Chapter XIV

International drug control

During 2002, the United Nations, through the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, the International Narcotic Control Board (INCB) and the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP), continued to strengthen international cooperation and increase efforts to counter the world drug problem. Drug control activities throughout the UN system focused mainly on implementation of the 1999 Action Plan for the Implementation of the Declaration on the Guiding Principles of Drug Demand Reduction, which served as a guide for Member States in adopting strategies and programmes for reducing illicit drug demand in order to achieve significant results by 2008.

UNDCP’s technical cooperation programmes supported Member States and the international community in implementing the strategy agreed upon by the General Assembly’s special session on the world drug problem, held in 1998. States were assisted in complying with international drug control treaties, and national efforts and initiatives to reduce or eliminate illicit drugs, suppress drug trafficking and prevent drug abuse were supported. UNDCP encouraged donor nations and development institutions to support national efforts to reduce or eliminate illicit crops.

The Commission on Narcotic Drugs—the main UN policy-making body dealing with drug control—adopted resolutions on such issues as reduction of demand for illicit drugs and prevention of drug abuse, illicit drug trafficking and supply, implementation of the international drug control treaties and strengthening UN machinery for international drug control. In July, the Economic and Social Council urged Governments to continue contributing to the maintenance of a balance between the licit supply of and demand for opiate raw materials for medical and scientific purposes. It requested UNDCP to assist States most affected by the transit of drugs, particularly developing countries.

INCB reviewed the impact of illicit drugs on economic development and continued to oversee the implementation of the three major international drug control conventions, to analyse the drug situation worldwide and to draw Governments’ attention to weaknesses in national control and treaty compliance, making suggestions and recommendations for improvements at the national and international levels.

Follow-up to the twentieth special session

In response to General Assembly resolution 56/124 [YUN 2001, p. 1144], the Secretary-General, in a July report [A/57/127], presented an overview of the implementation of the outcome of the twentieth special session of the Assembly on the world drug problem, held in 1998 [YUN 1998, p. 1135], and of resolution 54/192 [YUN 1999, p. 1157], by which the Assembly adopted the Action Plan for the Implementation of the Declaration on the Guiding Principles of Drug Demand Reduction. The report reviewed 2003 and 2008 goals and targets set by the special session; the role of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and its 2003 ministerial segment (see p. 1229); the Action Plan for implementing the Declaration on the principles; the Action Plan on International Cooperation on the Eradication of Illicit Drug Crops and on Alternative Development [ibid., p. 1152]; measures to promote judicial cooperation; the Action Plan against Illicit Manufacture, Trafficking and Abuse of Amphetamine-type Stimulants and Their Precursors [ibid., p. 1159]; control of chemical precursors; countering money-laundering; and the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP) as a catalyst for action by Member States and the UN system.

Also in response to resolution 56/124 and resolution 44/11 of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs [YUN 2001, p. 176], the Commission, in March, considered a report of the UNDCP Executive Director [E/EN.7/2002/6] on follow-up to the Action Plan on International Cooperation on the Eradication of Illicit Drug Crops and on Alternative Development, which assessed progress made by Governments, with UNDCP support, in implementing the Action Plan in Latin America and the Caribbean, South-East Asia and the Pacific, South-West Asia, Central Asia and the Middle East.
In a 15 March resolution [E/2002/28 & Corr.1.2 (res. 45/7)], the Commission took action on preparations for the ministerial-level segment of its forty-sixth (2005) session relating to the follow-up to the twentieth special session of the Assembly. It decided that the segment’s theme would be the assessment of the progress achieved and the difficulties encountered in meeting the goals and targets set out in the special session’s Political Declaration, and that the segment, which would comprise a general debate and round tables, would be held in Vienna in April 2003 for two days. It recommended the issuance of a joint ministerial statement covering an assessment of the implementation of the commitments made at the special session, and recommendations for 2003-2007, including on strengthening the roles of the Commission and UNDCP. The Commission decided that intersessional sessions in the second half of 2002 would be devoted to preparations for the ministerial-level segment and called on participants to take account of the work of the regional meetings of heads of national drug law enforcement agencies (see p. 125). It requested Member States to submit, no later than 30 June 2002, their replies to the second questionnaire for Member States to submit, no later than the first week of December 2002.

At the Commission’s fourth intersessional meeting on 18 November, it was noted that, as most replies to the second questionnaire had been submitted more than four months after the deadline, the Executive Director would not be in a position to present his second biennial report to Member States three months prior to its review by the Commission.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 18 December [meeting 77], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Third (Social, Humanitarian and Cultural) Committee [A/57/548], adopted resolution 57/174 without vote [agenda item 101].

International cooperation against the world drug problem

The General Assembly,
Recalling also the United Nations International Drug Control Programme for the implementation of the commitments recommended by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs to the Executive Director of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme for the preparation of subsequent reports on the follow-up to the twentieth special session,
Welcoming the adoption on 15 March 2002 of Commission on Narcotic Drugs resolution 45/7 on the preparations for the ministerial-level segment of its forty-sixth session, with the main theme of the assessment of the progress achieved and the difficulties encountered in meeting the goals and targets set out in the Political Declaration adopted by the General Assembly at its twentieth special session,

held in New York from 8 to 10 June 1998, and welcoming the continuing determination of Governments to overcome the world drug problem by a full and balanced application of national, regional and international strategies to reduce the demand for, production of and trafficking in illicit drugs, as reflected in the Political Declaration, the Action Plan for the Implementation of the Declaration on the Guiding Principles of Drug Demand Reduction and the measures to enhance international cooperation to counter the world drug problem.

Gravely concerned that the drug problem, despite increasing efforts by States, relevant international organizations, civil society and non-governmental organizations, is still a challenge of global dimensions which constitutes a serious threat to the health, safety and well-being of all humankind, in particular young people,

Gravely concerned also that the demand for, production of and trafficking in illicit drugs and precursor and essential chemicals, as well as the rapid and widespread increase, and the involvement of minors, in the illicit production of, trafficking in and consumption of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances undermines development, including efforts to reduce poverty, entails an increasing economic cost for Governments and continues to threaten seriously socio-economic and political systems, democratic institutions and the stability, national security and sovereignty of States, especially those involved in conflicts and wars, and that trafficking in drugs makes conflict resolution more difficult,

Deeply alarmed by the violence and economic power of criminal organizations and terrorist groups engaged in drug trafficking and other criminal activities, such as money-laundering and illicit traffic in arms, precursors and essential chemicals, and by the increasing transnational links between them, and recognizing the urgent need for enhanced international cooperation and implementation of effective strategies on the basis of the outcome of the twentieth special session of the General Assembly, which are essential to achieving results against all forms of transnational criminal activities,

Noting with grave concern the rapid and widespread increase, and the involvement of minors, in the illicit production of, trafficking in and consumption of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, including amphetamine-type stimulants and other sorts of synthetic drugs, as well as in the number of children and young people starting to use drugs at an earlier age and having access to substances not previously used,

Reaffirming the importance of the commitments of Member States in meeting the objectives targeted for 2003 and 2008, as set out in the Political Declaration adopted by the General Assembly at the twentieth special session, and welcoming the guidelines and elements recommended by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs to the Executive Director of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme for the preparation of subsequent reports on the follow-up to the twentieth special session,

Welcoming the adoption on 15 March 2002 of Commission on Narcotic Drugs resolution 45/7 on the preparations for the ministerial-level segment of its forty-sixth session, with the main theme of the assessment of the progress achieved and the difficulties encountered in meeting the goals and targets set out in the Political Declaration adopted by the General Assembly at its twentieth special session,
Emphasizing the importance of the Action Plan for the Implementation of the Declaration on the Guiding Principles of Drug Demand Reduction, which introduces a new global approach balanced between illicit supply and demand reduction, under the principle of shared responsibility, and of the Action Plan on International Cooperation on the Eradication of Illicit Drug Crops and on Alternative Development, which recognizes the importance of supply reduction as an integral part of a balanced drug control strategy,

Recognizing the efforts of all countries, in particular those that produce narcotic drugs for scientific and medical purposes, and of the International Narcotics Control Board in preventing the diversion of such substances to illicit markets and in maintaining production at a level consistent with licit demand, in line with the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961 and the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971,

Recognizing also that the illicit production of and trafficking in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances is often related to the economic development level of countries and that appropriate measures are required, based on the principle of shared responsibility and strengthened international cooperation, in support of alternative and sustainable development activities in the affected areas of those countries, which have as their objectives the reduction and elimination of illicit drug production,

Expressing its concern that lenient policies towards the use of illicit drugs that are not in accordance with the international drug control treaties may hamper the efforts of the international community to address the world drug problem, and recalling in this context the importance of complying with relevant international obligations,

Welcoming the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS, adopted on 27 June 2001 at the special session of the General Assembly on HIV/AIDS, including the acknowledgement of the link between drug-using behaviour and HIV infection, as well as Commission on Narcotic Drugs resolution 45/1 of 15 March 2002 on HIV/AIDS in the context of drug abuse,

Stressing that respect for all human rights is and must be an essential component of measures taken to address the drug problem,

Ensuring that women and men benefit equally, and without any discrimination, from strategies directed against the world drug problem, through their involvement in all stages of programmes and policy-making,

Recognizing that the use of new technologies and electronic media, including the Internet, poses new opportunities for and challenges to international cooperation in countering drug abuse and illicit production and trafficking,

Concerned that civil society, including non-governmental organizations and community-based organizations, plays an active role and makes an effective contribution to countering the world drug problem, and should be encouraged to continue to do so,

Acknowledging that international cooperation in countering drug abuse and illicit production and trafficking has shown that positive results can be achieved through sustained and collective efforts,

I

Respect for the principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and international law in countering the world drug problem

1. Reaffirms that countering the world drug problem is a common and shared responsibility that must be addressed in a multilateral setting, requires an integrated and balanced approach, and must be carried out in full conformity with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and international law, and in particular with full respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of States, the principle of non-intervention in the internal affairs of States and all human rights and fundamental freedoms.

2. Calls upon all States to take further action to promote effective cooperation at the international and regional levels in the efforts to counter the world drug problem, on the basis of the principles of equal rights and mutual respect;


II

International cooperation to counter the world drug problem

1. Urges competent authorities, at the international, regional and national levels, to implement the outcome of the twentieth special session, within the agreed time frames, in particular the high-priority practical measures at the international, regional or national level, as indicated in the Political Declaration and related documents;

2. Urges all Member States to implement the Action Plan for the Implementation of the Declaration on the Guiding Principles of Drug Demand Reduction and to strengthen their national efforts to counter the abuse of illicit drugs among their population, in particular among children and young people;

3. Recognizes the role of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme in developing action-oriented strategies to assist Member States to implement the Action Plan for the Implementation of the Declaration, and requests the Executive Director of the Programme to report to the Commission on Narcotic Drugs at its forty-sixth session on the follow-up to the Action Plan;

4. Reaffirms its resolve to continue to strengthen the United Nations machinery for international drug control, in particular the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, the United Nations International Drug Control Programme and the International Narcotics Control Board, in order to enable them to fulfil their mandates, bearing in mind the recommendations contained in Economic and Social Council resolution 1999/30 of 28 July 1999 and the measures taken and recommendations adopted by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs at its forty-fourth and forty-fifth sessions aimed at the enhancement of its functioning, in particular in its resolutions 44/16 of 29 March 2001 and 45/17 of 15 March 2002;
5. Calls upon all States to adopt effective measures, including national laws and regulations, within the agreed time frame, to strengthen national judicial systems and to carry out effective drug control activities in cooperation with other States and in accordance with United Nations drug control conventions;

6. Calls upon the relevant United Nations bodies, the specialized agencies, the international financial institutions and other concerned intergovernmental and international organizations, within their mandates, as well as all actors of civil society, notably non-governmental organizations, community-based organizations, sports associations, the media and the private sector, to continue their close cooperation with Governments in promoting and implementing the outcome of the twentieth special session through public information campaigns, in particular with regard to efforts for drug demand reduction;

7. Urges Governments, the relevant United Nations bodies, the specialized agencies and other international organizations to assist and support States, upon request, in particular developing countries, with the aim of enhancing their capacity to counter illicit trafficking in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, taking into account national plans and initiatives;

8. Calls upon all States to adopt and implement measures to prevent the diversion of chemicals to illicit drug manufacture, in cooperation with competent international and regional bodies and, if necessary and to the extent possible, with the private sector in each State, in accordance with the goals and targets for 2003 and 2008 set out in the Political Declaration and the resolution on the control of precursors adopted at the special session;

9. Calls upon States, the international community, international and regional organizations, international financial institutions and regional development banks to support the implementation of the Action Plan on International Cooperation on the Eradication of Illicit Drug Crops and on Alternative Development by States affected by illicit crop cultivation, and the implementation of Commission on Narcotic Drugs resolution 45/14 of 15 March 2002 on the role of alternative development in drug control and development cooperation;

10. Calls upon States in which cultivation and production of illicit drug crops occur to establish or reinforce, where appropriate, national mechanisms to monitor and verify illicit crops;

11. Recommends that Member States, in particular donor States and States in which sustainable alternative development programmes are being implemented, respect the balance and ensure the effective coordination of law enforcement and interdiction measures, eradication efforts and alternative development to achieve the goal of eliminating or reducing significantly the illicit cultivation of drug crops;

12. Urges States to open their markets to products that are the object of alternative development programmes and that are necessary for the creation of employment and the eradication of poverty;

13. Encourages States to cooperate through bilateral, regional and multilateral means to prevent illicit crop cultivation from emerging in, or from being relocated to, other areas, regions or countries;

14. Urges all States, bearing in mind the forthcoming quinquennial evaluation of the implementation of the outcome of the twentieth special session in 2003, to submit their replies to the questionnaires of the biennial reports to the Commission on Narcotic Drugs on their efforts to meet the goals and targets for 2003 and 2008, as set out in the Political Declaration adopted at the special session, in accordance with the terms established in the guidelines adopted by the Commission at its forty-second and forty-fourth sessions;

15. Urges Member States and Observers to ensure that they are represented at the appropriate level at the ministerial-level segment of the forty-sixth session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and to participate actively in that segment;

16. Encourages the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and the International Narcotics Control Board to continue their useful work on the control of precursors and other chemicals used in the illicit manufacture of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances;

17. Calls upon the Commission on Narcotic Drugs to continue mainstreaming a gender perspective into all its policies, programmes and activities, and requests the Secretariat to continue integrating a gender perspective into all documentation prepared for the Commission;

18. Urges all States to assign priority to the development and implementation of policies and programmes to raise awareness among children and young people, through, inter alia, information and education programmes, of the risks deriving from the use of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, including synthetic drugs, as well as from the use of tobacco and alcohol, with the aim of preventing their use and reducing the adverse consequences of their abuse;

19. Also urges all States to make appropriate treatment and rehabilitation accessible to children, including adolescents, dependent on narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances, inhalants and alcohol;

20. Further urges all States to adopt measures, including, where appropriate, possible national legislative measures, to address the linkages between the illicit traffic in small arms and light weapons and the illicit trade in narcotic drugs, among other related crimes, through increased international cooperation and by ensuring full implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects;

21. Welcomes the adoption of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the three Protocols thereto, namely, the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air and the Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Their Parts and Components and Ammunition, and encourages universal signature and ratification of these legal instruments;

22. Stresses the need for coordinated action to reduce the demand for illicit drugs, in the context of a comprehensive, balanced and coordinated approach encompassing supply control and demand reduction, as set out in the Action Plan for the Implementation of the Declaration on the Guiding Principles of Drug De-
mand Reduction, noting, inter alia, the links among drug trafficking, organized crime and terrorism;

23. Recognizes the need to provide support to the States that are most affected by the transit of drugs, in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 2002/21 of 24 July 2002, in which the Council requested the United Nations International Drug Control Programme to continue to provide technical assistance, from available voluntary contributions for that purpose, to those States identified by relevant international bodies as the most affected by the transit of drugs, in particular developing countries in need of such assistance and support;

III

Action by the United Nations system

1. Emphasizes the role of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs as the principal United Nations policy-making body on drug control issues and as the governing body of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme;

2. Welcomes Commission on Narcotic Drugs resolution 45/17, which provides for an intersessional meeting of the Commission, if and when services are available at no additional cost to the Organization, to examine issues arising from the governing role of the Commission in the budgetary process of the Programme;

3. Reaffirms the role of the Executive Director of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme in coordinating and providing effective leadership for all United Nations drug control activities so as to increase cost-effectiveness and ensure coherence of action, complementarity and non-duplication of such activities throughout the United Nations system, and encourages further efforts in this regard;

4. Emphasizes that the multidimensional nature of the world drug problem calls for the promotion of integration and coordination of drug control activities throughout the United Nations system, including in the follow-up to major United Nations conferences;

5. Urges the relevant specialized agencies, programmes and funds, including humanitarian organizations, and invites multilateral financial institutions, to take action against the world drug problem in their programming and planning processes in order to ensure that the integral and balanced strategy that emerged from the special session devoted to countering the world drug problem together is being addressed, taking into account the priorities of States;

IV

United Nations International Drug Control Programme

1. Welcomes the efforts of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme to implement its mandate within the framework of the international drug control treaties, the Comprehensive Multidisciplinary Outline of Future Activities in Drug Abuse Control, the Global Programme of Action, the outcome of the special session of the General Assembly devoted to countering the world drug problem together and relevant consensus documents;

2. Expresses its appreciation to the Programme for the support provided to different States in meeting the objectives of the Global Programme of Action and of the special session, especially in cases where significant and anticipated progress was achieved regarding the goals and targets for 2003 and 2008;

3. Requests the Programme to continue:
   (a) To strengthen dialogue with Member States and also to ensure continued improvement in management, so as to contribute to enhanced and sustainable programme delivery and further encourage the Executive Director to maximize the effectiveness of the Programme, inter alia, through the full implementation of Commission on Narcotic Drugs resolutions 44/16 and 45/17, in particular the recommendations contained therein;
   (b) To strengthen cooperation with Member States and with United Nations programmes, funds and relevant agencies, as well as relevant regional organizations and agencies and non-governmental organizations, and to provide, on request, assistance in implementing the outcome of the special session;
   (c) To increase its assistance, within the available voluntary resources, to countries that are devoting efforts to reduce illicit crop cultivation by, in particular, adopting alternative development programmes, and to explore new and innovative funding mechanisms;
   (d) To allocate, while keeping the balance between supply and demand reduction programmes, adequate resources to allow it to fulfil its role in the implementation of the Action Plan for the Implementation of the Declaration on the Guiding Principles of Drug Demand Reduction;
   (e) To strengthen dialogue and cooperation with multilateral development banks and with international financial institutions so that they may undertake lending and programming activities related to drug control in interested and affected countries to implement the outcome of the special session, and to keep the Commission on Narcotic Drugs informed of further progress made in this area;
   (f) To take into account the outcome of the special session, to include in its report on the illicit traffic in drugs an updated, objective and comprehensive assessment of worldwide trends in illicit traffic and transit in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, including methods and routes used, and to recommend ways and means of improving the capacity of States along those routes to address all aspects of the drug problem;
   (g) To publish the World Drug Report, with comprehensive and balanced information about the world drug problem, and to seek additional extrabudgetary resources for its publication in all the official languages;

4. Urges all Governments to provide the fullest possible financial and political support to the Programme by widening its donor base and increasing voluntary contributions, in particular general-purpose contributions, to enable it to continue, expand and strengthen its operational and technical cooperation activities;

5. Calls upon the International Narcotics Control Board to increase efforts to implement all its mandates under international drug control conventions and to continue to cooperate with Governments, inter alia, by offering advice to Member States that request it;

6. Notes that the Board needs sufficient resources to carry out all its mandates, and therefore urges Member States to commit themselves in a common effort to assigning adequate and sufficient budgetary resources...
to the Board, in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/20 of 25 July 1996, and emphasizes the need to maintain its capacity, inter alia, through the provision of appropriate means by the Secretary-General and adequate technical support by the Programme;

7. Stresses the importance of the meetings of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, in all regions of the world, and the Subcommission on Illicit Drug Traffic and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, and encourages them to continue to contribute to the strengthening of regional and international cooperation, taking into account the outcome of the special session;

8. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General, and, taking into account the promotion of integrated reporting, requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-eighth session a report on the quinquennial evaluation of the implementation of the outcome of the twentieth special session, including on the Action Plan for the Implementation of the Declaration on the Guiding Principles of Drug Demand Reduction, based on the report of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs on its forty-sixth session and the present resolution.

Conventions

In 2002, international efforts to control narcotic drugs were governed by three global conventions: the 1961 Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs [YUN 1961, p. 382], which, with some exceptions of detail, replaced earlier narcotics treaties and was amended in 1972 by a Protocol [YUN 1972, p. 397] intended to strengthen the role of the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB); the 1971 Convention on Psychotropic Substances [YUN 1971, p. 380]; and the 1988 United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances [YUN 1988, p. 690].

As at 31 December 2002, 173 States were parties to the 1961 Convention, as amended by the 1972 Protocol. During the year, Eritrea, Guyana and Morocco became parties.

The number of parties to the 1971 Convention stood at 172 as at 31 December 2002, with Eritrea becoming a party during the year.

At year’s end, 166 States and the European Community were parties to the 1988 Convention, as Eritrea, Israel, Rwanda and Thailand became parties.

Commission action. At its forty-fifth session in March [E/2002/28 & Corr.12], the Commission on Narcotic Drugs reviewed implementation of the international drug control treaties. It had before it the INCB report covering 2001 [YUN 2001, p. 115] and the 2001 INCB report on the implementation of article 12 of the 1988 Convention [E/INCB/2001/4], which reviewed the global situation regarding the control of precursors and chemicals frequently used in the illicit manufacture of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances. The Commission expressed appreciation to the Board for its examination of the challenges that globalization and new technologies presented to drug law enforcement and noted its suggestion to consider developing a UN convention on cybercrime. Sharing INCB’s concern regarding the resurgence of opium poppy cultivation in Afghanistan, the Commission called on the international community to support the Interim Administration of Afghanistan in establishing law enforcement and drug control capacities. The Commission was of the view that the Board should continue to advise Governments on action to ensure a worldwide balance between the supply of and demand for opiates for licit use. Noting the increasing levels of abuse of, and illicit traffic in, psychotropic substances in some regions, the Commission reiterated its call to Member States to implement the provisions of the 1971 Convention and the Economic and Social Council resolutions on substances listed in schedules III and IV of the Convention. Regarding implementation of article 12 of the 1988 Convention, the Commission, noting the increasing reports of illicit manufacture of amphetamine-type stimulants (ATS) in many countries, recognized the need to devise working mechanisms and standard operating procedures to prevent the diversion of their precursors. It noted the continued success of Operation Topaz, the international tracking programme for acetic anhydride, used in the illicit manufacture of heroin, and of Operation Purple, for the international tracking of potassium permanganate, used in the manufacture of cocaine. Governments were urged to make greater use of investigative techniques to identify drug trafficking networks responsible for diversion attempts and to institutionalize the procedures and mechanisms utilized during Operation Purple. Concern was expressed over the increasing trend in the diversion of precursors from domestic distribution channels and a need was noted for technical and financial assistance regarding the handling and final destination and disposal of seized chemical precursors.

By a 15 March resolution [E/2002/28 & Corr.12 (res. 45/12)], the Commission called on Governments and relevant regional bodies to put in place systems and procedures to ensure that the details of any interdiction, seizure, diversion or suspected diversion of precursors within their territories were communicated to the competent...
to the maintenance of a balance between the licit supply of narcotic drugs, prevention from diversion to illicit channels of production of opiate raw materials, and to cooperate in preventing the proliferation of sources of licit production and to adopt, after due technical study by the International Narcotics Control Board of the relative merits of different methods, the best method in this respect.

3. Urges consumer countries to assess their licit needs for opiate raw materials realistically and to communicate those needs to the International Narcotics Control Board in order to ensure easy supply, and also urges the producer countries concerned and the Board to increase their efforts to monitor the available supply and to ensure sufficient stocks of licit opiate raw materials;

4. Requests the Board to continue its efforts in monitoring the implementation of the relevant Economic and Social Council resolutions in full compliance with the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961.

5. Commends the Board for its efforts in monitoring the implementation of the relevant Economic and Social Council resolutions and, in particular:

(a) In urging the Governments concerned to adjust global production of opiate raw materials to a level corresponding to actual licit needs and to avoid unforeseen imbalances between licit supply of and demand for opiates caused by the exportation of products manufactured from seized and confiscated drugs;

(b) In inviting the Governments concerned to ensure that opiates imported into their countries for medical and scientific use do not originate in countries that transform seized and confiscated drugs into licit opiates;

(c) In arranging informal meetings, during sessions of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, with the main States that import and produce opiate raw materials.

6. Requests the Secretary-General to transmit the text of the present resolution to all Governments for consideration and implementation.

International Narcotics Control Board

The 13-member International Narcotics Control Board held its seventy-third (4-8 February), seventy-fourth (6-17 May) and seventy-fifth (30 October-15 November) sessions, all in Vienna.

In performing the tasks assigned to it under the international conventions, the Board maintained a continuous dialogue with Governments. The information received from Governments was used to determine the enforcement of treaty provisions requiring them to limit to medical and scientific purposes the licit manufacture of, trade in and distribution and use of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances. The Board, which was requested by the international drug control treat-
ies to report annually on the drug control situation worldwide, noted weaknesses in national control and treaty compliance and made recommendations for improvements at both national and international levels.

In its 2002 report [Sales No. E.03.XI.1], the Board examined the impact of illicit drugs on economic development and concluded that there was a negative correlation between illicit drug production and economic growth. Long-term sustainable development was not possible without an effective drug control system, and drug production and related activities had destabilizing effects on the drug control system. While there were short-term gains due to illicit drug production in the form of employment opportunities for small farmers and itinerant labourers and jobs in production and distribution, the work provided by the illicit drug industry prevented the long-term development of human resources.

The income generated by the illicit drug industry was distributed unequally, with the bulk of drug trafficking profits being made in developed countries where the drugs were used, not in developing countries where illicit drug crops were cultivated. Profits in developed countries usually accounted for more than 80 per cent of total illicit drug trafficking profits.

INCB concluded that it was essential for Governments and institutions that had made a commitment to social and economic progress to pay greater attention to drug control and integrate drug control efforts into programmes that promoted long-term economic development. It urged the international community to offer assistance to countries that suffered from problems connected with illicit drugs but did not have sufficient resources to combat them.

In its analysis of the operation of the international drug control system, the Board continued to express concern that many States, including some that manufactured, imported, exported or used narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, did not comply with their treaty obligation to submit annual statistical reports in a timely manner. With regard to precursors, it noted that, while many Governments provided data on licit trade in ephedrine and pseudoephedrine, little information was available on the patterns of licit international trade in the other precursors used in the illicit manufacture of ATS. The International Meeting on ATS Precursors, convened by the Board, in cooperation with the United States and the European Commission (Washington, D.C., June), launched Project Prism, a voluntary international project addressing the diversion of precursors for amphetamine and methamphetamine production; the diversion of precursors for methylenedioxymethamphetamine (MDMA), commonly known as Ecstasy; material and equipment used in the illicit manufacture of ATS; and use of the Internet for the diversion of precursor chemicals, material and equipment. The Meeting identified the need to establish a task force to oversee the project. Most attempts to divert potassium permanganate from licit international trade uncovered during 2002 involved countries participating in Operation Purple (see p. 1233).

The Board reminded Governments that the universal application of the system of estimates of requirements for narcotic drugs was indispensable for the functioning of the control system for narcotic drugs and that without proper monitoring of their requirements, drugs traded in a country might be in excess of medical needs and be diverted into illicit channels. It urged all States and territories for which it had established estimates for 2002 to revise them and calculate their annual medical needs as accurately as possible. As to the diversion of psychotropic substances, the Board noted with concern the lack of cooperation between a number of West Asian countries affected by trafficking in counterfeit captagon tablets, which was the most widely abused preparation containing fenetylline, one of such substances most frequently diverted from international trade. It also expressed concern regarding the selling of seized psychotropic substances, and noted the increasing use of the Internet and the mail for their illicit trade, including the smuggling of psychotropic substances diverted from domestic distribution channels.

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extremely low level and, considering the high levels of stocks of opiates throughout the world, the lack of supply did not explain the lack of availability. For the more potent drugs, such as fentanyl, hydromorphone, morphine and oxycodone, increases in consumption were mainly reported by developed countries, while in many developing countries they were hardly available. In May, the Board called the attention of the World Health Organization (WHO) to the continued lack of availability of narcotic drugs for pain relief in many countries and appealed to the authorities of countries, particularly in Africa and Asia where the consumption of opioid analgesics continued to be extremely low, to consider low-cost initiatives to improve availability.

The INCB report was supplemented by three technical reports: Narcotic Drugs: Estimated World Requirements for 2003: Statistics for 2001 [Sales No. E/F/S.03.XI.3]; Psychotropic Substances: Statistics for 2001: Assessments of Annual Medical and Scientific Requirements [Sales No. E/F/S.03.XI.3]; and Precursors and chemicals frequently used in the illicit manufacture of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances [Sales No. E.03.XI.4].

By decision 2002/241 of 24 July, the Economic and Social Council took note of the INCB report for 2001 [E/INCB/2001/1 (Sales No. E.02.XI.1)].

World drug situation

In its 2002 report [Sales No.E.03.XI.1], INCB provided a regional analysis of world drug abuse trends and control efforts, so that Governments would be kept aware of situations that might endanger the objectives of international drug control treaties.

Africa

The main drug problem in Africa was the abuse of and trafficking in cannabis, which continued to be illicitly cultivated in many countries. Africa continued to be a major source of cannabis found on illicit markets in the region or smuggled out of the region, mainly into Europe. About one fourth of the seizures of cannabis herb and resin in the world occurred in Africa. Large-scale illicit cultivation in Morocco, which continued to be the source of 60 to 70 per cent of all the cannabis resin seized in Europe, remained a prime concern. The routes used for smuggling Moroccan cannabis led mainly through Spain to other European countries.

In Central and Southern Africa, a cause of concern was the abuse of cannabis herb mixed with Datura stramonium, the leaves and seeds of which contained substances not under international control that complemented the effect of cannabis.

Cocaine abuse was on the rise in Southern and Western Africa, areas that were used as landing zones for cocaine consignments from South America, transported mainly through Brazil and Venezuela. Cape Verde and Senegal were used to trans-ship cocaine consignments to Europe and North America. Other routes led through Nigeria and South Africa.

Opium poppy was not cultivated in Africa except in Egypt, where limited illicit cultivation continued on the Sinai peninsula. While the total amount of heroin seized in the region remained small, African countries, particularly Nigeria and South Africa, continued to be used as transit areas for heroin trafficking. Although heroin abuse was limited to large urban areas, increasing abuse was reported in Egypt and in most countries in the eastern and southern parts of Africa bordering the Indian Ocean. The spread of intravenous drug abuse was a matter of concern, especially considering the high prevalence of HIV/AIDS in the region.

The abuse of psychotropic substances remained a problem, especially in the central, southern and western parts of Africa. Several countries reported increasing abuse of amphetamines, and in Central and West Africa, trafficking in and abuse of ephedrine, amphetamines and benzodiazepines (mainly diazepam) were widespread. In West Africa, depressants were increasingly diverted from licit pharmaceutical distribution channels. Methaqualone (Mandrax), the second most commonly abused illicit drug in South Africa, which was frequently smoked with cannabis, continued to be smuggled out of China and India; it was the only substance reported to be illicitly manufactured in a few countries in East Africa. The abuse of MDMA (Ecstasy) was spreading in the southern part of the region, particularly in South Africa, where its abuse had increased significantly in the white community. It was predominantly smuggled out of European countries and there was also evidence that it was illicitly manufactured locally.

Regional cooperation matters were considered at the first ministerial meeting on drug control of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) (Yamoussoukro, Côte d’Ivoire, May) (see. p. 1245) and at the Council of Ministers of the Eastern and Southern Africa Anti-Money Laundering Group (Mbabane, Swaziland, August). In view of the increasing diversion of chemicals in Africa, INCB, in cooperation with the UN Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention (ODCCP) of
the Secretariat convened the first technical meeting on prevention of the diversion of chemicals (Pretoria, South Africa, July). Also in Pretoria, a Regional Strategic Framework Conference was held in August to establish priorities in drug and crime control for the member States of the Southern African Development Community.

At the national level, in Egypt, the parliament approved legislation against money-laundering and a conference on demand reduction was held (Cairo, April). In South Africa, a pilot campaign was launched to increase awareness of the dangers of drug abuse. The Government of the United Republic of Tanzania approved a national drug master plan.

An INCB mission, in December 2001, visited Zimbabwe where it observed sufficient controls over licit narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, which needed to be extended to chemicals to prevent them from being diverted for illicit drug manufacture. The Board hoped that the authorities would facilitate the availability of drugs for medical purposes, particularly for pain treatment. A Board mission to Tunisia in June 2002 noted that the authorities had identified free trade zones as a potential problem in the control of chemicals and were working on preventive measures. In July, a Board mission to Kenya assessed progress made on recommendations pursuant to its 1999 mission to the country [YUN 1999, p. 1169]. It found that more action was required by the Government to meet its national and international obligations and that regulations were necessary to enhance certain provisions of the drug law. Also in July, INCB sent a mission to Namibia; it urged the Government to pass legislation to control a number of psychotropic substances and chemicals, in conformity with the international drug control treaties. INCB, in a review of action taken by Cameroun pursuant to its recommendations after a 1999 mission to the country [YUN 1999, p. 1169], expressed concern that pharmaceutical products containing internationally controlled substances continued to be distributed through illicit drug distribution channels and welcomed the Government’s initiative in adopting a national plan of action to stop the illicit trade in psychotropic substances.

Americas

Central America and the Caribbean

Central America and the Caribbean, the main transit area for illicit drug consignments from South America to North America and Europe, was affected by illicit crop cultivation, illicit drug manufacture and drug abuse. Drug traffickers exploited free trade areas, mainly in the Caribbean, and drug trafficking continued to be facilitated by corruption and was linked with trafficking in firearms.

Although cannabis was cultivated in all countries in Central America and the majority in the Caribbean, mostly for local abuse, trafficking declined and eradication efforts continued. Despite those efforts, Jamaica remained an important source for illicit markets in North America and constituted the main illicit market in the Caribbean. Saint Vincent and the Grenadines was the major supplier of cannabis in the Eastern Caribbean.

There was increasing evidence of cocaine manufacture in some countries in Central America, which was also a transit area for chemicals used in the manufacture of cocaine and heroin, mainly in Colombia. Cocaine transit trafficking continued unabated in the region. In the Caribbean, the major trans-shipment points were the Dominican Republic, Haiti and Jamaica. Mainly as a spill-over of the transit traffic, cocaine and crack abuse increased in the subregion.

Neither opium poppy cultivation nor heroin production took place in the Caribbean, and opium poppy cultivation continued on a very small scale in Guatemala. Heroin abuse remained limited, and the consignments trafficked through the region, mostly of Colombian origin, were destined for the United States.

Some of the trafficking in Ecstasy was linked to the transit trafficking in cocaine. Ecstasy was supplied by European sources and destined for the United States, with the main trans-shipment points in Aruba, the Netherlands Antilles and the Dominican Republic. In Haiti, deficient control over the licit distribution of drugs led to a large parallel market for narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances diverted from domestic distribution channels or from international donations and smuggled out of the Dominican Republic or Central America.

Numerous bilateral law enforcement agreements were in existence among countries in Central America and the Caribbean, as well as between them and countries in North and South America. The United States remained the main partner in bilateral action against drug trafficking, while European countries also assisted law enforcement authorities. INCB noted that Central American Governments were developing a sub-regional plan to reduce illicit drug demand and supply, and that continued attention was being given to combating money-laundering. It welcomed a decision of the Inter-American Development Bank to finance, on the basis of proposals of the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commis-
paraphernalia for growing cannabis, and a signed agreement to sell over the Internet cannabis seeds and plants to the United States. Canadian companies continued to cooperate with each other by enhancing security at their national borders and concluding bilateral agreements aimed at facilitating law enforcement action against the drug problem, in particular.

Following the terrorist attacks in the United States on 11 September 2001 [YUN 2001, p. 60], the amount of drugs seized at airports and border crossings in both Canada and the United States decreased considerably, possibly due to drug traffickers’ fear of enhanced border controls. Also, the reduced availability of cocaine and heroin on illicit markets led to increased prices. Cocaine was smuggled into North America via Central America and the Caribbean, while Canadian trafficking groups smuggled Canadian cannabis into the United States, often returning with cocaine shipments. Although cocaine abuse increased in Mexico, it remained at a much lower level than in Canada and the United States.

Mexico continued its campaign to eradicate illicit opium poppy cultivation. The heroin found on illicit markets in North America was primarily of Colombian origin, but Mexican and Asian heroin accounted for an important share. Heroin abuse had become more widespread in Mexico. In the United States, there were indications of the illicit use of prescriptions for semi-synthetic narcotic drugs, particularly oxycodone and hydrocodone, and in Internet chat rooms, there were discussions on how those substances could be purchased for non-medical use. The Board encouraged relevant national authorities to introduce prescription-monitoring programmes that required pharmacies to report all data on prescriptions to a state agency.

Methamphetamine manufacture continued in large quantities in North America. In the United States, nine large facilities used for its illicit manufacture were dismantled in January. Methamphetamine was smuggled from Mexico into the United States, where its abuse remained widespread. Trafficking in pseudoephedrine, an essential chemical for the illicit manufacture of methamphetamine, continued along the United States–Canada border. Pseudoephedrine was diverted from companies that licitly imported it into Canada. In Mexico, ATS abuse increased, and in the United States, the abuse of Ecstasy continued to increase among teenagers. Although mainly smuggled into the region from Western Europe, it was also manufactured in clandestine laboratories in Canada and the United States. The amount of khat seized in the United States more than doubled from 1996 to 2001, but its abuse appeared to be limited to East African communities in the country.

Canada, Mexico and the United States continued to cooperate with each other by enhancing security at their national borders and concluding bilateral agreements aimed at facilitating law enforcement action against the drug problem, in particular.

North America

Cannabis remained the most common drug of abuse in Canada, Mexico and the United States. It was widely available in all three countries and its abuse had increased in Mexico. Hydroponic cultivation remained a problem in Canada and the United States. Canadian companies continued to sell over the Internet cannabis seeds and paraphernalia for growing cannabis, and a significant portion of the cannabis produced in Canada was smuggled into the United States. In several states in the United States, discussions on liberalizing or legalizing cannabis continued, and the Board appreciated that national laws in line with the international drug control treaties were being enforced.
lar to suppress trafficking. They also cooperated with CICAD. The Board called on Canada to accelerate the enforcement of precursor control regulations, since trafficking in some precursors from Canada had assumed significant proportions.

South America

The drug problem in South America, particularly in the Andean subregion, was increasingly linked to political and national security issues. In Colombia, guerrilla and paramilitary groups not only provided protection to drug traffickers for a fee, but also controlled trafficking and laboratories for illicit manufacture. Although alternative development and abuse prevention and treatment remained important parts of national drug control strategies in South America, the emphasis in some countries was on law enforcement and suppression. Most of the world’s coca leaf continued to be illicitly produced in Colombia, with most of the cocaine also manufactured there.

Cannabis remained the most widely abused illicit drug in the region and its cultivation continued to be widespread. The cannabis produced in South America was mainly destined for local or regional markets; however, it was also produced in Colombia to be smuggled into the United States and other countries. All the countries in the region reported cannabis seizures, with Brazil accounting for one half and Colombia for one fourth. Paraguay experienced a significant increase in illicit cannabis cultivation and abuse and in the smuggling of cannabis into other countries.

Since 2000, the rate of illicit coca bush eradication had slowed in Bolivia and Peru; the areas under cultivation increased slightly in Bolivia and barely decreased in Peru. However, voluntary eradication continued and alternative development programmes were implemented. High prices for coca leaf were an added incentive for small farmers to replant. Illegal coca markets remained active in the Andean subregion. According to its Integrated System for Illicit Crop Monitoring, Colombia witnessed a decrease in illicit cultivation in 2001. However, eradicating coca bush cultivation in one country could result in it emerging, reoccurring or increasing in other countries; in Bolivia and Peru that development was a matter of concern. Small-scale coca bush cultivation was detected in Ecuador and Venezuela.

Cocaine was manufactured in Colombia from coca paste produced locally and from coca leaf and paste smuggled out of Bolivia and Peru. Traffickers based their activities in areas controlled by insurgency groups, particularly in southern Colombia along its borders with Ecuador and Peru, and in the north-east along its border with Venezuela. Brazil and Venezuela were used as major trans-shipment areas for consignments of illicit drugs originating in Colombia and destined for the United States and Europe. They were also the source of significant quantities of precursor chemicals diverted to Colombia. Ecuador was the main transit country used for smuggling drugs across the Pacific. Countries bordering Bolivia and Peru were also affected by the cocaine trade. Argentina and Chile were vulnerable to transit trafficking, diversion or smuggling of precursor chemicals; cocaine transit in Paraguay increased. South America accounted for more than 40 per cent of all the cocaine seizures made in the world. Of those seizures, Colombia accounted for about 70 per cent. The abuse of cocaine and its derivatives remained a problem in transit countries, above all in Argentina, Brazil and Chile.

The total area under illicit opium poppy cultivation in Colombia was larger than that of any other country outside Asia. It increased in Peru and began in Venezuela on a small scale. The heroin manufactured in Colombia was smuggled into the United States mainly by individual carriers (“mules”), although there was increased heroin trafficking by sea along the same route used for cocaine trafficking. Heroin seizures in the region as a whole increased. Colombia was the main destination of precursor chemicals smuggled into South America or diverted from illicit international trade for the manufacture of illicit drugs. Drug traffickers in Colombia also manufactured their own potassium permanganate.

Seizures of methamphetamine and hallucinogens, including Ecstasy, were reported in Brazil, Colombia, Suriname, Uruguay and Venezuela. Suriname continued to be used as a gateway for smuggling European Ecstasy, mainly originating in the Netherlands, into South America and onwards to North America.

Although CICAD was the main body for regional cooperation among countries in South America, there was also significant cooperation among members of the Andean Community. There continued to be bilateral cooperation between countries in South America, Central America and the Caribbean, and North America. The countries in the Andean subregion cooperated in strengthening institutions in their national drug control systems. Bilateral cooperation involving Colombia and other countries was of particular importance, especially cooperation with Ecuador, Peru and Venezuela in the area of border control and with Ecuador in illicit crop eradication. Colombia took important steps in
developing its policy for the reduction of illicit drug demand, and aerial fumigation continued to be used for eradicating large-scale illicit cultivation of coca bush and opium poppy.

In July, INCB sent missions to Guyana and Suriname. It encouraged Guyana to strengthen the National Anti-Narcotic Commission and develop its control system for chemicals. In Suriname, where cannabis cultivation and abuse and the abuse of crack cocaine were widespread, the Board encouraged the Government to streamline coordination and information-sharing among its agencies and the countries along the trafficking routes that led from Colombia and Venezuela through the country. The Board reviewed Brazil’s follow-up to its recommendations following a 1999 mission to the country [YUN 1999, p. 1172]. It noted the participation of the Government in regional law enforcement programmes against trafficking in drugs and precursors, and welcomed improvements in its submission of data on narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances. A survey of the prevalence of drug abuse in 107 major Brazilian cities was completed in 2002.

Asia

East and South-East Asia

Cannabis abuse continued to be widespread in East and South-East Asia. Cambodia was a major supplier to countries in the region and in other parts of the world. Cannabis was also cultivated on a smaller scale in Indonesia (Java and Sumatra), in the southern part of the Lao People’s Democratic Republic, in the Philippines and in north-eastern Thailand.

As a result of intensive law enforcement action and efforts in alternative development and illicit crop eradication, illicit opium production in the region decreased. In Myanmar, eradication efforts alone reduced by 7 per cent the total area under illicit opium poppy cultivation, which also decreased in the Lao People’s Democratic Republic and in Viet Nam. Thailand, with its highland development programmes and measures against illicit opium poppy cultivation, was no longer a major source of opium and heroin. However, despite the decline in cultivation, East and South-East Asia remained the second largest source of opium and heroin in the world. Significant amounts of heroin manufactured in the border areas of Myanmar continued to be transported through Thailand. However, China became the main destination and transit area for heroin consignments. Large amounts were also smuggled through Cambodia, the Lao People’s Democratic Republic and Viet Nam. Australia was still one of the main countries of destination. The geographical proximity of countries in the region to the producing areas in the Golden Triangle facilitated the widespread abuse of opiates.

Opium abuse continued to decline. In Myanmar, the number of heroin addicts surpassed that of opium addicts. However, in Myanmar’s Shan State, 2.4 per cent of the population aged 15 and above smoked opium daily, and estimates for the Lao People’s Democratic Republic were similar. While the number of new heroin addicts in Thailand declined, China, Myanmar and Viet Nam experienced an increase. A worrying trend in the region was the accelerating spread of HIV/AIDS infection among injecting drug addicts, mainly along drug trafficking routes.

Illicit manufacture, trafficking and abuse of ATS, particularly methamphetamine, increased significantly in the region. Heroin manufacturers were increasingly shifting their attention to methamphetamine, particularly in Myanmar. Amphetamines, especially methamphetamine, were the main drugs of concern in Japan, the Philippines, the Republic of Korea and Thailand. Ephedrine, used for the illicit manufacture of methamphetamine, was diverted and smuggled out of China and India. Caffeine, used as an adulterant in the illicit manufacture of methamphetamine tablets, was mainly smuggled into Myanmar through its border with Thailand. Over 70 per cent of all amphetamine seizures worldwide occurred in East and South-East Asia, mainly in China and Thailand. INCB continued to be concerned by the increasing abuse of Ecstasy in the region; the illicit market was particularly large in Indonesia.

Regionally, a cooperative response to the drug problem continued to be a priority for the signatories to the 1993 memorandum of understanding on drug control between the countries in the Mekong area (Cambodia, China, the Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Myanmar, Thailand and Viet Nam) and UNDCP. Drug control efforts within the framework of the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) also played a major role. In August, a forum in Zhongshan, China, attended by representatives of Australia, China, Japan, Myanmar, the Philippines, the Republic of Korea and Thailand, focused on fighting trafficking in amphetamines in Asia. Laws were enacted against money-laundering in Indonesia and Myanmar.

A June INCB mission to the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea to review compliance with the international drug control treaties noted that the Government attached considerable importance to the control of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances. It welcomed an initia-
tive to prepare a consolidated law to bring its national legislation fully in line with the treaties. In September, a Board mission visited China and noted continuing concerns regarding the diversion of precursors from domestic manufacture and distribution and their smuggling abroad. INCB appreciated measures introduced to monitor international trade in precursors and to check the legitimacy of transactions involving them. In May, the Board reviewed action taken by Japan regarding its recommendations following a 1999 mission to that country. It noted that authorities continued to apply the provisions of the international treaties and encouraged the Government to evaluate the impact of its Five-Year Drug Abuse Prevention Strategy (1998-2002) and to share with other Governments its experiences.

South Asia

Although cannabis and opium remained the main drugs of abuse in South Asia, the abuse of heroin and psychoactive pharmaceutical products was also widespread. Cannabis was illicitly cultivated and abused in all countries, and was rife in India and Nepal. In Nepal, the illicit cultivation of more potent cannabis varieties was rising over those that grew wild.

In all of South Asia, increasing heroin abuse was, in part, the result of the spillover effect of transit trafficking in consignments from South-West Asia and, to a lesser degree, from South-East Asia, mostly destined for Europe and the United States. In India, the Central Bureau of Narcotics, which oversaw the licit opium production programme and the chemical industry, continued to tighten controls to curtail the diversion of licit opium. Controls over the licit production of opiates were enhanced by improving surveys during the growing season and by increasing vigilance during the period in which the poppy capsules were lanced. Some illicitly produced opium, as well as that illicitly produced and diverted, was processed into heroin in illicit laboratories. Seizures during the first half of 2002 indicated continued trafficking in heroin illicitly manufactured in India, part of which was for domestic abuse and part was smuggled into neighbouring countries, such as Bangladesh and Sri Lanka, or to other regions. India was also used as a transit country, mostly for heroin consignments from Afghanistan and, to a limited extent, from Myanmar. In Sri Lanka, the trans-shipment of narcotic drugs from South Asia increased; the country had a comparatively modest drug abuse problem, but abuse of narcotic drugs, particularly heroin, was increasing slightly but steadily.

Bangladesh and Nepal were used by traffickers as transit countries.

Pharmaceutical products containing narcotic drugs were abused in all countries in the region. In India, the injection of dextropropoxyphene and buprenorphine, both analgesics, was reported in many States. In some States, dextropropoxyphene had become the drug of choice, costing one tenth as much as heroin. Codeine-based cough syrups continued to be diverted from the licit market in India and abused, and were also smuggled into Bangladesh and Myanmar. The abuse of licit codeine-based medicines was also reported in Nepal. Pharmaceutical preparations containing psychotropic substances were abused in all countries, but the problem was most evident in India where the pharmaceutical industry manufactured preparations containing those substances. Benzodiazepine-type sedatives and anxiolytics were among the abused substances. The diversion of controlled substances from domestic distribution channels continued, supplying the illicit market in India and other countries. In Bangladesh, there were reports of the abuse by injection of buprenorphine smuggled out of India, while the abuse of sedatives and tranquillizers was a more recent problem. In Sri Lanka, diazepam was one of the most favoured alternatives to heroin.

Since large quantities of precursor chemicals were manufactured and traded in South Asia, INCB welcomed the regional activities related to precursor control in the member States of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation, aimed at strengthening control mechanisms and law enforcement capacities in order to prevent diversion. India entered into bilateral agreements on drug control matters with 15 States. India and Sri Lanka continued to coordinate efforts against drug trafficking and carried out programmes to reduce illicit drug demand.

In June, an INCB mission visited Sri Lanka and expressed concern that controls over psychotropic substances were not in line with the 1971 Convention. It urged the authorities to strengthen action against trafficking in heroin and to take measures against the abuse of preparations made from cannabis, which were widely abused in the country.

West and Central Asia

In West Asia, corruption linked to drug trafficking remained a serious issue, while the smuggling of opiates and cannabis undermined the economic and social stability of some countries and jeopardized peace and security in the whole region. Cannabis continued to be the most widely abused substance. In Afghanistan, the extent of
illicit cultivation was not known but was assumed to be considerable. In Afghanistan, Kazakhstan and Pakistan, it also grew wild. Cannabis resin from Afghanistan and Pakistan continued to be smuggled into other countries in West Asia and into Europe. In Iran, Israel and Saudi Arabia, cannabis trafficking had increased.

In Afghanistan, the political and social situation contributed to continued opium poppy cultivation and the smuggling of opiates. The Interim Administration’s January ban on opium poppy cultivation and its April decree on the eradication of drug crops (see p. 265) could not be implemented in large areas of the country. Opium poppy cultivation was estimated to have reached the levels of the mid-1990s, with about 3,400 tons of opium believed to have been harvested in 2002. In Pakistan, the Government eradicated illicit opium poppy cultivation on 70 per cent of the total area (about 1,000 hectares) on which it had resumed in 2001. The smuggling of opiates from Afghanistan into and through Iran and Pakistan returned to the levels attained prior to the ban introduced by the Taliban in 2000 (YUN 2000, p. 188). In Afghanistan, the large-scale manufacture of heroin resumed after the terrorist attacks of 11 September 2001 in the United States (YUN 2001, p. 60), as indicated by the detection of chemicals for the conversion of morphine to heroin and by increasing seizures in neighbouring countries.

Most countries in West Asia were used as transit points for smuggling opiates into Europe and other regions, while chemicals used in the illicit manufacture of heroin continued to flow in the opposite direction. Because of drug trafficking activities and increased illicit crop cultivation, the extent of abuse in the region did not decline. Opiate addiction rates in Iran and Pakistan continued to be among the highest in the world and the abuse of opiates by injection increased. There was a shift from cannabis to opium and heroin as the drugs of choice, accompanied by an increase in drug injection, with serious implications for the spread of HIV/AIDS in Central Asia and the Caucasus.

Central Asia continued to be one of the primary routes for transporting illicit drugs from Afghanistan and the volume of drugs seized increased, reaching 10.5 tons in 2001, more than 80 per cent of which was seized in Tajikistan. A considerable amount of the opium, morphine and heroin from Afghanistan was increasingly smuggled out of Tajikistan, via Kazakhstan, into the Russian Federation and then towards the west. Since heroin was more profitable and easier to transport than opium, its share in the total volume of seizures in Central Asia continued to increase. In Tajikistan, its share in the first half of 2002 tripled in comparison with the same period in 2001, and in Kyrgyzstan, four times more heroin was seized. A significant portion of the opiates produced in West Asia was destined for illicit markets in Europe. However, a considerable amount remained in the region, where drug addiction was one of the main social problems. In Tajikistan, the Central Asian country most affected by drug trafficking activities, drug abuse increased sharply. It was estimated that there were 720 drug addicts for every 100,000 inhabitants in Central Asia as a whole, the country with the highest rate being Kyrgyzstan (1,644 drug addicts per 100,000 inhabitants), followed by Kazakhstan. Opiates administered by injection were becoming the drugs of choice in Central Asia, and drug abuse by injection was the prime cause of the rapid spread of HIV/AIDS in Central Asian countries and Iran. Pharmaceutical preparations, obtained through overprescription, under-the-counter sales in pharmacies or diversions from licit channels, were often abused in West Asia. Cocaine abuse and trafficking remained insignificant.

Traffic in and abuse of illicitly manufactured stimulants (often Captagon) continued to cause concern in the eastern Mediterranean area and on the Arab peninsula. The abuse of Ecstasy was a problem in Israel, Lebanon and, to a lesser extent, Turkey. In the West Asian countries suffering most from the abuse of opiates, the abuse of sedatives and analgesics was also a problem. Israel was the only country in which seizures and abuse of lysergic acid diethylamide (LSD) and other hallucinogens were reported.

As to regional cooperation, INCB welcomed new bilateral agreements between countries and continued cooperation between law enforcement agencies in Iran and Pakistan. In September, the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) set up an agency to combat drug trafficking in Central Asia and promote abuse prevention activities. Earlier in the year, initiatives were launched in Central Asia to share information and promote cooperation.

INCB encouraged Governments to monitor all types of drug abuse in their countries, including the abuse of cannabis and pharmaceutical preparations diverted from licit channels. It urged the five Central Asian countries (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan) to enact a comprehensive legislative structure to combat money-laundering.

INCB sent missions to Tajikistan and Turkmenistan in January, and encouraged the Tajikistan Government to enact legislation against money-laundering. In Turkmenistan, it encouraged the Government to expedite the
finalization of the law on narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances and the health law, and to enact legislation against money-laundering. In August, the Board sent a mission to Afghanistan to continue its consultations under article 14 of the 1961 Convention, and noted that widespread cultivation of illicit opium poppy continued. It urged the Government to prevent farmers from growing opium poppy, to establish a high-level inter-ministerial body responsible for drug control issues and to develop a national strategy for opium and cannabis cultivation. In September, the Board sent a mission to Kazakhstan, which was on one of the key routes for smuggling opium from Afghanistan into Europe. It encouraged the Government to strengthen mechanisms for coordination among drug law enforcement agencies and invited it to participate in Operation Topaz.

**Europe**

Cannabis remained the most widely abused drug in Europe, with significant illicit cultivation throughout the region, and on a large scale in the south of Albania. In Western Europe, the bulk of the cannabis resin seized originated in Morocco, while the seized cannabis herb originated largely in Europe and in countries outside, mainly Colombia, Jamaica, Nigeria and South Africa.

Cocaine abuse was on the increase in some European Union (EU) member States and spreading abuse of crack cocaine was reported in several countries. The main country through which cocaine entered Europe was Spain, followed by the Netherlands, Italy and Belgium.

Europe continued to be one of the main destinations for heroin, which was smuggled mainly out of South-West Asia. There was a shift in drug trafficking patterns: drug trafficking along the traditional Balkan route continued, while it grew rapidly along the Central Asian route, although the quantity trafficked along the latter route was still smaller. Heroin seizures increased in Bulgaria, and its abuse became more common in Eastern than in Western Europe. In Croatia, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania and the Russian Federation, heroin was the most widely abused drug among young persons aged 15 and 16.

Synthetic drugs, particularly Ecstasy, continued to be illicitly manufactured and smuggled not only within Europe, but also into other regions, mainly North America and Oceania. The Netherlands remained one of the main sources of illicit manufacture. The chemicals necessary for the illicit manufacture of Ecstasy were mostly smuggled into the region from China. Europe accounted for some 60 per cent of the total amount of Ecstasy abused in the world. The lifetime prevalence rate for its abuse was highest in Ireland, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom; its abuse increased in Spain and was spreading in Eastern Europe. Methamphetamine and amphetamine seizures declined in the region. Although most of the amphetamine seized was manufactured in EU member States, Poland was an important source. While amphetamine seized was stable in Western Europe, it increased in Central and Eastern Europe.

In March, several Western European States, Australia, Canada and the United States completed an international operation against trafficking in Ecstasy. In June and July, 13 countries participated in Operation Containment, aimed at reducing the availability of heroin along the Balkan route. INCB and the Pompidou Group of the Council of Europe jointly organized the Conference on Control of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances in Europe (Strasbourg, France, October).

At the national level, the Netherlands, in January, decided to make cannabis herb available in pharmacies as a prescription drug. The Board expressed concern about authorized use of the substance before research into its medical properties was finalized. Following the April opening of a drug inhalation room in Zurich, Switzerland, the Board reiterated that drug injection rooms (or any other similar outlets established in some developed countries) might facilitate drug abuse, were contrary to the international drug control treaties and interfered with obligations of law enforcement authorities. It urged Governments to pursue policies that would reduce the incidence of drug injection and to provide a wider range of facilities for the treatment of abuse in line with sound medical practice and the international treaties.

In April, an INCB mission visited Romania, which was increasingly used as a transit country or a country of destination for illicit consignments. The Board urged the Government to prevent the diversion of precursors; improve the interdiction of heroin consignments in border areas; carry out an assessment of the abuse situation; and devise intervention strategies to reduce illicit drug demand and rehabilitate addicts. A June mission visited Slovenia, where drug abuse had increased. Although numerous measures were taken to control drugs, the Board noted that the national coordinating body needed to be strengthened. Also in June, an INCB mission visited the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and welcomed government efforts to deal with drug abuse and trafficking. However, it was con-
cerned that no legislation had been enacted since 1996 to bring national legislation in line with the international treaties. A September Board mission to Albania, a major transit area for illicit consignments of narcotic drugs, noted that drug addiction was spreading and further efforts were needed to prevent abuse and treat abusers. It urged the Government to finalize the development of a coordinated strategy on drug control. Also in September, an INCB mission visited the Kosovo province of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, where heroin abuse had spread. It stated that Kosovo needed a more comprehensive legislative, regulatory and strategic framework to control drugs and chemicals, in line with international conventions and the laws of European countries. The Board, in a review of action taken by France on recommendations made following its 1999 mission to that country [YUN 1999, p. 176], noted that drug addiction treatment facilities had been expanded. It expressed appreciation of the close monitoring of the abuse of pharmaceutical products containing narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances.

Oceania

Cannabis continued to be the most abused drug in Australia, where large-scale hydroponic cultivation was reported. There was also significant cannabis cultivation in Fiji, where it was widely abused. Cannabis was also grown on a large scale in Papua New Guinea and to a lesser extent in Samoa.

Australia and New Zealand accounted for the majority of drug seizures in Oceania. Australia, in particular, remained one of the main destinations for shipments of heroin and ATS from South-East Asia. Successful law enforcement operations led to the dismantling of international trafficking rings transporting heroin from South-East Asia to Australia and to the seizure of significant quantities of heroin, reducing availability on illicit markets in Australia and causing a decline in the number of deaths by overdose. The Pacific island States were used as transit points for smuggling cannabis, heroin and cocaine destined for larger markets in Australia and in other regions. Cocaine abuse remained limited in Australia, except in New South Wales.

In Australia and New Zealand, seizures of ATS, particularly methamphetamine, were at a record level, confirming the growing demand for them. In New Zealand, the increasing prevalence of methamphetamine was a matter of concern, and large seizures of Ecstasy tablets were made in both countries.

The Board was particularly concerned about the drug control situation in Papua New Guinea, where drug-related crime was linked to political instability. It encouraged the Pacific Islands Forum to continue to coordinate drug control. As drug traffickers had targeted offshore financial centres in the region to launder illicit profits, the Board urged the Governments of the countries concerned to intensify their efforts to counter money-laundering; it also welcomed regional and bilateral agreements to fight the problem. In view of the trend in the smuggling of heroin and methamphetamine in and through Oceania, the Board stressed the importance of cooperation between Governments of countries in the region and in South-East Asia.

UN action to combat drug abuse

UN International Drug Control Programme

The United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP), established in 1991 [YUN 1998, p. 721] to support the implementation of international drug control treaties and the development of drug control strategies, served as a facilitator of and catalyst for Governments’ actions in countering the drug problem. The Executive Director described UNDCP’s 2002 activities in a report to the Commission on Narcotic Drugs [E/CN.7/2003/13]. Through its 21 field offices, UNDCP delivered technical assistance to reduce the illicit drug supply, suppress drug trafficking and prevent drug abuse. It supported Member States in their efforts to pursue a balanced approach to countering the drug problem and to implement the mandates agreed upon at the twentieth special session of the General Assembly [YUN 1998, p. 1155]. In addition, it acted as the secretariat of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and assisted the Commission in assessing Governments’ efforts to implement the action plans adopted at the special session. It launched operations and promoted cooperation between and among Governments, and mobilized specialized agencies and other UN entities, international financial institutions, intergovernmental organizations and civil society, in particular non-governmental organizations (NGOs).

Through its legal assistance programme, UNDCP continued to assist Governments in becoming parties to, and implementing the provisions of, the international drug control treaties. It provided a large number of States with legal assistance in drafting drug control legislation, including precursor control, and legislation against money-laundering. More than 2,400 judges, prosecutors and other law enforcement officials
had been trained; interregional legal advisers provided training and technical assistance in Latin America and Central Asia. UNDCP model laws were updated and new model legislation was developed for use in countries that followed the Islamic legal tradition. UNDCP also served as the INCB secretariat, assisting it in monitoring the implementation of the international treaties, in close cooperation with Governments. It also assisted in the organization of two round tables on precursor control in Africa and Central Asia, which reached agreement on standard operating procedures to prevent the diversion of precursors.

Regarding drug demand reduction, the Programme assisted Member States to establish national information systems on abuse; promote best practices in drug abuse prevention and the treatment and rehabilitation of drug abusers; and implement projects leading to lower drug dependence. In that connection, it worked closely with the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction, the Drug Abuse Control Commission of the Organization of American States and the specialized agencies of the UN system. Cooperation with the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) increased. Through the Global Assessment Programme on Drug Abuse, the data collection capacities of Governments were improved by the dissemination of methodological practices. The UNDCP/World Health Organization (WHO) Global Initiative on Primary Prevention of Substance Abuse provided assistance to more than 100 local organizations, mainly NGOs, in Belarus, the Philippines, the Russian Federation, South Africa, Thailand, the United Republic of Tanzania, Viet Nam and Zambia. UNDCP provided assistance for community-based activities to prevent abuse among young people, and shared information and guidance on strategies to treat and rehabilitate drug abusers. It continued to include HIV/AIDS prevention in its drug demand reduction work by targeting injecting drug abusers.

UNDCP encouraged donor nations and development institutions to support countries affected by illicit crops and provided scientific support to track the contents of seized ATS tablets and powder as a way to trace their origin.

The Programme continued to serve as the secretariat of the subsidiary bodies of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (the Subcommission on Illicit Drugs Traffic and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East and the regional meetings of heads of national drug law enforcement agencies) (see p. 1251). In coordination with interested drug law enforcement agencies (the International Criminal Police Organization (Interpol), the World Customs Organization and the European Police Office (Europol)), it supported cross-border law enforcement initiatives. To counter drug trafficking and related cross-border crime, technical law enforcement assistance was provided in Southern and East Africa, Central Asia, South-East Asia and Central and Eastern Europe. The assistance was provided in precursor control, developing intelligence systems, promoting operational cooperation between law enforcement agencies through improved intelligence exchange and provision of operational equipment.

UNDCP promoted the training of drug law enforcement personnel, continued to produce and distribute field testing kits for the rapid detection of illicit drugs and their precursors, and provided technical assistance to countries in Central America and to collaborative laboratory training centres worldwide. The Programme organized an expert group meeting on understanding the clandestine manufacture of Ecstasy and, through its global illicit crop-monitoring programme, provided technical assistance for the development of crop-monitoring systems in countries affected by illicit crop cultivation. It also provided estimates on illicit drug production in the major coca- and opium-producing countries.

For 2002-2003, income to the UNDCP Fund totalled $145 million. Expenditures were estimated at $144 million: for programmes ($106 million), programme support ($35 million) and agency support costs ($3 million).

**Activities in the regions.** UNDCP cooperated with the Organization of African Unity (subsequently the African Union) in organizing the first Ministerial Conference on Drug Control in Africa (Yamoussoukro, Côte d’Ivoire, 6-11 May), which adopted a plan of action for drug control in Africa covering the period 2002-2006. UNDCP continued to support treatment and rehabilitation services in Africa, particularly programmes on HIV/AIDS and drug abuse. During the year, a pilot project on local expert networks for demand reduction was expanded to cover North and West Africa. In West Africa, UNDCP initiated demand reduction activities covering nine countries. The Programme formulated an Africa-wide demand reduction project that would provide support for gathering analysis of epidemiological data, and provided demand reduction expertise. The joint UNDCP/UNAIDS initiative in Africa was launched with a large-scale assessment of the threats involved and with preventive action in several countries.

By a 15 March resolution [E/2002/28 & Corr.1.2 (res. 45/8)], the Commission on Narcotic Drugs...
called on Member States with experience in the eradication of illicit crops and in alternative development programmes to share their expertise with African States. It encouraged UNDCP and Member States to provide technical support to national and regional strategies and plans of action against illicit drugs in Africa. UNDCP was requested to consider developing and implementing appropriate alternative development programmes and to integrate them into programmes already being implemented in African countries by other UN entities. The UNDCP Executive Director was requested to report in 2003.

UNDCP initiated and supported the development of national drug abuse monitoring systems throughout Central and Eastern Europe and in the Russian Federation. It developed, in collaboration with UNAIDS, regional systems for the collection of data on HIV/AIDS prevention and diversified services for drug abusers. In the Russian Federation and other CIS countries, UNDCP contributed to the suppression of drug trafficking and other forms of organized crime through specialized law enforcement training. It helped improve the control capacity of the Russian Federal Border Service along the border with Afghanistan and Tajikistan.

In South Asia, UNDCP cooperated with the National Centre for Drug Abuse Prevention of India and eight regional resource and training centres, involving about 2,000 service providers in the prevention and treatment of drug abuse and the rehabilitation of drug abusers. It worked with UNAIDS, carried out surveys of opiate abuse, provided training to drug law enforcement and regulatory personnel and, with WHO, held two sub-regional consultations in Sri Lanka to increase national capacity in drug demand reduction.

In South-East Asia and the Pacific, UNDCP continued to support alternative development programmes, particularly the establishment of national systems to monitor illicit opium poppy cultivation. Together with UNAIDS, the Programme continued to support research, analysis and information-sharing on the link between drug abuse and HIV/AIDS and to train educators. It promoted initiatives to counter illicit crop cultivation, the manufacture of ATS, illicit drug trafficking and drug abuse.

In the West and Central Asia subregion, UNDCP, in Afghanistan, combined assistance on policy support, legislation and advocacy, elimination of illicit crops, suppression of drug trafficking and reduction of drug abuse. The role of microcredit as a financing alternative to lending by usurers was assessed, and an analysis was completed that revealed the economics of opium in Afghanistan and neighbouring countries. Since Central Asia emerged as one of the major trafficking routes for illicit drugs from Afghanistan, UNDCP focused on assisting Governments there to strengthen drug control capacities. Drug demand reduction issues were addressed at the Regional Conference on Drug Abuse in Central Asia (Tashkent, Uzbekistan, 26-28 June). The fourth review meeting of the parties to the memorandum of understanding on subregional drug control cooperation (Ashgabat, Turkmenistan, 13-14 December) recognized poverty eradication and the need to build the capacities of national drug law enforcement bodies as important elements in a drug control approach embracing supply and demand reduction. Under the Sub-regional Drug Control Cooperation Programme for the Middle East, UNDCP focused on strengthening capacity for the treatment and rehabilitation of drug abusers.

In a 15 March resolution [E/2002/28 & Corr.1 & 2 (res. 45/10)], the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, welcoming the signing in January 2002 by Afghanistan’s Interim Administration of a decree banning illicit crop cultivation and illicit drug production, processing, abuse and trafficking, called on UNDCP to strengthen its capacity in the country and encouraged Member States and relevant international organizations to assist Afghan farmers and contribute to alternative development. It called upon Member States to support programmes in Afghanistan and assist the State High Commission for Drug Control, the Interim Administration and governing bodies in implementing the ban. It also called on Member States to strengthen the “security belts” around Afghanistan and ensure that drug control activities were incorporated into the country’s reconstruction and development programmes. It called on UNDCP to continue to cooperate with Member States and relevant international organizations in illicit crop eradication efforts, crop substitution assistance and alternative development. The UNDCP Executive Director was requested to report in 2003.

On the same date [res. 45/16], the Commission called on States and international and regional agencies to extend assistance to Arab States to enable them to implement their drug control plans and programmes. It requested UNDCP to provide support to the Arab States and to make an assessment of the problems resulting from the movement of illicit drug consignments through their territories. The Commission called upon the UNDCP Executive Director, in cooperation with transit and destination States, to coordinate efforts to solve the problems posed by illicit drugs in Arab States.
In the Caribbean, UNDCP provided policy and technical support for the development of a strategy on drugs and crime, as approved by the twenty-third meeting of the Conference of Heads of Government of the Caribbean Community (Georgetown, Guyana, July). It also supported training courses. In Central America, UNDCP worked with the drug control commissions in the development of the first subregional drug control action plan, to be launched in 2003. Participants from 18 countries were trained in abuse prevention and demand reduction. UNDCP supported the Andean countries in their efforts to reduce illicit coca bush cultivation and the emerging illicit opium poppy cultivation, and supported projects aimed at institution-building and the implementation of model alternative programmes.

Administrative and budgetary matters

In March, the Commission on Narcotic Drugs had before it a February note by the Secretariat [E/CN.7/2002/10], which stated that, pending the appointment of a new ODCCP Executive Director, no change was proposed to the provisional organizational chart and the post allocations contained in an October 2001 report of the UNDCP Executive Director [YUN 2001, p. 1166]. Current organizational arrangements would continue provisionally and a revised proposal within the approved total appropriation of the 2002-2003 biennium budget would be submitted to the Commission for approval.

On 1 October, ODCCP was renamed the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC).

OIOS 2001 reviews

By resolution 57/287 A of 20 December, the General Assembly took note of the 2001 reports of the Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS) on an inspection of ODCCP programme management and administrative practices [YUN 2001, p. 1167] and on an investigation into allegations of misconduct and mismanagement of project operations at ODCCP [ibid.].

National database system

The Commission on Narcotic Drugs, at its forty-fifth session in March (see below), had before it a Secretariat note [E/CN.7/2002/7] on the national database system on drug control; a work plan for the system was designed in 2001 [YUN 2001, p. 1167]. The note, submitted pursuant to Economic and Social Council resolution 2001/18 [ibid.], stated that UNDCP was preparing a project document to continue the national database system initiative during 2002-2003. The new project, for which there had been widespread support, would be subject to voluntary contributions from Member States. The note described the proceedings of the fourth meeting of the group of users (Vienna, 1 October 2001) [ibid.].

On 15 March [E/2002/28 & Corr.1,2 (res. 45/11)], the Commission, welcoming the recommendation of the group of users to maximize the usefulness of the database system for national and international drug control by separating its normative functions, technical cooperation and organizational aspects, agreed that the system’s mandate and scope should be broadened to cover the collection, exchange and processing of all data relevant to drug control, and that such data should be made available in a timely manner by electronic means. The Commission requested the Secretariat to take into account the need to obtain funding, either from the regular budget or from voluntary resources. It requested UNDCP to improve the electronic exchange of information among Member States and their communication with the Programme, and urged Member States to expand the use of the system where the technical infrastructure and support were sustainable, and to sponsor and participate in the transitional project outlined by UNDCP in the interest of the international community.

Commission on Narcotic Drugs

The Commission on Narcotic Drugs held its forty-fifth session in Vienna from 11 to 15 March [E/2002/26 & Corr.1,2], during which it adopted 17 resolutions and recommended to the Economic and Social Council for adoption two draft resolutions and two draft decisions.

Following the closure of that session on 15 March, the Commission opened its forth-sixth session to elect the new chairman and other bureau members.

By decision 2002/240 of 24 July, the Council took note of the Commission’s report on its forty-fifth session and approved the provisional agenda and documentation for the forty-sixth (2003) session, on the understanding that intersessional meetings would be held in Vienna, at no additional cost, to finalize the items to be included in the provisional agenda and the documentation requirements for the forty-sixth session.

Demand reduction

In 2002, the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, for its consideration of drug demand reduction, had before it a report by the UNDCP Executive Director [E/CN.7/2002/3], which gave an overview of the recreational and leisure use of drugs among young people and described actions taken in response to the problem by Member States and
UNDPC. The report, submitted in response to Commission resolution 44/5 [YUN 2001, p. 1169], stated that recent trends indicated that, at least in developed countries and increasingly elsewhere, illicit drug abuse had become more popular among mainstream youth, and that recreational drug use was characterized by quickly changing patterns of use and experimentation. It concluded that it was important to identify changing patterns of drug use among young subcultures quickly, to involve young people in developing prevention programmes and to conduct research into the consequences of ATS abuse, in order to determine the long-term negative effects.

By a 15 March resolution on efforts to reduce the impact of illicit drug demand on organized crime [E/2002/28 & Corr.1,2 (res. 45/3)], the Commission recommended that States should intensify their efforts to reduce illicit drug demand. It also recommended that Member States and UNDCP promote cooperation among Governments, taking into account the opinions of NGOs, civil society, community associations and families. UNDCP should coordinate educational activities with a view to making the public aware of the risks of drug abuse, particularly the link between the demand for illicit drugs and the financing of organized crime.

Also on 15 March [res. 45/13], the Commission, in a resolution on optimizing systems for collecting information and identifying best practices to counter the demand for illicit drugs, called on Member States to redouble their efforts in 2002 so as to provide timely and comprehensive replies to questionnaires, to promote the participation of individuals at the community level in identifying needs, formulating policies and evaluating drug abuse, and to make contributions for drug demand reduction projects for the period 2003-2008. It also encouraged Member States, UNDCP and relevant international and regional organizations to foster the exchange of information among themselves, and called on the UNDCP Executive Director to summarize the state of implementation of demand reduction activities, to prepare a costed programme of work for 2003-2008 and to strengthen the Global Assessment Programme on Drug Abuse. UNDCP was further encouraged to promote mechanisms to ensure that information utilized in formulating policies for demand reduction was valid, comprehensive and accessible to all Member States.

Drug abuse

In 2002, the Commission on Narcotic Drugs considered a January report by the Secretariat [E/CN.7/2002/2 & Corr.1], which reviewed global patterns and trends in illicit drug consumption compiled for 2000, with special attention to the spread of HIV/AIDS through drug injection (see also p. 1249). The analysis was based on responses received from 80 countries (41 per cent) that had completed and returned the annual reports questionnaire for the year 2000 by 13 December 2001, in compliance with their obligations under the international drug control treaties. To improve the coverage and provide a more balanced regional perspective, data from the annual reports questionnaire had been supplemented with information from additional sources, including national reports.

The report stated that heroin remained at the top of the illicit drug abuse agenda for many parts of the world and its abuse was responsible for considerable damage to individuals and communities. In Africa and Latin America and the Caribbean, the drug was not perceived as a widespread problem, and in North America, abuse was seen as largely stable. However, heroin remained the primary drug problem in Europe, with trends reported as being broadly stable in EU countries, but with abuse increasing in Eastern Europe. While heroin and other opioid use remained a significant problem in South-East Asia, evidence suggested a slight decline in the level of use. In Central Asia, the situation remained highly problematic. Increased ATS abuse was most commonly reported from countries in South-East Asia and also in Australia and New Zealand. Reports from European countries suggested that the levels of ATS abuse were stable to increasing. Several countries in the Americas reported an increase in methamphetamine abuse, and in the United States, concern about the abuse of Ecstasy-type drugs was pronounced. Cocaine remained the primary drug of concern across the Americas and in the Caribbean region. Reports from Europe and from Latin America suggested stable to increasing cocaine abuse. Overall, cannabis remained the illicit drug most commonly abused globally, with increasing consumption reported in Africa, the Americas and Europe.

The Commission, in a 15 March resolution [E/2002/28 & Corr.1,2 (res. 45/6)] on measures to promote the exchange of information on new patterns of drug abuse and on substances consumed, urged States to prepare a list of persons or laboratories capable of conducting analytical, toxicological, pharmacological and bio-psychological evaluations, and encouraged States to consult them in order to obtain specialized information on narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances. States were invited to develop expertise in epidemiology and involve the pharmaceutical industry in the expansion of knowledge about psychoactive substances. Stressing the need for cooperation
among States, the Commission invited UNDCP and WHO to convene a meeting of experts to establish guidelines applicable to the recording of cases of drug abuse and dependence and to improve the assessment of the potential abuse of and dependence on psychoactive substances.

**HIV/AIDS and other blood-borne viruses**

In January [E/CN.7/2002/2 & Corr.1], the Secretariat reported that an estimated 40 million people were living with HIV/AIDS infection at the end of 2001. Injecting drug use, among the major forces driving the epidemic, affected over 155 countries and, globally, between 5 and 10 per cent of HIV infections resulted from it. In some European and Asian countries, over 50 per cent of HIV infections could be attributed to injecting drug use, which was a significant mode of HIV transmission, particularly in some Eastern European countries, in countries in the former Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and in South-East Asia, the Pacific, Latin America, Western Europe and North America. The report noted that both hepatitis C and hepatitis B were also highly prevalent among injecting drug users.

On 15 March [E/2002/28 & Corr.1.2 (res. 45/1)], the Commission encouraged Member States to raise awareness about the links between drug use and the spread of HIV/AIDS, hepatitis C and other blood-borne viruses; to strengthen efforts to reduce the demand for illicit drugs; to ensure that prevention, education, treatment and rehabilitation measures were accessible to those using illicit drugs; and to consider the impact of the spread of HIV, hepatitis C and other blood-borne viruses in their illicit drug demand and supply policies and programmes, and implement measures to reduce or eliminate the need to share non-sterile injecting equipment. It called on the international community to provide assistance for HIV/AIDS prevention, care and treatment in developing countries on a grant basis and encouraged UNDCP to work with other UN entities in promoting awareness of HIV/AIDS. The UNDCP Executive Director was requested to report in 2003.

**Guidelines for travellers**

At its 2002 session, the Commission on Narcotic Drugs was informed of the results of a meeting of experts (Vienna, 12-14 February) on guidelines for national regulations concerning travellers under treatment with internationally controlled drugs, which was organized by UNDCP in cooperation with WHO and INCB pursuant to Commission resolution 44/15 [YUN 2001, p. 1699]. The group developed national guidelines for the transport by patients, for personal use, of medical preparations containing internationally controlled drugs.

The Commission, on 15 March [E/2002/28 & Corr.1.2 (res. 45/1)], welcomed the guidelines [ST/ NAR. 3/2002/1], requested UNDCP to communicate them to States parties to the international drug control treaties and encouraged the States parties to notify INCB of restrictions applicable to travellers. INCB was requested to publish that information in a united form in order to ensure its dissemination and facilitate the task of government agencies. States were encouraged to adopt the recommendations contained in the guidelines, depending on national legal requirements and practical considerations.

**Illicit cultivation and trafficking**

The Commission on Narcotic Drugs considered a report by the UNDCP Executive Director on international assistance to the States most affected by the transit of drugs [E/CN.7/2002/5], prepared in response to Economic and Social Council resolution 2001/16 [YUN 2001, p. 170]. The report reviewed UNDCP activities to support transit States through programmes in Eastern and Central Europe, Turkey, South Asia, Central Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean, and East Asia and the Pacific. The programmes covered upgrading technical skills to meet enforcement needs; strengthening capabilities in data collection in support of intelligence-led policing; the provision of equipment to frontline operations; and interventions to build and support cross-border and regional cooperation.

On 15 March [E/2002/28 & Corr.1.2 (res. 45/4)], the Commission called on Governments that had not done so to review their legislation, procedures and practices with a view to allowing the use of controlled delivery; to conclude agreements and arrangements providing for its effective use; and to authorize their competent bodies to facilitate action in dealing with requests for international assistance in controlled delivery operations and to establish mechanisms for its implementation.

Also on 15 March [res. 45/9], the Commission, in a resolution on countering the connections between organized criminal groups trafficking in drugs and those involved in other types of illicit trafficking, called on Member States to enhance their cooperation against drug trafficking through the exchange of information and expertise, strengthen international law enforcement cooperation and allow controlled delivery and other investigative techniques. It urged them to use controlled delivery in cross-border operations, upgrade controls at land and sea borders and agree on ways and means of overcoming difficulties resulting from differences in national
legal systems. The Commission requested UNDCP to give attention to the connections between drug trafficking and other forms of illicit trafficking, and to provide Member States with technical assistance and training on new investigative techniques. The UNDCP Executive Director was requested to report in 2003.

By another resolution of the same date [res. 45/14], the Commission called on Member States to exploit more fully the potential of alternative development, make efforts in the area of financial and technical cooperation aimed at promoting it and respect the balance and coordination of law enforcement and interdiction measures, eradication efforts and alternative development to eliminate or reduce illicit crop cultivation. It invited them to urge drug control and development agencies to develop the strategy of alternative development, to support preventive alternative development projects in areas at risk and to prevent illicit crop cultivation from emerging or being relocated in other areas, regions or countries. The Commission urged UNDCP to increase its assistance to alternative development programmes and called on it and other drug control and development agencies, international financial institutions and regional development banks to explore new forms of financial assistance for such programmes. The Commission requested UNDCP to develop a set of indicators to assess alternative development requirements and urged Member States to determine best practices. The Commission encouraged Governments and multilateral organizations to establish drug control as a cross-cutting issue in their policies. The UNDCP Executive Director was requested to report in 2008.

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL ACTION

On 24 July [meeting 37], the Economic and Social Council, on the recommendation of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs [E/2002/28 & Corr.1,2], adopted resolution 2002/21 without vote [agenda item 14 (d)].

International assistance to the States most affected by the transit of drugs

The Economic and Social Council, 

Recalling its resolution 2001/16 of 24 July 2001, the Political Declaration adopted by the General Assembly at its twentieth special session, devoted to countering the world drug problem together, the Declaration on the Guiding Principles of Drug Demand Reduction and the Action Plan for the Implementation of the Declaration on the Guiding Principles of Drug Demand Reduction,

Considering that action against the world drug problem is a shared responsibility calling for coordinated and balanced action consistent with the relevant multilateral instruments in force at the international level,

Stressing the unswerving determination and commitment to resolve the world drug problem by means of national and international strategies aimed at reducing both the supply of and demand for illicit drugs,

Taking into account the report of the Secretariat on the world situation with regard to illicit drug trafficking and action taken by subsidiary bodies of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, the report of the Secretariat on the world situation with regard to drug abuse, in particular the spread of human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDS) through drug injection, and other relevant reports submitted to the Commission on Narcotic Drugs at its forty-fifth session,

Noting the emerging linkage between the transit of drugs through certain States and the increasing incidence of drug abuse in those States,

Recognizing the desirability of providing, to the States most affected by the transit of drugs, assistance in enhancing law enforcement capabilities and in reducing illicit drug demand,

Appreciating the work being done in that area by the United Nations International Drug Control Programme of the Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention of the Secretariat,

Emphasizing the need to continue providing international assistance to such transit States, which are faced with growing challenges, such as increased drug addiction,

1. Requests the United Nations International Drug Control Programme of the Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention of the Secretariat to continue to provide assistance, using voluntary contributions available for that purpose, to the States most affected by the transit of drugs, as identified by relevant international bodies, in particular developing countries in need of such assistance and support;

2. Calls upon the United Nations International Drug Control Programme, in providing assistance to such States, to adopt a comprehensive approach that takes into account the linkage between the transit of drugs through and the increase in drug abuse in those States and their needs regarding the reduction of illicit drug demand, including the treatment and rehabilitation of drug addicts;

3. Exhorts the international financial institutions, as well as other potential donors, to provide financial assistance to such transit States so that they may intensify their efforts to address drug trafficking and its consequences, in particular increased drug addiction;

4. Requests the Executive Director of the Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention to submit to the Commission on Narcotic Drugs at its forty-sixth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution.

Secretariat report. A report by the Secretariat [E/CN.7/2003/6] provided an overview of regional and global trends during 2001-2002 in illicit drug production and trafficking and summarized information received from Governments and elsewhere. The primary source of information was the annual reports questionnaire submitted by Governments to UNDCP. In order to identify trafficking trends, reports on cases involving significant drug seizures were included, and informa-
tion was also drawn from other government reports and supplementary sources, such as Interpol, the World Customs Organization, INCB and the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission of the Organization of American States. Data indicated that cannabis remained the most widely used plant-based drug and was cultivated and trafficked primarily in Africa, the Americas and Central, South and South-East Asia. Indoor cultivation continued to be of concern in Europe and North America. The illicit world production of opium increased to an estimated 4,600 tons in 2002, up from 1,600 tons in 2001, a trend mainly relating to developments in Afghanistan. Afghanistan produced most of the world’s opium (75 per cent), followed by Myanmar (slightly less than 20 per cent), the Lao People’s Democratic Republic (2 per cent) and other countries in Asia (1 per cent) and Latin America (3 per cent). From the estimated total of 4,600 tons of opium produced in 2002, a potential of 460 tons of heroin could be manufactured, and it was assumed that, in South-West Asia, the processing of opium into heroin was increasingly taking place within Afghanistan. Updated figures on the illicit cultivation of coca bush and the production of coca leaf in 2002 were not yet available.

Regarding trafficking and seizure trends, trafficking in cannabis herb and resin continued on a large scale. Global seizures of cannabis herb dropped to 4,000 tons in 2001 from 4,500 in 2000, and seizures of cannabis resin fell to 900 tons in 2001 from over 1,000 tons in 2000. Global seizures of opiates fell from 98 tons (in heroin equivalent) in 2000 to 70 tons in 2001. While morphine and opium seizures declined by more than 50 per cent, heroin seizures declined by less than 10 per cent. The amount of cocaine manufactured worldwide in 2001 was estimated at about 830 tons; with the amount of cocaine manufactured in 2002, a potential of 460 tons of heroin could be manufactured, and it was assumed that, in South-West Asia, the processing of opium into heroin was increasingly taking place within Afghanistan. Updated figures on the illicit cultivation of coca bush and the production of coca leaf in 2002 were not yet available.

Regional cooperation

A February report of the Secretariat [E/CN.7/2002/4/Add.1] reviewed action taken by a subsidiary body of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs. The recommendations emanating from the fifth meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies (HONLEA), Europe (Vienna, 15-18 January) related to cocaine trafficking and its increasing threat to Europe, ATS; and sustaining the opium poppy ban in Afghanistan.

Four other subsidiary bodies of the Commission held meetings in 2002 [E/CN.7/2002/7 & Add.1]. Following a review of trafficking trends and regional and subregional cooperation, each meeting addressed drug law enforcement issues of priority concern to its region. The twelfth meeting of HONLEA, Africa (Nairobi, Kenya, 9-13 September) [UNDCP/HONLA/2002/5] considered removing impediments to effective law enforcement; inter-agency cooperation; strengthening land border controls; and the criminal justice system and drug abusers. It recommended to the Commission a draft resolution on funding of travel for participants of HONLEA meetings for adoption by the Economic and Social Council.

The thirty-seventh session of the Subcommission on Illicit Drug Traffic and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East (Tehran, Iran, 14-18 October) [UNDCP/SUBCOM/2002/5] considered inter-agency cooperation; strengthening land border controls; the criminal justice system and drug abusers; and demand reduction. The twelfth meeting of HONLEA, Latin America and the Caribbean (Lima, Peru, 15-18 October) [UNDCP/HONLAC/2002/5] examined effective law enforcement without compromise; inter-agency cooperation; and challenges to law enforcement in precursor control. It recommended to the Commission a draft resolution on funding of travel for participants of HONLEA meetings for the Council’s adoption. The twenty-sixth meeting of HONLEA, Asia and the Pacific (Bangkok, Thailand, 11-15 November) [UNDCP/HONLA/2002/5] considered effective law enforcement without compromise; Ecstasy as an emerging threat to the region; inter-agency cooperation; and challenges to law enforcement in precursor control.
On 15 March [E/2002/28 & Corr.1,2 (res. 45/2)], the Commission commended the twenty-fifth (2001) meeting of HONLEA, Asia and the Pacific [YUN 2001, p. 1172] on its agreement to develop a coordinated plan to counter ATS and to tackle the transnational criminal groups behind the illicit drug trade in the region. It noted that key parts of the plan would involve the development of specialist investigative skills aimed at major crime figures; national action against new drugs; greater cooperation at the operational level to meet new trends in trafficking in ATS and their precursors; the placement of drug liaison officers in countries of the region; and encouraging legislators to recognize the need to provide a legal basis to conduct joint operational activities across jurisdictional boundaries. The Commission encouraged Member States to consider the need to provide such a basis for those activities and to establish cooperative programmes for supporting law enforcement training. It supported the development of "best practice" guidelines for the sharing of intelligence and the conduct of joint operations between Member States and reiterated its request to the Secretary-General to provide the HONLEA regional meetings with the financial resources required.

Strengthening UN mechanisms

The Commission on Narcotic Drugs had before it a report by the UNDCP Executive Director [E/CN.7/2002/9] on progress made to implement Commission resolution 44/16 [YUN 2001, p. 1172] regarding strengthening dialogue between Member States and UNDCP; improving the effectiveness of the Commission’s work; UNDCP operations and management; and UNDCP funding.

On 15 March [E/2002/28 & Corr.1,2 (res. 45/17)], the Commission called for the continued implementation of resolution 44/16 by UNDCP and the Commission. It urged UNDCP to continue the reform undertaken, based on resolution 44/16 and the recommendations contained in the reports of OIOS [YUN 2001, p. 1167], the Board of Auditors and the Joint Inspection Unit [A/57/58] (see p. 1358). Reaffirming its governing role in the UNDCP budget process, the Commission decided to hold an annual intersessional session to consider that process and requested the Secretariat to review the relevant budgets and utilization of facilities to enable the holding of the session. It reaffirmed the role of the UNDCP Executive Director in coordinating UN drug control activities and called for improvement in personnel management and recruitment, taking into account the principle of equitable geographical representation. Governments were urged to provide support to UNDCP, including financial support, and the UNDCP Executive Director was requested to broaden, in cooperation with Member States, the donor base and increase voluntary contributions to the UNDCP Fund, including the general-purpose fund. He was also asked to report as soon as possible on the situation of the support budget and general-purpose funds, and to report in 2003 on the implementation of its current resolution.