

Vienna International Centre, P.O. Box 500, A-1400 Vienna, Austria
Telephone: +43-1-26060, Telefax: +43-1-26060-5867 / 5868
E-Mail: secretariat@incb.org Internet Address: <http://www.incb.org/>

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**Statement by Dr. Viroj Sumyai, President,
International Narcotics Control Board (INCB)**

Sixty-first session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs

**Item 5(b) Challenges and future work of the CND and WHO in the review of substances
for possible scheduling recommendations**

14 March 2018, Vienna Austria

Madam Chair, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

In relation to precursors, please let me add the perspective of the International Narcotics Control Board.

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.

As you are aware, the **Government of Argentina has proposed** to schedule three amphetamine-type stimulants precursors [1] in the Tables of the 1988 Convention. The **process of information collection from Governments** is currently on-going (administered by the Secretariat of the Governing Bodies). The Board understands that the **deadline for submission** of inputs has just been extended to 12 April 2018.

I urge all of you to use the opportunity and communicate your comments and any supplementary information which may assist the Board in establishing an assessment and, subsequently, the Commission in reaching a decision.

Any information received will then be analyzed by the Board during its next sessions in May and November 2018, with a view to submitting any recommendation for consideration at the 62nd session of the CND in March 2019.

[The **timeline of this review** is determined by the information collection process as well as the schedule of meetings of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs.]

With regard to **challenges**, there has been a lot of focus on the challenges faced with regard to the scheduling process under the 1961 and the 1971 Conventions, especially because of the rapid proliferation of new psychoactive substances and the related data limitations.

However, the Board has repeatedly [2] drawn attention to similar challenges related to precursors and the 1988 Convention. This is mainly due to the emergence of non-scheduled chemicals, in particular “designer precursors” that are made specifically, on request by traffickers, often by unsuspecting legitimate operators. Most of these chemicals are intermediaries in the synthesis process for a controlled drug or precursor, and most of them do not have any legitimate use nor are they traded regularly (other than for limited research and analytical purposes).

APAAN, which was scheduled in 2014, and two of the chemicals currently under review can be considered “designer precursors”. Moreover, these designer precursors are often very closely related in their chemical structures. For example, APAA (which is now under review) is a chemical intermediary in the manufacture of P-2-P from APAAN. Both APAA and APAAN are pre-precursors of amphetamine and methamphetamine [3].

It is therefore clear that the Commission and the International Narcotics Control Board face considerable challenges in the review of substances for possible scheduling recommendations under article 12 of the 1988 Convention, given the potential number and diversity of non-scheduled chemicals, a matter that also falls in the scope of agenda item 5b .

In closing, I would like to urge you all once again to use the opportunity and provide during the current review process, pursuant to the notification by the Government of Argentina, all relevant comments and information, including on the issue of series of chemically related precursors [4]. The Board would also appreciate any broader observations and suggestions from Governments on this issue.

I thank you for your attention.

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