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**Statement by Mr. Cornelis de Joncheere, President,  
International Narcotics Control Board (INCB)**

**Reconvened sixty-second session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs**

**Item 9(a) Changes in the scope of control of substances:  
Consideration of a proposal from INCB to include MAPA in Table I of the 1988  
Convention under the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic  
Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988**

**13 December 2019**

Mr Chair, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

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 the discharge of its mandate, the Board submitted to the Commission a recommendation to place a pre-precursor of amphetamine and methamphetamine in Table I of the 1988 Convention.

The substance in question is known by its shorthand “**MAPA**”, which stands for methyl *alpha*-phenylacetoacetate (or, chemically: methyl 3-oxo-2-phenylbutanoate). It is a substitute chemical for P-2-P, APAAN and the recently controlled APAA. MAPA started to emerge in late 2017, with an increase in the number of seizures and amounts seized since November 2018. The emergence of MAPA is closely linked with an increase in scrutiny over APAA.

MAPA is therefore yet another illustration of the concept of **designer precursors**, that is, close chemical relatives of controlled precursors, which are purpose-made and can easily be converted into a controlled precursor. Similar to APAAN, APAA and other designer precursors, MAPA does not have any legitimate use and is therefore not traded widely and regularly although it is advertised by a number of online suppliers.

I would like to highlight that the Board is recommending the scheduling of MAPA in light of the dynamics of recent seizure information, the anticipated impact scheduling will have on the availability of MAPA for illicit drug manufacturing purposes, and because there is as yet no more encompassing solution addressing designer precursors. However, I would also like to note that substitute chemicals for MAPA in the illicit manufacture of amphetamine and methamphetamine have also been encountered, or can be easily anticipated.

In concluding, I would therefore not only encourage you to prepare for the voting during the upcoming 63<sup>rd</sup> session of the Commission in March 2020 about the possible inclusion of MAPA in Table I of the 1988 Convention. I would also encourage your active participation in a discussion on how to address the proliferation of designer precursors at the international level during that same session.

I thank you for your attention.

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