

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

into Mexico. Central American countries have gained in importance as trans-shipment areas in recent years. Despite efforts to counter drug trafficking in Costa Rica, Honduras and Nicaragua, in 2010, those countries were, for the first time, identified as major transit countries used for smuggling drugs primarily destined for the United States. At the same time, the Caribbean has become less important as a trans-shipment area for smuggling drugs into North America; that appears to be attributable to increased maritime control in Central America and the Caribbean. In 2009 and 2010, Caribbean countries began playing an increasing role as secondary distribution points for cocaine shipments destined for Europe.

381. In Central America, the escalating drug-related violence involving drug trafficking organizations, transnational and local gangs and other criminal groups has reached alarming and unprecedented levels, significantly worsening security and making the subregion one of the most violent areas in the world. Crime and drug-related violence continue to be key issues of concern in Central American countries. Drug trafficking (including fighting between and within drug trafficking and criminal organizations operating out of Colombia and Mexico), youth-related violence and street gangs, along with the widespread availability of firearms, have contributed to increasingly high crime rates in the subregion. There are more than 900 *maras* (local gangs) active in Central America today, with over 70,000 members. According to a recent report by the World Bank, drug trafficking is both an important driver of homicide rates in Central America and the main single factor behind the rising levels of violence in the subregion. The countries of the so-called “Northern Triangle” (El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras), together with Jamaica, now have the world’s highest homicide rates.

382. The drug problem has also led to drug-related corruption, which has increasingly weakened the criminal justice systems in Central America and the Caribbean. Corruption, including among police and other law enforcement officials, has interfered with the ability of States in the region to promote development, blocking the delivery of services and distorting public spending. Drug funds and corruption in the security services have become entrenched in Central America, paving the way for other forms of organized crime, including trafficking in firearms. Corruption and limited law enforcement capacity in Central America and the Caribbean have facilitated the use of smuggling channels and drug trafficking activities. The Board encourages the Governments of countries in Central America and the

Caribbean to consider regional strategies for countering the drug problem that call for concerted action in the area of crime prevention and criminal justice reform, together with regional approaches to reducing drug trafficking and controlling firearms.

383. Factors in Central America and the Caribbean region that have permitted illicit drug trafficking to grow are poverty, social inequality and lack of economic opportunities for youth, as well as emigration. Central American countries and Mexico have some of the most complex migration dynamics in the world, involving hundreds of thousands of migrants. Jamaica’s vulnerable borders have been increasingly subject to infiltration by various criminal networks, which use Jamaica as a transit country and a country of destination for smuggling drugs, firearms, ammunition and migrants.

2. Regional cooperation

384. The Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD) Group of Experts on Chemical Substances and Pharmaceutical Products held a meeting, in San José in August 2010 that was chaired and hosted by the Government of Costa Rica. Attending the meeting were more than 40 participants from 15 CICAD member States and observer States, including Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala and Panama. The participants acknowledged that the diversion of precursor chemicals remained an ongoing challenge and that countries in Central America faced an increasing problem involving the diversion of psychoactive pharmaceutical products. Key elements for a permit scheme were defined and permit holders were recommended to notify competent authorities of plans for export, transit or trans-shipment and, if possible, to make use of a common system, such as the PEN Online system, developed by the Board.

385. The Twentieth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Latin America and the Caribbean, was held in Lima in October 2010. Participants discussed issues such as targeting drug trafficking by air, drug trafficking and corruption, trafficking in synthetic drugs and control of precursors. The participants noted that the region of Central America and the Caribbean had once more grown in terms of its strategic importance as a staging point for private aircraft used to transport illicit drug consignments to North America and Europe. The meeting concluded that there needed to be more international cooperation with regard to the exchange of information on the ownership and movement of private aircraft in the region. Participants also noted that pharmaceutical preparations containing ephedrine and pseudoephedrine were becoming an

increasingly significant challenge for drug control authorities.

386. Within the framework of the Santo Domingo Pact, UNODC organized for all countries of the Central American Integration System (SICA) a regional workshop on drug trafficking and urban violence, which was held in San Salvador in November 2010. The objective was to improve the participants' knowledge of the threats related to drug trafficking in Central America, as well as the main characteristics, actors and consequences of drug trafficking, with a special focus on the connections between drug trafficking and youth gangs and urban violence.

387. The Government of Trinidad and Tobago, the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Implementation Agency for Crime and Security, UNODC and SICA held a meeting in Port of Spain in December 2010 to discuss new responses in the fight against organized crime and drug trafficking for the Caribbean, interconnections with Central America and issues related to the coordination of technical assistance.

388. A joint CICAD-CARICOM Regional Meeting with Caribbean Universities on the Drug Phenomenon was held in Kingston in March 2011. Leaders of eight Caribbean universities and representatives from governments and international organizations discussed how to prepare graduates to tackle the social, economic and criminal consequences of drug-related problems in the Caribbean, in particular in the area of demand reduction. The discussion focused on how to introduce drug-related content in under- and postgraduate curricula, to engage in community outreach activities for the promotion of healthy and sustainable lifestyles and drug abuse prevention and to carry out research on drug-related problems.

389. UNODC continued to support the development of a regional research network on drug addiction for Central America and the Caribbean, in cooperation with universities, treatment centres and ministries of health. It also supported the launching of a centre of excellence on drug demand reduction and treatment in the Dominican Republic in June 2011, which will examine problems related to drug demand reduction in communities and prison settings so as to adjust strategies and activities for drug abuse prevention, and the treatment and care of drug abusers in the region.

390. The 32nd Annual Meeting of the Conference of Heads of Government of CARICOM was organized in Saint Kitts and Nevis in July 2011. With regard to health and drug-related issues, it was announced at the meeting that the new regional Caribbean Public Health Agency

(CARPHA) had recently been established to improve the delivery of health care in the subregion by merging the core functions of the five subregional health institutions: the Caribbean Epidemiology Centre, the Caribbean Health Research Council, the Caribbean Food and Nutrition Institute, the Caribbean Environmental Health Institute and the Caribbean Regional Drug Testing Laboratory. One of the main functions of CARPHA would be surveillance and health analysis, contributing to collecting national, regional and international information on diseases and behavioural change by publication of data from the Caribbean on behaviour relating to drug abuse. CARPHA will facilitate a coordinated approach regarding public health issues and the risk of outbreaks of disease in the Caribbean.

391. The Secretary-General of INTERPOL conducted a series of meetings with senior police and government officials in Central America in 2011. Visits to Belize, Guatemala and Honduras provided INTERPOL with an opportunity for direct consultations with senior officials of the national police forces and the broader law enforcement community to discuss issues concerning drug law enforcement, trafficking in persons and transnational organized crime.

392. The Workshop on Training for Timely Screening and Referral by Primary Health Care for Problems with Alcohol and Other Drug Use was organized, in Antigua, Guatemala, in September 2011 by the Organization of American States, the Pan American Health Organization and Spain. Participants included representatives of the ministries of health and national drug commissions of several Central American countries, including Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic and Guatemala. One of the objectives of the meeting was to generate favourable conditions in national drug control commissions and ministries of health for the development of integrated programmes for the timely detection and treatment of persons affected by drug abuse problems, with focus on primary care.

3. National legislation, policy and action

393. Costa Rica continued to implement its national drug control plan for the period 2008-2012, whose main strategic objective is to respond in a coordinated manner to drug-related problems by preventing drug-related crime and minimizing the negative effects of drug abuse and drug trafficking. In the area of arresting drug traffickers and dealers, the country adopted specific programmes in 2010 through the Drug Control Police of the Ministry of Public Security and the Narcotics Division of the Judicial Investigative Body. Costa Rica had adopted legislation against organized delinquency in 2009

that established legal provisions for judges to authorize the interception of communications to clarify crimes involving narcotic drugs or psychotropic substances.

394. In 2011, Cuba created the Technical Investigation Police, a new law enforcement and drug control body responsible for preventing, and reducing the impact of, international drug trafficking and its manifestations at the national level. Based on multilateral treaties to which Cuba is a party, the country continued to cooperate with intelligence services from other countries and with INTERPOL.

395. According to the World Customs Organization, in 2010 a significant fall in the number of illegal drug flights was noted in the Dominican Republic following the country's purchase of eight surveillance aircraft. In addition, the Government of the Dominican Republic created the new Passenger Risk Analysis Division at the Directorate General of Customs and reinforced its National Directorate of Drug Control as legal actions in an attempt to reduce drug trafficking in the country.

396. In 2010, the Higher Council for Public Health of the Government of El Salvador issued a prohibition on ephedrine, its salts, optical isomers and salts of its optical isomers, as well as pharmaceutical products containing such substances, with the exception of the injectable pharmaceutical form used for humans. The Council also adopted legal modifications in November 2010 concerning the listing of substances subject to control, extending the control of phenylacetic acid and its derivative salts in order to prevent the smuggling of the substance in El Salvador and its export to other countries.

397. In 2010, El Salvador adopted national legislation to ban *maras* (local gangs). The Special Law on Telecommunications Intervention was also adopted in 2010 by the Government of El Salvador. The Special Law contains measures to combat illicit activities relating to trafficking in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances. In March 2011, the national drug control strategy, for the period 2011-2015 was drawn up by the National Anti-Drug Commission of El Salvador and adopted by presidential decree with a view to addressing demand reduction and drug control and drug-related offences. The strategy's principal aim is to reduce drug abuse and to combat drug trafficking and drug-related crime. The strategy includes a plan of action and was based on national and international drug control tools, such as the Hemispheric Drug Strategy of CICAD.

398. The Ministry of Public Health and Social Welfare of Guatemala issued a new ministerial agreement to modify the country's lists of precursors and chemical substances, which entered into force in January 2011. Phenylacetic

acid and its derivatives, including its salts and esters, potassium permanganate and acetic anhydride were transferred from List Two to List One in order to strengthen the control and regulation of those substances.

399. In 2011, the Government of Panama tightened its system of control and monitoring of substances through the Chemical Control Unit of its National Commission for the Study and Prevention of Drug-Related Crimes (CONAPRED), transferring certain substances from being monitored to being controlled, such as acetic acid, methylamine and phenylacetic acid, in addition to putting under the same control monoethylamine, triethanolamine and ethanolamine.

400. In 2010, the global Container Control Programme, a joint initiative of Panama, UNODC and the World Customs Organization continued to operate at seaports in 11 countries of Central America, including Costa Rica, Guatemala and Panama, and West Africa, Central Asia and West Asia. The Programme has assisted port authorities in using modern control techniques to detect illegal goods, including illicit drugs, hidden in containers without disrupting trade in legal goods.

401. Existing evidence suggests that corruption is increased by drug trafficking and has a negative influence on the criminal justice systems of certain countries in Central America. According to the World Bank, corruption, together with crime, has been identified as one of the top five constraints to productivity and growth in Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama, despite the efforts of the Governments concerned. The International Commission against Impunity in Guatemala (CICIG) has provided a suitable channel to bring international investigative expertise to Guatemala to resolve high-profile cases and address drug-related corruption and impunity. Despite progress by the justice sectors of Central American countries since the end of the civil conflicts of the 1980s, corruption remains a significant problem in the police and criminal justice systems of El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras, and has restricted the ability of law enforcement authorities in those countries to adequately address drug-related violence. According to the World Bank, in a survey conducted on public insecurity in Central America in 2009, the perception that local police were involved in crime (close to 50 per cent of respondents believed that they were) appeared as one of the most important contributors to feelings of insecurity; it was followed by drug trafficking and the presence of gangs.

4. Cultivation, production, manufacture and trafficking

(a) Narcotic drugs

402. Most of the countries in Central America and the Caribbean have significant levels of production of cannabis herb. Jamaica has been the largest illicit producer and exporter of cannabis in the region. Recent reports suggest that cannabis production is destined primarily for domestic abuse in most countries. According to a recent report by CICAD, of the 12 Caribbean countries included in a study, only Jamaica and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines produced cannabis for export to other countries. The Dominican Republic was the main country of destination for cannabis.

403. Cuban authorities seized a total of 2,894 kg of cannabis and eradicated 9,451 cannabis plants in 2010. In the first six months of 2011, Cuban authorities seized 5,256 kg of cannabis and eradicated 5,822 cannabis plants. A decline in cannabis eradication was observed in the Dominican Republic in 2010, when less than 5 ha of cannabis plants were eradicated. The Dominican Republic reported having seized a total of 658 kg of cannabis herb in 2010. In Guatemala, approximately 870 tons of cannabis plants were eradicated in 2010, compared with about 430 tons in 2009. According to the World Customs Organization, in 2010 a large consignment (442 kg) of cannabis was found hidden in sea freight from Jamaica en route to Costa Rica. Jamaican authorities seized a total of 35.5 tons of cannabis herb in 2008, accounting for 70 per cent of all the cannabis seized in the Caribbean, while no data on cannabis seizures have been provided by Jamaica for 2009 or 2010. In 2010, a vessel carrying 541 kg of cannabis, with three individuals from the Bahamas on board, was intercepted by the maritime authorities of Cuba as it departed from Jamaica; the consignment had been destined for the Bahamas. Law enforcement authorities from the Bahamas, working together with their Cuban counterparts, intercepted two vessels used for drug trafficking and arrested five drug traffickers in 2011.

404. It is estimated that approximately 90 per cent of the cocaine in the United States arrived in that country via Mexico. A growing share of the cocaine arriving in Mexico first passes through countries in Central America. The value added of the cocaine flowing through the Central American corridor could be close to 5 per cent of the gross domestic product of that subregion. Drugs continue to be smuggled into the subregion primarily by sea, with drug traffickers making use of go-fast boats and submersible and semi-submersible vessels. Land transport vehicles and light aircraft have also been

increasingly used by criminal groups, which take advantage of insufficient border control, including poor seaport security, and inadequately equipped law enforcement officers. The use of containers and cargo ships to smuggle drugs has become an increasing concern in the subregion.

405. Several countries in Central America and the Caribbean reported seizures of “crack” cocaine, cocaine base or cocaine salts. The largest number of such seizures worldwide — 4,173 cases — occurred in the Dominican Republic. Panama ranked fourth in the world in terms of the quantity of cocaine seized in 2009, when approximately 53,000 kg of the substance were seized. Costa Rica (20,896 kg), Nicaragua (9,800 kg) and Guatemala (6,493 kg) also reported very significant seizures of cocaine during the same year.

406. During 2010, Costa Rica significantly reduced cocaine trans-shipments along its coastal borders. The Dominican Republic continued to be used as a transit area for cocaine and heroin consignments destined for countries in other regions, including Canada, the United States and several countries in the European Union. In 2010, six cases involving cocaine trafficking were reported by the Government of the Dominican Republic; Colombia was the country of origin in all of those cases and the United States was the main country of destination. The Dominican Republic reported having seized a total of 4,526 kg of cocaine hydrochloride and 30 kg of heroin in 2010. Jamaica’s importance as a country of departure for cocaine consignments also increased in 2010: 1,217 kg of cocaine were seized in that country in 2010, compared with only 44 kg in 2009. Grenada reported for 2010 that cannabis herb ranked first and cocaine second in order of prevalence of abuse in the country, with some decrease in the prevalence of abuse of cocaine powder, salt and “crack”.

407. Over 11 million containers transit annually through the Panama Canal. The global Container Control Programme has helped local authorities in Panama to seize nearly 1,200 kg of cocaine since September 2009. With its regional headquarters in Panama, the Programme has 27 container control units operating throughout the world.

408. Diversion of pharmaceutical products containing narcotic drugs has been uncovered in Central America. In 2010, the police of El Salvador identified 23 doctors and 2 pharmacists involved in the diversion of oxycodone, which had been prescribed to fictitious patients.

(b) Psychotropic substances

409. The illicit manufacture of amphetamine-type stimulants is increasingly being reported by authorities in Central America and has recently emerged in Belize, Guatemala and Nicaragua, countries with little or no previous history of such illicit manufacture. In Guatemala, three clandestine laboratories for manufacturing both amphetamine and MDMA (“ecstasy”) were dismantled in 2009, and five methamphetamine laboratories discovered near that country’s border with Mexico were dismantled in 2011. In 2010, authorities in Nicaragua dismantled a large clandestine methamphetamine laboratory. In August 2011, the Anti-Narcotics Police of El Salvador seized 12 containers of precursor chemicals frequently used for the manufacture of synthetic drugs; an investigation revealed that the substances, which had entered the country by sea, had been intended for use in the illicit manufacture of methamphetamine or amphetamine.

410. The region of Central America and the Caribbean accounted for less than 1 per cent of global seizures of amphetamine-type stimulants in 2009 (56 kg were seized in Central America and 102 kg were seized in the Caribbean). Most of the seizures of amphetamine-type stimulants in the region in the past two years involved amphetamine. A significant change in the methods used for smuggling MDMA (“ecstasy”) was observed in the Dominican Republic: in 2009 most seizures of the drug were made at airports; in 2010, however, all “ecstasy” seizures were made on roads and highways within the country. In 2009, small quantities of amphetamine-type stimulants were seized in the Bahamas (“ecstasy”), Costa Rica (methamphetamine and “ecstasy”), Cuba (methamphetamine and unspecified amphetamine-type stimulants) and El Salvador (amphetamine). Jamaica was one of the countries of destination for shipments of “ecstasy” seized in or en route from Canada.

411. The non-medical use of pharmaceutical preparations containing stimulants is widespread in Central America and the Caribbean. The abuse of sedatives in the form of prescription medicaments is a problem in Costa Rica and El Salvador. The substances in question often are obtained from pharmacies without prescription or through the Internet. There are indications that there may be smuggling of such pharmaceutical preparations among the countries in the region.

(c) Precursors

412. Countries in Central America have previously reported significant seizures of ephedrine and pseudoephedrine, but a decreasing trend has been noted since the peak in 2007/2008. In 2011, several countries in the subregion reported seizures of esters of phenylacetic acid, which can be used as substitutes for pseudoephedrine and ephedrine in methamphetamine manufacture. Those esters are currently not under international control.

413. Controls over precursors of amphetamine-type stimulants continued to be strengthened throughout Central America. In 2011, El Salvador, Guatemala and Nicaragua strengthened their existing controls over phenylacetic acid by prohibiting the import, export, production, manufacture, possession, distribution and transport of the substance. In many cases, the controls were also extended to include esters and other derivatives of phenylacetic acid.

414. Governments of countries in Central America and the Caribbean should continue to implement measures to control non-scheduled substances and substitute chemicals used in the manufacture of traditional precursors.

5. Abuse and treatment

415. Surveys suggest that about 1 per cent of all cannabis abusers worldwide are found in Central America and the Caribbean. Cannabis abuse patterns and trends in the region remain fairly unchanged. Nevertheless, Central America has experienced some increases in cannabis abuse in the past few years. It is estimated that approximately 610,000 persons in Central America and some 2.1 million persons in the Caribbean were cannabis abusers in 2009. According to a 2010 report by CICAD, there were large variations in the prevalence rates for cannabis abuse in the past year in the Caribbean: the rate ranged from approximately 1.1 per cent in Haiti to 17.5 per cent in Dominica. Among students in 12 Caribbean countries, the average age of first-time abusers of cannabis was 13 years.

416. Approximately 50 per cent of all demand for treatment for drug abuse in the region is reportedly related to cocaine abuse, while cocaine is also ranked as the main substance causing drug-induced or drug-related deaths. It is estimated that 140,000 persons in Central America and 330,000 persons in the Caribbean aged 15-64 were cocaine abusers in 2009. The prevalence of cocaine abuse in Central America and the Caribbean is above the global average: about 0.5-0.6 per cent of

the population aged 15-64 abuse cocaine in Central America and 0.4-1.2 per cent in the Caribbean.

417. According to the latest data available, the Central American countries with the highest annual prevalence rates for the abuse of amphetamine-type stimulants among the general population (aged 12-70) are El Salvador (3.3 per cent in 2005), Belize (1.4 per cent in 2005) and Costa Rica (1.3 per cent in 2006). In Central America, the prevalence of abuse of MDMA (“ecstasy”) continues to be low among the general population, though it is higher among youth. Both El Salvador and Trinidad and Tobago reported an increase in “ecstasy” abuse in 2009.

418. According to a survey carried out from 2010 to 2011, in El Salvador, 12.6 per cent of the students questioned said that they had abused cannabis at least once in their lives, and the average age of first-time abusers was 19. The percentage of university students in El Salvador who said that they had abused cocaine for the first time in their lives during that period was 3.7 per cent. The tendency to abuse cocaine in El Salvador was much higher among males than among females. Some increase was reported in the number of patients treated for the abuse of cocaine and opioids, as well as for the abuse of amphetamine-type stimulants in 2010. The number of cannabis patients remained stable in 2010.

419. Grenada has a register for compiling national data on treatment for drug abuse, and every three-five years a rapid situation assessment and a school population survey are carried out nationwide. Treatment for problems associated with cannabis and cocaine abuse was offered in Grenada in 2010. Of the persons treated for drug abuse, some 48 per cent were treated for polydrug abuse. There was some decline in the number of patients receiving treatment for cannabis abuse. The average age of people receiving treatment was 25. According to the Government, no abuse of drugs by injection was detected in the country in 2010.

420. In Guatemala, authorities estimated that some 300 people required treatment for drug abuse in 2010 and that 33 per cent of the slots in the treatment facilities were for outpatients. Policies on drug abuse prevention cover drug abuse in the workplace.

421. In Central America and the Caribbean, most programmes for the treatment of drug abusers established in accordance with public policy aim to halt drug abuse. Heroin abuse is rather rare, and consequently so is substitution treatment using methadone or buprenorphine, except in Puerto Rico.

422. In Panama, the number of cases treated in officially licensed specialized treatment facilities for problems associated with drug abuse reached 1,033 in 2009, but no treatment facilities offered aftercare programmes. The Board encourages the Governments of countries in Central America and the Caribbean to consider allocating additional resources to drug abuse prevention and to implement public health and drug abuse prevention programmes with a focus on campaigns for educating youth about the dangers of drug abuse and providing appropriate treatment for drug abusers, and invites Governments to cooperate in that regard.

North America

1. Major developments

423. North America continued to have the world’s largest illicit drug market in 2010. All three countries in the region continued to be characterized by high levels of illicit drug production, manufacture, trade and consumption. The scope of the drug problem in the region, as well as the vigilance of law enforcement authorities, is illustrated by the fact that in 2009, 70 per cent of all global seizures of cannabis, 70 per cent of all seizures of MDMA (“ecstasy”) and 44 per cent of seizures of methamphetamine occurred in North America. The region also accounted for 99 per cent of all methamphetamine laboratories dismantled worldwide.

424. The human, social and economic costs of drug abuse in North America have been high. According to the most recent estimates, over 45,000 people in the region die of drug-related causes every year, the highest annual drug-related mortality rate in the world.

425. According to a report released in April 2011 by the National Drug Intelligence Center of the United States Department of Justice aimed at measuring the economic impact of illicit drug use in the United States, the estimated economic impact of illicit drug use on United States society in 2007 exceeded \$193 billion. That figure takes into account expenditure related to criminal justice, health-care costs, loss of economic competitiveness, military readiness, educational outcomes and workforce productivity. The Canadian Centre on Substance Abuse has estimated the costs of illicit drug use to the Canadian economy to be over \$8 billion per year.

426. In Mexico, the Government has budgeted security-related expenditures of approximately \$10.7 billion for the fiscal year 2012. Mexico continues to be used by drug trafficking organizations as a major source of and transit country for illicit drugs. The Government has continued to take vigorous action to

disrupt drug trafficking activities, to dismantle drug trafficking syndicates and to prevent and repress drug-related acts of violence. In 2011, Mexican law enforcement officials reported significant seizures of internationally controlled substances. Faced with the Government's resolve, drug trafficking organizations have resorted to unprecedented levels of violence. According to figures released by the Government, over 35,000 people were killed in drug-related violence in the period 2006-2010, with more than 11,500 deaths in 2010 alone. In addition, drug syndicates have sought to undermine the state apparatus, including federal and state police, the criminal justice system and the media through the use of corruption, as well as threats and intimidation. The Board acknowledges the strong commitment shown by the Government of Mexico through the decisive measures it has taken to address the country's drug-related problems and encourages the Government to ensure that appropriate attention is given to prevention measures.

427. Prescription drug abuse in the United States has become the country's fastest growing drug problem. Alarming data contained in the National Survey on Drug Use and Health show that over a quarter of the population aged 12 years or older who used drugs for the first time in 2010 did so by using prescription drugs for non-medical purposes. The most recent figures available suggest that prescription pharmaceuticals were second only to cannabis as the substances abused by the largest number of new drug abusers aged 12 or older having initiated their drug abuse over the past year. Moreover, among United States youth, prescription drugs are now the second most abused type of drug, after cannabis. In addition, there has been a twofold increase in drug-induced deaths in the last 10 years, driven by prescription drugs. The abuse of prescription drugs has also been a significant problem in Canada and Mexico.

428. In seeking to implement their international drug control obligations, the Governments of Canada and the United States have faced particular challenges owing to the division of powers within their respective federal structures. In Canada, the Government lodged an appeal with the Supreme Court against a decision by the Court of Appeal of British Columbia allowing so-called "drug injection rooms" to continue to be exempted from federal drug control legislation; the appeal was rejected. In the United States, a similar issue has been the adoption of laws introducing "medical" cannabis schemes in a number of states, despite the existence of federal legislation explicitly subjecting the manufacture, sale and distribution of cannabis to criminal prosecution. The Board continues to emphasize to the Governments of all

States that, in order to respect their international obligations under the drug control treaties, States must ensure the consistent implementation of those norms over the entire national territory, irrespective of their internal legal orders.

429. In the United States, 16 states and the District of Columbia have, to date, enacted legislation allowing the sale and use of cannabis for medical purposes; similar legislation is pending in an additional 10 states. The enactment of that legislation at the state level has occurred despite the existence of the Controlled Substances Act, a federal statute explicitly prohibiting the possession, manufacture and distribution of cannabis except for limited legitimate uses. The Attorney-General was asked by several United States attorneys to clarify the United States Administration's position on medical cannabis laws. In June 2011, the Deputy Attorney-General issued a memorandum reaffirming the Department of Justice's commitment to the enforcement of the Controlled Substances Act and clearly stating that individuals who cultivate, sell or distribute cannabis and those who knowingly facilitate such activities are in violation of the Act and are subject to federal enforcement, including criminal prosecution. The Board notes that the control requirements that have been adopted in the 16 states in question and in the District of Columbia under the "medical" cannabis schemes fall short of the requirements set forth in the 1961 Convention as amended by the 1972 Protocol and requests that the Government of the United States ensure the implementation of all control measures for cannabis plants and cannabis as required under that Convention in all states and territories falling within its legislative authority.

2. Regional cooperation

430. In February 2011, the President of the United States and the Prime Minister of Canada issued the declaration entitled "Beyond the border: shared vision for perimeter security and economic competitiveness", aimed at strengthening cooperation between the two countries on a number of trade and security issues, including the adoption of joint measures to combat drug trafficking. Building upon that initiative, the Governments of Canada and the United States released in March 2011 the United States-Canada Joint Border Threat and Risk Assessment, which was prepared by the border protection agencies of both countries, as well as the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. The assessment is aimed at providing United States and Canadian policymakers, law enforcement officials and other stakeholders with specific information regarding established threats along the border, including

those affecting national security and those linked to criminal enterprises.

431. The third meeting of the United States-Mexico Merida High-Level Consultative Group on Bilateral Cooperation against Transnational Criminal Organizations was held in April 2011. The Group, composed of cabinet secretaries from the United States and Mexico, aims to increase bilateral cooperation and coordinate action against transnational organized crime by building upon the implementation framework developed under the Merida Initiative. The four objectives agreed upon by the parties, called “pillars”, are the disruption of organized criminal groups, the institutionalization of the rule of law, the building of a twenty-first century border and the building of strong and resilient communities. Specific actions to be undertaken in the pursuit of those objectives include optimizing the use and sharing of intelligence; broadening support for state-level justice system reforms; modernizing border infrastructure; and the initiation of a binational demand reduction study. The Board welcomes these and any other initiatives aimed at improving regional cooperation and border security in the region.

432. In their capacity as member States of the Organization of American States, the three countries in North America have continued to participate in the joint drug control initiatives under the aegis of CICAD. In May 2011, CICAD released its Hemispheric Plan of Action on Drugs, 2011-2015. The Plan of Action is aimed at supporting the implementation of the Hemispheric Drug Strategy by establishing benchmarks and priorities for the period 2011-2015, related to the following: institutional strengthening, demand reduction, supply reduction, control measures and international cooperation. In addition to coordinating joint action among CICAD members, the identification of the priorities set forth in the Plan of Action is intended to guide the adoption of drug control measures at the national level. The Plan of Action also underscores the importance of financing and training as cross-cutting issues that must be addressed to enable successful implementation of the Plan of Action.

433. The twenty-eighth International Drug Enforcement Conference was held in Cancún, Mexico, in April 2011. The Conference was attended by representatives of 75 member and 20 observer States and territories and was presided over by the Secretary of Public Security of Mexico and the Administrator of the United States Drug Enforcement Administration. During the Conference, concurrent sessions were held in order to provide delegates with topic-specific information. Deliberations also took place within regional working groups on issues

related to drug trafficking organizations, money-flow strategies and chemical controls.

434. In July 2011 in Montreal, Canada, the Canadian Centre on Substance Abuse, in partnership with the Office of National Drug Control Policy of the United States, the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA) and the United States National Institute on Drug Abuse, hosted the International Drugs and Driving Symposium. The purpose of the Symposium was to build upon Commission on Narcotic Drugs resolution 54/2, in which the Commission underscored the importance of elaborating collective responses to drugged driving through evidence-based research.

3. National legislation, policy and action

435. As noted in the report of the Board for 2010,²⁴ the Penalties for Organized Drug Crime Act was introduced in the Canadian Senate in May 2010. The bill provided for mandatory minimum sentences for a variety of drug-related offences, including illicit drug production, trafficking, possession for the purpose of trafficking, importing, exporting and possession for the purpose of exporting. According to the bill, mandatory minimum sentences would apply in the presence of an aggravating factor, including that the crime was committed for the benefit of organized crime, in a prison, in relation to a youth or involving a youth. The Act was voted on in May 2011, but was not adopted. Since then, the newly elected Government has expressed its intention to reintroduce various legislative measures drawn from legislation that was not adopted in the previous session of Parliament, including the Penalties for Organized Drug Crime Act.

436. Also in Canada, the Act to Amend the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act (Methamphetamine and Ecstasy) entered into force in June 2011, aimed at prohibiting the possession, production, sale or importation of anything with the knowledge that it will be used to manufacture or traffic in methamphetamine or MDMA (“ecstasy”). The Act provides for penalties of imprisonment of up to 10 years less a day.

437. In September 2011, the Supreme Court of Canada handed down its judgement with respect to the applicability of the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act to a supervised drug injection facility in Vancouver. The facility had been allowed to operate due to an exemption to the application of the law for “medical or scientific

²⁴ *Report of the International Narcotics Control Board for 2010* ..., para. 410.

purposes” that had been granted by a previous Government. The Court ruled against the Government’s decision to refuse to extend the injection facility’s legal exemption, thereby allowing the facility to continue to operate. The Board reiterates that under international law, provisions of national law cannot be invoked to justify non-compliance with the international drug control treaties to which a State has become a party. The Board further reiterates its position that drug injection and consumption outlets that allow illicit drug possession and use are not in line with the international drug control conventions, to which Canada is a party.

438. The Drugs and Organized Crime Awareness Service of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police has continued its efforts under the Drug Abuse Resistance Education (DARE) programme aimed at helping schoolchildren to recognize and resist social pressure to experiment with drugs, alcohol and tobacco. In the period 2010-2011, the programme, using Royal Canadian Mounted Police officers to teach a formal curriculum to students in a classroom setting, reached nearly 81,000 students in 1,895 schools.

439. In July 2011, the President of Mexico inaugurated a state-of-the-art laboratory of forensic sciences of the Attorney-General’s Office, the Laboratorio Central de Servicios Periciales, commissioned to support law enforcement and judicial authorities. The President underscored the importance of ensuring that justice for victims of crime and their families be done and emphasized the fundamental importance of forensic science in solving crime and securing convictions.

440. According to the National Commission on Human Rights of Mexico, 71 journalists have been murdered in the country since 2000, while many others have been subjected to threats and intimidation, forcing some to flee the country. In seeking to address persistent violence committed by drug trafficking groups against journalists in Mexico, UNODC has partnered with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, governments at the federal and state levels, media representatives and universities to hold media consultation workshops throughout 2011. The workshops were held in the nine Mexican states most affected by drug-related violence against the media. The project, developed as part of the UNODC country strategy for Mexico for 2008-2011, was aimed at forging working relationships between stakeholders and at leading to the formulation of recommendations intended to increase the security of members of the media and protect freedom of the press. The Board notes with concern the targeting of journalists

in Mexico by drug trafficking syndicates and welcomes this joint initiative aimed at improving the security of journalists and at safeguarding freedom of the press.

441. In 2011, the United States Administration released an update of its National Drug Control Strategy issued in 2010. The 2011 update acknowledges important developments that occurred in 2010, including the passage of the Fair Sentencing Act and the Secure and Responsible Drug Disposal Act. The 2011 update also identifies “key populations” requiring special support in their efforts to deal with drug abuse: military personnel on active duty, veterans and their families; women and their families; college and university students; and individuals in the criminal justice system.

442. In April 2011, in response to the challenges posed by widespread prescription drug abuse, the United States Administration issued the Prescription Drug Abuse Prevention Plan, aimed at complementing its National Drug Control Strategy. The Prevention Plan sets out courses of action in four major areas: education, including through awareness-raising among youth, parents and health-care providers; the institution of prescription monitoring programmes; the establishment of proper disposal mechanisms; and the enforcement of laws and regulations governing the prescription of drugs. The strategy reiterates the objectives of reducing the annual prevalence of non-medical abuse of prescription drugs among people 12 years or older by 15 per cent and sets forth concrete measures aimed at reaching that objective, including the formulation and dissemination of model legislation; increasing funding for treatment programmes; encouraging States to adopt prescription drug monitoring programmes; and establishing programmes facilitating safe disposal. At the state level, 48 states in the United States have now enacted legislation enabling some form of prescription drug monitoring programme to assist physicians and pharmacists in monitoring the issuance of prescriptions for controlled substances, as well as to keep track of the identity of the individuals for whom they are prescribed. In the two remaining states, Missouri and New Hampshire, similar legislation is pending. The Board welcomes the adoption by the United States of a comprehensive set of measures aimed at addressing the continued widespread abuse of prescription drugs in the country and will continue to follow the progress made.

443. Also in April 2011, the second National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day was held in the United States, allowing individuals to dispose of unwanted or unused medications at thousands of collection sites across the country. The event resulted in the collection of

approximately 188 tons of unwanted or expired medications.

444. In July 2011, the United States Administration launched its Strategy to Combat Transnational Organized Crime, drawn up following a comprehensive assessment of the issue concluded in 2010. The Strategy reflects many of the findings of the assessment, including proliferation of transnational organized criminal networks; their use of corruption to co-opt or weaken governance in many states; and the growing links between terrorist networks and drug trafficking organizations. Reflecting the increasingly symbiotic relationship between drug syndicates and other criminal activities, the Strategy sets forth 56 priority actions under five distinct chapters, including one entitled “Disrupt drug trafficking and its facilitation of other transnational threats”.

445. In February 2011, the Director of National Drug Control Policy in the United States issued a statement expressing his deep concern over the growing abuse of synthetic stimulants, in particular those marketed as legal substances, including designer cathinones commonly referred to as “bath salts”. In response to this emerging threat, the National Conference of State Legislatures has reported that 30 states have already adopted laws banning synthetic cathinones, and 9 more have similar legislation pending.

446. In March 2011, the United States Drug Enforcement Administration took emergency administrative measures leading to the temporary placement of five synthetic cannabinoids into Schedule I of the Controlled Substances Act. That action was based on the decision of the Administrator that the placement of those substances into Schedule I was necessary to avoid an imminent threat to public safety. Pursuant to that decision, the manufacture, distribution, possession, import and export of the five substances in question will be governed by the extensive inventory of criminal, civil, administrative and regulatory provisions for substances in Schedule I as set forth in the Controlled Substances Act. At the state level, 38 states now have legislation banning synthetic cannabinoids, as recommended by the Board.

447. In August 2011, the United States Department of Justice issued a statement announcing an agreement reached with a leading Internet search engine for the forfeiture by the company of \$500 million for allowing Canadian Internet pharmacies to place advertisements targeting consumers in the United States and, as a result, to export prescription drugs to the United States in violation of United States law. The forfeiture, one of the largest in United States history, represents the total of the gross advertising revenues collected by the company and

of the estimated gross revenues made by the Canadian online pharmacies as a result of their sales to United States consumers. In addition to moneys forfeited, the company acknowledged its responsibility for the conduct in question and agreed to subject itself to various compliance measures in order to prevent recurrence.

448. In June 2011, at the 79th Annual Meeting of the United States Conference of Mayors, held in Baltimore, the Children, Health and Human Services Committee adopted a resolution in support of the United States Administration’s 2011 Prescription Drug Abuse Prevention Plan. The resolution endorses the approaches outlined in the Prevention Plan and reiterates the importance of education and awareness initiatives, prescription drug monitoring programmes, prescription drug disposal programmes and ending improper prescription practices.

4. Cultivation, production, manufacture and trafficking

(a) Narcotic drugs

449. Cannabis remains the most widely produced drug in the region, with vast amounts produced in all three countries. Trafficking in cannabis in North America is a regional phenomenon: a substantial proportion of cannabis produced in Mexico and some produced in Canada is destined for the United States market, though most of the cannabis produced in Canada is consumed within the country. Cannabis seizures in Canada increased significantly, from 1.3 tons in 2009 to nearly 105.3 tons in 2010.

450. In Canada and the United States, indoor cultivation persists, while in Mexico law enforcement raids have continued to reveal outdoor growth operations of an unprecedented scale and sophistication. Reflecting the sustained efforts of Mexican customs and law enforcement agencies, cannabis seizures in Mexico increased from 2,109 tons in 2009 to more than 2,248 tons in 2010. In July 2011, the National Defense Secretariat announced that the army had discovered the largest cannabis plantation ever detected in Mexico. The plantation covered almost 120 ha and could have yielded an estimated 120 tons of cannabis with a street value of approximately \$160 million.

451. According to the Domestic Cannabis Eradication/Suppression Program Statistical Report of the Drug Enforcement Administration, 10.3 million cannabis plants were eradicated in the United States in 2010. In all, 92 per cent of all plants eradicated were found in the top seven cannabis-producing states (California, Kentucky, Oregon, Tennessee, Utah,

Washington and West Virginia). The total amount of cannabis seized in the United States in 2010 was approximately 1,900 tons.

452. Cocaine seizures in North America declined by approximately 43 per cent from 2005 to 2009, reflecting the decreased prevalence of the drug in the region. Of the three countries in the region, Mexico has seen by far the steepest decline in cocaine seizures, with seizures dropping from a high of over 48 tons in 2007 to 9.4 tons in 2010, the latter figure representing a decrease of over 12 tons from the 2009 level. With the exception of a spike in 2007, cocaine seizures in Canada from 2005 to 2010 declined sharply, from approximately 2,352 kg in 2005 to 1,131 kg in 2010. However, in the same period, the annual amount of cocaine seized entering Canada from the United States more than doubled, making the United States the primary transit area for cocaine smuggled into Canada. According to the Canadian Border Services Agency, the other primary countries of origin/transit for cocaine intercepted at points of entry into Canada in 2010 were Argentina, Chile, the Dominican Republic and Mexico. Canadian law enforcement sources have identified a variety of organized criminal groups involved in the smuggling of cocaine into Canada, including motorcycle gangs, Asian drug gangs, and "Italian based" organizations. In addition, there is mounting evidence to suggest that Mexican organized criminal groups, already established in Canada, are expanding their activities in the country. Reflecting decreased demand, cocaine seizures in the United States have also seen a sharp decline, from a peak of over 382 tons in 2007 to 66 tons in 2010, a 25 per cent reduction from 2009 figures.

453. The illicit cultivation of opium poppy has continued in Mexico. On the basis of available data on opium poppy cultivation, the potential manufacture of heroin in Mexico could be estimated at 9 per cent of the global total. Eradication efforts by the Government of Mexico have continued, with approximately 14 ha reported eradicated in 2009. The three primary source countries for heroin abused in North America in 2009 continued to be Afghanistan, Colombia and Mexico. According to the United States Drug Enforcement Administration, 58 per cent of the heroin seized in the United States was of Colombian origin and 39 per cent originated in Mexico. The United States-Mexico border continues to be the main entry point for heroin smuggled into the United States from Mexico by drug traffickers. The drugs are most commonly hidden in motor vehicles and are often transported by the human couriers known as "mules". In contrast, the primary source country for heroin abused in Canada continues to be Afghanistan, thought to account for approximately 78 per cent of heroin abused in the

country. Afghan heroin bound for Canada is typically smuggled by Indo-Canadian, Iranian and Pakistani criminal organizations, and is transited through India, Pakistan, Turkey and, increasingly, the Islamic Republic of Iran. The amount of heroin seized in the United States from 2005 to 2010 almost doubled, from approximately 1.3 tons in 2005 to 2.42 tons in 2010. Over the same period in Canada, seizures of heroin declined from 83 kg to no seizures reported. In Mexico, seizures have dropped from just under 459 kg in 2005 to 369 kg in 2010.

454. Prescription drug abuse in North America continues to be a major problem. The most common classes of prescription drugs abused are opioids, central nervous system depressants and stimulants. Law enforcement officials have indicated that street gangs involved in trafficking in illicit drugs are increasingly involved in trafficking in prescription medications. The diversion of prescription drugs in the region has been facilitated by the fact that the substances are legal as such and has been compounded by their widespread availability. According to the 2010 National Survey on Drug Use and Health, over 71 per cent of individuals over 12 years of age having consumed prescription drugs for non-medical purposes in the previous year got the drugs from a friend or family member. In contrast, only 4.4 per cent reported getting the drugs from a drug dealer and a mere 0.4 per cent ordering them on the Internet. Given the multiple legitimate uses for prescription drugs requiring their widespread availability, policymakers in North America have tried to focus on abuse prevention. In Canada, the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act already bans the selling or giving away of prescription opioid medications, as well as procuring the same medication from more than one doctor over a short period of time without the knowledge of the medical practitioners involved. In the United States, one of the cornerstones of the Prescription Drug Abuse Prevention Plan is the establishment of disposal programmes for prescription drugs that are no longer needed.

(b) Psychotropic substances

455. According to UNODC, North America accounted for 99 per cent of all methamphetamine laboratories dismantled worldwide in 2009. Seizures of methamphetamine in the region for the same year accounted for 44 per cent of the global total.

456. There was an increase of approximately 92 per cent in the number of seizures of methamphetamine laboratories in the United States between 2007 and 2009. Over the last decade, Mexico has also become an important manufacturer of methamphetamine, as

reflected by an increase in laboratories dismantled from 21 in 2008 to 191 in 2009.

457. Although the number of methamphetamine laboratories in the United States far exceeds that in Mexico, a Mexican laboratory typically produces far greater quantities of the drug than one in the United States.

458. In 2009, seizures of MDMA (“ecstasy”) in North America accounted for more than half of the global total. Canada remains a significant manufacturer of “ecstasy”, which, although primarily intended for domestic use, is increasingly being trafficked to the United States, as well as expanding markets such as Australia, Japan and New Zealand.

459. Canada remains a significant source for “ecstasy” trafficked into the United States, with a resurgence of the abuse of the substance in the United States being attributed by officials to its smuggling into the country from Canada. The resurgence of the smuggling of “ecstasy” from Canada into the United States has also been illustrated by the fact that seizures of “ecstasy” consignments en route from Canada to the United States doubled between 2007 and 2008. “Ecstasy” traffickers in Canada have also reportedly expanded to new markets in Asia, the Caribbean and Mexico.

460. The Board remains concerned about unusually high consumption levels of licitly manufactured amphetamine-type stimulants and methylphenidate in the United States. These substances are used for medical purposes for the treatment of attention deficit disorder and narcolepsy. As previously noted by the Board, the diversion and abuse of pharmaceutical preparations containing such substances are often linked to high consumption levels of those preparations. The Board requests Governments to ensure that the control measures set forth in the 1971 Convention are fully implemented. As the Board has stated on numerous occasions, the education of doctors and other health-care professionals on the rational use of psychoactive drugs is of paramount importance to the prevention of drug abuse, including of prescription drugs.

(c) Precursors

461. Owing to the more stringent controls placed on precursors of amphetamine-type stimulants by the Government of Mexico over the past few years, there is evidence to suggest that some of the illicit manufacturing of drugs using precursors has been displaced to countries in Central America. However, precursor chemicals have continued to be smuggled into the country for use in the illicit manufacture of drugs. Efforts to control the diversion of precursor chemicals have been complicated

by the fact that the chemicals in question have numerous legitimate uses.

462. In order to continue to manufacture MDMA (“ecstasy”), traffickers in Canada obtain the required precursor chemicals from sources in other countries, mostly China and India. Most of the precursor chemicals smuggled into Canada are also used in that country. However, Canada is also increasingly being used as a transit country for some precursor chemicals, which are smuggled into the United States for use in the illicit manufacture of methamphetamine. In 2010, ephedrine replaced 3,4-MDP-2-P as the precursor chemical most commonly seized at points of entry into Canada. Given the scope of “ecstasy” manufacture in Canada, border authorities have concluded that either large quantities of 3,4-MDP-2-P are entering the country undetected or alternative precursor chemicals are being used.

(d) Substances not under international control

463. In 2011, precursor traffickers continued their widespread use of substances that are not under international control but that have similar uses to substances that are currently under international control. Those substances include derivatives of phenylacetic acid, particularly esters. Hundreds of tons of those substances have been reported seized in North America through Operation PAAD.

464. In July 2011, the Mexican authorities reported a seizure of 60 tons of ethyl phenylacetate being transported in three containers having originated in China. Although the substance is not under international control, it is subject to national control measures and according to Mexican officials was intended to be used as a precursor chemical in the illicit manufacture of drugs.

465. In 2010, 12.7 tons of khat was seized at the Canadian border, with an estimated street value of 6.4 million Canadian dollars. Approximately 85 per cent of the substance was transited through the United Kingdom on its way to Canada, twice the proportion in 2009. In addition, Canadian border officials reported seizures of 1.8 tons of ketamine in 2010, the largest amount in six years. Of that amount, approximately 99 per cent originated in China and India.

466. Despite increased national regulatory and legislative action aimed at prohibiting the sale and distribution of designer cathinones and synthetic cannabinoids, many of those substances remain uncontrolled in parts of North America and continue to be widely available to abusers.

5. Abuse and treatment

467. The Board notes that the human, economic and social costs of widespread illicit drug use in North America are staggering. In the United States, drug-related deaths now outnumber deaths caused by firearms in the country as a whole, while drug-induced deaths have now surpassed motor vehicle accidents as the single leading category of injury-related death in 17 states and the District of Columbia.

468. As mentioned above, the estimated economic impact of illicit drug use on United States society, taking into account expenditure related to criminal justice and health care, as well as losses of economic competitiveness, military readiness, educational outcomes and productivity, exceeded \$193 billion in 2007. According to the National Drug Intelligence Center, this figure validates the approach taken in the United States Administration's National Drug Control Strategy, which is based on the reduction of supply through law enforcement activities; community-based prevention programmes; and the diversion of non-violent drug users to special treatment programmes.

469. As the United States is the largest cocaine market in the world, the decrease in demand there has had a tangible effect on global consumption, which has continued to decrease. However, 37 per cent of all cocaine abusers worldwide are still found in North America. While a steady decline in the use of cocaine has been noted in the region since 2006, the prevalence rate among the population aged 15-64 remains nearly five times the global average.

470. In addition to the threat posed by prescription drugs containing psychotropic substances, North America continues to be affected by widespread illicit synthetic drug manufacture and abuse. According to the most recent data reported in the *World Drug Report 2011*,²⁵ an estimated 3.5 million North Americans used amphetamine-type stimulants in the previous year, the third highest prevalence rate in the world.

471. In April 2011, the United States Department of Health and Human Services released its *Treatment Episode Data Set* regarding national admissions to substance abuse treatment services for the period 1999-2009.²⁶ The data reveal that 96 per cent of

the 1,963,089 admissions to treatment for substance abuse were attributable to the following five substance groups: alcohol (42 per cent), opiates (21 per cent), cannabis (18 per cent), cocaine (9 per cent) and methamphetamine/amphetamines (6 per cent). According to the data, only 8 per cent of admissions into treatment for opiate abuse in 1999 were related to substances other than heroin. By 2009, that figure had increased to 33 per cent. Also in the period 1999-2009, the proportion of admissions for cannabis abuse rose from 13 to 18 per cent. The average age of those admitted for cannabis abuse was 24 years, and 74 per cent of those admitted were male. The proportion of admissions for cocaine or "crack" abuse declined by 5 per cent, from 14 per cent in 1999 to 9 per cent in 2009. The average age of those admitted for cocaine or "crack" abuse was also significantly higher than those admitted for cannabis abuse (40 years of age for individuals who smoked cocaine; 36 years of age for all others). Admissions for the abuse of methamphetamine/amphetamines represented 4 per cent of total admissions in 1999, and, after reaching 9 per cent in 2005, declined to 6 per cent in 2009. Among adolescents (persons aged 12-17), 86 per cent of admissions related to cannabis as a primary or secondary substance of abuse. Nearly half (49 per cent) of all adolescents entering treatment were referred through the criminal justice system.

472. Recent data suggest that Canada's five-year National Anti-Drug Strategy, launched in 2007 with the aim of reducing the illicit supply of and demand for drugs, has begun to show results. Health Canada released the results of the Canadian Alcohol and Drug Monitoring Survey for 2010. According to the Survey's findings, substance abuse in Canada has decreased for most substances while remaining stable for psychoactive pharmaceuticals. The proportion of Canadians 15 years of age or older reported having used cannabis in their lifetime decreased from 42.4 per cent in 2009 to 41.5 in 2010. Although the percentage of respondents acknowledging cannabis abuse in the past year increased slightly, from 10.6 per cent in 2009 to 10.7 per cent in 2010, the latter figure represents a 3.4 per cent decrease from 2004 figures. Moreover, past-year cannabis abuse by youth (persons 15-24 years of age) saw a significant decrease of just under 12 per cent, from 37.0 per cent in 2004 to 25.1 per cent in 2010. Among the same age group, use of cocaine or "crack", "speed", hallucinogens, "ecstasy" and heroin also dropped significantly, from 11.3 per cent in 2004 to 7.0 per cent in 2010. Despite these positive developments, the rate of drug abuse by persons in the age group 15-24 remains significantly higher than the rates reported for adults aged 25 years or older, including three times as high for cannabis (25.1 per cent, compared with 7.9 per cent) and

²⁵ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.11.XI.10.

²⁶ United States of America, Department of Health and Human Services, *Treatment Episode Data Set (TEDS): 1999-2009 — National Admissions to Substance Abuse Treatment Services* (Rockville, Maryland, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, 2011).

nine times as high for all other drugs (7.9 per cent, compared with 0.8 per cent).

473. The Board notes the growing evidence to suggest that already high and rising prevalence rates of cannabis abuse among youth are in large part attributable to decreases in the perception of risks associated with cannabis abuse. According to survey data from the United States, among students in their final year of secondary school (ages 17-18), the perception that regular cannabis use is harmful decreased from 52.4 per cent in 2009 to 46.8 per cent in 2010. Among those aged 12-17, only 30 per cent perceived a “great risk” in smoking cannabis once a month, while 24.1 per cent of respondents in the same age group reported not being exposed to drug abuse prevention messages other than those in schools. According to the United States Department of Health and Human Services, that perception may be influenced by the debate surrounding the use of cannabis for purportedly medical purposes.

474. Police-reported crime statistics in Canada for 2010 indicate that although the country’s overall crime rate declined by 5 per cent from that of 2009, drug-related crime in the same period increased by approximately 10 per cent, owing primarily to a greater number of cannabis offences. Of the 108,600 police-reported drug offences committed in Canada in 2010, 52 per cent were related to cannabis possession, representing a 13 per cent increase over 2009. In contrast, police observed a decrease of approximately 10 per cent in drug-impaired driving cases, as well as a 5 per cent decrease in cocaine offences.

475. Approximately 25 tons of pure heroin was consumed by abusers in the Americas in 2009. Of that amount, 22 tons, representing 88 per cent of the total, is estimated to have been abused in North America. Heroin consumption in the United States alone was pegged at 21 tons, making the United States the third top consumer of heroin. In Canada, 1.3 tons of heroin was reportedly consumed.

476. The amount of opium abused in Mexico was relatively small, at 100-150 kg. While the number of heroin abusers in the Americas as a whole is estimated by UNODC to be 1.67 million, the vast majority of them are found in North America, including 1.2 million in the United States, 114,000 in Canada and 50,000-60,000 in Mexico.

477. Data from the United States relative to the abuse of oxycodone reveal that there were just under 600,000 new non-medical users of the drug aged 12 years or older in 2010, with an average age of first use of 22.8 years, in line with 2009 figures.

478. In May 2011, the Arrestee Drug Abuse Monitoring Program (ADAM II) released its 2010 annual report. The programme, sponsored by the United States Office of National Drug Control Policy, is a drug-related survey aimed at collecting information on individuals who have recently been arrested, a group often not adequately represented in other surveys but whose importance for drug control policymakers is great. The survey reveals that 50 per cent of federal and state inmates had used drugs within the one-month period prior to committing the offence for which they were arrested and that nearly one third of state prisoners and one quarter of federal prisoners had taken drugs at the time of the offence. The report also highlights important differences between respondents to ADAM II and members of the population at large having participated in the National Survey on Drug Use and Health. Among those differences is the fact that recent arrestees participating in ADAM II were much more likely to be unemployed, to be living in transient housing, to be more involved with crime and to have had more exposure to illegal drugs.

South America

1. Major developments

479. In 2010, the total area under illicit coca bush cultivation in South America was 154,200 ha, 9,600 ha or 6 per cent less than in 2009 (163,800 ha). The area under illicit cultivation in Colombia decreased by 11,000 ha from 2009, to 62,000 ha (a decrease of 15 per cent). In Peru, the area under illicit coca bush cultivation increased by 1,300 ha to 61,200 (an increase of 2 per cent). There was no significant change in coca bush cultivation in the Plurinational State of Bolivia: in 2010, the area under illicit coca bush cultivation in the country was 31,000 ha, accounting for 20 per cent of illicit coca bush cultivation in South America.

480. INTERPOL and UNODC estimate the global illicit cocaine market to be worth more than \$80 billion. In the past decade, there has been a significant change in the size of the main illicit markets for cocaine. In 1998, the value of the illicit market for cocaine in the United States was four times that of Europe’s. Since then, the size of the illicit cocaine market in North America as a whole has declined, while illicit demand for cocaine in Europe has increased; as a result, the difference in the values of those two cocaine markets has narrowed.

481. In recent years, the main cocaine-manufacturing countries, in particular the Plurinational State of Bolivia, have reported increasing seizures of cannabis. In 2010, total seizures of cannabis herb/plant in that country

amounted to about 1,100 tons. In the past few years, increased seizures of cannabis herb were reported by Colombia and Peru. The Board calls upon the Governments of those countries to determine, to the extent possible and in cooperation with UNODC, the magnitude of and current trends in the illicit cultivation of cannabis plant in their territories and to further strengthen their efforts to combat such cultivation.

482. Trafficking organizations operating in South America have continued to use self-propelled submersible and semi-submersible vessels to minimize the risk of detection of the smuggling of cocaine from the region. The Board noted with satisfaction that in 2011 the CICAD Group of Experts on Maritime Narcotrafficking drafted model legislation on self-propelled submersible and semi-submersible vessels in order to assist the Governments of the countries in the region to address the problem.

483. The Plurinational State of Bolivia made a proposal to amend article 49 of the 1961 Convention as amended by the 1972 Protocol, concerning the abolishment of coca leaf chewing. Following the rejection of its proposal by the parties to the Convention, the Bolivian Government in June 2011 deposited with the Secretary-General an instrument of denunciation of the Convention, to which it had acceded in 1976. The denunciation will come into force in January 2012. The Bolivian Government has announced its intention to accede again to the Convention, with a reservation. The Board's concern about this development is heightened by reports that in 2010 coca leaf prices increased by 22 per cent in authorized markets and by 37 per cent in illicit markets in the country (see paras. 270-280 above).

484. The Board welcomes the adoption by CICAD of the Hemispheric Plan of Action on Drugs, 2011-2015, at its forty-ninth regular session, held in Paramaribo, Suriname, in May 2011. The Plan of Action is aimed at supporting implementation of the Hemispheric Drug Strategy adopted by CICAD in 2010. In the area of demand reduction, the Plan of Action, inter alia, proposes the strengthening of the relationship between national authorities, academic institutions, research and specialized non-governmental organizations in order to generate evidence regarding demand for drugs. Developing effective and sustainable measures to reduce illicit drug crop cultivation and promoting alternative development and environmental protection programmes were among the objectives of the Plan of Action in the area of reducing drug supply.

2. Regional cooperation

485. In 2010, CICAD, UNODC and the subregional system for information and research on drugs, comprising Argentina, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Uruguay, jointly published a comparative study on the relationship between drugs and crime among adolescent law offenders. The study presented, for the first time in the region, an assessment of the problem of drug use in relation with criminal offences committed by the adolescent population in Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Chile, Colombia, Peru and Uruguay. The study underlined the lifetime prevalence of drug use among juvenile law offenders, which is significantly higher than the lifetime prevalence of drug use among youth in general. The highest lifetime prevalence of cannabis use among juvenile law offenders (80 per cent) was reported in Chile and Peru.

486. Guyana and Suriname participated in the comparative study of drug use among secondary school students in the Caribbean countries. According to the results of the study, published in 2010, of all the countries surveyed, Guyana reported the highest past-year prevalence rates for the use of MDMA ("ecstasy"), cocaine and "crack".

487. CICAD and EMCDDA released *Building a National Drugs Observatory: a Joint Handbook* in October 2010. The handbook, based on the experience of the two bodies in their respective geographical areas, provides a practical guide relevant for all regions and adaptable to a wide range of national and institutional settings.

488. In addition, CICAD and EMCDDA signed a workplan for cooperation covering the period 2011-2013 whose objectives include strengthening regional and international monitoring systems; harmonizing and developing indicators in the areas of drug supply and demand; and supporting the establishment of national drug monitoring centres and drug information networks.

489. In 2011, CICAD released a hemispheric report that evaluates progress in drug control in the Americas in the period 2007-2009. According to the report, almost all countries in the Americas conducted surveys to determine the prevalence of drug use in at least one specific population, including the student population. In particular, the country surveys warn of a low age of initiation in drug use, as well as a low degree of perception among young people of the risk of drug use, in particular recreational use of cannabis herb and cocaine. In addition, the CICAD secretariat compiled drug laws and regulations from 34 countries in the Americas and made that compilation available on the CICAD website.

490. A technical coordination meeting, organized by CICAD and UNODC, was held in Santiago in March 2011. Argentina, Chile and Uruguay were among those represented at the meeting. Participants in the meeting reviewed the situation with respect to trafficking in and abuse of amphetamine-type stimulants, available data on the phenomenon and strategies to enhance existing structures for sharing pertinent information. While the problem of illicit manufacture of, trafficking in and abuse of amphetamine-type stimulants had not yet reached large proportions in those countries, participants in the meeting agreed that it was necessary to closely monitor the situation. The Board supports the efforts of UNODC and CICAD to assist Governments in their efforts to generate, manage, analyse and report data on the illicit manufacture of, trafficking in and abuse of amphetamine-type stimulants. The Governments of the countries in South America are encouraged to commit adequate resources to support their capacity to identify synthetic drugs, including psychoactive substances that are not currently internationally controlled.

491. In December 2010, the European Commission approved the Cooperation Programme on Drug Policies between Latin America and the European Union (COPOLAD). The 42-month programme supports a number of complementary activities, including training in the areas of farming and integrated rural development; prevention and investigation of the diversion of precursors; drug abuse prevention; and treatment of drug abusers. At the coordination meeting held in Buenos Aires in May 2011, Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Peru and Uruguay adopted a work agenda for 2011 aimed at the development of the Programme's component on strengthening national drug observatories.

492. In the period 2010-2011, UNODC, through its project on prevention of the diversion of drug precursors in Latin America and the Caribbean, promoted cooperation between the private sector and competent national authorities and supported the implementation of a training programme on investigation and cross-border cooperation among the law enforcement authorities of the countries in the region, including Argentina, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of).

493. At the Twentieth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Lima from 4 to 7 October 2010, participants reported on the latest drug trafficking trends and distribution networks and links between drug trafficking and other forms of organized crime. In the area of combating drug trafficking and corruption, the Meeting, *inter alia*, recommended that Governments in

the region put forward initiatives to promote and develop transparent electoral competition with a view to preventing drug trafficking from interfering in politics. The Meeting's working group on trafficking in synthetic drugs and control of precursors recommended that Governments should take steps to evaluate existing legislation and procedures for managing the import, export and sale of pharmaceutical preparations containing ephedrine and pseudoephedrine in countries where such controls were not already in place.

494. In 2011, the Governments of Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) participated in Operation PAAD, focusing on monitoring trade in precursors of amphetamine-type stimulants, including phenylacetic acid and its derivatives.

3. National legislation, policy and action

495. Pursuant to its national comprehensive plan to combat abuse of "crack" and other drugs, the Government of Brazil in 2011 initiated the deployment of regional reference centres that will promote the training and certification of professionals engaged in networks for comprehensive health care and social assistance, working with users of both "crack" and other drugs and with their families.

496. The National Strategy on Drugs and Alcohol, 2011-2014, launched by the Government of Chile, seeks both to reduce illicit drug use in the country and to mitigate the social and health consequences of drug abuse. In particular, the strategy's goals include the reduction by 15 per cent of the annual prevalence rate for cannabis use among the school-age population and the reduction by 10 per cent of the annual prevalence of cocaine use among the school-age population.

497. In August 2010, the Government of Chile launched the National Security Plan 2010-2014 ("Safe Chile"). In the period 2010-2011 in the framework of the National Security Plan, the Government sponsored several initiatives to counter drug trafficking, including the development of a new national strategy addressing drug trafficking. The drug control strategy, among other things, is aimed at substantially reducing the availability of drugs in Chile by effectively hampering their entry into the country and dismantling drug trafficking organizations.

498. In 2010, an amended law on the prevention, detection and eradication of money-laundering and the financing of crime entered into force in Ecuador. In addition, a national plan for drug abuse prevention for the period 2011-2015 has been drafted and is before the Government of Ecuador for its approval.

499. In May 2011, the Government of Paraguay and UNODC presented a national integrated plan for 2011-2014 aimed at increasing the responsiveness, effectiveness and efficiency of the country in facing the challenges posed by organized crime and drug trafficking. The goals of the plan include reducing illicit cannabis cultivation and strengthening border controls.

500. In December 2010, the National Commission for Development and Life without Drugs (DEVIDA) of Peru published a study on the social and economic impact of the abuse of psychoactive substances in Peru. The study estimated the cost of the illicit use of drugs (excluding alcohol and tobacco) in Peru to be \$192 million per year. The cost attributable to licit and illicit drug use includes lost labour costs and lost productivity, direct governmental costs and health-care costs. In 2011, the Government of Peru approved the national plan against money-laundering and the financing of terrorism in order to further strengthen, in cooperation with the private sector, the prevention and investigation of money-laundering and related crime.

501. The stated objectives of the drug abuse prevention programme entitled "For Sports" launched by the Government of Uruguay in April 2011 are to encourage teenagers and young athletes to develop their athletic ability and realize their psychological potential, thus reducing the risk factors liable to lead to drug abuse. The programme will be sponsored by competent national authorities, in cooperation with a non-governmental organization and UNODC, and will be implemented by national sport associations.

502. In 2011, the National Drug Board of Uruguay approved the national drug control strategy for the period 2011-2015. The strategy, among other things, proposes to promote international debate on current drug control policies.

503. In 2010, the Government of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela promulgated the Organic Law on Drugs. The law, among other things, recognizes drug abuse as a medical condition requiring treatment and includes treatment and social integration measures within the ambit of the applicable penal procedure.

4. Cultivation, production, manufacture and trafficking

(a) Narcotic drugs

504. Due to the lack of relevant data, the area of illicit cannabis cultivation in South America could not be accurately assessed. Indirect indicators, including eradication reports, seizures and drug abuse reports, have

been used to determine approximately the magnitude of the cannabis problem in the region. In 2009, seizures in South America accounted for 10 per cent of global seizures of cannabis herb. Most cannabis illicitly produced in the region seems to be destined for domestic markets of the producing countries, while a portion of the cannabis is trafficked within other countries of the region.

505. Paraguay is considered to be the largest cannabis producer in South America, accounting for over half of the assessed total production of cannabis in the region. In 2010, Paraguayan authorities eradicated more than 1,000 ha of illicitly cultivated cannabis plants and seized almost 130 tons of cannabis herb, 45 tons more than in 2009.

506. About 20 per cent of the cannabis abused in Brazil is of domestic origin. According to UNODC, the remaining 80 per cent of the cannabis abused in Brazil enters the country from Paraguay. In 2010, Brazilian authorities destroyed 2.8 million cannabis plants, including seedlings, and seized a further 155 tons of cannabis herb.

507. In the period 2004-2006, Colombian authorities seized an average of 130 tons of cannabis herb per year; in the period 2007-2009, that figure rose to about 215 tons per year. In 2010, such seizures of cannabis herb further increased, amounting to 262.5 tons, 53.5 tons more than in 2009. According to the National Narcotics Directorate (DNE) of Colombia, the level of tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) in cannabis seized in the department of Cauca ranged from 8 to 20 per cent.

508. The area under illicit cannabis cultivation in Peru is not known. However, seizures of cannabis plants increased gradually in the country, from 20 tons in 2005 to 137.5 tons in 2009. In 2010, that figure dropped to 9 tons, the lowest amount of cannabis plant seized in the country in a decade. Seizures of cannabis plant increased in 2011, totalling 133 tons from January to mid-August. Contrary to the situation with cannabis plant, seizures of cannabis herb almost doubled in Peru, from 2.1 tons in 2009 to 3.9 tons in 2010.

509. In the Plurinational State of Bolivia, seizures of cannabis plant and cannabis herb rose gradually, from 125 tons in 2006 to 1,900 tons in 2009. In 2010, seizures amounted to about 1,100 tons.

510. In 2010, seizures of cannabis herb declined in Ecuador (to 2.5 tons) and Uruguay (to 0.4 tons).

511. Although more research is needed to improve comparability of data for all components of cocaine manufacture, analysis of data published by UNODC

indicates a gradual decrease in the total area under illicit coca bush cultivation in the past 25 years, from a peak of 288,400 ha reported in 1990 to an estimated 154,200 ha in 2010. To increase the accuracy and comparability of the data published in its reports, UNODC, in cooperation with Governments, is reviewing coca leaf to cocaine conversion ratios.

512. In 2010, the use of higher-resolution imagery enabled the Colombian authorities, for the first time, to include in their calculation of the area of illicit coca bush cultivation fields smaller than 0.25 ha. According to UNODC, the area under illicit coca bush cultivation (adjusted to include small fields) decreased in Colombia, from 73,000 ha in 2009 to 62,000 ha in 2010 (a decrease of 15 per cent). Illicit coca bush cultivation decreased in all major growing areas of the country. In 2010, 43,792 ha of illicitly cultivated coca bush were manually eradicated in the country (a decrease of 27 per cent), and an additional 101,939 ha were subject to aerial spraying.

513. In Peru, the area under illicit coca bush cultivation in 2010 was approximately the same as in Colombia: the area under illicit coca bush cultivation in Peru increased for the fifth year in a row, from 48,200 ha in 2005 to 61,200 ha in 2010 (about 1,300 ha, 2 per cent more than in 2009). According to DEVIDA, the increased illicit cultivation of coca bush in Peru in recent years can be attributed to increased global demand for cocaine and the intensive eradication of coca bush in neighbouring countries, which has caused the displacement of coca bush cultivation to Peru.

514. From 2006 to 2009, the area of eradicated illicit coca bush in Peru ranged from 10,025 ha to 11,056 ha per year, and thus exceeded the minimum eradication goal (10,000 ha per year). In 2010, 12,033 ha of illicit coca bush were eradicated in the country. According to the Government of Peru, the portion of the national budget allocated to addressing the drug problem increased sharply, from \$7.4 million in 2008 to \$69 million in 2010. The Government increased the 2011 budget for the fight against illicit drugs to almost \$100 million. However, the Government is concerned that, due to limited financial support from the international community, the national resources allocated for activities to counter illicit drugs may not be sufficient to contain the displacement of illicit coca bush cultivation to Peru.

515. In the Plurinational State of Bolivia, illicit coca bush cultivation gradually increased in the period 2005-2009, from 25,400 to 30,900 ha. In 2010, the area under illicit coca bush cultivation in the country remained stable, at 31,000 ha. The small decrease of 2 per cent in the region of Yungas (accountable for 66 per cent of the illicit coca

bush cultivation in the country) was offset by an increase of 4 per cent in the Chapare region. Bolivian Law No. 1008 of 19 July 1988 sets 5,000 ha as the minimum area of illicitly cultivated coca bush to be eradicated per year. From 2006 to 2009, the area of eradicated illicitly cultivated coca bush in the Plurinational State of Bolivia ranged from 5,070 to 6,340 ha per year. In 2010, the total area of eradicated coca bush increased to 8,200 ha.

516. The Board reiterates its call for the international community to enhance its assistance, including expertise and financial resources, provided to countries in South America in order to overcome the problem of illicit drug crop cultivation and the illicit manufacture of cocaine. The Board urges the Governments of Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Colombia and Peru to step up the measures to reduce the total area under illicit coca bush cultivation and to counter illicit cocaine manufacture and trafficking, in cooperation with the Governments of other countries and international organizations, including United Nations entities.

517. Global seizures of cocaine were stable in the period 2006-2009, ranging between 690 and 732 tons per year (amounts unadjusted for purity). Since 2006, the location of cocaine seizures has shifted from the consumer markets in North America and Europe to the source areas in South America. South America accounted for a total of 317 tons of seized cocaine in 2006 (44 per cent of the world total for that year) and 442 tons in 2009 (60 per cent of the world total). Some secondary distribution countries in South America seem to have increased in importance as transit countries for cocaine shipments. The smuggling of cocaine through West Africa continues to be significant, although the amount of cocaine seized in that subregion each year has decreased since 2007.

518. Countries in North America, notably the United States, Europe and South America are the largest illicit markets for cocaine. Cocaine manufactured in Colombia is mainly shipped to illicit markets overseas. Cocaine manufactured in Bolivia (Plurinational State of) and Peru, in addition to being used to supplying the illicit markets in Europe, is widely used within South America, notably in the countries of the Southern Cone. The illicit market for cocaine in the United States has declined significantly in recent years. Nevertheless, with an estimated annual consumption of 150-160 tons of cocaine, it continued to be the largest illicit market for cocaine in 2009. Authorities of the United States estimate that some 90 per cent of the cocaine used in North America originates in Colombia. The amount of cocaine used in Europe has doubled over the past decade, even though data for the past few years show that there are signs of use levelling off at the recent, higher levels

(estimated at about 120 tons). The origin of the cocaine used in Europe seems to be more evenly distributed among the main cocaine-manufacturing countries; Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Colombia and Peru.

519. In 2010, seizures of cocaine (base and salts) decreased in several countries in the region, including Argentina, Colombia, Ecuador, Uruguay and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), compared with the previous year. The total amount of seized cocaine decreased from 253 to 211 tons in Colombia and from 65.1 to 15.5 tons in Ecuador. From 2009 to 2010, the total amount of seized cocaine (base and salts) in Peru increased by almost 50 per cent, from 20.7 to 30.8 tons. In 2010, an increase in the amount of cocaine seized was also reported by Bolivia (Plurinational State of) (29.1 tons), Brazil (27.1 tons), Chile (9.9 tons) and Paraguay (1.4 tons).

520. Although the total amount of cocaine seized in Colombia declined to 211 tons in 2010, that was the largest amount for any country in South America. About 40 per cent of all the seizures of cocaine hydrochloride recorded in Colombia were made in territorial or international waters, mostly in the Pacific Ocean. According to estimates by UNODC, each year between 30 and 40 tons of cocaine, from Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Colombia and Peru pass through Paraguay.

521. According to the Venezuelan authorities, the amount of cocaine seized in their country gradually decreased from a peak of 58.4 tons in 2005 to 24.8 tons in 2010. The decline in seizures can be partly attributed to a substantial decrease in the potential manufacture of cocaine in neighbouring Colombia in the same period. In 2011, the Venezuelan National Anti-Drug Office (ONA) stated that it expected cocaine trafficking through the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to decrease. The Board wishes to encourage the Government to continue its efforts to combat drug trafficking at the national and regional levels.

522. In countries in South America, in particular Colombia, traffickers have continued using self-propelled submersible and semi-submersible vessels of unorthodox construction to minimize the risk of being detected while smuggling cocaine from the region. Vessels seized by the authorities are capable of transporting as much as 12 tons of contraband more than 2,000 kilometres. The vessels were designed to enable the crew, upon detection, to easily destroy the contraband, usually by scuttling the vessels or sinking the contraband, thereby making it more difficult to prosecute the smugglers owing to the lack of evidence. In February 2011, the Colombian navy seized such a submersible before it could be loaded. Advanced technology, including a modern navigation system, would

enable the submersible, which was made of fibreglass and reinforced with carbon fibre, to navigate completely submerged under the sea surface and thus make it virtually undetectable. Attempts to use submersible and semi-submersible vessels for drug trafficking continued throughout 2011, as corroborated by the seizure of two submersibles and one semi-submersible in Colombia in September and October 2011.

523. In 2009, 319 laboratories illicitly manufacturing cocaine hydrochloride were dismantled in Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Colombia and Peru. Clandestine cocaine laboratories were also reported in other countries in South America, including Argentina (36 laboratories), Ecuador (10 laboratories) and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) (26 laboratories).

524. Maceration pits and coca paste and coca base laboratories continued to be detected in all three of the main countries used for illicit coca production; however, cocaine hydrochloride laboratories were found mainly in Colombia. Of a total of 2,651 illicit drug and precursor laboratories dismantled in Colombia in 2010, 2,369 laboratories had been processing coca paste or coca base and a further 254 had been manufacturing cocaine hydrochloride. Many of the cocaine hydrochloride laboratories were found near areas used for producing coca leaf.

525. In Peru, the number of dismantled laboratories for processing coca paste increased from about 650 in 2007 to about 1,200 in 2009. In 2010, that number rose even further, to 1,300.

526. In the Plurinational State of Bolivia, the number of destroyed maceration pits and laboratories for processing coca paste and manufacturing cocaine hydrochloride increased from 2009 to 2010. There are indications that the efficiency of clandestine laboratories manufacturing cocaine in that country has increased in recent years. However, further research is needed to determine the ratios for the conversion of coca leaf to cocaine in order to better assess the current efficiency of those laboratories not only in the Plurinational State of Bolivia but also in Colombia and Peru.

527. In 2010, five illicit laboratories processing coca paste originating in Colombia and Peru were dismantled in Ecuador. That development and the seizure of semi-submersible vessels close to the coast of the country in recent years indicate a further integration of the country into the regional drug trafficking networks.

528. Illicit opium poppy cultivation continues to take place in South America on a small scale. According to the Government of Colombia, such cultivation decreased

gradually in that country, from 6,500 ha in 2000 to 341 ha in 2010. The area of illicitly cultivated opium poppy in 2010 (341 ha) could yield a maximum of 1 ton of heroin, which is less than the estimated amount of the drug used in the region in one year (2 tons). Illicit opium poppy cultivation was also reported to be taking place on a small scale in Ecuador and Peru.

529. In South America, seizures of both opium and heroin declined from 2005 to 2009. Laboratory analysis of heroin seized in Colombia in 2009 indicates that a portion of the 735 kg seized that year came from the stocks accumulated in past years in the country. In 2010, seizures of heroin were reported by Argentina (6 kg), Colombia (337 kg) and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) (53 kg). In Ecuador, a total of 853 kg of heroin was seized — the largest total amount of seized heroin reported in the region in 2010. According to the Ecuadorian authorities, about 50 per cent of the heroin seized in the country had been destined for the United States and a further 20 per cent had been destined for Spain.

(b) Psychotropic substances

530. In South America, the drug problem is mostly associated with the illicit manufacture of plant-based drugs, in particular cocaine. However, in recent years, authorities of countries in South America have detected attempts by traffickers to illicitly manufacture amphetamine-type stimulants, including MDMA (“ecstasy”) and methamphetamine, in the region. The most recent seizure of a laboratory illicitly manufacturing “ecstasy” in the region was reported in Argentina in 2010. In 2008, the World Customs Organization reported that South America was not only the destination of amphetamine-type stimulants smuggled from other regions but also the source of amphetamine-type stimulants seized in Europe. Although currently there is insufficient information to confirm that the illicit manufacture of amphetamine-type stimulants in the region has continued, seizures of methamphetamine, purportedly smuggled out of South America, via Europe, for a destination in East Asia in 2010, indicate that the threat of the illicit manufacture of and trafficking in amphetamine-type stimulants in South America cannot be underestimated.

531. The Board continues to be concerned over the unusually high levels of consumption of licitly manufactured stimulants (anorectics) and benzodiazepines in some countries in South America, particularly Argentina (stimulants and benzodiazepines) and Uruguay (benzodiazepines). There are indications that pharmaceutical preparations containing such

substances not only are abused in those countries but are also smuggled into neighbouring countries. The Board requests the Governments concerned to remain vigilant, ensure the implementation of the prescription requirement, educate doctors about the rational use of controlled drugs and use prescription monitoring programmes to identify unethical behaviour by doctors or patients.

(c) Precursors

532. Potassium permanganate remains the key oxidizing agent used in the manufacture of cocaine hydrochloride. However, the extent of its illicit use and the methods of its diversion in South America seem to have changed in the past few years.

533. Several indirect indicators suggest that the amount of potassium permanganate destined for use in the illicit manufacture of cocaine might have declined in the main cocaine-manufacturing countries, owing in particular to decreased coca bush cultivation in South America, the apparent emergence of cocaine laboratories in other countries in the region and recent changes in the methods used for processing coca leaf into cocaine. The suspected decline in traffickers’ demand for potassium permanganate can partly be corroborated by the detection in Peru of the use of a modified process for the illicit manufacture of cocaine, which, according to the competent national authorities, leaves out the oxidation phase, in which potassium permanganate is required.

534. In the past five years, no diversion of potassium permanganate from international trade involving a country in South America has been reported to the Board. In Colombia, most of the potassium permanganate used by traffickers is illicitly manufactured.

535. In the period 2004-2007, an average of 13 laboratories illicitly manufacturing potassium permanganate were dismantled in Colombia each year, and 100-170 tons of potassium permanganate were seized. In the period 2008-2010, the number of dismantled potassium permanganate laboratories in Colombia declined, ranging from two to four each year. In that period, Colombia seized an average of 30.3 tons of potassium permanganate per year, while Peru seized 0.9 tons and Ecuador seized 0.6 tons.

536. The diversion of ephedrine and pseudoephedrine, in the form of raw material as well as pharmaceutical preparations, continues to present a risk in the Americas. Since 2009, seizures of ephedrine or pseudoephedrine have been reported by Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of). Pursuant to the

CICAD Hemispheric Plan of Action on Drugs, 2011-2015, countries in the Americas committed themselves to adopt measures to prevent the diversion of pharmaceutical preparations used in the illicit manufacture of amphetamine-type stimulants.

5. Abuse and treatment

537. Cannabis has remained the primary drug of abuse throughout South America. The annual prevalence of cannabis abuse among the population aged 15-64 years was in the range of 2.9-3.0 per cent in 2009, corresponding to between 7.4 million and 7.6 million cannabis abusers. The prevalence of cannabis abuse in South America, as in other regions, tends to be higher among youth than among the general population. According to a national survey on drug abuse among secondary school students published in Uruguay in October 2010, of students who had abused cannabis, about 40 per cent had abused the substance before the age of 15 years. The survey also found that about 40 per cent of those students who had experimented with cannabis use at least once in their life had continued abusing the substance.

538. The prevalence of cocaine abuse in South America is higher than the global average. The latest data indicate that following years of increases, the abuse of cocaine in the region has started to stabilize, although at a higher level. In 2009, UNODC estimated the annual prevalence of cocaine abuse among the general population worldwide aged 15-64 years to be between 0.3 and 0.5 per cent. In South America, the annual prevalence of cocaine abuse was in the range of 0.9-1.0 per cent, corresponding to about 2.4 million cocaine abusers. According to UNODC, the highest rates of annual prevalence of cocaine abuse in South America were reported by Argentina (2.6 per cent in 2006), Chile (2.4 per cent in 2008) and Uruguay (1.4 per cent in 2006).

539. According to the ninth national survey on drug abuse among the general population (persons 12-64 years old) in Chile published in June 2011, the past-year prevalence of abuse for most drugs, including cannabis and cocaine, decreased from 2008 to 2010. The past-year prevalence of cocaine abuse (including abuse of cocaine paste) declined from 2.2 to 0.9 per cent.

540. Despite the indications that its abuse is stabilizing, cocaine continues to be the primary drug of abuse among persons treated for drug problems and ranks as the substance most frequently cited as cause of drug-induced or related death in South America.

541. The annual prevalence of opioid abuse (mainly non-medical use of prescription opioids) in South America is

estimated to be between 0.3 and 0.4 per cent of the adult population, corresponding to 850,000-940,000 people aged 15-64. The Plurinational State of Bolivia (0.6 per cent), Brazil (0.5 per cent) and Chile (0.5 per cent), continue to have high rates of opioid abuse. In South America, codeine-based preparations are among the most commonly abused opioids. Demand for treatment for opioid abuse in the entire region has remained stable over the past few years. In 2009, 9.6 per cent of treatment cases were related to opioid abuse.

C. Asia

East and South-East Asia

1. Major developments

542. Illicit opium poppy cultivation and opium production continued to increase in East and South-East Asia in 2010. In Myanmar, the world's second largest opium producer, illicit opium poppy cultivation had increased for four consecutive years since 2007. Illicit opium production increased from 330 tons in 2009 to 580 tons in 2010, representing 16 per cent of global opium production in 2010. The Lao People's Democratic Republic also reported a significant increase in illicit opium poppy cultivation in 2010. The lucrative profits associated with such cultivation were the main driving force behind the increased opium poppy cultivation. Moreover, according to UNODC, in Myanmar the erosion of food security in rural areas might trigger a further increase in such cultivation. The Board urges the Governments of the Lao People's Democratic Republic and Myanmar to take the necessary action to reduce illicit opium poppy cultivation. The Board also calls upon the international community to provide assistance to those two countries in order to effectively address that challenge.

543. Seizures of methamphetamine in East and South-East Asia continued to increase in 2010. Large-scale illicit trafficking in methamphetamine was reported, particularly in the area encompassing China, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Myanmar and Thailand. In China, methamphetamine seizures increased by 50 per cent from 2009 to 2010; approximately 45 per cent of the total seizures in the country were effected in Yunnan Province, bordering Myanmar, which suggests that methamphetamine is being smuggled out of Myanmar. In the Lao People's Democratic Republic, methamphetamine seizures reached a record 24.5 million tablets in 2010, most of which originated in Myanmar and was smuggled into Thailand through that country's border with the Lao