



For information only — not an official document

## INCB INITIATIVES TO SUPPORT MEMBER STATES

### INCB Learning

INCB Learning is the Board's initiative to enhance the ability of Governments to estimate and assess their requirements for internationally controlled substances for medical and scientific purposes, in compliance with the three international drug control treaties, with the aim of promoting adequate availability of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances for medical and scientific purposes while preventing their misuse. The initiative includes five e-modules for online learning (in English, French, Russian and Spanish, as well as Portuguese) along with virtual and in-person training and seminars.

In December 2023, INCB Learning conducted an in-person subregional training seminar in Caracas for 40 officials from Argentina, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Chile, Cuba, Nicaragua, Uruguay and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of).

As of 1 November 2024, 1,502 officials from 154 countries and territories have enrolled in INCB Learning e-modules. The Board encourages Governments to register officials from their competent national authorities for the e-modules.

### INCB Global Rapid Interdiction of Dangerous Substances (GRIDS) Programme

The INCB GRIDS Programme focal point network enables the rapid exchange of information and alerts and the development of intelligence which facilitates operational action to assist in investigations and the dismantling of organized criminal groups trafficking in non-scheduled dangerous substances, such as new psychoactive substances and non-medical synthetic opioids.

The number of real-time incidents communicated through the INCB IONICS platform has consistently grown over the years, surpassing 100,000 exchanges as of 2024.

Leveraging the Project Ion and the global Operational Partnerships to Interdict Opioids' Illicit Distribution (OPIOIDS) project law and regulatory enforcement focal point networks, INCB coordinated Operation Zodiac. This targeted non-medical benzodiazepines, including those diverted from the legitimate pharmaceutical industry and those that were substandard, falsified or otherwise illicitly manufactured, as well as novel new benzodiazepines with no known legitimate uses. The operation resulted in 465 seizures over a four-week period, amounting to 286,000 tablets as well as 30 kg and 300 ml of seized benzodiazepines.

The first subregional special operation, "African Star", targeting shipments of falsified, substandard and other illicitly manufactured pharmaceuticals, was successfully coordinated from 9 to 15 June in East Africa. Consignments comprising 92 unauthorized, falsified, substandard or illicitly manufactured pharmaceuticals totalling over 115,000 units and 1.15 kg were seized during the four-day operation led by the authorities of Kenya and Uganda with the support of the GRIDS Programme.



For information only — not an official document

Over the past year, 42 training events were held through the GRIDS Programme for more than 900 law and regulatory enforcement officers and postal inspection officers from 80 Governments and seven international organizations.

In the past year, seven global alerts and special notices were circulated to Project Ion and OPIOIDS Project focal points for voluntary action by law, regulatory and private sector counterparts. This included one special alert relating to global trafficking in ketamine, along with four special notices addressing the increasing prevalence of synthetic opioids marketed as kush in West Africa, strengthened regulations on veterinary medicines in China, new controls over 46 new psychoactive substances and synthetic opioids in China and reports of two emerging veterinary medicines being detected in North America.

## INCB precursor control programme

### Monitoring of licit trade

The INCB PEN Online system continued to provide an effective mechanism for monitoring trade in internationally controlled precursors under the 1988 Convention, with the tool now regularly used by 145 countries. In addition, the analogous PEN Online Light system, another of the Board's initiatives to prevent chemicals not listed in Tables I and II of the 1988 Convention from reaching illicit laboratories, is currently being used by 42 exporting and importing Governments.

### Law enforcement operations and intelligence sharing

The INCB Precursors Incident Communication System (PICS) is a platform that allows law enforcement and other relevant authorities of different countries to exchange information about precursor and equipment seizures. At the time of drafting of the 2024 Precursors Report, PICS had more than 700 active users from 130 countries and territories, representing 325 agencies in all regions. Over 4,800 incidents relating to precursors and equipment had been communicated through the system since its inception.

### Other tools and resources

To assist Governments in addressing the diversion of non-scheduled chemicals frequently used in the illicit manufacture of drugs and the proliferation of designer precursors, INCB developed and disseminated to all competent national authorities a list of substances that fall within the extended definitions described in the limited international special surveillance list (ISSL) of non-scheduled substances. The Board also amended the list to include two new sections on the following: (a) frequently seen precursors of substances recently scheduled under the 1961 Convention and the 1971 Convention and of new psychoactive substances; and (b) frequently seen cutting agents, adulterants and excipients. Moreover, INCB disseminated the most recent information on control measures applied by Governments to chemicals that are not in Tables I or II of the 1988 Convention but that may be used in the illicit manufacture of narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances, controlled precursors or new psychoactive substances.