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Thematic debate on the 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.

Illicit drug traffic and supply: world situation with regard to drug trafficking and action taken by subsidiary bodies of the Commission

World situation with regard to drug trafficking

Report of the Secretariat

Summary

The present report provides an overview of the latest trends in illicit drug production and trafficking worldwide. The statistics and analysis in the report are based on the latest information available to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. In respect of seizure statistics, the report focuses on 2005 and 2006. With regard to illicit drug cultivation and production, the report focuses on the period 2005-2007.

Cannabis continues to be by far the mostly widely produced, trafficked and consumed plant-based drug worldwide. In 2006, cannabis herb interdiction totalled 4,675 tons, holding essentially stable at 2005 levels (4,644 tons). Global seizures of cannabis resin amounted to 979 tons, a 24 per cent decrease from 2005 (1,286 tons), reflecting the declining production in Morocco.

Illicit opium production and trafficking in opiates continued to be of great concern. While global opium production in 2006 was estimated at 6,610 tons, the figures for 2007, though not yet finalized, are expected to be in the region of 8,800 to

* E/CN.7/2008/1.



8,900 tons. However, opium production in Afghanistan increased substantially, to 8,200 tons in 2007, and it is estimated that Afghanistan now produces approximately 93 per cent of global illicit opium. Global interdiction of opium was essentially stable at 339 tons in 2006. Interdiction of heroin accounted for 58 tons in 2005 and 45.6 in 2006, but this figure is likely to increase above the 2005 levels in final calculations.

Illicit cultivation of coca leaf, as well as illicit manufacture of cocaine decreased slightly in 2006. Coca cultivation in the three main coca-producing Andean countries was estimated at 156,900 hectares and potential cocaine production at 984 tons. Meanwhile, seizures of cocaine reached 748 tons in 2005 and a preliminary total of 695 tons in 2006, which indicates a stable pattern (notably if estimates for non-reporting countries are taken into account).

Amphetamine-type stimulant interdiction worldwide amounted to 38 tons in 2005. However, in 2006, there was a decrease in seizures of 46 per cent, to 20 tons. With regard to "ecstasy", seizures decreased in 2006 to 4.3 tons, a 16 per cent drop on the 2005 figure of 5.1 tons. It should be emphasized that at the time of preparation of the present report, the seizure figures for 2006 were incomplete, in particular with regard to seizures of amphetamine-type stimulants. Methaqualone seizures increased nearly 10-fold, from 630 kilograms in 2005 to 5.2 tons in 2006.

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I. Introduction

1. The present report provides an overview of developments in the production and trafficking of the main illicit drugs at the global and regional levels. Analysis is based on the latest information available to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC).
2. The report addresses illicit coca bush, opium poppy and cannabis cultivation and illicit coca and opium production for the years up to and including 2007. With regard to drug trafficking, the report focuses on seizure statistics for 2005 and 2006 (where available) and supplies an update on trafficking trends in opiates, cannabis, cocaine, amphetamine-type stimulants, depressants and khat.
3. As regards the sources of the data presented in the report, information on illicit drug crop cultivation and production of plant-based drugs has been drawn from the latest illicit crop-monitoring surveys published by UNODC. The primary sources of information on drug trafficking were the replies to the annual reports questionnaire, part III (Illicit supply of drugs), submitted by Governments for 2006 and previous years.
4. In 2006, 109 countries reported on statistics related to drug trafficking via the annual reports questionnaire, part III. These are used for the presentation of total seizure amounts. Other supplementary sources of information included reports on significant drug seizures and other reports received by UNODC or submitted to the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and its subsidiary bodies (in total, 165 countries reported drug seizures to UNODC). The report is based on information received by UNODC as at 7 January 2008.
5. In general, statistics on drug seizures offer valid, indirect indicators of trafficking trends. However, they should be treated with caution, as they also reflect different reporting practices and also depend on the level and effectiveness of law enforcement capacities. In addition, at the time of preparation of the present report not all Governments had completed the reporting process for 2006, which leads to underreporting of global seizures. In that context, efforts have been made to provide, in specific cases, estimates on assumptions of seizure levels based on the previous year (2005).

II. Global trends in illicit drug crop cultivation and the production of plant-based drugs, 2005-2007

A. Cannabis

6. Unlike other illicit crops, such as coca leaf and opium poppy, cannabis lends itself to diverse cultivation methods, being easily grown in varied environments. This renders assessing the extent of its cultivation and production difficult. However, UNODC has estimated that, in 2005, cannabis continued to be the most widely produced, trafficked and consumed drug worldwide.
7. Cannabis herb is reported to be cultivated in 172 countries and territories, with the number of cannabis users worldwide estimated at almost 160 million, or

3.8 per cent of the global population aged 15-64 years 2005.¹ Cannabis use is most prevalent in the Oceania region, followed by North America and Africa. The countries with the highest rates of prevalence are, in order, Papua New Guinea, Micronesia (Federated States of), Ghana, Zambia, Canada and Sierra Leone.

8. According to data received by UNODC, potential global cannabis herb production was estimated at 42,000 tons for 2005, which represents a slight decrease over the 45,000 ton estimate of 2004. In 2005, the Americas accounted for 46 per cent of global cannabis herb production, followed by Africa (26 per cent), Asia (22 per cent) and Europe (5 per cent).

9. In 2006, estimates made available to UNODC indicate that Mexico and the United States of America are the world's largest cannabis herb producers. Dealing with the situation regionally, in Latin America and the Caribbean, cannabis production takes place in almost all the countries. However the largest producers are, in order, Paraguay (by far the largest producer), Colombia, Brazil and the Caribbean. In the African region, most countries grow cannabis, but the largest producers are South Africa (and Southern Africa generally), Nigeria (and West Africa generally), the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the United Republic of Tanzania. In a breakdown of the Asian region, the largest producers are Afghanistan in South-West Asia, India in South Asia, Philippines in South-East Asia and Kazakhstan from among the countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States. Changes in the regional breakdown suggest that cannabis herb production increased in 2005 in Asia, Europe and Latin America (including the Caribbean), but declined in North America and Africa.

10. Cannabis resin production is far more regionally focused than production of cannabis herb. In 2005, the world's largest cannabis resin producer continued to be Morocco, supplying the markets of Western Europe, the world's largest market for cannabis resin.

11. Estimates of global cannabis resin production in 2005 indicated a 12 per cent decrease, to 6,600 tons. The decline was due largely to the lower cannabis resin production reported in Morocco. Importantly, Morocco's prominence as a source country of cannabis resin is also declining. Over the period 1999-2003, 31 per cent of the countries reporting on cannabis resin cited Morocco as the origin. By 2005, the percentage of times Morocco was cited fell to 20 per cent. UNODC surveys there in 2005² found 76,400 hectares (ha) of cannabis plants in cultivation, a decrease of 37 per cent over 2004 (120,500 ha). Cannabis resin production in Morocco is concentrated in the provinces of Chefchaouen (56 per cent of total in 2005), Taounate (17 per cent) and Al Hoceima (16 per cent). Production of cannabis resin in Morocco was estimated at 1,070 tons in 2005, a decrease of 61 per cent (from 2,760 tons in 2004).

12. UNODC's survey on the drug situation in Afghanistan found an increase in the area under cannabis cultivation from 30,000 ha in 2004-2005 to 50,000 ha in 2005-2006 and 70,000 ha in 2007, which is equivalent to 27 per cent of the area under illicit opium poppy cultivation in that country.³ Other countries frequently

¹ *World Drug Report 2007* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.07.XI.5).

² Note that no new survey was carried out in 2006.

³ United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, *Afghanistan: Opium Survey 2007* (October 2007).

cited as sources of cannabis resin are India, Nepal, Pakistan, the Central Asian States and other countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States.

B. Opium

13. In 2005, 2006 and 2007, illicit opium production became even more highly concentrated in Afghanistan. Afghanistan, which accounted for 93 per cent of global opium production in 2007, up from levels around 40 per cent at the beginning of the 1990s.

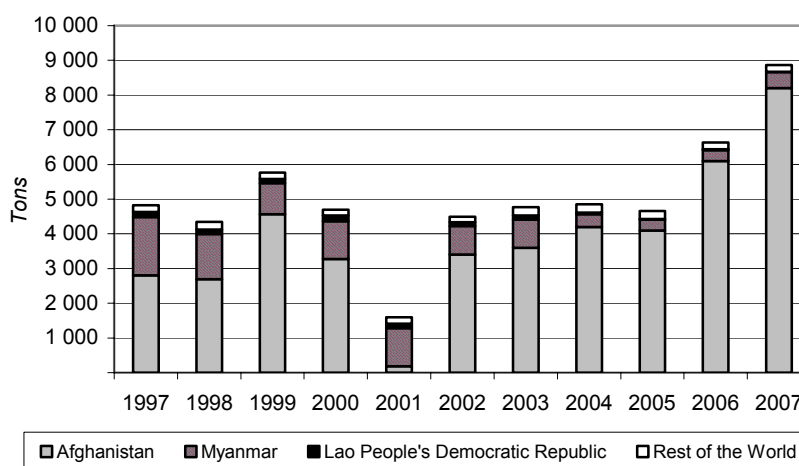
14. The number of opiate users globally (annual prevalence rate) is estimated at around 16 million people or 0.4 per cent of the global population aged 15-64 in 2005. The regions with the highest rates of use are Europe and Oceania. Asia follows and the annual usage rates for Africa and the Americas are slightly lower than that. The countries with the highest usage rates of opiates are, in order, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Mauritius, the Russian Federation, Estonia and Afghanistan.⁴

15. Overall, the consumer market for opiates remained rather stable, despite increases in countries along major trafficking routes. Countries reporting an increase in heroin usage in 2005 included those surrounding Afghanistan (Pakistan, Iran (Islamic Republic of) and the Central Asian States), as well as the Russian Federation, India and East and Southern Africa (although still at very low levels).

16. In 2007, Afghanistan was by far the most important opium-producing country, followed by Myanmar. The total area under illicit opium poppy cultivation globally was approximately 222,400 ha according to preliminary estimates, an increase of 10 per cent over 2006 (201,000 ha).⁵ Preliminary estimates of global illicit opium production for 2007 are between 8,800 and 8,900 tons, an increase of one third over 2006 production (6,610 tons of opium) (see figure I).

Figure I

Global illicit opium production, 1997-2007



⁴ *World Drug Report ...*

⁵ United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, *Afghanistan Opium Survey ...*

17. In Afghanistan, cultivation of illicit opium poppy rose by 59 per cent in 2006 and by 17 per cent in 2007 (193,000 ha).⁶ Opium production in Afghanistan is estimated at 8,200 tons in 2007, an increase of 34 per cent over 2006, when it was estimated at 6,100 tons. Afghanistan now accounts for 93 per cent of global illicit opium.

18. In contrast, significant progress has been made during the last decade in the Golden Triangle – the countries the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Myanmar and Thailand – which for so long has been associated with large-scale illicit opium production. Thailand has been de facto opium-free for several years. Viet Nam is also de facto opium-free. The Lao People's Democratic Republic has cut opium production by 94 per cent in less than a decade and opium cultivation there is down to 1,500 ha, with production standing at 9.2 tons in 2007. Myanmar's share of the world opium market fell from 30 per cent in 1998 to under 6 per cent in 2007.

19. Myanmar remained the second largest opium producer in the world. The country has made the largest global reduction in poppy cultivation in absolute terms, with a decrease of 83 per cent since 1996. In 2006, opium poppy cultivation decreased by a further 34 per cent to 21,500 ha.⁷ However, in 2007, poppy cultivation increased by 29 per cent, to 27,700 ha, and is thus close to the cultivation levels reported in 2005. Potential opium production in Myanmar was estimated at 460 tons in 2007, an increase of 46 per cent over 2006 (315 tons) and the highest production since 2003.⁸

20. There is evidence of significantly increased opium cultivation in the south of Myanmar's Shan State. Double-cropping, improved irrigation and fertilization are resulting in higher yields than in other parts of the country. In addition, as in parts of Afghanistan and Colombia, where there are security problems, various groups appear to be taking advantage of the situation in the south of Shan State to profit from instability.

21. The Lao People's Democratic Republic, which has continued a successful trend of decreasing opium cultivation over the past 15 years, indicated a further decrease in cultivation area of 40 per cent, from 2,500 ha in 2006 to 1,500 ha, in 2007. Potential opium production, estimated at 20 tons in 2006, decreased to 9 tons in 2007.

22. In the region of the Americas, opium poppy continues to be cultivated for use in the illicit markets in North America, although at a much lower level compared with South-West and South-East Asia. The Government of Colombia estimated that the area under opium poppy cultivation in 2006 was around 1,000 ha and illicit opium production was at 14 tons, following a decreasing trend from a high of 100 tons in 1998. Mexico is another important regional opium producer, with an estimated 71 tons of opium produced in 2005.⁹

23. Significant eradication of opium poppy was reported in Afghanistan, increasing from 15,300 ha in 2006 to 19,047 ha in 2007. Opium poppy eradication

⁶ Ibid.

⁷ United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, *Opium Poppy Cultivation in South East Asia: Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand* (October 2007).

⁸ Ibid.

⁹ *World Drug Report ...*

in Myanmar decreased 9 per cent to 3,598 ha in 2007. In the Lao People's Democratic Republic, opium poppy eradication decreased 49 per cent, from 1,518 ha in 2006 to 779 ha in 2007.

24. Increasing amounts of opium have been processed into heroin within Afghanistan's borders in recent years. This is evidenced by reports from the Afghan authorities on the destruction of some 125 rudimentary heroin laboratories in 2004 and 188 in 2005. In Asia, the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (SAR) of China, India and Myanmar reported on the dismantling of clandestine heroin laboratories in 2004-2005. In the Americas, Colombia and Mexico reported dismantling heroin laboratories in 2004-2005.

25. In Europe, the increasing trend continued in the number of dismantled laboratories manufacturing opiates (from 304 in 2003 to 808 in 2004-2005). High numbers of dismantled laboratories have also been reported by the Republic of Moldova (112 laboratories for opium in 2006).

C. Coca

26. In recent years, the global cocaine market has shown signs of stability. While indicators on both the supply and demand side have remained at similar levels, there are signs that the supply side of the market remains adaptive. The reduction of coca cultivation from 2000 to 2006 has unfortunately not led to a decline in cocaine production. This appears to be primarily the result of the more efficient use of fertilizers and pesticides and the refinement of knowledge and skill in processing the leaf, combined with other measures that have improved coca yields, leaving cocaine production largely stable.

27. An estimated 13.4 million people or 0.3 per cent of those aged 15-64 years used cocaine in 2005.¹⁰ The region of the Americas has the highest average annual prevalence rate. The country with the highest prevalence rate is Spain, followed by the United States and Canada.

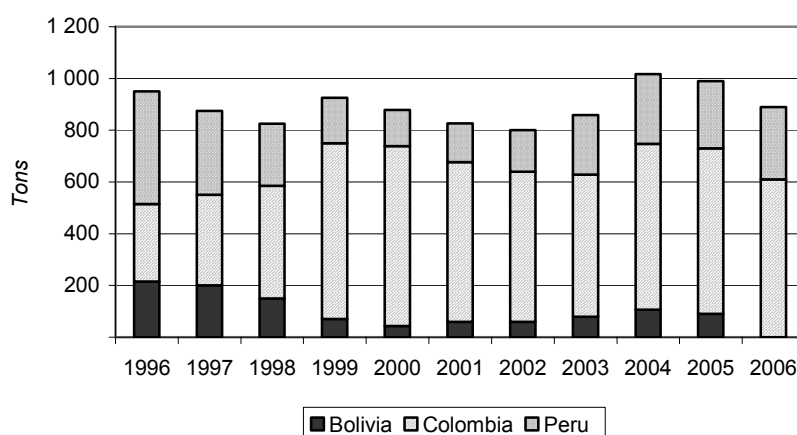
28. Colombia, Peru and Bolivia remain the main cultivators, in order, of coca bush. Based on a study published by UNODC entitled *Coca Cultivation in the Andean Region: a Survey of Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador and Peru*, a total of 156,900 ha of coca bush were cultivated in 2006, decreasing 2 per cent from 2005 (159,600 ha). Of that total, Bolivia cultivated 17 per cent at 27,500 ha, Colombia cultivated 50 per cent at 78,000 ha, and Peru cultivated 32 per cent at 51,400 ha.

29. Overall, total hectares of coca bush eradicated increased slightly in 2006. Colombia reported the eradication of 213,371 ha, a 25 per cent increase from 2005 (170,042 ha). Bolivia reported 5,070 ha of coca bush eradicated, a 16 per cent decrease (6,073 ha), with Peru reporting 12,688 ha eradicated, a 3 per cent increase from 2005 (12,237 ha).

30. Potential cocaine production remained stable in 2006 (984 tons) (see figure II). In 2006, Colombia accounted for 61 per cent of global cocaine production at 610 tons, with Peru accounting for 28 per cent at 280 tons and Bolivia 10 per cent at 94 tons.

¹⁰ *World Drug Report ...*

Figure II
Global potential cocaine production, 1996-2006



31. Governments reported the destruction of 5,737 clandestine coca-processing laboratories in 2005. This represents a fourfold increase since 2000, when only 1,314 laboratories were dismantled. Over 99 per cent of all clandestine laboratories dismantled in 2005 were in Bolivia, Colombia and Peru, illustrating that virtually the complete cocaine production chain, from coca paste to cocaine base and finally cocaine hydrochloride, is located close to the areas of cultivation in the three countries.¹¹ In 2006, Bolivia reported 4,070 cocaine paste and base laboratories and 6,268 maceration pits detected and dismantled.¹² Colombia reported 2,045 coca paste and base laboratories and 202 cocaine laboratories and 15 potassium permanganate laboratories dismantled in 2006.¹³

32. In addition to being the major cocaine-producing country, Colombia also made the largest seizures (141 tons) of potassium permanganate, a precursor chemical necessary for the production of cocaine hydrochloride during 2005. Although it is unlikely that all the potassium permanganate needed to produce cocaine originates from sources within Colombia, no seizures of any significance have been reported in ports of entry into the country and little is known about the sources and routes of the potassium permanganate smuggling into Colombia.

III. Trends in illicit drug trafficking up to 2006

33. The table below shows the main drug seizures by drug group in 2005 and 2006. In both years, cannabis continued to be the most widely trafficked drug worldwide, followed by cocaine, opiates and amphetamine-type stimulants (ATS) in terms of volume. These trends will be discussed in detail in the subsequent sections of this report.

¹¹ *World Drug Report ...*

¹² United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, *Bolivia: Coca Cultivation Survey* (June 2007).

¹³ United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, *Colombia: Coca Cultivation Survey* (June 2007).

Table
Global drug seizures, 2005 and 2006

Drug group	Seizures (tons)		Trend
	2005	2006	
Opiates			
Opium (raw and prepared)	342	339	Stable ^a
Heroin	58	45.6	- ^b
Morphine	32	45	Increase
Cocaine			
Cocaine (salt and base)	748	695	Stable ^a
Cannabis			
Cannabis herb	4 644	4 675	Stable ^a
Cannabis resin	1 286	979	Decrease
Amphetamine-type stimulants			
Amphetamines	13.5	7	- ^b
"Ecstasy"	5.1	4.3	- ^b
Depressants			
Methaqualone	630 ^c	5.2	Increase

Source: Annual reports questionnaire and database for estimates and long-term trend analysis.

^a The term "stable" is used to refer to a given figure that represents not more than 10 per cent change on the figure of the previous year.

^b At the time of reporting, a few key countries had not submitted the annual reports questionnaire, part III, for 2006, so the total seizure amounts are still likely to increase substantially.

^c Kilograms.

A. Cannabis

34. Cannabis products¹⁴ remain the most widely trafficked drugs worldwide, accounting for 57 per cent of all global seizure cases. Practically all countries in the world are affected by cannabis trafficking. Of 165 countries and territories reporting seizures to UNODC, 99 per cent reported seizures of cannabis. In terms of the breakdown by drug, for several years cannabis herb was the most seized drug in Africa, the Americas and Oceania, while cannabis resin was the most seized drug in Asia and Europe. However, in 2006, the trend changed in Asia, where more opium was seized than either cannabis herb or cannabis resin.

35. Global seizures of cannabis products in 2005 amounted to 5,931 tons, a decrease of 31 per cent over 2004. In 2006, seizures of cannabis products were stable at 5,655 tons. Of the total, North America seized significantly the largest volume of cannabis, with 3,074 tons interdicted, 57 per cent of the total. After North America, the largest volumes of cannabis products were seized in Western and Central Europe (809 tons), West and Central Africa (408 tons), Southern Africa (366 tons) and North Africa (265 tons), though clearly at much lower levels.

¹⁴ The term "cannabis products" as used here includes cannabis herb, cannabis resin and cannabis oil.

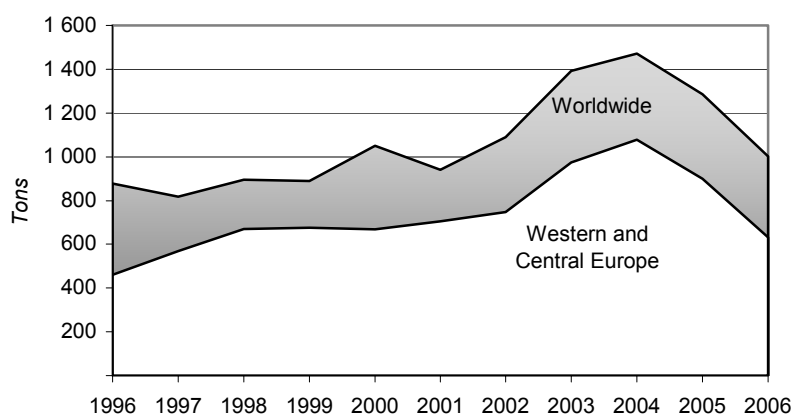
36. Within the group of cannabis products in general, the largest volume of seizures were of cannabis herb (83 per cent), followed by cannabis resin (17 per cent) and cannabis oil (less than 1 per cent).

1. Cannabis resin

37. Cannabis resin seizures were reported in 104 countries in 2005, representing 63 per cent of all countries (165 total) reporting seizures to UNODC. The geographical scope of cannabis resin trafficking is more limited than for herb trafficking. In 2005, interdiction of cannabis resin decreased by 13 per cent from 2004 levels to 1,286 tons. In 2006, interdiction decreased by a further 24 per cent to 979 tons (see figure III). Most of the global decline, in absolute terms, was due to lower seizures in Western and Central Europe, which was reporting a decrease in cannabis resin seizures of more than 30 per cent over 2005 at the time of drafting of this report.

Figure III

Cannabis resin seizures in Western and Central Europe and worldwide, 1996-2006



38. Worldwide, the largest volume of cannabis resin seizures was again reported by Spain in 2006, constituting 47 per cent of the global total (459 tons). Large seizures of cannabis resin were also reported by Pakistan (115 tons), Morocco (88 tons) and France (67 tons).

39. The progress made in Morocco in reducing cannabis resin production has led to a reduction in the number of reports of Morocco as a source country. However, countries in South-West Asia have become more prominent as sources of cannabis resin.

2. Cannabis herb

40. Cannabis herb is still the most widely trafficked substance in terms of volume and geographical spread. Ninety per cent (148 out of 165) of all countries reporting seizures to UNODC noted interdiction of cannabis herb (2005). Global interdiction of cannabis herb decreased by 35 per cent in 2005 to 4,644 tons and then essentially held stable in 2006 at 4,675 tons.

41. At the time of preparation of this report, a decline in seizures was reported from several subregions, most notably in South America (205 tons in 2006, down from 447 tons), North Africa (146 tons in 2006 from 193 tons) and East and South-East Asia (14 tons in 2006 from 49 tons). Increased seizures were reported by countries of Western and Central Europe (from 54 tons to 178 tons in 2006), East Africa (from 163 tons to 225 in 2006), and West and Central Africa (from 163 tons to 398 in 2006).

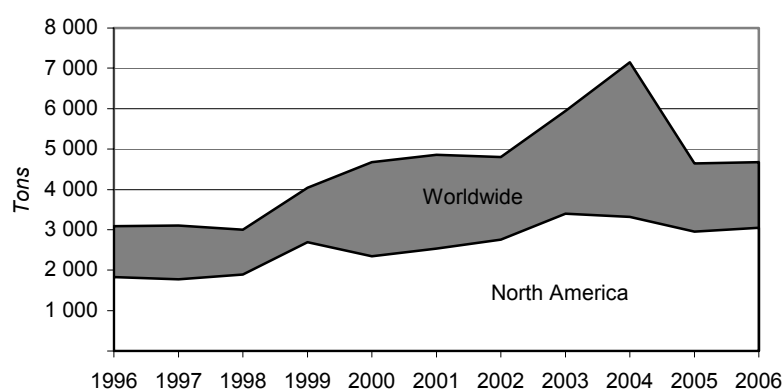
42. The increase in seizures in Western and Central Europe was due mainly to reported increases in Greece, which reported 127 tons of cannabis herb seized in 2006, compared with 8 tons in 2005. In West and Central Africa, Nigeria reported considerable increases in seizures of cannabis herb, from 126 tons in 2005 to 385 in 2006.

43. In contrast to other drugs, trafficking in cannabis is primarily intraregional, not interregional. Exceptions to this are cannabis herb exports: from Africa (mainly West and Southern Africa) to Western and Central Europe; from South-East Asia (mainly Thailand) and South-West Asia (mainly Pakistan) to Europe (mainly the Netherlands); from Central Asia to Eastern Europe (notably the Russian Federation); and from South America (mostly Colombia) to North America (mainly the United States).

44. In 2006, North America continued to seize the largest volume of cannabis herb, a pattern that has continued since 1993. North America's seizures of 3,045 tons of cannabis herb in 2006 made up 62 per cent of the global total (see figure IV). After North America, the subregions that reported the largest volumes of seizures were West and Central Africa (398 tons), Southern Africa (365 tons) and East Africa (225 tons). The largest volume of cannabis herb seized worldwide in 2006 was once again reported by Mexico (1,893 tons), comprising 39 per cent of the global seizures of cannabis herb. Seizures in Mexico were followed by those in the United States (1,139 tons), Nigeria (385 tons) and South Africa (359 tons).

Figure IV

Cannabis herb seizures in North America and worldwide, 1996-2006



B. Opiates

45. The term “opiates” refers to any of various sedative narcotics containing opium or one or more of its natural or synthetic derivatives including opium (raw and prepared), opium liquid, opium plant/capsule, heroin, codeine, morphine and methadone. There are three main production centres for opiates, which supply, in general, three specific markets. Afghanistan supplies neighbouring countries, the Middle East, Africa, and, most importantly, the main consumer market of the European countries. In addition, reports were received of a rising supply of opiates from Afghanistan to China and India. The Lao People’s Democratic Republic and Myanmar supply China and Oceania, in particular, Australia. Finally, countries in Latin America (Colombia, Guatemala, Mexico and Peru) supply North America (in particular, the United States).

46. In 2006, global seizures of opiates remained essentially stable, at 125 tons in heroin equivalents,¹⁵ as compared with 2005, though reflecting an increase of 51 per cent over 2002 or 64 per cent over 2001. However, not all countries have so far reported their opiate seizures for 2006. On the assumption that non-reporting countries had similar seizures in 2006 as in 2005, total opiate seizures are likely to have increased 25 per cent in 2006. Within the group of opiate seizures in 2006, 37 per cent were heroin seizures, 36 per cent morphine and 27 per cent opium seizures if calculated based on heroin equivalents. In both 2005 and 2006, the Near and Middle East/South-West Asia subregion continued to account for the vast majority of global opiate seizures, a pattern that has been in place for more than a decade. Seizures in this subregion made up 84 per cent of the global total at the time of preparation of this report.

47. The volume of opium (raw and prepared) seizures remained basically stable in 2006 at 339 tons, based on preliminary data (342 tons in 2005). According to the existing data set, 92 per cent of opium seizures were effected by Iran (Islamic Republic of). Iranian opium seizures in 2006 rose by 35 per cent over the previous year.

48. After decreases in 2005 (17 per cent to 32 tons), morphine interdiction figures increased 43 per cent in 2006 to 45 tons (see figure V). The bulk of morphine seizures continued to take place in the regions of the Near and Middle East/South-West Asia (94 per cent of the global total in 2006). In 2005, Pakistan reported the largest volume of morphine seizures with 22 tons, and Iran (Islamic Republic of) reported the second largest volume of seizures, with almost 7 tons of morphine interdicted. In 2006, Pakistan again reported the largest volume of seizures, rising to 32.6 tons. Iran (Islamic Republic of) reported the second largest volume with 10.6 tons. Such morphine seizures outside Afghanistan are an indication that – apart from large-scale illegal manufacture of heroin within Afghanistan – processing of morphine into heroin is still taking place outside Afghanistan as well. Seizures of just over a ton of morphine were reported by Myanmar and Turkey.

49. Global heroin seizures amounted to 45.6 tons in 2006 according to preliminary data (see figure VI). Again it is important to record that the 2006 figures are

¹⁵ To calculate heroin equivalents from opium, the following equation is used: 10 kg of opium (raw material) = 1 kg of morphine or heroin (finished product).

incomplete. Assuming that seizure levels of non-reporting countries are similar to 2005, the total seizures would have increased to around 65 tons, equivalent to an increase of some 12 per cent on 2005 (58 tons).

Figure V
Global interdiction of morphine, 1995-2006

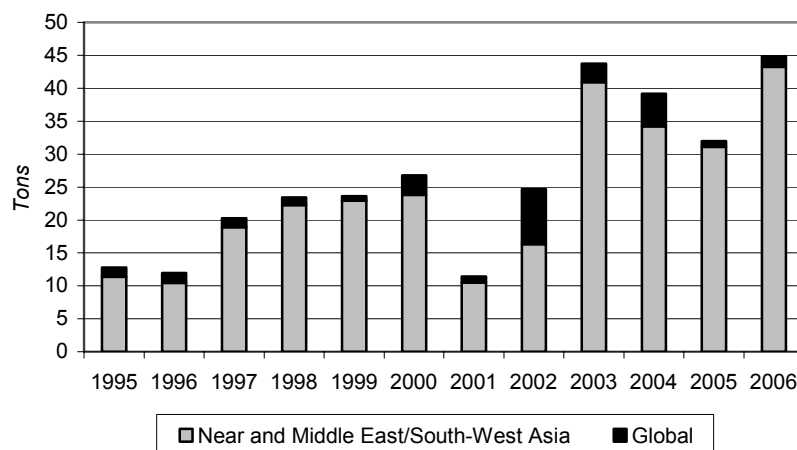
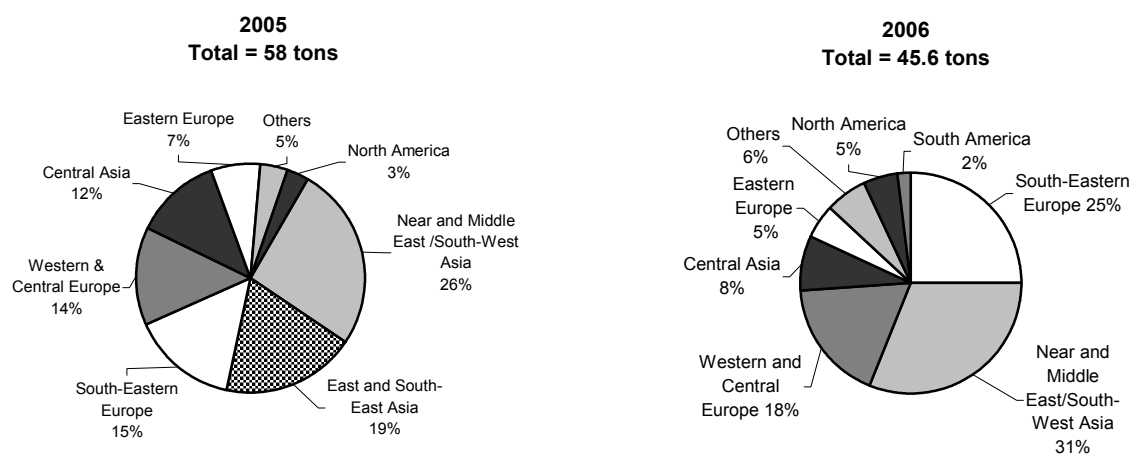


Figure VI
Distribution of heroin seizures, 2005 and 2006^a



^a Data for 2006 are preliminary; totals are likely to increase.

50. As in previous years, South-West Asia reported the highest seizures (14.3 tons), accounting for 31 per cent of the (preliminary) total. The next largest seizures were reported from countries of South-Eastern Europe (11.2 tons or 25 per cent of the total) and Western and Central Europe (8.2 tons or 18 per cent of the total). Heroin seizures in South-Eastern Europe showed a strong increase (18 per cent), while seizures in Western and Central Europe rose by around 5 per cent.

51. Iran (Islamic Republic of) (10.6 tons) and Turkey (10.3 tons) reported very large heroin seizures in 2006. Other countries with significant seizures included Pakistan (2.8 tons), the Russian Federation (2.4 tons) and Tajikistan (2.1 tons).

52. Reports on individual drug seizures from Member States suggest that Europe continued to be an important destination region for heroin traffic during the reporting period. In 2006, the most important European destinations of trafficked heroin were, in order, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Italy, Germany and Spain.

53. Details of more than 4,600 significant seizure cases of heroin were reported by 55 countries for the period 2004-2006.¹⁶ The reports indicated that most of the seized heroin had been transported by commercial road traffic and, to a lesser extent, by air. Heroin was often hidden in car parts or baggage.

C. Cocaine

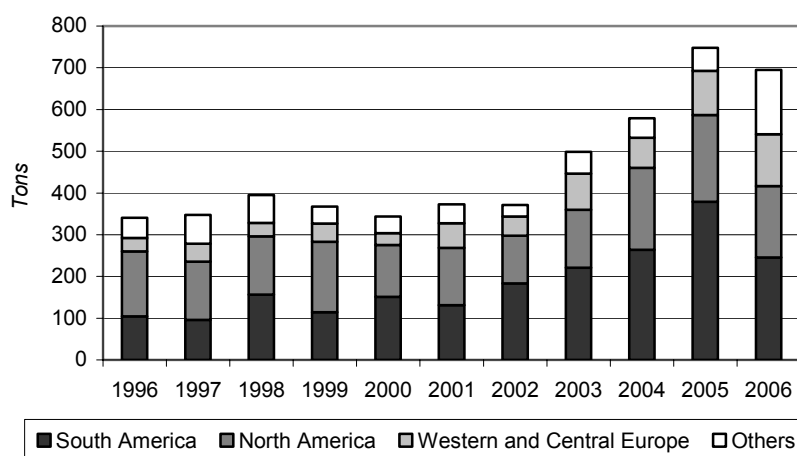
54. In 2006, based on amounts seized, cocaine continued to be the third most trafficked drug globally, after cannabis herb and cannabis resin. Following a stable period between 2000 and 2002, global cocaine seizures increased to 748 tons in 2005. In 2006, there was a decrease to 695 tons (at street purity levels) (see figure VII).

55. Cocaine continues to be destined for the principal consumer markets of the United States and Europe. Trafficking to the United States persists through the established trafficking routes via the Pacific and Mexico, via the countries of Central America and the Caribbean. Cocaine is trafficked to Europe via the Caribbean as well as by the emerging routes through Brazil and West Africa.

56. Most cocaine seized is still reported in the Americas (85 per cent of the global total in 2005 and 80 per cent in 2006). South America, where all of the coca leaf originates and most of the cocaine is produced, accounted for 35 per cent in 2006. Countries with significant volumes of seizures in South America were Colombia (181 tons), Ecuador (34 tons) and Peru (19 tons).

¹⁶ The significant seizures cited here are taken from the individual drug seizure database of UNODC (from which the biannual seizure reports are formulated) and are a distinct data set from those seizures in the UNODC database for estimates and long-term trend analysis (which is cited throughout this report and is constituted from the data submitted by Governments through the annual reports questionnaire). The larger reporting period (2004-2006) is therefore used here for the purpose of increased clarity in trends.

Figure VII
Cocaine seizures in North America, South America, Western and Central Europe
and worldwide, 1996-2006

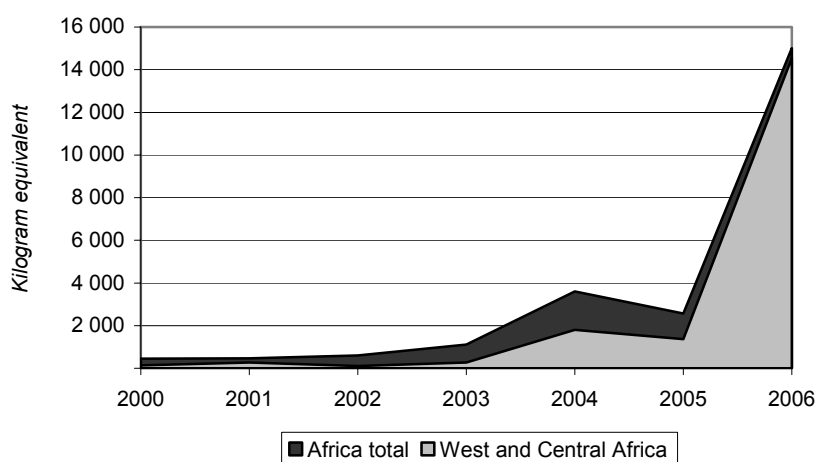


57. North America, the world's largest cocaine market, accounted for 25 per cent of global seizures in 2006. Most seizures within North America took place in the United States (147 tons, or 21 per cent of the global total). United States seizures declined, however, by 16 per cent in 2006. Falling seizures are in line with reports of a reduction of supply and consumption within the United States.

58. Europe's volume of seizures of cocaine increased to a record level of 124 tons in 2006 (+17 per cent), continuing an increasing trend in the region. The largest seizures were, once again, made in Western and Central Europe (99.9 per cent of all European seizures or 18 per cent of global seizures). Large seizures continue to be reported by Spain – 48 tons in 2005 and 50 tons in 2006. Portugal reported seizures of 35 tons of cocaine in 2006, almost double the reported figure for 2005 (18 tons). In 2006, Spain and Portugal were also mentioned as the most important entry points for cocaine trafficking into Europe in the individual drug seizure database.

59. Reported seizures in Africa have increased significantly since 2001. Seizures rose from 0.5 tons in 2001 to 15 tons in 2006. (The marked increase in 2006 data is also due to a single large seizure of cocaine of unknown purity reported by Nigeria.) This reflects the fact that this continent, in particular West Africa, is being used as a trans-shipment point for cocaine heading for markets in Western Europe (see figure VIII). Countries along the Gulf of Guinea and off the coast of Cape Verde have been particularly affected, while cocaine use has also increased in West Africa.

Figure VIII
Cocaine seizures in West and Central Africa, 2000-2006^a



^a The marked increase in 2006 data is also due to a single large seizure of cocaine of unknown purity reported by Nigeria.

60. In 2006, cocaine seizures in Africa reached record levels of 15 tons, or 2 per cent of the global total, up from 2.5 tons, or 0.3 per cent of the global total, in 2005. This increase is due mainly to rising seizures made in the West and Central Africa subregion. The largest seizures were reported by Nigeria. Guinea-Bissau was frequently mentioned as the main transit location in the UNODC individual drug seizure database.

61. Cocaine is frequently shipped into the countries along the Gulf of Guinea, from where it is usually trafficked by “body packers” to various destinations in Europe, the main African redistribution centres being Ghana and Nigeria. In addition, large quantities of cocaine are shipped to the coastal waters around Cape Verde and off the coasts of Guinea and Guinea-Bissau, most of which is destined for Spain or Portugal.

62. The UNODC database of individual drug seizures shows that 9 per cent of all cocaine seizures made in Europe in 2005 where the origin was established were smuggled via Africa. In 2006, this number rose to 12 per cent. An analysis of preliminary data for 2007 showed a further rise of this proportion of 27 per cent.¹⁷

63. Global interdiction of “crack” cocaine increased more than ninefold in 2005, to 3.4 tons. This significant rise was due to increased interdiction in the subregion of Central America, which was reported by Panama (2.7 tons), accounting for 79 per cent of total global seizures. However, in 2006, “crack” cocaine seizures decreased again to 280 kilograms (kg), most of which was reported by Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) (119 kg) and the United Kingdom (49 kg).

64. Over 5,000 cases of significant seizures of cocaine have been reported to UNODC by over 60 countries for 2004-2006.¹⁶ The largest volumes seized continue

¹⁷ United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, *Cocaine Trafficking in West Africa: the Threat to Stability and Development (with Special Reference to Guinea-Bissau)* (December 2007).

to be transported by sea. However, drugs trafficked by commercial air accounted for over two thirds of the number of seizure reports. The most common places of hiding for cocaine being transported by air were passengers' luggage, followed by couriers swallowing drugs.

D. Amphetamine-type stimulants¹⁸

65. The serious increase in the production of ATS throughout the 1990s appears to have levelled off. Global ATS production stabilized at around 480 tons in 2005 and breaks down into 110 tons of "ecstasy", 290 tons of methamphetamines and 80 tons of amphetamines, according to UNODC estimates.¹⁹ A contributory factor leading to this stability may well be the recent international efforts to monitor and improve precursor control. However, in recent years, the production of ATS has been expanding in geographical terms.

66. Production of methamphetamine continues to be concentrated in South-East Asia, including China, Myanmar and the Philippines, and in North America. The Oceania region, notably Australia and New Zealand, continue to be important producers and consumers of methamphetamine, but production appears generally to be for national markets with only slight indications that these drugs are exported. South Africa has emerged recently with increased production and consumption of methamphetamines.

67. Amphetamine production takes place mainly in Europe, notably in the Netherlands and Poland, followed by the Baltic region and Belgium. It is also increasingly found in North America and South-East Asia. Although most "ecstasy" production takes place in Europe and North America, production has increased in East and South-East Asia.

68. In 2005, UNODC estimated that 25 million people, or 0.6 per cent of the global population aged 15-64, consumed amphetamines.²⁰ This is a higher number than those consuming cocaine or heroin. However, following a marked increase in amphetamine use in the 1990s, data for all regions in which amphetamines were prominent suggest that use has started to stabilize in recent years.

69. After record-high seizures of ATS in 2000, global seizures have since varied widely. Following a decline in 2004, seizures increased in 2005. Based on preliminary (and incomplete) seizure reports, global seizures in 2006 declined. However, assuming non-reporting countries have seized similar amounts in 2006 as in the previous year, global ATS seizure totals should have stabilized in 2006.

70. Methamphetamine continued to account for the majority of ATS seizures, followed by amphetamine and "ecstasy" seizures.

¹⁸ Amphetamine-type stimulants, as defined by UNODC, consist of: (a) amphetamines (amphetamine, methamphetamine); (b) "ecstasy" (methylenedioxymethamphetamine (MDMA)) and related substances such as methylenedioxyamphetamine (MDA) (the "ecstasy"-group substances"); and (c) a number of other synthetic stimulants such as methcathinone, phentermine and fenetylline.

¹⁹ *World Drug Report ...*

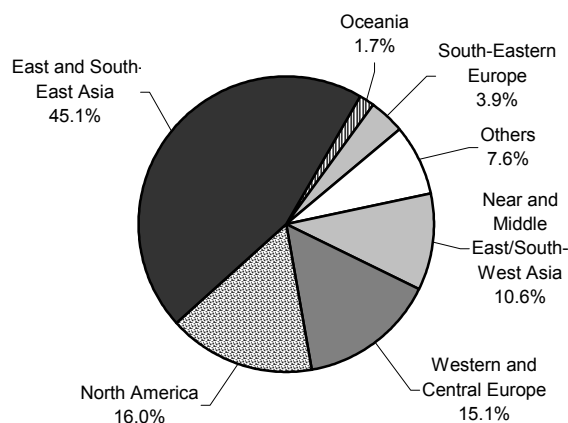
²⁰ Ibid.

71. In 2005, global seizures of amphetamines (methamphetamine, amphetamine and non-defined amphetamines) increased 59 per cent, to 38 tons. This increase was due mainly to increased seizures in the United States, China, Saudi Arabia and South Africa, in that order. For 2006, preliminary data would suggest a decline. However, a number of key countries, which traditionally reported large stimulant seizures, had not yet completed reporting at the time of preparation of this report. Assuming that the level of seizures of non-reporting countries was similar to that of the previous year, global amphetamine seizures appear to have remained largely stable.

72. Analysing the distribution of stimulant seizures over the period 2005-2006, data show that amphetamine seizures continue to be concentrated in East and South-East Asia (45 per cent), followed by North America (16 per cent) and Western and Central Europe (15 per cent) (see figure IX). The countries reporting the largest volumes of such seizures over that period were China (9.5 tons in 2005), the United States (5.8 tons in 2006), Saudi Arabia (3.3 tons in 2005), Indonesia (2.6 tons in 2006) and Thailand (2.3 tons in 2005).

Figure IX

Distribution of amphetamine seizures, 2005-2006^a



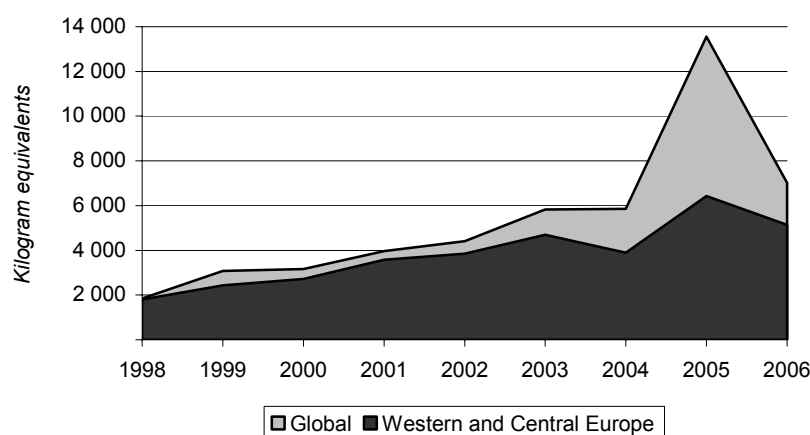
^a Average = 40 tons.

1. Amphetamine

73. Global amphetamine interdiction more than doubled to 13.6 tons in 2005 but fell back – according to the existing incomplete data set at the time of preparation of this report – to 7 tons in 2006 (see figure X). Taking account of non-reporting countries, the overall level of seizures made in 2006 is set to be above 7 tons, though, most likely, still below the seizures reported in 2005. Europe accounted for three quarters of global amphetamine seizures in 2006.

74. With regard to Europe, the number of clandestine laboratories detected in 2004-2005 was 303. The Americas reported 133 laboratories dismantled during the period and Africa 28.

Figure X
Global amphetamine seizures, 1998-2006^a

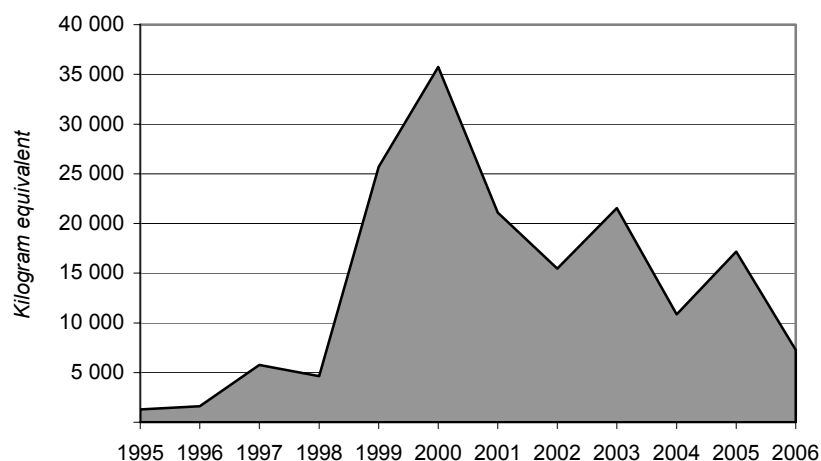


^a Data for 2006 are preliminary; totals are likely to increase.

2. Methamphetamine

75. Global methamphetamine seizures increased from 10.8 tons in 2004 to 17.2 tons in 2005, but declined again – according to preliminary figures – to 7.3 tons in 2006 (see figure XI). Assuming again that seizure levels of non-reporting countries were similar in 2006 to the previous year, total seizures of methamphetamine are likely to have remained stable in 2006.

Figure XI
Global methamphetamine seizures, 1995-2006^a



^a Data for 2006 are preliminary; totals are still likely to increase substantially.

76. Data for 2006 are insufficiently complete to provide any breakdown. However, in 2005, countries in East and South-East Asia accounted for the majority of global methamphetamine interdiction (60 per cent), followed by North America (35 per

cent). Together, seizures in other subregions accounted for 5 per cent of the global total.

77. Over the period 2005-2006, the largest volume of seized methamphetamine was reported by China (6.7 tons in 2005), followed by the United States (4.5 tons in 2006) and Thailand (2.3 tons in 2005), Indonesia (1.2 tons in 2006) and Mexico (0.8 tons in 2006). Seizures in both the United States (-12 per cent) and Mexico (-16 per cent) declined, reflecting, inter alia, successes in combating the illegal trade in methamphetamine precursors (ephedrine and pseudoephedrine).

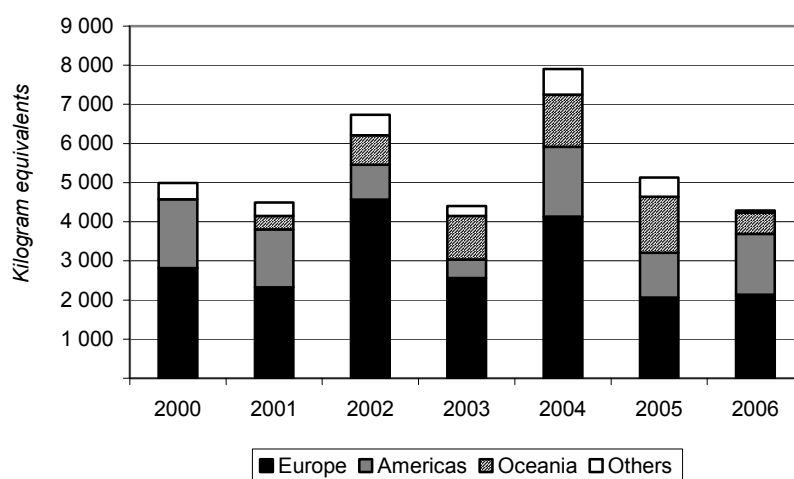
78. The largest number of methamphetamine laboratories was – once again – seized by the authorities in the United States (6,827 in 2006), though this figure was lower than figures reported by United States authorities in previous years, which again reflects progress made in curbing illicit imports of methamphetamine precursors into the country. Significant numbers of destructions of clandestine methamphetamine laboratories also took place in the Oceania region, in particular in Australia. Australia reported 391 clandestine laboratories detected and dismantled during the fiscal year 2005/2006, of which the bulk were methamphetamine laboratories.

3. “Ecstasy”-type substances

79. Global “ecstasy” seizures amounted to 5.1 tons in 2005 and declined, according to preliminary data, to 4.3 tons in 2006 (see figure XII). Assuming that seizures of “ecstasy” by non-reporting countries were similar in 2006 to those a year earlier, total seizures of “ecstasy” are likely to have remained at similar levels (or declined only slightly) in 2006 as compared with 2005. As compared with the peak of 2004 (7.9 tons), seizures in 2006 are, however, lower.

Figure XII

“Ecstasy” seizures in Europe, the Americas, Oceania and worldwide, 2000-2006^a



^a Data for 2006 are preliminary; totals are likely to increase.

80. In 2006, the bulk of “ecstasy” seizures were still in Western and Central Europe (1.9 tons or 44 per cent of total), followed by North America (1.5 tons or 35 per cent of total). The proportion of “ecstasy” seizures made in Western and

Central Europe declined from levels around 80 per cent in the early 1990s to 44 per cent in 2006, reflecting increasing levels of “ecstasy” production outside Europe. The two countries seizing the largest amounts of the drug in 2006 were the United States and the Netherlands (seizing close to 1.1 tons each, expressed in kilogram equivalents), followed by Australia (0.5 tons), which had reported the largest seizures in 2005, Canada (0.4 tons) and the United Kingdom (0.3 tons in 2005). “Ecstasy” seizures increased in North America, remained largely stable in Western and Central Europe and declined in the Oceania region (from 1.4 tons in 2005 to 0.5 tons in 2006).

81. Though the importance of Europe as a production site for “ecstasy” is declining, most of the drug seized globally had been smuggled out of Europe to the final destination countries. The Netherlands continues to be the most frequently cited source country, followed by Belgium. Germany, Hungary and the Russian Federation were frequently cited as intended destinations of “ecstasy” seized while in transit through other countries.

82. The illicit manufacture of “ecstasy”-type substances is concentrated in Europe and North America. The total number of clandestine laboratories detected increased substantially, from 35 in 2003 to 120 in 2004-2005, reflecting a global spread of “ecstasy” manufacture. In Europe, reports on detections were received, inter alia, from Belgium, Estonia, the Netherlands and Norway.

4. Seizures of precursor chemicals and pharmaceutical preparations used in the illicit manufacture of amphetamine-type stimulants

83. As the controls of ephedrine and pseudoephedrine, used in the production of methamphetamine and traded as raw materials, have improved, traffickers have increasingly been trying to obtain other forms of the substances, including natural products such as ephedra and pharmaceuticals containing the substances, relying on less stringent or absent controls of such commodities.²¹

84. Seizures of phenylacetic acid, a precursor chemical used for amphetamine and methamphetamine production, have increased significantly since 2004, from 232 kg to 47 tons in 2005.²² This is due largely to increased seizures in China and the United States, but phenylacetic acid continues to be seized in Europe and Oceania as well. The International Narcotics Control Board reports that, as traffickers experience increased difficulties obtaining ephedrine and pseudoephedrine, they may be turning to phenylacetic acid as a precursor for the illicit manufacture of methamphetamine. As a result, the Board has recommended the transfer of phenylacetic acid from Table II to Table I of the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988.²³

85. The Board is concerned that, while successes have been achieved in reducing the smuggling of 3,4-methylenedioxyphenyl-2-propanone (3,4-MDP-2-P) and 1-phenyl-2-propanone (P-2-P), chemicals used in the production of “ecstasy”, into

²¹ *Precursors and Chemicals Frequently Used in the Illicit Manufacture of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances: Report of the International Narcotics Control Board for 2006 on the Implementation of Article 12 of the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.07.XI.12).

²² Ibid.

²³ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1582, No. 27627.

Western Europe, little is known about the new methods and routes being used by traffickers in diverting those substances.

E. Depressants

86. Global seizures of methaqualone decreased substantially in 2005, to 630 kg, but then increased sharply in 2006 to 5.2 tons. Of that total, 85 per cent was seized in India (4.4 tons) and most of the rest in South Africa (772 kg).

87. At the time of drafting the present report, trafficking in depressants other than methaqualone had decreased in 2006 to 725 kg from 1.6 tons in 2005. The subregions of East and South-East Asia and Oceania reported the largest proportions of seizures. The countries with the largest volumes of seizures were Japan (406 kg), Australia (150 kg) and Mexico (33 kg).

88. Khat is not under international control, but is subject to national control in a number of countries. Global seizures remained stable in 2006 at 94 tons, not a significant change from the 97 tons seized in 2005. The largest volume of interdiction of khat was reported by the United States (40 tons), followed by Germany (16 tons), Canada (14 tons) and the United Republic of Tanzania (5 tons).

IV. Conclusions and recommendations

89. Illicit opium poppy cultivation and opium production in Afghanistan continues to be of serious concern. With 93 per cent of the global total of illicit production, it is essential that international efforts to assist the Government of Afghanistan in measures to counter the situation be strengthened and sustained over a period of years.

90. Although significant progress has been made in recent years to reduce illicit opium poppy cultivation and production in the Golden Triangle, the 2007 figures for Myanmar show a worrying increase. The Government of Myanmar will need to consider introducing additional measures to ensure that the situation is effectively addressed.

91. With regard to cocaine, despite major eradication successes achieved in Colombia and a significant overall decline in the Andean region in the area under cultivation since 2000, it is evident that cocaine production remains at a high level. Criminal organizations and farmers have improved coca yields as a result of a range of measures, including more efficient use of fertilizers and pesticides, and the refinement of knowledge and skill in processing the leaf into coca paste, coca base and ultimately into cocaine hydrochloride.

92. The increase in cocaine trafficking via the African continent, in particular to Western Europe, has become more pronounced. Many law enforcement agencies in Africa lack the technical equipment, trained personnel and access to forensic services to effectively combat the problem. Further international support is required to assist African law enforcement agencies to develop the expertise to counter the serious and growing problem and to promote closer cooperation with other countries.

93. During 2007, UNODC organized and facilitated five regional meetings of subsidiary bodies of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs.²⁴ The Commission is invited to consider, with a view to taking possible further action, the following recommendations, which arose from those forums:

(a) In recognizing the value of controlled delivery operations to law enforcement agencies in investigating and dismantling criminal groups, national legislation should be put in place and appropriate resources made available to enhance the effectiveness of such operations;

(b) UNODC should continue to support the analytical work of laboratories by providing technical assistance, including through the training of staff and the supply of field detection test kits for drugs and precursors, subject to the availability of resources. UNODC should also continue to provide advice on best practices and encourage the use of advisory manuals;

(c) In view of the links that exist between drug trafficking and other forms of organized crime and the fact that drug trafficking should not be dealt with in isolation, consideration should be given to expanding the scope of future meetings of heads of national drug law enforcement agencies to include broader organized crime issues, maintaining the focus, however, on trafficking in drugs and precursors;

(d) A multi-agency, intelligence-led approach in law enforcement, working with key partners in the private sector to counter organized crime more effectively should be promoted;

(e) Full implementation of national legislation against money-laundering should be taken, together with steps to ensure that national laws cover all forms of serious crime;

(f) The establishment of financial intelligence units and other types of intelligence unit should be considered and the necessary steps taken to ensure that those units are properly resourced and equipped to carry out their functions;

(g) Steps should be taken to ensure that law enforcement authorities investigating illicit drug offences are aware of the rapidly developing technologies available to trafficking syndicates for communication and data exchange; that the authorities are familiar with the means for obtaining intelligence and evidence; and that they have the necessary resources and legislative support to carry out those tasks;

(h) Drug law enforcement agencies should be encouraged to develop partnerships with other relevant government agencies, civil society and non-governmental organizations to implement comprehensive demand reduction strategies;

(i) Legislative and procedural controls over the manufacture, sale and international movement of precursor chemicals used in the manufacture of illicit

²⁴ These subsidiary bodies of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs are the heads of national drug law enforcement agencies, Africa, Asia and the Pacific, Europe and Latin America and the Caribbean, and the Subcommittee on Illicit Drug Traffic and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East.

drugs should be capable of countering the changing tactics of traffickers seeking to divert internationally controlled chemicals and non-controlled chemical substitutes;

(j) Law enforcement authorities should be equipped with the expertise and skills needed to guide the safe dismantling of clandestine laboratories and the disposal of chemicals and toxic by-products associated with such manufacture;

(k) Training for key agencies responsible for drug law enforcement, including police, customs, anti-narcotics forces, prosecutors and the judiciary, should be coordinated and integrated, as appropriate, in order to foster mutual understanding of the requirements and operational needs of the various services;

(l) Support should be given to international law enforcement initiatives focusing on both drugs and precursors, such as Operation Channel and the Targeted Anti-trafficking Regional Communication, Expertise and Training (TARCET) initiative, which targets trafficking along the borders of Afghanistan, by providing resources, equipment and technology.
