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**Statement by Mr. Werner Sipp, President,
International Narcotics Control Board (INCB)**

Sixtieth session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs

Agenda item 8(b): Changes in the scope of control of substances

16 March 2017, Vienna, Austria

Consideration of a recommendation of INCB that 4-anilino-*N*-phenethylpiperidine (ANPP) and *N*-phenethyl-4-piperidone (NPP) be included in Table I of the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988

Madam Chair, Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,

- 1) The International Narcotics Control Board has the **responsibility under article 12 of the 1988 Convention** to assess chemicals used in the illicit manufacture of drugs in order to determine whether they should be placed under international control. In discharge of its mandate, the Board submitted to the CND a recommendation to place two fentanyl precursors in Table I of the 1988 Convention. I would like to share a few critical considerations in connection with the Board's recommendation:
- 2) At the outset, let me just clarify that the substances which INCB has recommended for scheduling are **precursors**, that is, **chemicals** used to produce fentanyl and some of its analogues.
- 3) Fentanyl and acetyl fentanyl are included in Schedule I and Schedule IV of the 1961 Convention. **Fentanyl and fentanyl analogues** are very potent narcotic drugs, typically 10-100 times stronger than heroin. The high potency of these products has resulted not only in overdose deaths in users, but also in inadvertent exposure of law enforcement personnel and other personnel along the illicit distribution chain.
- 4) Much of the fentanyl-related public health and social problems in North America and elsewhere are the result of **illicitly manufactured fentanyl** and fentanyl analogues, and not fentanyl diverted from legitimate sources.
- 5) The two chemicals recommended for scheduling are ANPP and NPP (I am using these acronyms in short):

ANPP is an immediate precursor of fentanyl and acetyl fentanyl; it is also an immediate precursor of a limited number of fentanyl analogues not currently under international control.

NPP is a precursor of ANPP and can therefore be converted into the same fentanyls as ANPP, or it can be directly converted into additional fentanyl analogues which may or may not currently be under international control.

Because of the high potency of the fentanyl-type end-products, **small amounts of ANPP and NPP (kg range) are sufficient** to manufacture millions of doses of these end-products (fentanyls).

- 6) In making its assessment, the Board has also taken into account the **extent, importance and diversity of the licit use** of ANPP and NPP, pursuant to article 12, paragraph 4, of the 1988 Convention. The Board finds that:
- a) **Legitimate manufacture and uses** of ANPP and NPP are **limited**, both in terms of the number of Governments reporting such activities, and in terms of the range of uses. Use of both substances is limited to the legitimate manufacture of fentanyl and some fentanyl analogues and to the use of small amounts for research, development and quality control purposes.
 - b) **Trade in ANPP and NPP** for legitimate commercial purposes is **limited** to a small number of countries, commercial operators and transactions.
 - c) The **pharmaceutical industry using ANPP and NPP** largely operates in the **already regulated** environment of legitimate manufacture of fentanyl.
- 7) In light of all this, **the Board recommends adding ANPP and NPP to Table I of the 1988 Convention**. The Board is of the view that the proposed controls will have **no adverse effect on the availability** of ANPP and NPP for any of the known legitimate uses. **Placement in Table I** will provide Governments the possibility to request and make mandatory the sending of pre-export notifications, as a means of monitoring shipments entering their territory.
- 8) In closing, let me point out that adding chemicals to Table I or II of the 1988 Convention does not mean that these chemicals are prohibited or no longer available for legitimate uses. It just provides a framework for international cooperation to prevent the diversion of these chemicals from licit to illicit channels.

I thank you for your attention.

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