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The world drug problem**Third biennial report of the Executive Director****Addendum****Action Plan against Illicit Manufacture, Trafficking and Abuse of Amphetamine-type Stimulants and Their Precursors******Contents**

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I. Introduction

1. The demand for amphetamine-type stimulants (ATS) has continued to show an upward trend. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) estimates that amphetamines are used by some 30 million people worldwide.¹ The ATS that are most frequently abused and sold illicitly include amphetamine, methamphetamine, methylenedioxyamphetamine (MDA), methylenedioxyethylamphetamine (MDE), methylenedioxymethamphetamine (MDMA, commonly known as Ecstasy) and methcathinone, which are mainly manufactured in clandestine laboratories. Ecstasy has become the drug of choice for young people in several regions of the world. Studies have found severe psychiatric and neuro-cognitive consequences resulting from long-term abuse of Ecstasy, including serious adverse effects on the psychological and mental state of the abuser.

2. Regional trends differ depending on the type of amphetamine-type stimulants and there are also some positive developments (E/CN.7/2005/3). In East and South-East Asia, although there are still relatively high levels of prevalence and widespread use of ATS among the general population, without the impact of an increasing trend as seen in China with its vast population, the regional trend in ATS abuse would appear to have somewhat stabilized. With regard to the other main regions of ATS abuse, the trend indicates increases in Europe, while showing some stabilization in Oceania. In North America, the trend has been reported to be decreasing. Some States in Africa and the Middle East have also indicated increasing abuse of ATS in the past few years.

3. To counter the emerging trends in the illicit manufacture, trafficking and abuse of synthetic drugs, the General Assembly at its twentieth special session adopted the Action Plan against Illicit Manufacture, Trafficking and Abuse of Amphetamine-type Stimulants and Their Precursors (resolution S-20/4 A), in which it recommended action in five key areas: raising awareness of the problem of ATS; reducing illicit demand; providing accurate information; limiting supply; and strengthening the control system for ATS and their precursors.

4. This report presents a summary and an analysis of the efforts to implement the Action Plan, as reported by States in their replies to the biennial reports questionnaire for the third reporting period (2002-2004). In addition, this report provides information, pursuant to Economic and Social Council resolution 2004/41 of 21 July 2004, entitled "Control of the manufacture of, trafficking in and abuse of synthetic drugs", in particular, in connection to action taken by UNODC and by States (as reported in the biennial reports questionnaire for the third reporting period) to counter the ATS problem.

II. Action by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

5. In line with Council resolution 2004/41, UNODC has continued to develop and strengthen activities related to ATS and their precursors in ongoing demand reduction, precursor control and cross-border law enforcement projects.

6. In connection with reducing the demand for ATS, the main UNODC activities are being implemented in member States of the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) and in China, within the framework of the plan of action entitled

“Association of South-East Asian Nations and China Cooperative Operations in Response to Dangerous Drugs”, known as the ACCORD Plan of Action, covering some of the States most affected by the ATS problem, which builds on the UNODC meeting entitled “International Congress: in Pursuit of a Drug-Free ASEAN 2015, Sharing the Vision, Leading the Change”, held in Bangkok from 11 to 13 October 2000, and on regional Group of Eight (G-8) follow-up activities. Abuse surveillance, monitoring and response capabilities have meanwhile been enhanced in Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, China, Malaysia and Thailand, and the implementation of a UNODC ATS data collection project has assisted in understanding ATS abuse in the region. Primary prevention responses to drug abuse, particularly ATS abuse, have been developed in Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines and Thailand, and a UNODC project in the Philippines and Thailand has provided strategies for activities targeting youth. Treatment, rehabilitation and social reintegration for users of synthetic substances have been improved in Brunei Darussalam, China, Indonesia, the Lao People’s Democratic Republic, the Philippines and Thailand. In Cambodia, UNODC has been supporting treatment efforts and has been providing training for regional authorities. Efforts have been made to strengthen the role of non-governmental and other community-based organizations, for example, in Malaysia, where several non-governmental organizations and other community-based organizations complement efforts in the field of treatment and rehabilitation of ATS addicts. ATS demand reduction has also been given priority in national policies: ATS prevention components have been included in the national curriculum of Malaysia since 2000 and the Government of the Philippines has launched Operation Public Aware to educate the public about ATS.

7. In connection with scientific and technical support to limit the supply of, and strengthen the control system for, ATS and their precursors, UNODC has extended its ongoing drug characterization/impurity profiling activities to cover different forms of ATS, with the aim of improving forensic capabilities and laboratory drug-testing capacity and making greater use of standardized laboratory data as a primary source of information. Activities include providing analytical methods for identifying methamphetamine, Ecstasy-type drugs and other ATS in order to enable the monitoring of common methods of illicit manufacture and the identification of the precursors used, while contributing to the strengthening of the law enforcement capacity and the development of effective early warning mechanisms for identifying new or unknown ATS.

8. In the context of strengthening drug-testing capacity at the national level, UNODC aims to improve possibilities for the identification and analysis of seized drug samples by: (a) identifying suitable analytical methods for ATS and their key precursors, including more specific field tests in the identification of methods; and (b) developing best practices, guidelines and manuals for drug testing and analysis, including an updated manual of recommended methods for identification and analysis of ATS. Working with a network of collaborating laboratories, UNODC is helping to develop additional systems to collect, analyse and disseminate information on the legitimate sources, manufacturing methods and uses of ATS precursors, and on emerging trends and patterns of ATS manufacture, trafficking and abuse, with a view to developing a worldwide information clearing-house system. Related activities have already included the publication and dissemination of the

first survey, entitled *Ecstasy and Amphetamines: Global Survey 2003*,² which will be revised and updated in 2005.

9. UNODC activities complement and support ongoing bilateral assistance from Japan to drug-testing laboratories in East and South-East Asia, and they form part of a comprehensive programme to meet the particular needs of the subregion, as well as to provide ongoing and continued support for implementation of the related regional ACCORD Plan of Action. UNODC has further prepared a specialized training programme for forensic laboratory personnel on drug characterization/impurity profiling, in close cooperation with the Japan International Cooperation Agency in South-East Asia. UNODC has also continued its efforts to promote the systematic use of scientific findings, especially from drug characterization/impurity profiling studies, both for operational purposes and for forecasting and trend analyses at the national and regional levels.

10. UNODC has also initiated, or contributed to, the development of databases for the collection of laboratory results at the national and international levels. Databases have been established and used in various countries in South-East Asia, and significant steps have been taken in the proposed development of an International Drug Profiling Database, aimed at providing law enforcement with information to disrupt and dismantle drug trafficking organizations.

11. Pursuant to Commission resolution 47/5, entitled "Illicit drug profiling in international law enforcement: maximizing outcome and improving cooperation", UNODC is finalizing a report that identifies current profiling initiatives and best practices, based on expert technical consultations and existing UNODC expertise, and provides a global inventory of drug profiling initiatives, approaches and best practices, ranging from a national case-by-case comparison of seized samples for evidential purposes, to regional and international efforts to standardize analytical methods, establish mechanisms for the collection and exchange of results and share and develop intelligence findings.

III. Action by Governments

A. The legal framework for international cooperation

12. A total of 90 States provided responses to section VII of the biennial reports questionnaire for the third reporting period (2002-2004), compared with 109 responses for the first reporting period (E/CN.7/2001/16) and 116 for the second reporting period (E/CN.7/2003/2). Given the revision of the biennial reports questionnaire following the first reporting period, the results of that reporting period are not strictly comparable with those of subsequent reporting periods. A total of 72 States responded to section VII of the biennial reports questionnaire for both the second and third reporting periods. The figures in this report show a regional comparison for that group of States between the two cycles. It should be noted that only two States responded from Oceania: Australia and New Zealand.

13. States were asked if they had implemented the provisions of the international drug control treaties, the resolutions and decisions of the Economic and Social Council and the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, as well as the recommendations of the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB), relating to the illicit

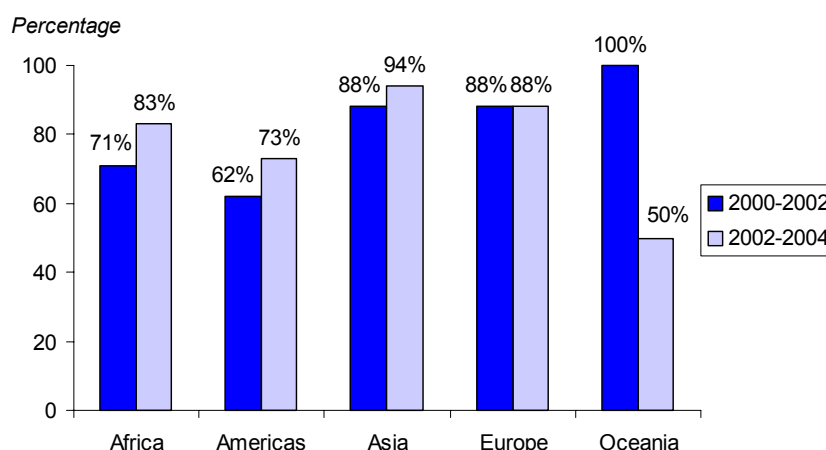
manufacture, trafficking and abuse of synthetic drugs, in particular ATS. A total of 68 States (76 per cent) replying in the third reporting period reported having done so, compared with 82 and 88 per cent in the first and second reporting periods, respectively. In some States, however, the international drug control treaties had been only partially implemented, and national legislation was being amended to implement the treaty provisions relating to ATS. Afghanistan, for example, reported that its new drug control law had still not been fully implemented, though it had complied with the provisions of the international drug control conventions; New Zealand and Trinidad and Tobago indicated that they were working towards full implementation; and Zimbabwe noted it had not yet fully implemented action in that area due to financial and technical constraints.

14. Among the 72 States responding to the biennial reports questionnaire for both its second and third reporting periods, in all regions except Europe and Oceania there was an improvement in the percentage of States that had taken measures to implement the global legal framework for ATS (see figure I).

Figure I

States that implemented the international drug control treaties, relevant resolutions and decisions of the Economic and Social Council and the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and the recommendations of the International Narcotics Control Board, by region, 2000-2002 and 2002-2004

(Percentage of States in each region responding to the biennial reports questionnaire for both the second and third reporting periods)



B. Raising awareness of the problem of amphetamine-type stimulants

15. The Action Plan called on Member States to give priority to combating the ATS problem in all its aspects and to raising awareness of the problem. Most States responding to the questionnaire for the third reporting period (68 per cent) reported that they had adopted measures to raise awareness of, and accord higher priority to, the ATS problem; that figure was significantly lower than the figure for the second reporting period (80 per cent, compared with 54 per cent for the

first reporting period). A comparison of the 72 States reporting in both the second and third reporting periods puts the apparent decline in perspective: in the second and third reporting periods, 86 and 82 per cent, respectively, reported that they had put in place measures to raise awareness. Some of the actions included the launching of national prevention and information campaigns and strategies to reduce the illicit demand for drugs, including ATS.

16. Over half of the States responding indicated that they had put in place initiatives to raise awareness that targeted specific groups and sectors, such as the general public (52 per cent), medical personnel (46 per cent), youth or other vulnerable groups (57 per cent), law enforcement officials (52 per cent), the leisure and entertainment industry (31 per cent) and the pharmaceutical industry (40 per cent). Twenty-two per cent of the responding States (20) also had awareness programmes targeting other groups and sectors, including educational institutions, religious and non-governmental organizations, grass-roots groups, the chemical industry, counsellors and welfare workers, forensic laboratory staff, the judiciary, customs officials and journalists.

C. Reducing illicit demand for amphetamine-type stimulants

17. The Action Plan acknowledged that abuse of ATS was increasingly concentrated among younger people, who may be unaware of the adverse health effects of such substances. Accordingly, the Action Plan placed emphasis on reducing illicit demand for ATS.

1. Measures to reduce demand

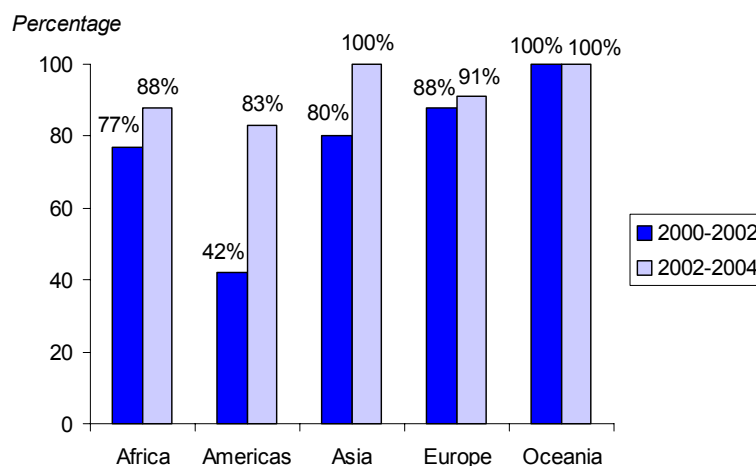
18. A total of 58 (or 64 per cent) of the States responding to the questionnaire for the third reporting period (2002-2004) had adopted measures to reduce the illicit demand for ATS, compared with 71 per cent in the first reporting period and 75 per cent in the second. National prevention campaigns to reduce illicit demand for ATS figured prominently, with 59 per cent of the responding States implementing them, a percentage that has remained almost unchanged since the second reporting period (60 per cent). States also reported on other measures that they had adopted, such as the provision of specialized treatment (30 per cent), aftercare services (27 per cent) and interventions to reduce adverse consequences of the abuse of ATS (22 per cent). A regional comparison of the 72 States that responded to the questionnaire for both the second and third reporting periods reveals an improvement in all regions except Oceania, where there was no change (see figure II).

19. Some States (14 per cent) also reported on other measures that they had implemented to reduce illicit demand for ATS, which included the formulation of ATS action plans, identification of good practices and approaches for treatment, training of physicians and health workers, research, raising the awareness of risks at entertainment sites and discotheques, including among staff, warning systems, the introduction of drug abuse prevention in prisons and in school curricula and drug testing.

Figure II

States that introduced measures to reduce the illicit demand for amphetamine-type stimulants, by region, 2000-2002 and 2002-2004

(Percentage of States in each region responding to the biennial reports questionnaire for both the second and third reporting periods)

**2. Monitoring illicit demand**

20. The Action Plan also identified data collection on ATS abuse patterns as essential to the development of strategies targeting illicit demand for ATS. A total of 42 States (47 per cent) reported that they had adopted measures to monitor continuously the illicit demand for and abuse of ATS; that percentage was almost the same as the percentage for the first reporting period (48 per cent), but was significantly lower than the 60 per cent responding affirmatively in the second reporting period (2000-2002). Forty-one per cent of the States responding in the third reporting period had integrated research results into prevention campaigns and treatment efforts, compared with 57 per cent in the second reporting period. A regional comparison of the States that responded to the questionnaire for both the second reporting period (2000-2002) and the third (2002-2004), however, shows that there were improvements in most regions (see figures III and IV).

Figure III

States that implemented measures to continuously monitor the illicit demand for and abuse patterns of amphetamine-type stimulants, by region, 2000-2002 and 2002-2004

(Percentage of States in each region responding to the biennial reports questionnaire in both the second and third reporting periods)

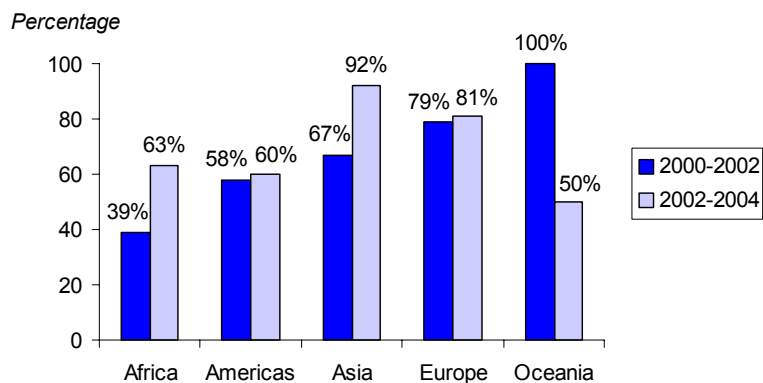
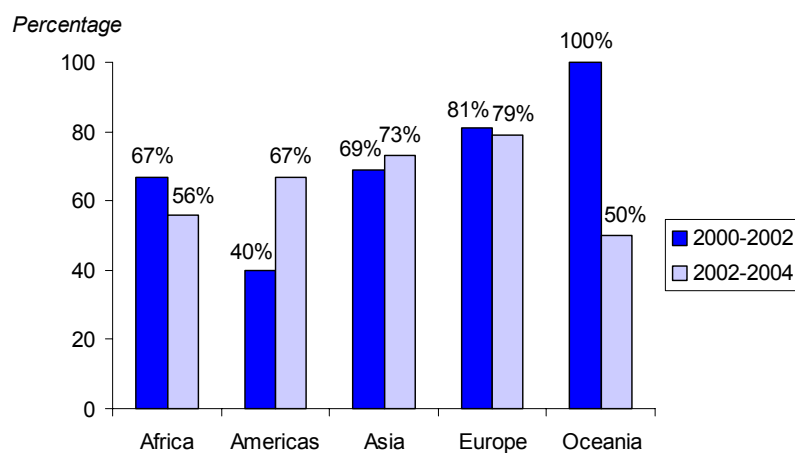


Figure IV

States that integrated research results into prevention campaigns and treatment efforts, by region, 2000-2002 and 2002-2004

(Percentage of States responding to the biennial reports questionnaire for both the second and third reporting periods)



21. A total of 36 States³ described the measures they had taken to monitor illicit demand for and patterns of abuse of ATS. Many States⁴ reported having conducted periodic national, household and school population surveys and other epidemiological studies to monitor knowledge, attitudes and experience of drug abuse, including ATS. Some States also collected data from other sources, such as law enforcement agencies, the health sector, treatment and rehabilitation centres, post-treatment follow-up, monitoring of prescriptions, drug-related incidents, and surveys of individuals seeking treatment for drug abuse. Analysis of data from drug helplines, reports from non-governmental organizations and surveys of drug abusers at the street level were also among the data sources reportedly used. European Union member States and Australia indicated that they had introduced early warning systems to identify changes in illicit drug markets, patterns of drug abuse and new synthetic drugs.

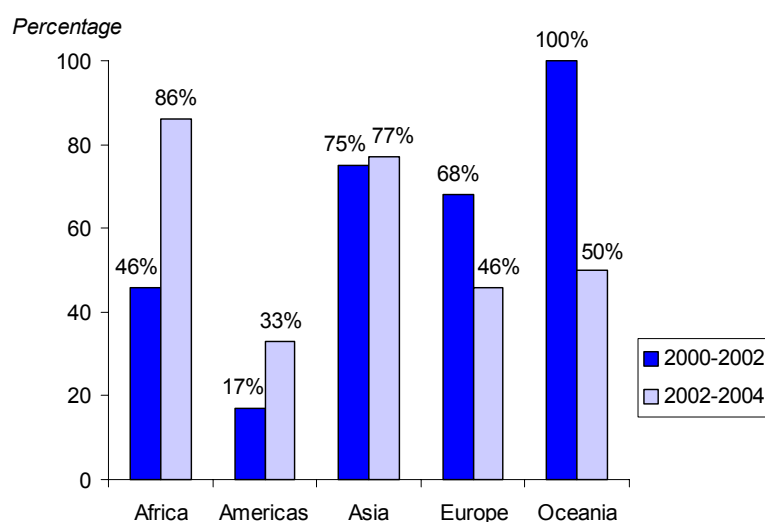
3. Specific programmes to prevent drug experimentation by youth

22. The Action Plan called on States to include in their education campaigns information on the harmful effects of ATS abuse. Preventing first use of illicit drugs and drug experimentation is an important aspect of programmes addressing the specific needs of young people. Thirty-eight per cent of States responding reported they had adopted specific programmes to prevent youth from experimenting with ATS, a percentage that compares unfavourably with the 39 and 53 per cent that reported doing so in the first and second reporting periods. However, when considering the group of 72 States responding to the questionnaire for 2000-2002 and 2002-2004, there were improvements in all regions except Europe and Oceania (see figure V).

Figure V

States implementing specific programmes to prevent experimentation with amphetamine-type stimulants among youth, by region, 2000-2002 and 2002-2004

(Percentage of States in each region responding to the biennial reports questionnaire for both the second and third reporting periods)



D. Providing accurate information on amphetamine-type stimulants

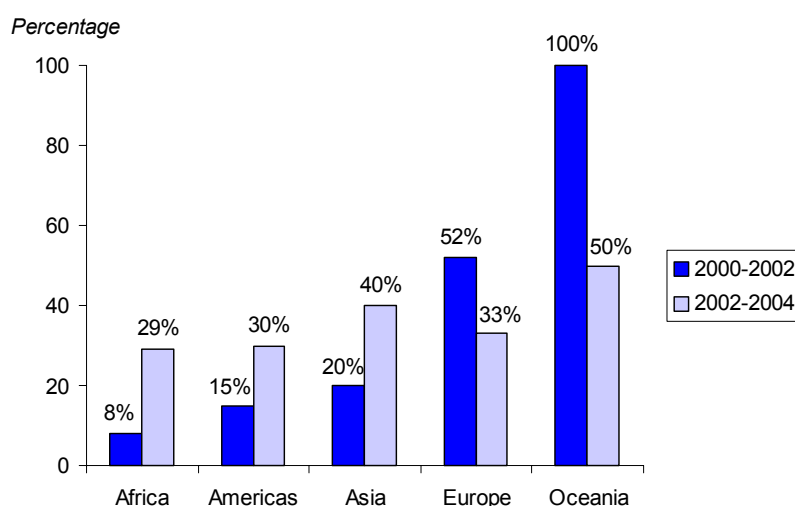
23. The Internet and other media have been used by criminals to provide recipes for clandestine manufacture, techniques of abuse and promoting the abuse of ATS, as well as to evade controls. The Action Plan encouraged States to enable the removal of illegal drug-related information from the communication media and promote the development and use of rating and filtering software to enable users of such media to protect themselves from undesirable or offensive materials.

24. In the third reporting period, 22 per cent of the responding States reported they had taken measures to prevent the dissemination of information related to illicit drugs on the Internet. That figure suggests limited progress when compared with the 25 per cent that reported doing so in the second reporting period, though it is significantly higher than the 14 per cent of the first reporting period. However, a regional comparison of 72 States that responded to the questionnaire for both the second and third reporting periods shows that there were improvements in all regions except Europe and Oceania (see figure VI).

Figure VI

States taking measures to prevent the dissemination of information on illicit drugs through the Internet, by region, 2000-2002 and 2002-2004

(Percentage of States in each region responding to the biennial reports questionnaire for both the second and third reporting periods)



25. A number of States reported having enhanced law enforcement capabilities to counter the use of information technology in connection with organized crime, including the distribution of illicit drugs, through the establishment of specialized units for investigating Internet-related criminal activities. Law enforcement authorities continuously monitored and scanned the Internet for information promoting illicit drugs and their sale, including ATS, and took measures to investigate and block such sites. Australia, China, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Japan, the Netherlands, the Republic of Korea, the Russian Federation, Spain and Turkey were among the States that reported

having taken such measures. Some States (for example, Albania and Croatia) noted that their legal frameworks prohibited the direct or indirect promotion of illicit drugs, and penalties for the misuse of the Internet in drug-related crime had been increased. Some States (for example, the Philippines) had established a system whereby all information or material related to illicit drugs required review by the Dangerous Drugs Board prior to public release.

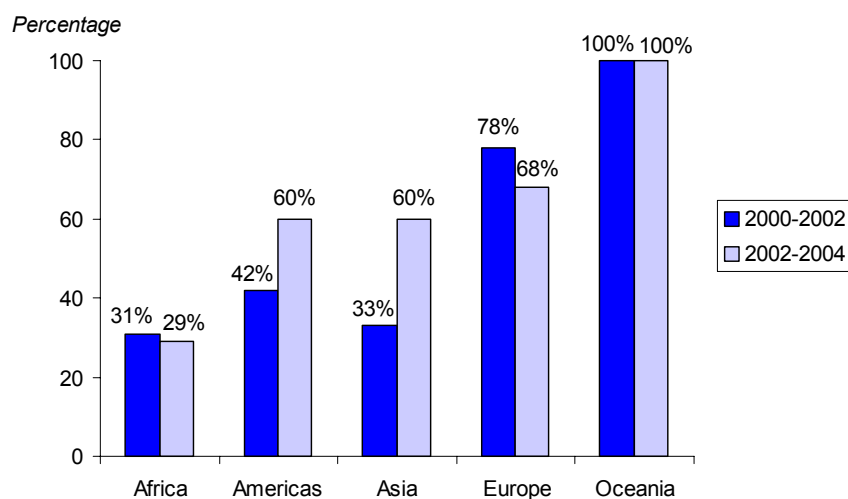
Use of information technology to disseminate information on adverse effects of amphetamine-type stimulants

26. Modern information technology should be used to disseminate information on the adverse health, social and economic consequences of ATS abuse. The Internet, for example, should be used as an instrument to reach young people. Thirty-eight per cent of the States responding (34) replied that they had used information technology to disseminate information on the adverse health, social and economic consequences of the abuse of ATS. The corresponding percentages in the first and second reporting periods were 30 and 44 per cent, respectively, reinforcing the need for States to develop strategies for using all the means provided by modern information technology to combat the spread of the abuse of ATS. The responses from the 72 States reporting in both the reporting periods 2000-2002 and 2002-2004 show that there was a slight fall in Africa, a sharper decline in Europe, improvements in the Americas and Asia and no change in Oceania (see figure VII).

Figure VII

States using modern information technology to disseminate information on the adverse health, social and economic consequences of the abuse of amphetamine-type stimulants, by region, 2000-2002 and 2002-2004

(Percentage of States in each region responding to the biennial reports questionnaire for both the second and third reporting periods)



27. In addition to using the Internet, some States reported using other modern means for disseminating information, such as inter-active compact discs (CDs) or digital

versatile discs (DVDs) (e.g. China, Costa Rica, Guatemala and Spain), and special radio and television programmes (the Russian Federation). The Netherlands reported it also used e-mail lists, Internet chat-boxes and e-mail newsletters. Italy had established a multimedia call centre and the national drug prevention campaign of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland was supported by a telephone helpline and Internet/e-mail support for members of the public. Estonia reported that the Internet had become the leading means of distributing information on drug abuse prevention. Denmark reported it was using the Internet to check the knowledge of youth about drugs, including ATS. In some States, police websites had been supplemented with links to provide minors and their parents with assistance for drug problems in families.

E. Limiting the supply of amphetamine-type stimulants

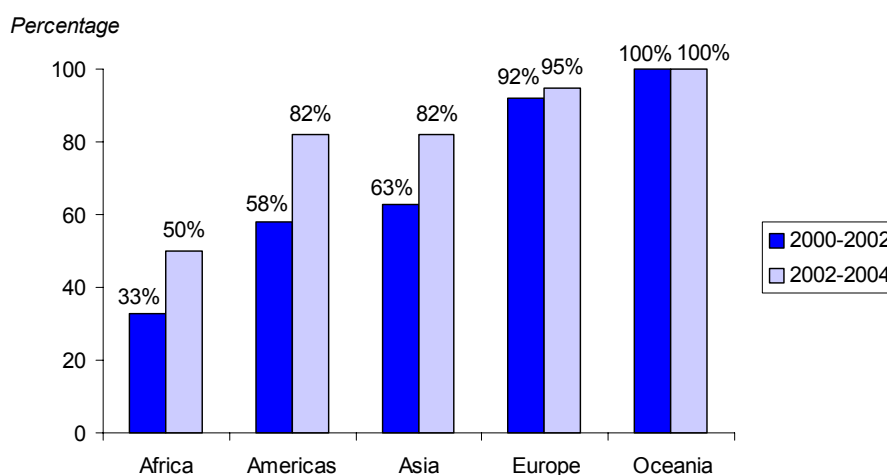
28. The global illicit ATS market was supplied by clandestine manufacturing facilities that were spreading geographically and through diversion from the licit market. The Action Plan noted that the detection of clandestine laboratories and the prevention of the diversion of chemical precursors and laboratory equipment were principal strategies to stop illicit manufacturing of and trafficking in ATS. Precursors have a wide range of licit industrial uses and are widely traded; consequently, effective precursor control and monitoring are of primary importance and require the successful and close cooperation of the chemical industry.

29. In the third reporting period, 53 per cent of all States responding reported taking measures to detect the clandestine manufacture of ATS. The corresponding figure in the second reporting period was 63 per cent. The lower number of respondents in the third period accounts for much of the decrease. A regional comparison of those States that responded in both the second and third periods shows that the proportion of States taking such measures increased in all regions except Oceania, where there was no change (see figure VIII).

Figure VIII

States that took measures to detect the clandestine manufacture of amphetamine-type stimulants, by region, 2000-2002 and 2002-2004

(Percentage of States in each region responding to the biennial reports questionnaire for both the second and third reporting periods)

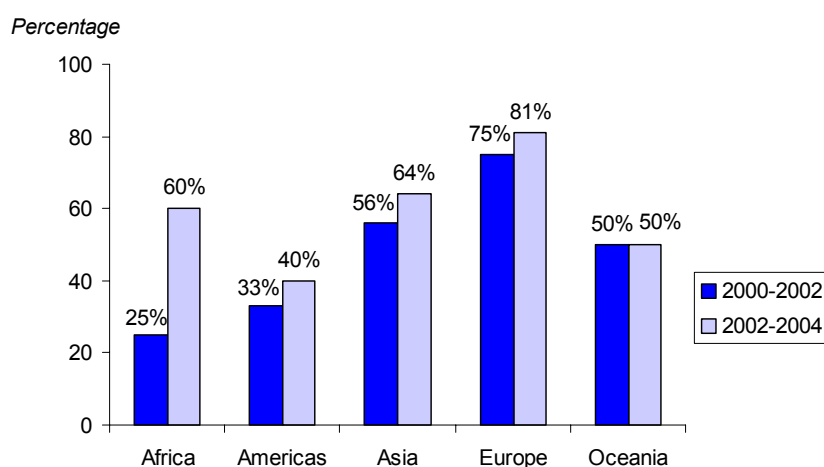


30. States were asked whether they had taken measures to monitor the manufacturing methods used in clandestine laboratories. In total, the proportion of States reporting taking action fell from 48 per cent in the second period to 38 per cent in the third period. At the regional level, however, when examining the group of States responding to the questionnaire for both periods, an improvement was registered (see figure IX). Measures taken included monitoring trade in tableting machines and technical equipment required for the manufacture of ATS.

Figure IX

States taking specific measures to monitor manufacturing methods used in clandestine laboratories, by region, 2002-2002 and 2002-2004

(Percentage of States in each region responding to the biennial reports questionnaire for both the second and third reporting periods)



1. Measures to improve operational capabilities of forensic laboratories

31. Over half of the States replying to the questionnaire for the reporting period 2002-2004 (54 per cent) had adopted specific measures to improve the operational capabilities of forensic laboratories in order to provide scientific support to law enforcement investigations, compared with 60 per cent in the reporting period 2000-2002. That decline appears to be confirmed by the responses of the subset of 72 States that responded in both the second and third reporting periods (down from 71 per cent in the second period to 58 per cent in the third period).

32. Between the second and third reporting periods, the percentage of States conducting drug impurity profiling remained unchanged, at 38 per cent, representing an improvement from the 31 per cent that reported regularly carrying out signature analysis and profiling of ATS seizures in the first period. Twenty-eight per cent of the States responding also reported providing other laboratory technical support to law enforcement agencies, compared with 34 per cent in the second period.

33. States provided information on a wide range of measures they had adopted to improve operational capabilities of forensic laboratories, including the establishment and upgrading of laboratory facilities (for example, in Afghanistan, Cyprus and Hungary); the provision of additional staff in relevant departments (for

example, in Haiti); the setting up of information systems and databases for monitoring illicit trafficking in ATS and clandestine laboratories; the establishment of specialized units to identify and dismantle clandestine ATS laboratories; the provision of scientific support to law enforcement investigations through the analysis of seized substances, drug profiling for sample comparisons, matching purposes, identification of sources and to support prosecution; on-site clandestine laboratory support; in-house expert evidence training; and the provision of presumptive field testing equipment and other laboratory support. Activities also included monitoring methods of and trends in illicit manufacture and identifying supplier-dealer-abuser networks.

34. Initiatives continued to combine forensic and law enforcement information with a view to improving efficacy in tackling the illicit manufacture of synthetic drugs and to enhance cooperation among law enforcement agencies in countering trafficking. For example, several member States of the European Union (Germany, Greece, Italy, the Netherlands, Portugal and the United Kingdom) reported that the Comprehensive Action against Synthetic Drugs in Europe (CASE) project had emerged as an important instrument of cooperation within the Union. CASE, together with other projects such as the project on the development of harmonized methods for the profiling of amphetamines and the Central Analysis Programme Ecstasy (CAPE) (which aims to link Ecstasy tablets to production places and criminal organizations, and includes the tracing of precursors, tableting agents and additives used in the illicit manufacture of ATS), had contributed to enhancing cooperation and capabilities among law enforcement agencies to counter ATS.

2. Provision of training in the technical complexities of amphetamine-type stimulants

35. Training in the technical complexities of ATS for law enforcement and regulatory personnel is essential. Forty-nine per cent of the States responding in the third period reported that they had taken specific measures to provide training, compared with 40 per cent in the second period, a positive trend that was reflected among the 72 States responding in both the second and third reporting periods, where the percentage increased from 46 to 53 per cent (equivalent to five additional States). Training had been provided by competent national authorities and at the bilateral, regional and international levels within the framework of bilateral cooperation agreements, the Phare Synthetic Drugs and Precursors Project within the European Union, and by the European Police Office (Europol) and UNODC.

36. Several States reported that training in detection and dismantling of clandestine laboratories, drug investigation techniques and exchange of information with competent international authorities had been provided to law enforcement teams (for example, Argentina, Australia, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, Costa Rica, Finland, Germany, Israel, Poland, Portugal and the United Kingdom).

37. In several countries, training had been provided in the context of group meetings of professionals; seminars on synthetic drugs and clandestine laboratories; training for law enforcement and regulatory personnel working at the national and international levels and for forensic experts in drug detection and identification techniques; as well as seminars on exchange of best practices.

38. Forensic laboratories provided training in chemical composition, pharmaceutical, physical and other characteristics of ATS for law enforcement, regulatory and judiciary personnel, focusing, inter alia, on substance identification. For example, the National Unit on Synthetic Drugs of the Netherlands had developed a specialized course for law enforcement officials on synthetic drugs and had organized training in ATS for law enforcement officers from Western European countries. Estonia, Lithuania, Slovakia and Slovenia reported having received training in the context of its Phare Synthetic Drugs and Precursors Project, and Slovakia participated in the European Union "Twinning project" with Spain on organized crime and synthetic drugs. Lithuania and Poland also reported cooperating with each other and with Sweden in the screening of amphetamine samples and profiling in the exchange of information on cases of production methods, distribution and trafficking.

39. Several States (for example, Andorra, Argentina, Chile, Bulgaria and Liechtenstein) reported that they had received training for law enforcement officers from other countries on the detection and dismantling of clandestine laboratories through regional seminars and existing cooperation agreements.

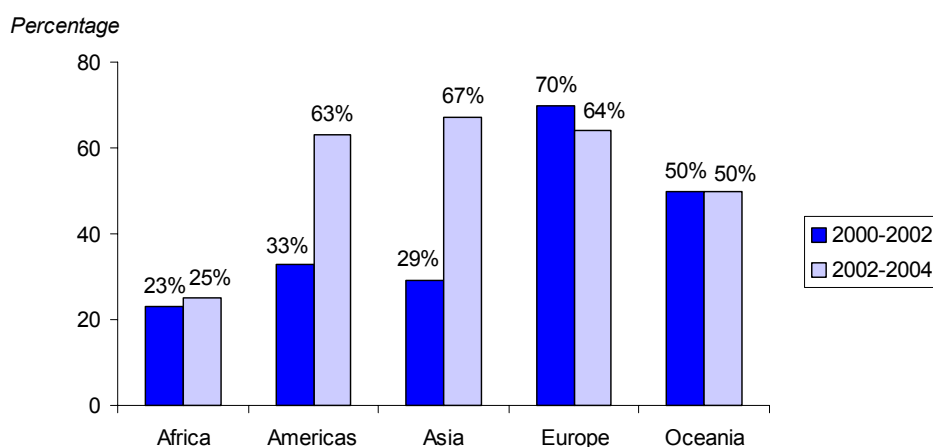
3. Specific measures to investigate, develop and/or introduce procedures for use by law enforcement agencies

40. Thirty-four per cent (31) of the States responding to the questionnaire for the third period indicated that they had developed and/or introduced procedures for use by law enforcement authorities for differentiating between groups of substances with closely related chemical structures, a proportion virtually unchanged since the second period. Considering the data from the 72 States responding in both 2000-2002 and 2002-2004, there was a slight improvement in most regions except Europe and Oceania (see figure X).

Figure X

States taking specific measures to investigate and introduce procedures for differentiating between groups of substances with closely related chemical structures, by region, 2000-2002 and 2002-2004

(Percentage of States in each region responding to the biennial reports questionnaire for both the second and third reporting periods)



41. States provided the contact details of their national forensic laboratories and referred to the various techniques and analytical methods used. As part of the ongoing research to extend the possibilities for the identification and analysis of ATS and their precursors, it is understood that some of those laboratories are studying a variety of approaches, ranging from simple colour tests to sophisticated methods of analysis, including isotopic analysis.

42. In Germany, the Federal Criminal Police Office was developing techniques for rapid and indestructible testing of drug samples, focusing on active agents discovered in Ecstasy tablets (near-infrared spectrometry), as well as on the development of devices (electronic noses) for use by law enforcement agencies for the detection and distinction of precursors, which were undergoing tests. In the Netherlands, the Netherlands Forensic Institute was able to identify, at an early stage, substances with closely related chemical structures, the so-called “XTC look-alikes”. Information on the detection of any new or closely-related substances were provided to law enforcement and health-care officials.

43. While existing analytical techniques, such as gas chromatography/mass spectrometry, are able to identify unique substances with closely related chemical structures, it is recognized that no single method is able to fully characterize seized samples. Although States have not yet reported comprehensively on the research they are undertaking in that area, they should be encouraged to provide full details of the methods currently being used to examine seized drug samples.

4. Measures to enhance cooperation with the chemical and pharmaceutical industries

44. The Action Plan noted that cooperation with the chemical industry was a precondition for initiatives to limit the diversion from licit trade of precursors essential to the illicit manufacture of ATS. Governments should give more attention to strengthening such cooperation.

45. Forty-eight per cent of States responding in the third period, compared with 55 per cent in the second, had taken measures to enhance cooperation with the chemical industry to prevent the diversion of precursors of ATS, and 42 per cent had done so with the pharmaceutical industry to prevent diversion of licit pharmaceuticals containing ATS. When considering the responses for those variables by region, from the group of 72 States that replied in both the second and third periods, there was improved performance in virtually all regions (see figures XI and XII).

Figure XI

States taking measures relating to amphetamine-type stimulants with a view to enhancing cooperation with the chemical industry, by region, 2000-2002 and 2002-2004

(Percentage of States in each region responding to the biennial reports questionnaire for both the second and third reporting periods)

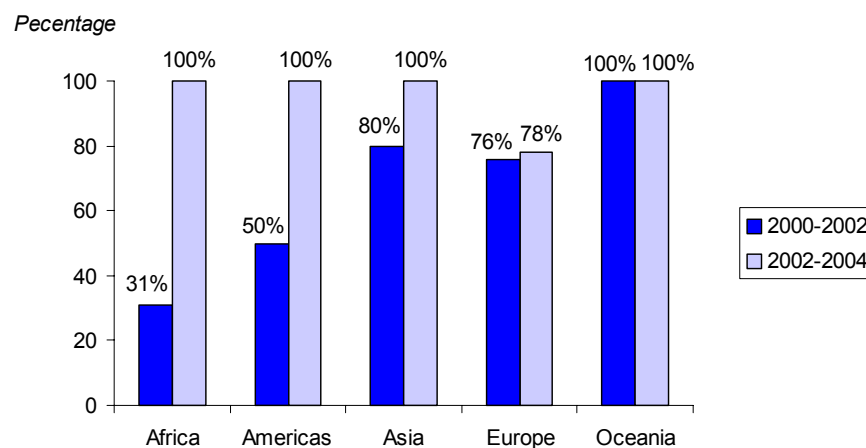
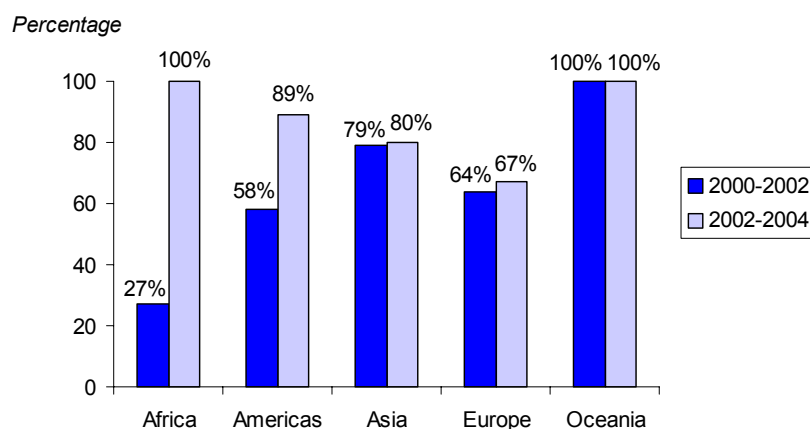


Figure XII

States taking measures relating to amphetamine-type stimulants with a view to enhancing cooperation with the pharmaceutical industry, by region, 2000-2002 and 2002-2004

(Percentage of States in each region responding to the biennial reports questionnaire for both the second and third reporting periods)



46. In most cases, the competent authorities actively promoted collaboration with the pharmaceutical and chemical industries to prevent the diversion of precursors of ATS. Companies were regularly visited or inspected, and workshops or seminars were organized to inform personnel from the pharmaceutical and chemical industries about ATS, their precursors, potential abuse and misuse and measures to prevent diversion. Controls on prescribed medicines containing ATS were regularly carried out in the majority of countries. In other countries, advocacy campaigns with the pharmaceutical industry had been launched in order to promote cooperation in preventing the diversion of precursors and licit medicinal products containing ATS. In some States, codes of conduct and agreements for voluntary cooperation had been established between the chemical and pharmaceutical industries on the one hand and government and law enforcement agencies on the other.

5. Non-scheduled substances

47. Over one third (33 per cent) of States responding in the third period had taken measures to introduce mechanisms to deal with non-scheduled substances, in particular, those included in the limited international special surveillance list established by INCB to aid competent authorities in preventing the diversion of substances not listed in Table I or II of the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988.⁵ Among the measures introduced were improved monitoring mechanisms, including the implementation of estimate systems and stricter controls over imports, exports, manufacturing, trading, distribution, marketing and use of substances liable to be processed into illicit drugs, including the establishment of licensing procedures, coordinating offices and dedicated databases. Australia and Costa Rica, for instance, reported that most of the substances in the special surveillance list were under control. Other States had established voluntary cooperation with industry, including by holding regular meetings to exchange information and the issuance of alert lists to the industries concerned. Some States noted that producers and distributors were obliged to inform the authorities of all transactions involving controlled substances, which in many cases required prior authorization.

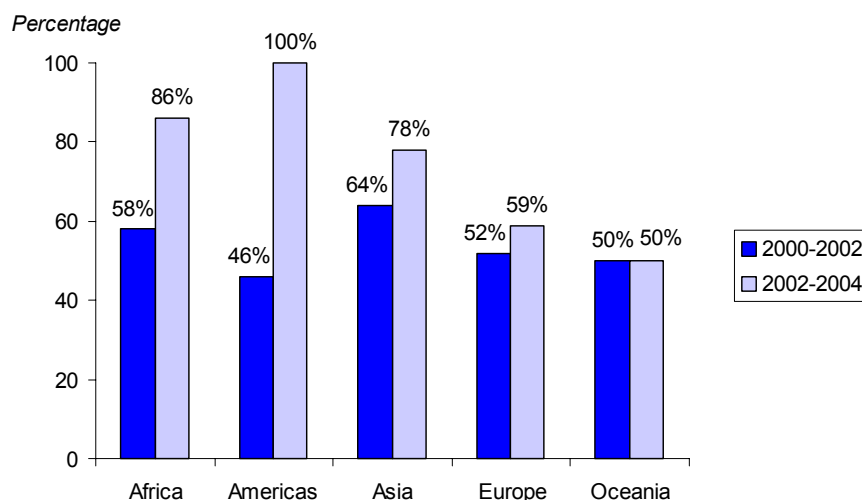
6. Responsible marketing

48. Forty-one per cent of States responding in 2002-2004 reported having taken measures to prevent the diversion and irresponsible marketing and prescribing of ATS, a figure slightly below the 45 per cent that reported having done so in 2000-2002. Most States noted that their legislation and regulatory frameworks contained relevant measures. Prescription by a physician for the dispensation of substances containing ATS was a requirement in a majority of countries. There were licensing and reporting mechanisms in place in most countries; and in a number of countries, dedicated databases and systems of control had been established to check on the validity of prescriptions, as well as on the dispensing records of physicians and pharmacies. Similarly, most countries had in place systems to control the manufacturing and distribution of licit substances containing ATS. The advertising, marketing and trade in such substances were regulated to prevent irresponsible marketing and prescribing of ATS, and in some cases, prescription-only medicines could not be advertised to the general public. A regional analysis of the data from those States that replied in both the second and third periods shows that effective measures were taken by States in this regard (see figure XIII).

Figure XIII

States taking measures to prevent the diversion and irresponsible marketing and prescribing of amphetamine-type stimulants, by region, 2000-2002 and 2002-2004

(Percentage of States in each region responding to the biennial reports questionnaire for both the second and third reporting periods)



F. Strengthening the control system for amphetamine-type stimulants and their precursors

49. The Action Plan called upon States to strengthen the control system for ATS and their precursors by adopting measures to be implemented at the national and international levels. Forty-one per cent of States responding in the third period, compared with 47 per cent in the second period, took measures to rapidly identify and assess new ATS found on the illicit market. States took measures for the early identification and assessment of seized drugs in order to recognize new substances, including through the ongoing monitoring of drug abuse, trafficking and illicit manufacturing trends. Information exchange at the bilateral level and through the International Criminal Police Organization (Interpol) and Europol was another mechanism reported as a means of identifying new substances and emerging threats. Databases had also been established to collect information on seized drugs, including ATS. Several States had established monitoring and early warning systems for new synthetic drugs and ATS. Member States of the European Union referred to the European Union early warning system for new synthetic drugs, operated in cooperation with Europol and the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA), which provided a mechanism for the evaluation of new substances emerging in the illicit drug market and for action regarding their control within member States of the Union.

50. Some States (18 per cent) reported they had sped up the scheduling process. Costa Rica, Germany, Greece, Hungary and Lithuania, for example, reported that their systems enabled expeditious scheduling, in some cases for a limited period,

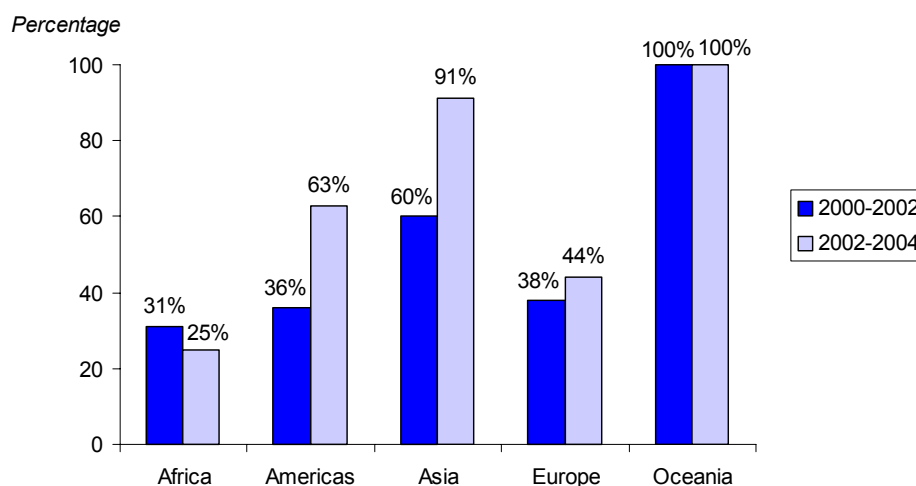
while others (such as Estonia) reported that revised legislation was planned to speed up and simplify scheduling. The Netherlands had established an interdepartmental working group to monitor existing controls and scheduling of precursors for ATS.

51. Over one third (33 per cent) of the States replying to the questionnaire in the third reporting period had introduced appropriate sanctions and penalties for offences relating to ATS and had strengthened law enforcement efforts. The corresponding percentages in the first and second reporting period were 41 and 42 per cent. At the regional level, among the States reporting in both the second and third periods, there were increases in the proportion of States that had introduced appropriate sanctions in the Americas, Asia and Europe, a decrease for Africa and no change in Oceania (see figure XIV).

Figure XIV

States that introduced appropriate sanctions and penalties for offences relating to amphetamine-type stimulants, by region, 2000-2002 and 2002-2004

(Percentage of States in each region responding to the biennial reports questionnaire for both the second and third reporting periods)



52. Progress was reported in relation to the collection of data on ATS. Forty-eight per cent of States reported improving systems for the collection of data on ATS in the third reporting period, compared with 31 per cent in the first reporting period and 54 per cent in the second reporting period. States reported the variables covered in their improved data collection efforts as follows: precursors, 39 per cent; sources, 37 per cent; substance abuse, 37 per cent; manufacturing methods, 33 per cent; prices, 32 per cent; clandestine laboratories, 31 per cent; and purity levels, 29 per cent.

1. Regional cooperation

53. Regional cooperation to strengthen the control system for ATS and their precursors was an important aspect of countering illicit ATS manufacture, trafficking and abuse. Almost 50 per cent of the States replying to the biennial

questionnaire for the third reporting period reported that they had adopted measures to improve regional cooperation, the same proportion as in the first reporting period but 10 percentage points lower than the figure in the second reporting period. The responses from the group of 72 States reporting in both the second and third reporting periods indicate a marginal improvement in this regard, with 61 per cent of States reporting to have taken national and international measures to improve regional cooperation in 2002-2004, compared with just below 60 per cent in 2000-2002 (44 and 43 States, respectively).

54. The measures taken included multilateral exchanges of ATS-related information within the framework of regional intergovernmental organizations, such as ASEAN, the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD), EMCDDA, the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Regional Drug Control Programme, Europol, Interpol, the Police and Customs Cooperation in the Nordic Countries, as well as through the regional meetings of heads of national drug law enforcement agencies and the Subcommission on Illicit Drug Traffic and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East, or directly between competent authorities of States.

55. There was also cooperation at the subregional level. Argentina reported that discussions were held in the context of the specialized meeting of drug law enforcement authorities of the Common Market of the Southern Cone (MERCOSUR). South Africa noted that training was being provided in the context of SADC and that it was assisting in the development of a precursor monitoring programme. Japan referred to the hosting by its national police of the Asia-Pacific Operational Drug Enforcement Conference to improve drug control within the region. The Republic of Korea hosted an annual meeting of anti-drug liaison officials to promote international cooperation, which in 2003 and 2004 held in-depth discussions on the problem of ATS and enhancing related cooperation. The Australian Federal Police was aiming at improving regional cooperation through the Law Enforcement Cooperation Programme in the Pacific region. There was also cooperation in the Economic Community of West African States through the Inter-ministerial Committee on Drug Control and through the West Africa Joint Operations Initiative. The Russian Federation reported that cooperation was being developed with member States of the Commonwealth of Independent States and with Baltic and European States. A number of States also referred to technical cooperation received from UNODC.

56. In Europe, cooperation with Europol focused mainly on operational matters. Several States in Europe (Estonia, Finland, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland and Sweden) had also cooperated in the activities to combat drug-related crime in the Baltic Sea region that included the exchange of forensic information related to ATS production, distribution and trafficking. In the European Union, the Phare Synthetic Drugs and Precursors Project provided a means for information exchange on drugs, particularly ATS and their precursors. Hungary, Latvia and Lithuania were among the States that reported receiving assistance in the framework of the Phare project.

57. Several States referred to bilateral initiatives undertaken to enhance cooperation against ATS, including the exchange of information, strengthening of law enforcement cooperation and joint investigation and handling of cases concerning ATS.

2. Assisting other countries

58. Implementation of the Action Plan is a shared responsibility of States. However, only 31 per cent of the States responding in the third reporting period, compared with 32 and 35 per cent in the first and second reporting periods, respectively, indicated that they had provided assistance to other States in dealing with the problem of amphetamine-type stimulants. A comparison of the responses by the 72 States replying in both 2000-2002 and 2002-2004 confirms the trend: a decline from 43 per cent in 2000-2002 to 37.5 per cent in 2002-2004, or from 31 to 27 States.

59. Assistance to States frequently related to exchange of information and intelligence, training programmes, conferences on ATS control, joint operations and controlled deliveries, transfer of technology, equipment, on-the-job training, study visits, dispatch of experts on ATS control and supporting law enforcement agencies in other countries in their investigation of ATS cases.

3. Applying the “know-your-client” principle and the expeditious exchange of information

60. The Action Plan called for action to promote the rapid and timely exchange of information between importing and exporting States on transactions involving ATS and their precursors, as well as the establishment of the “know-your-client” principle for those who manufacture or market chemicals in order to improve the exchange of information and prevent the diversion of precursors. However, only 28 per cent (25) of the States responding in the third reporting period reported that they had introduced the “know-your-client” principle, a proportion unchanged from the first reporting period but two percentage points lower than the results of the second reporting period (2000-2002); thus, there was no significant change between the three reporting periods. An analysis of the group of 72 States that responded in both 2000-2002 and 2002-2004 reveals a marginal improvement, with the proportion of States having implemented the principle increasing from 31 to 32 per cent, or from 22 to 23 States.

61. Several States indicated that national laws and regulations had been adopted to improve the exchange of information between States on transactions involving precursors of ATS, including the application of the “know-your-client” principle. The measures adopted included the introduction of an import-export notification process and the requirement that customer needs be specified and end-user certificates submitted prior to authorization of the sale of the substance. End-user declarations were required in a number of States (for example, Australia, Canada, Spain and the United Arab Emirates. Importers, exporters and intermediaries had to be licensed, and some States had established databases including the profiles of end-users and importers. In some countries (for example, Canada, Finland and the United Kingdom), the chemical and pharmaceutical industries had adopted voluntary “know-your-client” programmes.

4. Strengthening control through cooperative activities

62. In the second reporting period (2000-2002), 60 per cent of States responding reported that they had adopted cooperative initiatives to control ATS and their precursors, a figure that declined to 54 per cent in 2002-2004. However, when

considering the subset of 72 States that responded in both the second and third reporting periods, the proportion of States (61 per cent, or 44 States) indicating that they had adopted cooperative activities to strengthen the control of ATS and their precursors remained constant. In the third reporting period, States reported that, at the national level, law enforcement agencies (53 per cent of the group of 72 States responding in both 2000-2002 and 2002-2004), the health-care sector (46 per cent), and regulatory authorities (32 per cent) were most frequently involved in those cooperative initiatives. States reported that cooperative activities had also involved regional and international organizations (38 and 42 per cent, respectively), private industry (29 per cent), forensic drug-testing laboratories (36 per cent) and the judiciary (35 per cent). Germany reported that the mass media had also been involved in cooperative activities to strengthen the control system for ATS and their precursors, while Uganda noted that non-governmental organizations had also participated in such activities.

IV. Conclusions

63. From the responses provided in the second reporting period (2000-2002), it was clear that States took in earnest paragraph 13 of the Political Declaration adopted at the twentieth special session of the General Assembly (resolution S-20/2, annex), where Member States decided to devote particular attention to the emerging trends in the illicit manufacture, trafficking and consumption of synthetic drugs, and called for the establishment or strengthening by the year 2003 of national legislation and programmes giving effect to the Action Plan. However, when comparing the data provided in the third reporting period with data of the second, it would appear that renewed and further efforts are still required if States are to meet the objective for 2008 that the international community had set itself at the twentieth special session of the General Assembly. In paragraph 14 of the Political Declaration, Member States decided to devote particular attention to the measures for the control of precursors and further decided to establish the year 2008 as a target date for States for eliminating or significantly reducing the illicit manufacture, marketing and trafficking of psychotropic substances, including synthetic drugs, and the diversion of precursors. It is against the later benchmark that the efforts of States, as reported in the biennial reports questionnaire for the third reporting period, would need to be significantly improved.

64. While ratification of the United Nations drug control treaties, in particular the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971⁶ and the 1988 Convention, which provide the framework of the control of ATS and precursor chemicals, is almost universal, when comparing the responses by States in the third reporting period with those in the second, it would appear that States are falling short in their implementation of the recommendations contained in the Action Plan. The responses in the third period indicate that States need to renew their efforts to fulfil their treaty obligations and implement the resolutions and decisions of the Economic and Social Council and the Commission, as well as the recommendations of INCB.

65. Similarly, measures by States to raise awareness of the ATS problem, reduce their illicit demand and prevent experimentation among youth, as reported in 2004,

have declined. States need to re-examine their efforts in this regard, in order to reach the targets set for 2008.

66. While there were positive trends in the provision of specialist training to law enforcement and regulatory personnel in the technical complexities of ATS and the development of investigation measures for use by law enforcement agencies in differentiating groups of substances, the responses in the third period indicate that measures to improve the operational capabilities of forensic laboratories may require further attention.

67. At the regional level, when comparing the group of States that responded in both the second and third reporting periods, there were some improvements within specific regions, for example, in relation to the introduction of measures to enhance cooperation with the chemical and pharmaceutical industries, as well as to prevent the diversion and irresponsible marketing of ATS. However, the overall responses in each period reveal a need for closer attention to be given by States to those areas.

68. The outcome of the twentieth special session of the General Assembly constitutes, above all, a commitment to heightened international cooperation. The responses in the third reporting period, compared with the previous one, should give rise to concern. The proportion of States that reported taking measures to enhance regional and international cooperation declined when considering the total number of respondents in each period and only marginally increased when analysing the data for those States reporting in both periods.

69. Looking at the cooperation issue from the perspective of States reporting that they had provided assistance to other States in dealing with the problem of ATS, the proportion of States that reported having done so declined, irrespective of whether the total number of respondents or the group that responded in both periods is compared.

70. Given that international cooperation remains the cornerstone for implementing the Action Plan against Illicit Manufacture, Trafficking and Abuse of Amphetamine-type Stimulants and Their Precursors and for achieving the targets set for 2008 in the Political Declaration, efforts in the area of improving bilateral, regional and international cooperation continue to require the sustained attention of Member States.

Notes

¹ *World Drug Report 2004* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.04.XI.16).

² *Ecstasy and Amphetamines: Global Survey 2003* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.XI.15).

³ Argentina, Australia, Bolivia, Brunei Darussalam, Canada, Chile, China, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Latvia, Mexico, Myanmar, Namibia, Netherlands, Oman, Peru, Philippines, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Slovakia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Togo, Turkey, United Kingdom and Viet Nam.

⁴ The following States provided information: Argentina, Australia, Canada, Chile, Estonia, Finland, Greece, Mexico, Netherlands, Peru, Portugal, Russian Federation, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden and Togo.

⁵ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1582, No. 27627.

⁶ *Ibid.*, vol. 1019, No. 14956.