Chapter XIV

International drug control

In 2007, the United Nations continued to strengthen international cooperation to counter the world drug problem, mainly through the activities of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB) and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). Those activities focused, in particular, on carrying out 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 2012.

UNODC provided technical assistance, legal advice and research to the main UN drug control policymaking bodies and Member States, assisted States in implementing the provisions of the international drug control conventions and supported INCB in monitoring their implementation. It also supported States in illicit crop monitoring and alternative development programmes within the framework of poverty reduction and sustainable development strategies, and promoted a holistic approach to drug control, with a view to improving the health and welfare, and economic development in regions dependent on drug crops. It increased its support for drug prevention, treatment and rehabilitation, helped to establish drug control agencies, build border posts, strengthen the judiciary and improve interdiction measures.

The Commission on Narcotic Drugs—the main UN policymaking body dealing with drug control—recommended a number of draft resolutions to the Economic and Social Council and adopted resolutions on the follow-up to the General Assembly’s twentieth (1998) special session on countering the world drug problem, implementation of the international drug control treaties, demand reduction and the prevention of drug abuse, illicit drug trafficking and supply, and administrative and budgetary matters.

In July, the Council urged Governments to help maintain a balance between the licit supply of and demand for opiate raw materials used for medical and scientific purposes and to prevent the proliferation of sources of production of opiate raw materials. It emphasized the importance of UNODC and other relevant intergovernmental organizations carrying out training programmes to support the adoption of sound methods and the harmonization of indicators used for providing statistics on drug use, and approved the UNODC 2008-2011 strategy. Recognizing the need to intensify efforts for eliminating opium poppy cultivation in Afghanistan, in accordance with that country’s National Drug Control Strategy, the Council called upon Afghanistan to strengthen its counter-narcotic programmes, encouraged the international community to support the implementation of the Strategy, and called upon States and international organizations to provide additional financial resources and technical assistance. In December, the Assembly adopted a resolution on international cooperation against the world drug problem that addressed follow-up to the twentieth special session and action by the UN system. It recognized that positive results could be achieved through sustained and collective efforts and reaffirmed that there should be a balanced approach between demand and supply reduction.

INCB reviewed the implementation of alternative development programmes, highlighting best practices and models for increasing their effectiveness. It continued to oversee the implementation of the three major international drug control conventions, analyse the drug situation worldwide and draw the attention of Governments 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

Report of Secretary-General. The Secretary-General, in a July report [A/62/117] on international cooperation to counter the world drug problem, prepared in response to General Assembly resolution 61/183 [YUN 2006, p. 1431], provided an overview of the implementation of mandates relating to international drug control, in particular the outcome of the Assembly’s twentieth special session on countering the world drug problem [YUN 1998, p. 1135]. The report described follow-up by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and action reported by Member States; UN system activities, particularly in the areas of demand reduction; supply reduction and law enforcement; alternative livelihoods; and strengthening the drug programme of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC).
The Secretary-General concluded that the world drug problem could be surmounted if the international community made the required investments and sustained them over time. The targets set at the Assembly’s twentieth special session were reachable, provided the resources were made available and consistent policies were developed and applied. In anticipation of the review in 2008 of the achievement of those targets, States needed to reflect upon the achievements reached and their drug control priorities. To further reduce demand, States should improve data collection and evaluation capacity, and expand prevention and treatment and rehabilitation initiatives. They should also pay attention to data collection and analysis capacity in the manufacture of, trafficking in and abuse of amphetamine-type stimulants (ATS), the establishment of comprehensive monitoring systems and the enhancement of regional, international and multilateral cooperation in order to control the diversion of licit pharmaceuticals containing those substances and their precursors. Further resources were required to improve their technical capacity to detect, monitor and better understand the problem and integrate forensic laboratories into national drug control efforts. He urged States to participate in regional and international anti-money-laundering mechanisms and to use the proceeds of seized assets for prevention initiatives and combating trafficking, including by making contributions to UNODC. Efforts should be sustained in reducing illicit opium poppy cultivation in South-East Asia. In particular, former opium growers in the Lao People’s Democratic Republic and Myanmar living in extreme poverty required sound development assistance, as well as assistance from the international community in facing the challenges posed in the post-opium-cultivating period. The situation in Afghanistan required coordinated action by national authorities and the international community. Security and the rule of law needed to be improved and extended to all Afghan provinces, and the criminal justice system developed. In South America, while progress had been made in reducing illicit crop cultivation and providing economic alternatives to affected populations, States needed to redouble those efforts by upholding and implementing the international drug control conventions. The international community should also provide technical and financial resources for the establishment of systems to finance development assistance for communities and areas affected by illicit cultivation. Assistance was also needed in measuring the impact of alternative development and eradication programmes. In that context, environmental sustainability criteria, and ways of ensuring coordination and the integration of drug control objectives into overall development interventions should be promoted. States should work to overcome obstacles to promoting judicial cooperation at the international level; make available human and financial resources to ensure the effective functioning of national precursor control systems; and strengthen mechanisms for collecting and sharing information on trafficking in precursors, with a view to enhancing the effectiveness of the international control and monitoring system.

Commission on Narcotic Drugs. In January, the UNODC Executive Director submitted to the Commission on Narcotic Drugs the fourth biennial report on the world drug problem [E/CN.7/2007/2 & Add.1-6], prepared pursuant to Commission resolutions 42/11 [YUN 1999, p. 1191] and 44/2 [YUN 2001, p. 1143]. The report gave an overview of the progress achieved by States in implementing the goals and targets set at the Assembly’s twentieth special session, based on the information provided by Governments in response to the fourth (2004-2006) biennial reports questionnaire. As at 18 October 2006, 94 States and the European Commission had responded. The information dealt with national drug control strategies; demand reduction; the Action Plan against Illicit Manufacture, Trafficking and Abuse of Amphetamine-type Stimulants and Their Precursors, contained in resolution S-20/4 A, adopted at the Assembly’s special session [YUN 1998, p. 1139]; countering money-laundering; the Action Plan on International Cooperation on the Eradication of Illicit Drug Crops and on Alternative Development, contained in resolution S-20/4 E, adopted at the Assembly’s special session [ibid., p. 1148]; judicial cooperation; and control of precursors.

The report showed that States had made progress over the past eight years in implementing the goals and targets set at the Assembly’s special session. A majority of responding States had adopted national plans and established central coordination bodies to monitor national drug control policy. Most States also made progress in establishing demand reduction strategies, assessing the drug abuse problem, providing prevention, treatment and rehabilitation services, and in data analysis and its application to policy formulation. The implementation rate for demand reduction actions stood at 54 per cent in the 2004-2006 period, with compliance being higher for many specific interventions in most regions. Progress was also achieved in the implementation of the Action Plan against Illicit Manufacture, Trafficking and Abuse of Amphetamine-type Stimulants and Their Precursors. Global compliance with the measures envisaged in the Action Plan increased from 42 per cent for the period 1998-2000 to 53 per cent for 2004-2006. Similarly, the implementation rate for measures to criminalize drug-related money-laundering stood at 91 per cent for those reporting in the 2004-2006 period. However, the achievements made globally in reducing illicit crops were offset in 2006 by increased cultivation of opium poppy in Afghanistan. While coca bush culti-
viation was curtailed by 28 per cent between 2000 and 2005 in the Andean region, increased yields resulted in cocaine production levels remaining stable. Nevertheless, the majority of affected countries adopted national plans or strategies and improved their technical capacities to implement alternative development programmes, though financial resources constrained implementation. At the global level, progress was made in judicial cooperation. Overall compliance with the measures envisaged in 1998 increased from under 65 per cent in 1998-2000 to 70 per cent in 2004-2006. Limited progress was made in adopting measures for precursor control, with a compliance rate of 40 per cent in 2004-2006. However, there were significant variations, ranging from 5 per cent to close to 100 per cent, depending on the region.

In a February report to the Commission [E/CN.7/2007/7], prepared pursuant to Commission resolution 49/1 [YUN 2006, p. 1431], the Executive Director summarized UNODC work to engage drug control experts from all geographical regions and relevant international organizations on the collection and use of complementary drug-related data and expertise to support the global assessment by States of the implementation of the declarations and measures adopted by the Assembly’s twentieth special session. It reflected the outcome of the informal expert consultation (Vienna, 6-8 February) organized by UNODC, with financial support contributed by the European Union (EU). The consultation reviewed the framework for analysing global drug-related trends and lessons learned from regional monitoring systems; carried out a comparative analysis of the key components of the different monitoring systems and how they complemented the data of the biennial reports questionnaire; and identified other sources of potentially complementary information and ways to utilize it. The experts made recommendations on the reporting on action plans and measures adopted at the Assembly’s twentieth special session and on money-laundering; eradicating illicit crop cultivation and alternative development; precursors; ATS and their precursors; and demand reduction. They agreed that a system for States to report to the Commission on progress made in implementing drug control measures should be maintained beyond 2008, and any follow-up action should be anchored in a political process at the global and regional levels in order to ensure that drug control issues remained high on the global agenda. In that regard, it was suggested that the 2008 assessment of the Assembly’s twentieth special session should be used to propel follow-up action and secure resources for technical assistance to regions needing it.

On 16 March [E/2007/28/Rev.1 (res. 50/12)], the Commission on Narcotic Drugs requested the Executive Director to submit to the Commission in 2008 the report to be prepared pursuant to its resolution 42/11 [YUN 1999, p. 1191]. To allow additional time for conducting an objective, scientific, balanced and transparent global assessment of the implementation of the declarations and measures adopted by the Assembly’s twentyieth special session, it decided to convene a high-level segment in 2009, instead of a ministerial-level segment in 2008. The Commission agreed to initiate the preparatory process for the 2009 high-level segment at its fifty-first (2008) session, which would conduct a thematic debate on progress made in meeting the goals and targets set at the Assembly’s twentieth special session, taking into account the presentation by UNODC of the final assessment report, as well as relevant supplementary information as requested in Commission resolutions 49/1 and 49/2 [YUN 2006, p. 1431]. It also decided to submit to the Economic and Social Council at its 2009 substantive session the results of the global assessment of the progress achieved for submission to the Assembly. UNODC was requested to invite relevant intergovernmental, international and regional organizations to make available supplementary information in order to facilitate the Commission’s deliberations at its 2008 session.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 18 December [meeting 77], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Third (Social, Humanitarian and Cultural) Committee [A/62/441], adopted resolution 62/176 without vote [agenda item 107].

International cooperation against the world drug problem

The General Assembly,
Recalling the United Nations Millennium Declaration, the provisions of the 2005 World Summit Outcome addressing the world drug problem, its resolution 61/183 of 20 December 2006 and its other previous relevant resolutions,
Reaffirming the Political Declaration adopted by the General Assembly at its twentieth special session and the importance of meeting the objectives targeted for 2008,
Reaffirming also the joint ministerial statement adopted at the ministerial segment of the forty-sixth session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, the Action Plan for the Implementation of the Declaration on the Guiding Principles of Drug Demand Reduction and the Action Plan on International Cooperation on the Eradication of Illicit Drug Crops and on Alternative Development, adopted by the General Assembly at its twentieth special session,
Gravely concerned that, despite continued increased efforts by States, relevant organizations, civil society and non-governmental organizations, the world drug problem continues to constitute a serious threat to public health and safety and the well-being of humanity, in particular children and young people and their families, and to the national security and sovereignty of States, and that it undermines socio-economic and political stability and sustainable development,
Concerned by the serious challenges and threats posed by the continuing links between illicit drug trafficking and terrorism and other national and transnational criminal activities and transnational criminal networks, inter alia, trafficking in human beings, especially women and children, money-laundering, financing of terrorism, corruption, trafficking in arms and trafficking in chemical precursors, and reaffirming that strong and effective international cooperation is needed to counter these threats,

Underlining the value of objective, scientific, balanced and transparent assessment by Member States of the global progress achieved and of the difficulties encountered in meeting the goals and targets set by the General Assembly at its twentieth special session,

Recognizing 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, and expressing its appreciation for the initiatives in this regard,

Bearing in mind the important role that civil society, including non-governmental organizations, plays in combating the world drug problem,

I
International cooperation to counter the world drug problem and follow-up to the twentieth special session

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 other provisions of international law, and in particular with full respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of States, for the principle of non-intervention in the internal affairs of States and for all human rights and fundamental freedoms, and on the basis of the principles of equal rights and mutual respect;

2. Also reaffirms that there shall be a balanced approach between demand reduction and supply reduction, each reinforcing the other, in an integrated approach to solving the world drug problem;

3. Welcomes the decision by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs to convene a high-level segment, during its fifty-second session, in order to allow time to assess the implementation of the declarations and measures adopted by the General Assembly at its twentieth special session;

4. Also welcomes in this regard the decision by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs to devote the thematic debate at its fifty-first session to a discussion by Member States on progress made in meeting the goals and targets set at the twentieth special session of the General Assembly, taking into account the presentation by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime of its final assessment report, as well as relevant supplementary information as set out in Commission resolutions 49/1 and 49/2;

5. Calls upon States and other relevant actors to evaluate progress made since 1998 towards meeting the goals and targets set at the twentieth special session of the General Assembly;

6. Urges all States to continue to promote and implement, including by allocating adequate resources and developing clear and consistent national policies, the outcomes of the twentieth special session of the General Assembly, as well as the outcome of the ministerial segment of the forty-sixth session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, and 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 in their populations, taking into account, inter alia, the results of the assessment of the implementation of the declarations and measures adopted by the Assembly at its twentieth special session;

7. Urges States that have not done so to consider ratifying or acceding to, and States parties to implement, as a matter of priority, all the provisions of, the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961 as amended by the 1972 Protocol, the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971, the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988, the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto and the United Nations Convention against Corruption;

8. Urges all States to strengthen their efforts to achieve the goals set for 2008 at the twentieth special session of the General Assembly by:

(a) Promoting international initiatives in order to eliminate or reduce significantly the illicit manufacture of, trafficking in and marketing of drugs and other psychotropic substances, including synthetic drugs, and the diversion of precursors, other transnational criminal activities, including money-laundering and trafficking in arms, and corruption;

(b) Achieving significant and measurable results in the field of demand reduction, including through prevention and treatment strategies and programmes to reduce drug use, with particular focus on children and young people;

9. Urges Member States to fulfil their reporting obligations on the follow-up action to implement the outcomes of the twentieth special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem and to report fully on all measures agreed upon at the special session, including by providing data that are reliable and internationally comparable;

10. Encourages States to consider prevention and treatment of drug use disorders as governmental health and social priorities, and to consider consulting and working with civil society, including non-governmental organizations, in developing, implementing and evaluating policies and programmes, in particular those related to demand reduction and prevention of drug abuse, and cooperating with civil society, including non-governmental organizations, in alternative development programmes;

11. Calls upon States and organizations with expertise in community capacity-building to provide, as needed, access to treatment, health care and social services for drug users, in particular those living with HIV/AIDS and other blood-borne diseases, and to extend support to States requiring such expertise, consistent with the international drug control treaties;

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

13. Encourages Member States to identify drug control priorities to be set for future concerted action and to consider making voluntary public commitments to tackle present challenges in drug trafficking;

14. Calls upon States to expand prevention, treatment and rehabilitation initiatives, while fully respecting the dignity of drug-addicted persons, and to take further action to improve data collection and evaluation capacity on the demand for illicit drugs, including the demand for synthetic drugs, and, where appropriate, abuse of and addiction to prescription drugs;

15. Urges States to continue working towards achieving a significant and measurable reduction of drug abuse by 2008;

16. Reaffirms the need for a comprehensive approach to the elimination of illicit narcotic crops in line with the Action Plan on International Cooperation on the Eradication of Illicit Drug Crops and on Alternative Development, adopted by the General Assembly at its twentieth special session;

17. Calls for a comprehensive approach integrating alternative development programmes, including, where appropriate, preventive and innovative alternative development, into wider economic and social development programmes, with the support of a deeper international cooperation and the participation of the private sector, as appropriate;

18. Invites States to sustain and increase international cooperation and, where needed, technical assistance to countries implementing policies and programmes against drug production, including illicit crop eradication and alternative development programmes;

19. Stresses the importance of the contribution of the United Nations system and the international community to the economic and social development of the communities that benefit from innovative alternative programmes to eradicate illicit drug production, inter alia, in reforestation, agriculture and small and medium-sized enterprises;

20. Encourages States to establish comprehensive monitoring systems and to enhance regional, international and multisectoral cooperation, including with industry, on the manufacture of, trafficking in and abuse of amphetamine-type stimulants;

21. Calls upon States to consider ways to strengthen mechanisms for the collection and sharing of information on trafficking in precursors, in particular for making seizures, preventing diversions, detaining consignments, dismantling laboratories and assessing emerging trafficking and diversion trends, new manufacturing methods and the use of non-controlled substances, with a view to enhancing the effectiveness of the international control framework;

22. Emphasizes the need to ensure that adequate mechanisms are in place, where necessary and to the extent possible, to prevent the diversion of preparations containing substances listed in tables I and II of the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988, pertaining to illicit drug manufacture, which could easily be used or recovered by readily applicable means, in particular those containing ephedrine and pseudoephedrine;

23. Urges all States and relevant international organizations to cooperate closely with the International Narcotics Control Board, in particular in Project Cohesion and Project Prism, in order to enhance the success of those international initiatives, and to initiate, where appropriate, investigations by their law enforcement authorities into seizures and cases involving the diversion or smuggling of precursors and essential equipment, with a view to tracking them back to the source of diversion in order to prevent continuing illicit activity;

24. Stresses that international cooperation on domestic precursor policies and practices would assist in complementing existing law enforcement cooperative initiatives, and encourages States to cooperate at the regional level on measures to prevent and control the domestic diversion of precursors, drawing on best practices and sharing experiences;

25. Recognizes that the illegal distribution of pharmaceutical products containing substances under international control via the Internet is an escalating problem and that the unsupervised use of such substances purchased through the Internet by the general public, in particular underage persons, constitutes a serious risk to global health;

26. Encourages Member States to notify the International Narcotics Control Board, in a regular and accurate manner, of seizures of pharmaceutical products or counterfeit drugs containing substances under international control ordered via the Internet and received by mail in order to conduct a detailed analysis of trafficking trends, and encourages the Board to continue its work with a view to raising awareness of and preventing the misuse of the Internet for the illegal supply, sale and distribution of internationally controlled licit substances;

27. Calls upon States to implement and strengthen, as appropriate, the measures to promote judicial cooperation adopted at the twentieth special session of the General Assembly, in particular with regard to mutual legal assistance, exchange of information and joint operations, as appropriate, including with technical assistance from the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime;

28. Calls upon Member States to strengthen international cooperation among judicial and law enforcement authorities at all levels in order to prevent and combat illicit drug trafficking and to share and promote best operational practices in order to interdict illicit drug trafficking, including by establishing and strengthening regional mechanisms, providing technical assistance and establishing effective methods for cooperation, in particular in the areas of air, maritime, port and border control and in the implementation of extradition treaties, while respecting international human rights obligations;

29. Urges States to strengthen action, in particular international cooperation and technical assistance aimed at preventing and combating the laundering of proceeds derived from drug trafficking and related criminal activities, with the support of the United Nations system, international institutions such as the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, as well as regional development banks and, where appropriate, the Financial Action Task Force on Money Laundering and similarly styled regional
bodies, to develop and strengthen comprehensive international regimes to combat money-laundering and its possible links with organized crime and the financing of terrorism, and to improve information-sharing among financial institutions and agencies in charge of preventing and detecting the laundering of those proceeds;

30. **Encourages** States that have not done so to consider updating their legal and regulatory frameworks and establishing financial investigation units and, to that end, seek technical assistance, including from the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, in particular regarding the identification, freezing, seizing and confiscation of the proceeds of crime, in order to effectively prevent and combat money-laundering;

II **Action by the United Nations system**

31. **Reaffirms** the importance of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and its regional offices in building capacity at the local level in the fight against transnational organized crime and drug trafficking, and urges the Office to consider regional vulnerabilities, projects and impact in the fight against drug trafficking, in particular in developing countries, when deciding to close and allocate offices, with a view to maintaining an effective level of support to national and regional efforts in combating the world drug problem;

32. **Welcomes** the work carried out by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, and requests the Office to continue to carry out its mandate in accordance with previous relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, in close cooperation with other relevant United Nations organizations and programmes, such as the World Health Organization, the United Nations Development Programme and the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS;

33. **Notes** that the International Narcotics Control Board needs sufficient resources to carry out all its mandates, reaffirms the importance of its work, encourages it to continue to carry out its work in accordance with its mandate, 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 23 July 1996, emphasizes the need to maintain its capacity, inter alia, through the provision of appropriate means by the Secretary-General and adequate technical support from the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, and calls for enhanced cooperation and understanding between Member States and the Board in order to enable it to implement all its mandates under the international drug control conventions;

34. **Urges** the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to increase collaboration with intergovernmental, international and regional organizations that have drug control mandates, as appropriate, in order to share best practices and to take advantage of their unique comparative advantage;

35. **Takes note with appreciation** of the adoption by the Economic and Social Council of the strategy for the period 2008-2011 for the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime;

36. **Requests** the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to carry out, at the request of Member States, training programmes to support the adoption of sound methods and to harmonize indicators used for statistics on drug use, which have already been considered by the Statistical Commission, in order to collect and analyse comparable data on drug abuse;

37. **Urges** all Governments to provide the fullest possible financial and political support to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime by widening its donor base and increasing voluntary contributions, in particular general purpose contributions, so as to enable it to continue, expand and strengthen its operational and technical cooperation activities, within its mandates, and recommends that a sufficient share of the regular budget of the United Nations be allocated to the Office to enable it to carry out its mandates and to work towards securing assured and predictable funding;

38. **Takes note** of the *World Drug Report 2007* of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, regrets the surge in opium cultivation in certain areas noted by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs in its resolution 50/1, and calls upon States to strengthen international and regional cooperation to counter the threat to the international community caused by the illicit production of and trafficking in drugs and to continue to take concerted measures such as the framework of the Paris Pact initiative;

39. **Encourages** the meetings of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies and of the Subcommission on Illicit Drug Traffic and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs to continue to contribute to the strengthening of regional and international cooperation, taking into account the outcomes of the twentieth special session of the General Assembly and the joint ministerial statement adopted at the ministerial segment of the forty-sixth session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs;

40. **Encourages** the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, as the global coordinating body in international drug control and as the governing body of the drug programme of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, 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;

41. **Calls upon** the relevant United Nations agencies and entities, and other international organizations, and invites international financial institutions, including regional development banks, to mainstream drug control issues into their programmes, and calls upon the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to maintain its leading role by providing relevant information and technical assistance;

42. **Takes note** of the report of the Secretary-General, and requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-third session a report on the implementation of the present resolution.
Conventions

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 by the 1972 Protocol [YUN 1972, p. 397] 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 2007, 183 States were parties to the 1961 Convention, as amended by the 1972 Protocol. During the year, Andorra and the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea acceded to the Convention.

The number of parties to the 1971 Convention stood at 183 as at 31 December 2007, with the accession of Andorra, the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea and Nepal during the year.

At year’s end, 182 States and the European Community were parties to the 1988 Convention, with the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea and Liechtenstein acceding in 2007.

Commission action. In March [E/2007/28/Rev.1], the Commission on Narcotic Drugs reviewed implementation of the international drug control treaties. It had before it the INCB report covering its 2006 activities [YUN 2006, p. 1438]; the 2006 INCB technical report on the implementation of article 12 of the 1988 Convention entitled “Precursors and Chemicals Frequently Used in the Illicit Manufacture of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances” [E/INCB/2006/4]; and a Secretariat note transmitting the joint report of the World Health Organization (WHO) and INCB on an assistance mechanism to facilitate adequate treatment of pain using opioid analgesics [E/CN.7/2007/CRP.2]. (Decisions by the Commission are to be found in the respective sections of this chapter.)

On 16 March [E/2007/28/Rev.1 (res. 50/3)], the Commission encouraged States to pay attention to the emerging problem of ketamine abuse and diversion, in particular in East and South-East Asia and South America, which also affected other regions, and to adopt a system of precautionary measures for use by government agencies to facilitate the detection of its diversion. It requested UNODC to share the concerns of the Commission with the WHO Expert Committee on Drug Dependence, and looked forward to the updated review of ketamine in the report of the Expert Committee.

Also on 16 March [res. 50/7], the Commission urged States to pay attention to security measures concerning import and export documents issued by States for operations covered by the international treaties. It also urged States parties to the Convention Abolishing the Requirement of Legalisation for Foreign Public Documents to give full effect to the Convention with respect to documents of international trade in controlled substances.

INCB action. In its report covering 2007 [Sales No. E.08.XI.1], INCB called upon States that were not parties to the international drug control treaties to accede to them. It reiterated its request to Governments to furnish in a timely manner all statistical reports required under the treaties and implement fully the system of estimates and export authorizations. The Board also requested Governments to determine their annual estimates of requirements for narcotic drugs, to find the causes of deficiencies in reporting statistics and/or estimates, and to always consult the estimates for each importing country and territory. It encouraged Governments to update the assessments of their annual medical and scientific requirements for psychotropic substances and to introduce a system of import and export authorizations for substances in Schedules III and IV of the 1971 Convention. The Board also urged all parties, pursuant to article 12 of the 1988 Convention, to provide information on substances frequently used in the illicit manufacture of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, and called upon competent authorities to provide information on annual legitimate requirements of four precursor chemicals used in the manufacture of synthetic drugs.

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL ACTION

On 25 July [meeting 44], the Economic and Social Council, on the recommendation of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs [E/2007/28 & Corr.1], adopted resolution 2007/9 without vote [agenda item 14 (d)].

The need for a balance between demand for and supply of opiates used to meet medical and scientific needs

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its resolution 2006/34 of 27 July 2006 and previous relevant resolutions,

Recognizing that the medical use of narcotic drugs, including opiates, is indispensable for the relief of pain and suffering,

Emphasizing that the need for a balance between the global licit supply of opiates and the legitimate demand for opiates used to meet medical and scientific needs is central to the international strategy and policy of drug control,

Noting the fundamental need for international cooperation with the traditional supplier countries in drug control to ensure universal application of the provisions of the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961 and that Convention as amended by the 1972 Protocol,
Reiterating that a balance between consumption and production of opiate raw materials was achieved in the past as a result of efforts made by the two traditional supplier countries, India and Turkey, together with established supplier countries,

Noting that the stocks of opiate raw materials continue to be sufficient to cover the expected licit demand and that, despite lower production levels in 2005 and 2006, excessive stocks should be avoided,

Emphasizing the importance of the system of estimates, based on actual consumption and utilization of narcotic drugs, furnished to and confirmed by the International Narcotics Control Board, of the extent of cultivation and production of opiate raw materials, in particular in view of the current oversupply,

Recalling the joint ministerial statement adopted during the ministerial segment of the forty-sixth session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, in which ministers and other Government representatives called upon States to continue to contribute to the maintenance of a balance between the licit supply of and demand for opiate raw materials used for medical and scientific purposes and to cooperate in preventing the proliferation of sources of production of opiate raw materials,

Considering that opiate raw materials and the opiates derived therefrom are not just ordinary commodities that can be subjected to the operation of market forces and that, therefore, market economy considerations should not determine the extent of cultivation of the opium poppy,

Reiterating the importance of the medical use of opiates in pain relief therapy, as advocated by the World Health Organization,

Noting that countries differ significantly in their level of licit demand for narcotic drugs and that in most developing countries the use of narcotic drugs for medical purposes has remained at an extremely low level,

1. Urges all Governments to continue to contribute to maintaining a balance between the licit supply of and demand for opiate raw materials used for medical and scientific purposes, supporting traditional and established supplier countries, and to cooperate in preventing the proliferation of sources of production of opiate raw materials;

2. Urges Governments of all producer countries to adhere strictly to the provisions of the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961 and that Convention as amended by the 1972 Protocol and to take effective measures to prevent the illicit production or diversion of opiate raw materials to illicit channels, and encourages improvements in practices in the cultivation of the opium poppy and the production of opiate raw materials;

3. Urges Governments of consumer countries to assess their licit needs for opiate raw materials realistically on the basis of actual consumption and utilization of opiate raw materials and the opiates derived therefrom and to communicate those needs to the International Narcotics Control Board in order to ensure effective supply, calls upon Governments of countries producing the opium poppy to limit its cultivation, taking into account the current level of global stocks, to the estimates furnished to and confirmed by the Board, in accordance with the requirements of the 1961 Convention, and urges producer countries, in providing estimates of such cultivation, to consider the actual demand requirements of importing countries;

4. Endorses the concern expressed by the International Narcotics Control Board in its report for 2005 regarding the advocacy by a non-governmental organization of legalization of opium poppy cultivation in Afghanistan, and urges all Governments to strongly oppose such proposals and to continue to strengthen drug control in compliance with their obligations emanating from the international drug control treaties;

5. Urges the Governments of all countries where the opium poppy has not been cultivated for the licit production of opiate raw materials, in compliance with the relevant Economic and Social Council resolutions and with the appeal of the International Narcotics Control Board in its report for 2006 and in the spirit of collective responsibility, to refrain from engaging in the commercial cultivation of the opium poppy in order to avoid the proliferation of supply sites, and calls upon Governments to enact enabling legislation to prevent and prohibit the proliferation of sites used for the production of opiate raw materials;

6. Commends the International Narcotics Control 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 requirements and to avoid creating imbalances between the 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 from seized and confiscated drugs;

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

7. Requests the International Narcotics Control Board to continue its efforts to monitor the implementation of the relevant Economic and Social Council resolutions in full compliance with the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961 and that Convention as amended by the 1972 Protocol;

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

Changes in the scope of control of substances

The Commission on Narcotic Drugs had before it a January Secretariat note [E/CN.7/2007/10 & Add.1,2], which contained recommendations for Commission action and two proposals from who concerning recommendations to include oripavine in Schedule I of the 1961 Convention, as amended by the 1972 Protocol, and to transfer dronabinol and its stereoisomers from Schedule II to Schedule III of the 1971 Convention.
On 14 March [E/2007/28/Rev.1 (dec. 50/1)], the Commission decided to include oripavine in Schedule I of the 1961 Convention as amended. In another decision [dec. 50/2], it decided not to vote on the WHO recommendation to transfer dronabinol and its stereoisomers from Schedule II to Schedule III of the 1971 Convention, and to request WHO, in consultation with INCB, to review dronabinol and its stereoisomers when additional information became available.

INCb requested States to implement without delay the provisions of the 1961 Convention with respect to oripavine, including by complying with the system of estimates and providing statistical reports to the Board.

Guidelines for travellers

The Commission, in a 16 March resolution on provisions regarding travellers under medical treatment with internationally controlled drugs [E/2007/28/Rev.1 (res. 50/2)], urged States parties to the 1961 Convention, as amended by the 1972 Protocol, and the 1971 Convention to notify INCb of restrictions in their national jurisdictions applicable to travellers under medical treatment with those drugs. States should notify INCb of any changes in their national jurisdictions in the scope of control of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances relevant to those travellers. INCb should publish that information in a consistent form, including electronically, to ensure its dissemination to the travelling public, thereby facilitating the task of government agencies, and inform States of the implementation of the resolution in its 2007 report.

INCb reported that, pursuant to that resolution, it had received information from 73 Governments on the legal provisions and/or administrative measures applicable in their countries to travellers under treatment with internationally controlled substances. It urged Governments to examine the standardized information on their national requirements, submit their regulations and restrictions applicable to travellers and notify the Board of any changes in their jurisdictions in the scope of control of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances relevant to travellers, in accordance with Commission resolution 50/2.

International Narcotics Control Board

The 13-member International Narcotics Control Board held its eighty-eighth (29 January–2 February), eighty-ninth (7-18 May) and ninetieth (30 October–16 November) sessions, all in Vienna.

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

The Board’s 2007 report [Sales No. E.08.XI.1] reviewed the issue of the internationally recognized principle of proportionality and drug-related offences, which permitted punishment as an acceptable response to crime, provided it was not disproportionate to the seriousness of the offence. It stressed that the international drug control conventions contained the legal structure, obligations, tools and guidance needed to achieve the aims of the drug control system and an agreed legal framework and proportionate response to abuse and trafficking. Some of the main proportionality provisions of the conventions encouraged and facilitated proportionate responses by States, while others sought to limit disproportionate responses. However, conventions set minimum standards only and each State, subject to the principle of proportionality and the convention limits, transposed their provisions into law in line with its own legal system and principles. The differences between countries and regions towards drug-related offences and offenders had an impact on the way conventions were implemented. The 1988 Convention was the most prescriptive, mainly designed to promote homogeneity and implementation by States in dealing with drug-related crime at the national and international levels. Its aims gave priority to the suppression of trafficking as an international criminal activity and to the proportionate use of penalties and sanctions. The Board examined specifically proportionate prosecution, sentencing and alternatives, equality before the law and proportionality as it applied to the prevention and treatment of drug abuse. The Board noted that, since 1996, many countries had made progress in addressing proportionality issues but more needed to be done, particularly in targeting and dismantling major drug trafficking organizations and better balancing law enforcement efforts, so that lower-level offenders did not bear the brunt of justice, while higher-level offenders were not brought to trial. Governments should ensure that law enforcement and justice systems gave priority to investigating, prosecuting and convicting major trafficking organizations, allow authorities to freeze and seize property and assets of traffickers, and emphasize cooperation among States and asset-sharing in cross-border cases. Governments should widen the range of custodial and non-custodial options for drug-related offences by abusers, as well as the availability
of health care and treatment programmes for abuse in prisons. Governments should review their drug-related casework priorities, practices and procedures to ensure that their resources were adequate for proportionate action, and increase support to developing countries to enable their justice and health-care systems to deal more effectively with their drug-related offence casework. The public and the media should have access to facts and statistics concerning the use of the criminal justice system in response to drug trafficking and drug abuse, and public celebrities who violated drug laws should be made accountable for their offences. Governments should review the responses of their legislative, judicial and executive arms to drug-related offences to ensure they were proportionate and correct any shortcomings.

INCB noted the seriousness of the diversion and abuse of pharmaceutical preparations containing narcotic drugs from licit domestic distribution channels, the abuse of which in some countries surpassed that of illicit drugs. The narcotic drugs most often diverted and abused included codeine, dextropropoxyphene, dihydrocodeine, fentanyl, hydrocodone, methadone, morphine, oxycodone, pethidine and tramadol. Noting the strong correlation between the availability of those drugs on the licit market and their abuse, INCB called upon Governments concerned to examine their estimates so that there was no excess of narcotic drugs, which could be diverted.

The Board recommended that global stocks of opiate raw materials should be maintained at a level sufficient to cover global demand for about one year, thereby ensuring the availability of opiates for medical needs in the case of an unexpected production shortfall and reducing the risk of diversion associated with excessive stocks. The Board called upon Governments to contribute to the maintenance of a balance between the licit supply of and demand for opiate raw materials and to prevent the proliferation of sources of their production. It welcomed the cooperation of Governments in complying with resolution 2007/9, in which the Council urged those countries that did not cultivate opium poppy for the licit production of opiate raw materials to refrain from engaging in commercial cultivation (see p. 1281). Pursuant to Council resolution 2006/34 [YUN 2006, p. 1437], the Board held informal consultations, during the fiftieth session of the Commission, with major producers and importers of opiate raw materials to examine developments affecting global production and demand and discuss the policies applied in their countries. It urged Governments concerned to identify the impediments to their adequate use of opioid analgesics for the treatment of moderate to severe pain and to improve their availability for medical purposes.

Noting that the diversion of psychotropic substances from licit domestic distribution channels was the main source used by illicit suppliers and that pharmaceutical preparations containing psychotropic substances had become major drugs of abuse, the two most abused groups being benzodiazepines and ATS, INCB called upon Governments to monitor the consumption levels of those prescription drugs, identify possible diversion and raise awareness about the consequences of their abuse. It also called on countries concerned to increase their vigilance with regard to the diversion and abuse of preparations containing buprenorphine and enhance mechanisms for its control.

As to precursors, the Board noted that, as at 1 November, 92 countries and territories had registered to use Pre-Export Notification (pEN) Online, the automated electronic system for exchanging pre-export notifications introduced in 2006 [YUN 2006, p. 1439]. As the system was instrumental in identifying suspicious transactions and preventing diversion, INCB encouraged Governments that had not yet done so to register to use it. Serving as the international focal point for the exchange of information and the verification of transactions in precursor chemicals, particularly within the framework of Project Prism and Project Cohesion, the Board recommended to Governments action to address problems in international and national precursor control. It recommended that Governments monitor the manufacture and domestic distribution of precursor chemicals, verifying the legitimacy of their end use, ensuring the proper registration and auditing of operators and inspecting records, and preventing their accumulation in quantities exceeding licit requirements. As seizures of acetic anhydride in and around Afghanistan were very limited, INCB recommended that the Project Cohesion Task Force take urgent action to intercept consignments of acetic anhydride smuggled into the country and identify its sources. It urged Afghanistan and its neighbours to cooperate with the Task Force.

In Latin America, where countries had difficulties in preventing chemicals, including potassium permanganate, from reaching cocaine manufacturing areas, the Task Force should also take urgent action to identify the origins of the chemicals seized in areas where cocaine was manufactured. INCB appreciated the results achieved under Project Prism, in particular in connection with Operation Crystal Flow, conducted from 1 January to 30 June, which monitored 1,400 shipments of ephedrine and pseudoephedrine, preventing the diversion of 52 tons. INCB was concerned by the targeting of countries in Africa and West Asia by traffickers for the diversion of ephedrine. It called upon those countries to strengthen control over the importation and movement within their territory of the precursors, and urged ephedrine-exporting countries and territories not to release shipments of ephedrine, pseudoephedrine or preparations containing them to any country without confirming their legitimacy. To prevent traffickers from obtaining large amounts of
pharmaceutical preparations containing ephedrine or pseudoephedrine through licit trade at the national and international levels, Governments were encouraged to use pre-export notifications for their shipments. As the strengthened monitoring of precursors resulted in trafficking organizations looking for alternative non-scheduled substances for use in ATS manufacture, INCB updated its limited international special surveillance list of non-scheduled substances. It also encouraged Governments to establish effective mechanisms for identifying and investigating suspicious transactions involving such substances and asked to be informed in such cases so that it might alert relevant authorities of the latest trends in diversion and trafficking.

The Board was alarmed by the rise in Internet sales of internationally controlled substances without prescriptions. The very high volume of transactions was a matter of concern, with the number of websites advertising or selling controlled prescription drugs increasing by 70 per cent in 2007, compared with 2006. In addition, the Internet continued to be used as a source for chemicals required for illicit manufacture. INCB called upon Governments to accord importance to the detection and investigation of illegal sales of prescription drugs containing internationally controlled substances and ensure that counter legislative and regulatory provisions were in force. Governments should ensure that customers of Internet pharmacies were made aware of the health risk involved in consuming prescription drugs obtained from such sources, and cooperate with professional and consumer interest groups in identifying and implementing measures to counteract their illegal activities. INCB continued to collect information from Governments on national legislation related to Internet services and sites, national cooperation mechanisms and practical experience in the control and investigation of Internet pharmacies. In addition, it collected contact details of national focal points for activities related to illegal Internet pharmacies in order to facilitate international cooperation.


World drug situation

In its 2007 report [Sales No. E.08.XI.1], INCB presented 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

Cannabis, the main illicit drug of concern in Africa, continued to be cultivated and abused locally or smuggled within the region and into Europe and North America. Its production and trafficking were reported in all countries. The largest producers were in West Africa (Benin, Ghana, Nigeria and Togo), Southern Africa (the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Malawi, South Africa, Swaziland and Zambia) and East Africa (Comoros, Ethiopia, Kenya, Madagascar, Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania). Increasing amounts of South African cannabis were seized in Europe. The production of cannabis resin took place in North Africa, mainly in Morocco, one of the world’s main producers. Due to intensified efforts by the Government, the production of cannabis resin not only declined in that country but led to a reduction of seizures in Europe, the largest market for the product. A route used for smuggling resin from Morocco through Chad, Mali, Mauritania and the Niger into either Egypt or the Sudan was identified in early 2007. While cannabis abuse stabilized globally, it continued to increase in Africa, mainly in West and Central Africa, followed by Southern Africa. Its abuse continued to be widespread in East Africa as well.

However, the main development of concern in Africa was the rapid increase in the smuggling of cocaine from Latin America through West and Central Africa and into Europe. The cocaine was repacked in small quantities and smuggled into Europe by air, using locally recruited couriers. In addition, large quantities of cocaine, most of which was destined for Portugal and Spain, were shipped to the waters off Cape Verde and Guinea. In addition to direct routes, new trafficking routes through North Africa and the Arabian peninsula had opened. Cocaine was transported by air also to countries in Southern Africa, notably South Africa, either directly from South America or via West Africa. Its abuse increased in Africa, notably in West and Southern Africa, as well as in the coastal area.
of North Africa. Its abusers represented about 7.6 per cent of the world abusers.

Heroin trafficking and abuse were on the increase in some countries. Heroin was smuggled by air from South-West Asia through East and West Africa into Europe and through West Africa into North America, usually by courier. The main transit countries were Ethiopia, Kenya and the United Republic of Tanzania in East Africa; Côte d’Ivoire, Ghana and Nigeria in West Africa; and South Africa in Southern Africa. Heroin was smuggled through major international airports in West Africa by couriers on direct flights from East Africa (Ethiopia and Kenya) and in the Arabian peninsula and from Pakistan. West Africa served as a corridor for heroin smuggled into North America and Europe. Heroin was also smuggled into Africa by parcel post, mainly to Nigeria and South Africa, but also to Côte d’Ivoire, the DRC, Mali and Mozambique. Although heroin abuse in Africa remained low and was confined to areas along trafficking routes, its abuse increased sharply in East Africa (Kenya, Mauritius and the United Republic of Tanzania) and Southern Africa (Mozambique and South Africa), as well as in West Africa (Côte d’Ivoire and Senegal) and North Africa (Morocco). It was abused primarily by smoking; however, abuse by injection spread in Kenya, Mauritius and the United Republic of Tanzania, particularly in urban areas.

In many countries, the diversion of pharmaceutical preparations containing psychotropic substances from licit distribution channels into parallel markets continued. Their sale without medical prescription by street vendors and health-care providers posed a major problem throughout the region. In South Africa, the abuse of methaqualone, the preferred drug of abuse for years, was on the decline. The abuse and trafficking of ATS and other psychotropic substances took place in many countries. The illicit manufacture of ATS, mostly methamphetamine and methcathinone, took place in Southern Africa. In South Africa, ATS illicit manufacture and abuse increased, while methamphetamine continued to be smuggled out of China, and methylenedioxymethamphetamine (MDMA), commonly known as Ecstasy, out of Europe to be sold on the illicit market. In Mauritius, buprenorphine was abused as a substitute for heroin. Africa was also increasingly used as a transshipment area for the diversion of precursors, particularly ephedrine and pseudoephedrine. Inadequate or non-existent precursor control legislation and weak monitoring and control mechanisms allowed traffickers to place orders for such substances to be delivered to Africa, from where they were smuggled into North America or other regions. Also of concern was the failure of the authorities in many African countries to respond to pre-export notification and to inquiries about the legitimacy of shipments of precursors in a timely manner.

With regard to regional cooperation, the Commission of the African Union elaborated a new action plan on drug control and crime prevention for 2007-2010, covering trafficking and demand reduction. The Commission of the Economic Community of West African States developed an integrated plan of action against drugs and crime, designed to address drug control issues, including national forensic capabilities. In June, the twenty-first conference on antinarcotics policy and strengthening Arab cooperation, attended by North African countries and other members of the League of Arab States, addressed drug trafficking through the Internet and smuggling by express mail. The eighth Interpol Meeting of Heads of African National Drugs Services (Arusha, United Republic of Tanzania, 9-10 July) discussed drug control strategies and the promotion of cooperation to combat trafficking. In July, UNODC launched a three-year project to curb the smuggling of cocaine from Latin America into West Africa through the establishment of a multiregional mechanism for intelligence exchange. In Ghana, a joint port control unit addressing trafficking by commercial sea freight containers was established under the Container Control Programme of UNODC and the World Customs Organization. At the subregional level, cooperation among drug law enforcement agencies continued. In East Africa, cooperation among drug control police in Kenya, Rwanda, Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania was strengthened. The Southern African Regional Police Chiefs Cooperation Organization launched a project on the identification of illicit drugs and chemical equipment, and established a working group on the eradication of cannabis in Southern Africa.

At the national level, Guinea-Bissau revised its legislation to incorporate the provisions of the international drug control treaties, while Malawi, Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania upgraded legislation to strengthen law enforcement and increase penalties for drug-related crime. Efforts were undertaken by Egypt, Kenya and Nigeria to draft or update national drug control plans. The Egyptian Anti-Narcotics General Administration supported other national drug law enforcement agencies in North Africa, while South Africa provided support and training to law enforcement agencies in East and Southern Africa. Morocco launched an initiative against drug-related corruption. Treatment and rehabilitation centres for drug-dependent persons opened in Benin, Kenya and Togo, and Algeria, Côte d’Ivoire, Egypt, Kenya, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Mali, Morocco, Nigeria, Senegal and the United Republic of Tanzania developed drug abuse prevention programmes and treatment and re-
habilitation programmes for drug-dependent youth and prison inmates.

In February, an INCB mission to the Congo noted that the Government was not able to comply fully with its obligations to international drug control treaties and encouraged it to give drug control issues the highest priority and strengthen its commitment to the objectives of the treaties. It urged the Congo to update its national drug control legislation, and to strengthen the drug interdiction capacity of law enforcement authorities by providing training and equipment. In March, the Board carried out a mission to Liberia, where trafficking and abuse were major challenges. It urged the Government to ratify the 1971 Convention as soon as possible, adopt adequate drug control legislation and conduct a rapid assessment of abuse.

**Americas**

**Central America and the Caribbean**

Cannabis abuse and trafficking within Central America and the Caribbean continued. In Central America, its production was destined for domestic use or trafficking within the region. In the Caribbean, Jamaica remained the main cannabis producer and exporter, despite decreased production, and had the highest annual prevalence of its abuse, with 10 per cent of persons aged 15–64 abusing it.

Central America and the Caribbean were also a major transit and trans-shipment area for consignments of cocaine from South America, mainly Colombia, bound for the United States and Europe. The Dominican Republic, Haiti and Jamaica were major trafficking hubs. While the Caribbean route was preferred by Colombian traffickers, Mexican trafficking groups used the Central American corridor. Consequently, as the Mexican groups replaced Colombian groups in the United States, part of the transit traffic had shifted to Central America. Guatemala was a landing area for private aircraft and vessels smuggling cocaine from Colombia into the United States, as well as a trans-shipment area for consignments transported by sea to Europe. Guatemala was also used as a storage area for drugs transported to Mexico, because of its extensive unpatrolled areas. One growing problem was the use of Costa Rican fishing vessels for smuggling narcotic drugs and refuelling speedboats transporting such drugs. Despite the huge amount of cocaine passing through the region, its abuse remained relatively low.

Substantial amounts of heroin originating in Colombia and Mexico were seized in the region and illicit opium poppy cultivation had increased to its previous peak level in Guatemala. Nevertheless, the abuse of opiates was low in most countries.

The transit traffic in psychotropic substances, mostly destined for North America, increased in the Caribbean, contributing to a rise in their abuse, such as MDMA abuse in the Dominican Republic. In Jamaica, MDMA from the Netherlands was increasingly available, mostly for tourists. Synthetic drugs also originated in the region, although on a smaller scale. Improved control over imports of ephedrine and pseudoephedrine in Mexico led to the opening by traffickers of a new route for smuggling them through Central America to clandestine laboratories in Mexico. Attempts to divert large quantities of pharmaceuticals containing those drugs were prevented in Costa Rica and El Salvador.

With regard to regional cooperation, member States of the Organization of American States (OAS) used the Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism to monitor and evaluate efforts to address the drug problem. The Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD) employed the results of the evaluation to make recommendations to States on improving their capacity to control trafficking and abuse and enhance multilateral cooperation. As drug control efforts in Central America and the Caribbean were hampered by a lack of funding, the OAS Secretary-General invited States in the region to allocate up to 1 per cent of seized drug-related assets to drug control programmes and organizations. The University of the West Indies launched an online programme for the prevention and treatment of substance abuse in the Caribbean, and the OAS and the EU Commission launched an initiative, in February, linking cities in Europe and in Latin America and the Caribbean to create associations for improving the rehabilitation and treatment of abusers.

At the national level, Belize established its National Coast Guard Service to deter trans-shipment of narcotic drugs, while the Costa Rican Institute on Drugs enhanced its coordination efforts in intelligence-gathering, demand reduction, the seizure of assets and the licensing of precursor chemicals. In El Salvador, the Anti-Narcotics Division of the National Police was responsible for preventing trafficking by land, sea and air, and smuggling through mail delivery services. In Haiti, the drug monitoring centre did not function as desired because of lack of human resources and equipment, and corruption often hindered control efforts. INCB requested the Government to curb the influence of organized crime on Government activities and to fight corruption at all levels. It was concerned that the lack of resources to patrol Haiti’s borders and coast had resulted in the country’s becoming a major drug trafficking hub.

**Haiti**

On 16 March [E/2007/28/Rev.1 (res. 50/8)], the Commission expressed its concern over the critical situa-
tion in Haiti, where the increase in trafficking and the activities of criminal gangs had created difficulties for national security. It acknowledged the efforts of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH), intergovernmental regional organizations and States to cooperate with Haiti in restoring democracy and combating insecurity. The Commission recalled the Secretary-General’s statement that supplementary assistance would be crucial to address problems created by illicit activities, the control of which had surpassed the ability of the national authorities and MINUSTAH and posed a problem to the country’s long-term stability. The Commission called upon States and UNODC to strengthen technical support and assistance programmes to aid Haiti in its efforts to combat trafficking and reduce the demand for illicit drugs. The Executive Director was requested to report in 2009.

North America

North America remained one of the main producers of cannabis, with the United States, Mexico and Canada producing 5,000, 4,000 and 800 tons, respectively. In the United States, where eradication efforts increased, some of the cannabis produced was grown under hydroponic conditions, which increased its yield and potency. In Canada, the illicit market was mostly supplied by domestic high-potency cannabis grown indoors on a large scale under laboratory conditions, using specialized equipment and fertilizers. The sharp increase in cannabis potency was a cause for concern in the region, with the average tetrahydrocannabinol content increasing nearly tenfold, compared to that of the 1960s. Mexican criminal groups had also started to produce higher-potency cannabis.

In the United States, there was no significant change in the rate of heroin abuse, despite a slight decrease among the youth. In Mexico, cocaine abuse was concentrated along its border with the United States, and had expanded to other areas, though the prevalence rate remained low. In the United States, most of the heroin came from Colombia and Mexico. While South American “white heroin” was predominant in the United States, Mexican organizations had introduced “black tar” and “brown powder” heroin in some parts of the country, where a mixture of “black tar” heroin and Tylenol pm (paracetamol) was also increasingly abused. Each year, about 2 tons of heroin were smuggled into Canada, mostly from South-East and South-West Asia and, to a lesser extent, Latin America.

Cocaine was the second most commonly abused drug in Mexico and the third in Canada. In the United States, where its abuse remained stable, most of the cocaine originated from South America, particularly Colombia, which supplied about 90 per cent of the cocaine entering the country through the Mexico–Central America corridor. In 2007, increases in cocaine prices in the United States and a drop in purity at the retail level were the result of an increase in the flow of cocaine towards Europe, eradication campaigns in Colombia and intensified efforts by Mexico to disrupt the operating environment of drug traffickers.

In the United States, the abuse of prescription drugs was higher than the abuse of heroin, cocaine and methamphetamine and second only to cannabis. Some 6.4 million people abused prescription drugs containing controlled substances, mostly pain relievers (4.7 million). Nearly 10 per cent of students aged 17 and 18 years had abused prescription drugs in the past year (9.7 per cent abused Vicodin®, containing hydrocodone, and 4.3 per cent abused OxyContin®, containing oxycodone). One third of all new abusers of prescription drugs were 12 to 17 years old, and they were the drug of choice among persons 12-13 years old. The diversion and abuse of OxyContin® continued in Canada. The increasing abuse of prescription drugs in the region was the result of several developments, including the sharply increased legitimate sale and the availability and accessibility of such drugs, especially through illegal Internet pharmacies.

As for psychotropic substances, methamphetamine abuse among the teenage population declined in the United States, while in Mexico it rose, particularly along the United States border, and it witnessed a resurgence in Canada. Reduced illicit manufacture of methamphetamine in the United States was partially offset by its increased manufacture in Mexico, while in Canada it was manufactured in clandestine laboratories. One growing problem was its smuggling from Canada into countries overseas, mostly Japan.

The abuse of inhalants by youth remained a problem in Mexico and the United States. In Mexico, inhalants, which were the third most commonly abused substances, continued to be the preferred substance of abuse among child workers, while in the United States, adolescents represented the main group of abusers. United States authorities were concerned about the growing abuse by adolescents of dextromethorphan, a substance commonly found in over-the-counter cough and cold remedies. In Canada, ketamine and gamma-hydroxybutyric acid (GHB) continued to be abused at rave parties and clubs. Khat was smuggled mainly through the United Kingdom into Canada, where its abuse was limited to people of Eastern African origin.

Regional cooperation in drug control was well established in North America, where a large number of bilateral investigative activities and joint operations were carried out, covering a wide range of drug trafficking activities. United States law enforcement
agencies provided the Federal Investigative Agency of Mexico with equipment and contraband detection training, and Canada and the United States cooperated in Project North Star, a mechanism for law enforcement coordination, and the joint Integrated Border Enforcement Team initiative. Canada also cooperated with the United States against illicit trafficking along the route leading from South America to North America.

At the national level, United States demand reduction strategies targeting youth continued to be monitored. The country also addressed the growing problem of abuse of prescription drugs through the cooperation of government offices, research institutes, pharmaceutical companies, medical associations, schools and communities. The Combat Methamphetamine Epidemic Act, establishing a nationwide standard for precursor control, became effective in September 2006. In response to the smuggling of drugs across the border with Mexico, in December 2006, the United States adopted the National Southwest Border Counternarcotics Strategy and Implementation Plan. Mexico identified the fight against trafficking and organized crime as the most important task of its Government and initiated plans for innovations in law enforcement efforts, including the reform of the justice system and the creation of a unified federal police force under a single command and a unified criminal information system.

South America

South America continued to suffer from the illicit, large-scale cultivation of coca bush, opium poppy and cannabis plant, as well as the manufacture and production of and trafficking in the illicit drugs stemming therefrom. The positive developments in the eradication of illicit coca bush cultivation were offset by the growers’ improved techniques, the planting of new varieties of coca bush and increased efficiency in clandestine laboratories processing coca leaf. In 2006, its potential manufacture of cocaine was 984 tons, about the same as in 2005. Although virtually all of its manufacture occurred in the three main coca bush–cultivating countries, the entire region was affected by its trafficking. More than half of the cocaine seized worldwide was seized in South America. The primary drugs of abuse in the region were cocaine and cocaine-type drugs, followed by cannabis.

Cannabis production took place in all countries, the largest producers being Paraguay, and, to a lesser extent, Colombia and Brazil. Reduced production in Colombia was offset by increases in other countries, notably in Paraguay. Although an important producer, Brazil’s production did not meet the demand of its markets, and an estimated 60 per cent of the cannabis abused in the country came from Paraguay. In Venezuela, the amount of cannabis seized increased, reaching over 21 tons in 2006. The annual prevalence of abuse in South America was estimated at 2.5 per cent, less than the global average. Cannabis was the drug of choice among students in secondary schools in all countries except Brazil, where inhalants were the most widely abused substance.

In 2006, the total area under illicit coca bush cultivation in South America was 156,900 hectares, 29 per cent less than in 2000, the year of the highest level of production, some half of which was in Colombia, followed by Peru and Bolivia. The total area eradicated in the three main coca leaf–producing countries increased by 23 per cent to 231,313 hectares in 2006, compared with 2005. In Colombia, a record 213,555 hectares were eradicated in 2006, 26 per cent more than the previous year and almost three times the estimated area under cultivation, which decreased to 78,000 hectares. However, in the departments of Nariño and Putumayo along the border with Ecuador, the area under cultivation increased by 70 per cent, compared with 2005. About half of the area where coca bush cultivation had been eradicated was replanted. Improved cultivation methods and intensified agrochemical use contributed to a significant increase in coca leaf yields. The decreased cultivation in Colombia was partly offset by increased cultivation in Bolivia and Peru. Marginal cultivations were detected in Ecuador and Venezuela. In Bolivia, the area under cultivation increased by 8 per cent, compared with 2005, to 27,500 hectares, and the area in which coca bush was eradicated decreased by 17 per cent, to 5,070 hectares. In Peru, cultivation increased to 51,400 hectares, with some 90 per cent of the coca leaf destined for illicit markets. In addition, a new cultivation area was identified between Brazil, Colombia and Peru in the Amazon basin. In 2006, cocaine seizures increased in Bolivia, Chile, Guyana, Peru and Uruguay, while they decreased in Colombia and Ecuador. The amounts of cocaine hydrochloride and cocaine base seized in Bolivia increased by 22 per cent, to 14.1 tons. Peru reported a sharp increase in the coca paste and cocaine hydrochloride seized in 2006. In Ecuador, a decline in the hydrochloride seized was partly offset by an increase in the coca paste seized. In 2006, Colombia seized 170.1 tons of cocaine hydrochloride and cocaine base. The decline in the amount of cocaine seized could be attributed to changes in trafficking patterns, especially the increased use of land routes through Venezuela and Ecuador to the Southern Cone and Central America and the Caribbean. Supplying organizations continued taking advantage of Brazil’s geographical position and the sparsely inhabited areas of the Amazon forest to transport coca paste and cocaine from the Andean subregion through the country to Africa, Europe and North America.
smuggling of coca paste from Bolivia through Brazil increased in 2006, while the smuggling of heroin of Colombian origin through Suriname decreased. About 70 per cent of the cocaine manufactured in Bolivia was smuggled through the Brazilian border. Ecuador continued to be used as a storage and transshipment area for cocaine destined for Europe and North America. Its trafficking increased in Chile and Uruguay. Suriname was used as a transit country for large shipments of cocaine and cannabis from Colombia and Peru. Large amounts of Ecstasy were smuggled in cargo from the Netherlands into the United States via Suriname. In Bolivia, the number of coca paste and cocaine laboratories destroyed in 2006 increased by more than 50 per cent over the previous year, and the number of laboratories processing coca paste from Bolivia increased in Brazil. Ecuador was an important source of the essential chemicals that sustained drug manufacture in Colombia.

The age of initiation of abuse decreased in some countries, including Argentina and Brazil. In Argentina, the abuse of “paco” (coca paste), a highly addictive form of cocaine, increased, often by young people, including children as young as 8 or 9 years old, in the poor neighbourhoods of Buenos Aires. In Brazil, the use of “crack” cocaine grew, especially in low-income urban areas, while in Chile, the abuse of cocaine base remained stable.

In South America, priority was also given to eradicating illicit opium poppy cultivation. In Colombia, the total area under cultivation decreased to 1,023 hectares in 2006, 48 per cent less than the previous year. As a result, opium production decreased to 31 tons (equivalent to 1.3 tons of heroin).

The abuse of sedatives and tranquillizers, the most widely abused drugs in Colombia, increased slightly in 2006. The abuse of benzodiazepines, such as diazepam and alprazolam, was highest in Paraguay, followed by Bolivia and Colombia. In Brazil, the consumption of stimulants, mainly as anorectics, was among the highest in the world. Internationally controlled substances continued to be diverted from licit channels and were available without prescription. Pharmaceutical preparations, including counterfeit preparations from Asia, were also smuggled into Brazil. The annual prevalence of Ecstasy abuse in South America was among the lowest in the world.

With regard to regional cooperation, the International Anti-Narcotics Conference (Paramaribo, Suriname, 12-13 October 2006) adopted the Paramaribo Declaration, aimed at strengthening coordination and cooperation to fight drug and precursor trafficking. At the fortieth regular session of CICAD (Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia, 29 November–1 December 2006), experts reported on the control of precursor chemicals and pharmaceutical preparations, the use of the Internet and money-laundering. During 2006, Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Paraguay, Peru, Venezuela and the United States launched the seventh phase of the regional initiative “Seis Fronteras” for controlling chemicals used in the illicit manufacture of cocaine and heroin. In February 2007, Colombia hosted the extraordinary meeting of the EU/Latin America and the Caribbean Coordination and Cooperation Mechanism on Drugs, which recommended the financing of initiatives, including alternative development programmes, to help bring about structural changes in areas affected by illicit crop cultivation. In May, CICAD approved The Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism (MEM) Achievements: 1997-2007, a report evaluating the main accomplishments in the Americas in drug control. Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Ecuador, Paraguay and Peru participated in Operation Crystal Flow, which focused on the trade in ephedrine and pseudoephedrine.

At the national level, in 2006, Brazil promulgated a decree defining the competencies of the national system of public policy on drugs, Chile adopted a number of drug-related legislative instruments, and Colombia established measures to control fast boats and fishing boats in order to prevent maritime trafficking. Bolivia approved a strategy against trafficking and for the evaluation of coca leaf, covering the period 2007-2010. The goals of the strategy were to introduce two legal regimes applicable to coca and controlled substances, increase the total legal area under coca bush cultivation up to 20,000 hectares, industrialize coca leaf, and strengthen the interdiction capacity and efficacy of measures to fight the drug problem. Peru adopted the rapid impact plan 2007 aimed at strengthening drug control activities.

In December 2006, the Board sent a mission to Brazil, where abuse increased and over-prescription of stimulants continued. It urged the Government to strengthen interdiction activities, ensure the prosecution of drug-related offences, and enhance the inspection of domestic distribution channels and the monitoring of transport of precursor chemicals. It also called upon Brazil to strengthen the control over the illicit distribution of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, to remove obstacles to the treatment of pain and improve the rational use of medicines. Also in December 2006, an INCB mission to Peru welcomed the adoption of a national drug policy for 2007-2011. However, it noted that the majority of the coca leaf produced was diverted to illicit manufacture and that the provisions of the 1961 Convention concerning licit coca bush cultivation and coca leaf production and use were not implemented. The Board urged the Government to increase its inspection capacity, in order to prevent the diversion of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances from licit sources, and improve precursor control. In April 2007, an INCB mission to
Colombia encouraged the Government to eradicate illicitly cultivated coca bush, introduce alternative sources of legitimate livelihood, and improve the methodologies for assessing the extent of drug abuse. In September, an INCB mission visited Bolivia. The Board welcomed the adoption of Bolivia’s national strategy for the period 2007-2010 (see p. 1290), but noted that it did not address the issue of coca leaf chewing in conformity with international drug control treaties. It requested the Government to comply with its obligations by prohibiting the sale, use and export of coca leaf for purposes not in line with those treaties. Noting the introduction of the so-called “social control” policy, whereby coca bush growers were in charge of eradication programmes, the Board welcomed the adoption of Bolivia’s national strategy for the period 2007-2010 (see p. 1290), but noted that it did not address the issue of coca leaf chewing in conformity with international drug control treaties. It requested the Government to comply with its obligations by prohibiting the sale, use and export of coca leaf for purposes not in line with those treaties. Noting the introduction of the so-called “social control” policy, whereby coca bush growers were in charge of eradication programmes, the Board requested the Government to monitor its new policy of getting farmers to cooperate in voluntary eradication efforts. It also requested the Government to implement education programmes aimed at eliminating coca leaf chewing, as well as other non-medical uses of the coca leaf. The Board noted that mechanisms for monitoring and controlling internationally controlled substances were not functioning and requested the Government to provide appropriate resources and personnel to drug regulatory authorities.

Asia

East and South-East Asia

Cannabis continued to be illicitly cultivated throughout East and South-East Asia, including in Cambodia, Indonesia, the Philippines and Thailand. Its illicit cultivation remained a problem in the central provinces of the Lao People’s Democratic Republic, while in Cambodia, where cultivation had declined, it was concentrated along the borders with the Lao People’s Democratic Republic and Thailand. Cannabis was also cultivated in some parts of Indonesia, particularly in Aceh. In the Philippines, over 100 cultivation sites were identified.

Illicit opium poppy cultivation remained at a low level throughout the region, with Myanmar having the largest area under cultivation (27,700 hectares), followed by the Lao People’s Democratic Republic (1,500 hectares). Several States reported large seizures of opium, as well as heroin. In the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (SAR) of China, two illicit heroin laboratories were dismantled in 2006. In China (including the Hong Kong and the Macao SARs), Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar and Viet Nam, heroin was the most abused drug.

An increase in the illicit manufacture of and trafficking in ATS was reported throughout the region, especially in Cambodia, China and Myanmar, and laboratories involved in the clandestine manufacture of methamphetamine were uncovered. Large amounts of MDMA and ATS were seized in several countries. The smuggling of ATS in tablet form from Myanmar into China and Viet Nam through the Lao People’s Democratic Republic remained a problem. The abuse of ATS, especially methamphetamine, increased, and was the most common drug in Cambodia, Japan, the Lao People’s Democratic Republic, the Philippines and Thailand. In 2006, its abuse increased in China, as well as MDMA in both China and Viet Nam. Cambodia reported an increase in seizures of saffrole and saffrole-rich oils, frequently used in the manufacture of MDMA.

Traffic in substances not under international control continued. During 2006, approximately 2 tons of ketamine were seized in China, 1 ton in the Hong Kong SAR of China and 16 kilograms in Myanmar. Seizures also increased in Cambodia. Ketamine hydrochloride seizures increased in Myanmar and in the Philippines, as did seizures of dimethylamphetamine, ketamine and nimetazepam in Brunei Darussalam. In Cambodia, China and Japan, the abuse of substances not under international control continued. Ketamine abuse increased in Cambodia and China, in particular in the Hong Kong SAR, where its abuse by injection increased significantly. Japan placed ketamine and methylene under national control as narcotic drugs in 2007.

Regional cooperation in drug control was conducted through regional organizations, such as the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), as well as through bilateral and multilateral channels. Task forces of the ASEAN and China Cooperative Operations in Response to Dangerous Drugs held a number of meetings, bringing together the ASEAN member States and China, as well as UNODC and the ASEAN secretariat to share information, monitor progress and prioritize areas for future activities. Cambodia, China, the Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Myanmar, Thailand and Viet Nam participated in the seventh Ministerial Meeting of Signatory Countries of the 1993 Memorandum of Understanding on Drug Control held in Beijing, China, in May.

At the national level, China continued to enforce its fight against drugs through the implementation of national campaigns. In Cambodia, the 2006-2010 drug control master plan was implemented. Several countries, including Viet Nam, strengthened their activities related to precursor control. Law enforcement agencies in Thailand worked at the national and regional levels to control the diversion of precursor chemicals.

In October, an INCB mission to the Republic of Korea urged the Government to carry out an assessment of drug abuse. The Republic of Korea had one of the highest rates of prescribed stimulants used as analeptics in the world, and the Board encouraged the Government...
to learn more about the reason behind it by, inter alia, monitoring and analysing prescription patterns. It also
called upon the Government to increase its vigilance with regard to precursors, particularly those used in the
manufacture of methamphetamine and other ATS. Also
in October, an INCB mission to Viet Nam noted its com-
mmitment to the eradication of opium poppy cultivation.
It was concerned, however, that the compliance of Viet
Nam with its reporting obligations pursuant to the in-
ternational treaties had not been satisfactory, and urged
the Government to enhance coordination and coopera-
tion among the institutions and agencies responsible for
drug control and to ensure implementation of its treaty
obligations.

**South Asia**

In South Asia, trafficking in and abuse of cannabis
and heroin increased. The porous borders between
Bangladesh, Bhutan, India and Nepal contributed to
the smuggling and availability of illicit drugs. Can-
nabis continued to be illicitly cultivated and abused
in most countries. In Sri Lanka, it was grown wild
and was also cultivated for local use. Small quanti-
ties were also cultivated in Bangladesh for local use.
Heroin entering India from Pakistan increased, and
ever-increasing quantities of the drug originating in
Afghanistan and Pakistan and destined for Europe
were being seized in north-western India. Those
consignments were increasingly passing through
Bangladesh, whose geographical nature, particularly
its long borders with India and Myanmar, made it
conducive to heroin trafficking. Heroin abuse was
a problem in the Maldives, where the percentage of
abusers by injection had increased from 8 per cent in
2003 to 29 per cent in 2006. The abuse of heroin
and pharmaceutical preparations by injection was one of
the main factors contributing to the spread of HIV/
AIDS infection in the subregion. The region was also
targeted for cocaine trafficking. Its smuggling into
India, while modest, was organized by West African
traffickers who exchanged South American cocaine
for South-West Asian heroin destined for Europe or
North America.

Pharmaceutical preparations containing narcotic
drugs, mainly codeine, were widely trafficked and
abused in the region. Codeine-based syrups were di-
verted from the licit market in India and smuggled into
Bangladesh. The smuggling into Bangladesh, Bhutan,
Nepal and Sri Lanka of pharmaceutical preparations
containing psychotropic substances, such as buprenor-
phine originating in India, continued. In Bangladesh,
prescription controls were not adequately enforced at
the retail level and pharmaceutical preparations were
stolen from hospitals and pharmacies. In Bangladesh,
“Yaba”, a tablet containing methamphetamine and
caffeine, had gained popularity among young people
from middle- and upper-middle-class families and in
border areas with Myanmar. Internationally controlled
pharmaceutical preparations manufactured in India
were also increasingly diverted to Europe and the
United States, most of which were sold illegally over
the Internet.

With regard to international cooperation, the four-
teenth summit of the South Asian Association for Re-
gional Cooperation (SAARC) (New Delhi, India, April),
which admitted Afghanistan as a member, agreed to
implement the SAARC conventions, including those
provisions relating to countering trafficking in narc-
ocics and psychotropic substances. At the bilateral
level, India and Pakistan agreed, in July, to enhance
cooperation to effectively combat drug trafficking, and
Bangladesh and Myanmar signed an agreement for ex-
changing information and sharing intelligence. At the
national level, Sri Lanka declared its intention to draft
decision to control precursors, while Nepal adopted
a comprehensive narcotics control policy. Drug control
officials of the SAARC Drug Offences Monitoring Desk
in India and Pakistan regularly shared information
with their counterparts in Sri Lanka.

In February, INCB sent a mission to Bhutan to ob-
tain information on how the Government was meet-
ing its international drug control treaty obligations.
The Board encouraged the Government to strengthen
its administrative structure for drug control and make
trafficking prevention a key law enforcement priority.
It noted the lack of treatment facilities for drug addiction
and reliable data on abuse. It also noted the diff-
culties in controlling the licit trade in narcotic drugs
and psychotropic substances from India, and recom-

dended that control mechanisms be established. In
March, an INCB mission to Nepal noted that, despite
the country being a party to the 1988 Convention,
legislative provisions for precursor control had yet to
be adopted, and urged the Government to do so. The
Board noted the lack of data on abuse and encouraged
the Government to collect them on a regular basis.

**West and Central Asia**

Illicit opium poppy cultivation in Afghanistan
continued to increase to an alarming level. In 2007,
193,000 hectares were under cultivation, 17 per cent
more than in 2006. The average opium yields in 2007
(42.5 kilograms per hectare) were higher than in 2006
(37 kilograms per hectare). The increase in the area un-
der cultivation and the favourable weather conditions
resulted in Afghanistan producing an extraordinary
8,200 tons of opium in 2007 (34 per cent more than
in 2006), supplying 93 per cent of the global market
for opiates. Cultivation reached an unprecedented
level in south-western Afghanistan, especially in the
five provinces along its border with Pakistan, but diminished in other areas, and was almost brought to a halt in the northern and central parts of the country. However, the Board was concerned that in some areas, such as the Balkh province, opium poppy had been replaced by cannabis cultivation, which reached 68,850 hectares in 2007. Some 19,000 hectares of opium poppy were eradicated in Afghanistan, 24 per cent more than in 2006 and 280 per cent more than in 2005. However, given the large scale of cultivation in 2007, the area eradicated was only 9 per cent of the total area cultivated. Though eradication efforts were more intense than in 2006, resistance to eradication was more severe, and had little chance of success in Taliban-controlled areas. Given the potential for increased opium production, the Board was concerned over the continued availability of precursor chemicals, such as acetic anhydride, for heroin manufacture. Afghan opiates were smuggled predominantly through Iran, Pakistan and Central Asia.

Although Iran had no significant cultivation of opium poppy and no reported manufacture of illicit drugs in 2006, it seized more opiates than any other country. In the first half of 2007, 180 tons of opium were seized (an increase of 37 per cent over the first half of 2006), mainly on its eastern border with Afghanistan. Heroin seizures for that year almost doubled, while morphine seizures increased by 51 per cent and cannabis seizures by 22 per cent. Pakistan continued to be a major transit area for Afghan opiates, after Iran, with some 35 per cent of Afghan opiates being smuggled through the country. The amount of opiates seized in Pakistan increased from 25 tons of heroin equivalent in 2005 to 36.4 tons in 2006 (46 per cent). The smuggling of Afghan opiates through Pakistan into China increased. The amount of cannabis resin seized in Pakistan also increased (23 per cent), partly reflecting an increase in cannabis production in Afghanistan. Iraq was used as a transit area for smuggling Afghan heroin through Iran into Saudi Arabia and other countries in the area of the Persian Gulf. Illicit trafficking and opium poppy cultivation increased in high security areas. Opium poppy and cannabis were cultivated in Lebanon, mainly for local use. Despite some successes achieved in curtailing trafficking, heroin, cocaine and psychotropic substances were smuggled through Lebanon into Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates out of Jordan, the Syrian Arab Republic and Turkey, as well as from Europe and South America. In Israel, there was a high demand for cannabis, cannabis resin, opium, heroin, cocaine and MDMA. The amount of heroin and cocaine seized increased. Significant amounts of MDMA were also seized. In Palestine, cannabis was illicitly cultivated both on the West Bank and in the Gaza Strip. The Syrian Arab Republic was used as a transit country for consignments of cannabis, cocaine and heroin (mainly from Lebanon and Turkey), morphine (from Afghanistan, Iran and Turkey) destined for Jordan and Lebanon, as well as counterfeit Captagon tablets (containing amphetamine) destined for the Persian Gulf area.

 Trafficking along the northern route through Central Asia persisted, with an estimated 21 per cent of heroin and morphine of Afghan origin having passed through the subregion in 2006. The amount of opium seized in the subregion doubled, mostly because of increased seizures in Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. Cannabis grew wild in Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan, and small-scale opium poppy cultivation continued in Central Asia and the southern Caucasus, mostly for local use or to be smuggled, on a small scale, into the Russian Federation. In Central Asia, 36.4 tons of drugs were seized in 2006, including 27 tons of cannabis, 84 per cent of which was seized in Kazakhstan. Opium seizures more than doubled, from 2.7 tons in 2005 to 5.7 tons in 2006. In 2006, the quantity of heroin seized in Central Asia decreased from 3.8 to 3.7 tons, with Kazakhstan and Tajikistan accounting for 73 per cent of it. The quantity of heroin seized, however, increased in Kyrgyzstan (by 29 per cent), Turkmenistan (by 11 per cent) and Uzbekistan (by 15 per cent). Turkmenistan continued to be a transit country for Afghan opium and heroin destined for the Russian Federation and Western Europe. Uzbekistan continued to be a transit country for Afghan opiates smuggled into the Russian Federation out of Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan, as well as directly out of Afghanistan. While the quantity of cannabis trafficked through the southern Caucasus remained stable, the combined quantity of heroin, opium and cocaine increased. The quantity of drugs seized in Armenia, while remaining low, increased. In 2006, in Georgia, heroin trafficking increased (from 2.59 kg in 2005 to 4.8 kg in 2006), while the quantity of seized cannabis declined (from 23.3 kg in 2005 to 11 kg in 2006). The quantity of seized buprenorphine continued to rise in Georgia.

Nearly all countries neighbouring and near Afghanistan had high rates of opiate abuse. Iran had the world’s highest rate, which was also very high in Pakistan. Oman was increasingly used as a transit country for drug consignments: because of its porous borders, cannabis, opium and heroin shipments from Afghanistan, Iran and Pakistan were smuggled through Oman. In Central Asia, the increased availability of opiates resulted in a rise in drug-related crime, drug abuse and the spread of HIV/AIDS. Increasing addiction and a shift from cannabis and opium abuse to heroin abuse were common to all countries in the subregion. In the southern Caucasus, increasingly used as a transit area for opiates from Afghanistan, abuse was on the rise.
The abuse of ATS continued to spread in countries in West Asia, including Iran, Turkey and several countries on the Arabian peninsula. In Turkey, the quantity of seized synthetic drugs, predominantly Ecstasy and Captagon, increased in 2006 to the highest level ever.

With regard to regional cooperation, Afghanistan and Iran signed a memorandum of understanding on counter-narcotics cooperation at a meeting held in Kabul in June 2006. At a June 2007 ministerial meeting held in Vienna, Afghanistan, Iran and Pakistan expressed their commitment to stepping up regional cooperation in the form of the Triangular Initiative. At the twenty-first conference on anti-narcotics policy and strengthening Arab cooperation (Tunis, Tunisia, June), members of the League of Arab States discussed the need to improve efforts to control drugs and counter drug-related crime. Countries in Central Asia increased their bilateral and multilateral cooperation. At a coordination conference held in Astana, Kazakhstan, in April, the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) member States adopted a cooperation programme on countering organized crime and illicit drug and precursor trafficking for 2008-2010. Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, the Russian Federation, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan continued to cooperate in subregional initiatives within the framework of the 1996 Memorandum of Understanding. Under the auspices of the Paris Pact Policy Consultative Group, several round-table meetings of experts, focusing on trafficking routes in Central Asia, were held in 2006. The meeting held in Vienna in May 2007 focused on the control of precursors used in the manufacture of heroin and on the evaluation of international initiatives. As follow-up to the meeting, a meeting on operations targeting the smuggling of acetic anhydride in and around Afghanistan was held in Vienna in October. The EU continued to implement various programmes in Central Asia, such as the Central Asian Drug Action Programme, the Border Management Programme and the Central Asian Regional Drug Information Network.

At the national level, the Counter-Narcotics Trust Fund (CNTF), established by Afghanistan to provide funding for drug control, continued to have difficulties. CNTF launched a project to enhance the capacity of ministries, fast-track the procurement process and increase the coordination of CNTF project proposals. Afghanistan implemented measures, such as the Good Performance Initiative, under which each province that was free of opium poppy received $500,000 in funding for development projects and an additional $500,000 if the poppy-free status was maintained. Afghanistan established five provincial offices to handle all areas of counter-narcotics at the local level. Within the framework of the National Development Strategy, a regulatory body was created to supervise the import and export of licit drugs. Afghanistan also created a unit specializing in precursor control and took measures to deal with abuse. Iran adopted policies on the fight against narcotic drugs and, in addition to special treatment programmes designed for male drug addicts, strengthened measures for the provision of treatment for female addicts. Countries in Central Asia continued to improve their national laws, bringing them in line with the provisions of the treaties.

Afghanistan

In a January report [E/ CN.7/2007/9], prepared pursuant to Commission resolution 49/5 [YUN 2006, p. 1450], the Executive Director reviewed implementation of the Paris Pact initiative [YUN 2003, p. 1263] and stated that the Automated Donor Assistance Mechanism, an Internet-based coordination mechanism of technical assistance in counter-narcotics enforcement, was launched. It provided Paris Pact partners with a mechanism for coordinating donor assistance and held information on more than 873 projects on counter-narcotics enforcement in Afghanistan, Iran, Pakistan, the Russian Federation and Central Asian and South-Eastern European countries. In May 2006, the initiative was evaluated by an external consultant; the evaluation made a persuasive case for extending it beyond 2006, and recognized that it contributed to closer cooperation and the coordination of assistance projects and activities in countries affected by the heroin trafficking from Afghanistan. The fourth Paris Pact policy consultative group meeting (Vienna, 27 November 2006), which brought together 32 countries and eight international organizations, called for the implementation of actions to strengthen border control and law enforcement measures in Afghanistan, its neighbours and the States members of the Gulf Cooperation Council. The group agreed upon measures with a view to making the second phase of the initiative (2007-2009) more effective. In its summary of the Second Ministerial Conference on Drug Trafficking Routes from Afghanistan [YUN 2006, p. 1450], the report stated that the Conference reviewed border control and the trafficking of drugs and precursors; regional and international cooperation; and health and social issues. It recommended that continued efforts should be made to support Afghanistan, the Afghanistan Compact [ibid., p. 1450] and the implementation of the National Drug Control Strategy, and recognized that strengthened cooperation between Afghanistan and its neighbours was required to achieve an effective border management system. The need for a balanced approach in tackling supply and demand issues was highlighted, and the importance of law enforcement, intelligence gathering and operational activities at the cross-border and regional levels was reaffirmed. The Conference concurred that international efforts were
required in the area of precursor control and that States should implement policies related to the health aspects of abuse. Emphasis was placed on the need to ensure sustainable reduction of illicit opium poppy cultivation and trafficking in opium.

On 16 March [E/2007/28/Rev.1 (res. 50/1)], the Commission welcomed the report on the implementation of the Paris Pact initiative and called upon States to strengthen international and regional cooperation to counter the illicit drug production and trafficking in Afghanistan and to take concerted measures in the framework of the initiative. It called upon Afghanistan and the international community to intensify efforts within the framework of the Afghanistan Compact and urged States, UNODC and international organizations to promote the implementation of the Moscow Declaration [YUN 2006, p. 1450] and the recommendations of the Conference. The Commission noted the importance of ensuring follow-up to the Conference and welcomed the readiness of the international community to support the financing of the new phase of the Paris Pact as an initiative addressing both supply and demand concerns over the heroin trafficking routes. The UNODC Executive Director was requested to report in 2008.

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL ACTION

On 25 July [meeting 44], the Economic and Social Council, on the recommendation of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs [E/2007/28 & Corr.1], adopted resolution 2007/11 without vote [agenda item 14 (d)].

Support to the counter-narcotic measures and programmes of Afghanistan

The Economic and Social Council,

Recognizing the threat that the cultivation of the opium poppy and the production of and trafficking in narcotic drugs pose to the security and development of Afghanistan and to security at the regional and international levels,

Noting with concern the unprecedented increase of 59 per cent in the illicit cultivation of the opium poppy in Afghanistan from 2005 to 2006, according to the report of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime entitled “Afghanistan Opium Survey 2006”;

Bearing in mind that 65 per cent of that increase was registered in the three southern provinces of Afghanistan, that the growing insurgency has further weakened the vulnerable security in those provinces and that the remaining 35 per cent of that increase was elsewhere in Afghanistan,

Recognizing the need for further intensified efforts for the complete elimination of opium poppy cultivation in all of Afghanistan, in accordance with the National Drug Control Strategy,

Noting with concern the links between illicit drugs and terrorist activities in Afghanistan,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 60/179 of 16 December 2005, in which the Assembly called upon the international community to provide the necessary support to the counter-narcotics objectives of the Government of Afghanistan and, in particular, to the Counter-Narcotics Implementation Plan,

Recalling also the commitment of Member States to the fight against the production of and trafficking in illicit drugs, in line with the provisions of the international drug control conventions and pursuant to its resolution 2006/32 of 27 July 2006, in which it invited the international community to provide the necessary support to enable the Government of Afghanistan to implement the National Drug Control Strategy,

Recalling further the Moscow Declaration adopted by the Second Ministerial Conference on Drug Trafficking Routes from Afghanistan, held in Moscow from 26 to 28 June 2006, which emphasized the need to ensure a steady reduction in the illicit cultivation of the opium poppy and trafficking in opium,

Noting with appreciation the bilateral and multilateral support provided to assist the Government of Afghanistan in eliminating opium poppy cultivation and drug production, trafficking and abuse,

Noting with interest the Good Performance Initiative of the Government of Afghanistan, aimed at supporting provinces that achieve sustained progress towards eliminating or remaining free of the opium poppy, through the provision of financial assistance for agreed priority development projects,

Welcoming the efforts of the Government of Afghanistan to implement fully the National Drug Control Strategy,

Emphasizing the need to strengthen the involvement of the international community in eliminating opium poppy cultivation and drug production, trafficking and abuse in Afghanistan,

Bearing in mind that securing the elimination of opium poppy cultivation will require sustained effort and that, as recognized by the Member States in the Political Declaration adopted by the General Assembly at its twentieth special session, action against the world drug problem is a common and shared responsibility and the problem must be addressed in a multilateral setting,

Noting that corruption is rampant at many levels of government and has an impact on drug production and drug trafficking in Afghanistan,

1. Calls upon the Government of Afghanistan to intensify the efforts of its counter-narcotic programmes and to hold accountable those responsible for or complicit in opium poppy cultivation and production and trafficking in narcotic drugs, in order to eliminate opium poppy cultivation and trafficking in narcotic drugs;

2. Encourages the international community to continue to support the implementation of the National Drug Control Strategy of Afghanistan by contributing to, inter alia, the Counter-Narcotics Trust Fund in order to enable the Government of Afghanistan to finance effectively its counter-narcotics programmes, including alternative development livelihood initiatives and the Good Performance Initiative;

3. Welcomes the commitment of the international community to the broader development and reconstruction of Afghanistan, as reflected in the endorsement of the Afghanistan Compact, adopted at the conclusion of the London Conference on Afghanistan, held on 31 January
and 1 February 2006, and reconfirmed during meetings of the Joint Coordination and Monitoring Board, established under the Compact;

4. **Calls upon**, in this context, the Government of Afghanistan and its development partners to implement the Afghanistan Compact and the Afghanistan National Development Strategy with counter-narcotics as a cross-cutting issue;

5. **Calls upon** the Government of Afghanistan to intensify its efforts to eliminate corruption at all levels of government, including by the prosecution of offenders;

6. **Notes** the opposition of the Government of Afghanistan to licit cultivation of the opium poppy in Afghanistan, which concurs with the concerns expressed by the International Narcotics Control Board in its report for 2006;

7. **Welcomes** the recommendations of the Second Ministerial Conference on Drug Trafficking Routes from Afghanistan, including those on strengthening cooperation between Afghanistan and neighbouring States, and on the need for a balanced approach, addressing both illicit drug supply and demand issues;

8. **Calls upon** Member States and invites international organizations to strengthen their support to the States in the forefront of the fight against drug trafficking from Afghanistan, while commending border control measures taken by some neighbouring States;

9. **Invites** international organizations and Member States to provide new and additional financial resources and technical assistance with a view to enhancing regional cooperation and cross-border management involving Afghanistan and the most affected transit States;

10. **Calls upon** the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to work alongside donors, in their capacity as partner nations, in particular the lead partner nation to the Government of Afghanistan in counter-narcotics activities, in order to ensure that the multilateral assistance provided to Afghanistan is fully aligned with the priorities set out in its National Drug Control Strategy;

11. **Decides** to continue the consideration of this matter.

**Europe**

Cannabis remained the most prevalent drug in Europe; however, its use stabilized or even declined in Western Europe, the largest market in the world for cannabis resin. While cultivation of cannabis plants was reported in many countries, in Germany, it gained importance in professionally equipped indoor sites. Belgium reported an increase in seizures in 2006. Cannabis was also cultivated in the United Kingdom, but its extent was unknown. In Bulgaria, about one half of its production was destined for the local market, and about 45 per cent of the production in Poland was exported to Western Europe. Albania continued to be a major exporter, with cannabis cultivated there and being smuggled through the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Bulgaria to Turkey, as well as to Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Montenegro, Serbia, Slovenia and Western Europe.

In Europe, seizures of cannabis resin decreased following the decline in its production in Morocco. In Spain, the country with the most seizures of cannabis resin worldwide, the quantity declined to 459 tons (31 per cent) in 2006 compared to the previous year. The drop was even more marked in Portugal (70 per cent), and a lower volume of seized resin was also reported in France, where, however, cannabis use increased. In Germany, the regular use of cannabis among the youth declined. Italy and Spain had the highest annual prevalence rate in Western Europe. In the United Kingdom, both the annual and monthly prevalence rates dropped. The lowest annual prevalence rates were reported by Bulgaria, Greece, Malta and Romania.

Europe was the second largest illicit market for cocaine in the world. In most countries in Western Europe, particularly those on the Iberian peninsula, cocaine seizures increased significantly. In Spain, the country in which most of it was seized, the volume seized increased (by 2.5 per cent) to 49.6 tons in 2006. Portugal, where seizures increased from 18 tons in 2005 to 34 tons in 2006, was a major European gateway for cocaine. In 2006, increased seizures were also reported in Germany, Switzerland and Finland. Cocaine abuse increased in Western and South-Eastern Europe but remained stable in Central and Eastern Europe. The highest annual prevalence rates for its abuse were reported in Italy, Spain and the United Kingdom. In the United Kingdom, its abuse increased in England and Wales. In Italy, the annual prevalence rate for abuse increased steadily, reaching a level above the European average of 0.8 per cent. The countries in Western Europe with the lowest annual rates were Greece and Sweden. The abuse of “crack” cocaine continued to be marginal in Western Europe, except in the United Kingdom.

Heroin on the illicit markets in Europe originated in Afghanistan. Due to its geographical location, Turkey continued to be used as the main corridor for consignments, serving as a starting point for the Balkan route. Heroin was also smuggled along the “silk route” through Central Asia into the Russian Federation, and eventually to EU States, as well as along a southern route leading from Afghanistan to Pakistan and on to Europe. In most countries in Western Europe, the quantity of heroin seized declined, except in Spain, where 471 kg were seized in 2006, representing a significant increase compared with 2005. Increasing seizures were also reported in Germany. The number of heroin abusers in Europe was estimated at 3.3 million people. Its abuse remained stable or declined in Western and Central Europe but increased in the Russian Federation and Eastern Europe, particularly in the CIS and in South-Eastern Europe along the Balkan route.
Europe remained a major source of amphetamines, with increased illicit manufacture in Eastern and South-Eastern Europe. In Western Europe, the highest volume of seizures was reported in the Netherlands, followed by the United Kingdom and Germany. In the United Kingdom, the largest amphetamine market in Europe, the annual prevalence of abuse had declined steadily since 2000. Seizures of Ecstasy declined. Of the seized tablets for which the origin or transit route could be established, by far the largest portion came from the Netherlands. In the United Kingdom, the abuse of Ecstasy was high in Northern Ireland but declined in England and Wales. It also declined in Spain.

With regard to regional cooperation, a ministerial conference, organized by the Council of Europe (Strasbourg, France, November 2006), adopted a programme against abuse that focused on young people. Other cooperation actions included the establishment of an operational body within the EU framework to tackle the smuggling of drugs into Europe by sea; the signing of an agreement, in September, by seven EU member States (France, Ireland, Italy, the Netherlands, Portugal, Spain and the United Kingdom) for the establishment of the Maritime Analysis and Operation Centre–Narcotics; and the launching of the EU Collaborative Harmonised Amphetamine Initiative on amphetamine profiling in order to identify links between seizures and criminal groups through forensic profiling of ATS in laboratories in various member States.

At the national level, regulations for drug substitution treatment were strengthened in Austria, in March 2007, to limit the diversion of slow release morphine into illicit channels. France adopted, in November 2006, a plan for addiction treatment and prevention for the period 2007-2011. In Greece, the 2006-2012 National Strategy on Drugs and the 2006-2008 action plan on drugs addressed demand and supply reduction, with special emphasis on preventing and combating organized crime. In May 2007, the Netherlands submitted to the Parliament a document on the continuation of the 2001 policy on synthetic drugs, focusing on tighter law enforcement of their trade and production, a prevention and information policy and closer international cooperation. In October, a State Drug Control Committee on Additional Measures to Counter Illicit Trade in Narcotic Drugs, Psychotropic Substances and Precursor Chemicals was established in the Russian Federation. In June, an action plan against cocaine for 2007-2010 was introduced in Spain as a response to the increase in cocaine abuse. In May, the United Kingdom published an action plan aimed at reducing drug-related harm.

In November 2007, the Board sent a mission to Albania, where trafficking organizations continued to impede drug control efforts. The Board urged the Government to curb their influence and activities, strengthen its efforts to eliminate the cultivation of cannabis plants and drug trafficking, enhance coordination and cooperation among drug control institutions and agencies and establish and maintain an appropriate control mechanism in compliance with the international treaties. The Board sent a mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina in June to discuss that country’s implementation of the treaties and comprehensive drug control legislation, in particular the law on the prevention and suppression of the abuse of narcotic drugs, adopted in February 2006. The Board noted that measures to implement the new legislation had not been adopted. The Board also sent a mission to the United Kingdom in October to discuss, among other subjects, cooperation in maintaining a global balance between the licit supply of and demand for opiate raw materials.

**Oceania**

In Oceania, cannabis remained the drug of choice and its abuse was the highest in the world, particularly in Australia, Micronesia, New Zealand and Papua New Guinea. It was illicitly cultivated throughout the region, especially in Australia and New Zealand.

South-East Asia was the main source of the heroin smuggled into Australia through air couriers from Cambodia and Viet Nam. Demand for heroin remained stable in 2006.

The region also had one of the highest rates of ATS abuse in the world, particularly in Australia and New Zealand. The clandestine manufacture of ATS, including methamphetamine, continued. In Australia, the supply was dominated by manufacture within the country. Most of the ATS tablets, excluding MDMA (Ecstasy), smuggled into Australia and seized in 2005-2006 originated in the Netherlands and India. Methamphetamine imports originated mainly, in descending order, in Canada, the Hong Kong SAR of China, mainland China, the Netherlands, the United States, Japan, South Africa, Malaysia and Thailand. In 2005-2006, seven illicit MDMA (Ecstasy) laboratories were dismantled in Australia. Ecstasy was mostly smuggled into Australia through the postal system and concealment in sea cargo shipments. The countries of origin of the seized MDMA (Ecstasy) included Belgium, Canada, France and the United Kingdom. More than 440 seizures of benzodiazepine-based sedatives and tranquillizers, mostly detected in the postal system, were reported in Australia in 2005-2006. The abuse of prescription pharmaceutical drugs was particularly high in Australia, and the abuse of ATS was among the highest in the world in New Zealand and Australia, where it remained the second most abused drug. New Zealand
reported an increase in the abuse of methamphetamine and Ecstasy. There was also evidence of the abuse of drugs, including ATS, in Fiji and Samoa.

In the period 2005-2006, 22 laboratories for the illicit manufacture of precursor chemicals were dismantled in Australia. Countries in Oceania continued to report significant seizures of pseudoephedrine and ephedrine. Several pharmaceutical preparations available without prescription and containing pseudoephedrine were seized in New Zealand in clandestine laboratories.

Trafficking in substances not under international control, such as gamma-butyrolactone (GBL), a precursor of gamma-hydroxybutyric acid (GHB), and ketamine, continued to be a problem. In 2006, Australian customs authorities seized 40 shipments of GBL, originating mostly from China, Japan, Singapore, South Africa, Thailand, the United Kingdom and the United States. Countries in the region, including Australia and New Zealand, continued to report seizures of small quantities of khat in 2006.

Regionally, Australia and New Zealand continued to provide other countries in Oceania with technical assistance to enhance border security. Australia launched the South Pacific Precursor Control Forum, a regional initiative aimed at strengthening cooperation in responding to the diversion of precursors and ATS manufacture. In October 2006, New Zealand worked with Australia to uncover a regional smuggling syndicate involved in smuggling cocaine from South America through New Zealand into Australia.

At the national level, Australia strengthened its legislation to combat the illicit manufacture of controlled substances. Following the introduction of more restrictive national controls on pseudoephedrine in January 2006, it enacted further legislation to control its sale.

UN action to combat drug abuse

UN Office on Drugs and Crime

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) implemented the Organization’s drug and crime programmes in an integrated manner, addressing the interrelated issues of drug control, crime prevention and international terrorism in the context of sustainable development and human security. The drug programme continued to be implemented in accordance with General Assembly resolution 45/179 [YUN 1990, p. 874]. The Office served as the central drug control entity responsible for coordinating all UN drug control activities, and as the repository of technical expertise in international drug control for the UN Secretariat. It acted on behalf of the Secretary-General in fulfilling his responsibilities under the terms of international treaties and resolutions relating to drug control, and provided services to the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council, and committees and conferences dealing with drug control matters.

The UNODC Executive Director described the Office’s 2007 activities in a report to the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and to the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice [E/CN.7/2008/3-E/CN.15/2008/3]. With regard to sustainable livelihoods, the Office assisted States by supporting illicit crop monitoring and alternative development programmes within the framework of poverty reduction and sustainable development. It conducted crop-monitoring surveys in Afghanistan, Bolivia, Colombia, the Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Morocco, Myanmar and Peru, and an initial assessment of coca leaf cultivation in Ecuador. In Afghanistan, the Office helped to strengthen the capacity of the Ministry of Counter-Narcotics, supported the Government in policy development, institution- and capacity-building for alternative livelihoods, criminal justice, cross-border operations and illicit crop monitoring, and contributed to the elaboration of an opium poppy–free road map. In Bolivia, Colombia and Peru, UNODC alternative development programmes focused on poverty alleviation. In Colombia, UNODC provided farmers with assistance for productive activities and the rational exploitation of forest resources, and monitored voluntary eradication, forest recovery and socio-economic development. In Peru, the Office assisted farmer enterprises in the development of commercially viable legal enterprises, while in Bolivia it supported vocational training and micro-enterprise development activities to generate employment for young people. In Myanmar, UNODC spearheaded the Kokang and Wa Initiative, in partnership with government departments, UN entities and national and international organizations, for the transition from relief to sustainable development in the period 2008-2011. In the Lao People’s Democratic Republic, the Office provided alternative development assistance to former opium poppy growers in partnership with other UN bodies and the Asian Development Bank, and assisted the Government in mapping the poorest former opium poppy–cultivating villages, to identify gaps in support and potential partners. In collaboration with non-governmental organizations (NGOS), it ensured that products cultivated in place of illicit crops reached European markets by showcasing them at food fairs.

As to supply reduction, the Office helped to establish drug control agencies, build border posts, strengthen the judiciary and improve interdiction. It established counter-narcotic intelligence centres in the Persian Gulf area and Central Asia and a trilateral initiative among Afghanistan, Iran and Pakistan to facilitate border con-
control and legal cooperation. It assisted African States in strengthening their judicial capacity, undertook needs assessment missions regarding supply reduction to China, Ghana, Guinea-Bissau, Pakistan and Yemen and worked with partner government agencies to develop technical assistance programmes. In the framework of the Paris Pact initiative [YUN 2003, p. 1263], the Office organized a meeting (Kabul, Afghanistan, October) of senior international counter-narcotics officials to review and improve regional and international efforts to contain the Afghan opiates threat. It developed also the Automated Donor Assistance Mechanism, an online tool containing information on some 900 counter-narcotics projects in Asia and the Pacific.

UNODC maintained its focus on drug abuse prevention, treatment and rehabilitation. In partnership with the Vienna NGO Committee on Narcotic Drugs, it facilitated a series of regional consultations that would culminate in the “Beyond 2008” Global Forum to be held in Vienna in July of that year. The Office updated its online library of national legislation, a source of legislation adopted by States to implement the international conventions (www.unodc.org/enl). During 2007, more than 2,000 laws and regulations were uploaded, enabling enhanced research into national drug control legislation.

In its law enforcement efforts, UNODC set up the Central Asia Regional Information and Coordination Centre to facilitate information exchange and analysis and assist in the coordination of operational activities. The memorandum of understanding on subregional drug control was implemented in cooperation with Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, the Russian Federation, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. The Container Control Programme of UNODC and the World Customs Organization was implemented in Ecuador, Ghana, Pakistan and Senegal.

During the year, the Office published Afghanistan: Opium Winter Rapid Assessment Survey and Afghanistan: Opium Survey and the World Drug Report 2007 [Sales No. E.07.XI.5], which confirmed the overall stability of the global illicit drug situation, including containment of cannabis and opium production, and highlighted problem areas, such as the increase in cocaine use in Europe and the growing opium production in Afghanistan. Illicit opium survey reports were also published for South-East Asia (the Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Myanmar and Thailand). One regional and three country survey reports, providing new information on the situation of coca leaf cultivation in the Andean countries, were also published in 2007. UNODC paid special attention to Africa, particularly to the increase in cocaine trafficking through Western Africa, which was documented in reports prepared in August and November.

Building on Commission resolution 50/4 on improving the quality and performance of drug analysis laboratories (see below), UNODC provided scientific expertise and support to a number of Governments. More than 100 individuals and institutions worldwide benefited from assistance. Support was also provided for linking laboratories in Central, East and South-East Asia.

On 16 March [E/2007/28/Rev.1 (res. 50/4)], the Commission recommended that UNODC should continue supporting the analytical work of laboratories by providing reference samples of controlled substances, identifying best practices and encouraging the use of guidelines, developing manuals on standard methods, offering training opportunities, and promoting and facilitating the exchange of information, material and data. UNODC was asked to support the integration of laboratories and scientific support into drug control frameworks and the use of analytical data as a primary source of information worldwide; and to build on its corporate knowledge and conduct in-depth analyses in order to identify competency requirements, training needs and other areas where assistance could be provided. The Commission also requested UNODC, in cooperation with States, to focus attention on drug analysis laboratories, by developing project proposals for capacity-building, and providing services to support abuse treatment and toxicology. It encouraged States to give priority to the development of sustainable laboratory and scientific services and recommended that national laboratories participate in the UNODC external quality assurance programme. The Commission called upon States and international, regional and subregional institutions to provide expertise as a resource for the development of networks among laboratories and scientists and ensure a more effective exchange of expertise and information worldwide.

### Administrative and budgetary matters

In January [E/CN.7/2007/12-E/CN.15/2007/15], the Executive Director presented the UNODC revised budget for the 2006-2007 biennium and the proposed consolidated budget outline for the 2008-2009 biennium, distinguishing between the programme of work and programme support. The 2008-2009 proposed budget for the Fund of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP) totalled $212.3 million, an increase of $27 million (15 per cent) compared with the 2006-2007 budget. Of that amount, $172.2 million would be allocated for the programme of work and $40.1 million for programme support.

The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ), in a March report [E/CN.7/2007/13-E/CN.15/2007/13] on the programme budget outline, observed that its concern regarding the need for careful monitoring of changing needs to ensure that the budget contained realistic resource requirements had been addressed through the presenta-
tion of the programme of work by region, including related estimated requirements. The Committee cautioned that measures taken to achieve savings, such as restricting travel and freezing vacant posts, could affect programme delivery and asked to be provided with information in the context of its consideration of the regular budget. While welcoming projected increases in special-purpose income, the Committee noted that general-purpose income for the UNDCP Fund was likely to decline in the 2006-2007 biennium and urged UNODC to seek new means to increase it. It reiterated its request that UNODC provide information on coordination between the drug and crime programmes in the context of the 2008-2009 consolidated budget.

On 16 March [E/2007/28/Rev.1 (res. 50/13)], the Commission agreed with the preliminary indicative estimates of $212.3 million for the UNDCP Fund in the proposed 2008-2009 consolidated budget, and decided that the consolidated 2008-2009 budget would contain provisions for recosting. It requested the Executive Director to submit at its reconvened fiftieth session a proposed consolidated budget for 2008-2009 based on those figures, and to prepare the consolidated budget for 2008-2009, as well as a budget for the 2010-2011 biennium, for UNODC based on, inter alia, the UNODC strategy for the period 2008-2011, as approved in the draft resolution “Strategy for the period 2008-2011 for UNODC”, to be adopted by the Economic and Social Council. The Commission requested that ACABQ recommendations be taken into account in the presentation of the consolidated budget and invited ACABQ to consider the problems associated with the presentation of the consolidated budget in those programmes financed partially through the regular budget, with the aim of facilitating comparison with the respective sections in the UN regular programme budget.

The Executive Director, in an October report on the UNODC consolidated budget for the 2008-2009 biennium [E/CN.7/2007/17-E/CN.15/2007/18], stated that the total resources projected for the UNDCP Fund amounted to $201.8 million. General-purpose income would decrease to $29 million, a decline of $0.7 million (2 per cent) compared to the previous biennium. Programme-support cost income was expected to reach $18.6 million, an increase of $2.5 million (16 per cent). Special-purpose expenditure was projected at $162.1 million, an increase of $17.3 million (12 per cent). Combined general-purpose and programme-support costs expenditure were projected to decrease by $4.6 million (10 per cent), from $44 million in 2006-2007 to $39.8 million in 2008-2009. While the cost base in 2008-2009 continued to benefit from efficiencies, including the freezing of posts in 2006-2007 that were proposed for abolition in 2008-2009, the reduction was mainly due to the sharing, from 2008-2009 onwards, of UNODC general-purpose costs between the two UNODC funds based upon their estimated relative share of the total special-purpose project portfolio: a ratio of 75:25. Reductions in general-purpose expenditure against the UNDCP Fund should result in an increase in the related fund balance from $5.4 million at the end of 2007 to $13.8 million by the end of 2009. Special-purpose income, which increased by $12.5 million (10 per cent) to $132.9 million in 2006-2007, was projected to grow to $146 million (10 per cent) in 2008-2009. Programme delivery, which grew by 19 per cent in 2004-2005, was expected to grow by a further 19 per cent in 2006-2007, and increase by a further 12 per cent in 2008-2009. With increased programme implementation, UNODC expected that the special-purpose cash balance of $43.5 million at the end of 2007 would be reduced to $27.4 million by the end of 2009.

In a November report [E/2007/28/Rev.1 (res. 50/14)], the Commission noted that the budget was based, inter alia, on the 2008-2011 strategy for UNODC, as approved by Economic and Social Council resolution 2007/12 (see p. 1301), and was harmonized with sections 16 and 28F of the UN proposed programme budget for 2008-2009. It also noted that it distinguished between general-purpose and programme-support cost funds and harmonized the use of those categories, while maintaining separate accounts for the UNDCP Fund and the UN Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Fund. The Commission approved the projected use of general-purpose funds in 2008-2009 and invited States to provide contributions of at least $20.4 million. It endorsed the estimates for the programme-support cost funds and special-purpose funds for the UNDCP Fund, and requested the Executive Director to submit, in 2008, a report on UNODC financial difficulties and to provide a list of resolutions that had not been implemented during the previous five years owing to lack of resources. It also requested the Executive Director to submit annual reports to the Commission on ways of improving the UNODC financial situation, and the programmes to be implemented in the bienniums 2008-2009 and 2010-2011 and how they conformed to the UNDCP 2008-2011 strategy, as reflected in the 2010-2011 UN proposed strategic framework. The Executive Director was requested to submit to the Commission in 2008 an account of the exemptions and reductions provided to donors from the 13 per cent programme support costs during the previous three years and the basis for them.

Strategy for the period 2008-2011

In March, the Commission considered a February note by the Secretariat [E/CN.7/2007/14-E/CN.15/2007/5]
on the strategy for the period 2008-2011 for UNODC, prepared in response to Commission resolution 48/14 [YUN 2005, p. 1362]. The Office consulted with States, intergovernmental organizations, NGOs and other stakeholders on the elaboration of the strategy. The Commission on Narcotic Drugs and the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice established an open-ended informal Group of Friends of the Chairpersons of the Commissions to consult on the matter. At the first meeting, the Group invited the two Chairpersons to prepare a revised version of the strategy for consideration by the Group at its second meeting, scheduled for 10 January 2007. On 14 December 2006, the two Chairpersons circulated a revised draft strategy as the basis for discussions at the January meeting. The Group of Friends held sixteen meetings and agreed on the content of the strategy (see annex to resolution below) on 8 February 2007.

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL ACTION

On 25 July [meeting 44], the Economic and Social Council, on the recommendation of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs [E/2007/28 & Corr.1], adopted resolution 2007/12 without vote [agenda item 14 (d)].

Strategy for the period 2008-2011 for the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

The Economic and Social Council,
Recalling General Assembly resolution 59/275 of 23 December 2004 on programme planning,
Recalling also Commission on Narcotic Drugs resolution 48/14 of 8 December 2005, in which the Commission urged the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to continue to develop an overarching strategy, in consultation with Member States, for consideration by the Commission, and also urged the Office to ensure that the strategy, as approved by Member States, through the strategic framework, guided the formulation of clearly defined objectives, improved benchmarks and performance indicators that would measure both qualitatively and quantitatively the impact of the work of the Office in full compliance with the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly on result-based budgeting,
Taking into consideration the deliberations of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs at its forty-ninth session and the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice at its fifteenth session concerning progress made on the development of the overarching strategy of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime,
Expressing its appreciation for the extensive consultations held by Member States, including within the framework of the open-ended informal Group of Friends of the Chairmen of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, to consider the strategy for the period 2008-2011 for the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime,
Acknowledging that the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime undertook extensive consultations with other United Nations bodies and relevant civil society entities and among its own staff during the preparation of the strategy,

1. Approves the strategy for the period 2008-2011 for the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, contained in the annex to the present resolution;
2. Requests the Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to incorporate the strategy for the period 2008-2011 in the strategic framework and to present the latter to the relevant intergovernmental bodies, for their consideration and approval;
3. Stresses that all action aimed at implementing the strategy for the period 2008-2011 for the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, especially action involving the participation of relevant civil society entities, shall be undertaken in full consultation with and at the request of the Member States concerned;
4. Requests the Executive Director to prepare the consolidated budget for the biennium 2008-2009, as well as for the biennium 2010-2011, for the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, based, inter alia, on the strategy for the period 2008-2011 for the Office;
5. Urges Member States and other partners to provide sufficient, stable and predictable funding to the Fund of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme;
6. Recommends that a sufficient share of the regular budget of the United Nations be allocated to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to enable it to fulfil its mandates;
7. Requests the Executive Director to submit to the Commission on Narcotic Drugs at its reconvened fifteenth session a report identifying the medium-term strategy activities projected for the period 2008-2009 and the estimated cost of implementing them;
8. Also requests the Executive Director to report, through the programme performance report, to the Commission on Narcotic Drugs on progress made in the implementation of the strategy for the period 2008-2011 for the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime;
9. Requests the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to continue to improve its evaluation mechanisms and project cycle management.

ANNEX

Strategy for the period 2008-2011 for the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

A. Strategy for the period 2008-2011

1. The mission of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime is to contribute to the achievement of security and justice for all by making the world safer from crime, drugs and terrorism.
2. The present strategy translates this vision into a platform for action. It is based on the existing mandates of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and links them to results and does not represent a modification of these mandates. The strategy grew out of extensive consultations with all the stakeholders of the Office.
3. It is built on five premises:
   (a) Crime, drugs and terrorism are universal challenges. Effective responses to these threats include national, regional and international responses, based on the principle of shared responsibility;
(b) The United Nations helps define these international responses; becomes custodian of the relevant international legal instruments when adopted; facilitates international cooperation; keeps the world informed about how the problem in question is evolving; and assists Member States, when requested, in building domestic capacity and in translating the multilateral standards into national practice;

(c) An important part of the established mandates of the Office is to facilitate the ratification and implementation of the relevant international conventions on crime, drugs and terrorism;

(d) The Office has a comparative advantage to contribute, in compliance with its mandates, to this multilateral response, in particular, in offering:

(i) Normative services: facilitating the effective implementation of existing international legal instruments and their transformation into global norms and, where appropriate, facilitating negotiation of international legal instruments;

(ii) Research and analysis;

(iii) Technical assistance: assisting Member States, upon request, in signing and ratifying relevant international legal instruments and facilitating implementation of these instruments; and providing Member States, upon request, with legislative assistance and facilitating national capacity-building, inter alia, in the area of multilateral standards and norms;

(e) These services must be consistent with, and indeed contribute to, the wider efforts of the United Nations towards peace, security and development.

4. The strategy responds to the following needs, expressed by the many different stakeholders of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime:

(a) The need for more stable, predictable and sufficient funding. Currently 12 per cent (16.1 million United States dollars) of the Office’s annual budget of 135.9 million United States dollars comes from the regular budget of the United Nations. The remaining 88 per cent comes from voluntary contributions of Member States to two separate trust funds. Most of these contributions are earmarked. Although the increase in earmarked contributions represents a vote of confidence in the Office by Member States, it creates an unstable and unpredictable funding situation, making it difficult to plan even one year ahead. The Office must grow to respond to the greater demand for its services. The resources provided to the Office should be commensurate with the mandates and the tasks entrusted to it;

(b) Given the wide array of mandates, the need to operationalize results within the established mandates of the Office and in conformity with the Financial Regulations and Rules of the United Nations and the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning;

(c) The need to find the right mix of normative, analytical and operational functions within the mandates of the programmes of the Office. While it is clear that the Office must do all three, the specific mix will vary according to time and place, and to the particular issue being addressed. As custodian of the relevant international treaties and with its accumulated in-house expertise, the Office has a comparative advantage in helping Member States translate international legal commitments into operational standards and norms;

(d) The need to improve horizontal integration. The interrelationship between drugs, crime and terrorism should be reflected, where appropriate and in accordance with established mandates of the Office, in the work of the Office in the provision of technical assistance;

(e) The need to balance expertise between headquarters and the field. Expertise and presence in the field should be increased, with due regard to project activity, through, among others, various arrangements in partnership with other United Nations entities, while maintaining optimal staffing levels at headquarters;

(f) The need to specify the results to be achieved, and the resources required for this, to carry out effective programme delivery and to produce these concrete results. The consolidated biennial budget should become a real tool for the planning and use of human and financial resources required for the effective implementation of the programmes. The Office should be accountable for delivering results and all Member States should be able to see how funds are being spent.

5. The strategy of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime for the period 2008-2011 responds to the needs outlined above and is a joint undertaking of all the stakeholders of the Office. This joint undertaking applies both to the formulation of this strategy, which has been done, and to its implementation. The means to secure the involvement of all stakeholders in the implementation is the consolidated biennial budget, in full compliance with relevant General Assembly resolutions and financial rules and regulations.

6. In support of the strategy, which will be reflected in the strategic framework and the consolidated biennial budget, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime will develop an implementation plan as an internal managerial tool, which will show:

(a) How each concrete result specified in the strategy will be achieved;

(b) How much it will cost;

(c) Where each activity will be carried out (country, region, world);

(d) Who (in terms of work units) will be responsible for it;

(e) Which projects will contribute to achieving it;

(f) What performance indicators will be used to measure its achievement.

7. Actions under this strategy contribute towards the protection and empowerment of those most vulnerable, in particular women and children, and to securing their lives, livelihoods and dignity.

B. Objectives and results

8. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime will concentrate on three themes: rule of law; policy and trend analysis; and prevention, treatment and reintegration and alternative development.

1. Rule of law

9. The rule of law is the basis for providing security and justice for all. It is therefore the cornerstone of the work of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. The Office has assisted in the development of the international
instruments on drugs and crime. It is the secretariat and custodian of the drug and crime conventions and protocols. The United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, in which Member States expressed their resolve to strongly condemn terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, committed by whomever, wherever and for whatever purposes, recognized the Office as the lead office for the delivery of legal assistance in preventing terrorism.

(a) Main objectives

10. For the theme of rule of law, the main objectives are as follows:

(a) To promote, at the request of Member States, effective responses to crime, drugs and terrorism by facilitating the implementation of relevant international legal instruments;
(b) To promote, at the request of Member States, effective, fair and humane criminal justice systems through the use and application of United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice.

(b) Result areas

11. The result areas are as follows:

1.1. Ratification and implementation of conventions and protocols

1.1.1. Universal ratification of the international drug control conventions, the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto, the United Nations Convention against Corruption and the relevant international conventions and protocols relating to terrorism

1.1.2. Improved national capacity for the enactment of domestic legislation in line with the above-mentioned conventions and protocols

1.1.3. Improved capacity of national criminal justice systems to implement the provisions of the above-mentioned conventions and protocols

1.1.4. High-quality services provided to treaty-based organs and governing bodies related to drugs, crime and terrorism

1.2. International cooperation in criminal justice matters

1.2.1. Enhanced capacity for international cooperation against crime, organized crime, corruption, drug trafficking and terrorism

1.2.2. Strengthened capacity of Member States to establish comprehensive and effective regimes against money-laundering and financing of terrorism in accordance with the relevant General Assembly resolutions

1.2.3. Strengthened capacity of Member States to establish comprehensive and effective regimes against money-laundering related to organized crime, drug trafficking and corruption

1.2.4. Enhanced capacity for international cooperation in asset recovery, mutual legal assistance, extradition and other forms of international cooperation in accordance with relevant conventions and protocols and, where appropriate and upon request, assisted by model treaties and agreements

1.2.5. Enhanced knowledge of the barriers to and good practices in the implementation of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the United Nations Convention against Corruption, in particular, the provisions for international cooperation

1.2.6. Enhanced capacity for law enforcement cooperation against crime, organized crime, corruption, drug trafficking, diversion of precursors and terrorism

1.2.7. Enhanced capacity to respond effectively utilizing special investigative techniques in the detection, investigation and prosecution of crime, organized crime, corruption and drug trafficking

1.2.8. Enhanced capacity to protect witnesses

1.3. Criminal justice systems: more accessible, accountable and effective

1.3.1. Enhanced capacity of Member States, particularly States in post-conflict or transitional stages, to develop and maintain accessible and accountable domestic criminal justice systems in accordance with international standards and norms

1.3.2. Enhanced capacity to respond to new and emerging forms of crime

1.3.3. Improved capacity of national criminal justice systems to use and apply relevant United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice

1.4. Terrorism prevention

1.4.1. Increasing awareness of relevant international conventions and protocols relating to terrorism and related United Nations resolutions

1.4.2. Enhancing the capacity of Member States to address the legal aspects of countering terrorism as reflected in the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, adopted by the General Assembly

1.4.3. Enhanced legal knowledge and expertise of Member States on the issues of terrorism prevention through, inter alia, the holding of training programmes, workshops and seminars

2. Policy and trend analysis

12. Effective policy must be based on accurate information. Policy and trend analysis is essential to measuring trends, highlighting problems, learning lessons and evaluating effectiveness. Scientific and forensic findings enrich policy and trend analysis by providing the basis for accurate information in specific areas.

13. Better data and improved national capacity to collect data are needed to support and enhance the international community’s responses to crime and illicit drugs. There is also a greater need for counter-terrorism legal analysis in order to carry out technical assistance.

(a) Main objective

14. For the theme of policy and trend analysis, the main objective is as follows:
Enhanced knowledge of thematic and cross-sectoral trends for effective policy formulation, operational response and impact assessment in drugs and crime.

(b) Result areas

15. The result areas are as follows:

2.1. Threat and risk analysis

2.1.1. Enhanced knowledge of trends including emerging trends in drug and specific crime issues available to Member States and the international community

2.1.2. Enhanced capacity of Member States and the international community to formulate strategic responses to address emerging trends in drugs and crime

2.2. Scientific and forensic capacity

2.2.1. Improved scientific and forensic capacity of Member States to meet internationally accepted standards

2.2.2. Increased use of scientific information and laboratory data, supported by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, in strategic operations, policy and decision-making

3. Prevention, treatment and reintegration, and alternative development

16. Drugs, crime, corruption and terrorism affect the lives of individuals and are major obstacles to sustainable development.

17. Addressing drug abuse and illicit drug production requires a shared responsibility. Prevention, reduction and the elimination of the cultivation of illicit drug crops are integral to achieving sustainable development and require special policies and greater efforts on the part of all Member States. In this regard, alternative development, an important component of a balanced and comprehensive drug control strategy, is intended to create a supportive environment for the implementation of that strategy by contributing in an integrated way to the eradication of poverty, thus contributing to the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals.

(a) Main objectives

18. For the theme of prevention, treatment and reintegration, and alternative development, the main objectives are as follows:

(a) Reduction of opportunities and incentives for illicit activities and gains, and reduction of drug abuse, HIV/AIDS (as related to injecting drug abuse, prison settings and trafficking in human beings), criminal activity and victimization with a special focus on women and children, as well as the dissemination of information and successful practices in those areas;

(b) Effective prevention campaigns, care and reintegration into society of drug users and offenders, and assistance to victims of crime;

(c) Foster and strengthen international cooperation based on the principle of shared responsibility in sustainable alternative development, including, where appropriate, preventive alternative development.

(b) Result areas

19. The result areas are as follows:

3.1. Community-centred prevention

3.1.1. Enhancing understanding and use of international standards and norms for crime prevention

3.1.2. Enhancing understanding and use of balanced demand and supply reduction strategies as a means for reducing the illicit drug problem

3.1.3. Creating tools to address youth and violent crime, especially in marginalized urban communities

3.1.4. Enhancing national capacity to prevent drug abuse

3.1.5. Increasing awareness of human trafficking among relevant authorities, general public and vulnerable groups

3.1.6. Increasing awareness among relevant authorities and the general public that smuggling of migrants is a criminal activity and poses serious risks to migrants

3.1.7. Expanding the capacity of Member States to foster community-centred drug abuse and crime prevention programmes and, in that context, increased cooperation between the Office and relevant entities of civil society that are active in such programmes in accordance with relevant international conventions and within the mandates of the Office

3.2. Corruption prevention

3.2.1. Effective development and implementation, by Member States, of preventive anti-corruption policies in compliance with the United Nations Convention against Corruption, through enhancing national capacity

3.2.2. Enhancing the capacity of Member States in establishing and strengthening effective, independent anti-corruption bodies in compliance with the United Nations Convention against Corruption

3.2.3. Increased awareness at the international level of corruption and its negative impact, as well as wider recognition of the United Nations Convention against Corruption

3.2.4. Increased cooperation between the Office and relevant civil society entities as well as bilateral and multilateral organizations that advance capacities to implement the United Nations Convention against Corruption

3.2.5. Enhanced integrity and transparency of criminal justice systems in the context of corruption prevention, through enhancing national capacity

3.3. HIV/AIDS prevention and care (as related to injecting drug users, prison settings and trafficking in human beings)

3.3.1. Expanding Member States’ capacity to reduce the spread of HIV/AIDS among injecting drug users, in conformity with relevant international conventions and the established mandates of the Office

3.3.2. Expanding Member States’ capacity to reduce the spread of HIV/AIDS in prison settings
3.3.3. Expanding, in consultation with the Member States concerned, the capacity of relevant entities of civil society to respond to HIV/AIDS among injecting drug users and in prison settings, in accordance with relevant international conventions and the established mandates of the Office

3.4. Alternative development

3.4.1. Enhanced capacity of Member States, upon request, to design and implement sustainable alternative development programmes, including, where appropriate, preventive alternative development programmes, within their broader development context, aimed at preventing, reducing and eliminating the illicit cultivation of the opium poppy, the coca bush and cannabis

3.4.2. Raising awareness of and mainstreaming the issue of alternative development, including, where appropriate, preventive alternative development programmes, among international organizations, international financial institutions and development networks

3.4.3. Increased partnerships between the Office and relevant civil society and private sector entities that promote Member States’ capacity for collaborative activities in alternative development, including, where appropriate, preventive alternative development

3.5. Treatment and rehabilitation of drug-dependent persons

3.5.1. Increased capacity of Member States to provide treatment and support services to drug-dependent persons

3.5.2. Enhanced knowledge of treatment and rehabilitation for abusers of new and emerging types of drugs and expanded capacity of Member States to respond to the abuse of such drugs

3.5.3. Improved well-being, rehabilitation and reintegration into society of people undergoing treatment for drug dependence

3.5.4. Increased partnerships with relevant civil society entities that advance Member States’ capacities to provide treatment and rehabilitation that are in accordance with the relevant international conventions

3.6. Prison reform

3.6.1. Wide application of international standards and norms on the treatment of prisoners

3.6.2. Increased capacity to apply international standards on the professional management/operation of prisons

3.6.3. Increased capacity to apply international standards and norms on diversions, restorative justice and non-custodial sanctions, where appropriate

3.6.4. Increased partnerships with relevant civil society entities that advance Member States’ capacities to apply international standards and norms that are in accordance with the relevant international conventions and within the established mandates of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

3.7. Juvenile justice

3.7.1. Enhanced capacity of Member States to apply international standards and norms on juvenile justice

3.7.2. Increased partnerships between the Office and relevant civil society entities that advance Member States’ capacities to apply international standards and norms on juvenile justice

3.8. Assistance to victims

3.8.1. Wider application of international standards and norms on the treatment of victims of crime

3.8.2. Strengthened capacity of Member States to implement victim assistance programmes for the most vulnerable segments of society, including women and children

3.8.3. Strengthened partnerships between the Office and relevant civil society entities that advance Member States’ capacity to raise awareness of existing standards and norms and their application in the area of victim assistance

C. Management support

20. In line with relevant General Assembly resolutions and decisions, including those related to the United Nations reform process, and rules and regulations of the United Nations, this strategy puts particular emphasis on results-based management, budgeting and accountability. The following management support initiatives are guided by General Assembly resolutions, in particular resolutions 55/231 of 23 December 2000, 60/1 of 16 September 2005 and 60/257 and 60/260 of 8 May 2006:

(a) Improved results-based management:

(i) Resources are well aligned with strategic objectives;

(ii) Planning, programing and budgetary cycles are aligned;

(iii) Continuous strengthening of the monitoring and evaluation framework, in particular project cycle management;

(iv) Improved capacity to apply the lessons learned from evaluation;

(b) Effective and transparent financial management:

(i) Effective and transparent financial management at the project and organizational levels, contributing to the overall efficiency of the Office;

(ii) Improved financial reporting and analysis, including risk assessment;

(c) Motivated staff:

(i) Further development of transparent, effective and fair recruitment/placement systems to support a results-based approach;

(ii) Performance of staff evaluated on the basis of the achievement of results and the demonstration of required values and competencies;

(iii) Due regard shall be paid to the recruitment of staff on as wide a geographical basis as possible;

(d) Expanded strategic partnerships:

(i) Deepening and widening of partnerships, including, where appropriate, with relevant civil society
entities and the private sector, in order to achieve operational synergies and generate a multiplier effect in promoting good practices and achieving the agreed upon results;

(ii) Leveraging resources effectively by broadening the resource base through coordinating with development partners and through initiatives such as the United Nations Trust Fund for Human Security;

(c) Strengthened field capacity:

(i) Increasing expertise and presence in the field, with due regard to project activity, through, among others, different arrangements in partnership with other United Nations entities, while maintaining optimal staffing levels at headquarters;

(ii) Integration of Office field capacities into the United Nations country teams where appropriate;

(iii) Technical assistance projects in accordance with national and regional priorities within the framework of this strategy and in consultation with the Member States concerned and other development partners;

(iv) Country ownership of technical assistance;

(v) Consultation with the Member States concerned on the presence of field offices, based on consideration of planning, programming and budgetary requirements;

(f) Innovative information and communication technology:

Effective use of modern information technology services for programmatic, management and reporting purposes;

(g) Raising the public profile of Office activities:

(i) Making the achievements of the Office more visible to both the general public and the specialized audience of policymakers, practitioners and analysts/researchers;

(ii) Effective utilization of both classical and modern information and communication technologies to raise the profile of the Office;

(h) Reporting:

Reporting on the progress of the implementation of the strategy.

On 26 July [meeting 45], the Economic and Social Council, on the recommendation of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs [E/2007/30], adopted resolution 2007/19 without vote [agenda item 14 (c)].

Strategy for the period 2008-2011 for the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 59/275 of 23 December 2004 on programme planning,

Recalling also Commission on Narcotic Drugs resolution 48/14 of 8 December 2005, in which the Commission urged the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to continue to develop an overarching strategy, in consultation with Member States, for consideration by the Commission, and also urged the Office to ensure that the strategy, as approved by Member States, through the strategic framework, guided the formulation of clearly defined objectives, improved benchmarks and performance indicators that would measure both qualitatively and quantitatively the impact of the work of the Office in full compliance with the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly on result-based budgeting,

Taking into consideration the deliberations of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs at its forty-ninth session and the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice at its fifteenth session concerning progress made on the development of the overarching strategy of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime,

Expressing appreciation for the extensive consultations held by Member States, including within the framework of the open-ended informal Group of Friends of the Chairmen of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, to consider the strategy for the period 2008-2011 for the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime,

Acknowledging that the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime undertook extensive consultations with other United Nations bodies and relevant civil society entities and among its own staff during the preparation of the strategy,

1. Approves the strategy for the period 2008-2011 for the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, contained in the annex to Council resolution 2007/12;

2. Requests the Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to incorporate the strategy for the period 2008-2011 in the strategic framework and to present the latter to the relevant intergovernmental bodies, for their consideration and approval;

3. Stresses that all action aimed at implementing the strategy for the period 2008-2011 for the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, especially action involving the participation of relevant civil society entities, shall be undertaken in full consultation with and at the request of the Member States concerned;

4. Requests the Executive Director to prepare the consolidated budget for the biennium 2008-2009, as well as for the biennium 2010-2011, for the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, based, inter alia, on the strategy for the period 2008-2011 for the Office;

5. Urges Member States and other partners to provide sufficient, stable and predictable funding to the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Fund;

6. Recommends that a sufficient share of the regular budget of the United Nations be allocated to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to enable it to fulfil its mandates;

7. Requests the Executive Director to submit to the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice at its reconvened sixteenth session a report identifying the medium-term strategy activities projected for the period 2008-2009 and the estimated cost of implementing them;

8. Also requests the Executive Director to report, through the programme performance report, to the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice on progress made in the implementation of the strategy for the period 2008-2011 for the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime;
9. Requests the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to continue to improve its evaluation mechanisms and project cycle management.

**Commission on Narcotic Drugs**

The Commission on Narcotic Drugs held its fiftieth session in Vienna from 12 to 16 March, during which it recommended four resolutions and two decisions for adoption by the Economic and Social Council. It also adopted thirteen resolutions and two decisions, which it brought to the attention of the Council. It held a reconvened fiftieth session on 27 and 28 November, also in Vienna, at which it adopted one resolution and brought it to the attention of the Council.

Following the closure of its reconvened fiftieth session on 28 November, the Commission opened its fifty-first session to elect the new chairman and other bureau members.


**Drug demand reduction and drug abuse**

The Commission on Narcotic Drugs had before it a January report by the Secretariat [E/CN.7/2007/3] that reviewed long-term trends over the period 1998-2005 for major illicit drugs, based on information received from national experts in the annual reports questionnaire. It also presented a multidimensional analytical tool developed by the UNODC Global Assessment Programme on Drug Abuse, which provided a more comparable basis for assessing different dimensions of the drug problem and for monitoring regional differences in selected key epidemiological indicators with regard to the potential for development, the magnitude, costs and consequences of the drug problem, as reflected in the prevalence among youth aged 10-24 and among the general population aged 15-64, as well as in the prevalence of injecting drug abuse and of HIV among abusers and in the percentage of people receiving treatment for the first time. A regional comparison showed considerable variations in abuse. In North Africa and the Middle East, all indicators were equally distributed in the lower-medium percentiles. In sub-Saharan Africa, demand for treatment was high, while cost and consequences, especially among injecting drug abusers and HIV abusers, remained low. Abuse among youth and in the general population was low, but the lack of information made it difficult to draw a precise picture. In North America, all indicators fell within the higher percentile, showing a serious situation on all accounts. In Latin America and the Caribbean, injecting drug abuse, HIV among abusers and demand for treatment were high, while prevalence of abuse among youth and the general population was lower than in other regions. In East and South-East Asia, the prevalence of abuse was not high among the general population, whereas HIV among injectors and demand for treatment were high. In Central, South and South-West Asia, injecting drug abuse and HIV among injectors ranked very high, as well as demand for treatment. In Western and Central Europe, abuse both among the general population and youth and the rates of injecting drug abuse appeared high, while the proportion of new people seeking treatment was lower. In Eastern and South-Eastern Europe, injecting drug abuse was high and reports of people below 15 years seeking treatment for heroin abuse were cause for concern. In Oceania, the prevalence of abuse among both youth and the adult population was high, while demand for treatment was lower than in any other region.

A global analysis by drug type indicated stabilization or decrease of heroin and cocaine abuse, some increase in cannabis consumption, although at a slower rate, and signs of stabilization regarding ATS abuse, after years of increase.

In order to gain a comprehensive picture of progress in drug demand reduction, the report stressed the need to consider the evolution of drug abuse and the progress in demand reduction responses by States. The Commission should encourage States to report on trends in drug abuse prevalence and patterns through the annual reports questionnaire and provide supplementary information on developments since 1998. It should also reiterate the need to establish national drug information systems for monitoring the situation and regional coordination for exchange of expertise.

**ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL ACTION**

On 25 July [meeting 44], the Economic and Social Council, on the recommendation of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs [E/CN.7/2007/28 & Corr.1], adopted resolution 2007/10 without vote [agenda item 14 (d)].

**Improvement of drug abuse data collection by Member States in order to enhance data reliability and the comparability of information provided**

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling that, in the preamble to the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961, the parties to the 1961 Convention considered that effective measures against abuse of narcotic drugs required coordinated and universal action and understood that such action called for international cooperation guided by the same principles and aimed at common objectives,

Recalling also the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971,

Recalling further that the General Assembly at its twentieth special session recognized the importance of comprehensive and objective information for the control of drugs,
Recalling that the World Health Organization has developed guidelines for the collection of data on prevalence, trends and patterns of drug abuse and problems related to drug use, with the aim of supporting Member States in developing assessments that are internationally comparable and based on valid, reliable and timely data,

Recalling also that the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime has developed a toolkit for monitoring drug abuse, which provides a pragmatic approach for Member States to use to assess the drug abuse situation,

Considering that the World Health Organization published in 2000 the Guide to Drug Abuse Epidemiology with the objective of updating the methodology for the collection of data incorporating technical advances of the previous twenty years,

Considering also that, as the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime pointed out in its World Drug Report 2006, some States lack the monitoring systems required to produce reliable, comprehensive and internationally comparable data, and stressing the importance of more Member States submitting their replies to the annual reports questionnaire and the biennial reports questionnaire, thereby ensuring better global representation in the assessment of all aspects of the drug problem,

Recalling the Declaration on the Guiding Principles of Drug Demand Reduction, which called for demand reduction programmes to be based on a regular assessment of the nature and magnitude of drug use and abuse and drug-related problems in the population,

Recalling also the Action Plan for the Implementation of the Declaration on the Guiding Principles of Drug Demand Reduction,

1. Stresses the importance of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and other relevant intergovernmental organizations carrying out, at the request of Member States, training programmes to support the adoption of sound methods and the harmonization of indicators used for statistics on drug use, which have already been considered by the Statistical Commission, with a view to the collection and analysis of comparable data on drug abuse;

2. Reaffirms the importance of all Member States submitting to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, including through the annual reports questionnaire and the biennial reports questionnaire, data that are reliable and internationally comparable;

3. Encourages Member States to use, to that end, the Guide to Drug Abuse Epidemiology, published by the World Health Organization, and the toolkit for monitoring drug abuse developed by the Office on Drugs and Crime;

4. Also encourages Member States to provide information to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime pursuant to Commission on Narcotic Drugs resolution 43/1 of 15 March 2000, in which the Commission took note of the consensus reached by technical experts at a meeting, held in Lisbon in January 2000, on the principles, structures and indicators for drug information systems, and pursuant to Commission resolution 44/3 of 29 March 2001.

HIV/AIDS and other blood-borne viruses

A January report by the Executive Director [E/CN.7/2007/11], submitted pursuant to Commission resolution 48/12 [YUN 2005, p. 1363], reviewed action by States and organizations on expanding the capacity of communities to provide information, treatment, health care and social services to people living with HIV/AIDS and other blood-borne diseases in the context of drug abuse, and on strengthening monitoring, evaluation and reporting systems. It also provided information on activities of UNODC as a co-sponsor of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS). The report concluded that, despite global improvements, the limited nature of the interventions in many regions suggested that the level of access to effective HIV/AIDS services for injecting drug users was very low, and more should be done to address HIV/AIDS prevention, care and support services, especially among abusers. It was essential to strengthen the capacity of communities to provide information, care and support services on a larger scale and to tackle the issue of stigmatization and discrimination, as well as to engage in joint programming involving all stakeholders, including national and international organizations, civil society organizations and donor communities. UNODC action in relation to HIV/AIDS and drug use increased considerably not only as it related to funding but also in the efforts to identify strategies to reduce HIV infection among abusers. However, more should be done, in particular in increasing the coordination of assistance provided to countries by the numerous channels and sources of funding available at the multilateral and bilateral levels.

Illicit cultivation, manufacture and trafficking

On 16 March [E/2007/28/Rev.1 (res. 50/5)], the Commission on Narcotic Drugs invited INCB, working with States, international bodies and initiatives such as Project Cohesion, to identify the main sources of the acetic anhydride supplied to the main regions manufacturing heroin, the potassium permanganate supplied to the regions manufacturing cocaine, and the ephedrine, pseudoephedrine and 1-phenyl-2-propanone supplied to the regions manufacturing amphetamine and methamphetamine. It urged them to identify the methods of diversions and the trafficking routes and called upon States to assist INCB.

Also on 16 March [res. 50/10], the Commission called upon States to recognize the threat of diversion of ephedra (as plant material or in processed form) used in the illicit manufacture of methamphetamine, as well as phenylacetic acid, the precursor of 1-phenyl-2-propanone used in the manufacture of amphetamine and methamphetamine. It called upon States to monitor their trade movements by sending pre-export notifications using the INCB Pre-Export Notification (PEN) Online system for their consignments, and invited countries of destination to provide timely responses to those notifications. The Commission encouraged exporting, importing and transit countries to exercise vigilance with respect
to consignments of ephedra and phenylacetic acid, and invited States to collect information on ephedra and provide INCBC with information on its trafficking. It called upon States to develop voluntary monitoring systems to complement their laws and regulations by fostering cooperation between competent authorities and industrial sectors and operators along the supply and demand chain, and to apply the monitoring measures associated with the limited international special surveillance list of non-scheduled substances, set up by INCBC. It also invited States to interchange national voluntary monitoring lists of relevant non-controlled substances and provide INCBC with information on their trafficking and diversion patterns. The Commission urged States to develop guidelines and training programmes for operators, in cooperation with INCBC and UNODC; to review their legislation to facilitate the exchange of samples of precursors with authorized drug and precursor analysis laboratories; and to extend legislation, agreements and arrangements authorizing controlled deliveries in investigations relating to the misuse of non-controlled substances in illicit manufacture. It invited States and international organizations to cooperate with INCBC, in particular its Project Prism and Project Cohesion.

On the same date [res. 50/9], the Commission affirmed the need to promote the use of laboratory information derived from drug characterization and chemical profiling in order to obtain updated assessments of illicit manufacture and trafficking trends and to identify chemical substances used in illicit manufacture. It also affirmed the need to develop, strengthen and harmonize drug characterization and chemical profiling activities of the international drug law enforcement community, pursuant to its resolution 47/5 [YUN 2004, p. 1251]. The Commission encouraged States to use characterization and chemical profiling to identify drug sources, trafficking routes and illicit distribution patterns, assess manufacture and trafficking trends and identify chemical substances used in manufacture; and called upon States to promote the sharing and exchange of characterization and chemical profiling information in support of strengthened control against manufacture and trafficking. The Executive Director was requested to develop the programme of technical assistance relating to characterization and chemical profiling and the elaboration of assessments of trends in illicit manufacturing and trafficking, in consultation with interested States, particularly developing countries, taking into account their specific needs in that area.

Also on the same date [res. 50/6], the Commission encouraged the joint forum of the Asian Collaborative Group on Local Precursor Control and the International Forum on Control of Precursors for ATS to implement the work programme adopted at the forum meeting held in Tokyo (13-16 February), annexed to the resolution. It invited States to adopt similar regional collaborative mechanisms for the control of ATS precursors, within the framework of the relevant intergovernmental organizations.

**Communication.** In June [A/61/987], Uzbekistan informed the Secretary-General of measures it had taken to fight the illicit flow of drugs. As the initiator of the Central Asia Regional Information and Coordination Centre to combat transnational crime connected with illicit trafficking in Central Asia, Uzbekistan, together with the other States in the region, was engaged in efforts against drugs and implemented a comprehensive programme to combat trafficking. A series of UN and EU programmes and subregional projects were being implemented, aimed at assisting the countries of the region and harmonizing the efforts of law enforcement agencies to combat the growing problem of abuse. Operation “Opium-2007” was being implemented, marking a stepping-up of the fight against crime associated with the illicit importation, preparation and use of narcotics. Particular attention was paid to measures to prevent addiction and to the rehabilitation aspect of the system of narcotics-related assistance.

**Secretariat report.** A report by the Secretariat [E/CN.7/2008/5] described global and regional developments in illicit drug production and trafficking, focusing on statistics for 2005-2006 on seizure activities and on cultivation and production for 2005-2007. Information on cultivation and production of plant-based drugs was drawn from UNODC crop-monitoring surveys and information on trafficking from replies by Governments to the annual reports questionnaire relating to illicit supply. Other sources included reports on seizures and other reports received by UNODC or submitted to the Commission and its subsidiary bodies. Cannabis continued to be the most widely produced, trafficked and consumed plant-based drug worldwide. In 2006, cannabis herb interdiction totalled 4,675 tons, holding stable at 2005 levels. Seizures of cannabis resin amounted to 979 tons, a 24 per cent decrease from 2005, reflecting the declining production in Morocco. Illicit opium production and trafficking in opiates continued. In 2006, opium production was estimated at 6,610 tons, and was expected to reach 8,900 tons in 2007. Afghanistan’s production increased to some 8,200 tons, amounting to 93 per cent of global production. Opium interdiction was stable at 339 tons and heroin interdiction reached 58 tons in 2005 and 45.6 tons in 2006. Illicit cultivation of coca leaf, as well as cocaine manufacture, decreased slightly in 2006. Coca cultivation in the three main producing Andean countries was estimated at 156,900 hectares and potential production at 984 tons. Cocaine seizures reached 748 tons in 2005 and a preliminary total of 695 tons in 2006, which indicated a stable pattern. ATS interdiction amounted to 38 tons in 2005. However, in 2006, seizures decreased to 20 tons. With
regard to MDMA (Ecstasy), seizures decreased to 4.3 tons in 2006, a 16 per cent drop from 2005. Methaqualone seizures increased nearly tenfold, from 630 kilograms in 2005 to 5.2 tons in 2006.

The report concluded that international efforts to assist Afghanistan should be strengthened. In Myanmar, although progress had been made in reducing opium poppy cultivation and production, the 2007 figures had increased, and the country needed to ensure that the situation was effectively addressed. With regard to coca, despite eradication successes in Colombia and a decline in the Andean region in the area under cultivation since 2000, its production remained at a high level. Criminal organizations and farmers had improved coca yields as a result of more efficient use of fertilizers and pesticides and the refinement of knowledge and skill in processing the leaf into coca paste, coca base and cocaine hydrochloride. The trafficking via Africa, in particular to Western Europe, increased. Many law enforcement agencies in Africa lacked the technical equipment, trained personnel and access to forensic service, and further international support was required.

In its recommendations, the report stressed that legislation should be put in place and appropriate resources made available to enhance the effectiveness of controlled delivery operations. UNODC should support the analytical work of laboratories by providing technical assistance. It should also provide advice on best practices and encourage the use of advisory manuals. Consideration should be given to expanding the scope of meetings of heads of national drug law enforcement agencies to include broader organized crime issues maintaining the focus on trafficking in drugs and precursors. Law enforcement authorities should be aware of the technologies available to trafficking syndicates for communication and data exchange, and should develop partnerships with other government agencies, civil society and NGOs to implement demand reduction strategies. Controls over the manufacture, sale and movement of precursors should counter the changing tactics of traffickers, and law enforcement authorities should be equipped with the expertise and skills needed to guide the dismantling of laboratories and the disposal of chemicals associated with such manufacture. Training for key agencies responsible for law enforcement should be coordinated and integrated, and international initiatives focusing on drugs and precursors should be provided with resources, equipment and technology.

**Internet drug sales**

On 16 March [E/2007/28/Rev.1 (res. 50/11)], the Commission acknowledged the efforts made by States and international and regional organizations in adopting measures to combat the illegal distribution of internationally controlled licit drugs via the Internet, and invited States to take into consideration the efforts of international and regional organizations, such as the guide entitled “Drugs in cyberspace: understanding and investigating diversion and distribution of controlled substances via the Internet”, when examining whether adequate measures existed to regulate, investigate and prosecute that illegal distribution. The Commission encouraged States to notify INCB of seizures of internationally controlled licit substances ordered via the Internet and delivered through the mail, and urged INCB to prevent the misuse of the Internet for the illegal movement of licit drugs. It invited States with experience in investigating drug-related Internet-based crime to provide equipment, training and assistance to other States, in cooperation with UNODC. It decided to continue to discuss this issue in 2008.

**Alternative development**

In a January report [E/2007/28] on strengthening international cooperation for alternative development, prepared pursuant to Economic and Social Council resolution 2006/33 [YUN 2006, p. 1458], the Executive Director described UNODC’s role in promoting alternative development and preventive alternative development, with due regard for environmental protection. It also provided a review of the cooperation of States and the financing of alternative development. The report stated that, despite a 28 per cent reduction in illicit coca bush cultivation from 2000 to 2005, in the Andean region many obstacles remained to making reductions in cultivation of illicit crops sustainable. Securing markets for products from alternative development programmes continued to be a primary obstacle to successful project implementation in that region, as States were confronted with trade barriers, high tariffs and import duties, subsidized competition and ambiguous preferential trade agreements. There were also new challenges related to displacement and expansion, as alternative development interventions resulted in growers and traffickers planting smaller plots of illicit crops in more remote areas, often having a negative impact on protected parks and nature reserves. In South-East Asia, where the challenges were different from those in the Andean region, eradication efforts compounded growing poverty, exacerbated food shortages and increased the indiscriminate use of wood and timber from forests and protected lands. As a result, cultivation in some areas was displaced to other parts of the country or the region to offset the loss of income previously gained from opium poppy cultivation. States recognized that efforts should be undertaken to open up markets, provide equal access for alternative development products and design environmentally friendly programmes. UNODC continued to view alternative development as the principal vehicle to reduce or eliminate illicit crop cultivation...
and to address the factors driving peasant farmers to engage in illicit cultivation. To raise the donor community’s awareness of the cross-cutting nature of illicit cultivation, the Office in December 2006 began to participate in the Global Donor Platform for Rural Development to ensure that traditional agricultural and rural development activities took into consideration the objectives and actions of alternative development and to create momentum for the concept of preventive alternative development.

The report concluded that, although States, international organizations, development organizations and international financial institutions were still committed to the provisions of resolution 2006/33, translating political commitment to effective on-the-ground interventions was hampered by a lack of technical and financial resources, as well as by ambiguous or unclear policies and competing priorities and national interests on the part of donors. Efforts should be made to secure markets or provide access, which should be coupled with the elimination of subsidized national competition, and consideration should be given to the impact of certain domestic and foreign trade policies and systems of preferences on marketing of alternative development products. The participation of the private sector in marketing and product support was vital.

In addition, little had been accomplished in ensuring that the approaches and objectives of alternative development and rural development worked in tandem in areas of common interest. The principles of a balanced approach and a shared responsibility continued to be the framework under which alternative development assistance was provided, and most States recognized the importance of a balance between law enforcement, eradication and alternative development. What was absent was an effort to engage the concept of preventive alternative development as a means to improve the situation of a rural population at risk for involvement in illicit cultivation.

The international community should recognize that development-oriented crop reduction strategies were long-term and required a comprehensive approach involving the participation of all parts of government, the donor community, civil society, the private sector and beneficiary communities. International organizations, financial institutions, development agencies and States should provide funding to alternative development programmes and projects, and donors and development agencies should take into account that projects could not fulfil their objectives if funds were inadequate. Efforts should be made to increase awareness on the part of the international development and financial community as to the importance of including development-oriented drug control interventions in their overall national development programmes. States and the international community should bring alternative development into the mainstream of broader development programmes and introduce illicit cultivation and alternative development into their consultations with the World Bank on poverty reduction strategy papers. The international community should support those States that implemented alternative development as a strategy to reduce the likelihood that marginalized populations would become engaged in illicit cultivation. The private sector continued to be a key element for successful programming, and UNODC should strengthen partnerships to identify, produce and market products from alternative development programmes. UNODC and interested States should also design innovative approaches to tackle illicit crop cultivation and its impact on the environment.

**Regional cooperation**

In a report to the Commission [E/CN.7/2008/6], the Secretariat reviewed action taken by the Commission’s subsidiary bodies in 2007. Following a review of trafficking trends and regional and subregional cooperation, each subsidiary body addressed drug law enforcement issues of priority in its region and made recommendations. The seventh meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies (HONLEA), Europe (Vienna, 19-22 June) [UNODC/HONLEA/2007/5], considered cocaine trafficking in Europe; transnational law enforcement investigation techniques; criminal groups operating illicit drug trafficking networks within Europe; and money-laundering. The seventeenth meeting of HONLEA, Africa (Nairobi, Kenya, 17-20 September) [UNODC/HONLEA/2007/5], considered the value and effectiveness of controlled delivery operations; mobilizing community support for drug law enforcement strategies; inter-agency cooperation: a unified response to combating illicit drug trafficking; and the role of forensic laboratories: specific scientific support to Africa. The seventeenth meeting of HONLEA, Latin America and the Caribbean (Quito, Ecuador, 15-19 October) [UNODC/HONLAC/2007/5], examined cannabis plant cultivation and trafficking in cannabis in the region; money-laundering and related criminal activities in the region; and trafficking in and commercialization of ATS. The thirty-first meeting of HONLEA, Asia and the Pacific (Bangkok, Thailand, 13-16 November) [UNODC/HONLAP/2007/5], considered the regional response to heroin trafficking; the growing significance of ATS illicit manufacture in the region; and inter-agency cooperation: a unified response to combating drug trafficking. The forty-second session of the Subcommission on Illicit Drug Traffic and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East (Agra, India, 3-7 December) [UNODC/SUBCOM/2007/5] considered cannabis plant cultivation and cannabis trafficking in the region of the Subcommission; law enforcement strategies to mo-
bilize community support for drug demand reduction; and trafficking in opiates, precursor control and the increased need for international cooperation.

**Strengthening UN mechanisms**

The Commission on Narcotic Drugs had before it a note by the Secretary-General [A/61/583] transmitting the report of the High-level Panel on UN System-wide Coherence in the Areas of Development, Humanitarian Assistance and the Environment, entitled “Delivering as one” [YUN 2006, p. 1584]. It also had before it a Secretariat note [E/CN.7/2007/15-E/CN.15/2007/10] which stated that the report attached to the note by the Secretary-General was made available to the Commission on Narcotic Drugs at its fiftieth session and the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice at its sixteenth session for their information.