

## IV. Recommendations to Governments, the United Nations and other relevant international and regional organizations

763. In accordance with its mandate, the Board monitors the application of the international drug control treaties. On an ongoing basis, the Board examines the functioning of the international drug control regime at the national and international level and identifies shortcomings. Based on its analysis, the Board makes recommendations to Governments and international and regional organizations.

764. In the present chapter, the Board points at key recommendations contained in chapters II and III of its annual report. The Board wishes to remind Governments and relevant organizations that the recommendations contained in chapter I of its annual report are generally not included in chapter IV. The Board encourages those concerned to examine all recommendations and to implement them, as appropriate, and to keep the Board informed of their action in response to the recommendations

### A. Recommendations to Governments

765. The recommendations to Governments are grouped according to the following subject areas: treaty accession; treaty implementation and control measures; prevention of illicit drug production, manufacture, trafficking and abuse; prevention of diversion of precursors into the illicit traffic; availability and rational use of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances for medical purposes; and the Internet and misuse of courier services.

#### 1. Treaty accession

766. The 1961 Convention, the 1961 Convention as amended by the 1972 Protocol, the 1971 Convention and the 1988 Convention are the foundations of the international drug control regime. The accession of all States and the universal implementation of the provisions of the conventions are imperative requirements to establish an effective and efficient drug control system in the world.

*Recommendation 1:* While nearly all States have acceded to the international drug control treaties, there are still a few States which are not yet parties to one or

more of the treaties.<sup>92</sup> **The Board reiterates its request to those States which are not yet parties to one or more of the international drug control treaties to take immediate action and accede to the treaties without further delay.**

#### 2. Treaty implementation and control measures

767. Universal accession to the three main international drug control treaties will, however, not be sufficient without effective and universal implementation of all the provisions of the treaties and the application of the necessary control measures by all Governments.

*Recommendation 2:* The timely submission to the Board of information required under the international drug control conventions is one of the key elements of the international drug control system. **The Board reiterates its request to all Governments to furnish in a timely manner all statistical reports required under the conventions. Governments are encouraged to seek from the Board any information that will help them in meeting their reporting obligations under the conventions.**

*Recommendation 3:* Difficulties experienced by some Governments in submitting the required statistical data to the Board have different reasons, including the inadequate resources and inadequate training provided

<sup>92</sup> The following States are not parties to the international drug control treaties and/or the 1972 Protocol amending the 1961 Convention:

(a) States not parties to the 1961 Convention as amended by the 1972 Protocol or to the 1961 Convention in its unamended form: Cook Islands, Equatorial Guinea, Kiribati, Nauru, Samoa, Timor-Leste, Tuvalu and Vanuatu.

(b) States not parties to the 1972 Protocol amending the 1961 Convention: Afghanistan, Chad and Lao People's Democratic Republic.

(c) States not parties to the Convention of 1971: Cook Islands, Equatorial Guinea, Haiti, Kiribati, Liberia, Nauru, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Timor-Leste, Tuvalu and Vanuatu.

(d) States not parties to the 1988 Convention: Equatorial Guinea, Holy See, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Namibia, Nauru, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Somalia, Timor-Leste and Tuvalu.

to the authorities responsible for the control of licit activities related to narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances. **The Board again calls upon the Governments concerned to allocate adequate resources to their national competent authorities to ensure the compliance of those authorities with all their control functions, including reporting obligations under the conventions.**

*Recommendation 4:* It is the practice of the Board to send to the Governments concerned the Board's observations and recommendations, subsequent to its country missions to those countries, and to review on a regular basis their implementation of its recommendations. The Board notes that most Governments have made efforts to implement its recommendations and have made progress in various areas of drug control. However, a few Governments have not responded to the Board's requests for information regarding the implementation of its recommendations. **The Board reiterates that it can fulfil its mandate under the international drug control treaties only if Governments cooperate with it. The Board calls on all Governments to cooperate fully with the Board in organizing missions and in implementing the recommendations of the Board subsequent to its missions.**

#### *Narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances*

*Recommendation 5:* The Board notes that some Governments did not submit their estimates of requirements for narcotic drugs for 2009; therefore, the estimates for those countries were established by the Board. **The Board urges the Governments concerned to examine their requirements for narcotic drugs for 2009 and provide their own estimates to the Board for confirmation, in order to prevent any possible difficulties with the availability of narcotic drugs required for medical and scientific purposes in their countries.**

*Recommendation 6:* Some Governments have submitted the same estimates of requirements for narcotic drugs for several years. **The Board requests the Governments concerned to regularly assess their requirements for narcotic drugs to ensure that the estimates furnished to the Board for confirmation reflect their actual needs for narcotic drugs during the year in question.**

*Recommendation 7:* A number of Governments have for several years not updated the assessments of their requirements for psychotropic substances and, as a result, those assessments might no longer reflect their actual medical and scientific requirements for those substances. Some of those Governments issued import authorizations for psychotropic substances in absence or in excess of the corresponding assessments. **The Board encourages all Governments to review and update their assessments of requirements for psychotropic substances on a regular basis and communicate them to the Board. The Board calls upon all Governments not to authorize imports exceeding their assessments.**

*Recommendation 8:* The import and export authorization system for all psychotropic substances has proved particularly effective in the identification of diversion attempts. **The Board reiterates its request to all Governments that have not yet done so to introduce the requirement of import and export authorizations for substances in Schedules III and IV of the 1971 Convention, in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolutions 1985/15, 1987/30, 1991/44, 1993/38 and 1996/30.**

*Recommendation 9:* Traffickers use falsified import authorizations when attempting to divert narcotic drugs or psychotropic substances from international trade. **The Board requests Governments of exporting countries to continue to verify the legitimacy of all orders for narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances. The Board advises the national competent authorities of those countries to use the estimates for narcotic drugs and the assessments for psychotropic substances, which are published by the Board, for this purpose. Import orders identified as suspicious because they exceed the estimates or assessments of the relevant importing countries should be verified with the Board, or brought to the attention of the importing countries, prior to authorizing such export.**

#### *Precursors*

*Recommendation 10:* Information obtained in investigations into seizures of substances identified as having been destined for use in the illicit manufacture of narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and precursors is important for the identification of new trends in the illicit manufacture of drugs and their

precursors. **The Board calls upon all competent authorities effecting such seizures to investigate those cases and to provide the Board with the results of those investigations.**

*Recommendation 11:* PEN Online, the automated online system for the exchange of pre-export notifications, has become an important tool in strengthening precursor control, giving Governments of importing countries the opportunity to instantly comment on the legitimacy of the shipments in question. **The Board again encourages all Governments that have not yet done so to register for and use the PEN Online system.**

*Recommendation 12:* The Board continues to publish the annual legitimate requirements of countries for 3,4-MDP-2-P, P-2-P, ephedrine and pseudoephedrine and for preparations containing the latter two substances. This information has assisted Governments in identifying shipments with the potential for diversion. **The Board encourages all Governments to regularly revise their requirements for these substances and inform the Board accordingly.**

*Recommendation 13:* Traffickers attempted to divert precursors of amphetamine-type stimulants through the use of fictitious companies and falsified import authorizations and company documents. **The Board urges the Governments concerned to strengthen the capacity of their competent authorities to investigate the legitimacy of precursor transactions.**

*Recommendation 14:* The Board notes with concern that a number of Governments of countries in Africa do not respond to enquiries about potentially suspicious transactions, partly because of the limited capacity of the competent authorities involved. **The Board urges all Governments and relevant international organizations to provide assistance for training and building the capacity of the competent authorities of countries in Africa to enable them to confirm the legitimacy of relevant transactions and prevent diversions.**

### **3. Prevention of illicit drug production, manufacture, trafficking and abuse**

768. One of the key objectives of the international drug control treaties is to limit the production, manufacture, export, import and distribution of, trade in and use of internationally controlled substances to

legitimate purposes and to prevent their diversion and abuse.

*Recommendation 15:* The Board notes with concern that, despite some decline in illicit opium poppy cultivation, Afghanistan remains by far the world's biggest source of illicit opium poppy cultivation, with an estimated opium production of 7,700 tons in 2008, the second highest in history. **The Board urges the Government of Afghanistan to take the necessary measures to ensure that sustained and measurable progress is made in the prevention, as well as the elimination, of illicit opium poppy cultivation. The Board calls upon the international community to continue to provide assistance to the Government of Afghanistan in addressing the drug problems in that country. Moreover, the Board urges the Government of Afghanistan to step up its efforts to eliminate the trade in opium, cannabis and other drugs in the country.**

*Recommendation 16:* The illicit cultivation of cannabis in Afghanistan has increased significantly over the past few years. There has been an increasing number of farmers switching from opium poppy cultivation to cannabis cultivation, yet insufficient action has been taken by the Government to prevent such cultivation. **The Board urges the Government of Afghanistan to take immediate measures against the illicit cultivation of cannabis and to ensure that farming communities involved in any illicit cultivation have access to sustainable, legitimate livelihoods. The Board calls upon the international community to provide assistance to the Government of Afghanistan in that area as well.**

*Recommendation 17:* Drug-related corruption in Afghanistan is a widespread and deep-seated problem that has seriously impeded the Government's efforts in drug control. The Board notes with concern that corrupt officials allow drug traffickers to continue to operate with impunity, while officials attempting to address the drug problem are often subject to harassment, death threats or violence. **The Board reiterates that success in addressing drug-related corruption requires strong political will and firm action. The Board urges the Government of Afghanistan to take effective measures against corrupt officials at any level of government who are involved in illicit drug activities and to make public the outcome of any such measures.**

*Recommendation 18:* The Board is concerned that the lack of coordination and information-sharing among the law enforcement authorities in Afghanistan and neighbouring and other countries is one of the main reasons that the Government of Afghanistan has been unable to achieve its goals regarding the eradication of illicit opium poppy. **The Board calls on the Government of Afghanistan and the Governments of other countries in West Asia and beyond to accord high priority to cooperation and intelligence-sharing among law enforcement authorities, in order to ensure effective joint efforts against the drug trade in Afghanistan and beyond (see also recommendation 32 below).**

*Recommendation 19:* The Board notes with concern that the smuggling of cocaine through West Africa is increasing drastically, posing a substantial threat to the stability of countries in the region. In many of those countries, there is limited law enforcement and criminal justice capacity and there are serious problems involving corruption, making those countries prime targets for drug trafficking organizations. As cocaine trafficking increases, the abuse of the drug emerges in the region, which is of particular concern as there is limited prevention and treatment capacity in many of those countries. **The Board calls upon the members of the international community, particularly the United Nations, to provide the necessary assistance, including expertise and financial resources, to the countries in West Africa to enable them to address the growing problem of cocaine trafficking and drug abuse. The Board urges the Governments of countries in West Africa to take the measures necessary to counter cocaine trafficking and related corruption, in cooperation with other countries and international organizations.**

*Recommendation 20:* The Board notes that, since 2005, there have not been any further cannabis surveys conducted jointly by UNODC and the Government of Morocco. As accurate data on the extent of illicit cannabis cultivation are essential for effective and efficient measures to be taken against such cultivation, **the Board encourages the Government of Morocco to update, in cooperation with UNODC, the existing data on the extent of illicit cannabis cultivation in its country.**

*Recommendation 21:* The Board notes with concern that, in some countries, cannabis is considered by some segments of society as a harmless, “soft” drug. In addition, partly in response to those developments, the Governments of some countries have introduced legislative measures involving decriminalization of the personal use of cannabis and preparatory acts to such use, such as the cultivation and possession of cannabis. The Board is concerned that such measures might send the wrong message to the general public regarding cannabis. **The Board again wishes to draw the attention of Governments to the fact that cannabis is a narcotic drug included in Schedules I and IV of the 1961 Convention and that drugs in Schedule IV are those particularly liable to abuse. The Board calls on all Governments to develop and make available programmes for the prevention of cannabis abuse and for educating the general public about the dangers of such abuse.**

*Recommendation 22:* An increasing number of countries are confronted with the diversion and abuse of pharmaceutical preparations containing narcotic drugs or psychotropic substances. According to information furnished by Governments, the most abused pharmaceutical preparations are usually those which are most available on the licit market. **The Board encourages all Governments concerned to increase their vigilance regarding trafficking in and abuse of such preparations and to consider enhancing existing control measures. The Board also reiterates its request to Governments to monitor the consumption levels of prescription medicaments containing narcotic drugs or psychotropic substances in order to identify possible cases involving diversion and to raise awareness in their countries about the consequences of the abuse of such preparations.**

*Recommendation 23:* The abuse of hydrocodone and oxycodone by youth continues to be on the rise in North America, particularly in the United States. The Board is concerned that the serious risks of non-medical use of those narcotic drugs are not fully recognized by abusers. **The Board encourages Governments of countries where the consumption of hydrocodone and oxycodone has increased considerably to prevent medically unjustifiable high levels of consumption of hydrocodone and oxycodone through additional measures to control domestic distribution channels and through efforts**

to educate the public. In addition, Governments are requested to determine whether marketing practices of pharmaceutical companies have contributed to unduly high consumption levels of those narcotic drugs and, if so, to address that problem.

*Recommendation 24:* The Board recognizes that cough syrups containing narcotic drugs are an effective medication for many patients and important in medical practice and health care. However, cough syrups are also known to be abused in a number of countries. **The Board recommends that the Governments of countries experiencing abuse of cough syrups consider the introduction of stricter control and supervision of the channels of distribution of cough syrups containing narcotic drugs. The Board also recommends using programmes for drug abuse prevention to increase awareness of the risks associated with inappropriate use of cough syrups.**

*Recommendation 25:* The Board has received reports about the abuse of used fentanyl patches in several countries. **The Board again calls upon the Governments of countries in which fentanyl patches are manufactured to investigate, in cooperation with the pharmaceutical industry, means to reduce the residual content of fentanyl in used patches. In addition, Governments are requested to ensure that the waste disposal of such patches is carried out with adequate safety and security measures in order to prevent any diversion to illicit markets.**

*Recommendation 26:* Global consumption of methadone has increased more than three times over the past decade. Methadone is used in several countries for the treatment of pain, but the sharp upward trend in its consumption is mainly attributable to its growing use in substitution treatment related to opioid dependency. **The Board requests the Governments of all countries where methadone is used for medical purposes to be vigilant with regard to cases involving methadone diversion, trafficking or abuse and to take effective countermeasures, if necessary.**

*Recommendation 27:* The Board notes that a number of countries are already controlling ketamine (a substance currently not under international control) under their national legislations, in line with Commission on Narcotic Drugs resolution 49/6. The Board also notes that WHO will conduct a critical review of ketamine in 2009. **The Board requests all Governments to provide the Board and WHO with all information**

available on the abuse and diversion of ketamine in their countries. Furthermore, in order to facilitate the verification by Governments of the legitimacy of imports and exports of ketamine, the Board requests all Governments that have not yet done so to furnish it with updated information on their national regulatory control measures for ketamine for publication on the Board's website. **The Board encourages all Governments to consult this information on its website before authorizing exports of ketamine.**

*Recommendation 28:* The Commission on Narcotic Drugs in its resolution 51/13, entitled "Responding to the threat posed by the distribution of internationally controlled drugs, on the unregulated market", encouraged all Governments, inter alia, to continue to offer to affected States their cooperation and support and requested Governments to give consideration to implementing the relevant and applicable recommendations of the Board as set out in the report of the Board for 2006.<sup>93</sup> **The Board calls on Governments to implement Commission resolution 51/13 without delay. In particular, Governments should adopt laws prohibiting the distribution of internationally controlled substances in the unregulated market, where necessary, and enforce those laws, in addition to complying with the international drug control regime.**

*Recommendation 29:* The Board remains concerned that, in a small number of countries, "drug consumption rooms" and "drug injection rooms", where persons can abuse with impunity drugs acquired on the illicit market, remain in operation. **The Board urges Governments to terminate the operation of these drug abuse rooms and similar outlets and to promote the access of drug abusers to health, social and drug abuse treatment services.**

#### **4. Prevention of diversion of precursors into the illicit traffic**

769. One of the objectives of the 1988 Convention is to prevent diversion of precursors into the illicit traffic for the purpose of illicit manufacture of narcotic drugs or psychotropic substances.

<sup>93</sup> *Report of the International Narcotics Control Board for 2006 ...*

*Recommendation 30:* Traffickers are increasingly exploiting other methods of diversion of precursors than diversion from international trade, in view of the intensified monitoring of international trade in precursors over the last few years. Presently, traffickers most often obtain precursors such as acetic anhydride through diversion from domestic trade and smuggling across borders. **The Board encourages Governments to accord high priority to strengthening domestic control measures for precursors, with a view to preventing diversion from domestic distribution channels.**

*Recommendation 31:* Due to the strengthened controls over trade in ephedrine and pseudoephedrine raw materials by authorities worldwide, traffickers place orders for preparations containing ephedrine or pseudoephedrine with legitimate pharmaceutical companies, often under the false pretence that those preparations would be sent to developing countries for medical use. **The Board urges all Governments to control pharmaceutical preparations containing ephedrine and pseudoephedrine in the same way as they control the scheduled substances themselves, ensuring, at the same time, that legitimate trade is not unduly impeded in the process.**

*Recommendation 32:* As a result of international interdiction activities and the exchange of information under Project Cohesion, the number of seizures and prevented diversions of acetic anhydride significantly increased during the period 2007-2008. Nevertheless, the diversion and smuggling of chemicals used in the illicit manufacture of heroin into Afghanistan continue to be problems and the Board is concerned that control mechanisms currently in place in Afghanistan may not be sufficient. **The Board urges the Government of Afghanistan to continue to work with the international community to prevent such diversions and smuggling. Moreover, the Board wishes to remind Governments of Security Council resolution 1817 (2008), in which the Council invited all Member States, in particular those producing precursor chemicals, Afghanistan, neighbouring countries and all countries on the trafficking routes, to increase their cooperation with the Board, notably by fully complying with the provisions of article 12 of the 1988 Convention, in order to eliminate loopholes utilized by criminal organizations to divert precursor chemicals from licit international trade.**

*Recommendation 33:* Due to the prohibition by the Government of Mexico of imports of ephedrine and pseudoephedrine, trafficking networks have begun to obtain precursors in Central America and South America. Imports of those substances have increased significantly in those regions. While, in some countries, legislation is being adopted to address the problem, the provisions of that legislation need to be implemented at a faster pace. **The Board encourages the Governments of countries in Central and South America to strengthen their mechanisms for monitoring trade in precursor chemicals and work together with the Board in identifying all the precursors and methods used in the illicit manufacture of amphetamine-type stimulants.**

*Recommendation 34:* The origins and methods of diversions of potassium permanganate in South America continue to be of concern to the Board. The number of identified or prevented diversions from international trade of chemicals used in the illicit manufacture of cocaine continues to decrease. However, it appears that traffickers have found ways to obtain the substances they need through diversion from domestic trade and smuggling within the region. **The Board urges Governments in South America to strengthen controls over domestic distribution channels. The Board invites the Governments of countries in the Americas to take advantage of the experience acquired during Project Cohesion targeting acetic anhydride and to design similar strategies to combat the diversion of the chemicals used in the manufacture of cocaine.**

#### **5. Availability and rational use of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances for medical purposes**

770. One of the fundamental objectives of the international drug control treaties is to ensure the availability of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances for medical and scientific purposes and to promote the rational use of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances.

*Recommendation 35:* The discrepancies in consumption levels of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances continue to be very significant in different regions. Some of those differences can be explained by cultural differences in medical treatment and by varieties in prescription patterns. However, excessively

high or low levels in drug consumption require special attention. **The Board requests Governments to regularly examine trends in the consumption of internationally controlled substances in their countries and to take appropriate action, if necessary. The Board requests Governments to promote the rational use of those substances, in accordance with the pertinent recommendations of WHO.**

*Recommendation 36:* The consumption of opioid analgesics for the treatment of pain in many developing countries remains low. While several developing countries more than doubled their consumption of opioid analgesics during the past decade, the starting levels for those increases had been very low. The Access to Controlled Medications Programme, to be implemented by WHO, will provide effective assistance to Governments in promoting rational use of opioid analgesics. **The Board again urges all Governments concerned to identify the impediments in their countries to adequate use of opioid analgesics for the treatment of pain and to take steps to improve the availability of those narcotic drugs for medical purposes, in accordance with the pertinent recommendations of WHO. The Board calls on all Governments to cooperate with WHO in the implementation of the Access to Controlled Medications Programme and to provide resources to WHO to enable the programme to be implemented without undue delay.**

*Recommendation 37:* In order to support adequate availability of narcotic drugs, the Board analyses the situation regarding the supply of opiate raw materials and the demand for those materials. For this purpose, the Board uses information from Governments of countries producing opiate raw materials, as well as from countries where those materials are utilized for the manufacture of opiates or substances not controlled under the 1961 Convention. **The Board encourages Governments of countries producing and/or utilizing opiate raw materials to submit to the Board high-quality estimates and statistics and to keep the Board informed of any new developments that may have an impact on future changes in the supply of and the demand for opiate raw materials.**

## 6. The Internet and misuse of courier services

771. The global nature of the problems of the illegal sale of pharmaceutical preparations containing internationally controlled substances through the Internet and the misuse of postal and courier services for such smuggling requires close cooperation and joint efforts by the international community. Existing international and national coordination mechanisms need to be fully utilized to respond to this threat. Governments will need to apply additional measures at the national and the international levels to prevent any proliferation of the misuse of the Internet and postal and courier services for drug trafficking purposes.

*Recommendation 38:* As most countries do not have sufficient legislation, administrative regulations and cooperative mechanisms to counter the illegal sale of pharmaceuticals containing internationally controlled substances through the Internet, the Board has developed and made available Guidelines for Governments on Preventing the Illegal Sale of Internationally Controlled Substances through the Internet. **The Board invites all Governments to use the Guidelines and inform the Board of their experience in implementing the Guidelines.**

*Recommendation 39:* The Commission on Narcotic Drugs, in its resolution 50/11, encouraged Member States to notify the Board in a regular and standardized manner of seizures of substances under international control ordered via the Internet and delivered through the mail. The Board has developed and sent to Governments a questionnaire to be used for that purpose. **The Board invites all Governments to regularly report to the Board, using the questionnaire it has sent to them, information on seizures of substances under international control ordered via the Internet and delivered through the mail. The Board also invites Governments to continue to inform the Board of national legislation related to the sale of internationally controlled substances through the Internet, national cooperative mechanisms and practical experience in the control of such sales, as well as details of national focal points for activities related to Internet pharmacies.**

*Recommendation 40:* In the past two years the Board has collected information on the misuse of courier services by drug traffickers and has noted that such misuse has occurred in all regions. Some Governments

have identified the use of courier services as a major *modus operandi* for drug smuggling. **The Board encourages all Governments that have not yet done so, to establish legislative and administrative measures ensuring adequate safeguards against the misuse of postal and courier services for the purpose of drug trafficking, including the shipment of cannabis seeds and drug paraphernalia such as equipment specifically intended for the illicit production or abuse of cannabis. In addition, Governments should strengthen institutions responsible for the control of postal and courier services and establish channels for the exchange of information between regulatory authorities, law enforcement authorities, the judiciary, postal administrations and courier services to enable the rapid investigation of drug trafficking cases.**

*Recommendation 41:* The technique of controlled delivery has been identified by several Governments as being the most effective way to counter the smuggling of drugs through courier services. **The Board encourages all Governments to use the technique of controlled delivery when appropriate and to cooperate with other Governments in this regard.**

*Recommendation 42:* The existing international agreements regarding mail shipments contain provisions useful also for action against the misuse of courier services for drug smuggling. **The Board encourages Governments to apply the provisions of the Universal Postal Convention, which regulate the international shipments of mail by state postal services, to private courier services as well and to amend their legislation accordingly.**

## **B. Recommendations to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and to the World Health Organization**

772. UNODC is the primary entity of the United Nations responsible for providing technical assistance in drug control matters, as well as coordination of such assistance provided by Governments and other organizations. The treaty-based function of WHO is to provide recommendations, based on medical and scientific assessments, regarding changes in the scope of control of narcotic drugs under the 1961 Convention and psychotropic substances under the 1971 Convention. In addition, WHO plays a key role in

supporting the rational use of substances under international control.

*Recommendation 43:* The control of licit activities related to narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and precursors in several countries remains weak. **The Board encourages UNODC to increase its technical support to Governments in programmes designed to strengthen their capacity to control licit activities related to narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and precursors.**

*Recommendation 44:* The consumption of opioid analgesics for the treatment of pain in many developing countries remains low. WHO, in consultation with the Board, prepared an assistance programme called Access to Controlled Medications Programme. The programme is designed to address impediments to the rational use of opioid analgesics, focusing on regulatory, attitude and knowledge impediments. **The Board encourages UNODC to cooperate with WHO in the implementation of the Access to Controlled Medications Programme, with a view to promoting rational use of opioid analgesics by health-care professionals.**

*Recommendation 45:* Several developing countries need to make additional efforts in order to establish estimates and/or assessments for the medical and scientific use of narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and some precursors reflecting actual requirements for the adequate treatment of their populations. **The Board requests WHO to increase support to Governments in their efforts to establish adequate estimates and/or assessments for the medical and scientific use of controlled substances. The Board encourages WHO to join the Board in an initiative to identify methods to be applied in developing countries in order to arrive at adequate estimates for narcotic drugs, assessments for psychotropic substances and estimates for some precursors.**

*Recommendation 46:* Several developing countries need to strengthen their capacity to provide treatment for drug addicts. **The Board encourages WHO to increase its support to Governments in their efforts to strengthen their drug abuse treatment capacity and to ensure that the treatment is of high quality.**



### C. Recommendations to other relevant international organizations

773. International organizations such as INTERPOL, UPU and the World Customs Organization play an important role in international drug control. In cases where States require additional operational support in specific areas, such as drug law enforcement, the Board addresses relevant recommendations pertaining to the specific spheres of competence of the relevant international and regional organizations, including INTERPOL, UPU and the World Customs Organization.

*Recommendation 47:* The Universal Postal Convention regulates the international shipments of mail by state postal services. The application of some provisions of the convention by Governments with regard to the operation of courier services would be useful in countering the misuse of courier services for drug smuggling. **The Board encourages UPU to extend the provisions of the Universal Postal Convention applicable to state postal services to include private courier services and to specify those provisions as appropriate. The Board calls upon the UPU to inform the Board of any new developments in that regard.**

*Recommendation 48:* The Board emphasizes the need to address the problems of illegally operating Internet pharmacies and the smuggling of controlled substances by mail. **The Board again encourages international organizations, in particular UPU, INTERPOL and the World Customs Organization, to share with the Board relevant experiences gained from any programmes they are implementing to address the problems of illegally operating Internet pharmacies and the smuggling of controlled substances by mail.**

(Signed)  
Hamid Ghodse  
President

(Signed)  
Maria Elena Medina Mora  
Rapporteur

(Signed)  
Koli Kouame  
Secretary

Vienna, 14 November 2008