

III. Analysis of the world situation

A. Africa

1. Major developments

317. In 2011, a number of countries in North Africa underwent social and political change. For example, Egypt, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya²² and Tunisia experienced political revolutions aimed at establishing democratic societies. During such revolutions, there is a risk of drug traffickers exploiting periods in which drug law enforcement is weakened.

318. While cannabis remains the most widely cultivated, trafficked and abused drug in Africa, the smuggling of cocaine from South America through Africa and into Europe has emerged as a major threat. The amount of cocaine trafficked via Africa seemed to decrease in 2008 and 2009; however, there are indications that traffickers have simply modified their modus operandi, finding new methods for smuggling cocaine through West Africa that entail concealing the drug in maritime cargo containers. The increasing number of large seizures of cocaine hidden in such containers in or en route to West African countries in 2010 and 2011 is evidence of that development. Reports indicate increasing levels of abuse of cocaine in some countries affected by such trafficking.

319. The Security Council has recognized the threat posed by drug trafficking, which is undermining development, stability and security in West Africa. A number of special sessions of the General Assembly have been convened to address the issue of drug trafficking. In December 2010, the Secretary-General reiterated his appeal to the international community to step up its support for regional endeavours on combating the threats to peace and security as a result of trafficking in drugs and cross-border crimes.²³

320. Heroin enters Africa through airports and seaports in East Africa. From there, it is smuggled, either directly or via West Africa, into Europe and other regions. In 2011, record seizures of heroin were effected in Kenya and the United Republic of Tanzania. Heroin is also smuggled via Mozambique into South Africa, where it is abused by the local population or smuggled into other countries in Southern Africa and elsewhere. The increasing flow of heroin entering Africa has led to

increased drug abuse throughout the region, particularly in East Africa and Southern Africa.

321. Concerns that the illicit manufacture of amphetamine-type stimulants might take hold in West Africa were confirmed by the seizure of a large methamphetamine laboratory in Lagos in June 2011. Nigeria is at risk of becoming a hub for the smuggling of amphetamine-type stimulants, notably methamphetamine. In 2010, Nigerian authorities seized two shipments of amphetamine and methamphetamine totalling 63 kg. One shipment was being sent via South Africa to the United States of America, and the other was en route to Japan.

322. The countries in the Horn of Africa are enduring the worst drought in more than half a century and are at risk of experiencing massive famine. The food crisis in countries such as Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia will leave millions of people in need of humanitarian aid and medical care. The Board requests all Governments to cooperate in facilitating the supply of medicines containing controlled substances to the affected countries in East Africa.

2. Regional cooperation

323. The African Union is implementing its Plan of Action on Drug Control and Crime Prevention (2007-2012). The Commission of the African Union is working on the main components for the Plan of Action on Drug Control and Crime Prevention (2013-2018), to be submitted to the African Union Conference of Ministers for Drug Control and Crime Prevention at its fifth session, to be held in Addis Ababa in 2012.

324. At the fourth session of the African Union Conference of Ministers for Drug Control and Crime Prevention, held in Addis Ababa from 28 September to 2 October 2010, ministers agreed to give priority to the following activities: strengthening cooperation and coordination in the fight against drugs and crime; harmonizing drug control legislation of member States by 2012; improving control over precursor chemicals; exploring the need for an African training facility for the treatment of drug dependence; and strengthening the African Union's Continental Early Warning System. In a statement presented to the Conference of Ministers, the President of the International Narcotics Control Board emphasized the need for regulatory aspects of drug control to be addressed by African States.

²² Since 16 September 2011, "Libya" has replaced "Libyan Arab Jamahiriya" as the short name used in the United Nations.

²³ "Report of the Secretary-General on the activities of the United Nations Office for West Africa" (S/2010/614), para. 74.

325. While participating in the World Health Assembly in Geneva in May 2011, the President of the Board presented to a meeting of ministers of health from the WHO African Region a statement on the availability of internationally controlled drugs for medical and scientific purposes.

326. The efforts of member States of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) to prevent drug trafficking and abuse are coordinated within the framework of the ECOWAS action plan against drug trafficking, organized crime and drug abuse. At a meeting of the West African Police Chiefs Committee, a specialized institution of ECOWAS, held in Abuja in May 2011, ECOWAS member States agreed to combine their efforts to step up the fight against crime, at the national and international levels, and to encourage their police forces to cooperate with INTERPOL.

327. The West African Coast Initiative (WACI), launched in 2009 to support the implementation of the operational component of the ECOWAS action plan in Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia and Sierra Leone, held a high-level policy meeting in Dakar in June 2011. At the meeting, all four WACI member States were represented at the ministerial level. The ECOWAS Commission, United Nations agencies and INTERPOL were also represented at the meeting. Plans are being made to expand the membership of WACI to include Guinea.

328. Important international initiatives were undertaken in 2011 to counter the smuggling of cocaine across the Atlantic. The Group of Eight held a ministerial meeting in Paris in May 2011. The meeting was attended by representatives of 22 countries, including several West African countries (Ghana, Nigeria and Senegal), and ECOWAS. The participants adopted a political declaration and action plan for strengthening international cooperation, including in the areas of information-sharing, intercepting shipments at sea and coordinating technical assistance. Furthermore, the Trans-Atlantic Symposium on Dismantling Transnational Illicit Networks was organized by the United States and the European Union in Lisbon in May 2011 to strengthen international and interregional cooperation between West Africa, Europe and the Americas.

329. The 21st African Regional Conference of INTERPOL was held in Gaborone in February 2011. The Conference was attended by senior law enforcement officials from countries throughout Africa. The participants expressed support for more concerted regional action against cross-border crime in Africa, including trafficking in cannabis, cocaine, heroin and

psychotropic substances, and improved sharing of information between law enforcement agencies.

330. The Twenty-first Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Africa, was held in Addis Ababa in September 2011. The Meeting agreed on action to counter drug trafficking, including by using controlled delivery operations, and the diversion of precursor chemicals in Africa, particularly substances used in the illicit manufacture of amphetamine-type stimulants.

331. Cooperation between police drug law enforcement units of East African Community member States (Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania) is well established. As follow-up to a conference of the Eastern African Police Chiefs Organization held in December 2010, a workshop was held in Nairobi in June 2011 on the concept of units for fighting transnational organized crime. Representatives of Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Mauritius, Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania participated in the workshop. The participants agreed to work towards the establishment of such units in their countries.

332. INTERPOL organized a workshop on international and regional cross-border operations, in cooperation with the Southern African Regional Police Chiefs Cooperation Organization in Harare in June 2011. Participants in the workshop analysed current and emerging crime trends in Southern Africa and discussed drug law enforcement operational techniques, in particular controlled delivery.

333. UNODC addresses problems related to drug trafficking and abuse and organized crime in Africa through integrated subregional programmes. Such programmes were put in place for the countries of North Africa, West Africa and East Africa in 2009 and 2010. A similar programme is currently being developed, in cooperation with the Southern African Development Community (SADC), for the countries of Southern Africa.

334. The second phase of the UNODC Airport Communication Project (AIRCOP) was launched in January 2011. AIRCOP, which is conducted in cooperation with INTERPOL and the World Customs Organization, is aimed at establishing an international communication network among specialized units along trafficking routes leading from South America and the Caribbean through Africa to destination countries in Europe. In June 2011, a meeting of the AIRCOP Steering Committee was held in Cape Verde, with the participation of Brazil and all the African beneficiary countries (Benin, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Guinea, Kenya, Mali, Nigeria, Senegal and Togo)

and associated member States (Ethiopia and South Africa).

335. The Container Control Programme, which is implemented jointly by UNODC and the World Customs Organization, used to provide assistance to Governments of countries in Africa, Central America, South America and Central Asia in establishing effective container controls to prevent the smuggling of drugs and other contraband. In Africa, the programme has been in operation in Cape Verde, Ghana and Senegal. In March 2011, the programme became fully operational in Benin and Togo. Assessments were undertaken in 2011 to expand the programme to include Mali and Nigeria.

3. National legislation, policy and action

336. In 2010, the Government of Ethiopia established an inter-ministerial coordination committee, composed of 15 ministries and Government agencies, to step up action against drug trafficking at Bole International Airport, near Addis Ababa. Already in 2009, an inter-agency coordination team had been established to improve operational cooperation at the airport among the relevant drug law enforcement entities. An international conference on drug trafficking is to be held in Addis Ababa in January 2012 to establish contacts and facilitate cooperation between the key airports with direct flight connections to Bole International Airport, including airports in Ghana, India, Kenya, Nigeria, Pakistan, Uganda, the United Arab Emirates and the United Republic of Tanzania.

337. In Ghana, a national integrated programme against drug trafficking and organized crime was endorsed by the national authorities in 2011. Activities under the programme have already started, including the delivery of training to staff attached to the Economic and Organized Crime Office of the Ministry of the Interior of Ghana, which was recently established to combat organized crime, drug trafficking and other forms of serious crime.

338. In view of the threats posed by the smuggling of cocaine through West Africa, the Government of Guinea has made the fight against drug trafficking one of its priorities. In January 2011, it created a general secretariat attached to the Presidency with responsibility for special services and the fight against drug trafficking and organized crime.

339. In June 2011, the Government of Guinea-Bissau adopted a political declaration and an action plan on combating and preventing drug trafficking and organized crime. While in the declaration, the Government reaffirmed the commitment of Guinea-Bissau to promoting an environment free of problems related to

drugs and crime, the action plan set forth the operational objectives and the activities needed to reach those objectives. The action plan complements the ECOWAS action plan against drug trafficking, organized crime and drug abuse covering the period 2008-2011. Drug trafficking remains a major threat to the development of Guinea-Bissau and has led to an increase in drug abuse in that country.

340. Comprehensive national drug and crime control plans were drawn up and approved by the Government of Ghana and the Government of Sao Tome and Principe in 2011. The Government of Nigeria, in consultation with civil society, international development partners and United Nations agencies, is in the process of preparing an integrated national drug and crime control programme for the period 2012-2014.

341. The Government of Mauritius is finalizing a national drug control master plan for the period 2012-2016.

342. The Board notes the commitment of the Government of Morocco to addressing drug abuse and developing options for the treatment of drug abusers. Under a nationwide programme set up in 1999, the Government has established four centres for the treatment of young people with addictive behaviour; in 2011, construction work began on two additional centres. The Government has also established a programme for training staff of psychiatric hospitals in the treatment of drug addiction, launched a campaign to raise the awareness of schoolchildren about the dangers of drug abuse and created drug-free school zones. Since 2010, a programme that uses methadone for substitution treatment has been in place in the country. Morocco is the first country in North Africa, as well as in the Arab world, to allow the use of methadone in the treatment of drug dependence.

343. Since the completion of the national drug control master plan for the period 2006-2011, the Central Drug Authority of South Africa has been working on a national drug control master plan for the period 2012-2017, which will address the problem of substance abuse and give priority to addressing the needs of the rural areas in the country by using community-based approaches.

344. The Government of South Africa hosted a substance abuse summit in Durban in March 2011. The summit was attended by several hundred representatives of Government entities and civil society, including the President of South Africa and other high-level Government officials. The participants adopted a number of resolutions to improve efforts to address the problem of substance abuse in South Africa.

345. A number of African States have taken further action to counter money-laundering. In December 2010, Mali became the fourth State (after Senegal, Togo and Côte d'Ivoire) to incorporate into its national legislation the West African Economic and Monetary Union (UEMOA) uniform law in the fight against the financing of terrorism. Angola, which enacted a law against money-laundering in June 2010, approved regulations for implementing that law in January 2011. The regulations provide for the establishment of a financial intelligence unit within the Central Bank.

4. Cultivation, production, manufacture and trafficking

(a) Narcotic drugs

346. Cannabis, which grows widely throughout Africa and is also illicitly cultivated in some countries in the region, remains the most commonly abused drug on the African continent. While cannabis resin is illicitly produced mainly in Morocco, cannabis herb is illicitly produced in countries throughout the region.

347. Most of the cannabis resin illicitly produced in Morocco is destined for Europe or North Africa. The Government of Morocco has reported having continued to make efforts to combat the illicit cultivation and production of and trafficking in cannabis. According to data provided by the Government, 9,400 ha of illicitly cultivated cannabis plants were eradicated during 2010. Thus, the total area under illicit cannabis cultivation decreased from 134,000 ha in 2003 to 47,500 ha in 2010. The Moroccan drug law enforcement policy is supported by a comprehensive alternative development approach and a crop substitution programme valued at \$116 million, under which socio-economic and environmental development projects have been initiated in 74 rural communities. Despite those efforts, Morocco remains a major source of the cannabis resin in Western Europe, as corroborated by data on seizures of cannabis resin reported by Governments. Data on seizures and prices in Europe suggest that the flow of cannabis resin from Morocco into the region has remained the same or has slightly decreased. The Board reiterates its call for the Government of Morocco to conduct, as soon as possible, the survey on cannabis plant cultivation and cannabis production that was to be carried out by the Government, in cooperation with UNODC, in 2010.

348. While an increased amount of cannabis resin was reported to have been seized in a number of countries in North Africa in 2009, that development did not continue into 2010. For instance, the total amount of cannabis resin seized in Morocco rose from 114 tons in 2008 to

188 tons in 2009 — the highest level on record — but fell back to 118 tons in 2010. In Algeria, the amount of seized cannabis resin also increased, to 74.6 tons in 2009 (compared with 1.7 tons in 2005) but fell to 23 tons in 2010. In contrast, the amount of seized cannabis resin increased in Egypt — from 12.8 tons in 2009 to 15.4 tons in 2010 — and in the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya — from 14.8 tons in 2006 to 23 tons in 2010.

349. Cannabis herb is illicitly produced in all subregions of Africa. In North Africa, significant production of cannabis herb is taking place in Egypt and Morocco. Cannabis plants continue to be illicitly cultivated in Egypt in the northern part of the Sinai peninsula. In Egypt, a total of 510 ha of illicit cannabis cultivation were eradicated in 2010, compared with 313 ha in 2008. Cannabis herb production is also taking place in countries in West Africa and Central Africa (notably in Ghana, Nigeria, Senegal and Togo) and in East Africa (in Ethiopia, Kenya, Madagascar, Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania). Cannabis plants are illicitly cultivated throughout Southern Africa. The cannabis produced in South Africa is abused by the local population or smuggled into other countries. Significant quantities of cannabis herb are also illicitly produced in Lesotho, Malawi and Swaziland.

350. In 2009, 640 tons of cannabis herb were seized in Africa, or 11 per cent of the amount seized worldwide. In Africa, seizures of cannabis resin remained concentrated in a small number of countries: Egypt, Kenya, Malawi, Morocco, Nigeria, South Africa and the United Republic of Tanzania accounted for at least 90 per cent of the total amount of cannabis resin seized in Africa. In Nigeria, 175 tons of cannabis herb were seized in 2010, and in Morocco 144 tons were seized in the first 11 months of that year. South Africa is used by traffickers as a source, consumer and transit country for cannabis herb. In 2009, 126 tons of cannabis herb were seized in South Africa. According to South African authorities, an estimated 30 per cent of the cannabis herb seized in South Africa was destined for Europe.

351. While there is no evidence of illicit coca bush cultivation or illicit manufacture of cocaine in the region, parts of Africa, particularly West Africa, continue to be used for smuggling cocaine from South America into Europe. Cocaine trafficking routes leading through Africa gained strongly in importance between 2004 and 2007 but have lost some of their importance since 2008. According to estimates, the amount of cocaine trafficked via West Africa increased from 3 tons in 2004 to about 47 tons in 2007, before falling to about 21 tons in 2009.

352. In 2008, a significant shift was observed in the methods used by drug traffickers in West Africa. Most of the drugs smuggled into West Africa used to be transported by large mother ships, which unloaded the drugs onto smaller, locally owned vessels off the West African coast. Today, however, drug traffickers seem to have changed their tactics, utilizing containerized shipping to smuggle cocaine into West Africa. For most of the recent cocaine shipments detected in containers en route from South America to West Africa, the country of destination was Ghana or Nigeria. In July 2010, Nigerian authorities seized 450 kg of cocaine in the port of Lagos on a vessel originating in Chile. Two additional seizures of cocaine, totalling 275 kg, were effected in January 2011. In Ghana, 125 kg of cocaine were seized in October 2010 in a container that had originated in the United States and passed through Panama. In October 2011, a record seizure of 1.5 tons of cocaine was made in Cape Verde. In addition, in a series of seven seizures effected in Africa and the Americas in 2011, a total of over 1.4 tons of cocaine was seized; the cocaine had been concealed in consignments destined for Benin. Furthermore, 480 kg of cocaine destined for Nigeria were seized in Brazil in October 2011.

353. Traffickers also use commercial aircraft to transport cocaine to West Africa. In 2010, an increasing number of modified aircraft departed from the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela for countries in West Africa, including Cape Verde, Guinea-Bissau, Mali, Mauritania and Sierra Leone. From West Africa, most of the cocaine that is destined for Europe is transported by air, usually by couriers on commercial air flights but also by air freight. Some cocaine from West Africa is smuggled across the Sahara into North Africa before it reaches Europe.

354. Cocaine is increasingly entering East Africa and Southern Africa. Investigations by the South African police indicate significant movement of cocaine between South American countries and Namibia, South Africa and Zimbabwe. That finding is corroborated by a number of significant seizures of cocaine effected in South Africa in 2010 and 2011. South Africa reported having seized in December 2010 1.7 tons of cocaine found in a ship coming from Paraguay and 165 kg of cocaine found in a container from Paraguay in August 2010. In July 2011, the Portuguese navy intercepted a fishing boat from Namibia carrying nearly 1.7 tons of cocaine destined for Europe. In May 2011, 875 kg of cocaine were seized in Paraguay; the drug had been concealed in a sea container destined for Mozambique. According to estimates of the authorities of South Africa, about 40 per cent of the cocaine trafficked in South Africa is destined for Europe, and the remaining 60 per cent is abused by the local

population or smuggled into other countries in Southern Africa.

355. Illicit cultivation of opium poppy continues to take place on a small scale in Upper Egypt and on the Sinai peninsula. In Egypt, 222 ha of illicitly cultivated opium poppy were eradicated and 51 kg of opium were seized in 2010. According to the Egyptian authorities, there was no recorded instance of heroin manufacture in the country.

356. African countries are increasingly being used by traffickers to smuggle heroin into other regions. It is estimated that between 40 and 45 tons of Afghan heroin were smuggled into Africa in 2009. East Africa continues to be used as the main transit area for West Asian heroin destined for illicit markets in Europe, North America and some parts of Asia. Other countries in Africa that are major hubs for heroin trafficking include Nigeria and South Africa. The increasing flow of heroin into Africa has led to increased drug abuse throughout the region, particularly in East Africa and Southern Africa.

357. In East Africa, the United Republic of Tanzania has reported the seizure of large consignments of heroin that had been transported by sea to its coast. For instance, in December 2010, 50 kg of heroin were seized in that country; the heroin was to be smuggled into the Sudan via Nairobi. Two seizures of heroin totalling 178 kg were effected in Dar es Salaam in March and September 2011. The largest single seizure of heroin in East Africa — 179 kg — was made in the United Republic of Tanzania in February 2011. In Kenya, 102 kg of heroin were intercepted in March 2011; the heroin had been brought to that country's coastal area on a mother ship and was then collected by small speedboats. Ethiopia has become a transit area for heroin and cocaine consignments destined for illicit markets in Europe, North America and West Africa and Southern Africa. The main trafficking hub is Bole International Airport, near Addis Ababa, which connects Ethiopia to other countries in Africa and other regions. Drug trafficking routes leading from Brazil through Ethiopia to the United Republic of Tanzania were identified in 2010, and routes leading from Mali to the Philippines were identified in early 2011.

358. South Africa is an important country of destination for heroin shipments; it is also an important area for heroin consignments destined for countries in Southern Africa (notably Mauritius), countries in Europe and Australia. The international airport at Johannesburg is an important hub for illicit consignments destined for the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. Heroin is smuggled through Mozambique into South Africa; once it arrives in South Africa, it is transported via Durban to the Eastern Cape, where it is abused by the

local population. Heroin is also smuggled by air courier and in air cargo via Nairobi and Addis Ababa in the direction of West Africa.

359. Nigeria has emerged as a significant heroin distribution hub in West Africa. According to estimates of Nigerian authorities, in 2009, about one half of the heroin trafficked in Nigeria was intended for the United States, 40 per cent was intended for Europe and 10 per cent was intended for China. Heroin is also transported overland from Nigeria to other West African countries before it is shipped further along air routes. For 2010, Nigeria reported having seized a total of 202 kg of heroin. Major heroin consignments recently uncovered in sea containers in West African countries include a consignment of 193 kg of heroin arriving from the Islamic Republic of Iran and seized in Nigeria in November 2010 and a consignment of 200 kg of heroin arriving from Pakistan and seized in Benin in April 2011.

360. In recent years, there has been a significant increase in the amount of heroin seized in Egypt. In 2008, Egypt seized a total of 211 kg of heroin, or two thirds of the total amount of heroin seized in Africa. That figure fell to 159 kg in 2009 but rose again in 2010, to over 222 kg.

(b) Psychotropic substances

361. The smuggling of amphetamine-type stimulants from Africa into other regions has emerged as a new threat. West Africa, in particular, is now one of the sources of the methamphetamine found on illicit markets in countries in East Asia, above all Japan and the Republic of Korea, but also Malaysia and Thailand. Since 2009, reports on the smuggling of methamphetamine from countries in West Africa, including Benin, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Nigeria and Senegal, have increased markedly. That smuggling activity, which mainly involves the use of air couriers, and the seizure in Guinea in 2009 of equipment and chemicals used in illicit drug manufacture were considered to be indications that amphetamine-type stimulants might be illicitly manufactured in that subregion. In June 2010, the Government of the United States indicted members of a drug trafficking network for attempting to establish a clandestine methamphetamine laboratory in Liberia. Those indications were further corroborated in June 2011, when a large clandestine methamphetamine laboratory was seized in Lagos, together with crystalline methamphetamine and precursor chemicals such as toluene, acetone, sulphuric acid, sodium hydroxide, sodium iodide and phosphorus acid. The laboratory reportedly had a production capacity of 20-50 kg per cycle.

362. In North Africa, limited clandestine manufacture of amphetamine-type stimulants has been reported by Egyptian authorities for a number of years. The illicitly manufactured drugs are mainly abused by the local population. In April 2010, a clandestine methamphetamine laboratory was seized in Egypt.

363. In South Africa, significant quantities of synthetic drugs, notably methaqualone (Mandrax), methcathinone and methamphetamine, continue to be illicitly manufactured and are primarily abused by the local population. In addition, large amounts of methaqualone from East and South-East Asia are smuggled into South Africa. In April 2011, South African police seized a clandestine laboratory in Cape Town and nearly 1 ton of methaqualone powder, which would have been sufficient to manufacture about 1.6 million Mandrax tablets. Precursor chemicals were seized at the site, in amounts that would have been sufficient to manufacture an additional 2 million Mandrax tablets. MDMA ("ecstasy") is smuggled into South Africa mainly from Europe by air freight and parcel post. Illicit consignments of amphetamine-type stimulants have also been intercepted on their way from South Africa to countries in the Gulf area and East Asia; those consignments were smuggled mainly using air couriers. Illicit consignments of amphetamine-type stimulants have been seized while en route from Mozambique to South Africa; one of those consignments contained 10 kg of methamphetamine and was seized on South Africa's border with Mozambique in May 2011.

364. One serious problem in many African countries continues to be the availability of prescription drugs on unregulated markets outside the control of the health authorities. Often those drugs have been diverted or counterfeited, and they contain controlled substances, possibly amphetamine-type stimulants, as well as sedatives and tranquillizers. In some African countries, there was an increase in the total amount of such substances reported to have been seized: for instance, 2,556 kg of non-specified psychotropic substances were seized in Nigeria in 2010, compared with 712 kg in 2009; and 105,940 units of psychotropic substances were seized in Morocco in 2010, compared with 61,254 units in 2009.

(c) Precursors

365. Africa continues to be used by traffickers as an area for the diversion of precursor chemicals and as a possible destination for smuggled precursors. However, precursor trafficking patterns in Africa contrast sharply with the low number of precursor seizures made by the authorities in African countries. Few diversions or attempted

diversions of precursor chemicals were reported in Africa in 2011.

366. East Africa and West Africa, which have recently been identified as sources of illicit methamphetamine consignments bound for East Asia, continue to be vulnerable to trafficking in precursors, notably ephedrine and pseudoephedrine, used in the illicit manufacture of amphetamine-type stimulants. For instance, a series of cases involving the theft of shipments containing ephedrine and pseudoephedrine were reported at Jomo Kenyatta International Airport, at Nairobi, including a shipment of 500 kg of ephedrine destined for Nigeria that had been stolen in November 2010. Furthermore, a number of suspicious shipments of ephedrine, as well as one shipment of 500 kg of P-2-P, intended for companies in East Africa, were suspended by the exporting country pending the confirmation of the legitimacy of the transactions.

367. South Africa regularly reports the dismantling of clandestine drug laboratories, and some of the dismantled laboratories are very large. While South Africa operates a precursor control programme, most other countries in Africa lack such programmes. In South Africa, large quantities of legally imported ephedrine and pseudoephedrine are diverted to be used for the illicit manufacture of methamphetamine.

(d) Substances not under international control

368. Khat (*Catha edulis*), a substance not under international control, is cultivated in several East African countries, mainly Ethiopia and Kenya. In a number of countries — including countries in Africa — the cultivation of and trade in khat are prohibited by law. In Ethiopia, where khat is legal, one major concern of drug law enforcement authorities is the use of the khat distribution channels for the distribution of illegal drugs.

5. Abuse and treatment

369. Most countries in Africa continue to lack proper systems for monitoring drug abuse and are therefore unable to gather sufficient data on the extent and patterns of drug abuse or to carry out accurate assessments of prevalence rates. The only systematic monitoring of drug abuse in the region is taking place in South Africa, through the South African Community Epidemiology Network on Drug Use, a drug abuse monitoring system based on demand for treatment. Consequently, the need for the treatment and rehabilitation of drug abusers cannot be properly assessed. Most national estimates of the prevalence of drug abuse are based on rapid

assessments of drug abuse among specific groups within the drug-abusing population and a limited number of school surveys.

370. Available information suggests that cannabis remains the most widely abused drug in Africa. The estimated annual prevalence rate for cannabis abuse in Africa is the second highest of all the regions: it is estimated that between 3.8 and 10.4 per cent of the African population aged 15-64, or between 21.6 million and 59.1 million people, abuse cannabis. The estimated prevalence of cannabis abuse is higher in West Africa, North Africa and Central Africa than in the other African subregions. According to available data, in Africa cannabis abuse accounts for 64 per cent of all treatments for drug-related problems — a higher proportion than in any other region.

371. Cocaine abuse in Africa seems to be on the increase. The annual prevalence of cocaine abuse in Africa is estimated to be about 0.2 per cent of the population aged 15-64; in other words, about 1 million people in Africa are estimated to have abused cocaine in the past year. In North Africa, where the prevalence of cocaine abuse is considered to be low, cocaine abuse was reported to have increased in Algeria and Morocco. Southern Africa is the African subregion with the second largest market for cocaine: in 2009, illicit demand for cocaine was estimated at 4 tons (adjusted for purity). In West Africa and Central Africa, subregions affected by significant transit trafficking in cocaine from South America (consignments mainly destined for Europe), illicit demand for cocaine is estimated to be as high as 13 tons per year. In Africa, persons admitted for treatment for cocaine-related problems reportedly account for about 5 per cent of all persons admitted for treatment for drug abuse. According to the South African Community Epidemiology Network on Drug Use, demand for treatment for cocaine abuse has declined in South Africa over the past few years.

372. The abuse of heroin in Africa appears to have increased: 60 per cent of the countries that provided relevant information for 2009 reported an increase in the abuse of opioids. In 2009, the annual prevalence of opiate abuse in Africa was estimated at 0.2-0.6 per cent of the population aged 15-64. The prevalence of heroin abuse is higher in East Africa (particularly in Mauritius and Kenya) than in other subregions of Africa. Abuse of heroin by injection is reportedly common among drug abusers in Kenya, where nearly 43 per cent of persons who abuse heroin by injection are infected with HIV/AIDS. Increasing abuse of heroin by injection has been reported in the United Republic of Tanzania, especially in the coastal areas of that country. In the United Republic of Tanzania, it is estimated that there are

currently 25,000 persons who abuse drugs by injection, 40 per cent of whom are infected with HIV/AIDS. In Nigeria, the prevalence rate for the abuse of opiates (mainly heroin) was estimated to have increased from 0.57 to 0.70 per cent in 2009, meaning that there were between 500,000 and 600,000 heroin abusers in the country. In North Africa, the prevalence of abuse of heroin by injection is particularly high among drug abusers in Egypt. In Cairo, it is estimated that 6.8 per cent of persons who abuse drugs by injection are infected with HIV/AIDS.

373. For most parts of Africa there are limited or no reliable data available on the abuse of psychotropic substances. In South Africa, methaqualone, methamphetamine and methcathinone are the most commonly abused psychotropic substances. The annual prevalence of abuse of amphetamines is estimated by UNODC at 0.7-1.4 per cent of the adult population (persons aged 15-64) in South Africa. Methamphetamine (locally known as “tik”) continues to be the primary substance of abuse for which people seek treatment in Cape Town.

374. In many African countries, the non-medical use of prescription drugs, notably buprenorphine, pentazocine and benzodiazepines, continues to cause considerable problems. In East Africa, West Africa and Central Africa, the prescription stimulants are frequently abused. In Mauritius, buprenorphine (Subutex) is abused more frequently than heroin. It is estimated that in Mauritius there are about 12,000 persons who abuse heroin or buprenorphine. Mauritius has in recent years introduced methadone maintenance treatment and a needle exchange programme. In South Africa, about 7 per cent of patients in treatment for drug abuse reported prescription opioids or tranquillizers to be their primary or secondary drug of abuse.

375. In many countries in Africa, the national health-care systems are not able to adequately meet demand for the treatment and rehabilitation of drug-dependent persons. Frequently, only a small number of drug-dependent persons can be accommodated in the psychiatric wards of general hospitals. In Africa, the treatment and rehabilitation of drug-dependent persons often depend on assistance provided by international and non-governmental organizations.

376. In some countries in North Africa, including Egypt and Morocco, capacity-building initiatives have been conducted on drug abuse prevention and the treatment of drug abusers, as well as on HIV prevention among persons who abuse drugs by injection, in communities

(through community outreach programmes) and in prison settings.

377. In Kenya, a major programme on HIV prevention among persons who abuse drugs by injection has been implemented. Over 38,800 contacts with drug abusers were made in communities in Nairobi and in Coast province, and 8,500 persons have received treatment for drug dependence, on an inpatient or outpatient basis, from government hospitals or civil society organizations.

378. In January 2011, in response to an upsurge in treatment demand in Mombasa, Kenya, caused by a sudden decrease in the availability of heroin on the illicit markets in Coast province, the Government of Kenya decentralized treatment for drug dependence, so that such treatment became available in 12 health-care centres in Mombasa, and provided free access to HIV prevention and treatment services. Also in January 2011, the Government announced that it would introduce measures such as opiate substitution therapy and needle and syringe exchange programmes to further reduce HIV infection among persons who abuse drugs by injection. In February 2011, the United Republic of Tanzania initiated in Dar es Salaam a methadone maintenance programme for persons who abuse drugs by injection.

379. In South Africa, the provincial government of the Western Cape is currently implementing a project for reducing illicit drug demand that includes HIV prevention among youth. A large study is being conducted to examine the patterns and extent of drug abuse among youth in schools, as well as mental health issues and risky behaviour.

B. Americas

Central America and the Caribbean

1. Major developments

380. The region of Central America and the Caribbean, because of its strategic geographical location, continues to be used as a major transit area for smuggling drugs from South America into North America. Some Mexican drug cartels, under pressure from Mexican law enforcement authorities, have moved their drug trafficking operations to Central America, which has resulted in increased levels of violence, kidnapping, bribery, torture and homicide in that subregion. Drug trafficking organizations have increased their operations in Central America and the Caribbean, posing a serious threat to human security, affecting everyday life, in the region. Guatemala has recently been used as a transit area for smuggling cocaine