



INTERNATIONAL NARCOTICS CONTROL BOARD

**Press conference to launch
annual report of INCB**

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2008 Annual Report

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INTERNATIONAL NARCOTICS CONTROL BOARD



**What is the International
Narcotics Control Board?**





**Established by the
1961 Single Convention on
Narcotic Drugs to replace
predecessor bodies
under League of Nations**

**Additional mandates to control
psychotropic substances under
the 1971 Convention; and
chemicals used in illicit drug
manufacture under the 1988
Convention**

INCB History

➤ Geneva Convention, 1925

- **PCB** *Permanent Central Opium (or Narcotics) Board (1929-1967)*

➤ 1931 Convention

- **DSB** *Drug Supervisory Body (1933-1967)*

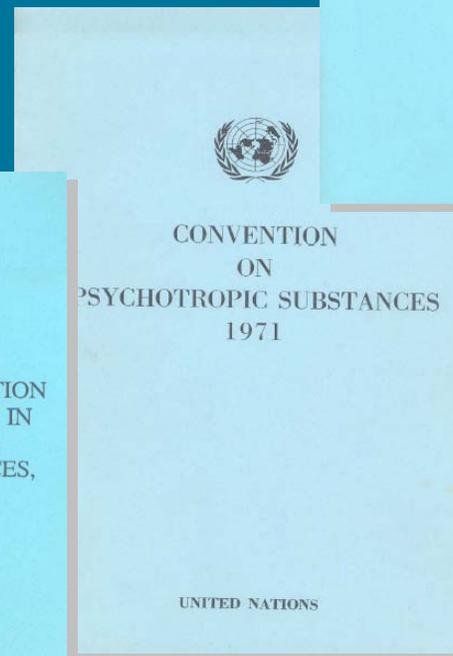
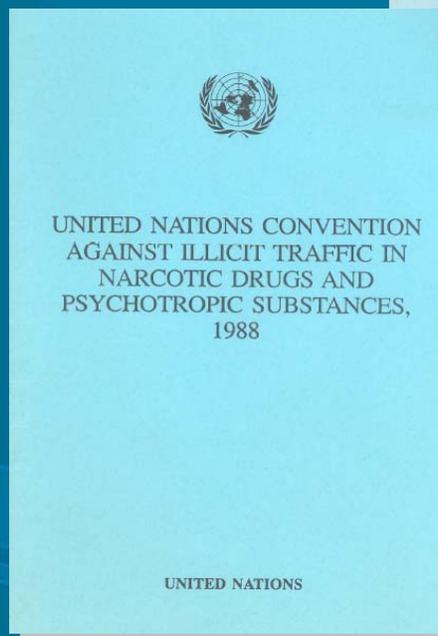
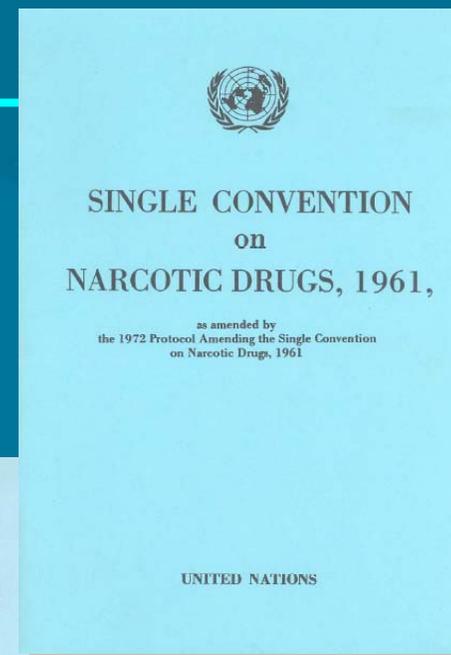
➤ Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, 1961

- **INCB** *International Narcotics Control Board*
(as of 1968)

Functions of INCB

➤ To monitor and promote treaty compliance

➤ To encourage dialogue with Governments



Quasi judicial function





INCB reports

- **Annual Report of the Board**
- **Report on article 12 of the 1988 Convention**
- **Technical reports on narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances**
- **2009: Special report on UNGASS**



INTERNATIONAL NARCOTICS CONTROL BOARD



Annual Report 2008

The highlights





Thematic review:

International drug control Conventions

(Press release no. 2, Chapter 1 of report)

History, achievements, challenges

100 years of international drug control:

- International Opium Commission in Shanghai, China, held in February 1909
- Shanghai Commission laid foundation for the international drug control treaty system
- First International Opium Convention signed at The Hague in 1912, followed by series of treaties

History, achievements, challenges

Treaties currently in force:

- Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, 1961
- Convention on Psychotropic Substances, 1971
- United Nations Convention Against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, 1988

History, achievements, challenges

➤ Achievements:

- Treaties enjoy high degree of international acceptance
- Over 95 per cent of United Nations Member States (covering 99 per cent of the world's population) are parties to the international drug control Conventions
- All major drug manufacturing countries, major drug exporting countries and major drug importing countries are parties to the three Conventions

History, achievements, challenges

➤ Achievements:

- Licit control system set up by the Convention has managed to absorb:
 - an ever increasing number of substances controlled by the Conventions (119 narcotic drugs, 116 psychotropic substances)
 - a continuously rising demand for narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances
- No cases of diversion from licit international trade to illicit traffic of narcotic drugs detected in the course of 2007
- Few diversions of strictly controlled psychotropic substances (such as amphetamine, MDMA) from licit trade

History, achievements, challenges

Challenges

- Access to controlled drugs for medical and scientific purposes still a problem in over 150 countries
 - Up to 86 million people estimated to suffer untreated moderate and severe pain annually
- Governments need to address the reasons for this problem (lack of training of health-related professionals, low priority of issue in health plans etc.)

History, achievements, challenges

Challenge:

- Inconsistent implementation of cannabis control provisions throughout the world
 - Tolerance of cannabis use in some countries at odds with the position of cannabis in schedules I and IV of the 1961 Convention;
 - More potent forms of cannabis are available, particularly in developed countries;
 - Overlap and confusion in public perceptions of the alleged medical uses of cannabis and its recreational use.

History, achievements, challenges

Challenge

- Primary prevention
 - Crucial issue: Early onset of drug abuse may be a predictor of the development of health and social problems as a whole;
 - Progress in using prevention as part of the global response to the drug problem has been slow
 - Citizens should demand from their Governments to place high priority on prevention of drug abuse for youth and other vulnerable groups

Recommendations

Governments should

- Make greater investments in prevention, especially for youth and vulnerable groups
- Stimulate rational use of opioid analgesics for medical purposes and consider working with the pharmaceutical industry with a view to making them more affordable to the poorest countries
- Examine how to best ensure the effective functioning of the 1961 and 1971 Conventions



Regional highlights

Press release No. 3, Chapter 3 of report

AFRICA

- Africa has developed into major hub for smuggling cocaine from South America to Europe;
- East Africa main transit route for smuggling heroin from South-West Asia into Africa;
- Africa has emerged as an area used for the diversion of ephedrine and pseudoephedrine.

AMERICAS

- Growing violence between drug trafficking organizations and law enforcement authorities a major problem in North America;
- Abuse of prescription drugs in the United States a concern;
- Colombia remains the world's largest producer of coca leaf;
- In Central America, street gangs (*maras*) continue to be associated with international drug trafficking networks.

ASIA

- Drug control situation in Afghanistan still major concern: largest producer of Illicit opium poppy cultivation, significant cultivation of cannabis;
- Large seizures of amphetamine-type stimulants in South Asia might point to the emergence of an illicit market in those substances
- Sharing needles among drug abusers remains one of the main causes of HIV transmission in many countries in South-East Asia.

EUROPE

- Europe remains a large market for cocaine, which is increasingly trafficked to Eastern Europe;
- Market for illicit opiates largest in Eastern Europe but heroin abuse appears to be making a comeback in some countries in Western Europe;
- Drug treatment tends to increasingly take place in an outpatient setting.

OCEANIA

- Recent increase in drug trafficking from Canada to Australia;
- Illicit drugs seizures in Fiji, Papua New Guinea and Vanuatu confirm concerns that Island States in Oceania are vulnerable to exploitation by drug traffickers due to porous maritime border and relatively weak control measures.



Cocaine trafficking through West Africa

Press release No. 4, Chapter 3

Cocaine trafficking through West Africa

- West Africa has become an important transit and stockpiling area for cocaine consignments from Latin America destined for Europe
- Almost all West African countries are affected (particularly Cape Verde, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Mauritania, Nigeria, Senegal and Sierra Leone)
 - Large seizures: 2.5 tons Liberia (Jan 2008), 700 kg Sierra Leone, 300 kg Ghana
- INCB calls on international community to provide West African Governments with the necessary assistance to tackle the problem.



Afghanistan

Press release No. 5, Chapter 3 of report

Afghanistan

- Widespread cultivation of opium poppy and significant cultivation of cannabis
- Drug abuse a serious problem (1.4 percent of the population) in Afghanistan and in neighbouring countries (e.g. Islamic Republic of Iran -2.8 per cent)
- Availability of Acetic anhydride, the main chemical used in illicit heroin manufacture; challenge
- Governments should implement Security Council resolution 1817.



Amphetamine-type stimulants

Press release No. 6

Amphetamine-type stimulants

- Abuse of amphetamine-type stimulants (ATS) worsening in some regions of the world;
- Large seizures of these substances in Saudi Arabia and other countries on the Arabian peninsula indicate an abuse problem;
- Criminal organizations often pose as legitimate importers to obtain the chemicals ephedrine and pseudoephedrine, the main chemicals used in the illicit manufacture of ATS;
- INCB supports Governments in their action against trafficking of chemicals.

Drug smuggling by courier services

- Misuse of courier services for drug trafficking occurs in all regions
- Some Governments have identified the use of courier services as a major modus operandi for drug smuggling
- Most commonly smuggled drugs: heroin, cocaine, cannabis, MDMA (ecstasy), LSD and amphetamines
- Pharmaceutical preparations containing narcotic drugs or psychotropic substances are also trafficked (e.g. benzodiazepines)
- Quantities that are smuggled are small but add up to significant quantities
- Reasons for using courier services:
 - Drugs can be easily concealed
 - Possible to send small quantities of drugs frequently
 - Low operational costs
 - Possible to send consignments from one location to various destinations
 - Difficult to verify whether information provided by the sender is valid
- INCB encourages Governments to increase their vigilance with regard to cases involving the misuse of courier services for drug smuggling and to adopt measures to effectively counter that illicit activity.

Diversión of prescription drugs

- Diversión of prescription drugs containing narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances a serious concern
- Distribution of these substances in the unregulated market is increasingly characterized by the involvement of criminal networks and by the expansion of the range of products containing narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances
- Use of these drugs without medical prescription exposes patients to serious health risks, including dependence and can have lethal consequences
- Elimination of the unregulated markets must be done through a concerted effort involving Governments and other relevant partners (pharmaceutical industry, professional associations, international organizations)

Example of abuse levels of controlled prescription drugs (United States of America)

Increased by **94 %** from 7.8 million in 1992 to 15.1 million in 2003.

In 2006, **15.8 million** people reported abusing controlled prescription drugs, more than the combined number who reported abusing cocaine (6.1 million), hallucinogens (4.0 million), inhalants (2.2 million) and heroin (0.5 million).

Ketamine

- Not currently under international control but abused in many regions, particularly in the Americas, East and South-East Asia, South Asia and Oceania
- Commission on Narcotic Drugs resolutions on ketamine adopted in 2006 and 2007
- INCB requested all Governments to provide it with information on specific legal or administrative measures undertaken with respect to ketamine;
- Responses were received from 63 countries and 4 territories;
- Several large seizures reported (e.g. China 1 ton in 2006)
- Information collected has been communicated to the World Health Organization .



INCB recommendations

Chapter 4



**Thank you
for your attention**

<http://www.incb.org>



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Annual Report

Supplementary slides





INTERNATIONAL NARCOTICS CONTROL BOARD



Annual Report

Functions of INCB



INCB History

- INCB history closely tied to history of international drug control
- International Opium Commission, Shanghai, 1909
 - Held from 1 to 26 February 1909
 - Shanghai Declaration first multilateral commitment to reduce the scale of cultivation, trade and use of opium
 - Catalyst for international drug control system (1912 The Hague Convention)
 - Commission on Narcotic Drugs has called on all States to commemorate International Opium Commission
 - Government of China to host commemorative event

Role of INCB

Work focuses on six main aspects :

- ensure that cultivation, production, manufacture and utilization of drugs are limited to medical and scientific purposes
- ensure availability of drugs for medical and scientific purposes
- identify weaknesses in the implementation of the international drug control conventions
- prevent illicit cultivation, production, manufacture, trafficking and use of drugs
- evaluate and recommend chemicals for possible international control
- monitor chemicals and prevent their diversion into illicit channels



Composition of the Board

➤ 13 members

- 3 nominated by WHO
- 10 nominated by Governments

→ elected by ECOSOC for a period of 5 years

→ serve in their personal capacity not as government representatives



***Board members are persons who,
“by their competence, impartiality and
disinterestedness, will command general confidence”
(Article 9 (2), 1961 Convention)***

Impartiality of INCB members (a)

Impartiality - central principle

- *“During their term of office they shall not hold any position or engage in any activity which would be liable to impair their impartiality in the exercise of their functions.” Article 9, paragraph 2, 1961 Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs*

Impartiality of INCB members (b)

- ECOSOC/Governments should ensure that principle of impartiality is adhered to at the time of election.
- INCB has established internal procedure to ensure impartiality during term of office of Board member.

INCB secretariat

→ Located in Vienna within UNODC

→ Maintains full technical independence

→ Responsible only to the Board on matters of substance

→ Acts on behalf of the Board



Dialogue with Governments



- **Correspondence**
- **Meetings**
- **Country missions**
- **Technical visits**

INCB missions 2008



- *Ethiopia*
- *Japan*
- *Mauritius*

- *Romania*
- *Ukraine*
- *United Arab Emirates*



INTERNATIONAL NARCOTICS CONTROL BOARD



Thematic issues

Afghanistan “Licit poppy proposal”

- Proposal to “legalize” opium poppy cultivation is simplistic, not feasible and based on the wrong premise
- Claim: Purported shortage of licit opiate raw materials
- Reality: since 1999, total production of licit opiate raw materials has exceeded global demand
 - In 2005, total stocks of licit opiate raw materials were sufficient to cover global annual demand for almost two years
- Cultivation of licit opium only works if certain conditions for success are met, e.g. functional control mechanisms to prevent diversion into the illicit market, rule of law etc.
- Reality: In Afghanistan, current situation characterized by rampant illicit production, significant levels of drug abuse, and weak and dysfunctional control system

Drug injection rooms

- **INCB gravely concerned about drug injection rooms**
- **Drug injection rooms are facilities where drugs acquired on the illicit market are abused**
- **Such rooms exist in Australia, Canada, Germany, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Spain and Switzerland**
- **Drug injection rooms run counter to fundamental principle of the international drug control system, namely that drug use be limited to medical and scientific purposes**
- **Drug injection rooms do not address the root cause of the drug problem**

Control of coca leaf

- **Coca leaf controlled under provisions of 1961 Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs**
- **Last review of World Health Organization was in 1993, concluded that coca leaf is “appropriately scheduled” under the 1961 Convention “since cocaine is readily extractable from the leaf”**
- **Since that time, no new facts have come to light to justify a reversal of that decision**
- **States parties are bound by their obligations under the 1961 Convention**