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

World situation with regard to drug trafficking

Report of the Secretariat

Summary

The present report contains an overview of global trends in illicit drug production and trafficking. The statistics and analysis in the report are based on the latest information available to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. In respect of seizure statistics, the report focuses on the 2004-2005 period, but includes information for 2006 where country reports for that year were available at the time of preparing the report.

Cannabis continues to be the most widely produced, trafficked and consumed plant-based drug worldwide. In 2004, global interdiction of cannabis herb stood at 6,190 tons and that of cannabis resin at 1,470 tons.

In 2006, illicit opium poppy production in Afghanistan was estimated at 6,100 tons, a quantity greater than the estimated total global opium production for 2005 of 4,620 tons. Myanmar accounts for 4.75 per cent of global illicit opium production, while the Lao People's Democratic Republic accounts for 0.3 per cent, the same figure as in 2005. In 2004, global interdiction of opium stood at 210 tons and that of heroin at 60 tons. In 2005, reported opium interception was 340 tons, heroin 57 tons. Morphine interdiction increased between 2004 and 2005, from 39 to 50 tons. Global opium and heroin interdiction estimates for 2006 are currently being developed.

In 2004, the illicit cultivation of coca leaf and illicit manufacture and

* E/CN.7/2007/1.



trafficking of cocaine continued to affect countries across the world. In 2005, the area under coca bush cultivation in the three principal coca-producing countries of Bolivia, Colombia and Peru was estimated at 159,600 hectares and potential cocaine manufacture at 910 tons. Global seizures of cocaine were 588 tons. Also in 2005, the reported total interdiction of cocaine was 644 tons, with an increase in crack cocaine interceptions from 0.5 to 3 tons in the 2004-2005 period.

The global interdiction of amphetamine-type stimulants, excluding “ecstasy”, stood at 20 tons. Eight tons of “ecstasy” were seized in 2004. Rates of interdiction are rising and, in 2005, totalled 29 tons of amphetamine-type stimulants and 5 tons of “ecstasy”.

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I. Introduction

1. The present report provides an overview of trends in the illicit drug production and trafficking of the main illicit drugs at the regional and global levels. The analysis was based on the latest information available to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) at the time of preparation of the report.
2. Information on the cultivation and production of plant-based illicit drugs has been drawn from the latest illicit crop monitoring surveys presented by UNODC. The primary source of information on drug seizures was the replies to part III of the annual reports questionnaire relating to the illicit supply of drugs furnished by Governments for the years up to and including 2005 (where available). Other supplementary sources of information included country reports received by UNODC or submitted to the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and its subsidiary bodies.
3. In 2005, 114 countries reported statistics related to drug trafficking via part III of the annual reports questionnaire. A total of 114 countries reported specifically on seizure statistics and 67 countries reported on trafficking.
4. Statistics on drug seizures offer valid, indirect indications of trafficking trends. However, they should be treated with caution, as they also reflect varying levels and effectiveness of law enforcement capacities and differing reporting practices.

II. Global trends in illicit drug crop cultivation and the production of plant-based drugs, 2004-2006

A. Cannabis

1. Illicit cultivation and production

5. Cannabis continues to be the most widely produced, trafficked and consumed plant-based drug worldwide. UNODC estimates that, globally, the number of cannabis users amounts to 162 million or 3.9 per cent of the global population of 15-64-year-olds.¹
6. UNODC is currently reviewing the state of global illicit cannabis plant cultivation, potential production and marketing, as well as the health impact of cannabis use.² In the case of cannabis resin (also known as "hashish"), Morocco continues to be the main world producer, with 80 per cent of the global production of cannabis resin taking place in Morocco, most of this supplying the European and North African markets.
7. In 2005, in Morocco, 72,500 hectares of cannabis plants were cultivated, a decrease of 40 per cent compared to 2004, with 120,500 hectares.³ Most cultivation

¹ United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, *World Drug Report 2006* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.06.XI.10).

² The 2006 issue of the *Bulletin on Narcotics* will be devoted to a review of the world cannabis situation. The issue will include the main findings of *World Drug Report 2006*.

³ United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, *Maroc: enquête sur le cannabis 2005, rapport préliminaire* (November 2006).

occurred in the northern province of Chefchaouen. Potential production was estimated at 1,066 tons in 2005, down from 2,760 tons in 2004.

8. Unlike other illicit crops such as coca and opium poppy, cannabis can be grown in various environments, including indoors (hydroponic cultivation), which renders estimating the extent of its cultivation, production and manufacturing difficult. Therefore potential global cannabis production has been cautiously revised upwards to 45,000 tons in 2005, from an estimated 42,000 tons in 2004. Some 176 countries and territories reported producing cannabis. Over half of the cannabis herb production is estimated to be in the Americas (54 per cent), followed by Africa (26 per cent) and Asia (15 per cent).

2. Illicit manufacture

9. Reports of hydroponic cultivation are increasing. Such cultivation can be carried out indoors in private homes and commercial buildings, which makes it difficult to monitor.

10. In 2004, there were reports of manufacture and the dismantling of illicit cannabis processing laboratories from (in descending order of number of cases) the Russian Federation, Moldova and the Czech Republic. There were also reports from Canada, Germany, South Africa and Spain.

B. Opiates

1. Illicit cultivation of opium poppy and production of opium

11. The number of opiate users globally (annual prevalence rate) is estimated at around 16 million people or 0.4 per cent of the global population of 15-64-year-olds.⁴ Based on the results of the survey by UNODC, assuming there are no changes in the areas under poppy cultivation in other areas, the total area under illicit opium poppy cultivation worldwide in 2006 is estimated at 201,900 hectares, an increase of 33 per cent over the 151,500 hectares under cultivation in 2005. Preliminary estimates of global illicit opium production for 2006 are 6,629 tons, a 42 per cent increase over 2005, when production stood at 4,620 tons (see figures I and II).

⁴ United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, *World Drug Report ...*

Figure I
Global illicit opium poppy cultivation, 1994-2006
 (Hectares)

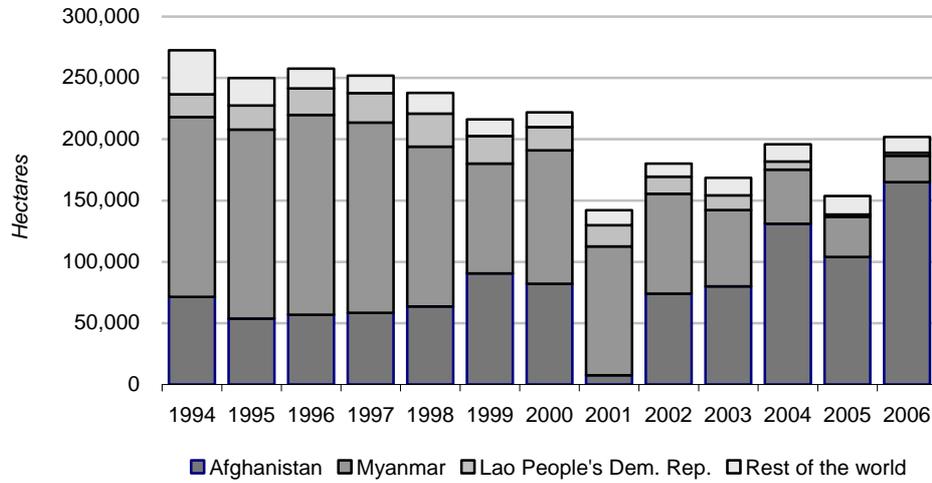
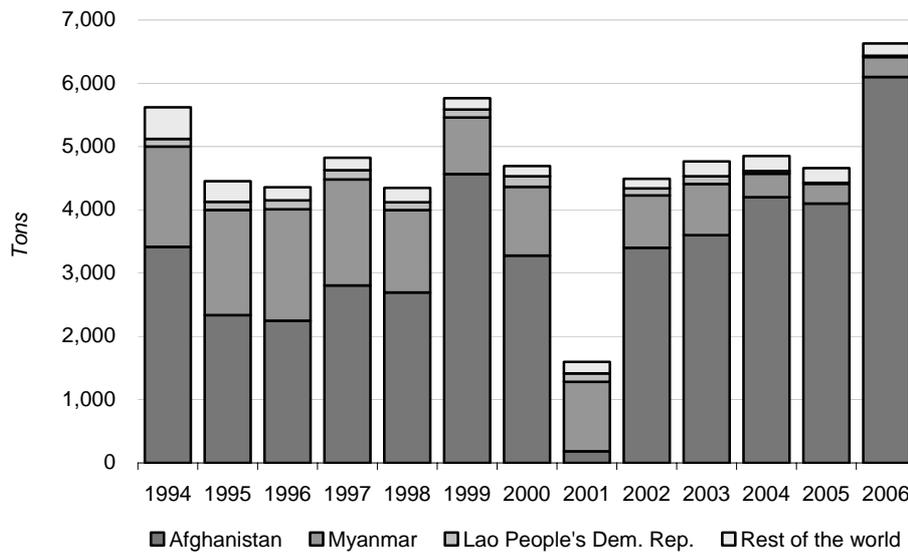


Figure II
Global illicit opium production, 1994-2006
 (Tons)



12. In Afghanistan, illicit opium poppy cultivation decreased in 2005, after three consecutive years of increase, but rose again in 2006. The area under cultivation increased by 59 per cent, from 104,000 hectares in 2005 to 165,000 hectares

in 2006.⁵ Opium production is estimated at 6,100 tons in 2006, an increase of 49 per cent over 2005, when it was estimated at 4,100 tons. As a consequence, global opium production, currently standing at 6,629 tons, has reached its highest point since 1990.

13. In Afghanistan, opium poppy cultivation took place in most provinces, although it was primarily concentrated in the provinces of Helmand, Kandahar and Uruzgan in the south, and Badakhshan in the north-east. Some 2.9 million people or 12.6 per cent of the population are estimated to have been involved in opium poppy cultivation in 2006 (an increase from 2 million people or 8.7 per cent of the population in 2005). In 2006, an estimated area of 15,300 hectares was eradicated in Afghanistan, a threefold increase from 5,000 hectares in 2005. The largest areas of eradication were concentrated in Helmand and Kandahar in the south, followed by Balkh in the north.⁶

14. In Myanmar, the second largest illicit opium producer in the world, the area under illicit opium poppy cultivation declined by a further 34 per cent, from 32,800 hectares in 2005 to 21,500 hectares in 2006.⁷ Potential opium production was estimated at 315 tons in 2006, a 1 per cent increase from 312 tons in 2005. As a result, Myanmar currently accounts for 5 per cent of the illicit opium produced worldwide, down from 6.7 per cent in 2005. Approximately 126,500 households were involved in opium poppy cultivation in Myanmar in 2006, a 34 per cent decline from 193,000 households in 2005.

15. The third largest global illicit opium producer, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, indicated an increase in cultivation area of 39 per cent, from 1,800 hectares in 2005 to 2,500 hectares in 2006.⁸ The opium production of the Lao People's Democratic Republic, estimated at 14 tons in 2005, increased to 20 tons in 2006, accounting currently for 0.3 per cent of global opium production. Based on the UNODC survey, 5,800 households were still cultivating opium poppy in 2006.

16. Other countries that reported illicit cultivation of opium poppy were Mexico, Pakistan and Colombia. Mexico's cultivation area was estimated at 3,300 hectares in 2005, a decrease of 6 per cent from 3,500 hectares in 2004. Opium production in 2005 was estimated at 69 tons, down from 73 tons in 2004. In Pakistan, cultivation increased from 1,500 hectares in 2004 to 2,400 hectares in 2005. Production was estimated at 40 tons in 2004 and increased to 61 tons in 2005. Opium poppy cultivation in Colombia was estimated at 2,000 hectares in 2005, a decrease of 49 per cent from 3,950 hectares in 2004. Production was estimated at 28 tons, a decrease of 50 per cent from 56 tons in 2004.

17. The following countries reported opium poppy eradication of more than 1,000 hectares in the period between 2004 and 2006: Afghanistan (15,300 hectares in 2006), Colombia (2,000 hectares in 2005), the Lao People's Democratic Republic (1,518 hectares in 2006), Mexico (20,803 hectares in 2005), Myanmar (3,970 hectares in 2006) and the Russian Federation (11,648 hectares in 2004).

⁵ United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, *Afghanistan: Opium Survey 2006* (October 2006).

⁶ United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and Ministry of Counter Narcotics of Afghanistan, *Weekly Report on Eradication Verification*, No. 23, 8 August 2006.

⁷ United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, *Opium Poppy Cultivation in the Golden Triangle: Lao PDR, Myanmar and Thailand* (October 2006).

⁸ United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, *Opium Poppy Cultivation ...*

2. Illicit manufacture of opiate substances, including heroin

18. In the 2004-2005 period, heroin abuse was estimated to have affected 11.3 million people or 0.3 per cent of the global population of 15-64-year-olds.⁹ Potential global heroin manufacture was estimated at 472 tons in 2005, compared with 495 tons in 2004, a decrease of 5 per cent. Estimation of global heroin manufacture of 2006 is still under way.

19. Illicit laboratories manufacturing substances of the opiate group in the 2004-2005 period were concentrated in the regions of Asia and Europe.

20. In Asia, the Hong Kong Administrative Region (SAR) of China, Myanmar and India reported the dismantling of laboratories in the 2004-2005 period. In East and South-East Asia, the Hong Kong SAR of China reported dismantling one heroin laboratory in 2004 and four "kitchen" laboratories in 2005. Myanmar reported the detection of two heroin laboratories in 2004 and four in 2005 in the northern Shan state. In the subregion of South Asia, India reported the dismantling of three laboratories in 2004 and one heroin and one morphine laboratory each in 2005. In Oceania, Australia reported the detection of five heroin "homebake" laboratories in 2004.

21. Based on the structure of opiate seizures reported in the countries neighbouring Afghanistan, UNODC estimates that two thirds of opium is transformed into morphine or heroin within the country. This is also evidenced by Afghan authorities reporting the dismantling of 125 clandestine morphine or heroin laboratories in 2004 and 248 by the end of August 2006. Most laboratories were located in border areas.¹⁰ Around 53 per cent of Afghan opiates left the country via the Islamic Republic of Iran, 32 per cent via Pakistan and 15 per cent via Central Asia. Precursor chemicals required for the manufacture of heroin found in dismantled laboratories in 2004 originated from countries such as China, Hungary, India and the Russian Federation, while precursor chemicals required for morphine originated from Germany and the Republic of Korea.¹¹

22. In Europe, reports on illicit opiate manufacturing were received from Belarus, Moldova, Turkey and the Russian Federation. In 2005, both Belarus and Latvia reported the dismantling of one laboratory each, while Moldova reported the detection of 282 laboratories.

23. In the Americas, Mexico reported dismantling one heroin laboratory, while in Colombia, nine laboratories (one morphine and eight heroin) were detected in 2004. In 2005, Colombia reported the dismantling of six heroin laboratories.

⁹ United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, *World Drug Report ...*

¹⁰ United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, *Afghanistan: Opium Survey ...*

¹¹ Information supplied by the Ministry of Counter Narcotics of Afghanistan, based on its annual reports questionnaire for 2004.

C. Coca

1. Illicit cultivation of coca bush and production of cocaine

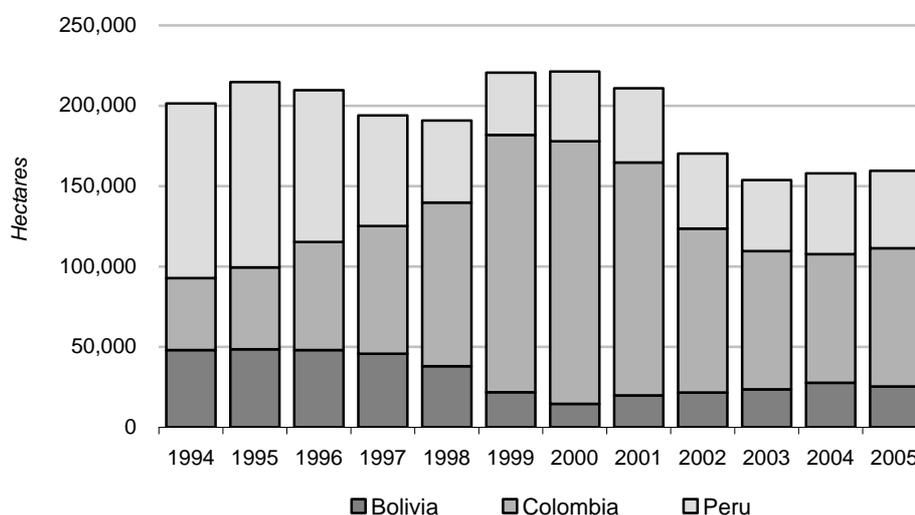
24. An estimated 13.4 million people or 0.3 per cent of 15-64-year-olds used cocaine in the 2004-2005 period.¹²

25. Bolivia, Colombia and Peru remain the main producers of coca bush in South America. The Andean coca surveys for Bolivia, Colombia and Peru undertaken in 2005 showed that, following a decline for three consecutive years, illicit coca bush cultivation increased by 1 per cent, from 158,000 hectares in 2004 to 159,600 hectares in 2005 (see figure III).¹³ Coca bush cultivation in the Andean region has declined by 29 per cent since 2000, the last peak year of cultivation.

Figure III

Illicit coca bush cultivation in the Andean region, 1994-2005

(Hectares)



26. In Colombia, coca bush cultivation increased by 8 per cent, from 80,000 hectares in 2004 to 86,000 in 2005. However, cultivation decreased in Bolivia by 8 per cent, from 27,700 hectares in 2004 to 25,400 hectares in 2005, and in Peru by 4 per cent, from 50,300 hectares in 2004 to 48,200 hectares in 2005. Fifty-four per cent of global coca bush cultivation continues to take place in Colombia, followed by 30 per cent in Peru and 16 per cent in Bolivia. Compared to 2004, the proportion of global illicit coca bush cultivation taking place in Colombia and Bolivia has increased, while that of Peru has declined.

27. Colombia remains the largest coca producer in the world. Following four years of consecutive decreases, from 163,300 hectares in 2000 to 80,000 in 2004, cultivation increased in 2005 to 86,000 hectares. In 2005, 46 per cent of cultivation

¹² United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, *World Drug Report ...*

¹³ United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, *Coca Cultivation in the Andean Region: a Survey of Bolivia, Colombia and Peru* (June 2006).

was concentrated in the two traditional coca-growing areas of Meta and Guaviare and Putumayo and Caqueta in south-eastern Colombia. The Government of Colombia has an active eradication programme, including aerial spraying that reached 138,780 hectares and manual eradication of 31,290 hectares in 2005. However, despite these efforts, the cultivation figures remain high. It is interesting to note that 44 per cent of the fields detected in 2005 had never previously been detected, which is an illustration of the mobility of the coca bush cultivation areas in Colombia.

28. In Peru, coca bush cultivation stood at 48,200 hectares in 2005, a 4 per cent decrease from the previous year. Cultivation was concentrated in the areas of Alto Huallaga, Apurimac and Ene and La Convención and Lares, with 91 per cent of the country's cultivation occurring in those areas. The Government of Peru reported that, in 2005, it enforced the eradication of 12,232 hectares, while 3,266 hectares were eradicated voluntarily.

29. In 2005, Bolivia's coca bush cultivation stood at 25,400 hectares, an 8 per cent decrease from the previous year. Cultivation was concentrated in the regions of Yungas of La Paz, Chapare and Apolo in western Bolivia, and in the two departments of La Paz and Cochabamba. The Government of Bolivia reported manual eradication of 6,073 hectares in 2005, although none of it was carried out in Yungas of La Paz.

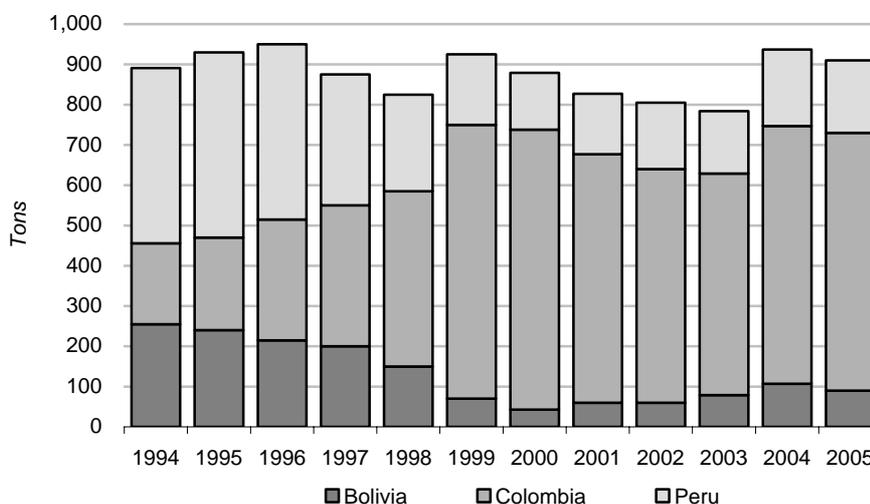
2. Illicit manufacture of cocaine

30. The total potential production of cocaine in the three Andean countries was estimated at 910 tons in 2005, which was about the same level as in the late 1990s (see figure IV).¹⁴ In 2005, Colombia accounted for 70 per cent of potential global cocaine manufacture (640 tons), Peru accounted for 20 per cent (180 tons) and Bolivia accounted for 10 per cent (90 tons). The potential cocaine manufacture in terms of volume and proportion by the three main producing countries has been relatively stable over the past few decades.

31. A record number of 8,208 illicit laboratories manufacturing coca-type substances was recorded in 2004, a 21 per cent increase over the previous year (6,766 laboratories). Almost all of them (99 per cent) were located in the coca bush cultivating countries (in descending order of number of laboratories) of Bolivia, Colombia and Peru.

¹⁴ The statistics for potential cocaine manufacture have been revised based on a yield survey conducted in 2005 in Colombia, which found higher yields from coca than had previously been estimated.

Figure IV
Potential cocaine manufacture in the Andean region, 1994-2005
 (Tons)



Note: The data on Colombian cocaine manufacture for 2004 and 2005 are based on new field research.

32. In 2004, 5,554 laboratories or 68 per cent of the reported laboratories manufacturing coca-type substances were detected and dismantled in Bolivia, 1,769 laboratories or 22 per cent in Colombia and 821 laboratories or 10 per cent in Peru. Of the laboratories detected and dismantled in Bolivia, 3,293 were for coca paste and 2,257 were coca base-producing facilities. Only four were manufacturing cocaine hydrochloride. In Colombia, 1,556 laboratories were manufacturing coca paste and base, while 240 were manufacturing cocaine. In Peru, 810 dismantled laboratories had been producing coca paste and 11 of them had been manufacturing cocaine.

33. The dismantling of coca-type illicit laboratories was also reported by Australia, Argentina, the Hong Kong SAR of China, Spain, Saint Lucia and the United States of America in 2004. In Argentina, the dismantling of 16 cocaine and 4 coca paste or coca base laboratories was reported and 4 cocaine manufacturing laboratories were found in the United States. In Asia, five kitchen cocaine laboratories were reported and dismantled in the Hong Kong SAR of China.

III. Drug trafficking trends

34. The table below shows the main drug seizures by drug group in 2004 and 2005. Cannabis continues to be the most widely trafficked drug worldwide, followed by cocaine, opiates and amphetamine-type stimulants (ATS) in terms of volume. These trends are discussed in detail in the subsequent sections of this report.

Table
Preliminary figures for global drug seizures in 2004 and 2005

<i>Drug group</i>	<i>Seizure (tons) 2004</i>	<i>Seizure (tons) 2005</i>	<i>Trend 2004-2005</i>
Opiates			
Opium (raw and prepared)	210	340	Increase
Heroin	60	57	Stable
Morphine	39	50	Increase
Cocaine			
Cocaine (salt and base)	588	644	Increase
Crack	0.5	3	Increase
Cannabis			
Cannabis herb	6 190	4 243	Decrease
Cannabis resin	1 470	1 266	Decrease
Amphetamine-type stimulants			
Excluding "ecstasy"	20	30	Increase
"Ecstasy"	8	5	Decrease

Sources: Annual reports questionnaire (E/NR/2005/2) and database for estimates and long-term trends analysis.

Note: Figures are based on statistics received from Member States by the time of preparation of the report.

35. Clear trends emerge when interdiction data are examined at the regional level. For the past five years, cannabis seizures have been steadily increasing in all regions except Oceania, where it has been decreasing since 2001. In the case of opiates, all regions reflect an increasing trend. For cocaine, most regions have observed an increasing trend, particularly Africa in 2004 and Asia in 2005, highlighting the dynamic nature of their trafficking. Interdiction of stimulants has been increasing across all regions, with the exception in 2004 of Asia and Oceania, which recorded significant decreases. There has been a dramatic increase in 2005 in Africa, suggesting a new pattern of interdiction may be taking place, reflecting a change in trafficking routes and the increased use of the African region for trafficking purposes.

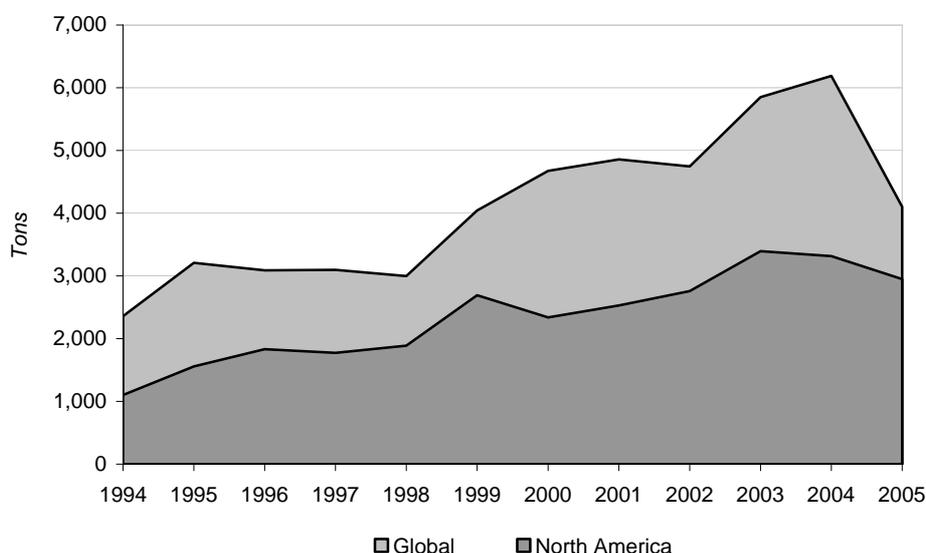
A. Cannabis herb and resin

36. Cannabis continues to be the most widely abused and trafficked drug worldwide. In 2004, seizures amounted to 7,660 tons, accounting for two thirds of all illicit drugs intercepted worldwide. In 2005, cannabis interdiction decreased to an estimated 5,509 tons, of which 4,243 tons were cannabis herb and 1,266 tons cannabis resin.

1. Cannabis herb

37. In 2004, 6,189 tons of cannabis herb were seized globally, dropping to 4,243 tons in 2005 (see figure V). Across most regions in 2004-2005, a decreasing trend in interdiction was observed, with the exception of East and South-East Asia, South-Eastern Europe and Central America.

Figure V
Global seizures of cannabis herb and seizures in North America, 1994-2005
 (Tons)



38. At 2,950 tons in 2005, North and Central America accounted for the largest proportion of global cannabis herb interceptions, with over half of total seizures.¹⁵ Mexico (1,781 tons) and the United States (1,112 tons) accounted for the major proportion of these seizures, although interdiction in Canada also increased in the 2004-2005 period. The South American seizures reported amounted to 360 tons in 2005, with the majority of interdictions taking place in Brazil and Colombia.

39. In Africa, the subregion of Southern Africa accounted for the largest proportion of seizures (878 tons), followed by West and Central Africa (696 tons) in 2004. South Africa accounted for 90 per cent of the subregional seizures, while in the subregion of West and Central Africa, Nigeria accounted for 98 per cent of seizures. At the time of preparation of the report, Southern Africa had reported interceptions amounting to 295 tons, while West and Central Africa had reported 131 tons.

40. Owing to the large number of source countries, the trafficking routes of cannabis herb are more diffuse than those of heroin or cocaine. Most trafficking is intraregional, with domestic sources frequently reported. Large seizures of cannabis herb were reported from North America; these were mostly for domestic consumption and trafficking to neighbouring countries.

2. Cannabis resin

41. In 2004, 1,470 tons of cannabis resin were reported seized globally, and current estimates indicate 1,266 tons for 2005. In 2004-2005, cannabis interdiction

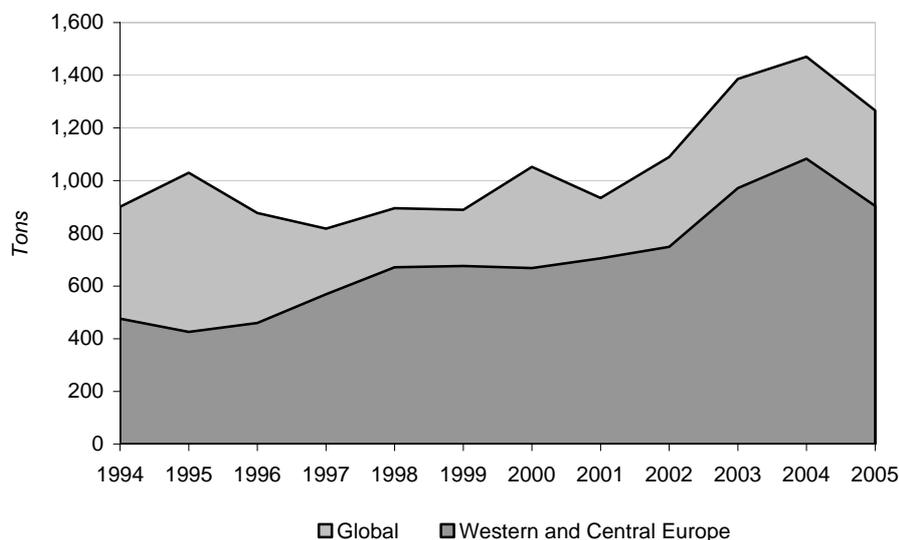
¹⁵ The total number of seizures was calculated on the basis of information supplied by Member States by the time of preparation of the report.

decreased across the majority of regions. Three quarters of global interdiction took place in the subregion of Western and Central Europe (see figure VI).

Figure VI

Global seizures of cannabis resin and seizures in Western and Central Europe, 1994-2005

(Tons)



42. In 2005, the largest volume of seizures was reported by Spain (670 tons), accounting for 53 per cent of all seizures. This was followed by Pakistan (93.5 tons or 7.4 per cent of total seizures), Morocco (92 tons or 7.3 per cent), France (83.5 tons or 6.6 per cent), the Islamic Republic of Iran (69 tons or 5.4 per cent), the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (62 tons or 5 per cent) and Afghanistan (42 tons or 3.3 per cent).

43. Intraregional patterns of trafficking were also reported for seizures of cannabis resin. Morocco continued to be the most important source country for Europe, and Spain was the country reporting the greatest volume of seizures from Morocco. Trafficking by road is the most common modus operandi from Spain to the rest of Europe.

B. Opiates

1. Trafficking trends of opiates

44. The annual prevalence of opiates globally is estimated at around 16 million people or 0.4 per cent of the global population of 15-64-year-olds.¹⁶ The volume of global seizures of opiates was recorded as 309 tons in 2004, rising to 344 tons in 2005. Asia continued to account for the bulk of global opiate seizures, followed

¹⁶ United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, *World Drug Report ...*

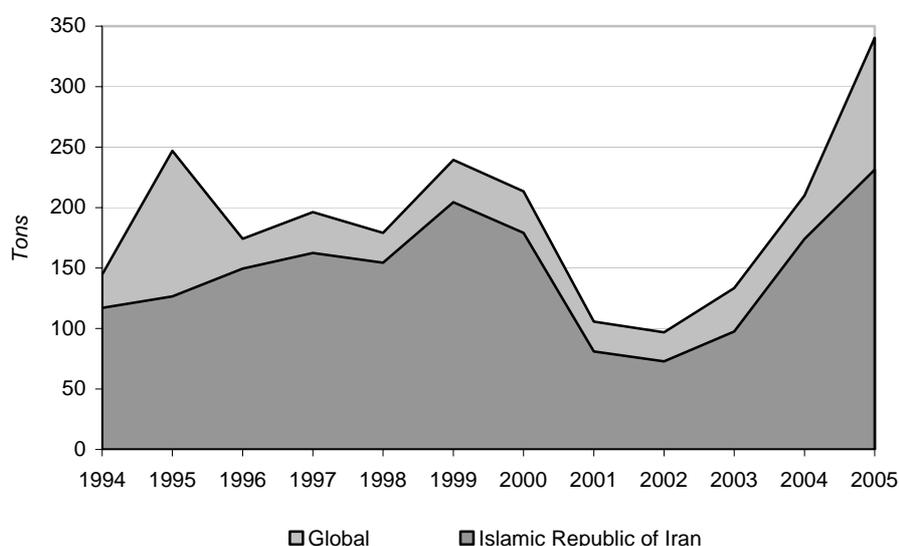
by Europe. The volume of opiate seizures decreased in the Americas, where they constituted less than 2 per cent of total regional seizures.

45. The volume of opium (raw and prepared) seizures increased from 207 tons in 2004 to 340 tons in 2005, continuing an increasing trend observed since 2002 (see figure VII). In 2005, the largest seizures of opium were reported by the Islamic Republic of Iran (231 tons, accounting for 68 per cent of global seizures) followed by Afghanistan (90 tons or 27 per cent) and Pakistan (6.4 tons or 2 per cent). In 2004, the Islamic Republic of Iran accounted for 83 per cent of global opium interceptions (174 tons), followed by Afghanistan (21.4 tons) with 10 per cent.

Figure VII

Global seizures of opium (raw and prepared) and seizures reported by the Islamic Republic of Iran, 1994-2005

(Tons)



46. The volume of seizures of opium in Europe increased from 722 kilograms in 2004 to 2.3 tons in 2005. This rise is due to significant increases in interceptions in the Russian Federation (1.5 tons) and Lithuania (350 kilograms) and continuing increases in Turkey (212 kilograms).

2. Trafficking trends of morphine and heroin

47. Global morphine seizures increased from 39 tons in 2004 to 50 tons in 2005. The bulk of morphine seizures continued to take place in the regions of the Near and Middle East and South-West Asia, but a changing trend was observed in the 2004-2005 period as morphine seizures increased significantly in East and South-East Asia.

48. In 2004, the largest volume of morphine seizures was reported by Pakistan (21.2 tons), followed by the Islamic Republic of Iran (12.8 tons). In 2005, subregional interdiction in the Near and Middle East and South-West Asia decreased

from 34 to 29 tons; this was reflected principally in substantially decreased interceptions reported by the Islamic Republic of Iran.

49. The volume of global morphine and heroin seizures amounted to 99 tons in 2004, a slight increase from 97 tons in 2003 and, according to the information available when the present report was being prepared, it totalled 107 tons in 2005. The Asian region accounted for over half of the global heroin interceptions taking place in 2004, followed by Europe, principally in the subregion of South-Eastern Europe. When the present report was being prepared, 57 tons of heroin had been reported by Member States, with estimates for 2004-2005 to be finalized.

50. According to the International Narcotics Control Board, the Near and Middle East region has become a trans-shipment region for heroin consignments destined for Europe coming from South Asia and the South-West Asian region. Some of these consignments are smuggled through Africa before being transported on to Europe.¹⁷ In addition, Interpol has indicated that significant amounts of heroin are being trafficked via Africa to North America, which illustrates a new emerging trafficking pattern with regard to heroin, especially in the region of Africa.

51. In 2005 in the region of Asia, a large volume of heroin seizures was reported by China (8.9 tons), Afghanistan (7.1 tons), the Islamic Republic of Iran (5.5 tons), Tajikistan (2.3 tons) and Pakistan (2.1 tons). Afghanistan continues to be a major morphine- and heroin-producing country.¹⁸

52. In 2005 in Europe, Turkey reported the largest volume of heroin seizures (8.2 tons), followed by the Russian Federation (4.6 tons), the United Kingdom (2.1 tons) and Italy (1.3 tons).

53. The most frequently cited destinations for heroin shipments seized in 2005 were (in descending order of volume): Europe (Germany, the United Kingdom, the Netherlands, Norway and Switzerland), the United States and Australia.

C. Cocaine

54. There are an estimated 13.4 million cocaine users worldwide, with two thirds residing in the Americas.¹⁹

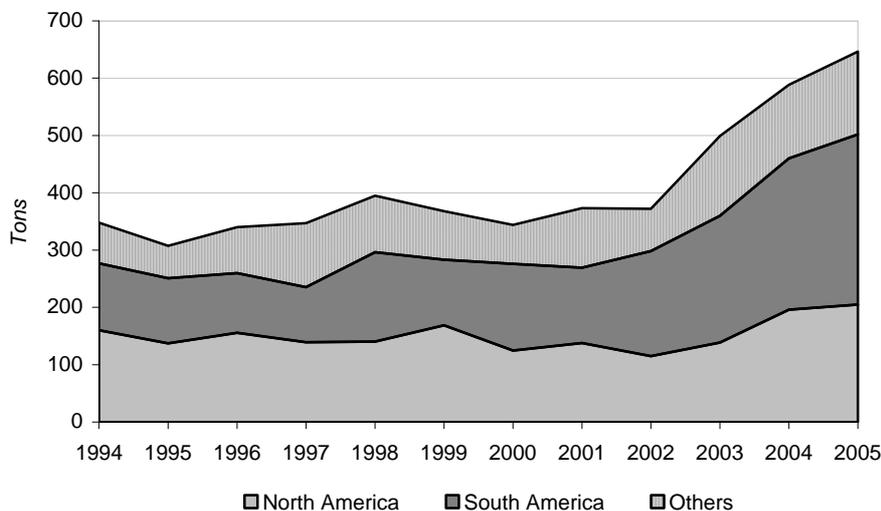
55. Following a stable period between 2000-2002, global cocaine seizures have continued to increase, from 588 tons in 2004 to 647 tons in 2005 when the present report was under preparation, representing a new all-time high (see figure VIII). In the 2004-2005 period, seizures increased in America, Europe and Asia, but decreased in Africa and Oceania. The number of subregional seizures was high in South America (297 tons), North America (205 tons) and Europe (107 tons), particularly in Western and Central Europe.

¹⁷ *Report of the International Narcotics Control Board for 2005* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.06.XI.2).

¹⁸ United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, *Afghanistan: Opium Survey ...*

¹⁹ United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, *World Drug Report ...*

Figure VIII
Global seizures of coca-type substances and seizures in North and South America, 1994-2005
 (Tons)



56. In 2005, the largest volume of seizures of cocaine was reported by Colombia (rising from 187 tons in 2004 to 214.5 tons in 2005), followed by the United States (175 tons), Spain (48 tons), Ecuador (43 tons) and Mexico (30 tons).

57. Cocaine seizures increased across the subregion of South America, with significant increases reported by Costa Rica, where seizures doubled from the previous year, and Panama. Similarly, the higher figure for interceptions in the subregion of Western and Central Europe was accounted for by increased seizures reported by Spain (48 tons), Portugal (18 tons) and the Netherlands (14.6 tons). In Asia in 2005, increases were observed in the subregion of South and East Asia, where the increase was due to reports from China (256 kilograms), and the Near and Middle East and South-West Asia, due to reporting by Israel (159 kilograms).

58. One region where there has been a notable increase in seizures since 2003 is Africa, especially in West and Central Africa, where seizures of cocaine-type substances increased from 267 kilograms in 2003 to 1.8 tons in 2004, and in East Africa, where seizures increased from 5.6 kilograms in 2003 to 1.2 tons in 2004. In 2005, the region of Africa reported seizures of 1.8 tons, a decrease by half from the previous year according to the figures available when the present report was being prepared; however, full regional figures have yet to be received.

59. Global interdiction of crack cocaine increased by over sixfold in the period between 2004 and 2005, from 496 kilograms to 3.0 tons. The significant rise is due to increased interdiction in the subregion of Central America, which was reported by Panama (2.7 tons).

60. Cocaine continued to reach the principal markets of Europe and the United States through the main trafficking routes of Central America and the Caribbean, as well as through the emerging route through Brazil and West Africa.

61. The most cited trafficking destinations were (in descending order): the United States and Europe, including the Netherlands, Italy, France and Spain.

62. An important precursor chemical used in the manufacture of cocaine is potassium permanganate. The Andean countries of Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador and Peru accounted for the majority of the seizures of potassium permanganate, totalling 171 tons in 2004.²⁰ Colombia accounted for approximately 170 tons of the total subregional aggregate volume. In North America, the United States reported a seizure of 59 kilograms in 2004. The International Narcotics Control Board has raised the concern that traffickers are diverting the substance to the Andean countries through the Caribbean.

D. Amphetamine-type stimulants*

63. In the 2004-2005 period, twenty-five million people or 0.5 per cent of the global population of 15-64-year-olds were estimated to have abused amphetamine, methamphetamine or related substances, while some 9.7 million or 0.2 per cent of the global population of 15-64-year-olds abused "ecstasy".²¹ Almost two thirds of the world's amphetamine and methamphetamine users reside in Asia, most of whom are methamphetamine users in East and South-East Asia. In Europe, amphetamine use is more common than methamphetamine. The use of "ecstasy" continues to be concentrated in Europe and North America.

64. ATS (including "ecstasy" and other hallucinogens) were the drug-types with the largest increases in seizures in the last decade. After record-high seizures in 2000, global interdiction declined in both 2001 and 2002, increased in 2003, fell in 2004, but increased again in 2005, to 35 tons. East and South-East Asia and Western and Central Europe accounted for the bulk of global seizures, followed by North America.

1. Amphetamine

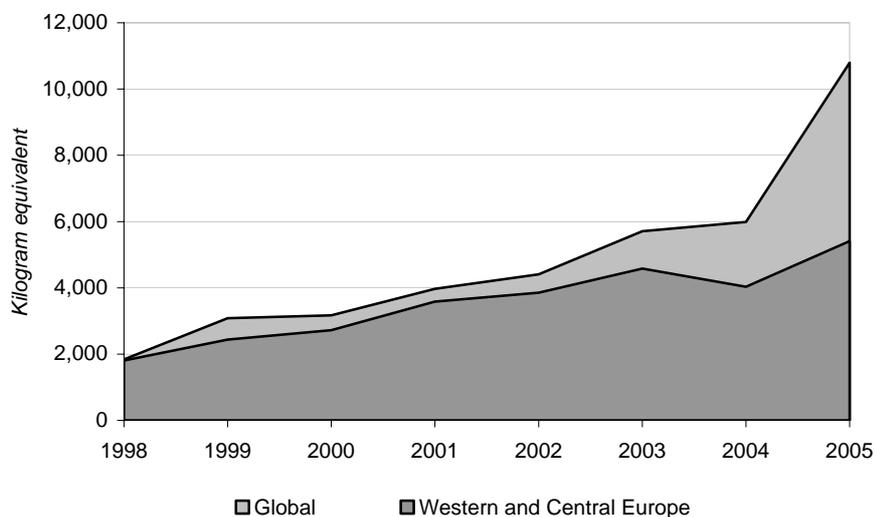
65. Considered in isolation, amphetamine interception almost doubled, from 6 tons in 2004 to 10.8 tons in 2005. Seizures continued to be concentrated in the subregions of Western and Central Europe (see figure IX) and East and South-East Asia, where there was a significant increase in its seizure in 2005. Reported seizures in South-Eastern Europe have remained steady.

* ATS, as defined by UNODC, consist of amphetamines (amphetamine, methamphetamine), "ecstasy" (MDMA and related substances) and other synthetic stimulants (methcathinone, phentermine, fenetylline etc.).

²⁰ *Precursors and Chemicals Frequently Used in the Illicit Manufacture of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances: Report of the International Narcotics Control Board for 2005 on the Implementation of Article 12 of the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.06.XI.5).

²¹ United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, *World Drug Report ...*

Figure IX
Global seizures of amphetamine and seizures in Western and Central Europe, 1998-2004
 (Kilogram equivalent)



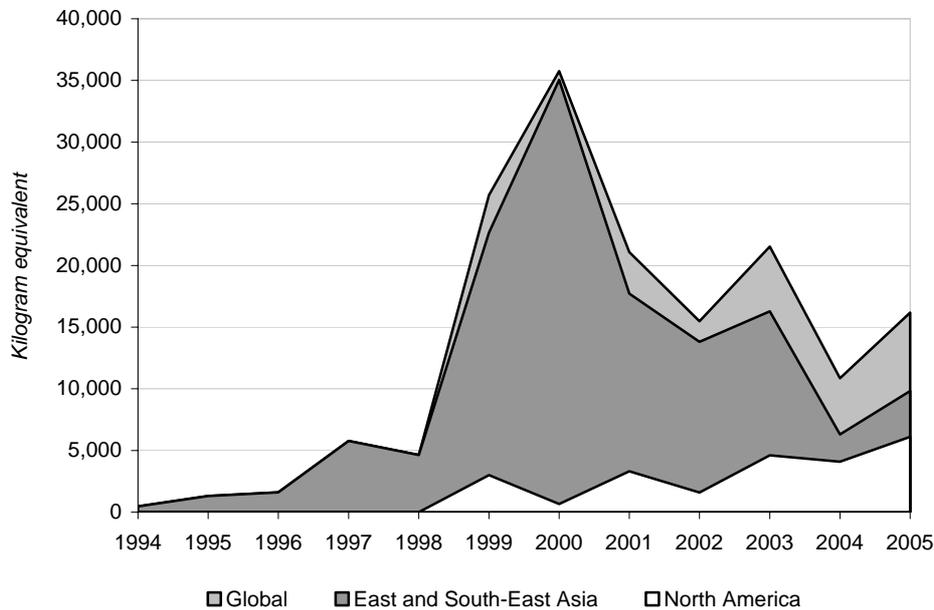
66. In Western and Central Europe, the largest seizures were reported by the Netherlands (2 tons), followed by the United Kingdom (1.2 tons) and Germany (669 kilograms). In the subregion of East and South-East Asia, which reported seizures of 3.6 tons, large seizures were reported by China (2.8 tons) in 2005. In the subregion of South-Eastern Europe, the bulk of the seizures were reported by Bulgaria (1.1 tons).

67. Trends from trafficking indicated that the majority of amphetamine was destined for Europe and in 2005 the most frequently cited destination countries were France, Norway and Sweden.

2. Methamphetamine

68. Global methamphetamine seizures increased by 56 per cent, from 11 tons in 2004 to 16 tons in 2005. The increase is accounted for by increased interdiction in East and South-East Asia and North America (see figure X).

Figure X
Global seizures of methamphetamine and seizures in East and South-East Asia and North America, 1994-2006
 (Kilogram equivalent)



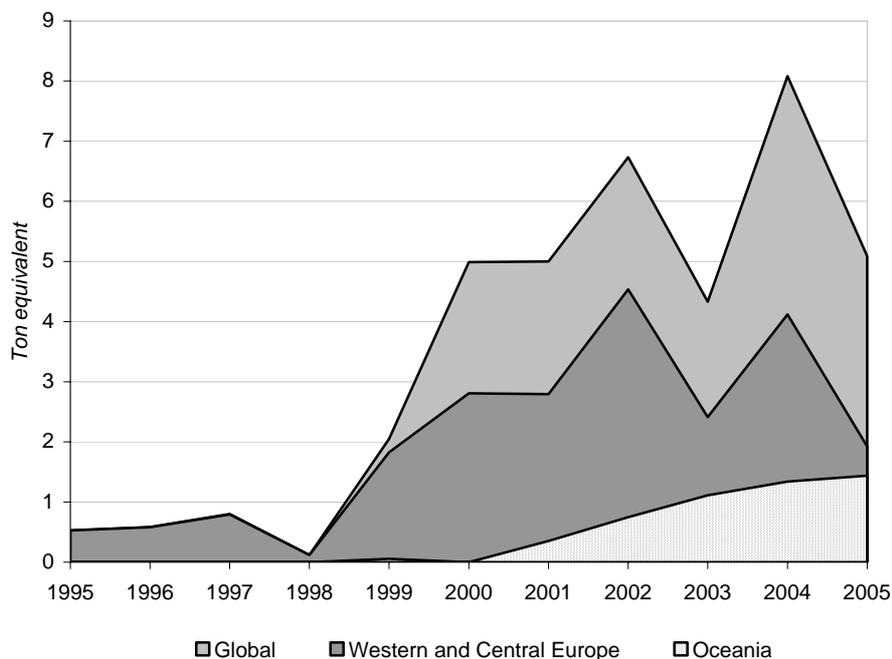
69. In 2005, the largest seizures of methamphetamine were reported by China (6.7 tons), the United States (5.1 tons) and Thailand (2.3 tons). Seizures by these three countries together accounted for 88 per cent of the global methamphetamine seizures in 2005. All three countries reported increased seizures on 2004 levels.

70. The most frequently cited destinations of interdicted methamphetamine in 2005 were the United States and Japan.

3. “Ecstasy”

71. The global interdiction of “ecstasy”-type substances increased from 4.3 tons in 2003 to 8 tons in 2004, but decreased again in 2005 to 5 tons (see figure XI). The figures reflect the decrease of seizure-reporting in Europe; nevertheless the bulk of “ecstasy” interdiction continued to be in Western and Central Europe (1.9 tons) in 2005. The second most affected region was Oceania (1.4 tons), followed by North America (1 ton).

Figure XI
Global seizures of “ecstasy” and seizures in Western and Central Europe and Oceania, 1995-2005
 (Ton equivalent)



72. The most frequently cited destinations were the United States, Australia, South Africa, Europe (including Sweden, Slovenia, France and Italy) and Brazil.

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

73. Seizures of precursor chemicals used for amphetamine and methamphetamine production such as phenylacetic acid and 1-phenyl-2-propanone have increased from global seizures of 158 kilograms in 2003, to 232 kilograms in 2004 and 5,506 litres in 2003 to 350,000 litres in 2004 respectively.²² Ephedrine seizures stabilized in comparison to the previous year and there was a substantial decrease in norephedrine seizures. In the case of precursors related to the manufacture of “ecstasy”, there was a global increase in seizures of piperonal, safrole and 3,4-methylenedioxyphenyl-2-propanone, with seizures concentrated in the regions of Western and Central Europe and East and South-East Asia.

E. Other drugs

74. Global seizures of methaqualone increased from 2.9 tons in 2003 to 4.8 tons in 2004, but decreased dramatically in 2005, to 630 kilograms. South Africa and

²² *Precursors and Chemicals ...*

India were the main countries where methaqualone was seized, and reported seizures of 3.2 tons and 1.6 tons respectively in 2004.

75. Trafficking in depressants other than methaqualone stabilized in 2004 at 2.1 tons and decreased further in 2005. The regions of Eastern Europe, North America and East and South-East Asia reported the largest proportion of seizures. The largest seizures in 2004 were reported by the Russian Federation (1.2 tons), followed by the United States (354 kilograms), Japan (311 kilograms) and Mexico (105 kilograms). In 2005, the largest seizures were reported by Mexico (110 kilograms) followed by the United States (30 kilograms) and Slovakia.

76. Khat is not under international control, but is subject to national control in some countries. Global seizures increased from 69 tons in 2003 to 97 tons in 2004 and stabilized at 95.6 tons in 2005. The largest volume of khat was reported by the United States (37 tons), followed by Canada (17.4 tons) and Germany (14.3 tons).

IV. Conclusion and recommendations

77. Developments in Afghanistan in 2006, where illicit opium poppy cultivation and opium production reached its highest level ever, confirm that there exists no easy solution to the problem of illicit drugs in this country. The “narco-economy” of Afghanistan threatens to reduce the country to the condition of a “narco-State”; in order to avoid that happening, the Government of Afghanistan and the international community need to work together to provide security and governance through drug control strategies based upon development, security, sound law enforcement and good governance.

78. In the Golden Triangle, where Myanmar, the Lao People’s Democratic Republic and Thailand have long been synonymous with opium production and drug trafficking, the picture is much more positive, as the region’s global share in illicit drug cultivation and production has fallen from 66 per cent in 1998 to only 12 per cent in 2006. However, the respective Governments and the international community need to address the growing poverty in rural areas in order to avoid a situation where the progress achieved in reducing illicit opium poppy cultivation is jeopardized.

79. In the Andean region, coca bush cultivation declined over the years 2002-2004, but the UNODC survey of coca cultivation in the Andean region for 2005 saw an increase of 1 per cent from 2004 to 2005. However, a yield survey conducted in the region indicated that there was a higher yield of cocaine from the coca crop than had previously been estimated. In addition to the disruptions to the social fabric and economic and health problems caused by the illicit drug economy, the related environmental concerns associated with this illicit cultivation require immediate attention and action from the States affected and the international community. Sustainable long-term strategies should be developed to eradicate poverty and improve security in communities blighted by the threat posed by drug cartels, traffickers and dealers.

80. Cocaine trafficking has taken on significant importance for the entire African continent, and particularly so for countries in proximity to South America. The interceptions being made are increasing, as are the quantities seized, and there is

evidence that African organized crime groups are currently involved in the trafficking and stockpiling of large cocaine consignments on the continent. African law enforcement agencies are inadequately equipped and trained to address this growing cocaine problem.

81. The spread of illicit cannabis plant cultivation in often already impoverished countries and the related growing numbers of cannabis users worldwide also require action on the part of the countries concerned and support from the international community.

82. The increased rates of success of law enforcement agencies worldwide in seizing illicit narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances are to be applauded. Nonetheless, closer international cooperation is still needed, notably greater exchange of information between drug law enforcement agencies and the provision of support to build capacity within law enforcement agencies. Of particular importance is cooperation among Member States in order to avoid the diversion from legal channels of the precursor chemicals used in the illicit manufacture of drugs.

83. In its resolution 60/178, the General Assembly requested UNODC to recommend ways and means of improving the capacity of States to address all aspects of the drug problem. The following recommendations arise from this global exercise undertaken through the forum of the subsidiary bodies of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs:

(a) Governments should take steps to introduce real measures that actively support the development of inter-agency and cross-border cooperation in order to extend the effectiveness of controls and strengthen countermeasures against trafficking in illicit drugs and their chemical precursors. Strategies such as integrated inter-agency training in counter-narcotics drug enforcement for all front-line law enforcement agencies both extend the effectiveness of front-line controls and build cooperation and understanding at the operational level. Similarly, national law enforcement training academies should be supported in the development and hosting of training events that include participants from counterpart enforcement agencies in foreign countries;

(b) States that have not already done so should be encouraged to post drug liaison officers to source countries that pose significant risks from illicit drug trafficking, so as to facilitate the gathering of evidence in order to dismantle and prosecute syndicates engaged in cross-border trafficking in illicit drugs, as this has proven to be an effective tool;

(c) Governments should encourage their law enforcement agencies to establish and maintain direct communication and cooperation with the new counterpart drug law enforcement authorities of Afghanistan so as to support their development and assist them in achieving full operational effectiveness;

(d) New trafficking challenges must be met with vigour, such as those posed by the use of the Internet to promote and acquire pharmaceuticals containing controlled substances, illicit drugs and their precursors. Agencies must have clear response strategies and sufficient resources to act against them. Increasingly, the need to investigate traffickers through different jurisdictions requires proactive and coordinated measures, such as a standing policy and procedure to provide

investigative assistance by way of teams or individual officers, in anticipation of requests for assistance from foreign law enforcement agencies for support in such cross-border and regional investigations;

(e) Governments undertaking eradication programmes targeting illicit drug crops must ensure that these actions are accompanied by programmes that offer a viable commercial alternative so as to enable rural communities to support themselves without resort to a return to illicit cultivation;

(f) In the face of the growing speed and integration of international trade and transport, Governments should take steps to ensure that their front-line law enforcement authorities are adequately prepared and equipped to screen, evaluate and examine sea freight containers. Agencies should be supported in their efforts to coordinate with counterparts in other ports in and outside their regions in order to facilitate the timely exchange of information on consignments and sea containers of interest;

(g) Governments must ensure that their domestic legislation exercises effective control over the precursor chemicals commonly used in the illicit manufacture of narcotic drugs and amphetamine-type stimulants, and provide such powers as necessary to investigate, prosecute and penalize those persons engaged in their diversion and manufacture. Effective strategies include programmes that reach and integrate all law enforcement agencies, chemical regulatory and control authorities and chemical manufacturers, making them aware of the importance of tight control over those chemicals at risk of diversion.