

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

People's Democratic Republic. In Thailand, a record number of 50 million methamphetamine tablets were seized in 2010, an increase of 88 per cent over 2009. Most of the methamphetamine had been smuggled out of neighbouring countries, entering Thailand through the country's northern and north-eastern borders.

544. There is serious concern over the increased level of drug trafficking through East and South-East Asia by West African and Iranian organized criminal groups. China (including Hong Kong), Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, the Philippines, the Republic of Korea, Singapore and Thailand reported trafficking in heroin, cocaine and methamphetamine by traffickers with connections to organized drug trafficking groups from West Africa and the Islamic Republic of Iran. Those criminal groups established trafficking networks in South-East Asia and usually used drug couriers from Ghana, Nepal, Nigeria, Pakistan, the Philippines and Thailand.

545. Trafficking in and increasing abuse of ketamine, a substance not under international control, is a prominent problem in East and South-East Asia. Ninety-nine per cent of all ketamine seizures worldwide in 2009 took place in Asia. In 2010, China reported ketamine seizures totalling nearly 5 tons. Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand and Viet Nam also reported seizures of ketamine. Ketamine is illicitly manufactured in China, although India is also an important source of ketamine seized in the region. The growing abuse of ketamine is of particular concern in Hong Kong, China, where ketamine is the second most widely abused drug following heroin. The growing popularity of ketamine in the region may be partly attributed to its low price compared with MDMA ("ecstasy") and its wide availability due to the fact that few States have placed it under national control.

546. Indonesia is facing an emerging challenge posed by the illicit manufacture and abuse of MDMA ("ecstasy"). According to a recent survey, "ecstasy" is the third most commonly abused drug in the country. Seizures of "ecstasy" tablets increased by 38 per cent from 2009 to 2010. Fifteen clandestine "ecstasy" laboratories were dismantled in 2010. It appears that 90 per cent of the "ecstasy" seized in the country was supplied by domestic illicit manufacture. The scale of illicit manufacture of "ecstasy" in Indonesia raises concern that the country may become a main source of that drug in the region.

## 2. Regional cooperation

547. In May 2011, the ministerial meeting of the Signatory Countries of the 1993 Memorandum of Understanding on Drug Control was held in Vientiane.

At the meeting, representatives of Cambodia, China, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Myanmar, Thailand and Viet Nam reviewed the latest trends in drug trafficking and abuse in the region and endorsed the Subregional Action Plan on Drug Control (revision VIII) for the period 2011-2013, which provides a strategic outline for the collaborative efforts of the six signatory countries and UNODC in addressing the challenges posed by illicit drugs.

548. The twenty-first Anti-Drug Liaison Officials' Meeting for International Cooperation was held in Jeju Province, Republic of Korea, in May 2011. The meeting was attended by drug control officials from 21 countries in East and South-East Asia, Europe and North America, as well as experts from the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), the Colombo Plan for Cooperative Economic and Social Development in Asia and the Pacific, the Board, UNODC and the World Customs Organization. The annual meeting provided participants with an important forum in which to share the latest developments and trends in trafficking in illicit drugs and precursors and to examine ways to strengthen intelligence-sharing and regional and international cooperation in drug control.

549. ASEAN continued to promote cooperation pertaining to drug control in the region. At the eleventh meeting of ASEAN Senior Officials on Transnational Crime, held in Singapore in July 2011, combating drug trafficking, in particular trafficking in methamphetamine, was highlighted as a priority of ASEAN in the near future. Participants in the meeting also called for strengthening cooperation between ASEAN and INTERPOL. In addition, ASEAN and India and Pakistan are holding ongoing consultations on how to effectively combat trafficking in opiates and precursors.

550. Countries in East and South-East Asia continue to enhance cooperation and share expertise in treatment and rehabilitation for drug abusers. The Regional Conference on Drug Prevention Best Practices was held in Hanoi in October 2010. Representatives from 20 countries in the Asia-Pacific region attended the Conference, which was aimed at sharing good practices in drug abuse prevention and providing a forum for prevention practitioners to use to exchange information. At the fifth Asian Recovery Symposium, held in Jakarta in December 2010, 250 participants from 16 countries in Asia worked to develop strategies to enhance knowledge and skills relating to the treatment and rehabilitation of drug abusers.

551. Regional training for law enforcement authorities that combat illicit drugs plays an important role in capacity-building and intelligence-sharing in East and South-East Asia. In November 2010, a regional seminar on cooperation against West African syndicate operations was organized by UNODC in Bangkok. Seminar participants reviewed the serious threat posed to the region by drug traffickers and established a network of senior law enforcement officials for sharing information on the operations of transnational organized criminal groups. In August 2011, the eighth Regional Training Course on Precursor and Chemical Control was held in Bangkok. The course provided participants with an overview of the latest trends in trafficking in precursors in Asia and facilitated the exchange of information and intelligence among law enforcement officers responsible for precursor control.

552. China continued to enhance bilateral cooperation with the Lao People's Democratic Republic and Myanmar in alternative development initiatives to replace illicit opium poppy cultivation. By the end of 2010, China had assisted the Lao People's Democratic Republic and Myanmar in the implementation of 200 alternative development programmes. At the tenth China-Thailand Bilateral Meeting on Drug Control Cooperation, held in June 2011, the two countries reviewed the recent drug trafficking threat posed by West African drug traffickers and identified a drug trafficking route by air from Bangkok to Kunming, China, which was increasingly being used by traffickers. In November 2010, a memorandum of understanding was signed between the Republic of Korea and Viet Nam to establish the Asia-Pacific Information and Coordination Centre for Preventing and Combating Drug Crimes in Viet Nam. In 2010 and 2011, Japan, the Republic of Korea and Thailand provided technical training on drug control and drug abuse prevention to officers from Cambodia, Indonesia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic and Viet Nam.

### 3. National legislation, policy and action

553. In November 2010, the Government of Cambodia and UNODC jointly organized the country's first workshop on capacity-building for community-based drug abuse treatment services, including HIV/AIDS prevention.

554. China adopted legislation and control measures to promote the treatment of drug abuse and prevent the use of the Internet in trafficking precursors. In September 2010, the Government of China strengthened measures to control online trading in precursors, requiring entities that sell precursors through the Internet

to be registered. In June 2011, China adopted legislation on treatment and rehabilitation for drug abusers, replacing regulations on compulsory treatment for drug abusers that had been adopted in 1995. The new legislation encourages drug addicts to voluntarily undergo treatment and enter rehabilitation programmes and encourages the strengthening of the role of communities and families in the rehabilitation of drug abusers. The new legislation also requires rehabilitation centres to provide drug addicts with consultation and education on the prevention of HIV/AIDS and other contagious diseases.

555. Indonesia adopted its national drug control strategy for the period 2010-2014, focusing on three areas: preventing drug abuse, enhancing treatment and rehabilitation services and combating drug trafficking in particular by organized criminal organizations. In that framework, a national policy on rehabilitation was formulated. In addition, programmes for alternative development and community empowerment were launched in 2010 and 2011 in the areas affected by illicit cultivation of cannabis plant.

556. In November 2010, the National Police Agency of Japan adopted the "Major enhancement plan on anti-drug measures" to effectively combat the problem of increasing trafficking in and abuse of methamphetamine. The main objectives of the plan were to fight drug trafficking involving the use of the Internet and couriers and to strengthen international cooperation aimed at disrupting organized drug trafficking groups.

557. The Government of the Lao People's Democratic Republic adopted a national drug control master plan for the period 2009-2013 with the assistance of UNODC. The plan comprises nine components including drug demand reduction and HIV prevention, control of precursor chemicals, institutional capacity-building and international cooperation to address transnational drug trafficking. A national drug law enforcement strategy is being developed by the Government of the Lao People's Democratic Republic with the assistance of UNODC.

558. Since 2009, the Government of Myanmar has been implementing the final five-year phase of its 15-year Drug Elimination Plan, aimed at eliminating illicit opium poppy cultivation. In view of the emerging challenges posed by increased illicit opium poppy cultivation and the illicit manufacture of and trafficking in amphetamine-type stimulants in Myanmar, the Board urges the Government of Myanmar to continue its efforts and take additional measures to ensure the successful implementation of the Drug Elimination Plan.

559. In November 2010, the Government of Thailand launched the third phase of its “Five Fences” national drug control strategy, a comprehensive strategy targeting drug-related issues in border areas, communities, schools and families. Other initiatives were carried out in 2010 by the Government of Thailand in cooperation with private organizations and civil society, including the “To Be Number One” awareness-raising campaign and the creation of a national demand reduction task force to promote drug treatment services for drug abusers.

560. In September 2010, the Government of Viet Nam issued a decree on the strengthening of family-based and community-based drug treatment and rehabilitation services. In March 2011, the Ministry of Public Security of Viet Nam adopted measures to improve the collection and analysis of drug-related data. In June 2011, the Government of Viet Nam adopted the national strategy on drug control and prevention for the period ending in 2020. Based on that strategic document, the national target programme for the period 2011-2015 was developed to address drug-related issues in the country.

561. Several countries in the region have adopted control measures for substances not under international control. Hydroxylamine hydrochloride, a precursor used in the manufacture of ketamine, was placed under national control in China in 2009. Singapore has placed *N*-benzylpiperazine (BZP), 3-Trifluoromethylphenylpiperazine and mephedrone under national control. The Republic of Korea has added mephedrone, BZP derivatives such as methylbenzylpiperazine and a number of synthetic cannabinoid receptor agonists, notably JWH-018, CP 47497 and homologues, to the list of nationally controlled substances. Benzyl cyanide, a substance found to have been used in the illicit manufacture of amphetamine-type stimulants, was also placed under national control in the Republic of Korea. The Government of the Philippines has included nalbuphine hydrochloride in its list of controlled drugs.

#### 4. Cultivation, production, manufacture and trafficking

##### (a) Narcotic drugs

562. Illicit opium poppy cultivation in Myanmar, the Lao People’s Democratic Republic and Thailand continued to increase in 2010. A survey jointly conducted by the Government of Myanmar and the Government of China revealed that illicit opium poppy cultivation in Myanmar in 2010 was estimated at about 29,000 ha, representing an increase of 18 per cent over 2009 (while a UNODC survey showed a higher estimate of 38,100 ha). As a result of that

increased cultivation, opium production in Myanmar increased significantly in 2010. In the Lao People’s Democratic Republic, an estimated 3,000 ha of illicit opium poppy were cultivated in 2010, an increase of 58 per cent compared with 2009. Thailand also reported an increase in illicit opium poppy cultivation, from 211 ha in 2009 to 289 ha in 2010.

563. Opium poppy eradication continued to be carried out in East and South-East Asia. In Myanmar, a total of 8,268 ha were eradicated in the period 2009-2010; that was twice the area eradicated in the period 2008-2009. About 65 per cent of the total eradication took place in Shan State, which accounted for more than 90 per cent of opium production in Myanmar. Difficulty in reaching some areas of opium poppy cultivation remained a challenge for local law enforcement authorities. The authorities of the Lao People’s Democratic Republic eradicated approximately 580 ha of illicit opium poppy cultivation in 2010, comprising nearly 20 per cent of that year’s estimated total cultivation. In Thailand, 278 ha were eradicated, an increase of 38 per cent compared with 2009.

564. Illicit cannabis cultivation and cannabis seizures were reported by many countries in East and South-East Asia. In Indonesia, illicit cannabis cultivation was concentrated mainly in the area of Aceh Province. In 2010, 178 ha of cannabis were eradicated, a decrease of 25 per cent from 2009. Approximately 22 tons of cannabis herb were seized in the country. In Japan, there were an increasing number of incidents of people obtaining cannabis seeds through the Internet for indoor cultivation. In the past decade, identified cases of illicit cultivation of cannabis grew significantly, from 57 cases in 2001 to 254 cases in 2009. In the Lao People’s Democratic Republic, seizures of cannabis amounted to 3.5 tons in 2010, an increase of 260 per cent from 2009. In the Philippines, illicit cannabis cultivation is usually located in the mountainous areas of the country. In 2010, 207 illicit cannabis cultivation sites were eradicated, the greatest number since 2005. Approximately 2,400 kg of cannabis were seized. Viet Nam reported small-scale cannabis cultivation. In addition to illicit domestic cultivation, cannabis continued to be smuggled from North America and South Asia into China (including Hong Kong), Japan and Thailand.

565. Heroin smuggled within East and South-East Asia and West Asia continues to be a significant problem. In recent years, heroin originating in West Asia has been smuggled by air via South Asia or the Middle East to East and South-East Asia. In some cases, heroin was smuggled from countries in West Africa, notably Nigeria. West African criminal groups were increasingly using female

drug couriers from Thailand to smuggle heroin from Thailand into other countries in East and South-East Asia. Heroin from the area known as the Golden Triangle was smuggled primarily by land routes into cities in southern China; part of the heroin was smuggled onward to Hong Kong, China. In 2010, approximately 5.3 tons of heroin were seized in China, of which about 19 per cent (580 kg) originated in West Asia. In Myanmar, most of the illicit manufacture and seizures of heroin took place in Shan State, which borders China, the Lao People's Democratic Republic and Thailand. In 2010, only one clandestine heroin laboratory was dismantled in Myanmar.

566. Reported cocaine seizures in Asia accounted for only 0.1 per cent of the global total. However, recent seizures in China (including Hong Kong), Indonesia, Japan and the Philippines indicate that traffickers have been targeting emerging markets in the region. South America is the primary source of cocaine seized in the region. In 2010, China seized a shipment of 2 tons of cocaine that was being transported by sea to provinces on its south-eastern coast. In September 2011, authorities in Hong Kong, China, seized over 560 kg of cocaine concealed in shipping containers, the largest cocaine seizure ever reported in Hong Kong. Part of the seized cocaine is believed to have been destined for the illicit market in mainland China. Indonesia reported seizures in 2010 of cocaine originating in Colombia. The seized cocaine shipments had departed from Australia and the United States. In Japan, while cocaine abuse is not common, seizures of cocaine have slowly increased since 2006.

567. In the Philippines, a record 342 kg of cocaine were seized in 2010, an increase of 32 per cent over 2009. In view of the country's limited illicit market for cocaine, the Philippines may be at risk of becoming a transit country for cocaine consignments destined for other countries.

#### (b) Psychotropic substances

568. The region of East and South-East Asia continues to be one of the main regions used for the illicit manufacture of methamphetamine. There are indications of large-scale methamphetamine manufacture in the so-called Golden Triangle. In 2010, China reported the seizure of 378 clandestine laboratories, the majority of which had been illicitly manufacturing methamphetamine and other synthetic drugs such as ketamine. In Indonesia, 13 clandestine drug laboratories were dismantled in 2010, some of which had been simultaneously manufacturing methamphetamine and other drugs, such as MDMA ("ecstasy"). In June 2010, authorities in Japan arrested two non-nationals on

suspicion of illicitly manufacturing methamphetamine — the first such incident in Japan since 1995. Philippines also reported the seizure in 2010 of small clandestine laboratories illicitly manufacturing methamphetamine on a small scale.

569. The amount of methamphetamine seized in East and South-East Asia increased significantly, from 94 million tablets in 2009 to 133 million tablets in 2010. In China, a record 9.9 tons of methamphetamine were seized in 2010, a significant increase of 50 per cent compared with the amount seized in 2009. Methamphetamine originating in Myanmar constituted a significant portion of the total amount of methamphetamine seized. In Yunnan Province of China, which borders Myanmar, a record 4.3 tons of methamphetamine were seized in 2010, an increase of 36 per cent compared with 2009. In Thailand, a record 50 million methamphetamine tablets were seized in 2010, an increase of 88 per cent from 2009. Seizures of crystalline methamphetamine in Thailand tripled, from 210 kg in 2009 to 680 kg in 2010, the largest amount reported since 1998. There are indications that large quantities of methamphetamine had been trafficked from Myanmar to China and Thailand. Along the porous northern and north-eastern borders of Thailand, many "drug shelters" were used by drug traffickers to store illicit drugs temporarily after they were smuggled into Thailand and before they were transported to other parts of the country. The Government of the Lao People's Democratic Republic reported having seized a total of 24.5 million methamphetamine tablets in 2010, the largest amount ever reported in the country.

570. Methamphetamine smuggling routes appear to have diversified. In Thailand, methamphetamine was smuggled into the country not only through the well-established northern routes, but also increasingly through the Lao People's Democratic Republic, across the Mekong river. Additionally, the Lao People's Democratic Republic was used as a transit country for smuggling methamphetamine from Myanmar into Cambodia, where the drugs then entered Thailand across the Thai-Cambodian border. In addition to being smuggled within East and South-East Asia, methamphetamine from North America, West Africa and West Asia is increasingly being smuggled. Authorities in East and South-East Asia reported smuggling of methamphetamine by air passengers and in air cargo in large quantities. The Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, the Republic of Korea, Singapore and Thailand have been used as transit countries for methamphetamine shipments destined for other countries in the region. Female drug couriers were

identified in several seizures in Japan, Malaysia, the Philippines and Thailand.

571. In Indonesia, the amount of MDMA (“ecstasy”) seized has fluctuated in recent years, reaching a peak of over 1 million tablets in 2007 and 2008. Seizures decreased significantly, to 0.3 million tablets in 2009 but increased by 38 per cent, to 0.42 million tablets, in 2010. Domestic illicit manufacture continued to account for most of the “ecstasy” tablets seized in Indonesia. In 2010, 15 “ecstasy” clandestine laboratories were destroyed in the country. In Malaysia, 110 kg of “ecstasy” were seized in 2010.

572. Another growing concern in East and South-East Asia relates to trafficking in benzodiazepines, owing to the growing demand for the use of these substances for non-medical purposes. In Malaysia, a total of 350 kg of benzodiazepine tablets were seized in 2010; most of the tablets had been smuggled out of India. Also in 2010, Thailand reported frequent seizures of diazepam and nimetazepam tablets smuggled in postal parcels or sold through illegally operating Internet pharmacies. In 2010 and the first quarter of 2011, authorities in Hong Kong, China, seized about 220,000 benzodiazepine tablets, a portion of which had been concealed in a parcel sent from Taiwan Province of China.

### (c) Precursors

573. China continues to report significant seizures of precursor chemicals. In 2010, about 870 tons of precursors under national control were seized in China. In an operation in Sichuan Province, Chinese authorities dismantled four drug syndicates involved in the illicit manufacture of methamphetamine using pharmaceutical preparations containing ephedrine. During the operation, four clandestine laboratories were destroyed and 12 tons of pharmaceutical preparations containing ephedrine and 58 kg of methamphetamine were seized.

574. In response to stricter control over raw ephedrine and raw pseudoephedrine, traffickers have increasingly resorted to pharmaceutical preparations containing ephedrine and pseudoephedrine. In Myanmar, approximately 4.5 million tablets containing ephedrine and pseudoephedrine were seized in 2010. The majority of those precursors had been smuggled out of other countries, including China, India and Thailand. Large quantities of tablets containing pseudoephedrine were seized in Thailand, mainly along its border with Myanmar.

### (d) Substances not under international control

575. Large seizures of ketamine continued to be reported. In 2010, approximately 5 tons of ketamine were seized in China, accounting for most of the total seizures in East and South-East Asia. In an operation in 2010, Chinese authorities dismantled two clandestine laboratories for processing ketamine and seized over 200 kg of ketamine.

576. Traffickers continue to obtain and use precursors not under international control for the illicit manufacture of drugs. In 2010, China seized 49 tons of precursors not under international control. Since 2010, there have been significant seizures of phenylacetic acid esters, which are not under national control and can be easily transformed into phenylacetic acid for use in the manufacture of amphetamine-type stimulants. Most of the seized shipments had departed from China and had been destined for Mexico and countries in Central America. The Republic of Korea detected the use of benzyl cyanide in a clandestine laboratory manufacturing amphetamine-type stimulants; the laboratory was dismantled in 2010.

## 5. Abuse and treatment

577. Cannabis abuse is reported by many countries in East and South-East Asia. It is the most commonly abused drug in Indonesia, mainly due to its easy availability, and the second most commonly abused drug in Brunei Darussalam, Japan and Thailand. The increasing abuse of cannabis among young people is of particular concern in Brunei Darussalam and Japan.

578. The abuse of heroin has been declining in the region. However, it continues to be the most widely abused drug in China, Malaysia, Myanmar, Singapore and Viet Nam. In China, a 2010 national survey revealed that heroin was the primary drug of abuse for 69 per cent of all registered drug abusers in the country. In Viet Nam, heroin is the first drug of abuse among the 149,900 registered drug abusers; about 83 per cent of drug addicts in the country abused heroin, and more than 54 per cent of those who abused heroin were between 30 and 45 years old.

579. Methamphetamine remains the most common drug of abuse in several countries in the region, including Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Japan, the Lao People’s Democratic Republic, the Philippines, the Republic of Korea and Thailand. Growing abuse of methamphetamine, particularly among young people, is reported by China, Malaysia, Myanmar, Singapore and Viet Nam. In Brunei Darussalam, a 2010 school survey revealed that methamphetamine was the most common

drug of abuse among students. In China, of a total 1.5 million registered drug abusers in 2010, 28 per cent abused synthetic drugs, in particular crystalline methamphetamine; that percentage has been steadily increasing since 2007. In Japan, crystalline methamphetamine is the most common drug of abuse; in 2010, about 75 per cent of all drug-related offences involved methamphetamine abuse. In Myanmar, there has been a continued increase in the abuse of amphetamine-type stimulants, which is the third most commonly abused drug in the country. In Thailand, the growing abuse of crystalline methamphetamine has been a worrying trend, partly due to the increasing availability of the drug in the region. In 2010, approximately 88 per cent of all drug abusers who received treatment in Thailand were methamphetamine abusers.

580. The abuse of benzodiazepines (such as alprazolam, estazolam, midazolam, nimetazepam) continues to be a concern in Brunei Darussalam; Hong Kong, China; Indonesia; Malaysia; and the Philippines. In Hong Kong, China, the abuse of these substances is particularly common among young heroin addicts, who wish to prolong the effect of heroin and ease withdrawal symptoms. In Indonesia, benzodiazepines are the third most commonly abused drug group. In Malaysia, benzodiazepines are becoming more popular among young drug abusers. The abuse of benzodiazepines, in particular nimetazepam, rank fifth among the most commonly abused drugs in Malaysia.

581. The high prevalence of HIV among people who abuse drugs by injection is a serious concern in China, Myanmar, Thailand and Viet Nam. In China, 24 per cent of people infected with HIV were infected through drug abuse by injection. In Myanmar, the prevalence of HIV among people who abused drugs by injection was estimated at 36-38 per cent. In Thailand, the prevalence rate among that group stood at 48-52 per cent for the period 2008-2009.

582. The abuse of ketamine is an ongoing problem in the region. Ketamine is the second most commonly abused drug in Hong Kong, China, and the third most commonly abused drug in mainland China. In Hong Kong, China, ketamine is the primary drug of abuse among young drug abusers under the age of 21: nearly 84 per cent of drug abusers of that age group abused ketamine in 2009. Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar and Viet Nam also reported abuse of ketamine, in particular among young people.

583. In China, compulsory treatment centres, together with community-based treatment units, provided drug treatment and rehabilitation services to about

360,000 drug abusers in 2010, a significant increase from 2009. In Japan, as at June 2010, there were about 560 health and mental health centres, which had provided an average of 11,000 drug-related consultations per year since 2007. In Myanmar, there are 66 drug treatment centres with a total daily bed capacity of 450. Between 1999 and 2009, a total of 11,100 registered drug abusers in the country were treated, mostly for heroin and opium abuse. In recent years there have been an increasing number of admissions to the Yangon Mental Health Hospital for psychiatric problems related to abuse of amphetamine-type stimulants. In the Philippines, about 70 per cent of drug abusers were treated for methamphetamine abuse in 2010. In Viet Nam, most drug treatment services are provided by the more than 120 compulsory treatment centres throughout the country. In 2010, approximately 35,000 drug abusers received treatment in Viet Nam.

584. Opioid substitution treatment (mainly methadone maintenance treatment) is available in many countries in the region, including Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Thailand and Viet Nam. Cambodia opened its first methadone maintenance treatment centre in 2010. In China, there are a total of 700 methadone maintenance treatment clinics and over 200 methadone dispensary services, which have provided treatment to over 290,000 drug abusers. Mobile methadone treatment vehicles have been put into service in remote areas. In Myanmar, eight methadone maintenance treatment sites have been established since 2006 and have provided treatment to over 1,100 heroin abusers. In Viet Nam, methadone maintenance treatment is expected to provide treatment to 80,000 heroin addicts by 2015.

585. Limited drug treatment services and the shortage of qualified health-care professionals have greatly restricted the development of programmes for the prevention and treatment of drug abuse in many countries in the region. In particular, there seems to be a lack of specific treatment facilities for abusers of amphetamine-type stimulants, although the number of methamphetamine abusers is growing in several countries.

586. Another challenge for countries in the region is the lack of monitoring and reporting of data on drug abuse among the general population, mainly due to limited resources and lack of expertise. Drug abuse surveys undertaken have often targeted specific populations, such as drug abusers that registered with authorities or entered treatment and rehabilitation services, thus leaving large sectors of the population unexamined. Although the amount and the quality of drug abuse information in the region have greatly improved in recent years, more research and analysis on trends in drug abuse are needed

to tailor prevention and treatment initiatives. The Board notes that UNODC has established the Drug Abuse Information Network for Asia and the Pacific in cooperation with ASEAN and China Cooperative Operations in Response to Dangerous Drugs and has received valuable drug-related data from participating countries. The Board encourages UNODC to continue to provide technical assistance in drug abuse data collection and analysis and encourages greater regional cooperation in that respect.

## South Asia

### 1. Major developments

587. South Asia is experiencing increasing problems related to the abuse of and trafficking in prescription drugs and over-the-counter pharmaceutical preparations containing narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances. Their low cost, high profit margin and easy availability, as well as the misperception that they are less harmful than illicitly manufactured drugs, are the main reasons for the increasing abuse and trafficking. Most of the prescription and over-the-counter drugs that are abused are obtained in local pharmacies. However, some of the drugs are smuggled, in particular out of India and into neighbouring countries. In addition, South Asia is a major source of most of the pharmaceutical preparations containing narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances that are sold throughout the world by illegally operating Internet pharmacies. Although all the countries of South Asia have a regulatory regime in place that includes prescription requirements for controlled pharmaceuticals, gaps still remain in the proper implementation and monitoring of compliance by pharmacies.

588. The majority of the heroin found in South Asia has been smuggled out of Afghanistan, although a small amount has been illicitly manufactured locally. Most of the opium that is illicitly produced in the region is abused by inhalation or smoking. However, the abuse of drugs by injection is increasing in South Asia and has reached significant proportions in Bangladesh, India and Nepal. Drugs abused by injection in the region include heroin, prescription opioids and mixtures with other controlled substances. The abuse of drugs by injection has contributed to an increase in the HIV and hepatitis C infection rates. In response to that development, drug substitution treatment programmes have been introduced in Bangladesh, India, Maldives and Nepal, although they remain limited in scope.

589. International drug trafficking organizations continue to use South Asia as a base for illicit

manufacture of and trafficking in amphetamine-type stimulants, largely because of the wide availability of precursor chemicals in that region. Abuse of amphetamine-type stimulants in the region is also increasing, and that has caused a great deal of public concern. Illicit manufacture of all types of amphetamine-type stimulants has been detected; the detected manufacturing sites have ranged from small-scale kitchen laboratories to large-scale manufacturing facilities. Bangladesh and India continue to be used by transnational organized criminal groups to divert precursors of amphetamine-type stimulants, because of the wide availability of the precursors ephedrine and pseudoephedrine in those countries. However, possibly as a result of existing national and international mechanisms for the control of legitimately manufactured precursors or because of increased demand, drug traffickers have begun to look for additional supply channels. A more recent development is the extraction of ephedrine and pseudoephedrine from pharmaceutical preparations in clandestine laboratories.

### 2. Regional cooperation

590. South Asian countries continue to participate in cooperative drug control activities organized by the Colombo Plan for Cooperative Economic and Social Development in Asia and the Pacific. In November 2010, the eleventh Training for Women Counsellors on Treatment and Rehabilitation took place in Chennai, India. A total of 27 female drug treatment practitioners from South-East Asia and South Asia attended the training, which covered topics ranging from detoxification methodology and addiction counselling to group therapy and ethical issues. In June 2011, the Colombo Plan, together with the Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs of the United States and UNODC, organized a South Asia regional training course for addiction treatment professionals on treatment and rehabilitation in Male.

591. The Narcotics Control Bureau of India has entered into a bilateral agreement on mutual cooperation with the authorities in Bangladesh, with the aim of reducing illicit demand for and preventing trafficking in narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and precursors. The two countries will cooperate and exchange information to suppress the activities of international criminal syndicates engaged in drug trafficking.

592. Cooperation between India and Pakistan in drug-related matters continues. At a meeting held in March 2011 in New Delhi, the Home Minister of India and the Minister of the Interior of Pakistan agreed that, as part of their cooperation in combating drug trafficking,



the Narcotics Control Bureau of India and the Anti-Narcotics Force of Pakistan would hold annual talks. A memorandum of understanding on the reduction of illicit drug demand and the prevention of trafficking in narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and precursor chemicals was signed in Rawalpindi, Pakistan, by the Narcotics Control Bureau and the Anti-Narcotics Force in September 2011.

593. India has established joint working groups on counter-terrorism with 26 partner countries, the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation, of which Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal and Sri Lanka are members, and the European Union; drug-related offences are one of the key issues discussed at the meetings of the working groups.

594. The United Nations Regional Task Force on Injecting Drug Use and HIV/AIDS for Asia and the Pacific held a meeting on the abuse of drugs by injection and HIV/AIDS in New Delhi in February 2011. The topics covered included the regional strategy for harm reduction in Asia and the Pacific for the period 2010-2015 and the increasing abuse of pharmaceutical drugs in the region.

595. The World Bank organized a regional workshop on opioid substitution therapy in Maldives in September 2011. The objective of the workshop was to identify the critical factors contributing to effective and sustainable opioid substitution therapy programmes and allowing for the scaling up of those programmes.

### 3. National legislation, policy and action

596. In March 2011, the Demand Reduction Division of the Bhutan Narcotic Control Agency organized an awareness-raising programme for school principals and school counsellors in order to explain key aspects of the Narcotic Drugs, Psychotropic Substances and Substance Abuse Act of 2005; to educate them on the dangers of drug abuse, with the aim of incorporating a programme for drug abuse prevention in the school activities; and to enable them to facilitate the early detection of drug abuse and provide counselling services for students. A workshop for participants from treatment centres, drop-in centres and a hospital for the treatment and rehabilitation of drug abusers was held in Thimphu in May 2011.

597. In Bangladesh, the authorities are conducting a campaign to raise public awareness about the dangers of abusing narcotic drugs. As part of the campaign, 10,000 copies of materials on behavioural change, covering, among other subjects, drug abuse, have already been distributed in Bangladesh. The material is being

distributed at national drop-in centres for educating female drug abusers and female sexual partners of male drug abusers. Bangladesh has also started to use mobile courts to try drug-related cases.

598. The Narcotics Control Bureau of India carries out capacity-building for drug law enforcement authorities in various government agencies at the state and national levels. The subjects covered include investigative techniques, financial investigations and precursor control. In 2010, the Bureau organized 54 such training courses, which were attended by 2,311 persons from various agencies, including state police forces, the Central Board of Excise and Customs and the Border Security Force.

599. The Department of Revenue of the Ministry of Finance of India has been developing a national policy on narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, in consultation with other relevant ministries and Government agencies and state governments. The policy will set out a strategy for tackling the illicit drug trade and will provide guidance to the various Government bodies and non-governmental organizations. The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment of India is also developing a national policy on the reduction of illicit drug demand.

600. In February 2011, a notification from the Government of India resulted in ketamine being added to the list of psychotropic substances controlled under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985.

601. In October and November 2010, the Department of Drug Prevention and Rehabilitation Services of Maldives, UNODC and non-governmental organizations held a workshop in Male that provided training on, inter alia, understanding, preventing and treating drug abuse. Furthermore, the Department's Methadone Maintenance Treatment Clinic and UNODC organized a training programme on methadone maintenance treatment in Male at the end of November 2010. The Department, with support from UNODC, organized training programmes on outpatient treatment for non-governmental and community-based organizations at various locations throughout the country in June and October 2010.

602. The Government of Maldives recently launched the country's first national drug abuse survey; a national research organization will carry out the survey in partnership with the Ministry of Health and Family.

603. The Drug Control Law Enforcement Unit of the Ministry of Home Affairs of Nepal, in association with UNODC, held a national narcotic control orientation programme in Kathmandu in June 2011. The programme

was designed to provide drug law enforcement personnel with the knowledge and skills needed to identify controlled drugs and to use investigative techniques, as well as with information on legal issues pertaining to drug law enforcement.

604. The National Dangerous Drugs Control Board of Sri Lanka is implementing a series of programmes on drug abuse prevention that includes the use of local administrators to raise the awareness of all sectors of society about the problems associated with drug abuse. It has also expanded its counselling and outreach programmes for drug abusers. The outreach programme is designed to provide treatment services for drug abusers and members of high-risk groups. Among other things, outreach officers encourage drug abusers to seek treatment; outreach officers also gather information on drug abuse and conduct activities aimed at raising awareness of and preventing drug abuse. In 2010, Sri Lanka established the Precursor Control Authority, which regulates, monitors and issues licences for international trade in and use of precursors.

605. With the support of international agencies such as WHO and UNODC, the Governments of countries in South Asia are taking steps to strengthen capacity in the area of illicit drug demand reduction. In addition to preventing drug abuse and raising awareness about the dangers of drug abuse, Governments of South Asian countries have provided training courses on illicit drug demand reduction for a range of professionals working in the areas of prevention and treatment of drug abuse.

#### 4. Cultivation, production, manufacture and trafficking

##### (a) Narcotic drugs

606. The illicit cultivation of cannabis plants is widespread in South Asia. In India, 681 ha of cannabis plants were eradicated in 2010, and 95 ha were eradicated in the first half of 2011. In Sri Lanka, the authorities have estimated that about 500 ha of land are used for illicit cannabis cultivation. India reported having seized a total of 173 tons of cannabis herb in 2010. The authorities of countries that have significant illicit markets for cannabis resin have identified Nepal as one of the major sources of the cannabis resin found on those illicit markets. Illicit consignments of cannabis resin from Nepal are transported overland to India and China and then by cargo couriers from India to Bangladesh and then to Europe and North America. According to estimates by the Indian authorities, half of the cannabis resin in India in 2009 originated in that country, and the other half had been smuggled out of Nepal. Significant quantities of

cannabis resin continue to be seized in India. In 2010, India reported having seized a total of 4.3 tons of cannabis resin; for the first half of 2011, 2.66 tons were reported to have been seized in that country.

607. In Bangladesh, the total amount of seized cannabis increased from about 2.1 tons to about 3.7 tons between 2009 and 2010. In Sri Lanka, cannabis accounts for the majority of drug-related arrests. In 2010, Sri Lankan authorities seized 114 tons of cannabis plants and 23 kg of cannabis resin.

608. Heroin originating in Afghanistan is smuggled through Pakistan into South Asian countries. According to UNODC, of the 40 tons of heroin available in South Asia in 2009, 25 tons had been smuggled out of Afghanistan, and the remaining 15 tons had been illicitly manufactured in India; moreover, nearly two thirds of those 40 tons of heroin were abused in the region, and the remainder was smuggled into Africa, Europe, East and South-East Asia and North America. Drug traffickers in South Asia prefer to traffic Afghan heroin, due to its higher purity level, rather than heroin illicitly manufactured in South Asia.

609. Illicit cultivation of opium poppy takes place in several parts of India. Virtually all of the opium abused in India has been illicitly produced in that country. In India, the total area under illicit opium poppy cultivation is estimated to be at least 7,500 ha. In 2010, a total of 1,022 ha of illicitly cultivated opium poppy were eradicated by Indian authorities. According to UNODC, there is some diversion from licit opium production. India reported having seized a total of 1.83 tons of opium, 25 kg of morphine and 766 kg of heroin in 2010; for the first half of 2011, 871 kg of opium, 26 kg of morphine and 230 kg of heroin were reported to have been seized.

610. In 2009, almost all of the heroin in Bangladesh and the vast majority of the heroin in Nepal originated in India; in Sri Lanka, some of the heroin originated in Afghanistan and some originated in India. In Bangladesh, 148 kg of heroin were seized in 2010, an increase of 9 per cent compared with 2009. In Sri Lanka, it is estimated that, during the period 2005-2009, an average of 763 kg of heroin were available on the street each year. In Sri Lanka, 143 kg of heroin were seized in 2010, an increase of 76 per cent compared with 2009. Most of the heroin in Sri Lanka has entered that country from India or Pakistan and has been smuggled via south India to the western coast of Sri Lanka aboard fishing boats. Illicit heroin consignments are also transported from Sri Lanka to Maldives.

6.11 Cocaine trafficking remains limited in South Asia. In India, cocaine is trafficked in small quantities by

courier; Indian authorities reported having seized a total of 23 kg of cocaine in 2010 and 3 kg in the first half of 2011. Sri Lankan authorities seized a total of 4 kg of cocaine in 2010.

612. In South Asia, trafficking in pharmaceutical preparations containing narcotic drugs is on the rise. Pharmaceutical preparations containing dextropropoxyphene and cough formulations containing codeine are smuggled out of India and into neighbouring countries, mainly Bangladesh, Bhutan and Nepal. The Board requests the Governments of countries in South Asia to cooperate in order to prevent the smuggling of pharmaceutical preparations.

### (b) Psychotropic substances

613. Illicit manufacture of amphetamine-type stimulants has been reported in Bangladesh, India and Sri Lanka. Those illicitly manufactured amphetamine-type stimulants are, at least in part, trafficked to destinations outside of South Asia; for example, crystalline methamphetamine (commonly called “ice”) illicitly manufactured in the region is trafficked to East and South-East Asia and Oceania. Countries in South Asia regularly report seizures of amphetamine, methamphetamine and MDMA (“ecstasy”). South Asia is also used as a transit area for transporting illicit consignments of amphetamine-type stimulants from South-East Asia to other destinations. Methamphetamine tablets originating in Myanmar are increasingly being smuggled into Bangladesh, India and Nepal; almost all of the methamphetamine available on the illicit market in Sri Lanka has been smuggled into the country by air. In Bangladesh, seizures of tablets known as “yaba”, containing methamphetamine and caffeine, increased in 2010.

614. In India, most of the amphetamine and methamphetamine available on the illicit market in tablet form has been smuggled into the country. By contrast, most of the amphetamine and methamphetamine available on the illicit market in powder form has been illicitly manufactured in the country. Two laboratories that had been illicitly manufacturing amphetamine-type stimulants were dismantled in Mumbai in August 2010. East and South-East Asia, Europe and North America have all been cited as the final destinations of the illicitly manufactured amphetamine-type stimulants that are smuggled out of India. Courier and postal services have been used for smuggling amphetamines.

615. In India, a total of 47 kg of amphetamine were seized in 2010; and 4 kg were seized in the first half of 2011. Most of the seizures of amphetamine and

methamphetamine tablets in India are effected in the north-eastern part of the country, in the area bordering Myanmar. Most of the seizures of MDMA (“ecstasy”) in India are reported in Goa, a popular tourist destination in the south-western part of the country.

616. Pharmaceutical preparations containing benzodiazepines such as diazepam, alprazolam and lorazepam, as well as buprenorphine, are abused in and smuggled out of India into neighbouring countries, in particular Nepal, and into the United States and countries in Europe. Alprazolam and diazepam are also used as adulterants and cutting agents in the illicit manufacture of heroin in India. The authorities in India reported having seized a total of 20 kg of illicitly manufactured methaqualone in 2010 and 14 kg in the first half of 2011. Bangladesh reported an increase in the amount of buprenorphine seized, from about 19,000 ampoules in 2009 to about 23,000 in 2010.

### (c) Precursors

617. The fact that India is one of the world’s largest manufacturers of ephedrine and pseudoephedrine and the chemical and pharmaceutical industries in other countries in South Asia are growing has resulted in the region being targeted for diversion by traffickers, although the number and volume of reported cases involving diversion of precursors are now smaller than in the past. India continues to be among the countries most often cited as a source of seized illicit shipments of ephedrine and pseudoephedrine. Pharmaceutical preparations containing ephedrine and pseudoephedrine originating in India and Bangladesh continue to be seized in, for example, Central America, although the volume of such seizures has decreased.

618. India seized 1.85 tons of ephedrine, 0.36 ton of pseudoephedrine and 81 litres of acetic anhydride in 2010; in the first half of 2011 it seized 402 kg of ephedrine. India has also reported the illicit manufacture of ephedrine: in October 2010, 93 kg of ephedrine were seized when an illegal factory in the state of Maharashtra was raided, and 238 kg of ephedrine were seized in a raid at an illegal factory in the state of Gujarat.

619. In Nepal, the pharmaceutical industry is developing fast and the absence of legislative controls on precursor chemicals may be exploited by traffickers. Precursors of amphetamine-type stimulants have also been smuggled out of China into Nepal. The Board urges Governments of countries in South Asia to remain vigilant in their efforts to prevent the diversion of precursor chemicals and to ensure that regulatory capacity keeps pace with developments in industry.

**(d) Substances not under international control**

620. There has been an increase in the smuggling of ketamine, a substance not under international control, out of India and into countries in East and South-East Asia and North America. Licit manufacture of ketamine takes place in India and some ketamine is diverted from licit manufacture and trade into illicit channels; large-scale unlicensed manufacture is also taking place in the country. Ketamine is used as an adulterant in the illicit manufacture of MDMA (“ecstasy”) in East and South-East Asia and as an ingredient in tablets sold as “ecstasy” in East and South-East Asia. In response to those developments, India placed ketamine under national control as a psychotropic substance in February 2011.

621. Authorities in India have seized ketamine uncovered at airports, during domestic transportation and sea cargo and parcels sent by courier. A single seizure of 5 kg of ketamine was made in Maldives in 2009. Ketamine is popular among drug traffickers because ketamine trafficking has a high profit margin and, until recently, ketamine could be transported freely within India, as there were no domestic controls over the substance.

**5. Abuse and treatment**

622. The drug that is abused most often in South Asian countries is cannabis — usually in the form of cannabis herb and, to a lesser extent, cannabis resin. Recent data on the prevalence of cannabis abuse are available only for Bangladesh (3.3 per cent of the population aged 15-64) and Sri Lanka (1 per cent).

623. Data on the prevalence of opioid abuse are currently available only for Bangladesh (0.4 per cent of the population aged 15-64) and Sri Lanka (0.1 per cent), although opioid abuse has also been reported in Bhutan, India and Nepal. The smoking of opium continues to be a traditional practice in India, a country in which the level of opium abuse is one of the highest in Asia. “Chasing” (inhaling the vaporized form) and smoking are the most popular routes of administration among drug abusers in South Asia, although some have switched to abusing drugs by injection and that practice is spreading rapidly. Drug abuse by injection has reached significant levels in Bangladesh, India (estimated at 0.02 per cent of the population) and Nepal (estimated at 0.01 per cent of the population); heroin and buprenorphine are commonly abused by injection in those countries. Other drugs of choice that are abused by injection in South Asia are either other opioids or a combination of buprenorphine and antihistamines or sedatives, mostly benzodiazepines.

In Bhutan, Maldives and Sri Lanka, only a very limited number of cases of drug abuse by injection have been recorded. In Sri Lanka, it is estimated that only 2 per cent of the heroin-abusing population abuse that drug by injection. Drug abuse by injection is increasing in Maldives. The Board notes the plans of the Government of India to conduct a new national drug abuse survey and encourages the Government to carry out the survey as soon as possible.

624. In India, the most abused pharmaceutical preparations are cough formulations containing codeine and various benzodiazepines, including diazepam, alprazolam, nitrazepam and lorazepam, and analgesics, including buprenorphine and dextropropoxyphene. The abuse of pharmaceutical preparations in India is facilitated by the failure of many pharmacies to comply with prescription requirements. In addition, some of the preparations abused in India are preparations in Schedule III of the 1961 Convention, for which a prescription is not mandatory. The Board urges the Government of India to strengthen measures to ensure that pharmacies comply with prescription requirements and ensure that over-the-counter pharmaceutical preparations are not diverted to be used for non-medical purposes. Dextropropoxyphene is abused to a significant extent in Nepal and to a much lesser extent in Bangladesh, Bhutan and Sri Lanka. In Bangladesh, the abuse of phensedyl (codeine-based cough syrup) continues.

625. “Yaba”, a methamphetamine tablet that also contains caffeine, is the synthetic drug most commonly abused in Bangladesh; its abuse has reportedly become widespread in urban areas of the country, particularly in Dhaka. The growing abuse of amphetamine-type stimulants has also been reported in metropolitan areas of India. There has been some increase in the abuse of amphetamine-type stimulants in Sri Lanka.

626. Cocaine abuse in South Asia is still limited and mostly reported to occur among members of the more affluent segments of society. Polydrug abuse is common among drug abusers in most countries in the region.

627. The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare of India runs, through its hospitals, 122 detoxification centres for drug abusers. India currently has 376 detoxification and rehabilitation centres and 68 counselling centres for drug abusers, which are run by voluntary organizations funded by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment. The Government supports a further 100 counselling centres at its primary health centres and hospitals for drug abusers who require long-term rehabilitation. Buprenorphine maintenance treatment is available to about 4,800 patients

in India. India is currently conducting a feasibility study on methadone maintenance treatment. As part of the study, such treatment will be provided to 500 drug abusers.

628. In June 2011, the Ministry of Health and Family of Maldives launched a toll-free national helpline for drug abusers and their families and communities. The Maldives Department of Drug Prevention and Rehabilitation Services, in collaboration with UNODC, opened the first rehabilitation centre for female drug abusers in the country. The centre provides both outpatient and inpatient treatment services for drug abuse.

629. The National Dangerous Drugs Control Board of Sri Lanka operates four residential treatment centres and outreach programmes for drug-dependent persons, providing services for 80 per cent of those receiving treatment for drug addiction in the country. Treatment at the centres consists of a residential stay of three months, which includes activities consistent with a drug-free lifestyle.

630. Treatment for drug abuse is generally not provided in prisons in South Asia. One exception is a prison in Tihar, India, where opioid substitution therapy is provided.

## West Asia

### 1. Major developments

631. West Asia remains the epicentre of illicit opium poppy cultivation; it is also a significant hub for cannabis cultivation. In 2010, 125,000 ha of opium poppy were cultivated in West Asia, which accounted for nearly two thirds of global opium poppy cultivation. Nearly all of the opium poppy cultivation in the region occurs in Afghanistan, with a small amount taking place in the bordering areas of Pakistan. In Afghanistan, opium poppy cultivation increased somewhat in 2011 over 2010; however, opium production increased by more than 60 per cent during the same period, as the 2010 yields had been affected by an opium poppy disease. Large increases in opium prices, combined with planned decreases in the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF), could lead to increases in both the cultivation of opium poppy and the production of opium beyond 2011, in particular as opium poppy yields return to normal levels.

632. According to the second survey of cannabis cultivation, conducted jointly by UNODC and the Ministry of Counter-Narcotics of Afghanistan, *Afghanistan: Cannabis Survey 2010*, the number of

households cultivating cannabis plants increased by nearly one fifth in 2010 in relation to 2009. The results of the survey indicate that Afghanistan most likely produces more cannabis resin (“hashish”) than any other country in the world, with more than half of the country’s provinces producing cannabis. Lebanon has become an important source of cannabis resin. According to UNODC, Lebanon was the world’s third largest source of cannabis resin during the period 2007-2009.

633. The prolonged political instability and the escalating security concerns that prevail in parts of West Asia could indirectly contribute to a worsening of the drug trafficking situation in the countries concerned, resulting in less vigilance and awareness of illegal activities. Criminal organizations are quick to take advantage of such situations, intensifying illegal activities of all kinds, including drug trafficking.

634. There are indications of increased trafficking in various types of stimulants in West Asia. Trafficking in cocaine has been reported throughout the region. The total amount of seized cocaine quadrupled to 289 kg between 2000 and 2009. Several countries in the region reported large seizures of cocaine in 2010 and in the first quarter of 2011. Authorities identified new routes used for smuggling methamphetamine consignments through West Asia; those consignments were destined primarily for East Asia. The Islamic Republic of Iran reported a sharp increase in the number of illicit methamphetamine laboratories dismantled in 2010. Countries in the Middle East, in particular Jordan and Saudi Arabia, continue to be affected by large-scale amphetamine trafficking; sizeable seizures of amphetamine tablets sold as Captagon tablets continue to be reported. In Saudi Arabia, which remains the main country of destination for Captagon tablets, clandestine manufacture of Captagon tablets has been detected for the first time.

635. The non-medical use of prescription drugs containing internationally controlled substances is a growing problem reported in many countries in the Middle East. Prescription drugs containing psychotropic substances, including sedatives such as diazepam and alprazolam, are being diverted from licit distribution channels in those countries.

### 2. Regional cooperation

636. The annual ministerial meeting of the UNODC-facilitated Triangular Initiative, held in Islamabad in November 2010, brought together ministers from Afghanistan, Iran (Islamic Republic of) and Pakistan to strengthen cooperation in addressing drug trafficking. The participants committed themselves to expanding the

sharing of information on drug trafficking via the joint planning cell in Tehran; organizing additional joint operations along border areas; enhancing legal cooperation in drug-related matters; and the establishing of fully operational border liaison offices to increase law enforcement cooperation. In February 2011, the first inter-agency border liaison office aimed at curbing the flow of illicit drugs was opened at the Khyber Pass border between Afghanistan and Pakistan.

637. As part of the Triangular Initiative, the Governments of Afghanistan, Iran (Islamic Republic of) and Pakistan held the sixth meeting of senior officials in Tehran in May 2011. The goal of the meeting was to review the progress made in implementing the recommendations and actions agreed upon at the ministerial meeting held in November 2010, to discuss joint operations and the establishment of various border liaison offices and to present a comprehensive cross-border communication plan to participants. Since 2009, 10 joint or simultaneous drug control operations have been conducted under the auspices of the Triangular Initiative, resulting in the seizure of 6 tons of drugs.

638. Drug control and crime prevention are part of the agenda of the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf (also known as the Gulf Cooperation Council), whose member States have developed common strategies to curb drug trafficking and have stepped up their efforts in that area. Country representatives meet annually to coordinate and strengthen their efforts to combat various forms of organized crime, including drug trafficking. In particular, representatives of the drug control departments of the member States of the Gulf Cooperation Council gather to share intelligence they have compiled.

639. The twenty-first joint council and ministerial meeting of the European Union and the Gulf Cooperation Council was held in Abu Dhabi in April 2011. During the meeting, ministers underlined the importance of strengthening cooperation in various areas, including in drug control, in order to contribute to security and stability in the Middle East.

640. During a meeting of the Board of Directors of the Gulf Cooperation Council's Criminal Information Centre to Combat Drugs, held in Doha in June 2011, discussions focused on drug trafficking and cooperation among the member States of the Gulf Cooperation Council in combating drug-related problems. In particular, participants stressed the need to strengthen the collection of information, the exchange of law enforcement information, and the storage, analysis and sharing of such information between members, which all assist

considerably in the criminal investigation of drug-related cases. In that context, the establishment of an information technology platform for member States of the Gulf Cooperation Council, with the support of UNODC, was considered a positive step towards enhanced cooperation.

641. UNODC also intends to establish cooperation between the Gulf Cooperation Council and other regional organizations, such as the Central Asian Regional Information and Coordination Centre (CARICC), the joint planning cell (Afghanistan, Iran (Islamic Republic of) and Pakistan) and the Paris Pact initiative, in order to prevent organized crime and drug trafficking in West Asia.

642. As part of its activities aimed at combating trafficking in narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and their precursors, CARICC held the third session of its Council of National Coordinators in Bishkek in March 2011. The member States of CARICC — Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, the Russian Federation, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan — coordinate their fight against drug trafficking at the national and regional levels. The Council adopted decisions on enhancing operational cooperation among the competent authorities of CARICC member States in combating drug-related crime, focusing on transnational criminal groups active in running the illicit supply chains for Afghan opiates through CARICC member States. As a result of those decisions, a number of international operations, including controlled delivery operations, were coordinated by CARICC. In addition to CARICC member States, authorities from many other countries, in the Americas, Asia and Europe participated in the operations.

643. In May 2011, an agreement was signed by the ministers of the interior of Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates to promote security cooperation between the two countries in many areas, including drug control.

644. Under the auspices of the Paris Pact initiative, an expert group on addressing legal frameworks and cross-border cooperation held a meeting in Islamabad in June 2011. The meeting was attended by 71 experts representing 23 Governments and five regional and international organizations. The objective of the meeting was to identify existing legal and operational gaps and to support cross-border controlled deliveries and joint operations at the regional level. The experts noted that there was no legal framework in place for the use of special investigative techniques, including controlled delivery; that technical working groups needed to prepare standard operating procedures; and that there was a need

to establish secure communication links to ensure real-time sharing of information.

645. The UNODC regional programme on drug control, crime prevention and criminal justice reform for the Arab States (covering the period 2011-2015) was launched in December 2010. Partnerships essential to successful implementation of programmes have been created between UNODC and various regional organizations such as the League of Arab States and the Gulf Cooperation Council. Within the framework of the programme, steps are being taken to address the needs of States in terms of security and development. In that context, UNODC was specifically requested to develop an integrated cooperation programme for the Occupied Palestinian Territory and Yemen.

646. The International Drug Policy Consortium and the National Rehabilitation Centre of Abu Dhabi organized a seminar on drug control policy in the Middle East and North Africa in January 2011. Participants — including non-governmental organizations, academics and government representatives from Afghanistan, Egypt, Lebanon, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Tunisia, the United Arab Emirates and Yemen, together with a representative of the Palestinian Authority — exchanged views on drug control policy challenges facing the region.

647. UNODC and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe hosted the Second Regional Workshop on International Cooperation in Criminal Matters, in Almaty in July 2011. The Workshop was attended by representatives of Afghanistan, Australia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, the Netherlands, Pakistan, the Russian Federation, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan, and facilitated capacity-building of national criminal justice systems to improve national and international legal cooperation and information exchange between law enforcement agencies in countries in West Asia and Central Asia. The workshop also provided further capacity-building and technical assistance on extradition, mutual legal assistance, measures to prevent money-laundering, and the locating, tracing, freezing and seizing of the proceeds of crime.

648. The quadrilateral meeting of the Presidents of Afghanistan, Pakistan, the Russian Federation and Tajikistan was held in Dushanbe in September 2011. At this, the third in a series of meetings, the Heads of State discussed issues and cooperation in areas such as security, and combating drug trafficking and transnational organized crime. The Presidents agreed to cooperate with each other in the fight against the illicit production, smuggling and abuse of drugs and to prevent traffickers from using Afghanistan as a transit country and country

of destination for precursors. A commitment was made to expand cooperation to include other regional and international organizations, including the United Nations, the Organization of Islamic Cooperation and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization.

### 3. National legislation, policy and action

649. In 2010, the Government of Afghanistan amended article 41 of the Counter-Narcotics Law criminalizing the use of land for illicit drug crop cultivation. Under the new law, any person guilty of cultivating one acre (0.405 ha) of opium poppy could face up to three months' imprisonment, while the cultivation of one acre of cannabis plants could result in up to two months' imprisonment. Cultivating larger areas of drug crops could result in longer sentences. In addition, anyone who organizes, encourages or compels another person to illicitly cultivate opium poppy and/or cannabis plant could receive prison sentences that are twice as long as those outlined above.

650. Lebanon is in the process of drafting a new national HIV/AIDS strategy that will include the provision of comprehensive harm reduction services for drug addicts. The strategy will focus on the population groups that are most at risk, including prisoners and those abusing drugs by injection, and will facilitate access to services, in addition to fighting stigma and discrimination.

651. A workshop aimed at developing an integrated cooperation programme on drug control, crime prevention and criminal justice reform (covering the period 2011-2015) for the Occupied Palestinian Territory was organized by the Palestinian Authority and UNODC in January 2011.

652. Non-medical use of prescription drugs containing internationally controlled substances is a growing problem, and some measures have been taken to address it. The Board notes with satisfaction the preparation by the health authorities of the Occupied Palestinian Territory of a protocol that will deal in particular with narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances.

653. Representatives of UNODC and the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran met in Tehran to develop, in consultation with members of the Mini-Dublin Group and the Presidency of the European Union, a multilateral programme of technical cooperation in drug and crime control for the period 2011-2014. In addition, UNODC launched a new country programme in March 2011 to support national efforts to counter problems related to drugs and crime by promoting United Nations standards and international best practices and by facilitating bilateral, regional and international cooperation. The

programme focuses on three areas: trafficking and border management; drug demand reduction and HIV control; and crime, justice and corruption.

#### 4. Cultivation, production, manufacture and trafficking

##### (a) Narcotic drugs

654. Seizures reported in West Asia increased greatly for most classes of controlled drugs between 2000 and 2009. During that period, the amount of opium seized more than tripled, from 199 to 645 tons; seizures of heroin more than doubled, from 23 to 50 tons; seizures of cannabis resin increased from 170 to 311 tons; and seizures of cocaine quadrupled (albeit at a much lower level) from 68 to 289 kg.

655. According to UNODC, there were 131,000 ha of illicitly cultivated opium poppy in Afghanistan in 2011, an increase of 7 per cent over 2010. Afghanistan alone accounted for nearly two thirds of global opium poppy cultivation. In 2011, only 17 of the country's 34 provinces were poppy-free,<sup>27</sup> compared with 20 in 2010. The decrease in the number of opium-free provinces was the result of increased opium poppy cultivation in Baghlan and Faryab provinces, in the north, and Kapisa province, in the east. In some provinces, the increase in opium poppy cultivation was related to the deteriorating security situation.

656. An estimated 5,800 tons of opium were produced in 2011, significantly more than in 2010 (3,600 tons). In 2010, opium production reached only half the level of 2009 due to significantly lower crop yields: opium poppy capsules were fewer in number and smaller because of a combination of an opium poppy disease and poor weather.

657. After many years of decreasing, the price of opium increased sharply in 2010, continuing through mid-2011, and that made the cultivation of opium poppy more attractive to farmers. In mid-2011, the farm-gate price of dry opium<sup>28</sup> increased to \$241 per kilogram, an increase of 43 per cent over 2010. This is the highest price per kilogram since 2004. However, gross income from opium poppy cultivation more than doubled between 2010 and 2011, increasing from \$4,900 to \$10,700 per hectare. Nearly 60 per cent of the farmers surveyed in 2011 cited

the high price of opium as the main reason for growing opium poppy. It was also noted that villages that had not received agricultural assistance from the government in 2011 were more likely to grow opium poppy than villages that had received such assistance.

658. Security conditions in Afghanistan continued to be linked to illicit cultivation of opium poppy, in particular in the southern and western provinces of Afghanistan. According to UNODC, most villages with poor security were involved in such cultivation. The number of security incidents in Afghanistan has increased every year since 2003; most of the incidents have occurred in the southern and south-western provinces. Planned decreases in ISAF in 2011 could affect security in parts of the country and, combined with opium price increases, could result in increased opium production beyond 2011. The Board calls upon the international community to continue to assist, in a coordinated manner, the Government of Afghanistan in its drug control efforts.

659. The second survey of cannabis cultivation in Afghanistan, conducted jointly by the Ministry of Counter-Narcotics and UNODC, was released in June 2011. The survey found that the number of households cultivating cannabis plants had increased by 18 per cent in 2010 from 2009. The results of the survey suggest that it is likely that Afghanistan produced more cannabis resin than any other country, with yields estimated at 127 kg per hectare, significantly higher than the yields of other large producers of cannabis resin such as Morocco (40 kg per hectare). Although overall cannabis production levels had remained unchanged since 2009, the number of provinces producing cannabis increased from 17 to 19 in 2010, or more than half of the country's 34 provinces. Farm-gate prices of cannabis increased dramatically in 2010, regardless of the grade of the product. In 2010, farmers' gross income from cannabis cultivation was estimated at \$9,000 per hectare, resulting in a comparably lucrative product when compared with opium poppy (\$10,700 per hectare) or alternative crops such as wheat (\$770 per hectare). Most cannabis is cultivated in the insecure southern part of the country, where most opium is also produced.

660. According to the report on the eradication of illicitly cultivated crops, issued jointly by the Ministry of Counter-Narcotics and UNODC, by mid-2011 more than 3,810 ha of opium poppy had been eradicated in Afghanistan, a significant increase over the figure for the first half of 2010. Increased eradication efforts were noted in the southern provinces of Helmand and Kandahar. In 2010, only 2,316 ha of illicitly cultivated opium poppy were eradicated, the lowest level in five years. In 2010, in contrast with previous years, no illicit crop eradication

<sup>27</sup> "Poppy-free provinces" are provinces in which the total area under opium poppy cultivation is less than 100 ha.

<sup>28</sup> Average farm-gate price weighted by the production of dry opium at harvest time, whereby "harvest time" represents differing periods in mid-2011 depending on the region, typically occurring from May to July.



campaigns were carried out in Afghanistan by national authorities; such eradication efforts were initiated only by provincial governors. The Government of Pakistan reported having eradicated 1,053 ha of opium poppy during the growing season 2010/2011.

661. Illicit cultivation of cannabis plants continued in some areas throughout the Middle East, in particular in Lebanon. According to officials in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, some illicit cultivation of cannabis, although limited, occurred in the West Bank.

662. While the number of reported seizures of cannabis resin continued to increase in the Middle East, the quantities seized have decreased since 2008. In addition to Lebanon, Yemen has become an important source of cannabis resin, as revealed by the seizures made in some countries. In Kuwait, however, almost all the seized cannabis resin originated in Iraq.

663. Trafficking in and abuse of cannabis herb are still relatively limited in the Middle East. Almost all seizures of cannabis in that subregion were made in Saudi Arabia, followed by Jordan. All of the cannabis herb seized in Saudi Arabia originated in Yemen.

664. Opiates from Afghanistan are smuggled via Iran (Islamic Republic of), Pakistan or countries in Central Asia. Of the estimated 365 tons of heroin smuggled out of Afghanistan in 2009, about 44 per cent was smuggled via Pakistan, 32 per cent via the Islamic Republic of Iran and 25 per cent via various Central Asian countries. An estimated 1,050 tons of opium were also smuggled into the Islamic Republic of Iran.

665. Most of the opium seized in countries in the Middle East, predominantly in the United Arab Emirates, had been smuggled out of the Islamic Republic of Iran in passenger luggage.

666. Although the number of heroin seizures in the Middle East increased in 2010, the quantities seized more than halved compared with previous years. Most of the heroin seizures involved persons travelling from Pakistan to Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates.

667. Several countries in Central Asia reported a deteriorating drug control situation, citing increased trafficking in opiates and cannabis from Afghanistan as the main problem. Uzbekistan reported increased drug trafficking, as the total number of drug seizures in 2010 increased by 35 per cent over the previous year, owing in large part to cannabis seizures totalling 1,732 kg and 565 kg of cannabis resin. The sharp rise in seizures of cannabis stems from production in Afghanistan, as most of the seizures have occurred in border areas. A total of

1,004 kg of heroin were seized, an increase of 33 per cent from 2009.

668. There are indications that cocaine trafficking is increasing throughout West Asia, with cocaine seizures increasing by 76 per cent from 2000 to 2009. Several countries in the region reported significant cocaine seizures in 2010 and the first part of 2011. Turkish authorities seized a total of 302 kg of cocaine in 2010, an increase of 226 per cent over the previous year. Further increases in cocaine seizures were reported by the Turkish authorities in the first five months of 2011. According to the World Customs Organization, Lebanese authorities seized 133 kg of cocaine in 2010 in a maritime freight consignment originating in Colombia that had transited through Belgium, representing one of the single largest reported seizures of cocaine in West Asia. Colombian cocaine also reaches Israel by boat: in April 2011, 250 kg of cocaine were seized by Israeli law enforcement services and customs. In Pakistan, the first significant seizure of cocaine was reported in October 2010, when authorities in the port of Karachi seized a container with 226 kg of cocaine coming from Suriname and destined for Lahore, Pakistan. While the amounts are not large when compared with seizures in some other regions, the increase is cause for concern as to the potential development of a future market.

#### (b) Psychotropic substances

669. West Asia has experienced considerable growth in trafficking and seizures of amphetamines, with seizures increasing between 2000 and 2009 from 4 to 27 tons. One matter of particular concern is the emergence of illicit methamphetamine manufacture, trafficking and abuse in the region. The emergence of several new methamphetamine trafficking routes in West Asia, used for smuggling the drug into countries in East Asia, has also been reported.

670. The Islamic Republic of Iran reported a significant increase in the number of clandestine methamphetamine laboratories dismantled in the country: 166 such laboratories were dismantled in 2010. The abuse of methamphetamine in the country has also spread, as has major drug trafficking. Methamphetamine continues to flow from the country both directly and via routes through neighbouring countries (the Syrian Arab Republic, Turkey and the United Arab Emirates), bound primarily for Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia and Thailand.

671. According to seizure data reported by law enforcement authorities in the United Arab Emirates, the amount of crystalline methamphetamine smuggled into the country has increased. Between January and

May 2011, such seizures amounted to 122 kg, compared with 41 kg in 2010. The number of nationals of African countries involved in the smuggling of crystalline methamphetamine through Dubai, United Arab Emirates, seems to be growing; in most cases, the drug was concealed in luggage destined for East Asia.

672. Countries in the Middle East, in particular Saudi Arabia, continue to be the main market for amphetamine sold as counterfeit Captagon tablets. In 2010, the volume of amphetamines seized in those countries amounted to 10 tons, mainly reported by Saudi Arabia (8 tons compared with 13 tons the previous year) and the Syrian Arab Republic. Saudi Arabia thus accounted for 80 per cent of the total weight seized, followed by the Syrian Arab Republic (15 per cent). In 2010, Jordan, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Qatar and Kuwait (in ascending order) reported seizures of quantities ranging between 9 and 267 kg.

673. Jordan and the Syrian Arab Republic are reportedly the main countries of origin of the seized amphetamine, whereas Saudi Arabia was the main country of destination, as in previous years. Captagon tablets are mostly detected in vehicles or in freight consignments.

674. Cooperation between the Saudi Arabian Anti-Narcotics Administration and the Turkish security services led to the seizure and destruction in September 2009 of a large laboratory in Turkey that had been illicitly manufacturing Captagon tablets. The laboratory had a production capacity of 200 million Captagon tablets per year.

675. In Saudi Arabia, the first clandestine laboratory for illicit manufacture of Captagon tablets was dismantled in June 2010. Tableting machines, punches, chemicals and Captagon tablets were seized during the operation. The Board is concerned about illicit manufacture of amphetamine in the Middle East.

676. Benzodiazepines such as diazepam, clonazepam and nitrazepam are trafficked in West Asia. Seizures of tablets containing those substances were made in Kuwait, Qatar and Saudi Arabia. In Kuwait, 16 per cent of the demand for treatment for drug abuse is associated with the abuse of sedatives, including those under international control.

### (c) Precursors

677. In West Asia, there continues to be significant illicit demand for acetic anhydride for use in heroin manufacture. However, the amount of acetic anhydride that is reported to be seized each year is but a tiny fraction of the amount needed to manufacture the

375 tons of heroin estimated to be abused worldwide each year. This may be partly attributable to the difficulties in reporting seizures during the ongoing conflict. For example, official press releases from ISAF cite several multi-ton seizures of precursor chemicals commonly found in illicit drug manufacturing laboratories throughout Afghanistan. However, in most cases, specific details, such as the type and quantity, are not reported. As seized precursor chemicals are typically burned on site, the opportunity to collect forensic and other information to support backtracking investigations, is lost. The Board urges the Government of Afghanistan, with assistance from the international community, to improve systems for the collection, management and reporting of information in accordance with article 12 of the 1988 Convention with regard to seized precursor chemicals. Until such time, the Board calls on the Governments concerned and regional and international entities (e.g. CARICC, ISAF and UNODC) operating in and around Afghanistan to share such information with the Board via the established Project Cohesion mechanism so as to facilitate international efforts to counter trafficking in precursors.

678. In December 2010, cooperation between Slovak and Turkish authorities resulted in the seizure of 10 tons of acetic anhydride — enough to manufacture between 2.5 and 10 tons of heroin, depending on the processing method used. That was one of the largest reported seizures of that precursor chemical since the publication of the report of the Board for 2010.

679. In March 2011, authorities in Tajikistan seized 404 kg of acetic anhydride and 7.3 tons of sulphuric acid destined for Afghanistan. In that same month, authorities in the Russian Federation arrested members of an organized criminal group and seized 800 kg of acetic anhydride en route to Afghanistan via Tajikistan. Tajik authorities are cooperating with Russian authorities in the prosecution of those responsible for the illicit consignments.

680. Since 2006, many countries in West Asia have reported considerable increases in their annual legitimate requirement for imports of ephedrine and pseudoephedrine, precursors that can be used in the illicit manufacture of methamphetamine. For example, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Pakistan and the Syrian Arab Republic are now among the countries with the highest annual legitimate requirements for pseudoephedrine in the world. In 2010, Iranian and Pakistan authorities reported a growing number of significant seizures of ephedrine; that increasing trend continued into 2011.

681. In recent years, countries in the Middle East, in particular Iraq, have been targeted for the diversion of precursor chemicals such as ephedrine, pseudoephedrine and acetic anhydride. Numerous suspicious shipments to the subregion have been stopped.

682. The Board continues to be concerned by the high annual legitimate requirements for the import of P-2-P reported by the Government of Jordan. Jordan's annual legitimate requirements, amounting to 60 tons, are the highest of any country, and three times that of the next largest requirement, that of the United States (18 tons). Of the 70 countries reporting to the Board annual legitimate requirements for P-2-P, 52 require the substance in quantities of only 1 kg or less. The Board urges the Government of Jordan to review its annual legitimate requirements for P-2-P and ensure that those requirements are based on legitimate end-use.

683. The Board encourages countries in West Asia to review their annual legitimate requirement methodologies and estimates for the import of precursors of amphetamine-type stimulants and to ensure that their requirements are for legitimate end-use.

#### (d) Substances not under international control

684. Seizures of substances not under international control, in particular khat, continue to be reported in the Middle East. A total of 246 kg of khat was seized in 2010, almost all by the customs services in Yemen. Air freight consignments of khat were destined for Malaysia, the Sudan and the United States.

### 5. Abuse and treatment

685. The estimated annual prevalence of opiate abuse in West Asia is one of the highest in the world. The abuse of opiates continues to be a significant problem in countries in the region, in particular Afghanistan and neighbouring countries. According to UNODC estimates, in 2009 the prevalence of opiate abuse in Afghanistan was among the highest in the region. Past year prevalence of opiate abuse among the general population aged 15-64 was 2.3-3 per cent. Comparable levels were also found in the neighbouring Islamic Republic of Iran, where UNODC estimates that, in 2010, 1.8-2.8 per cent of the general population had abused opiates in the past year.

686. Many countries in Central Asia have high levels of opiate abuse, as shown by data on persons admitted for treatment, and the proportion of persons who abuse opiates in the form of heroin is increasing. In Central Asia, between 75 and 97 per cent of persons entering facilities for the treatment of drug abuse do so primarily for the abuse of opiates. The proportion of heroin abusers

among officially registered drug abusers in Central Asia has increased since 2004, with the proportion of those registered at dispensaries in 2009 ranging from 44 per cent in Kyrgyzstan to 81 per cent in Tajikistan. According to UNODC, drug abusers in countries in West Asia (excluding Turkey) consumed an estimated 43 tons of heroin in 2009, accounting for approximately 12 per cent of global consumption of that drug.

687. Central Asian countries have some of the fastest-growing levels of HIV infection, with drug abuse by injection accounting for over 60 per cent of cases with HIV infection. The health of drug abusers is also affected by blood-borne infections such as hepatitis C; in some countries in the subregion, the prevalence of hepatitis C infection among persons who abuse drugs by injection is as high as 40 per cent.

688. In Kyrgyzstan, the situation with respect to drug abuse worsened as a result of the increased availability of opium and heroin originating in Afghanistan, a spillover effect of the transit in that country. Abuse of drugs has become more widespread: the number of registered drug-dependent persons has increased sharply in the past decade, totalling 10,171 in early 2011. Increasing abuse of opioids has been accompanied by increasing abuse by injection and increased infection with blood-borne diseases such as hepatitis and HIV/AIDS. According to the Government of Kyrgyzstan, in the first quarter of 2011 there were 726 HIV-positive persons registered in the country, of whom 423 abused drugs by injection. Law enforcement officials reported an increase of 50 per cent in drug-related offences in the first half of 2011 compared with the first half of 2010.

689. Since November 2009, UNODC has been implementing an evidence-based family skills training programme in selected Central Asian countries in order to prevent drug abuse, HIV/AIDS and crime and delinquency among young people by improving the capacity of families to take better care of their children. As a result of ongoing project activities, the texts of the evidence-based family skills training programme, Families and Schools Together, have been translated and culturally adapted and have been implemented at selected local institutions in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan. So far, 128 planners and practitioners from 15 pilot schools in the four countries have been trained in the effective implementation of the eight-week programme.

690. Cannabis continued to be abused in most countries in the Middle East, with a rising trend reported in Jordan and Lebanon.

691. The prevalence rates for abuse of opiates remained low in the countries on the Arabian Peninsula, with heroin being the main opiate abused. Opiates were also the main substances causing drug-related deaths, with rates ranging from 4.6 per million people aged 15-64 in the United Arab Emirates to 44.3 per million in Bahrain.

692. Programmes for the treatment and prevention of drug abuse, as well as for raising awareness about the risks of drug abuse by injection, are increasing in number in the Middle East. In coming years, UNODC intends to expand its programmes on HIV prevention and care for drug abusers, including in prison settings.

693. In 2010, the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran authorized the use of tincture of opium nationwide as part of an expansion of maintenance treatment, which also includes the use of methadone and buprenorphine. The expansion was approved after a pilot project had been evaluated by the Government. In 2009, the Government estimated that some 668,000 persons had received treatment for drug-related problems, of whom 184,000 had received some form of maintenance treatment.

694. The pilot programme initiated by the Ministry of Health of Lebanon, offering buprenorphine substitution treatment for persons addicted to opioids, continued. UNODC supported the development of clinical guidelines and operating procedures for the programme, including, in particular, monitoring activities to prevent any diversion from the treatment programme.

695. The National Rehabilitation Centre in Abu Dhabi treats patients for poly-substance abuse that includes opiates, cannabis, psychotropic substances and alcohol. The Centre doubled its bed capacity in 2009, and an outpatient facility was launched in mid-2010. The outpatient clinic treats about 450 patients a month. The authorities are planning to open a 200-bed centre by 2014, which will also include a section for women. Most patients come to the Centre voluntarily.

696. A 2010 qualitative study by UNODC examining the social and economic impact of drug abuse on families in four cities in Pakistan pointed to the profound financial, physical and psychological burden on wives of drug-abusing husbands. Most of the women interviewed had become the sole providers in their families, earning in most cases less than \$60 a month, as their drug-abusing husbands were often unemployed. The financial situation of the families of drug abusers had a negative effect on family nutrition and education and prevented spouses from obtaining adequate treatment for their drug-abusing husbands. One quarter of the spouses of drug abusers interviewed reported being subjected to physical violence

(26 per cent) or sexual violence (23 per cent) and were found to be extremely vulnerable to being infected with HIV.

697. With the exception of Israel, few countries in West Asia have reported performing regular direct or indirect nationally representative surveys of drug abuse among the general population, making it difficult to assess the severity, comparability and change in drug abuse levels in the region. Although Turkey has never performed a nationally representative survey of drug abuse among the general population, a pilot study on the prevalence of drug abuse was carried out in the Ankara region in 2010. Results indicated that, among persons aged 15-64, past-month abuse of sedatives/tranquillizers without prescription was 2.9 per cent, and past-month abuse of cannabis was 0.8 per cent. A 2010 regional study of Istanbul students found lifetime prevalence of cannabis abuse to be 3.3 per cent, MDMA ("ecstasy") abuse to be 1.6 per cent, amphetamine abuse to be 1.4 per cent and cocaine abuse to be 1.0 per cent.

698. The seventh national epidemiological survey on the prevalence of drug abuse among youth in Israel was conducted in 2009. It showed that, among other things, an increase in the proportion of persons aged 12-18 who reported having abused drugs in their lifetime.

## D. Europe

### 1. Major developments

699. There is not much evidence of a decrease in the level of cannabis abuse in most countries in Europe and indeed in a small number of countries an increasing trend in such abuse has been seen. The illicit cultivation of cannabis plants in Western and Central Europe has increased dramatically. Cannabis plants are increasingly being illicitly cultivated on an industrial scale, mainly indoors, and with the involvement of organized criminal groups. In such cases, the THC content of the cannabis plants has been high. Indoor cultivation of cannabis plants for personal use is tolerated in some countries, which is not in compliance with the international drug control conventions. Cannabis seizures in Europe have decreased in recent years, possibly as a result of increased numbers of seizures in North Africa, the key source of cannabis resin. A decreasing trend in seizures of cannabis resin was evident in many countries in Europe, while seizures of cannabis herb increased in some countries in recent years with trends varying between countries.

700. The abuse of cocaine has stabilized in recent years, although at a relatively high level, in most countries in Western and Central Europe. The spread of cocaine abuse