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

**World situation with regard to drug trafficking****Report of the Secretariat***Summary*

The present report provides an overview of global trends and patterns in illicit drug production and trafficking in the period 2002-2003.

In Afghanistan, illicit opium cultivation, which resumed on a large scale in 2002, increased by a further 8 per cent in 2003. Global coca bush cultivation declined for the second year in a row in 2002. Interdiction rates for opiates and cocaine remained stable.

Global seizures of heroin remained stable, while seizures of cocaine, cannabis herb and synthetic stimulants registered some decline. Seizures of opiates (heroin, opium and morphine in heroin equivalents), cannabis resin and amphetamine increased.

More than half of total global seizures of heroin continued to take place in Asia, in similar amounts in West and East Asia. Western Europe and North America accounted for one third of global seizures. Seizures of heroin declined in countries along the Balkan route and remained stable at high levels in Central Asia.

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\* E/CN.7/2004/1.



Cocaine trafficking continued to affect primarily countries in the Americas and Western Europe. Seizures in Colombia and the United States of America combined accounted for almost two thirds of the global total. Trafficking in Western Europe increased substantially in some countries.

The majority of methamphetamine interdictions took place in East and South-East Asia and North America. Europe accounted for the bulk of global seizures of amphetamine and Ecstasy, with most countries registering increased seizures.

Global seizures of all illicit drugs, measured in consumption units, continued to place cannabis as the most trafficked drug worldwide, followed by cocaine and heroin. Most seizures of cannabis herb continued to take place in Africa and the Americas, while Asia and Europe accounted for the bulk of seizures of cannabis resin.

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## **I. Introduction**

1. The present report provides an overview of the latest trends in illicit drug production and trafficking at the global and regional levels, based on the latest information available to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. The report addresses trends in the illicit cultivation of cannabis, coca bush and opium poppy and the illicit production of coca and opium. It presents an update on trends in trafficking in opiates, cocaine and cannabis and in the illicit manufacture of and trafficking in synthetic stimulants and other drugs.
2. The aim of the report is to assist Member States in their efforts to combat illicit drug production and trafficking and to improve coordination of their action at the global and regional levels.
3. Information on illicit drug crop cultivation and production of plant-based drugs has been drawn from the published results of the latest illicit crop monitoring surveys presented by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. The primary source of information on drug seizures was the replies to the annual reports questionnaire, part III (Illicit supply of drugs), submitted by Governments for 2002 and previous years. For 2002, a total of 111 questionnaires had been received by 10 December 2003. Unfortunately, a number of States that are of particular relevance for the identification of trafficking trends had not yet returned questionnaires at the time of compiling the present report.
4. The information on seizures in 2003 has been drawn from reports on significant drug seizures submitted by Governments to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. At present, approximately 30 States submit such reports on a regular basis.
5. Other supplementary sources of information included country reports received by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime or submitted to the Commission on Narcotics Drugs and its subsidiary bodies and reports from field offices of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime.
6. The trafficking trends described in the present report are based on drug seizure data. 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 depend on the level and effectiveness of law enforcement capacities.

## **II. Global trends in illicit crop cultivation and the production of plant-based drugs, 2002-2003**

### **A. Cannabis**

7. Cannabis continues to be the most widely produced, trafficked and consumed plant-based drug worldwide. Because of the global spread of cannabis production and the virtual absence of monitoring systems, estimates of global cannabis production are not currently available. The rising levels of cannabis seizures indicate a continuing increase in cannabis cultivation worldwide.

8. In 2003, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the Government of Morocco, one of the largest producers of cannabis resin, carried out the first survey of cannabis production in that country. A total of 134,000 hectares (ha) were estimated to be under cannabis cultivation in the five northern provinces included in the study, corresponding to a potential resin production of 3,080 tons. The study revealed that 96,600 households, or 66 per cent of rural households in the study area, were cultivating cannabis.<sup>1</sup>

9. For 2002, Governments from all regions reported having detected areas under illicit cannabis cultivation. The following countries reported on cannabis eradication exceeding 500 ha: Mexico (30,774 ha), Kyrgyzstan (2,278 ha) and Paraguay (773 ha). Hydroponic (indoor) cultivation of cannabis continued to be reported by Australia and countries in Europe and North America.

10. In 2002, global seizures of cannabis plants amounted to 25,800 tons, representing an increase of 40 per cent over such seizures in 2001. At the time of compiling the present report, the largest volume of cannabis plants seized worldwide in 2002 had been reported by Turkey, 11,605 tons.

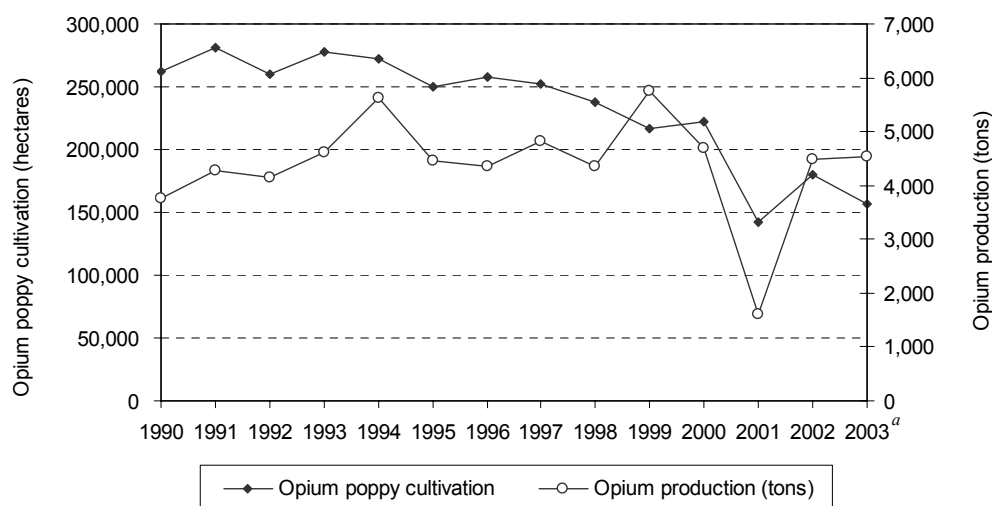
## B. Opium

### 1. Illicit cultivation of opium poppy and production of opium

11. In 2002, global illicit opium production once again increased, after having declined sharply in 2001. The resumption of large-scale illicit opium poppy cultivation in Afghanistan in 2002 overshadowed the reduction of such cultivation in Myanmar by 23 per cent and the Lao People's Democratic Republic by 18 per cent. As a result, illicit opium production in 2002 was estimated at 4,500 tons, compared with 1,600 tons in 2001 (see figure I). The estimated potential for illicit heroin production in 2002 amounted to 450 tons, compared to 160 tons in 2001.

Figure I

**Global illicit opium poppy cultivation and opium production, 1990-2003**



<sup>a</sup> Preliminary figures.

12. In 2002, 97 per cent of illicit opium production in the world was accounted for by the following four countries: Afghanistan, with 76 per cent; Myanmar, with 18 per cent; Lao People's Democratic Republic, with 2 per cent and Colombia, with 1 per cent. The remaining 3 per cent was accounted for by Mexico, Pakistan, Thailand and Viet Nam. Opium poppy eradication exceeding 500 ha was reported for 2002 by Afghanistan (17,300 ha), Colombia (3,371 ha), Mexico (19,157 ha), Myanmar (10,474 ha) and Thailand (507 ha).

13. The opium survey conducted by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in Afghanistan in 2003 showed that opium poppy cultivation had continued to increase, with 80,000 ha in 2003 compared with 74,000 ha in 2002, or an increase of 8 per cent. In 2003, cultivation spread to areas other than the traditional opium provinces of Helmand, Nangarhar, Oruzgan and Kandahar, affecting 28 of the 32 provinces. Opium production is thus estimated at 3,600 tons for 2003 compared with 3,400 tons in 2002, an increase of 6 per cent.

14. In 2003, eradication activities were conducted by the local authorities in some provinces of Afghanistan. The impact was particularly noticeable in the provinces of Helmand and Kandahar. The authorities reported the eradication of a total of 21,430 ha. The results of the survey are based on the situation after the eradication.<sup>2</sup>

15. In Myanmar, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime survey for 2003 showed that, with a further decline of 24 per cent, opium poppy cultivation is now estimated at 62,200 ha for 2003 compared with 81,400 ha in 2002. Since 1996, cultivation has declined by more than 100,000 ha, or 62 per cent. At the country level, the potential opium production is estimated at 810 tons. The eradication figures reported by the authorities for 2003 amounted to 638 ha. The cultivation estimates were made based on the situation after the eradication.<sup>3</sup>

16. In the Lao People's Democratic Republic, the survey supported by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime showed a further decline of 15 per cent in opium poppy cultivation, to 12,000 ha in 2003 compared with 14,100 ha in 2002. However, despite the decline in cultivation, as a result of favourable weather conditions during the 2003 opium season, potential opium production is estimated at 120 tons for 2003, a 7 per cent increase over 2002. The authorities reported that a total of 4,134 ha had been eradicated between November 2002 and March 2003. The cultivation estimates were made based on the situation after the eradication.<sup>4</sup>

## **2. Developments in opium poppy farmgate prices**

17. The average farmgate price of fresh opium in Afghanistan in 2003 was estimated at US\$ 283 per kilogram, down 19 per cent compared with 2002. Almost 80 per cent of the income of opium farmers, estimated at 1.7 million farmers and their families, was generated in the traditional opium producing areas of the eastern and southern parts of the country.

18. In Myanmar, information on opium prices collected in 2003 referred to the 2002 opium season. The average farmgate price for 1 kg of opium in 2002 was US\$ 115, a decline of 24 per cent over 2001. For 2003, the estimated price of US\$ 130 per kilogram of fresh opium would bring the 350,000 households who cultivated opium poppy in the Shan state an average income of US\$ 175 from the sale of their individual opium harvest, accounting for 70 per cent of their total annual cash income.

19. In the Lao People's Democratic Republic, information on opium prices collected in 2003 also referred to the 2002 opium season. The average farmgate price for 1 kg of opium in 2002 was US\$ 160, an increase of 26 per cent over 2001. Recent information on retail opium prices collected by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime suggest a further and more substantial increase in prices in 2003. In 2002, illicit opium poppy cultivation brought some 40,000 households an income of only US\$ 88 per family, but that figure represented 42 per cent of annual cash incomes.

### **3. Illicit manufacture of heroin**

20. From the estimated total of 4,500 tons of opium produced in 2002, a potential 450 tons of heroin could be manufactured. The Transitional Authority of Afghanistan reported in October 2003 that in border areas approximately 1.2 tons of opium was converted into heroin every day. The Authority also reported that, in the province of Helmand, some 20 mobile laboratories were actively converting opium into heroin. The conversion of opium into heroin was also reported to have taken place in Kandahar, Badakhshan and Nangarhar.

21. For 2002, Myanmar reported the detection of nine clandestine laboratories manufacturing heroin in the northern parts of Shan state. India reported the detection of seven clandestine laboratories manufacturing heroin and one laboratory manufacturing morphine. Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of China reported the detection of six small-scale laboratories for the reprocessing or cutting of drugs. Colombia reported three clandestine heroin laboratories and Mexico reported one.

22. In Eastern Europe, the processing of opiate products, such as "Polish heroin", made partly from poppy straw, was reported. The authorities of Poland reported the detection of 14 such clandestine laboratories in 2002, compared with 408 in 2001.

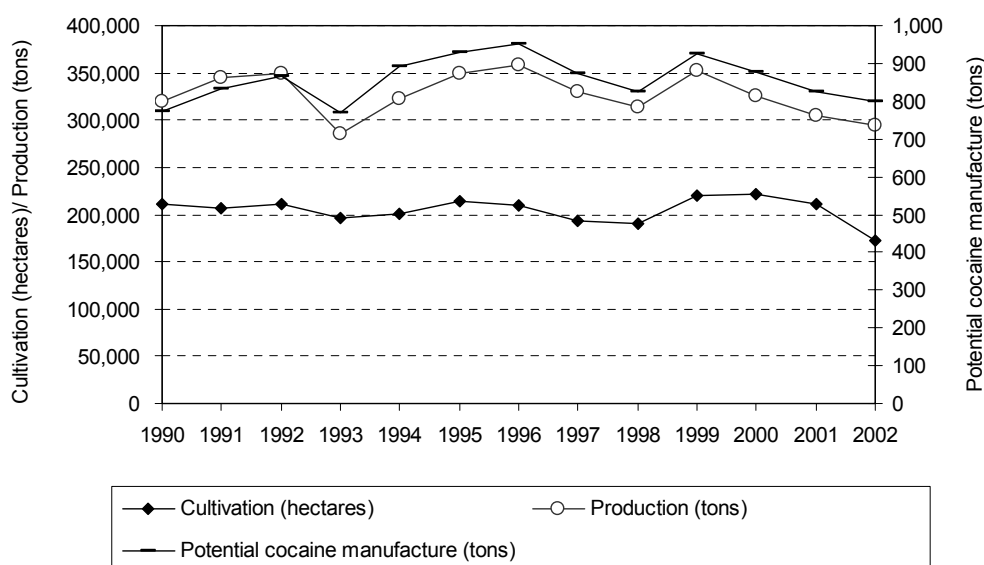
23. Globally, 41 illicit laboratories manufacturing substances of opiates were reported as having been detected in 2002, compared with 723 in 2001. The Russian Federation reported the detection of 232 such laboratories in 2001; however, for 2002, data from the Russian Federation had not been received at the time of compiling the present report.

## **C. Coca**

### **1. Illicit cultivation of coca bush and production of coca leaf**

24. In 2002, global coca bush cultivation declined for the second year in a row. The area under illicit coca bush cultivation in Colombia fell by 30 per cent between November 2001 and December 2002, which contributed significantly to a reduction of 18 per cent in global illicit coca bush cultivation. In Peru, the area under coca bush cultivation increased slightly in 2002. Bolivia experienced an increase in coca bush cultivation for the second year running, after a steady decline between 1996 and 2000. The potential production of dry coca leaf was estimated at 294,400 tons in 2002. The potential illicit cocaine manufacture from that production was estimated at 800 tons, down from 827 tons estimated for 2001 (see figure II).

Figure II  
Global coca bush cultivation, coca leaf production and potential cocaine manufacture, 1990-2002



25. In 2002, Colombia accounted for 59 per cent of the total area under illicit coca bush cultivation in the world, while Peru accounted for 27 per cent and Bolivia for 14 per cent. Potential distribution of cocaine production among those three countries was estimated as follows: Colombia, 72 per cent; Peru, 20 per cent; and Bolivia, 8 per cent.

26. The 2002 coca survey in Colombia supported by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime showed that by December 2002 approximately 102,000 ha of coca bush were cultivated in 21 of the 32 Colombian departments, representing a decline of 30 per cent from the 145,000 ha cultivated in November 2001. The potential cocaine output in 2002 was estimated at 580 tons compared with 617 tons in 2001. A total of 130,364 ha of coca bush were reported to have been eradicated by the Colombian Anti-Narcotics Police in 2002, representing an increase of 35 per cent over 2001.<sup>5</sup>

27. The 2002 survey supported by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in Peru estimated that 46,700 ha were under illicit coca bush cultivation, representing an increase of 1 per cent compared with the 2001 estimate of 46,200 ha. Cocaine production was estimated at 160 tons, compared with 150 tons in 2001. For 2002, 7,133 ha of coca fields were reported by the Government as having been eradicated, representing an 85 per cent increase over 2001.<sup>6</sup>

28. In Bolivia, which is the third largest coca producer, the first coca survey supported by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime identified 13,800 ha of coca bush cultivated in the Yungas region of La Paz in 2002. The total area under coca bush cultivation was estimated at 24,400 ha, compared with 19,900 ha in 2001. Cocaine manufacture was estimated at 60 tons, the same figure as in 2001.<sup>7</sup> The



Government of Bolivia reported the eradication of 9,866 ha of coca throughout the country in 2002, similar to the area reported in 2001.

29. At the time of compiling the present report, the results of the coca surveys conducted in 2003 were not yet available.

## **2. Illicit manufacture of cocaine**

30. From the estimated total production of 294,400 tons of coca leaf in 2002, a potential 800 tons of cocaine could be manufactured. The Government of Colombia reported the detection of 1,434 clandestine laboratories manufacturing substances of the coca group in 2002, compared with 1,555 in 2001. The laboratories were detected in the Colombian rainforest area, mostly in the southern and northern areas. Peru reported the detection of 238 clandestine laboratories in 2002. In addition, nine detections were reported by Argentina, five by the United States and two by Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of China. Bolivia, Chile, France, Germany and Slovenia each reported having detected and dismantled one laboratory.

31. Overall, 1,693 illicit laboratories manufacturing substances of the coca group were detected in 2002, compared with 2,653 reported in 2001. The decline is primarily the result of detections reported by Bolivia, which reported 1,011 interdictions in 2001 and only 1 in 2002.

# **III. Global and regional trends in trafficking in plant-based drugs, up to 2002**

## **A. Cannabis**

32. Cannabis continues to be the most widely abused and trafficked drug worldwide. In the period 2000-2001, the drug with the strongest increase in its level of abuse was cannabis, followed by amphetamine-type stimulants.

33. Measured in consumption units,<sup>8</sup> global seizures of cannabis herb and resin in 2002 accounted for more than two thirds of worldwide drug seizures; thus, cannabis herb was the most seized drug in Africa and in the Americas and cannabis resin was the most seized drug in Asia and Europe.

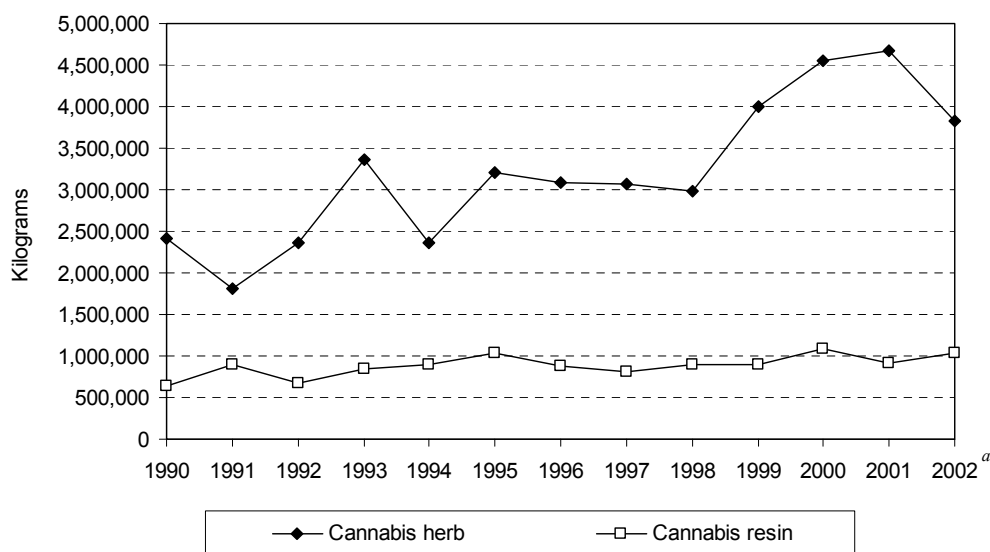
## **1. Trafficking and seizure trends**

### **(a) Cannabis herb**

34. Measured in terms of the total volume seized, the bulk of trafficking in cannabis herb continued to take place in the Americas and Africa. Global seizures of cannabis herb in 2002 at 3,800 tons represent a decline of 18 per cent over the volume seized in 2001, at 4,700 tons (see figure III).

35. Based on the data available at the time of compiling the present report, seizures of cannabis herb declined in all regions. The global distribution of cannabis herb seizures in 2002 was the Americas, 69.7 per cent; Africa, 18.9 per cent; Asia, 7.1 per cent; Europe, 4.1 per cent; and Oceania, 0.2 per cent.

Figure III  
Global seizures of cannabis herb and resin, 1990-2002



<sup>a</sup> Preliminary figures.

36. Seizures of all illicit drugs, measured in consumption units, placed cannabis herb as the most seized drug in North America, the Caribbean and South Asia and in all subregions in Africa except North Africa, where cannabis resin was the most seized drug, Morocco being the largest producer of cannabis resin.

37. In 2002, despite reductions in seizures from the previous year, the largest volume of cannabis herb seized worldwide was reported by Mexico, at 1,633 tons, followed by 591 tons in the United States of America. Seizures increased in Canada and all reporting countries in South America except Colombia.

38. In Africa, seizures of cannabis herb increased in Nigeria, with 506 tons seized, the Congo and Côte d'Ivoire. Ghana reported 5.4 tons seized in 2002. In Asia, Pakistan reported seizures of 68.3 tons in 2002 (no reporting was received from Pakistan in 2001). Seizures increased in Israel, in countries in East and South-East Asia and in most Central Asian countries, as well as in Armenia and Azerbaijan. In Eastern Europe, the volume of seizures in Albania of 13.7 tons represented almost double the volume seized in that country in 2001. In Western Europe, declining seizures of cannabis herb were reported by Greece, Ireland, Italy, Liechtenstein and Spain. Most other countries in the subregion reported increased seizures. Such seizures declined in Australia and New Zealand in 2002.

39. Several countries reported local sources and neighbouring countries in respect of the origin of seized cannabis herb. The United States cited Canada, Colombia and Mexico as source countries of seized cannabis herb. Albania and the Netherlands were cited most frequently as source countries of cannabis herb seized in Europe. Australia reported Canada, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States as source countries.

40. The destinations of cannabis herb seized while en route to other countries that were cited most frequently were France, Germany, Greece, Italy, the Netherlands, South Africa, the United Kingdom and the United States.

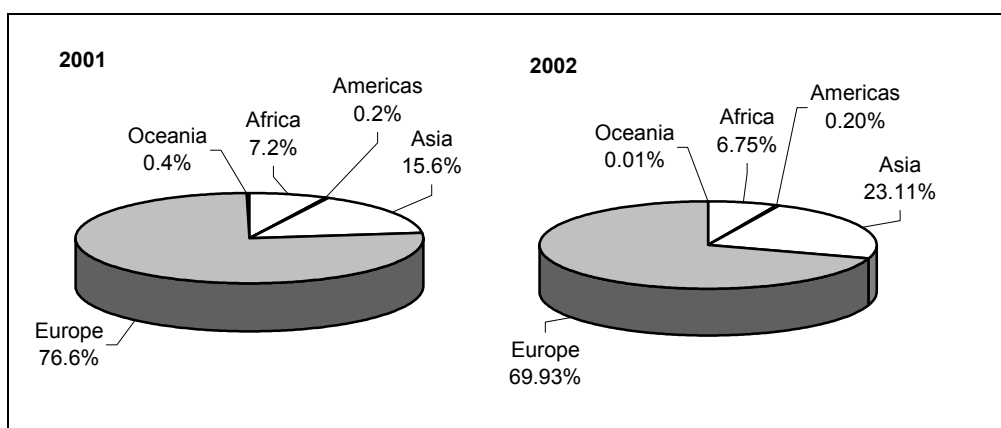
**(b) Cannabis resin**

41. Measured in terms of the total volume seized, most trafficking in cannabis resin was concentrated in Europe and Asia. Global seizures of 1,039 tons in 2002 represented an increase of 15 per cent over the volume seized in 2001 (see figure III above). Seizures increased in all regions except Oceania. The most significant increase in cannabis resin seizures was registered in Asia, at 70 per cent. The increase in Asia was mainly the result of the large volumes reported as having been seized in Afghanistan and Lebanon.

42. The global distribution of seizures of cannabis resin reflected an increase in the share of seizures accounted for by countries in Asia (see figure IV).

Figure IV

**Global distribution of cannabis resin seizures, 2001 and 2002**



43. Seizures of all illicit drugs, measured in consumption units, placed cannabis resin as the most seized drug in Northern Africa, the Near and Middle East, South-West Asia and Western Europe.

44. For 2002, Spain reported the largest volume of cannabis resin seized worldwide, 564.8 tons. Seizures rose in most Western European countries, including Spain and Italy, which reported 28.6 tons seized. In Eastern Europe, most countries reported declining seizures. In Romania, only 39 kg were seized in 2002, compared with 13.8 tons in 2001.

45. In Asia, the largest volume seized was reported by Pakistan, 85.1 tons. Trafficking also rose in the Islamic Republic of Iran, which reported 64.1 tons seized. Afghanistan reported seizures of 50.3 tons and Lebanon, which had seized 308 kg in 2001, reported 28.7 tons seized in 2002. Cannabis resin seizures declined in Bangladesh and India.

46. In Africa, the volume of seizures rose in Northern Africa, with Morocco seizing the largest volume in the region, 66.4 tons. In Southern Africa, Zambia reported seizures of 1.0 ton and South Africa reported that it had seized 696 kg.

47. In North America, Canada, which had seized over 1.7 tons in 2001, reported 159 kg seized in 2002. Seizures also declined in Mexico, but rose in the United States (from 57 kg in 2001 to 576 kg in 2002). From the other subregions in the Americas, only Argentina, Bermuda and Brazil reported seizures, of relatively small quantities. Paraguay, however, reported seizures of 1.3 tons. Seizures declined substantially in Australia, which reported 56 kg seized in 2002, compared with 3.3 tons in 2001.

48. The source country of cannabis resin most frequently cited continued to be Morocco, followed by Albania and India. A further 31 countries were cited as source countries, confirming that trafficking in cannabis resin was widespread and that the number of source countries was large.

49. Trafficking in cannabis resin was mostly intraregional. Exceptions to that pattern were reported by Australia, which cited the Netherlands, Spain and the United Kingdom as source countries of cannabis resin seized in its territory; Uganda, which cited India as a source country; and Canada, which cited Pakistan as a source country.

50. France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Norway and Sweden were often cited as destinations of cannabis resin seized while en route to other countries. Cannabis resin seized by Zimbabwe was intended for the United Kingdom and other European countries. Europe was also reported by Bangladesh, Mexico and Nepal as the intended destination of seized cannabis resin.

## **B. Opiates**

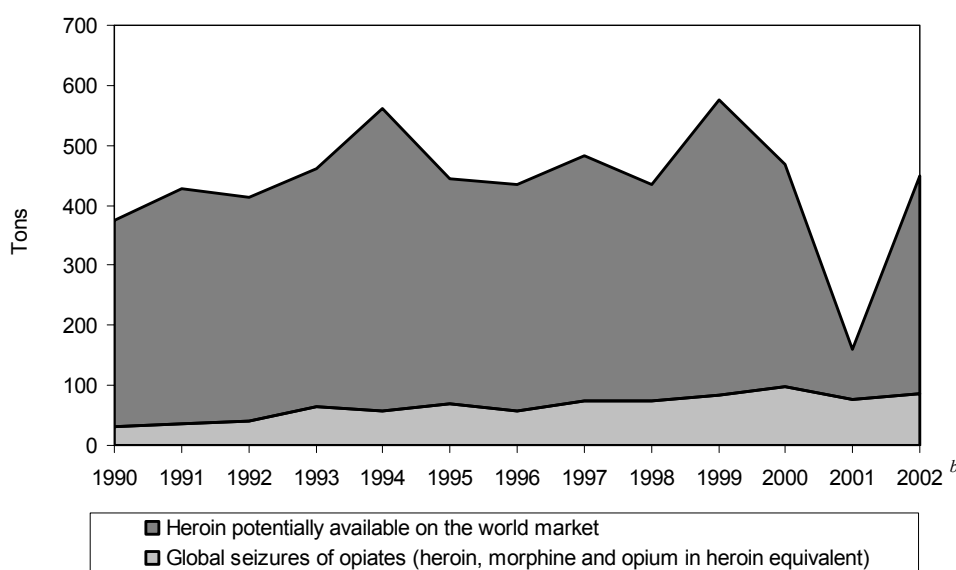
51. Opiates remain the principal problem drugs in the world, as reflected in demand for treatment, followed by cocaine. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime has estimated that almost 15 million people were affected by the abuse of opiates, including heroin, in the period 2000-2001.

52. Measured in consumption units, global seizures of opiates in 2002 accounted for 12 per cent of worldwide drug seizures, placing heroin as the most seized drug in Central Asia and Eastern Europe.

### **1. Interception rates and potential availability of heroin on the world market**

53. Global seizures of opiates, that is, combined seizures of heroin, opium and morphine, converted into heroin equivalents amounted to 87.2 tons in 2002 compared with 76.8 tons in 2001, a 14 per cent increase (see figure V). The increase was mainly the result of morphine seizures, which more than doubled between 2001 and 2002. Worldwide seizures of both raw and prepared opium declined by 13 per cent. Seizures of heroin remained stable.

Figure V

**Global interdiction of opiates and potential availability of heroin on the world market, 1990-2002<sup>a</sup>**

<sup>a</sup> Average interdiction rate (1995-2001): 18 per cent; interdiction rate in 2002: 19 per cent.

<sup>b</sup> Preliminary figures.

54. Measured in terms of the total volume seized, trafficking in opiates increased in all regions, the most significant increases being registered in the Americas and Oceania. The global distribution of seizures of opiates in 2002 was Asia, 61.5 per cent; Europe, 26.5 per cent; Americas, 11.2 per cent; Oceania, 0.5 per cent; and Africa, 0.3 per cent.

55. The countries accounting for the largest seizures of morphine reported very significant increases in 2002: the Islamic Republic of Iran reported seizures of 9.5 tons, Turkey of 7.9 tons, Pakistan of 6.8 tons and Myanmar of 314 kg.

56. In 2002, the Islamic Republic of Iran reported the largest volume of opium seized worldwide: 72.8 tons. Afghanistan ranked second, with seizures totalling 5.6 tons, followed by Pakistan with seizures of 2.6 tons. The volume of opium seized exceeded 1 ton in each of the following countries: China, India, Myanmar, the Republic of Moldova, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan. The Islamic Republic of Iran reported having seized 60 tons of opium between January and September 2003 and Pakistan reported having seized 2.7 tons between January and June 2003. In Tajikistan, seizures of opium and heroin together exceeded 4 tons in the first six months of 2003.<sup>9</sup>

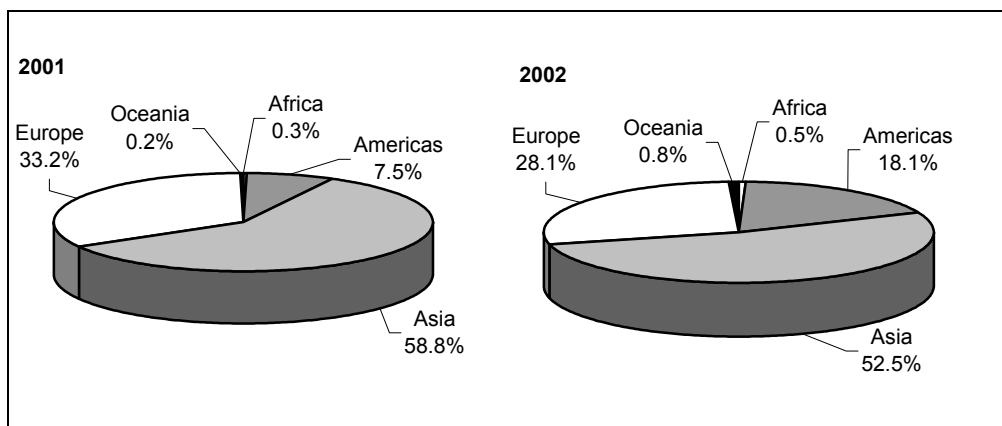
## 2. Trafficking and seizure trends in heroin

57. Based on the analysis of data on seizures, trafficking in heroin in 2002 continued at levels similar to those in 2001. Globally, 53.3 tons of heroin were

seized in 2002, compared with 54.4 tons in 2001, a 2 per cent decline. It is possible that the final global heroin seizure figures in 2002 will exceed the volume seized in 2001 as more official data become available to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. Asia and Europe continued to account for the bulk of heroin seizures. The importance of North America as a consumer market for illegal heroin became clear in 2002, as the share of the region in terms of worldwide interdiction increased by more than 10 per cent. The share of global seizures accounted for by countries in Africa and Oceania also increased slightly (see figure VI).

Figure VI

**Global distribution of heroin seizures, 2001 and 2002**



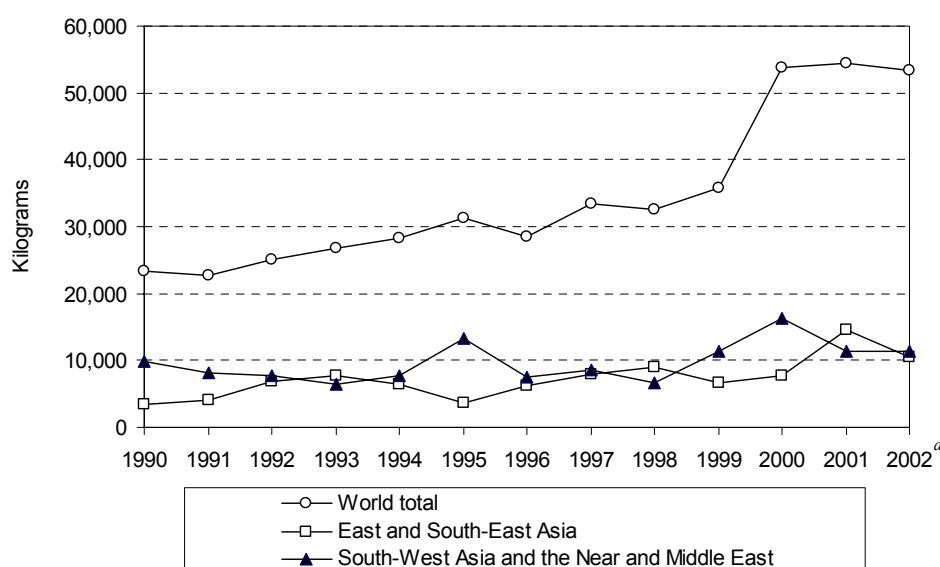
58. Seizures of all illicit drugs measured in consumption units placed heroin as the second most seized drug in Europe and Asia, after cannabis resin, and in Oceania, after amphetamine-type stimulants. In Africa, heroin was the second most seized drug in all subregions except Southern Africa.

59. The largest worldwide volume of heroin seized in 2002 was reported by China, which reported seizures of 9.3 tons, followed by seizures in the United States of 7.8 tons, Pakistan of 5.9 tons, the Islamic Republic of Iran of 3.9 tons and Tajikistan of 3.9 tons.

60. More than half of global heroin interdiction continued to take place in Asia. However, seizures in the region declined by 13 per cent in 2002. This decline was mainly the result of a decline of 30 per cent in seizures in China. In 2002, heroin seizures also declined in Pakistan, while remaining stable in the Islamic Republic of Iran and Tajikistan. Increased heroin seizures were registered in Kyrgyzstan, Myanmar, Thailand and Turkmenistan. In South Asia, such seizures declined slightly.

61. Seizures of heroin in East and South-East Asia combined with those in South-West Asia and the Near and Middle East accounted for 41 per cent of global seizures in 2002. Similar volumes were seized in each of the two subregions in 2002, whereas in previous years there had been a disparity in seizure patterns (see figure VII).

Figure VII  
**Heroin seizures worldwide, in East and South-East Asia and in South-West Asia and the Near and Middle East, 1990-2002**



<sup>a</sup> Preliminary figures.

62. For 2003, the Islamic Republic of Iran reported nearly 2 tons of heroin seized between January and September, which was 40 per cent less than the volume seized during the same period in 2002. Heroin seizures also appeared to have declined in Pakistan in 2003. The authorities of Pakistan reported 1.6 tons of heroin seized between January and June 2003, compared with 5.9 tons seized in 2002.

63. The volumes of heroin seized in 2002 along the two main trafficking routes from Asia to the main consumer markets of Western Europe, the Balkan route and the “northern route”, are broadly similar. Together, seizures in countries along those two routes amounted to 9.1 tons, compared with 9.6 tons seized by countries in Western Europe. In the six months between January and June 2003, a total of 2.1 tons of heroin were reported seized by Turkey, compared with a total of 2.5 tons in 2002.

64. In Western Europe, overall heroin seizures declined in 2002. Denmark, France, Italy, the Netherlands and Sweden registered increased seizures, while Austria, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Portugal and Spain registered a decline. For 2003, based on reports of individual drug seizures received by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, trafficking in heroin appeared to be declining in Austria and Spain, to remain stable in Portugal and to increase in Ireland. In Eastern Europe, heroin seizures increased substantially in Hungary and Ukraine. Increased seizures were also registered in Albania and Poland, while Bulgaria and the Czech Republic registered a decline.

65. In North America, seizures in the United States increased almost threefold, to a record volume of 7.8 tons, representing 84 per cent of the seizures reported in the Americas in 2002. Heroin seizures increased in Mexico and declined in Canada.

Colombia, with seizures of 775 kg, and Venezuela, with 563 kg, also accounted for significant seizures. In Central America, heroin seizures increased in all reporting countries. Data from Caribbean countries were not available when compiling the present report. For 2003, reports on individual heroin seizures furnished by Canada indicated 27 kg seized from January to June, compared with only 3 kg seized in 2002.

66. Heroin seizures increased by 32 per cent in Africa, with increased seizures in almost all reporting countries. Countries in West Africa accounted for the largest subregional share. The largest heroin seizure in Africa was reported by Nigeria at 56 kg, followed by Egypt at 55 kg. In Australia, seizures increased more than fourfold, to 459 kg seized in 2002. For 2003, Australia reported heroin seizures totalling 304 kg between January and June.

67. Pakistan, followed by Afghanistan and Turkey, were the most frequently cited countries of origin of the heroin seized worldwide in 2002. China reported Myanmar as the country of origin of the heroin seized in its territory. For heroin seized in Western Europe, Turkey, followed by Afghanistan and South-East Asia, were the most frequently cited sources. For heroin seized in the Americas, Colombia was the most frequently cited source country. The United States reported seized heroin to have originated in Afghanistan, Colombia and Mexico. Nigeria and Panama were reported as transit countries. In Africa, the heroin seized had mostly originated in India and Pakistan. Australia cited Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of China, Malaysia and Viet Nam as the sources of the heroin it had seized in 2002.

68. At the global level, Europe, followed by Canada, Germany, the Netherlands, Nigeria and the United States were the most frequently cited as the intended destinations of seized heroin. Part of the heroin seized in Pakistan was reported to be intended for Africa and the Arab States of the Persian Gulf. Germany was the most often cited destination of the heroin reported seized by Eastern European countries. Australia was the destination of heroin seizure cases reported by Thailand.

## **C. Cocaine**

69. Cocaine abuse was estimated to have affected 14 million people worldwide in the period 2000-2001, ranking second after heroin in terms of demand for treatment.

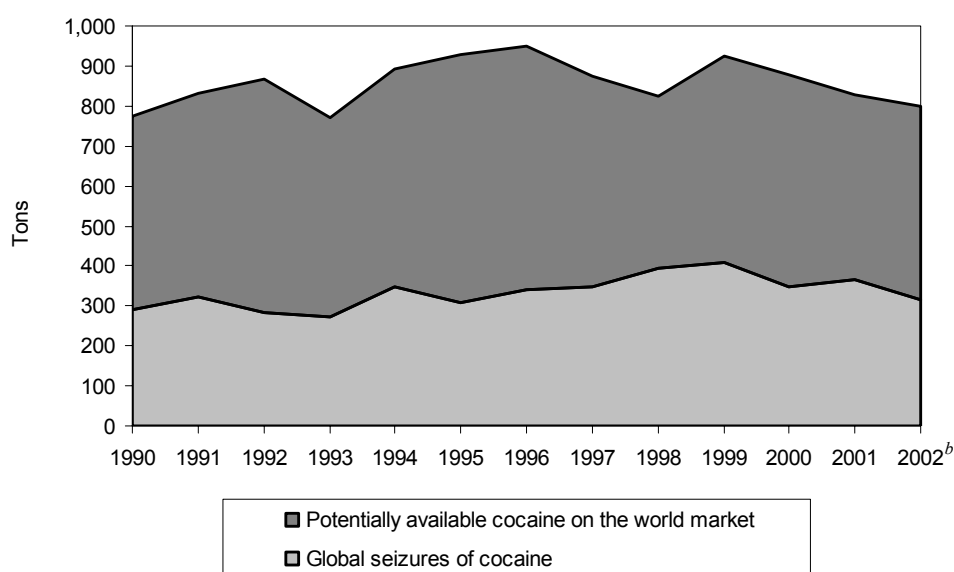
70. In 2002, cocaine continued to be the third most trafficked illicit drug in the world, after cannabis herb and cannabis resin. Measured in consumption units, seizures of cocaine accounted for 14 per cent of total drug seizures in the world and placed cocaine as the most seized drug in Central and South America.

### **1. Interception rates and potential availability of cocaine on the world market**

71. Global seizures of cocaine in 2002, at 314.3 tons, represented a decline of 14 per cent compared with the volume of cocaine seized in 2001 (364.2 tons) (see figure VIII). At the time of compiling the present report, the volume of cocaine seizures had declined in all regions except Africa, where the total volume seized increased by 12 per cent. Measured in terms of the volume seized, most trafficking in cocaine continued to be in the Americas and Western Europe.



Figure VIII

**Global interdiction of cocaine and its potential availability on the world market, 1990-2002<sup>a</sup>**

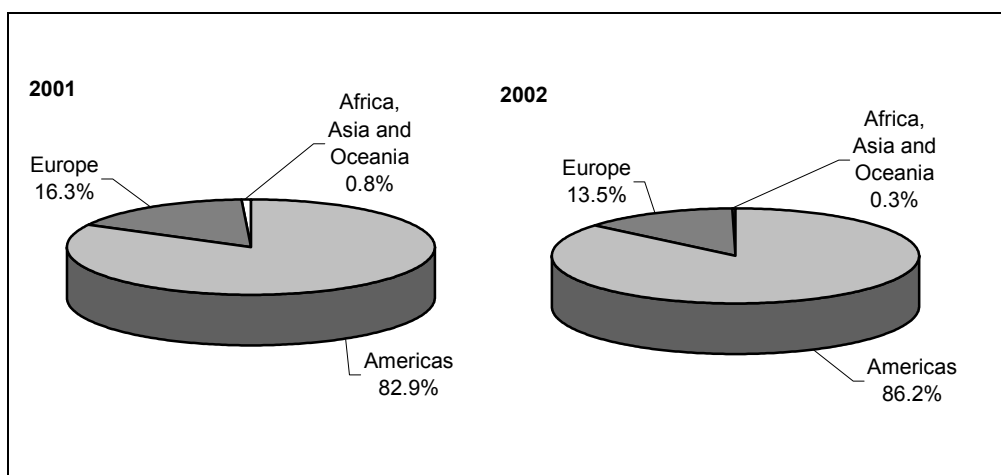
<sup>a</sup> Average interdiction rate (1995-2001): 40 per cent; interdiction rate in 2002: 39 per cent.

<sup>b</sup> Preliminary figures.

## 2. Trafficking and seizure trends in cocaine

72. The global distribution of cocaine seizures in 2002 remained similar to the distribution in 2001 (see figure IX). There was a slight increase in the share accounted for by countries in the Americas and a slight decrease in the share accounted for by countries in Europe.

Figure IX

**Global distribution of cocaine seizures, 2001 and 2002**

73. Measured in consumption units, cocaine was the third most seized drug in Europe, after cannabis resin and heroin, the second most seized drug in North America, after cannabis herb, and the most seized drug in South and Central America. Countries in the Americas and Europe also continued to account for the largest reported seizures: Colombia reported seizures of 118.9 tons, the United States 77.7 tons, Venezuela 17.8 tons, Spain 17.6 tons, Peru 14.6 tons, Mexico 12.6 tons, Brazil 9.2 tons, the Netherlands 7.9 tons, Bolivia 5.1 tons, Italy 4 tons and France 3.7 tons.

74. In 2002, cocaine seizures fell by 10 per cent in the Americas. That was mainly because of a sharp drop in the volume of cocaine seized in the United States: 77.7 tons in 2002 compared with 106.2 tons in 2001. At the time of compiling the present report, very few Caribbean and Central American countries had submitted seizure statistics for 2002. Seizure trends may change as more official data from countries in the region become available to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. In 2003, cocaine seizures increased substantially in Canada: over 500 kg were reported seized from January to June, compared with 180 kg seized in 2002.

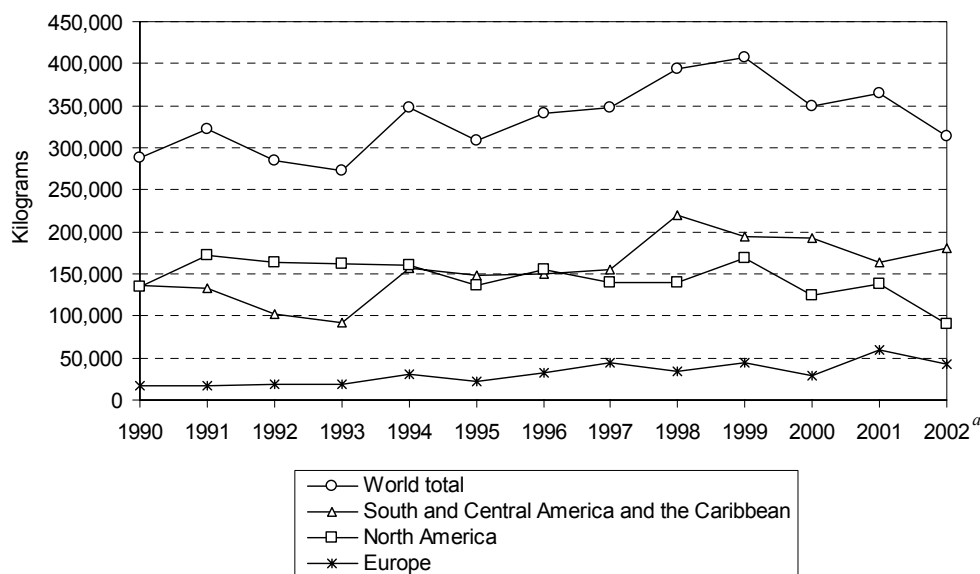
75. In South America, despite the fact that data from some countries had not yet been submitted, an increase of 31 per cent in cocaine seizures was already registered. That increase was the result of seizures reported by Colombia of 118.9 tons in 2002, compared with 73.8 tons in 2001. Seizures in Colombia and the United States together accounted for three quarters of cocaine seizures in the Americas and almost two thirds of global seizures of cocaine.

76. In Western Europe, after the record volume of 59.1 tons of cocaine seized in 2001, seizures declined to 41.8 tons in 2002. A significant decline was reported by Spain, which seized 17.6 tons in 2002 and 33.6 tons in 2001. France, with 3.7 tons, Germany with 2.1 tons and Italy with 4 tons, registered significant increases, featuring among the countries with the largest seizures in the world. Declining seizures were reported in the Netherlands, Portugal and Spain, countries traditionally used by traffickers as point of entry for cocaine consignments destined for Europe. However, increased seizures in France, Germany and Italy might indicate the growing prominence of those countries as gateways to Western Europe for illicit cocaine consignments and illustrate the flexibility of traffickers in seeking alternative entry points. Reports of significant cocaine seizures received for 2003 indicated increasing seizures in Denmark, Greece and Ireland, stable seizures in Austria and declining seizures in Portugal.

77. In Eastern Europe, which accounted for less than 2 per cent of the total cocaine seizures in Europe, such seizures more than doubled but still remained at less than half the quantity seized in 2000. Poland reported a significant seizure of 422 kg. Figure X reflects the trends in cocaine seizures worldwide, in the Americas and in Europe.

78. In Africa, cocaine seizures increased in all subregions, except West and Central Africa. Southern Africa, mainly South Africa, accounted for more than 80 per cent of cocaine seizures on the continent in 2002. Increased seizures were reported by Kenya, Morocco, South Africa and Zambia. Overall, cocaine seizures remained low in Africa, with 509 kg reported as having been seized in the entire region.

Figure X  
Cocaine seizures worldwide, in the Americas and in Europe, 1990-2002



<sup>a</sup> Preliminary figures.

79. Measured in terms of the volume seized, trafficking in cocaine in Asia remained small: only 199 kg of cocaine were reported to have been seized in the entire region. In 2002, cocaine seizures declined in most reporting countries except Israel, which registered a significant increase, to 96 kg from 24 kg in 2001. Seizures also declined in Australia to 106 kg from 1.2 tons in 2001.

80. The most frequently cited sources of cocaine seized worldwide in 2002 were, in descending order, Colombia, Peru, South America, Bolivia and Brazil. The United States cited seizures of cocaine originating in the three main coca-producing countries. In Africa, Brazil was cited as the source country by Cameroon, Kenya and Nigeria. Peru was the country of origin of cocaine seized in Australia, Nigeria and Swaziland. Australia also reported having seized cocaine originating in the United States and the United Kingdom.

81. The cocaine reported as having been seized by Spain had originated in the three main producing countries and was bound for local consumption and further trafficking onward to France and Italy. The transshipment countries cited by Spain were Argentina, Brazil and Venezuela. The Netherlands were cited by France and Italy as the transit country of some of the cocaine seized in their territories.

82. At the global level, the most frequently cited intended destinations of seized cocaine were, in descending order, the United States, Europe, Italy, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom and South Africa.

83. Colombia reported that, in 2002, half of the cocaine seized in that country had been transported by sea: 73 per cent of the cocaine seizures made by Colombia in international and territorial waters took place in the Pacific Ocean and 27 per cent took place in the Atlantic Ocean, indicating a continued prominence of the eastern

Pacific route for trafficking in cocaine destined for the United States. In 2002, Venezuela reported that 90 per cent of the cocaine seized in that country from couriers had been destined for the Netherlands; the remainder had been destined for other countries in Europe, such as Germany, Portugal and Spain.

## **IV. Global and regional trends in the illicit manufacture of and trafficking in synthetic drugs, up to 2002**

### **A. Amphetamine-type stimulants**

84. Abuse in amphetamine-type stimulants has been estimated to have affected some 34 million people during the period 2000-2001, with more than 40 million people having used such stimulants in the past year. Methamphetamine continues to be the most widely available amphetamine-type stimulant in the world, although methylenedioxymethamphetamine (MDMA, commonly known as Ecstasy) is the substance with the largest increases over the past years.

85. Measured in consumption units, the volumes of all illicit drugs seized placed methamphetamine as the most seized drug in East and South-East Asia and amphetamine-type stimulants (excluding Ecstasy) as the most seized drug in Oceania.

#### **1. Illicit manufacture of amphetamine-type stimulants**

86. The number of reported detections of clandestine laboratories manufacturing amphetamine-type stimulants has increased significantly since the mid-1990s. The increase was mainly the result of increased detections of clandestine methamphetamine laboratories reported by the United States. The United States accounted for 97 per cent of such reported detections in the period 1990-2002. Countries in the other regions accounted for the remaining 3 per cent.

87. Between 2001 and 2002, the number of detections of clandestine laboratories manufacturing methamphetamine increased by 14 per cent. The United States reported 9,024 detections, New Zealand 147, the Czech Republic 104, Canada 14, China 13, Mexico 10, Myanmar 4, the Philippines 4, Germany 2 and South Africa 1. Most of the laboratories detected in the United States were small in comparison with the scale of clandestine manufacture in countries in East and South-East Asia. A simple comparison between the number of such detections is therefore not possible. The large methamphetamine seizures in East and South-East Asia are an indication of the high manufacturing capacity in the region.

88. As reflected in the number of illicit laboratories dismantled, clandestine manufacturing of amphetamine is mainly concentrated in Europe. Reports of detections increased steadily in the second half of the 1990s, reaching a peak in 2000. A total of 46 clandestine amphetamine laboratories were reported as having been detected in 2002 compared with 85 in 2001. Poland reported 15 detections, South Africa 13, the Netherlands 10 and Bulgaria and Germany 2 each, while Chile, Estonia, France and the United Kingdom each reported the detection of one laboratory. It is noted that the United States, which had reported having seized 52 clandestine amphetamine laboratories in 2001, reported no such seizures for 2002.

89. The clandestine manufacture of Ecstasy-type substances, measured in terms of the number of clandestine laboratories detected, appears to be concentrated in Western Europe and North America. In the last few years, however, detections have also been reported in countries in East and South-East Asia. For 2002, 54 such laboratories were reported to have been detected compared with 70 in 2001. The Netherlands reported 18 detections, China 11, the United States 9, Canada 8, the United Kingdom 3 and Indonesia 2. Estonia, France and Mexico each reported the detection of one laboratory.

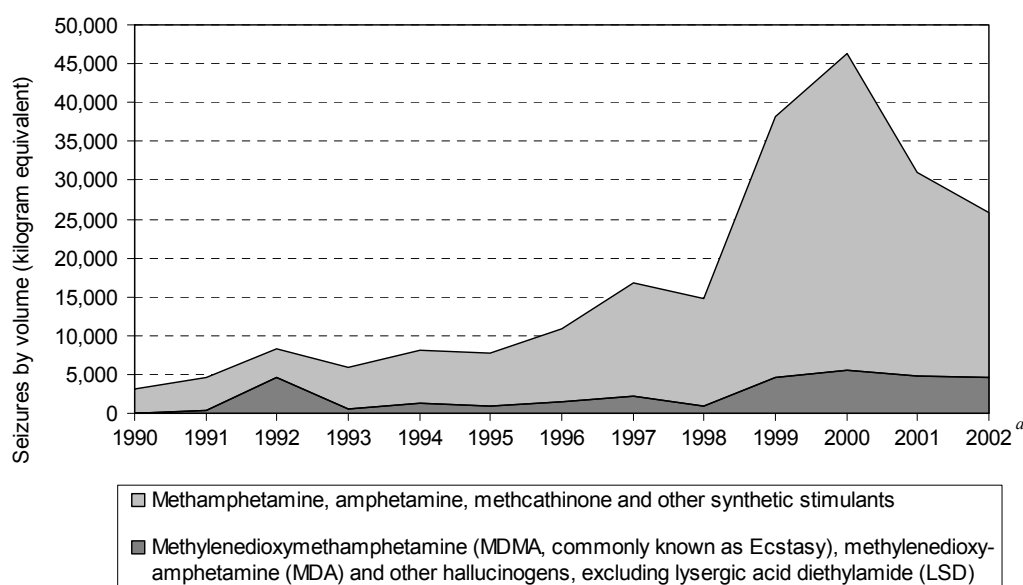
90. Reports on the dismantling of combined amphetamine-type stimulant laboratories, that is, clandestine laboratories manufacturing more than one type of such stimulants, have risen in recent years. Australia reported 372 such cases for 2002, compared with 201 in 2001. Lithuania reported the seizure of 2 such laboratories. Data from the Russian Federation, which reported the seizure of 71 laboratories in 2001, was not yet available for 2002.

## 2. Trafficking and seizure trends in amphetamine-type stimulants

91. Global seizures of amphetamine-type stimulants showed an upward trend in the 1990s, peaking in 2000 at 46.2 tons (see figure XI). The decline in seizures to 31 tons in 2001 and 25.7 tons in 2002 can be partly explained by falling methamphetamine seizures in China, which registered record seizures in 1999 and 2000.

Figure XI

### Global seizures of amphetamine-type stimulants, 1990-2002



<sup>a</sup> Preliminary figures.

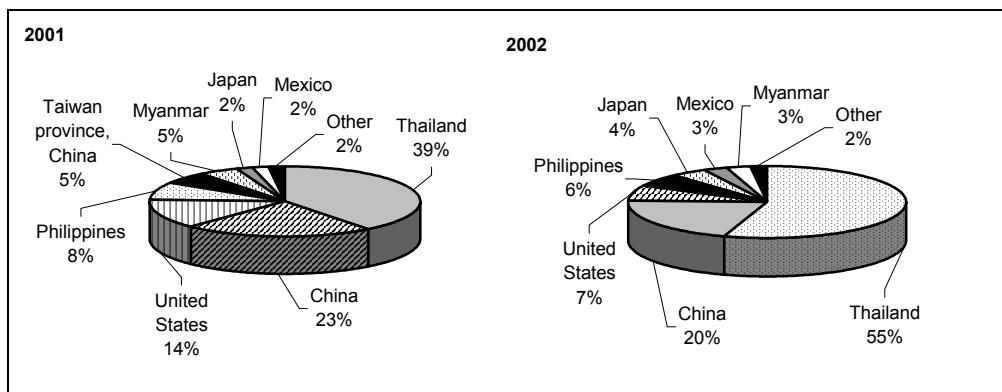
### (a) Methamphetamine

92. In recent years, interdictions of methamphetamine have accounted for approximately three quarters of global seizures of amphetamine-type stimulants (excluding Ecstasy). This proportion remained stable in 2002, when 15.6 tons were seized globally compared with 21 tons in 2001. The global distribution of

methamphetamine seizures in 2002 confirmed the trend observed in previous years of East and South-East Asia and North America as key subregions used for illicit methamphetamine manufacture and trafficking (see figure XII).

Figure XII

**Global distribution of methamphetamine seizures, 2001 and 2002**



93. Since the mid-1990s, China, Japan, Myanmar, the Philippines and Thailand have accounted for the largest volumes of methamphetamine seized in Asia and worldwide. In 2002, the largest volume of methamphetamine seized worldwide was again reported by Thailand, which seized 8.6 tons, followed by China, which seized 3.2 tons. Such seizures increased slightly in Thailand and declined in China. Seizures of methamphetamine also declined in Myanmar, the Philippines and the United States. Increasing methamphetamine seizures were registered in Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of China, Indonesia, Japan and Mexico, as well as in some European countries, notably France, Norway and Sweden.

94. China, Myanmar and the Philippines were cited as countries of origin of the methamphetamine seized in Asia. Japan reported illicit amphetamine-type stimulants being imported to Japan via the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and China. For seizures of methamphetamine in Europe, the most frequently cited source country was the Netherlands, followed by Poland, Belgium and Thailand. The United States reported having seized methamphetamine that had originated locally and in Mexico. Canada reported having made seizures of methamphetamine of Asian and local origin.

95. In addition to local consumption, some countries reported having seized methamphetamine destined for other countries. China cited the Philippines and the Republic of Korea as intended destinations of seized methamphetamine. Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of China reported Guam, Indonesia, Malaysia and the Philippines to be the intended destinations of methamphetamine seizures. The Czech Republic reported having seized methamphetamine intended for Austria and Germany.

**(b) Amphetamine**

96. Global seizures of amphetamine amounted to 4 tons in 2002, an increase of 7 per cent over 2001. Global seizures of amphetamine-type drugs (those not

specified as Ecstasy, amphetamine or methamphetamine by reporting countries) also increased from 1.3 tons in 2001 to 1.4 tons in 2002. Australia, with 1.2 tons compared with 876 kg in 2001, accounted for most of those seizures.

97. The global distribution of amphetamine seizures continued to show Europe as the region most affected. In 2002, Western Europe accounted for 86 per cent of such seizures, Eastern Europe for 10 per cent and countries in the Near and Middle East for 3 per cent. The remaining 1 per cent was accounted for by seizures of small quantities reported by countries in Africa, the Americas and Oceania.

98. At the time of compiling the present report, the Netherlands had reported the largest volume of amphetamine seized in the world in 2002, 481 kg. Bulgaria, Finland, France, Germany, Norway, Poland and Sweden also reported large amphetamine seizures. The Syrian Arab Republic reported having seized 92 kg of amphetamine and Jordan 40 kg. In all the above-mentioned countries except Finland and the Netherlands, the volume of amphetamine seizures increased in 2002.

99. For amphetamine seized in Europe, the most frequently cited source country was, as for methamphetamine, the Netherlands, followed by Poland and Belgium. Jordan and the Syrian Arab Republic cited Turkey as the source country of the amphetamine seized in their territories. Most of the seized amphetamine had been bound for local consumption and/or neighbouring countries. France, Poland and the United Kingdom reported having seized amphetamine intended for the United States.

#### **(c) Ecstasy-type substances**

100. Global seizures of hallucinogens remained stable in recent years. In 2002, 4.7 tons were seized in the world, compared with 4.9 tons in 2001, a 4 per cent decline. Substances of the Ecstasy group continued to account for the bulk of those seizures, 92 per cent in 2002. In 2002, increased Ecstasy seizures were registered in Europe, Africa and Oceania. Seizures declined in the Americas and Asia. Western European countries accounted for 98 per cent of Ecstasy seizures in Europe and 73 per cent of global Ecstasy seizures; North America accounted for 20 per cent of global seizures. The remaining 7 per cent was accounted for by seizures reported by countries in other subregions.

101. At the time of compiling the present report, the Netherlands had reported the largest worldwide volume of Ecstasy seized in 2002, 1.5 tons. Other countries reporting large Ecstasy seizures were France, Germany, Spain and the United States. Ecstasy seizures rose in a number of European countries, including Austria, Croatia, France, Hungary, Italy, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Spain and Sweden. Declining seizures were registered in some countries, including Germany and Ireland. Seizures of Ecstasy reported by Ireland for 2003 indicated increased trafficking.

102. In the Americas, Ecstasy seizures declined substantially in North America in 2002. In the other subregions, Brazil, Colombia, Nicaragua and Venezuela reported seizing relatively small quantities. In the Middle East, Israel seized 100 kg in 2002, compared with 14 kg in 2001. Ecstasy seizures increased in Japan and Thailand, declining in Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of China and Singapore. Overall, the volume of Ecstasy seized in Asia in 2002, 147 kg, was less than half that of 2001. The decline in Ecstasy seizures in Asia was mainly the result of

seizures reported by China, which reported seizures of 270 kg in 2001 and did not report in 2002. South Africa, with 57 kg, was the only country in Africa reporting seizures of significant quantities of Ecstasy in 2002.

103. The Netherlands was most frequently cited as the source country of the Ecstasy seized worldwide; it was followed by Belgium and Germany. A number of countries also reported local sources. Most of the reporting countries indicated that the Ecstasy seized had been intended for local consumption, with some countries reporting having seized Ecstasy bound for neighbouring countries. The United States was the most often cited destination of Ecstasy seized in Europe that was intended for further trafficking. Australia was cited as the destination of Ecstasy seizure cases in Germany and Romania. Poland reported South America as the intended destination of seized Ecstasy.

## **B. Other drugs**

### **Trafficking and seizure trends**

104. In 2002, nearly 9 tons of methaqualone were reported seized, mostly by three countries: India, which reported 5 tons; China, 2.9 tons; and South Africa, 986 kg. This was down from 10.3 tons seized in 2001, when South Africa accounted for 80 per cent of global methaqualone seizures. Seizures of depressants excluding methaqualone were reported by countries in all regions, for a total of 973 kg compared with 2.6 tons in 2001. The largest volume seized was reported by Ukraine: 606 kg.

## **V. Conclusion**

105. The sustained reduction of illicit opium poppy cultivation in Myanmar and the Lao People's Democratic Republic constituted a positive development in the period 2002-2003. Similarly, the efforts of the Governments of Bolivia, Colombia and Peru to eradicate coca bush and halt cocaine manufacture have led to substantive declines in the availability of illicit cocaine throughout the world.

106. Of serious concern is the situation in Afghanistan, where illicit opium poppy cultivation resumed on a large scale, despite the ban on such cultivation by the Transitional Authority of Afghanistan. Sustained support from the international community to the authorities in Afghanistan will be paramount in assisting the Government to fulfil its commitment to eradicate the cultivation of illicit opium poppy.

107. Coca bush cultivation increased slightly in Peru in 2002. Similarly, Bolivia experienced an increase for the second consecutive year, after a steady decline between 1996 and 2000. Further efforts by the international community will be required to assist the coca-producing countries in their efforts to offer viable alternative sources of income to coca bush farmers.

108. Increased seizures of heroin in Central Asian countries indicated the prominence being attained by this trafficking route in recent years. The traditional Balkan smuggling route and its many variations remains a major conduit to the consumer markets of Western Europe.



109. The Eastern Pacific route for trafficking in cocaine from Colombia to the main consumer market of the United States remains a major conduit.

110. Countries neighbouring major producing countries and along the main trafficking routes will require further concerted and coordinated international assistance to counter trafficking effectively.

111. The low volumes of illicit drugs reported as having been seized in certain subregions and especially in Africa are not necessarily an indication of low trafficking levels. It is more likely that they reflect underreporting of seizures and, most importantly, insufficient resources being assigned by African countries and the international community to increase the interdiction capacities of law enforcement agencies.

112. The widespread nature of the abuse of and trafficking in synthetic drugs, especially amphetamine-type stimulants underlines the need for Governments in countries where most illicit manufacture is taking place to take effective action against that illicit activity, including by implementing more stringent controls to prevent the diversion of precursor chemicals from licit channels to be used in the illicit manufacture of amphetamine-type stimulants.

113. Finally, in respect of cannabis, the most widely trafficked illicit drug worldwide, Governments may wish to give greater priority to halting cannabis production and combating cannabis trafficking, in line with their obligations under the relevant international drug control treaties.

#### Notes

<sup>1</sup> United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, *Morocco: Cannabis Survey 2003* (December 2003).

<sup>2</sup> United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, *Afghanistan: Opium Survey 2003* (October 2003).

<sup>3</sup> United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, *Myanmar: Opium Survey 2003* (June 2003).

<sup>4</sup> United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, *Laos: Opium Survey 2003* (June 2003).

<sup>5</sup> United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, *Colombia: Coca Survey for December 2002 and Semi-Annual Estimate for July 2003* (March 2003).

<sup>6</sup> United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, *Peru: Coca Survey for 2002* (March 2003).

<sup>7</sup> United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, *Bolivia: Coca Survey in the Yungas of La Paz in 2002* (March 2003)

<sup>8</sup> Considering that a typical "dose" of every illicit drug differs, the weight of one particular drug seized is not comparable with another. For the calculations of "typical consumption unit" (at street purity) the following conversion ratios were used:

Cannabis herb 0.5 gram

Cannabis resin 0.135 gram

Cocaine and Ecstasy 0.1 gram

Heroin and amphetamine 0.03 gram.

<sup>9</sup> United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, *Regional Office for Central Asia, monthly report* (September 2003)