efforts in collecting information on the drug abuse situation within the country, in view of the fact that there is no national survey on the subject. Finally, the Board notes the measures being taken by the Government to deal with the problem of diversion of methadone from substitution treatment and encourages the Government to continue strengthening its efforts in that area.

E. Oceania

Major developments

616. The majority of the cannabis abused in Australia continues to have been produced in that country.

617. The illicit manufacture of methamphetamine continues to be a problem in Australia. Most of the pseudoephedrine used in illicit methamphetamine manufacture has been extracted from commercially available pharmaceutical preparations. The abuse (including by smoking) of methamphetamine among young drug abusers is increasing in Australia. There are indications that Oceania may be developing into a significant transit area and a potential consumption area for methamphetamine.

618. There was evidence of large-scale illicit manufacture of MDMA in Australia, particularly during the last quarter of 2005.

619. Oceania continues to be used as a major trans-shipment area for illicit drugs.

Regional cooperation

620. HIV/AIDS, organized crime, border management and money-laundering were among the important issues discussed at the annual meeting of the Regional Security Committee of the Pacific Islands Forum, held in Nadi, Fiji, in June 2006.

621. In March 2006, the eighth annual conference of customs heads of the Oceania Customs Organisation was held in Sigakota, Fiji. Strengthening trade security, combating transnational crime and strengthening regional cooperation were the key themes of the conference. The participants agreed on a workplan for the period 2006-2007, including activities related to law enforcement and security.

622. The seventeenth administrative meeting of contact points of the Regional Intelligence Liaison Office for Asia and the Pacific was held in Christchurch, New Zealand, in November 2005. The Minister of Customs of New Zealand highlighted the pre-eminent role of the Regional Intelligence Liaison Office in countering the smuggling of precursor chemicals.

623. Australia and New Zealand continued to provide capacity-building assistance to other countries in

Oceania. The Australian and New Zealand customs services have appointed, for a 12-month period, two senior officers as head and deputy head of the Tonga Customs Service, which is part of the joint New Zealand and Australian Finance and Economic Management Programme for Tonga. The objective is to promote secure trade and borders, including the prevention of drug trafficking. The New Zealand Customs Service is also strengthening customs support in Oceania by sponsoring the establishment of the Oceania Customs Organizations in Fiji. The Australian Federal Police continued to provide capacity-building assistance to Nauru, Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands.

624. Drug control legislation in Fiji and Tonga has been based on the Illicit Drug Control Bill, which calls for drug control legislation in Oceania to be consistent with respect to offences, penalties, classes of illicit drugs, investigations and law enforcement. The bill was drafted by a joint working group established to devise a common approach to illicit drug control in the region.

625. The collaboration among the New Zealand customs and police, the National Drug Intelligence Bureau of New Zealand and the Narcotics Bureau of the police of the Hong Kong SAR of China led to the seizure in May 2006 of approximately 95 kg of methamphetamine and 150 kg of pseudoephedrine (used in the illicit manufacture of methamphetamine), the largest haul of those types of drugs ever made in New Zealand. New Zealand customs and police authorities seized shipments of methamphetamine and pseudoephedrine originating in China. Seven suspects have been arrested in connection with the seizures.

National legislation, policy and action

626. The Board welcomes the accession of Vanuatu to the 1988 Convention and encourages it to accede to the 1961 Convention and the 1971 Convention without delay. However, the Board continues to be concerned by the low rate of accession to the international drug control treaties by countries in Oceania. As traffickers have been known to take advantage of loopholes in national legislation, the Board calls on those States in the region that have not yet done so to ratify the treaties without further delay.

627. In December 2005, the New Zealand Customs Service updated the focus of its drug law enforcement

strategy for the next five years. The recently published national drug law enforcement strategy will support the efforts of the New Zealand Customs Service aimed at protecting communities and reducing the supply of illicit drugs, within the framework of the national drug control policy. The five-year strategy updates the 1988 customs drug strategy, building on study findings from 2002. The main objectives of the new strategy include maintaining an overview of up-to-date national and international intelligence about the illicit drug scene, combating the smuggling of drugs and precursors into and out of New Zealand by using new and existing interdiction and investigative techniques, identifying and targeting emerging drug threats and actively contributing to international efforts to combat the illicit drug trade.

628. Police in New Zealand continued to give high priority to substance-related offences, targeting illicit drug manufacturers, importers and dealers in 2005. High-quality intelligence was also a factor in several successful operations, leading to the disruption of illicit drug supply chains, particularly those with a transnational dimension, where strong links with overseas law enforcement agencies proved to be highly effective.

629. Australia has been promoting a campaign to prevent illegal sales of pseudoephedrine. In January 2006, national legislation to tighten controls on pseudoephedrine went into effect.

630. In September 2006, the Pacific Islands Forum secretariat established a Pacific Anti-Money Laundering Programme to assist Governments in preventing money-laundering and the financing of terrorism, pursuant to the relevant United Nations conventions and Security Council resolutions. The Government of Australia will be providing additional funding over the next five years to fight serious tax fraud and money-laundering. In particular, the funds will be used to detect and dismantle organized criminal enterprises involved in serious tax fraud and money-laundering.

Situation with regard to drug trafficking and abuse

Narcotic drugs

631. The majority of the cannabis abused in Australia is produced locally; cannabis plants are illicitly

cultivated in all states and territories in that country. In New Zealand the large-scale cultivation of cannabis plants is taking place in a number of rural areas, including Northland and the Bay of Plenty. In addition, outdoor cultivation of cannabis plants in New Zealand has recently been supplemented by operations that use sophisticated indoor hydroponics to produce cannabis. Cannabis plants are also illicitly cultivated in Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Samoa and Tonga.

632. There have been reports of barter trade involving the exchange of illicit drugs for arms in the coastal cities of Lae, Madang, Wewak and Port Moresby in Papua New Guinea.

633. The largest seizures of opium, heroin and cocaine in Oceania were reported in Australia. In May 2006, as a result of cooperation between the Australian Crime Commission and the federal and regional police and customs, four suspects were arrested and over 3 kg of heroin were seized, together with cash and other evidence, in raids in Sydney and Melbourne targeting an international syndicate trafficking in heroin. Large seizures of heroin have recently been made in Fiji and Vanuatu.

634. The total amount of cocaine seized in Australia in 2005 was the lowest since 1999. While the number of cocaine consignments detected at the Australian border decreased during the period 2004-2005, most of the cocaine entered the country through the postal system.

635. Cannabis continued to be abused in many countries in Oceania. Cannabis remained the drug of choice among drug abusers in Australia, Micronesia (Federated States of), New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga and Vanuatu. However, a survey conducted by the Department of Health and Ageing of Australia found that fewer children in secondary schools are abusing cannabis. In 2005, 18 per cent of such children had abused cannabis, compared with 35 per cent in 1996. Micronesia (Federated States of) and Papua New Guinea have the highest prevalence of cannabis abuse in the region.

Psychotropic substances

636. In Australia, ATS are supplied predominantly by clandestine laboratories operating within the country itself, which primarily manufacture methamphetamine. The illicit manufacture of methamphetamine seems to

be increasing in New Zealand, where 204 laboratories involved in the illicit manufacture of methamphetamine were dismantled in 2005, compared with 182 in 2004. Organized criminal groups use Oceania as a trans-shipment area for ATS, including methamphetamine and MDMA.

637. In Australia, there was a sharp decrease in the total amount of ATS seized in 2005 compared with previous years. Police in New Zealand have been seizing larger amounts of methamphetamine. In New Zealand, authorities seized 8.1 kg of methamphetamine concealed in water filters from China in January 2006 and 95 kg of the substance in May 2006. In April 2006, following a joint operation involving the Australian Crime Commission and police, three suspects were arrested and 2 kg of methamphetamine were seized. In November 2005, as a result of joint law enforcement partnerships among the Australian Crime Commission, the Australian Tax Office, the Queensland police and the Crime and Misconduct Commission, a person was convicted and sentenced to 15 years of prison for trafficking in and possession of methamphetamine and the convicted person's considerable assets were confiscated.

638. South East Asian methamphetamine is smuggled through Oceania to Canada and, to a lesser extent, the United States.

639. The total amount of MDMA seized in Australia in 2005 was 1,365 kg, the highest amount reported in the past six years. Almost two thirds of that total (820 kg) was discovered inside an oven in an air cargo consignment from Germany. During the last quarter of 2005, six MDMA manufacturing sites were uncovered (compared with only three sites during the entire year in 2004). Large amounts of 3,4-methylenedioxyphenyl-2-propanone were discovered at two of the sites, signalling a possible shifting towards local manufacturing of MDMA. The uncovering of tablet presses may also be an indication that some of the MDMA available in Australia has been illicitly manufactured in that country.

640. Australian customs authorities seized 12.5 kg of pseudoephedrine concealed in children's books. The books had been imported in seven separate postal items from Malaysia, which were intercepted at the Melbourne international mail centre between August and September 2005. Investigations resulted in the arrest of 16 people and the dismantling of nine

clandestine laboratories in South Australia that had been illicitly manufacturing methamphetamine. Two clandestine laboratories used for the illicit manufacture of methamphetamine were dismantled in 2005 in the Australian Capital Territory. There is evidence that most of the pseudoephedrine used in the illicit manufacture of methamphetamine had been extracted from commercially available pharmaceutical preparations.

641. The police in New Zealand continued to detect attempted diversions of consignments of medicines from China containing pseudoephedrine. The illicit market continued to be supplied with such medicines through the diversion of over-the-counter medicines and theft. During 2005, over 146 kg of pseudoephedrine and 20 kg of ephedrine were seized in New Zealand.

642. In Australia, the abuse (including by smoking) of methamphetamine among young drug abusers is increasing. Methamphetamine is the drug most commonly abused by injection in Australia. New Zealand published its findings on recent trends in the abuse of methamphetamine and other illicit drugs from the 2005 Illicit Drug Monitoring System, which were based on interviews with frequent methamphetamine abusers. The study found that, in addition to methamphetamine, the interviewed persons abused cannabis, MDMA, LSD, opiates, GHB and cocaine. The drugs most commonly abused by injection were opiates and methamphetamine. The high level of drug abuse by injection among frequent methamphetamine abusers might indicate that persons who traditionally abused opiates were turning to methamphetamine. Several of the interviewed persons reported increased abuse of methamphetamine that had been smuggled into New Zealand. An increasing number of people receiving treatment for drug abuse in New Zealand are identifying amphetamine as their primary drug of abuse; according to centres for the treatment of drug abuse, amphetamine is the third most commonly abused drug in the country, after alcohol and cannabis.

Substances not under international control

643. In New Zealand, 10 kg of *gamma*-butyrolactone (GBL) were seized in 2005. GBL is becoming increasingly popular among drug abusers in New Zealand. In addition, there are indications that the

abuse of “party pills” containing benzylpiperazine has become a growing problem in New Zealand; the pills are rapidly gaining popularity as an alternative to MDMA and methamphetamine. In Australia, seizures of khat have increased.