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### **Commission on Narcotic Drugs**

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**Follow-up to the twentieth special session of the General**

**Assembly: general overview and progress achieved by  
Governments in meeting the goals and targets for the  
years 2003 and 2008 set out in the Political Declaration  
adopted by the Assembly at its twentieth special session**

**General debate of the ministerial segment: assessment of  
the progress achieved and the difficulties encountered in  
meeting the goals and targets set out in the Political  
Declaration adopted by the General Assembly at its  
twentieth special session**

**Second biennial report on the implementation of the  
outcome of the twentieth special session of the General  
Assembly, devoted to countering the world drug problem  
together**

**Report of the Executive Director**

**Addendum**

**Action Plan against Illicit Manufacture, Trafficking and  
Abuse of Amphetamine-type Stimulants and Their  
Precursors**

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## **I. Introduction: the threat posed by amphetamine-type stimulants**

1. The demand for amphetamine-type stimulants (ATS) has been increasing in most countries. ATS most frequently abused and sold illicitly include amphetamine, methamphetamine, methylenedioxyamphetamine (MDA), methylenedioxyethylamphetamine (MDE), methylenedioxymethamphetamine (MDMA), commonly known as Ecstasy, and methcathinone, which are mainly manufactured in clandestine laboratories. Methamphetamine rivals cocaine as the stimulant of choice in many parts of the globe. In South-East Asia, methamphetamine has displaced heroin as the main drug threat. As in previous years, most of the drug offences in Japan in 2001 were for methamphetamine.

2. The nature of the ATS problem presents specific challenges at the national, regional and global levels. Some of the characteristics of ATS, such as the simple and flexible manufacturing techniques, readily available raw materials, high profit margins for traffickers and low prices for abusers, as well as its benign image, are incentives that have led to an expansion of illicit markets.

3. In spite of increasing evidence of long-term toxicity, ATS are perceived as safe and harmless. Indeed, Ecstasy's most pernicious quality is that many of its young abusers view it as a non-addictive stimulant without lasting side effects. When an addictive drug develops a reputation of being relatively benign, efforts to suppress it become correspondingly difficult. In much of Europe and South-East Asia, Ecstasy has become the drug of choice for young people. Contrary to the perception that it is benign, recent studies on Ecstasy have found severe psychiatric and neuro-cognitive consequences resulting from long-term abuse, including serious adverse effects on the psychological and mental state of the abuser. ATS cause dependence and carry an addiction risk that is similar to that of cocaine. Use of ATS also leads to increasing tolerance levels, requiring ever-higher doses to achieve the same mood-elevating effects.

4. To counter the emerging trends in the illicit manufacture, trafficking and abuse of synthetic drugs, the General Assembly, at its twentieth special session, adopted the Action Plan against Illicit Manufacture, Trafficking and Abuse of Amphetamine-type Stimulants and Their Precursors (Assembly resolution S-20/4). The Action Plan recommends action in five key areas: raising awareness of the problem of ATS; reducing illicit demand for ATS; providing accurate information; limiting supply; and strengthening the control system for ATS and their precursors. The structure of the present report is based on the Action Plan, beginning with an introduction on the legal framework for international cooperation to counter the ATS problem.

## **II. The legal framework for international cooperation**

5. Most Governments (88 per cent) replying to a biennial questionnaire, in accordance with paragraph 20 of the Political Declaration adopted by the General Assembly at its twentieth special session (resolution S-20/2, annex) reported that they had implemented the provisions of the international drug control treaties, the resolutions and decisions of the Economic and Social Council and the Commission on Narcotic Drugs as well as the recommendations of the International Narcotics

Control Board, relating to the illicit manufacture, trafficking and abuse of synthetic drugs, in particular ATS. Measures applicable to ATS were included in national laws and regulations. In some countries, however, the international drug control treaties had been only partially implemented, and national legislation was being amended or new regulations were being adopted to implement the treaty provisions relating to ATS. Some Governments commented on the reasons why the various international measures against the illicit trafficking and abuse of ATS had not yet been implemented. In some cases, it was indicated that there was no national plan against abuse and illicit trafficking of drugs or that there was a lack of expertise and that international assistance was required for the implementation of the global legislative framework addressing the various aspects of the ATS problem.

### **III. Raising awareness of the problem of amphetamine-type stimulants**

6. The ATS problem is rapidly changing in scope and geographical spread, yet global awareness of it is limited, and responses to it are heterogeneous and inconsistent. The Action Plan called on Member States to give priority to combating the ATS problem in all its aspects. Most Governments (80 per cent) reported that they had adopted measures to raise awareness of the problem of ATS and had given it high priority. Several Governments have launched national prevention campaigns and strategies to reduce the illicit demand for and abuse of drugs, including ATS. During 2001, several public awareness campaigns on the harmful effects of ATS have focused on parents and youth, as in Australia and Germany. Mass media campaigns, interactive media, the Internet, telephone hotlines, sports events, counselling centres, seminars and workshops and written materials, such as leaflets, brochures, school curricula and syllabuses, have been used in the majority of the reporting States as means to raise awareness about the dangers of ATS. Counselling centres and special hotlines targeting youth had been set up and were available during rave parties.

7. A large majority of Governments (60 per cent) indicated that their initiatives to raise awareness targeted specific groups, such as medical personnel, youth or other vulnerable groups and law enforcement officials. Other groups targeted for awareness programmes included religious and grass roots associations, counsellors and officials of local government, researchers, officials of drug control and judicial bodies, schools and universities, truck drivers and non-governmental organizations. The entertainment and pharmaceutical industries had been considered target groups for measures to raise awareness of the problem of ATS by a significant number of reporting Governments (40 per cent). In several countries, programmes to raise awareness were organized for all types of drugs, including ATS. These initiatives have contributed to improvement of knowledge about the effects of ATS abuse.

### **IV. Reducing illicit demand for amphetamine-type stimulants**

8. In several countries, abuse of ATS is increasingly concentrated among younger people, who widely and erroneously believe the substances to be safe and benign. As a result, abuse of ATS is threatening to become a part of the mainstream drug

abuse culture among youth. Reducing demand for illicit ATS has accordingly become a key component of the global strategy adopted at the special session by the General Assembly.

## **A. Measures to reduce demand**

9. An increased number of Governments (75 per cent, as compared to 57 per cent in the first reporting cycle) replying to the questionnaire reported that they had adopted measures to reduce the illicit demand for ATS. National prevention campaigns to reduce illicit demand for ATS had been launched by most Governments (60 per cent). However, less than a third of those replying had adopted measures, such as the provision of specialized treatment and aftercare services or other interventions, to reduce the adverse consequences of abuse of ATS. For example, in Australia the National Diversion Initiative had been established to provide certain illicit drug offenders with drug education and treatment. In other cases, Governments had provided grants to non-governmental organizations to establish and operate services for treatment of drug abusers and training of workers who come in contact with drug abusers. Research was being carried out to find new ways to prevent and treat drug abuse, with a strong focus on abstinence-based treatments and on approaches aimed at reintegrating abusers into the community.

10. Measures taken to reduce demand for illicit ATS included education, prevention, treatment, monitoring, evaluation and research projects to prevent drug abuse and addiction. In some countries, social, personal and health education programmes had been developed and included in school curricula to raise awareness in primary and secondary schools. Strict control was being exercised by several Governments to prevent the abuse and possession of even small amounts of ATS. This approach was complemented by sanctions, including imprisonment and fines for any act of publicity or propaganda intended to encourage the abuse of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances. Some Governments have started to disseminate information through Internet web sites on the danger of ATS (for example, Colombia, Denmark and Venezuela).

11. Specific measures had been taken to target youth and the perception of ATS as a benign, non-addictive recreational drug. In several countries in Europe and South-East Asia, controls at entertainment sites and discotheques have been strengthened and the staff of nightclubs have been informed of the dangers of ATS. Some Governments have initiated prevention activities at rave parties (for example, the Czech Republic and Slovenia).

## **B. Monitoring illicit demand for amphetamine-type stimulants**

12. In order to adopt and effectively implement strategies to better target the illicit demand for ATS, it is essential that Governments establish a reliable set of data on ATS abuse patterns. Noticeable progress has been made. Almost 60 per cent of the Governments replying to the questionnaire, as compared to 48 per cent in the first reporting cycle, reported that they had adopted measures to monitor continuously the illicit demand for and abuse of ATS. Research results on demand and abuse

patterns of ATS have been integrated into prevention campaigns and treatment efforts by a majority (57 per cent) of Governments.

13. Epidemiological and national household, school and prison surveys have been conducted by several Governments to collect qualitative and quantitative data to monitor the general population's experience of and attitude towards drug abuse (for example, Australia, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Denmark, Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of China, New Zealand, Trinidad and Tobago and United States of America). The surveys assessed the most recent patterns and trends in drug abuse, including abuse of ATS. For example, the Australian School Students' Alcohol and Drugs Survey collected information on the abuse of alcohol, tobacco and illicit drugs by secondary school students. In Canada, the monitoring of ATS prevalence and incidence was included within the monitoring of all substance abuse, including alcohol, and was integrated into regular national health and/or youth surveys. Some surveys focused specifically on the magnitude and pattern of abuse of ATS. In some countries, specific national monitoring surveys were conducted annually on high school youth to provide information on drug abuse trends.

14. Information systems and national databases have been set up in several countries to evaluate and monitor the demand for and abuse of ATS. In some cases, the pharmaceutical services inspectorate carried out periodic monitoring, or the Ministry of Health operated a monitoring system based on counterfoil books of prescription forms issued by practitioners to ascertain details of the quality and quantity prescribed, the particulars of the practitioner, the patient, the place of sale and the person responsible for making the sale. A system of registration of those found abusing ATS had been established in some countries. As a result of effective law enforcement initiatives, some Governments were continuously monitoring the seizures of ATS, which have increased, together with their precursors. A number of Governments reported on novel initiatives to monitor the abuse of ATS. In Denmark, a two-year model pilot project had been launched in collaboration with regional entities to test various approaches in the prevention of abuse of ATS, and in France adopted measures were implemented by a network of centres for drug dependency information and assessment.

15. To enhance cooperation against the ATS threat, the States members of the European Union have established an early warning system for new synthetic drugs. Other countries have established early warning systems for identifying changes in illicit drug markets, mainly for heroin, ATS, cocaine and cannabis, or a monitoring and early warning system for ATS and new synthetic drugs.

16. Several Governments reported that they had regularly conducted national epidemiological surveys on drug abuse prevalence and conditions of abuse, including for ATS. Monitoring of demand for illicit drugs, in particular ATS, was also effected through the collection of information from a variety of sources, including treatment and rehabilitation centres, research and studies on drug abuse and drug abusers, sociological studies and records of police departments and hospitals (for example, in Trinidad and Tobago, Italy, Kyrgyzstan, Portugal, Philippines, Russian Federation, Uruguay and Zambia), or reports provided by non-governmental organizations (for example in the Republic of Korea). Several Governments have funded the establishment of databases on drug abuse (for example, Ireland) or established a national system for epidemiological monitoring of drug abusers (for example, Luxembourg and Venezuela).

### **C. Specific programmes to prevent experimentation with amphetamine-type stimulants by youth**

17. Prevention programmes targeting youth play a critical role in countering ATS abuse, and Governments were called upon to include in their education campaigns information on the harmful effects of abuse of ATS. In several countries, ATS abuse was increasingly concentrated among youth and threatened to become a part of the mainstream culture. Significant progress has been made by Governments in adopting programmes addressing the specific needs of young people. More than half of the Governments replying to the questionnaire, 53 per cent as compared with 39 per cent in the first reporting cycle, indicated that they had adopted specific programmes to prevent youth from experimenting with ATS. Several of those Governments reported that school-based prevention programmes to inform youth of the harmful effects of illicit drugs, including ATS, had been extensively carried out. Specific studies or research projects on Ecstasy and young people had been initiated in some countries (for example, Estonia).

18. The national strategy in several countries focused on enhanced preventive drug education programmes to reverse the increase in abuse of illicit drugs by school students. Specific activities included bringing school staff, students, parents and key community members together to develop more integrated community engagement and support in addressing drug abuse by young people; innovative anti-drug media campaigns designed to engender resilience in young people and strengthen their ability to resist the temptation to experiment with illicit drugs; provision of grants to drug abuse prevention programmes; and special in- and out-of-school education programmes targeting youth and street children in urban areas (Australia, Ethiopia, United States).

### **V. Providing accurate information on amphetamine-type stimulants**

19. Recipes for clandestine manufacture of ATS, techniques of abuse of ATS, images of ATS as harmless drugs, and methods of evading existing controls are all widely available, including on the Internet. Governments have the prime responsibility for countering malign influences through the positive use of information technology, such as the Internet, to provide accurate information on ATS.

20. International cooperation is essential to address problems arising from the unscrupulous use of Internet web sites to facilitate the illicit sale of controlled substances and their precursors. In the second reporting cycle, the number of Governments responding to the questionnaire that had taken measures to prevent dissemination of information related to illicit drugs on the Internet increased significantly to 25 per cent from 14 per cent for the first reporting cycle.

21. Law enforcement capabilities to counter the use of information technology in connection with organized crime, including the distribution of illicit drugs, have gradually improved, in particular following the establishment of specialized units for the investigation of Internet-related criminal activities. In several countries, law enforcement authorities continuously monitor web pages containing information on

illicit drugs and on the promotion and sale of illicit drugs, including ATS. Legislation has been adopted to authorize various investigative measures to counter the use of information technology for criminal activities in a number of countries, including Denmark, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Poland, Japan, the Netherlands, the Republic of Korea, Spain and the United States.

22. Some Governments have established regulatory frameworks for the control of illegal or highly offensive material published or transmitted through online services, such as the Internet, and to protect children from exposure to such material. In some cases, community advisory bodies have been established to research new access management technologies and to promote a safe Internet experience for young people. Some States members of the European Union reported that they were actively participating in the implementation of the Action Plan to Combat Drugs, adopted by the European Union in 1999, which contained guidelines for safe use of the Internet. Regulatory schemes or advisory boards for Internet service providers have also been set up in some countries in Europe, and joint investigations between law enforcement authorities have been undertaken. Some countries have adopted a self-regulatory approach under which Internet law enforcement services were encouraged to manage the content of web sites and to aid in combating cyber-crime, including drug offences. In Hong Kong SAR and Singapore, for example, law enforcement agencies maintained a “watching brief” on Internet sites.

23. In addition to measures to control the dissemination of drug-related information via the Internet, some Governments have established a comprehensive legal framework to prevent and sanction drug-related offences related to the use of any kind of mass media communication for the promotion of illicit drugs. The Government of Uruguay indicated that, within the framework of the Common Market of the Southern Cone (MERCOSUR), measures had been adopted to prevent purchases of illicit drugs via the Internet, and that such measures were being incorporated in the national legislation of each member country.

### **Use of information technology to disseminate information on adverse effects of amphetamine-type stimulants**

24. Modern information technology should be used to disseminate information on the adverse health, social and economic consequences of ATS abuse. The Internet, for example, should be used as an instrument to reach young people. Forty-four per cent of the Governments that replied said that they had used information technology to disseminate information on the adverse health, social and economic consequences of the abuse of ATS. While there has been significant progress, more Governments should develop strategies for using all the means provided by modern information technology to disseminate information on the adverse consequences of ATS abuse.

25. Several Governments reported that they had set up national drug information web pages to disseminate information about drug prevention to the public, including parents, students and health care professionals (for example, Colombia, El Salvador, Estonia and Hong Kong SAR). In some countries, the police web site had been supplemented with a link to provide minors and their parents assistance for drug problems in families. Several Governments also reported that they had set up free telephone services to inform the public on the adverse health, social and economic



consequences of drugs and to disseminate information about treatment centres (for example, Australia, Brazil, Colombia). Mass media and printed media were also widely used to spread information about illicit drugs. In Australia, web sites had been upgraded, drawing upon information on licit and illicit drugs, including ATS, by offering links via the Internet to more than 600 web sites within Australia and around the world. States members of the European Union and some associate member States were cooperating in the context of the European Union Drug Prevention Internet Project (PREVNET) initiated in 2000.

## **VI. Limiting the supply of amphetamine-type stimulants**

26. The global illicit ATS market is supplied through the spread and diversification of clandestine manufacture, as well as diversion from the licit market. For ATS, the principal supply control strategies are to target trafficking, stop illicit manufacture and prevent diversion of laboratory equipment and the chemical precursors. Precursor control is of primary importance, as the precursors of ATS, in addition to the end products, are trafficked interregionally. As the precursors have a wide range of licit industrial uses, effective monitoring can be successful only with the close cooperation of the chemical industry.

27. Sixty-three per cent of the Governments replying to the questionnaire reported taking measures to detect the clandestine manufacture of ATS. Information systems and databases for the monitoring of illicit trafficking of ATS and clandestine laboratories have been set up in many countries. In several countries, a specialized law enforcement service was responsible for identifying and dismantling ATS manufacturing sites and the sources of diversion of ATS. Their activities included monitoring methods of manufacturing, identifying trends in illicit manufacture and imports and identifying supplier-dealer-abuser networks, as well as providing support for the prosecution of offences and assisting in profiling and sample comparisons. In Australia, all police forces and forensic laboratories were actively involved in the detection and subsequent investigation of clandestine laboratories. Furthermore, the national heroin signature programme had been extended to include ATS, in order to use acquired expertise and experience to identify the origin of ATS.

28. Forty-eight per cent of the Governments replying to the questionnaire reported taking measures to monitor the manufacturing methods used in clandestine laboratories. The measures also included monitoring of the availability of tableting machines and technical equipment required for the manufacture of ATS. Strict controls had been placed on the pharmaceutical laboratories manufacturing and distributing ATS to prevent the diversion of ATS from licit sources. In Italy, for example, clandestine laboratories were often detected by monitoring information on the purchase of laboratory equipment.

### **A. Measures to improve operational capabilities of forensic laboratories**

29. A large number of Governments replying to the questionnaire (60 per cent) have adopted specific measures to improve the operational capabilities of forensic laboratories to enable them to provide scientific support to law enforcement

investigations. The Governments of Estonia and the Netherlands, for example, reported that legislation had been adopted defining the legal status of forensic experts, state forensic institutions and officially certified experts, so as to involve them more closely in the investigation and prosecution of cases concerning synthetic drugs, in particular in the analyses of ATS.

30. Thirty-eight per cent of the reporting Governments, compared with 31 per cent in the first reporting cycle, regularly carry out signature analysis and profiling of ATS seizures, mostly in national forensic laboratories. Thirty-four per cent of the Governments that responded indicated that other laboratory technical support had been provided to law enforcement agencies. In Canada, Colombia, Mexico, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States, for example, forensic laboratories were providing scientific support to law enforcement investigations through analysis, drug impurity profiling for sample comparisons and matching purposes, on-site clandestine laboratory support, in-house expert evidence training and other laboratory support. In Australia, a National Drugs Logos Database (for Ecstasy and lysergic acid diethylamide (LSD), etc.) and a secure Internet site accessible to law enforcement officers and competent scientific experts had been developed.

31. Various initiatives have been taken to combine forensic and law enforcement information with a view to improving efficacy in tackling the illicit manufacture of synthetic drugs, in particular. For example, several States members of the European Union (Denmark, Germany, Greece, Italy, Netherlands and United Kingdom) reported that a project called Comprehensive Action Against Synthetic Drugs in Europe (CASE) has emerged as an important instrument of cooperation within the Union. CASE, together with other projects, such as the project on development of a harmonized method for the profiling of amphetamines and the Central Analysis Program Ecstasy (CAPE), have enhanced the level of cooperation among law enforcement agencies in countering trafficking of ATS.

32. Several Governments reported on bilateral and other initiatives to enhance cooperation. For example, Germany and the United Kingdom were participating in the Swedish Amphetamine Analysis Programme and the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP) methamphetamine profiling project. Poland was cooperating directly with other Baltic States, namely, Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania.

33. In some cases, a periodic drug bulletin updating the current drug trend and detailing the physical features and chemical composition of newly encountered tablets containing ATS had been issued and distributed to law enforcement departments by national forensic laboratories. In other cases, manuals on the detection of synthetic drugs had been prepared. A database of scientific and technical information on narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and precursor chemicals had been developed by the Council of Heads of State Security and Special Services of the Commonwealth of Independent States.

34. Some Governments, such as Costa Rica and Pakistan, indicated that they had received equipment and training to improve the operational capacity of the forensic laboratory from UNDCP, which had also provided drug-testing kits to several Governments. Some reported that constraints due to the lack of trained staff had prevented the systematic application of standardized collection information on

seized drugs. A project on development of the criminal and forensic science, which was launched by the Poland-Hungary Aid for the Reconstruction of the Economy (PHARE) Programme in Central Europe in August 2002, provided new equipment to laboratories of participating countries, to help speed up the testing of illicit drugs.

## **B. Provision of training in the technical complexities of amphetamine-type stimulants**

35. Forty per cent of Governments reported that they had taken specific measures to provide training in the technical complexities of ATS to law enforcement and to regulatory personnel involved. Training had been provided within the framework of the PHARE project on synthetic drugs and precursors and by UNDCP.

36. Several Governments reported that training on detection and dismantling of clandestine laboratories, drug investigation techniques, combating trafficking through the mail system and exchange of information with competent international authorities had been provided to specific law enforcement teams (for example, Australia, Colombia, Canada, Central African Republic, Egypt, Indonesia, El Salvador, Estonia, Finland, Germany and Ireland). In several countries, training had been provided in the context of group meetings of professionals; seminars on synthetic drugs and clandestine laboratories; training for law enforcement and regulatory personnel working at the national and international levels and for forensic experts in drug detection and identification techniques; as well as seminars on exchange of best practices, with the support of Europol, to prevent the spread of abuse and trafficking in ATS.

37. Forensic laboratories provided training on chemical composition, pharmaceutical and other characteristics of ATS to law enforcement and regulatory personnel. For example, the National Unit on Synthetic Drugs of the Netherlands had developed a specialized course for law enforcement officials on synthetic drugs and had organized training on ATS for law enforcement officers from Western European countries. In the context of its Synthetic Drugs and Precursor Programme PHARE organized training seminars for Hungary and Slovakia and participated in the European Union-subsidized "Twinning project" with Poland and Spain on organized crime and synthetic drugs.

38. A three-year project had been initiated, with the support of the Government of Japan, in drug analysis training and drug impurity profiling for scientific personnel of the police in Thailand and scientists of central narcotics control agencies from Cambodia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Myanmar and Viet Nam.

39. Several Governments reported that they were assisting with the training of law enforcement officers from other countries on detection and dismantling of clandestine laboratories as part of bilateral technical cooperation programmes (for example, the United States). Some countries were seeking technical assistance for training on the technical complexities of ATS for policy makers and practitioners (for example, Trinidad and Tobago). Training was also being provided at regional training institutions, such as the Regional Drug Control Training Centre in Abidjan, the Academy for Drug Research in Cairo and the Turkish International Academy against Drugs and Organized Crime.

**C. Specific measures to investigate, develop and/or introduce procedures for use by law enforcement agencies**

40. Thirty-five per cent of the Governments replying to the questionnaire indicated that they had developed and/or introduced procedures for use by law enforcement authorities for differentiating between groups of substances with closely related chemical structures and for the detection of individual substances within ATS. Several Governments provided the contact details of their national forensic laboratories and referred to the various techniques and analytical methods used. These included thin-layer chromatography, liquid chromatography (for example, in China) and gas chromatography/mass spectrometry technique (for example, Argentina, Germany, France, China, Hong Kong SAR, Ireland and United Kingdom). In Germany, the Federal Criminal Police were developing the methodology for rapid and indestructible testing of drug samples, with the focus on the variety of active agents found in Ecstasy tablets (near infrared spectrometry). In Italy, one of the facets of the so-called "Project Amphetamines", run by the Forensic Police Service, involved the chemical and morphological analysis of seized Ecstasy tablets for the detection of single substances contained in the tablets. In the Netherlands, the National Forensic Institute was able to identify, at an early stage, substances with closely related chemical structures, the so-called "XTC look-alikes". Information on any new or closely related substances detected were provided to law enforcement and health-care officials.

**D. Measures to enhance cooperation with the chemical and pharmaceutical industries**

41. Cooperation with the chemical industry is an essential precondition for initiatives to limit the diversion of precursors essential for the illicit manufacture of ATS and from licit trade. The strengthening of such cooperation was being given increased attention by several Governments.

42. More than half of the Governments (55 per cent) replying to the questionnaire reported that they had taken measures to enhance cooperation with the chemical and pharmaceutical industries to prevent diversion of precursors of ATS and of licit pharmaceuticals containing ATS. In some cases, the competent authorities have actively promoted collaboration with the pharmaceutical and chemical industries to prevent the diversion of precursors of ATS. Companies were regularly visited or inspected, and workshops or seminars were organized to inform personnel from the pharmaceutical and chemical industries about ATS, their precursors, potential abuse and misuse and measures to prevent diversion of those substances. Controls on the licit prescription of ATS were regularly carried out in several countries. In other countries, advocacy campaigns with the pharmaceutical industry had been launched in order to promote cooperation in preventing diversion of precursors and illicit trafficking in ATS. In some countries, codes of conduct and agreements for voluntary cooperation have been established between the chemical industry and government and law enforcement agencies to promote mutual cooperation.

## **E. Non-scheduled substances**

43. Some Governments (45 per cent) replying to the questionnaire indicated that they had taken measures to introduce mechanisms to deal with non-scheduled substances. Most of them have put in place flexible administrative procedures for the inclusion and monitoring of substances in the limited international special surveillance list established by the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB). A special surveillance list and early-warning system for new synthetic drugs has been established by the States members of the European Union. Voluntary cooperation by the pharmaceutical industry with the competent authorities was a key component of all drug/chemical control strategies, including the voluntary monitoring of the surveillance list. Several Governments had strengthened their monitoring and control over the production, management, transport and use of various types of chemicals liable to be processed into drugs (for example, China). Within the framework of the Police and Customs Cooperation in the Nordic countries, a number of substances have been listed for the exchange of information on a voluntary basis. In Australia, most of the special surveillance substances were included in the new national Code of Practice for Supply Diversion into Illicit Drug Manufacture. In Germany, new working partners had been identified and contacted in the context of the detection of non-scheduled chemicals and additives in Ecstasy tablets. In the Netherlands, in the framework of the policy document entitled "A combined effort to combat XTC", considerable extra funds would be provided to the Economic Surveillance and Investigation Service to enable it to intensify precursor control and investigation efforts, as well as to enhance efforts for voluntary monitoring of the list of non-scheduled substances. In some countries, there was no systematic mechanism in the national legislation to deal with non-scheduled substances (for example, Costa Rica).

## **F. Responsible marketing**

44. A large number of Governments (45 per cent) reported having taken measures to prevent the diversion and irresponsible marketing and prescribing of ATS. In most countries, a medical prescription for the dispensation of ATS was a requirement in the majority of reporting countries. In order to prevent diversion and irresponsible marketing and prescribing of ATS, prescription-only medicines could not be advertised to the general public. Marketing and promotional activities that had an impact on the availability of a controlled substance, as well as on the prescribing of a physician, were regulated. In some countries, the distribution and sale of ATS was prohibited.

## **VII. Strengthening the control system for amphetamine-type stimulants and their precursors**

45. In the Action Plan, the General Assembly called upon Governments to strengthen the control system for ATS and their precursors by adopting measures to be implemented at the national and international levels. As a first step, almost half of the Governments (47 per cent) took measures to rapidly identify and assess new ATS found on the illicit markets. Several Governments reported on initiatives taken

to ensure the early identification and assessment of new ATS, including the constant monitoring of trends in drug abuse, manufacture and monitoring of trafficking trends (for example, Argentina, Mexico and United States). Database systems for the collection of information on seized drugs played a pivotal role in providing information on trends and assisting in the rapid identification of new substances on the illicit market, including ATS. Several countries had established a monitoring and early warning system for new synthetic drugs and ATS. The European Warning System operated by the European Police office (Europol) and the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA) for all States members of the European Union had provided a mechanism whereby new substances not under international control would be evaluated and assessed for their possible control in the countries of the European Union. Some Governments also reported on cooperation and exchange of information with international organizations, in particular with INCB, and with other competent authorities, as an important mechanism for detecting and identifying new forms of ATS and their precursors. INCB had provided technical training to competent authorities.

46. Some Governments (35 per cent) reported that they had sped up the scheduling process for synthetic drugs, in particular ATS. Several Governments had put in place flexible administrative procedures that allowed rapid inclusion of new substances on the lists or tables of controlled psychotropic substances. Several countries reported on their initiatives to expedite the scheduling process, including the adoption of legislative measures, such as introduction of the “generic-type controls” approach to scheduling. Some countries have established inter-departmental working groups to monitor the system of control for ATS and the scheduling of ATS and their precursors. The legislation in some countries provided for the immediate inclusion of recently discovered synthetic drugs in the schedule of controlled substances, on a temporary basis (for example, Germany and the United States).

47. Less than half (42 per cent) of the Governments replying to the questionnaire, and a similar percentage (41 per cent) in the first reporting cycle, had introduced appropriate sanctions and penalties for offences relating to ATS and had strengthened law enforcement efforts. In several countries, national legislation had been adopted or amended and sanctions and penalties involving ATS-related offences had been introduced or strengthened. Legislation had been amended to include ATS in the list of controlled substances in a number of countries, including Brunei Darussalam, Canada, Hungary and the Netherlands. Law enforcement efforts against drug-trafficking organizations involved in the illicit manufacture and trafficking of ATS, particularly Ecstasy, methamphetamine hydrochloride, commonly known as “Ice”, and methamphetamine, had intensified.

48. Compared with the first reporting cycle, considerable progress has been made in improving the information available on ATS, particularly with regard to the collection of information on clandestine laboratories, the precursors used, purity levels, prices, sources and substance abuse. Progress to improve data collection with regard to manufacturing methods was less significant. Fifty-four per cent of the Governments replying to the questionnaire, compared with 31 per cent in the first reporting cycle, reported that they had taken measures to improve, at the national or international level, data collection on ATS. National databases had been established in the majority of the reporting States and information was exchanged, on a regular basis, between national agencies, departments and ministries and with international

organizations. For example, the Australian Bureau of Criminal Intelligence had developed the National Illicit Drugs Statistics Framework, which has resulted in standardized and comprehensive national illicit drug statistics and a more accurate and comprehensive analysis of the country's illicit drug situation. The competent authorities in some countries were using other indicators, such as methods of consumption of ATS, places where ATS were marketed and sold illicitly, ways of administering ATS and the modus operandi of drug trafficking organizations.

## **A. Regional cooperation**

49. Regional cooperation was vital to countering the threat posed by the illicit manufacture, trafficking and abuse of ATS. Considerable progress has been made. Almost 60 per cent of the Governments replying to the biennial questionnaire, compared to 50 per cent in the first reporting cycle, reported that they had adopted measures to improve regional cooperation. The measures taken included multilateral exchanges of ATS-related information within the framework of organizations such as INCB, the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN), the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD), EMCDDA, the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Regional Drug Control Programme, Europol, the International Criminal Police Organization (ICPO-Interpol), the Police and Customs Cooperation in the Nordic Countries, and the ASEAN Chiefs of Police (ASEANAPOL), through the regional meetings of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies (HONLEA) covered by UNDCP, or directly between competent authorities of States.

50. The Australian Federal Police was aiming at improving regional cooperation through the Law Enforcement Cooperation Programme in the Pacific region. The twenty-fifth meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Asia and the Pacific, hosted by the Government of Australia, had focused on the control of ATS and their precursors, and recommended that drug law enforcement agencies intensify their efforts to enhance cooperation at the operational level, both nationally and regionally, to meet the new trends in trafficking of stimulants and their precursors. The Anti-Drug Liaison Officials Meeting for International Cooperation, hosted by the Government of the Republic of Korea, regularly discusses the problem of ATS and methods to enhance international cooperation in the enforcement sector.

51. In Europe, cooperation with Europol focused mainly on operational matters. Several European countries had also participated in the activities of the Task Force on Organized Crime in the Baltic Sea Region and the Pompidou Group of the Council of Europe in the field of precursors control and synthetic drugs. Regional cooperation was also taking place through the Mondorf Group, composed of Luxembourg, France, Belgium and Germany. A consortium had been formed, in the context of the European PHARE project on synthetic drugs, involving experts from the Netherlands, Sweden, the United Kingdom and Germany for the exchange of information on drugs, particularly ATS and their precursors. The Czech Republic reported that it had received assistance in the framework of the PHARE project on synthetic drugs from Germany and the Netherlands.

52. Several Governments referred to bilateral initiatives undertaken to enhance cooperation against ATS, including the exchange of information, strengthening of law enforcement cooperation and joint investigation and handling of cases concerning ATS. Particular reference was made to the strengthened cooperation between China and Japan; the Republic of Korea and the Philippines; Cyprus, Israel and Lebanon; the Czech Republic, Hungary, Slovenia and UNDCP in the context of the Prague Memorandum of Understanding; Denmark and Norway; Germany, the Netherlands and the Czech Republic; Colombia, Mexico, Peru and the United States. The customs services of Hong Kong SAR had worked closely with seven overseas counterparts in the exchange of intelligence and in organizing joint enforcement operations to combat illicit drug trafficking activities, in particular of ATS and their precursors, leading to successful seizures, arrests and prosecutions.

53. UNDCP has been engaged in initiatives to assist Governments, in particular in Central America and in East and South-East Asia, in confronting the illicit manufacture, trafficking and abuse of ATS and their precursors. In a landmark agreement to tackle the problem, adopted at the International Congress: In pursuit of a drug-free ASEAN 2015: Sharing the vision, leading the change, which was jointly convened by the Government of Thailand, ASEAN and the Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention and held in Bangkok from 11 to 13 October 2000, the Governments of the States members of ASEAN and China agreed to strengthen their coordinated efforts in different areas of activity related to ATS.

54. Several Governments referred to seminars or training courses, study visits, operational cooperation and financial support to law enforcement agencies from other countries. The Central Narcotics Bureau of Singapore had assisted, in April 2002, the Colombo Plan Drug Advisory Programme in the organization of a regional seminar on ATS. The Government of Spain had organized training courses on drug analysis for technical staff from various Latin American countries. The Governments of Brazil, Colombia, Panama and Peru had coordinated training programmes on synthetic drugs for officials of their drug control agencies. Coordinated training programmes were expected to be conducted by the end of 2002 in Jamaica, Venezuela, Costa Rica and Chile.

55. An INCB conference on ATS precursors, hosted by the United States, had resulted in the establishment of Project PRISM, involving cooperation between law enforcement, regulatory, customs and scientific personnel from various countries in an initiative to reduce/prevent the diversion of ATS precursors.

## **B. Assisting other countries**

56. Implementation of the Action Plan against Illicit Manufacture, Trafficking and Abuse of Amphetamine-type Stimulants and Their Precursors is a shared responsibility. However, only 35 per cent of the Governments replying to the questionnaire, compared with 32 per cent for the first reporting cycle, indicated that they had provided assistance to other countries in dealing with the technical problems posed by the illicit manufacture, trafficking and abuse of ATS. Assistance to Governments has usually consisted of exchange of information and intelligence, training programmes, conferences on ATS control, joint operations and controlled deliveries, transfer of technology and the dispatch of experts on ATS control.



Several Governments referred to extensive programmes of assistance provided to other countries. For example, the Australian Federal Police provided assistance, in particular training, to other countries through the Overseas Liaison Officer Network and the Law Enforcement Cooperation Programme. Drug liaison officers based in major producing or transit countries had strengthened relations between law enforcement agencies at the regional level. The Government of Canada indicated that it had cooperated with health-care operators and law enforcement authorities of other countries and shared intelligence with them concerning precursor chemicals destined for ATS laboratories. In Japan, the national police had been holding international conferences and seminars regarding control of ATS, and had dispatched law enforcement experts on analysis of ATS to other Asian countries. The Drug Enforcement Administration of the United States had organized training programmes for law enforcement officers in the control of chemicals used in the clandestine manufacture of illicit drugs, including ATS substances.

### **C. Applying the know-your-client principle and the expeditious exchange of information**

57. The General Assembly, at its twentieth special session, emphasized the importance of the expeditious exchange of information on illicit transactions involving ATS. However, less than a third (30 per cent) of the Governments replying to the questionnaire reported that they had introduced the “know-your-client” principle, compared with 28 per cent for the first reporting cycle. Thus, there has not been a significant change between the two reporting cycles.

58. Several Governments indicated that national laws and regulations had been adopted to improve the exchange of information between States on transactions involving ATS, including the application of the “know-your-client principle”. The measures adopted included the introduction of an import-export notification process and the requirement that customer needs be specified and end-user certificates submitted prior to authorization of the sale of the substance. Some Governments stressed that they maintained a regular exchange of information with INCB on chemical transactions related to ATS. Regulatory requirements in some countries ensured that licensed dealers could only sell to other licensed dealers or designated health professionals (for example, Canada). In some countries, the chemical and pharmaceutical industry had adopted voluntary “know-your-client” programmes (for example, Canada and Finland).

### **D. Strengthening the control of amphetamine-type stimulants and their precursors through cooperative activities**

59. Governments are reinforcing each other’s initiatives to counter ATS. Sixty per cent of the Governments replying reported that they had adopted cooperative activities to strengthen the control of ATS and their precursors. Many cooperative activities involved national agencies, in particular law enforcement agencies and health-care operators. Forty-five per cent of the Governments responding indicated that cooperative activities had been undertaken with regional and international organizations, private industry or forensic sting laboratories, and that the judicial systems had also cooperated. In Germany, the mass media had also been involved in

cooperative activities to strengthen the control system for ATS and their precursors. In the Netherlands, inter-ministerial working groups concerned with the issue of control of precursors had been involved in cooperative activities. The Government of Viet Nam indicated that it had involved the education sector in its activities to strengthen the control system for ATS.

## **VIII. Conclusions**

60. In comparison with the data received from Governments for the first reporting cycle, there has been an overall improvement during the second reporting cycle in the implementation of recommendations contained in the Action Plan on Illicit Manufacture, Trafficking and Abuse of Amphetamine-type Stimulants and Their Precursors.

61. Governments indicated that they had strengthened their efforts to implement the Action Plan; raise awareness of the problem of ATS; reduce demand for ATS; provide accurate information on ATS; and strengthen the control system for ATS. Improved cooperation with the chemical industry had prevented the diversion of chemical precursors for the illicit manufacture of ATS. Only 42 per cent of the Governments that responded had taken measures to prevent the diversion and irresponsible marketing and prescribing of ATS, in comparison to the 47 per cent that responded affirmatively to this question during the first reporting cycle.

62. The international meetings on ATS precursors held in Washington in June 2002, followed by a meeting in The Hague in December 2002, established a task force on ATS precursors and adopted Project Prism to further the prevention of the diversion of ATS precursors. Under this initiative, Governments are invited to cooperate in monitoring precursors used for the illicit manufacture of ATS.

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