

envisaged trading volume exceeds the latest estimate or assessment of the importing country, a warning message is displayed automatically and further processing is blocked until the relevant estimates and/or assessments are updated. Furthermore, by enabling authorities of an importing country to verify in real time the amounts actually received, authorities of the exporting country can be notified immediately should those quantities be smaller or larger than those authorized for export.

328. The Commission on Narcotic Drugs, in its resolution 58/10 of March 2015, welcomed the launch of I2ES and urged Member States to promote and facilitate the fullest possible use of the system. It also invited the secretariat of INCB to administer the system and encouraged Member States to provide the fullest possible financial support for its administration and maintenance and the provision of trainings.

329. User-group meetings were held on the margins of the fifty-ninth and sixtieth sessions of the Commission in March 2016 and March 2017. Authorities from around 40 countries, together with the INCB secretariat and UNODC, shared their views on and experience with using I2ES. In particular, participants assessed the progress made, gave feedback and suggestions regarding the further development of I2ES and identified specific actions to promote its use.

330. One user-group meeting focused on the latest version of the UNODC National Drug Control System and the technical aspects of its data exchange with I2ES. The meeting was organized jointly by the competent national authorities of Switzerland and UNODC, and was held at the beginning of October 2017. The secretariat of INCB participated and gave an overview of I2ES. Authorities from about 15 major countries trading in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances shared their experiences with and vision for using these applications.

331. The Board wishes to express its appreciation to all Governments that have provided financial, political and technical support during the development and testing of I2ES. **While its development was completed entirely with extrabudgetary resources, further funding is required to enable the secretariat of INCB to administer I2ES in line with its mandate and in accordance with all relevant resolutions of the Commission.**

332. As at 1 November 2017, 40 countries (Afghanistan, Algeria, Australia, Austria, Bangladesh, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Italy, Jordan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lithuania,

Luxembourg, Malaysia, Maldives, Mexico, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Spain, Switzerland, Thailand, Turkey and Zambia) had registered with I2ES.

333. **The Board would like to encourage all competent national authorities to register with I2ES as soon as possible and start utilizing it.** As more and more Governments join hands in issuing and exchanging import and export authorizations via the system, its power and effectiveness in expediting the process increase rapidly. In particular, the active participation of major trading countries for narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances is of paramount importance. More widespread utilization of I2ES will not only improve the efficiency and workflow of competent national authorities, but also serve as a basis for further strengthening the international drug control system.

334. Applying the principle of common and shared responsibility, States parties have successfully reduced the diversion of controlled substances thanks to their concerted efforts to implement the import and export authorization system and regulate the licit trade of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances under international control. It is time to apply the same spirit to realizing the full potential of I2ES so as to modernize the import and export authorization system and ensure adequate availability of and access to controlled substances for medical and scientific purposes.

335. **The Board would like to invite Member States to consider what further measures would be needed to ensure the fullest utilization of I2ES, its maintenance and further development.**

8. Training for competent national authorities, and INCB Learning

336. The provision of estimates, assessments and statistics to the Board, together with the control over international trade lie at the core of the international drug control system. The Board has observed, however, that many countries have difficulties in meeting the requirements set out in the international drug control conventions and related resolutions of the Economic and Social Council and the Commission on Narcotic Drugs.

337. The insufficient capacity of some Governments to comply with the provisions of the international drug control conventions increases the risks of diversion, trafficking and abuse and can lead to inadequate availability of controlled substances for medical, scientific and, in the case of precursor chemicals, legitimate industrial

purposes. This can result in medical centres, pharmacies and doctors not having access to essential medicines, in diseases going untreated, in unnecessary suffering and in the diversion and non-medical use of controlled substances, with considerable impact on the health and welfare of society. With regard to precursors, the difficulties some Governments face in establishing a balanced monitoring system may hamper legitimate international trade and fuel the illicit manufacture of drugs and drug abuse in their own countries and abroad.

338. Over the years and through its secretariat, the Board has been providing training to Governments on an ad hoc basis on the margins of the annual sessions of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and through the Board's participation in meetings of the Commission's subsidiary bodies, at conferences and meetings of regional organizations, in specific events and through the visits of staff of competent national authorities to the offices of the secretariat of the Board.

339. In early 2016 and in response to requests from Member States, the Board launched INCB Learning as a global project in order to strengthen the capacity of Governments in the regulatory control and monitoring of the licit trade in narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and precursor chemicals. The ultimate goal of the project is to support Governments in ensuring the adequate availability of controlled substances while preventing their diversion, trafficking and abuse. With the INCB Learning initiative, the Board contributes to efforts to achieve Sustainable Development Goal 3, to ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages.

340. To provide training in a cost-effective manner, regional seminars are held under INCB Learning for staff from competent national authorities. The first training seminars were conducted in Nairobi in April 2016 for countries in East Africa, and in Bangkok in July 2016, for countries in South and East Asia and the Pacific. A seminar for European countries followed in Vienna in July 2017. A training seminar for countries in Oceania was held in Sydney, Australia, in November 2017 and a training workshop for States members of the Central American Integration System, to be held in Guatemala City, was under preparation. As of 1 November 2017, 116 officials from 56 countries, together representing almost half of the world population, had received training under the project.

341. Also through INCB Learning, the Board is updating its training materials for competent national authorities and is developing e-learning courses to enable the staff of those authorities to receive INCB training on

demand. It is expected that this approach will help to ensure that competent national authorities retain the relevant knowledge even at times of staff turnover. Under the project, pilot e-learning courses have been developed focusing on the estimates system for narcotic drugs, on the assessment system for psychotropic substances and on the estimates of annual legitimate requirements for imports of certain precursors of amphetamine-type stimulants. In addition to those training activities, national workshops have been conducted under INCB Learning in an effort to raise awareness of the importance of ensuring the availability of and access to narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances for medical and scientific purposes. Workshops for Kenya and Thailand brought together participants from national authorities, the international community and civil society to discuss national challenges and opportunities to improve medical access to controlled substances.

342. INCB Learning responds to the operational recommendations contained in the outcome document adopted at the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem held in 2016 entitled "Our joint commitment to effectively addressing and countering the world drug problem". In it, Governments agreed to a set of recommended measures designed to ensure the availability of and access to controlled substances exclusively for medical and scientific purposes, while preventing their diversion. Paragraph 2 of the outcome document specifically recommends the strengthening of the proper functioning of the national drug control systems and domestic assessment mechanisms and programmes. It also recommends the training of competent national authorities and the conducting of awareness-raising campaigns to ensure access to controlled substances for medical and scientific purposes. INCB Learning collaborates with WHO and UNODC, which have contributed to and participated in INCB Learning training seminars and awareness-raising workshops, providing inputs in the area of essential medicines and palliative care. The operational recommendations of the outcome document of the special session also make reference to the Board's online tools, such as I2ES and PEN Online, for which training is provided during the seminars.

343. In the spirit of article 9, paragraph 5 of the 1961 Convention as amended by the 1972 Protocol, the Board assists Governments in complying with the international drug control conventions. As the repository of technical expertise, the secretariat of the Board is in a unique position to provide training to competent national authorities. Training conducted under INCB Learning has proved to be an effective tool for increasing Member States' compliance with the conventions and related resolutions of

the Economic and Social Council and the Commission on Narcotic Drugs. Very positive feedback has been received in which participants stress the high relevance of the training for their work and the need to sustain, repeat and further develop INCB Learning.

344. Notwithstanding the assistance provided by INCB, it is the responsibility of Governments under the international drug control treaties to enable their competent national authorities to receive training. The importance of ensuring that national drug administrators have adequate qualifications for the effective and faithful execution of treaty provisions is highlighted in article 34 (a) of the 1961 Convention. Article 38, paragraphs 2 and 3, of the 1961 Convention and article 20, paragraphs 2 and 3, of the 1971 Convention require States parties to provide training to prevent the abuse of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances. Such training should target, among other things, the capacity of competent national authorities to determine legitimate requirements of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, to monitor and control their use, and to furnish accurate reports to INCB. The need for appropriate training of law enforcement and other personnel on the control of narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and precursor chemicals is also covered by article 9, paragraphs 2 and 3, of the 1988 Convention.

345. The international drug control conventions and the outcome document of the special session, in its paragraph 6, call on the international community to enhance cooperation and lend technical and financial assistance to countries requesting support. INCB Learning stands ready to assist, in collaboration with other United Nations entities such as WHO and UNODC, countries in fulfilling their treaty obligations in order to strengthen the international drug control system and ensure the adequate availability of narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and precursor chemicals for licit purposes. To achieve that goal and to support Governments, the Board relies on voluntary contributions from Governments to its capacity-building activities. **The Board is grateful for the contributions to INCB Learning made by the Governments of Australia, France and the United States, and for the in-kind support provided by the Government of Thailand. The Board calls on Governments to provide further and regular contributions to sustain and expand activities under the INCB Learning initiative. Such commitment by Governments is required to ensure broad geographical coverage, the sustainability of the project and the provision of support and advice to all Governments.**

9. Upgrading the International Drug Control System platform

346. The international drug control system is based on three international conventions: the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961 as amended by the 1972 Protocol, the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971 and the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988. The 1961 Convention as amended and the 1971 Convention established control measures for narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, whereas the 1988 Convention established control measures for precursor chemicals used in the illicit manufacture of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances. By becoming parties to these conventions, States accept the obligation to implement in their national legislation the provisions of the conventions.

347. The international drug control conventions were elaborated in recognition of the fact that certain substances, while of great benefit to humankind, also had the potential to cause harm. Therefore, the conventions established a control system that would ensure the availability of controlled substances for medical and scientific purposes while preventing their illicit production, trafficking and abuse. If applied correctly, this system should not hinder but rather promote access to controlled substances and prevent their diversion.

348. INCB is the body responsible for monitoring the compliance of Governments with the international drug control treaties and for providing support to Governments in this respect. The capacity of INCB to monitor the functioning of the international drug control mechanisms established by the conventions relies, in part, on the ability of Governments to provide it with estimated quantities of controlled substances required for legitimate purposes in their countries. These quantities are known as estimates when referring to narcotic drugs, as assessments when referring to psychotropic substances, and as annual legitimate requirements for precursor chemicals and substances frequently used in the illicit manufacture of amphetamine-type stimulants.

349. The accurate estimation of requirements for controlled substances is an essential step in ensuring their adequate supply for medical and scientific purposes. While underestimation of requirements can contribute to problems, notably shortages, overestimation can lead to surpluses, waste and increased risk of diversion of controlled substances. To supplement its annual report, the Board publishes three technical reports on narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and precursor chemicals. These reports are based on information furnished by Governments