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**Illicit drug traffic and supply and related measures:
world situation with regard to drug trafficking and
recommendations of the subsidiary bodies of the
Commission**

World situation with regard to drug trafficking

Report of the Secretariat

Summary

The present report provides an overview of the latest trends in illicit drug production and trafficking worldwide. The statistics and analysis in the report are based on the latest information available to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. In respect of seizure statistics, the report focuses on 2007 and 2008. With regard to illicit drug crop cultivation and illicit drug production, the report focuses on the period 2008-2009.

Cannabis continues to be the mostly widely produced, trafficked and consumed plant-based drug worldwide. In 2008, global cannabis resin seizures rose by one quarter to reach record levels, partly due to seizures in South-West Asia, thought to reflect the growing cultivation of cannabis in Afghanistan. Morocco reported a reduction in cannabis cultivation in 2008, but was still frequently mentioned by countries as a source for cannabis resin. Global seizures of cannabis herb sustained the moderate increasing trend of recent years, with significant increases being registered in South America (notably in the Plurinational State of Bolivia), Africa, Asia and Europe.

The global illicit market for opiates continued to be centred around Afghanistan, where a dominant share of the world's cultivation of opium poppy and production of opium, as well as a substantial portion of global manufacture of heroin,

* E/CN.7/2010/1.



were located. However, for the second consecutive year, cultivation of opium poppy in Afghanistan fell by approximately one fifth in 2009, while opium production fell less markedly. Global opiate seizures also continued to increase, with the notable exception of morphine. In 2008, the Islamic Republic of Iran registered the largest seizures worldwide of opium, morphine and heroin.

In 2008, coca bush cultivation remained concentrated in Colombia, Peru and the Plurinational State of Bolivia. The area under coca bush cultivation fell significantly in Colombia, which nevertheless continued to account for approximately one half of global cultivation. Global cocaine seizures remained essentially stable, but exhibited a shift towards the source countries, with South America accounting for 61 per cent of the total in 2008. Information on individual drug seizures confirmed the increased role of Africa as a transit area for cocaine trafficking.

Seizures of amphetamine-type stimulants worldwide remained stable in 2008, with the notable exception of “ecstasy”. Global seizures of “ecstasy” fell to the lowest level since 1999, partly due to significantly reduced levels in the Netherlands and in Australia. Manufacture of amphetamine-type stimulants continued in areas where it was well-established, notably East and South-East Asia, Europe, North America and Oceania, but also showed signs of spreading to vulnerable countries with little or no previous history of reported manufacture.

Contents

	<i>Page</i>
I. Introduction	4
II. Global trends in illicit drug crop cultivation and the production of plant-based drugs, 2008-2009	4
A. Cannabis	4
B. Opium	5
C. Coca	7
III. Trends in drug trafficking up to 2008	9
A. Cannabis	10
B. Opiates	14
C. Cocaine	20
D. Amphetamine-type stimulants	23
IV. Conclusions and recommendations	28
Table	
Global drug seizures, 2007 and 2008	10
Figures	
I. Opium poppy cultivation in Afghanistan, the Lao People's Democratic Republic and Myanmar, 1999-2009	6
II. Coca bush cultivation in Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Colombia and Peru, 1998-2008 ...	8
III. Breakdown of global cannabis herb seizures, 1999-2008	11
IV. Cannabis herb seizures in Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Mexico and the United States, 1994-2008	12
V. Breakdown of cannabis resin seizures worldwide, 2002-2008	13
VI. Distribution of opiate seizures worldwide, 2008	15
VII. Opium seizures in Afghanistan and Iran (Islamic Republic of) worldwide, 2000-2008	16
VIII. Comparison of morphine and opium seizure trends in Pakistan, 2004-2008	17
IX. Correlation of heroin seizures in Turkey with opium and heroin seizures in the Islamic Republic of Iran, 2000-2004 and 2004-2008	19
X. Comparison of cocaine seizures in South America and other regions, 2000-2008	20
XI. Geographical distribution of points of origin of cocaine consignments seized in Europe, 2000-2008	23
XII. Breakdown of global amphetamine seizures, 2000-2008	24
XIII. Methamphetamine seizures worldwide, 2001-2008	25
XIV. "Ecstasy" seizures worldwide, 2000-2008	27

I. Introduction

1. The present report provides an overview of developments in the production of and trafficking in the main illicit drugs at the global and regional levels. Analysis is based on the latest information available to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC).
2. The report addresses the illicit cultivation of coca bush, opium poppy and cannabis and the illicit production of coca and opium for the years up to and including 2009. With regard to drug trafficking, the report focuses on seizure statistics for 2007 and 2008 and supplies an update on trafficking trends in opiates, cannabis, cocaine and amphetamine-type stimulants.
3. Information on illicit drug crop cultivation and illicit production of plant-based drugs was drawn from the latest illicit crop monitoring surveys published by UNODC. The primary sources of information on drug trafficking were the replies to part III (Illicit supply of drugs) of the annual reports questionnaire submitted by Governments for 2008 and previous years.
4. At the time of preparation of the present report,¹ UNODC had received replies to part III of the annual reports questionnaire for 2008 from 104 Member States and three territories. Supplementary sources of information included reports on significant individual drug seizures, published official Government reports and other reports received by UNODC or submitted to the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and its subsidiary bodies (UNODC collated seizure data from a total of 115 countries and territories for 2008).
5. In general, statistics on drug seizures offer valid, indirect indicators of trafficking trends. However, they should be treated with caution, as they also reflect different reporting practices and depend on the level and effectiveness of law enforcement capacities.

II. Global trends in illicit drug crop cultivation and the production of plant-based drugs, 2008-2009

A. Cannabis

6. Unlike illicit crops such as coca leaf and opium poppy, cannabis lends itself to diverse cultivation methods since it can easily be grown in a variety of environments. That makes assessing the extent of its cultivation and production difficult. However, UNODC estimates that cannabis continues to dominate the world's illicit drug markets in terms of the pervasiveness of cultivation, volume of production and number of consumers.
7. The most recent cannabis survey conducted by UNODC in Morocco took place in 2005.² The total area under cannabis cultivation in that country was

¹ Seizure data reflects information available to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) as at 25 November 2009.

² United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, *Morocco: Cannabis Survey 2005, Executive Summary* (January 2007).

estimated at 72,500 hectares (ha) in 2005, down from 134,000 ha in 2003. Morocco continued to estimate the area under cannabis cultivation at that level in 2006 and 2007, but reported a reduction in 2008 to an estimated area of 60,000 ha, as well as the eradication of 4,377 ha.

8. In Afghanistan, the area under cannabis cultivation increased from 30,000 ha in 2005³ to 50,000 ha in 2006 and 70,000 ha in 2007.⁴ The figure for 2007 was equivalent to 36 per cent of the area under opium poppy cultivation in that country during that year. At the end of 2008, UNODC performed a baseline study on cannabis cultivation in Afghanistan and identified 20 out of 34 provinces with substantial cannabis cultivation.

9. In the absence of survey data, the amount of cannabis plant that is seized can be taken as an indicator of the extent of cannabis cultivation. For the period 2006-2008, UNODC collated records of seizures of cannabis plant in 112 countries and territories. In 2008, such seizures amounted to 8,203 tons,⁵ of which more than one half (5,185 tons) were seized in Paraguay. Paraguay also reported the eradication of an area of 1,838 ha under cannabis cultivation in 2008.

10. Apart from reporting the seizure of 2.16 million cannabis plants in 2008, the United States reported that its Domestic Cannabis Eradication/Suppression Program resulted in the destruction of 7.6 million outdoor plants and 451 thousand indoor plants in 2008. Guatemala reported the seizure of 10.8 million plants in 2008.

B. Opium

11. The period 2001-2007 saw a significant growth in global production of opiates, driven mainly by opium poppy cultivation in Afghanistan. A turning point may have been reached in 2007, as cultivation and production in Afghanistan have since then declined by approximately one fifth for two years running (see figure I). Nevertheless, the global illicit cultivation of opium poppy and production of opium continued to be dominated by Afghanistan, which also accounted for a substantial portion of global heroin manufacture. Reports from various sources indicate that opium poppy was also cultivated illicitly, albeit to a limited extent, in numerous other countries worldwide, including in some for which survey data were not available.

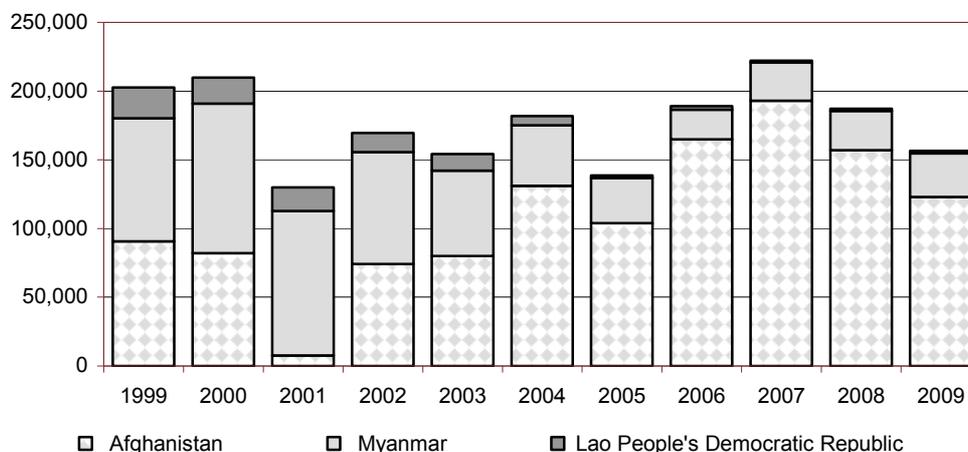
³ United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, *Afghanistan: Opium Survey 2006* (November 2006).

⁴ United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, *Afghanistan: Opium Survey 2007* (October 2007).

⁵ Seizures of cannabis plant may be reported to UNODC by mass or by number of plants.

Aggregate quantities are expressed by mass. For the purposes of the aggregation, one plant is assumed to have a mass of 0.1 kg.

Figure I
**Opium poppy cultivation in Afghanistan, the Lao People's Democratic Republic
 and Myanmar, 1999-2009**
 (Hectares)



12. The total area under opium poppy cultivation in Afghanistan peaked at 193,000 ha in 2007 and declined for two years to 123,000 ha in 2009. Apart from counter-narcotics operations, the decline in 2009 was due to more favourable terms of trade for legal crops and to the introduction of “food zones” to promote licit farming.

13. In 2009, cultivation of opium poppy was concentrated in seven provinces⁶ in the south and west of Afghanistan, namely Helmand, Kandahar, Uruzgan, Daykundi, Zabul, Farah and Badghis (in that order), which together accounted for 98 per cent of the total area under opium poppy cultivation in Afghanistan. The drop from 2008 to 2009 was mainly due to the portion to be found in Helmand province, where the area under cultivation fell from 103,590 ha (almost two thirds of the total in 2007) to 69,833 ha.

14. The estimated opium yield in Afghanistan was unusually high in 2008 and 2009. This was the result of various factors, including favourable weather conditions, few plant diseases and pests and the shift to cultivating opium poppy in the fertile southern lowlands, where irrigation and better farming techniques were more widespread. The average yield increased from 48.8 kilograms per hectare in 2008 to 56.1 kilograms per hectare in 2009. As a consequence, the estimated production of opium fell by only 10 per cent, from 7,700 tons in 2008 to 6,900 tons in 2009, in spite of a corresponding decrease in the area under opium poppy cultivation of 22 per cent.

15. Based on data gathered by the UNODC Country Office in Afghanistan, in 2008 69 laboratories were dismantled in Afghanistan, of which 50 were in Nangarhar, which remained a centre of heroin manufacture. Moreover, 14.2 tons of

⁶ The province of Nimroz (not included among these seven provinces) registered a notable nominal decrease because certain areas with significant cultivation levels, previously considered part of Nimroz, were newly designated as part of Farah province.

acetic anhydride were seized (mainly in Kandahar, Nangarhar, Paktya and Kabul, in that order) as well as 19.4 tons of ammonium chloride (mainly in Helmand, Kabul, Nangarhar and Paktya, in that order). In the first half of 2009, military operations destroyed a further 27 laboratories.⁷

16. In South-East Asia, opium poppy cultivation took place mainly in the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Myanmar, Thailand and Viet Nam. Cultivation in those countries tends to be on steep hills with poor soil and no irrigation facilities, resulting in lower yields than in Afghanistan. Reports from the Government of Viet Nam indicated that opium poppy cultivation in that country was negligible. Thailand's crop monitoring system indicated that opium poppy cultivation in that country was also very limited, amounting to 288 ha in 2008 (of which 284 ha were eradicated) and 211 ha in 2009 (of which 201 ha were eradicated).

17. In Myanmar, opium poppy cultivation declined markedly over the decade leading up to 2006, but followed a generally increasing trend after that year, reaching 31,700 ha in 2009. While still small in comparison with the peak level of 1996, the area under opium poppy cultivation in 2009 represented increases of 11 per cent on the level in 2008 (28,500 ha) and 47 per cent on that in 2006. Shan State accounted for 95 per cent of cultivation in 2009. In spite of the increase in cultivation, the estimated potential production of opium in Myanmar fell from 410 tons in 2008 to 330 tons in 2009.

18. In the Lao People's Democratic Republic, the area under opium poppy cultivation decreased consistently from 26,800 ha in 1998 to 1,800 ha in 2005, and did not exceed 2,500 ha after that. However, in 2009 cultivation increased to 1,900 ha, from 1,600 ha in 2008. The estimated potential production of opium increased from 9.6 tons in 2008 to 11.4 tons in 2009.

19. According to the United States Department of Justice,⁸ heroin produced in each of the source areas of South America, Mexico, South-East Asia and South-West Asia was available to varying degrees in the United States. However, the availability of heroin from South-West Asia and South-East Asia remained limited. Mexico reported the eradication of 13,095 ha under opium poppy cultivation in 2008, up from 11,046 ha in 2007. Colombia estimated the net area under opium poppy cultivation in 2007 at 714 ha, excluding eradicated areas amounting to 375 ha. In 2008, the area under opium poppy cultivation in Colombia fell to 394 ha.⁹

C. Coca

20. In 2008, coca bush cultivation remained concentrated in Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Colombia and Peru. Between 2007 and 2008, the total area under coca bush cultivation in those three countries fell by 8 per cent, from 181,600 ha in 2007 to 167,600 ha in 2008, while the estimated manufacture of cocaine fell more

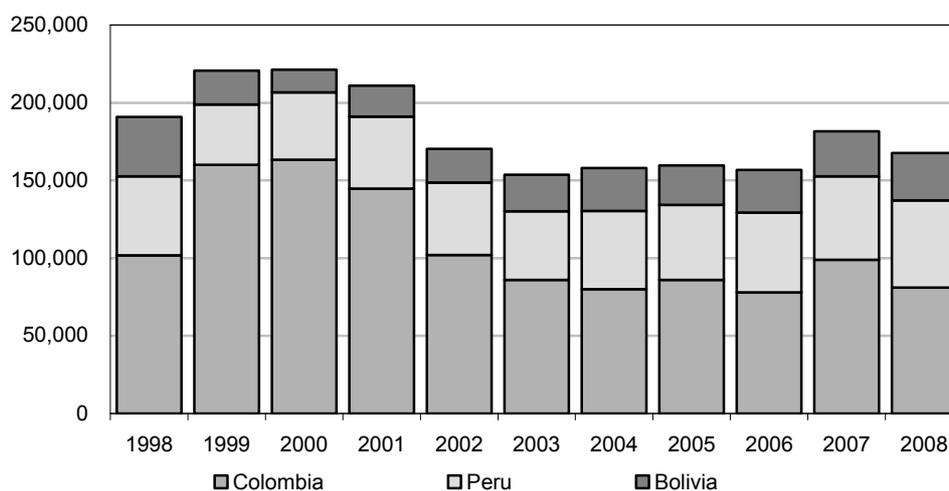
⁷ United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, *Afghanistan Opium Survey 2009: Summary Findings* (September 2009).

⁸ National Drug Intelligence Center, United States Department of Justice, *National Drug Threat Assessment 2009* (December 2008).

⁹ United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, *Colombia: Coca Cultivation Survey 2008* (June 2009).

markedly, from 994 tons in 2007 to 845 tons in 2008. The decline was due to significant decreases in Colombia, which nevertheless accounted for approximately one half of global cultivation of coca bush and potential manufacture of cocaine in 2008 (see figure II).

Figure II
Coca bush cultivation in Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Colombia and Peru, 1998-2008
 (Hectares)



21. In Colombia, the area under coca bush cultivation fell from 99,000 ha in 1998 to 81,000 ha in 2008. The region with the largest area under cultivation in 2008 was the Pacific region, where fresh coca leaf yield was thought to be low, followed by the Central region. In 2008, cultivation in the regions of Meta-Guaviare, Putumayo-Caquetá and Orinoco fell significantly below the levels recorded in 2006 and 2007. The fresh coca leaf production estimates for Meta-Guaviare and, to a lesser extent, Putumayo-Caquetá were also affected by new information on coca leaf yield in those two regions. Estimates for manufacture of cocaine in Colombia fell markedly, from 600 tons in 2007 to 430 tons in 2008.

22. In Peru, cultivation of coca bush rose gradually over the period 2005-2008, amounting to 56,100 ha¹⁰ in 2008, the highest level since 1997. The regions with the largest areas under coca bush cultivation continued to be Alto Huallaga, Apurímac-Ene and La Convención-Lares, which together accounted for 85 per cent of cultivation in 2008. The highest yields continued to be registered in Apurímac-Ene, which accounted for one half of the production of coca leaf. The estimated production of cocaine in Peru amounted to 302 tons in 2008, up from 290 tons in 2007.

¹⁰ That is the area estimated in the Peru coca cultivation survey for 2008, conducted jointly by the Government of Peru and UNODC. See *Perú. Monitoreo de Cultivos de Coca* (June 2009). In its replies to the annual reports questionnaire for 2008, Peru reported a net area under cultivation (after eradication) of 43,556.88 ha and the eradication of 10,091.26 ha.

23. The area under coca bush cultivation also continued to increase in the Plurinational State of Bolivia, rising from 28,900 ha in 2007 to 30,500 ha in 2008. The total of 30,500 ha included 12,000 ha permitted by Law 1008¹¹ for traditional uses. The increase in the area under cultivation was due to growth in two main areas: the Yungas of La Paz and the Tropics of Cochabamba. Potential manufacture of cocaine in the Plurinational State of Bolivia in 2008 was estimated at 113 tons, up from 104 tons in 2007.

24. In Colombia, the total area of eradicated coca bush remained largely unchanged, amounting to 229,611 ha in 2008 (compared with 219,939 ha in 2007). However, an increased portion of this total (96,115 ha in 2008, up from 66,805 ha in 2007) was destroyed manually, with the remainder being eradicated by means of spraying. In Peru the eradication of coca bush fell to 10,143 ha¹² in 2008, from 12,072 ha in 2007. That reduction may be partly due to the fact that eradication in 2008 was achieved exclusively through forced eradication operations,¹³ in contrast to 2007, when voluntary eradication schemes contributed to 1,016 ha of the total. Eradication also fell in the Plurinational State of Bolivia (5,484 ha in 2008, down from 6,269 ha in 2007).

25. Ecuador also reported small areas under coca cultivation in 2007 and 2008, most of which were eradicated. These were located close to the border with Colombia.

III. Trends in drug trafficking up to 2008

26. The table below shows the quantities of the major drug types seized globally in 2007 and 2008. Since some States had not submitted their replies to part III of the annual reports questionnaire for 2008 at the time of writing, the totals for 2008 are preliminary. However, in most cases where the lack of data could significantly impact the global total, UNODC collated available data from other Government sources and from UNODC field offices. In the transition from 2007 to 2008, increases were registered in seizures of cannabis derivatives and opiates (with the exception of morphine), while a notable drop was to be observed in seizures of “ecstasy”.

¹¹ Ley del Régimen de la Coca y Sustancias Controladas, 1988.

¹² As reported to UNODC and published in June 2009 in the UNODC publication *Perú: Monitoreo de Cultivos de Coca*. In its replies to the annual reports questionnaire for 2008, Peru reported the eradication of 11,056.2 ha in 2007 and 10,091.26 ha in 2008. The figure for 2007 corresponds to forced eradication only, while the figure for 2008 is less than the corresponding published figure for 2008 by 0.5 per cent.

¹³ United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, *Perú: Monitoreo de Cultivos de Coca* (June 2009).

Table
Global drug seizures, 2007 and 2008

Drug type	Reported seizures (kilograms)		Trend
	2007	2008 ^a	
Cannabis			
Cannabis herb	5 802 394	6 458 893	Increase
Cannabis resin	1 298 990	1 635 392	Increase
Opiates			
Opium (raw and prepared)	508 747	648 662	Increase
Morphine	27 438	17 231	Decrease
Heroin	65 098	72 915	Increase
Cocaine			
Cocaine (base and salts)	710 062	691 273	Stable ^b
Amphetamine-type stimulants^c			
Amphetamine	23 667	22 262	Stable ^b
Methamphetamine	18 211	18 542	Stable ^b
“Ecstasy” (MDA, MDEA, MDMA)	7 948	3 796	Decrease

Note: MDA=methylenedioxyamphetamine
MDEA=3,4-methylenedioxyethylamphetamine
MDMA=methylenedioxymethamphetamine.

^a Totals for 2008 subject to change as data from more countries become available.

^b The term “stable” refers to a variation of less than 10 per cent.

^c Amphetamine-type stimulants are seized in various forms, including liquid and tablet form, and may be reported by mass, volume, number of tablets or other units. In specific cases seizure amounts may be reproduced as reported by countries, but aggregate quantities are expressed by mass. For the purposes of the aggregation, one tablet is assumed to contain 30 mg of active ingredient, with the exception of “ecstasy” tablets, which are assumed to contain 100 mg of active ingredient. Moreover, one litre of liquid is assumed to correspond to one kilogram.

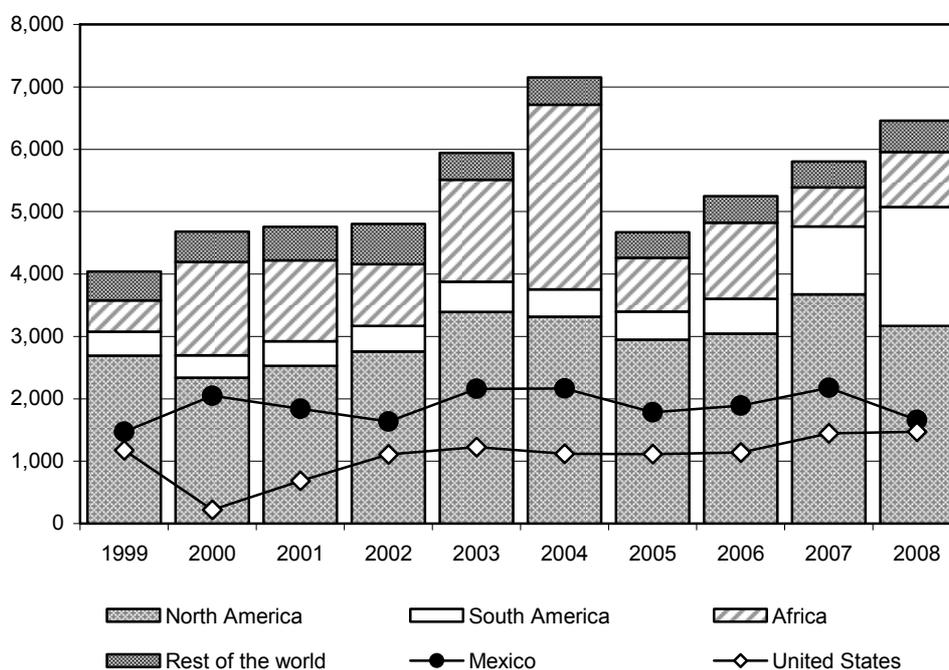
A. Cannabis

27. Trafficking in cannabis derivatives continues to affect most countries of the world. Of the 144 countries and territories for which UNODC collated records of positive drug seizures in 2007, 123 had made seizures of cannabis herb, 88 had made seizures of cannabis resin, 21 had made seizures of cannabis oil and 134 had seized at least one of those cannabis derivatives. Based on data for the period 2003-2008, approximately one half of all seizures worldwide involved cannabis herb, cannabis resin or cannabis oil. Cannabis herb was the most frequently seized drug in Africa, the Americas and Oceania, while cannabis resin was the most frequently seized drug in Europe, followed by cannabis herb.

1. Cannabis herb

28. Global cannabis herb seizures rose steadily over the period 2005-2008, reaching 6,459 tons in 2008, while remaining short of the peak level attained in 2004 (7,154 tons) (see figure III). The Americas continued to be the region with the highest share of global seizures, followed by Africa. Significant increases were registered in South America, Africa, Asia and Europe.

Figure III
Breakdown of global cannabis herb seizures, 1999-2008
 (Tons)



29. From 2001 onwards, the largest and second largest national annual cannabis herb seizures worldwide were reported by Mexico and the United States, respectively. In Mexico, following two consecutive year-on-year decreases, cannabis herb seizures fell to 1,658 tons in 2008, the lowest level since 2002 and less than the 2007 level (2,177 tons) by almost one quarter (see figure III). Mexico estimated that, in 2007 and again in 2008, 60 per cent of the cannabis herb seized was destined for the United States, and that cannabis herb was mainly trafficked by land (in contrast with cocaine).

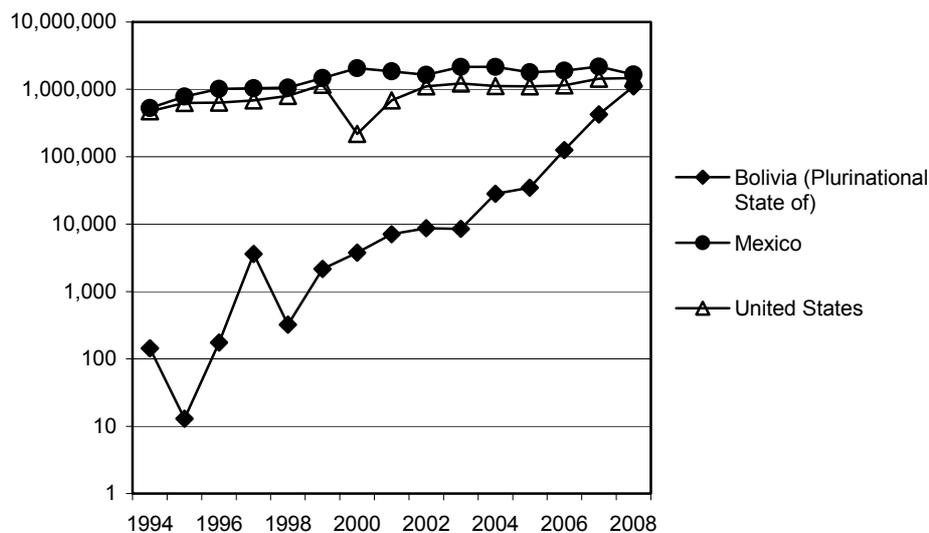
30. In the United States, seizures of cannabis herb essentially sustained the high level (1,447 tons) reached in 2007, amounting to 1,472 tons in 2008. According to the United States Department of Justice,¹⁴ a high demand for cannabis herb prompted drug trafficking organizations and criminal groups to engage in large-scale cannabis cultivation in the United States and to smuggle large quantities of cannabis herb from Mexico and, to a much lesser extent, Canada, into the United States.

31. The drop in cannabis herb seizures in North America was offset by a significant rise in the total attributable to South America, mainly owing to the contribution of the Plurinational State of Bolivia. Seizures in that country more than doubled in 2008, continuing a general rapidly increasing trend that could be traced back to 1999 (see figure IV). Over the period 2003-2008 in particular, cannabis herb

¹⁴ National Drug Intelligence Center, United States Department of Justice. *National Drug Threat Assessment 2009* (December 2008).

seizures in the Plurinational State of Bolivia rose steadily, from 8.51 tons in 2003 to 1,113 tons in 2008. That represented an increase of 131 times over a period of five years, equivalent to five consecutive year-on-year increases of 165 per cent. Such a rate of growth, if sustained, would imply seizures in excess of the quantities reported by Mexico in 2007 and 2008 (the highest worldwide for the corresponding years) already by 2009. The level in 2008 was the third highest reported by a single country worldwide.

Figure IV
Cannabis herb seizures in Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Mexico and the United States, 1994-2008
 (Kilograms, in logarithmic scale)



Sources: Replies to the annual reports questionnaires from Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Mexico and the United States, UNODC and the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL).

32. In spite of the fact that data from some key African countries for 2008 were not available at the time of preparation of the present report, the preliminary total quantity of cannabis herb seizures effected by African countries in 2008 (884 tons) already exceeded the total for 2007 (629 tons) by 41 per cent. In 2008, as in 2007, the largest and second largest seizures in the region were reported by Nigeria (336 tons) and Morocco (222 tons).

33. Seizures of cannabis herb also rose markedly in Asia, from 209 tons in 2007 to 297 tons in 2008, owing mainly to extraordinarily large seizures reported by Indonesia, amounting to 141 tons. Seizures in that country had averaged 26.8 tons over the period 2001-2007 and had amounted to 31.9 tons in 2007. According to preliminary data, most of the remaining seizures in Asia were accounted for by India, whose Narcotics Control Bureau communicated to UNODC, in a letter

dated 31 August 2009, having effected seizures amounting to 103 tons¹⁵ in 2008 (date as at 31 July 2009), essentially stable at the level reported for 2007 (108 tons).

34. A less pronounced increase was also registered in Europe, where seizures rose from 137 tons in 2007 to 156 tons in 2008. The Netherlands recorded a notable increase, with seizures rising to 42.4 tons in 2008, the highest level since 2002. In contrast, seizures of cannabis herb in the Netherlands had averaged 6.86 tons over the period 2003-2007 and had amounted to 5.47 tons in 2007. The Netherlands was also the country most frequently mentioned in the replies to the annual reports questionnaire as a point of origin for cannabis herb: it was mentioned 13 times in both the replies for 2007 and for 2008. The mentions were all made by European countries, with the one exception being Japan, relative to 2007.

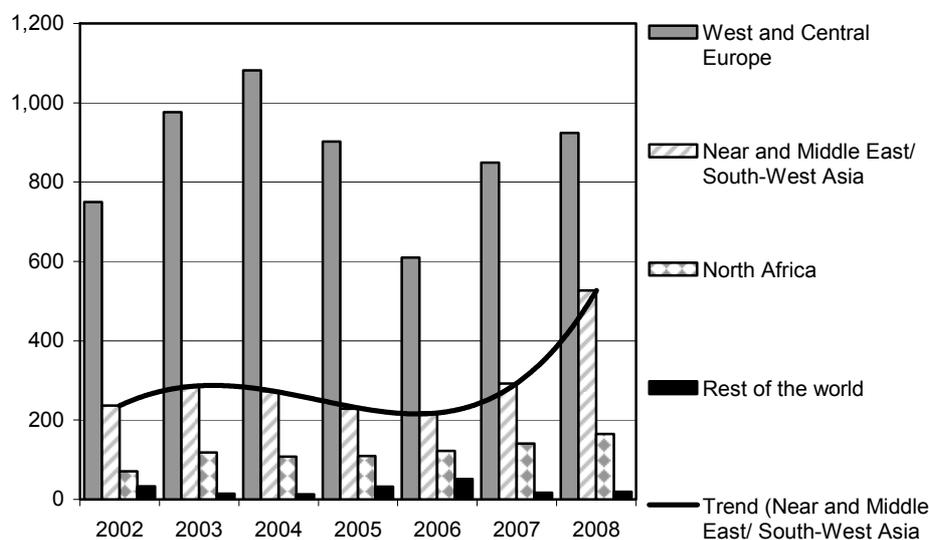
2. Cannabis resin

35. In 2008 global cannabis resin seizures rose by one quarter to reach record levels, climbing from 1,299 tons in 2007 to 1,635 tons. Seizures continued to be concentrated in Western and Central Europe (notably Spain), the Near and Middle East/South-West Asia (notably Afghanistan, Iran (Islamic Republic of) and Pakistan) and North Africa (notably Morocco). A pronounced increase, both in absolute and relative terms, was registered in the Near and Middle East/South-West Asia, mainly due to the contribution of Afghanistan (see figure V). The share of global seizures attributable to that subregion rose from less than one fifth in 2005 to almost one third in 2008.

Figure V

Breakdown of cannabis resin seizures worldwide, 2002-2008

(Tons)



¹⁵ Data for India from the annual reports questionnaire (part III) for 2008 were not available at the time of preparation of the present report.

36. From 1996 onwards, the subregion of Western and Central Europe consistently accounted for more than half of annual global cannabis resin seizures. Spain in particular consistently reported, every year from 1998 to 2008, the largest annual cannabis resin seizures worldwide. Seizures in that country reached 654 tons in 2007 and remained essentially stable in 2008, at 683 tons.

37. Over the period 2000-2008, Spanish authorities also reported details of an average of more than 1,000 significant drug seizure cases per year, of which 52 per cent involved cannabis resin (in 2008, the proportion was 54 per cent). Spanish authorities identified Morocco as being practically the only country of origin other than Spain for those consignments.

38. In the Near and Middle East/South-West Asia, seizures of cannabis resin rose sharply, from 292 tons in 2007 to 527 tons in 2008. The increase was mainly due to seizures effected in Afghanistan, where, according to the UNODC Country Office in Afghanistan, seizures rose three-fold, from 83.8 tons in 2007 to 271 tons in 2008. The sharply increasing trend in Afghanistan, most likely attributable to the increased cultivation of cannabis in the country, was already to be observed in 2007, which was more than double the level in 2006 (37 tons). The marked increase in 2008 was mainly due to a single extraordinarily large seizure of 236.8 tons of cannabis resin effected by Afghan authorities in Kandahar province in June 2008.

39. An increase in cannabis resin seizures was also recorded by Pakistan, which reported seizures of 135 tons in 2008, up from 110 tons in 2007. Pakistan estimated that, in 2008, 98 per cent of the cannabis resin on its territory had originated in Afghanistan and also mentioned that efforts aimed at curtailing opium poppy cultivation had encouraged farmers in Afghanistan to grow cannabis.

40. Seizures of cannabis herb also rose moderately in North Africa, from 141 tons in 2007 to 165 tons in 2008. The largest seizures in that subregion continued to be reported by Morocco, where seizures amounted to 114 tons in 2008, essentially sustaining the increased level of 2007 (118 tons). However, the increase in the total for North Africa was due to the contributions of Algeria and Egypt. In both of those countries, seizures more than doubled in 2008, reaching a record level of 38 tons in Algeria (up from 16.6 tons in 2007) and a level of 12.8 tons, the highest since 1989, in Egypt (up from 5.62 tons in 2007).

41. Morocco was the country most frequently mentioned in the replies to the annual reports questionnaire as a point of origin for cannabis resin, with 17 mentions in the replies for 2007 (excluding Morocco's own citation) and 11 mentions in the replies for 2008. Morocco also reported that in 2008, as a result of the strengthening of the system of surveillance of the Mediterranean coast and the continued action of security services, the routes used to smuggle cannabis resin had shifted towards the Atlantic coast.

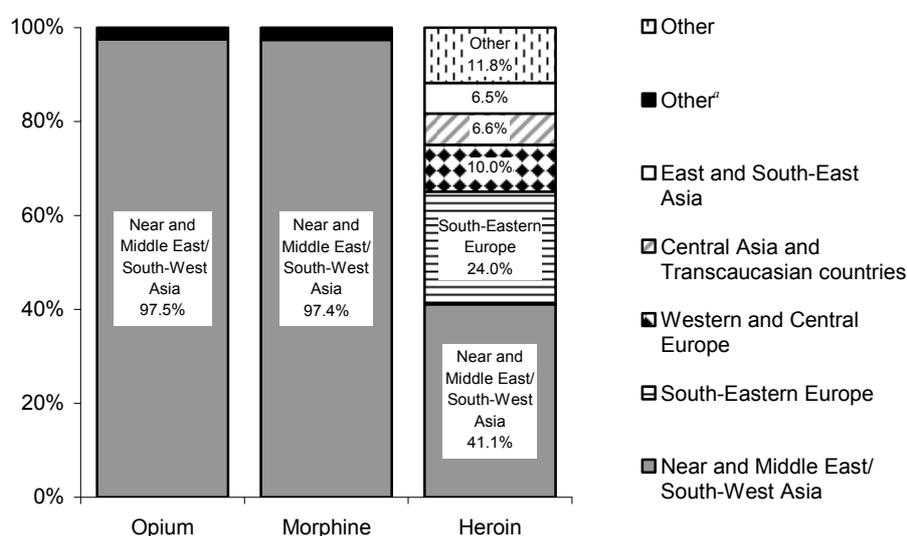
B. Opiates

42. Global opiate trafficking patterns in recent years have paired the three major consumer markets for heroin with three distinct production centres. The European consumer market continues to be supplied by opiates originating in Afghanistan. Another route goes from South-East Asia, notably the Lao People's Democratic

Republic and Myanmar, to neighbouring countries in the region, notably China, as well as Oceania. The consumer market of North America has been supplied mainly by opiates from South America and Mexico.

43. However, opiates originating in Afghanistan have also been finding their way to South-East Asia (notably China and Malaysia) and North America. Large quantities of opiates originating in Afghanistan have also continued to be trafficked to the Russian Federation (via Central Asia) and to Western Europe via Pakistan and the Islamic Republic of Iran and, from there, on the Balkan route via Turkey, as well as, to a lesser extent, along the Black Sea route. Other routes from Pakistan to Europe also exist, involving a number of different transit points but also direct air shipments (notably to the United Kingdom). Most of the opium and morphine seizures worldwide take place in the countries neighbouring Afghanistan. Heroin seizures are less geographically concentrated (see figure VI).

Figure VI
Distribution of opiate seizures worldwide, 2008
(Percentage)

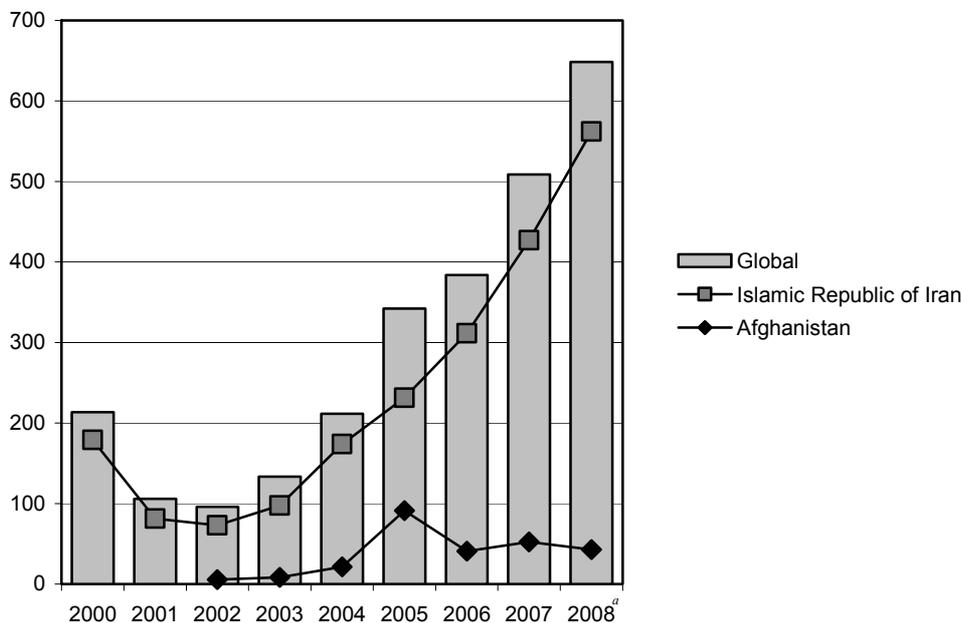


^a Including Western and Central Europe, South-Eastern Europe, Central Asia and Transcaucasian countries and East and South-East Asia.

1. Opium

44. Global opium seizures rose steadily for six consecutive years, from 95.7 tons in 2002 to almost seven times that level (649 tons) in 2008. That was equivalent to consistent year-on-year increases of 38 per cent for six consecutive years. The growth was driven mainly by the contribution of the Islamic Republic of Iran, which continued to report the largest opium seizures worldwide by far (see figure VII). Most of the remaining seizures were effected by Afghanistan and Pakistan. Those three countries together accounted for 97 per cent of global seizures in 2007 and, according to preliminary data, again in 2008.

Figure VII
**Opium seizures in Afghanistan and Iran (Islamic Republic of), worldwide,
 2000-2008**
 (Tons)



^a Data for 2008 for Afghanistan and Iran (Islamic Republic of) are preliminary.

45. Every year from 1996 to 2008, the Islamic Republic of Iran accounted for more than two thirds of annual global opium seizures. For five consecutive years, increasing quantities of opium were seized in the country (from 73 tons in 2002 to 427 tons in 2007), setting the trend for the global total. According to preliminary data, in 2008 seizures in the Islamic Republic of Iran continued to rise, amounting to 562 tons¹⁶ and exceeding the global total for 2007 (see figure VII). The preliminary total for the first seven months of 2009 amounted to 349 tons.¹⁷

46. According to the UNODC Country Office in Afghanistan, opium seizures in that country fell from 52.5 tons in 2007 to 42.8 tons in 2008. Given the large amounts of opium being produced in Afghanistan, such levels imply a disproportionately low seizure rate. Based on data gathered by UNODC, in 2008 opium seizures were effected mainly in the provinces of Helmand (20.8 tons), Nangarhar (9.8 tons), Kandahar (4.1 tons) and Herat (3.4 tons). In the first half of 2009, 50 tons of opium were seized in the course of military operations.¹⁸

¹⁶ Islamic Republic of Iran, *Drug Control in 2008: Annual Report and Rapid Situation Assessment*. Data for the Islamic Republic of Iran from the annual reports questionnaire (part III) for 2008 were not available at the time of preparation of the present report.

¹⁷ Islamic Republic of Iran, Anti-Narcotics Police, *Drug Report 2009* (March 2009).

¹⁸ United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, *Afghanistan Opium Survey 2009: Summary Findings* (September 2009).

47. In line with the trend in the Islamic Republic of Iran, opium seizures in Pakistan rose more than tenfold over the period 2004-2008, from 2.5 tons in 2004 to 27.2 tons in 2008. Pakistan also reported seizures of 6.88 tons of opium poppy straw in 2007 and more than 10 times that quantity (81.7 tons) in 2008.

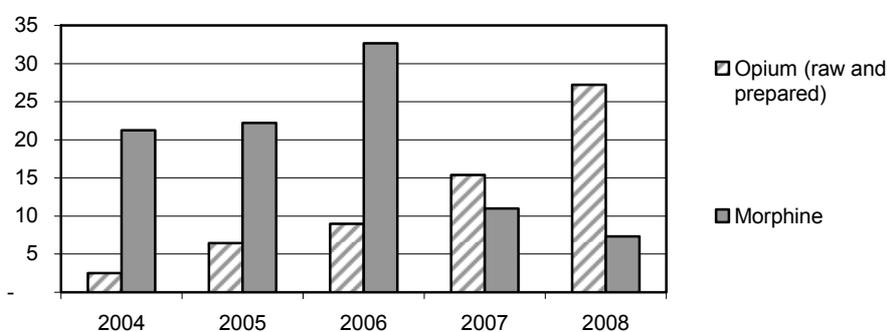
2. Morphine

48. For the second consecutive year, global morphine seizures fell by more than one third, dropping from 27.4 tons in 2007 to 17.2 tons in 2008. The decline over the period 2006-2008 was mainly due to a notable downward trend in Pakistan, where seizures of morphine fell sharply in 2007, from 32.7 tons in 2006 to 11 tons, and even further in 2008, to 7.32 tons — the lowest level since 2002. The downward trend with regard to morphine was in sharp contrast to increasing opium seizures (see figure VIII).

Figure VIII

Comparison of morphine and opium seizure trends in Pakistan, 2004-2008

(Tons)



Note: Data are presented for the purposes of a comparison of trends over time, not quantities, across different drug types. In no sense should 1 ton of opium be considered equivalent to 1 ton of morphine (in particular not in terms of potential heroin manufacture).

49. In 2008, the largest quantity of morphine was seized by the Islamic Republic of Iran, where seizures amounted to 8.98 tons,¹⁹ essentially stable at the level in 2007 (9.68 tons). However, in 2009 seizures may have increased, as the preliminary total for the first seven months only (8.86 tons)¹⁹ was already comparable to the entire total for 2008.

3. Heroin

50. In 2008, global heroin seizures reached a record level of 72.9 tons, up from 65.1 tons in 2007, registering the second consecutive year-on-year increase. Heroin seizures remained much less geographically concentrated than seizures of opium and morphine, with large quantities of heroin being seized in the subregions of the Near and Middle East/ South-West Asia (41 per cent of the global total in 2008), South-East Europe (24 per cent), Western and Central Europe (10 per cent), Central Asia and Transcaucasian countries (7 per cent), East and South-East Asia (7 per cent), East Europe (5 per cent) and North America (3 per cent).

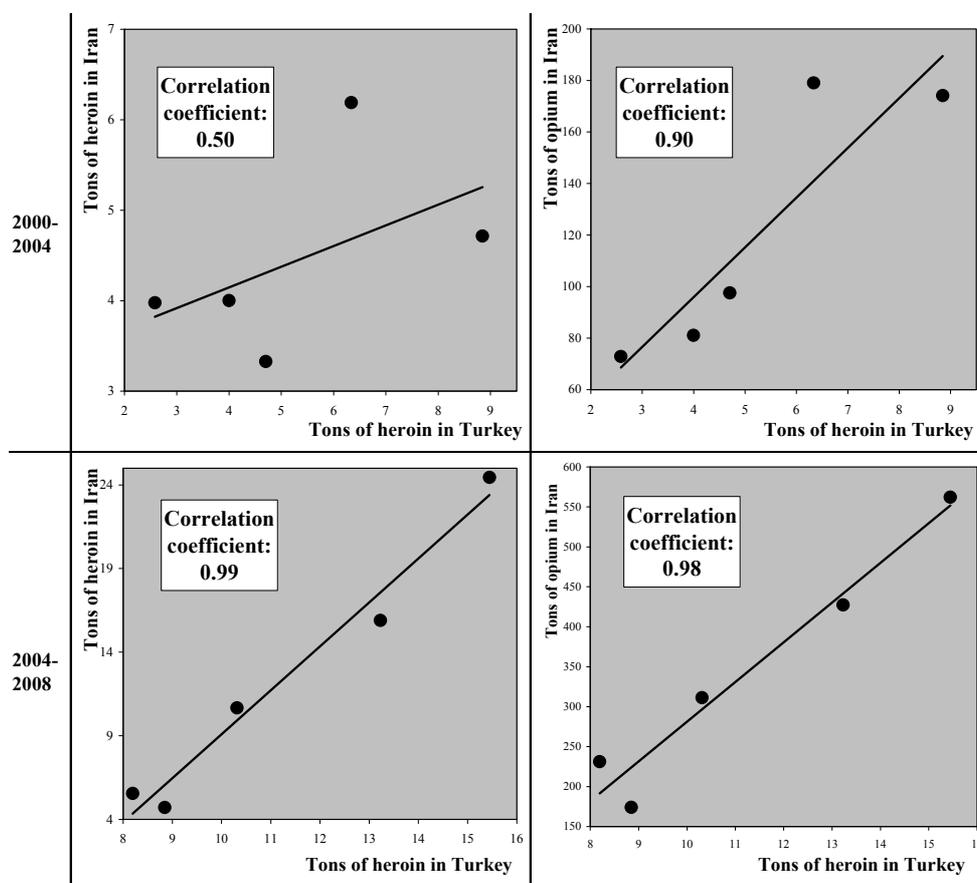
¹⁹ Islamic Republic of Iran, Anti-Narcotics Police, *Drug Report 2009* (March 2009).

51. The global increase in heroin seizures over the period 2006-2008 was driven mainly by continued burgeoning seizures in Iran (Islamic Republic of) and Turkey. In 2008, those two countries accounted for more than half of global heroin seizures and registered, for the third consecutive year, respectively the highest and second-highest seizures in a single country worldwide. In 2007, heroin seizures in the Islamic Republic of Iran amounted to 15.9 tons and, according to preliminary data, the increasing trend was sustained into 2008, with seizures climbing to 24.5 tons.²⁰ The preliminary total for the first seven months of 2009 amounted to 16 tons.²⁰ In Turkey, seizures rose from 13.2 tons in 2007 to 15.4 tons in 2008.

52. Turkey remained a major gateway for heroin destined for Western and Central Europe. A comparison of heroin seizures in Turkey with opiate seizures in the neighbouring Islamic Republic of Iran reveals notable patterns. Over the period 2000-2004, heroin seizures in Turkey were more strongly correlated with opium seizures than with heroin seizures in the Islamic Republic of Iran, suggesting that the supply of heroin in Turkey was sourced to a significant extent from opium in the Islamic Republic of Iran. In contrast, over the period 2004-2008, the correlation was remarkably strong with both heroin and opium seizures in the Islamic Republic of Iran, and the discrepancy could no longer be observed, thus making it plausible that traffickers in the two countries were ultimately drawing from a common supply of heroin (see figure IX).

²⁰ Islamic Republic of Iran, Anti-Narcotics Police, *Drug Report 2009* (March 2009) and UNODC Country Office in the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Figure IX
Correlation of heroin seizures in Turkey with opium and heroin seizures in the Islamic Republic of Iran, 2000-2004 and 2004-2008²¹



53. Following a significant decline over the period 2004-2007, heroin seizures in China appeared to stabilize in 2008, amounting to 4.33 tons in 2008, only slightly less than the level in 2007 (4.59 tons). China reported that West African (especially Nigerian) syndicates were trafficking large quantities of heroin, as well as methamphetamine, to China, especially through Guangdong province.

54. Heroin seizures fell both in Afghanistan, from 5.04 tons in 2007 to 2.78 tons in 2008 (according to the UNODC Country Office in Afghanistan), and in Pakistan, from 2.87 tons in 2007 to 1.90 tons in 2008 (the lowest level in Pakistan since 1981). On the other hand, in 2008 seizures reached the highest levels on record in Kazakhstan (1.64 tons) and Uzbekistan (1.47 tons), while remaining essentially stable in Tajikistan (1.64 tons).

55. Heroin seizures in Western and Central Europe decreased gradually by approximately one fifth over the period 2004-2008, amounting to 7.39 tons in 2007 and 7.26 tons in 2008. Seizures in the Russian Federation rose in 2007, from

²¹ Data for the Islamic Republic of Iran for 2008 are preliminary.

2.45 tons in 2006 to 2.93 tons, and again in 2008, to 3.44 tons. Seizures in the United States fell from 2.44 tons in 2007 to 1.97 tons in 2008, remaining nevertheless higher than the level in 2005 and 2006 (1.73 tons).

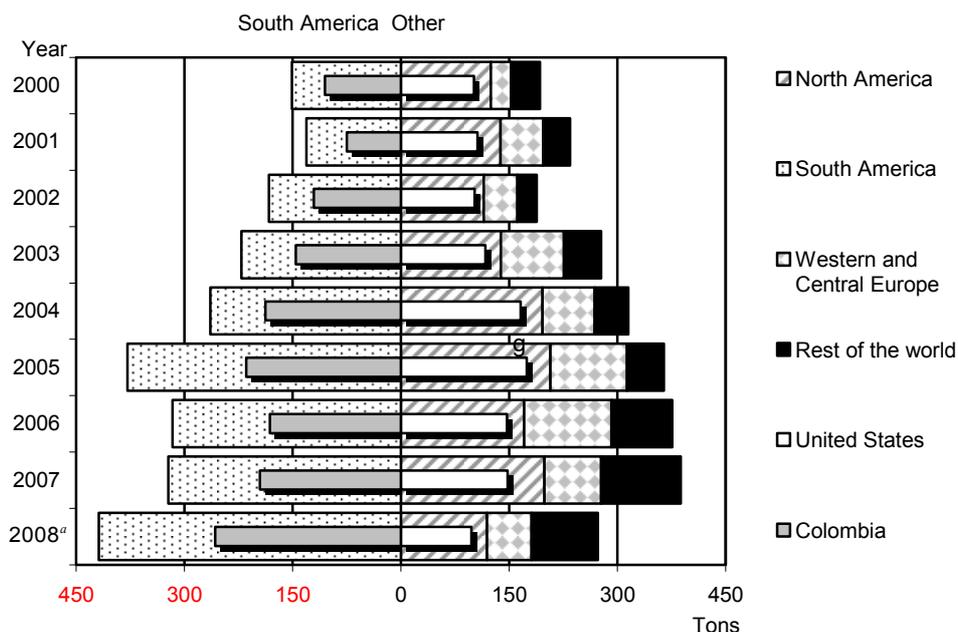
C. Cocaine

56. The world's main consumer markets for cocaine, namely the United States and Europe, continue to be supplied by trafficking routes originating in South America, notably the Andean area. Cocaine is mainly trafficked northwards to North America, and across the Atlantic to Europe, directly, via the Caribbean or via Africa.

57. Following a significant increase over the period 2002-2005, global cocaine seizures have followed a stable trend since then, amounting to 710 tons in 2007 and 691 tons in 2008. Seizures continued to be concentrated in the Americas and in Europe. However, the transition from 2007 to 2008 brought about a geographical shift in seizures towards the source countries for cocaine. Seizures in South America accounted for 61 per cent of the preliminary global total for 2008, compared with 45 per cent in 2007. This was mainly due to increases in several South American countries, notably Colombia, and simultaneous decreases in North America and Europe (see figure X).

Figure X

Comparison of cocaine seizures in South America and other regions, 2000-2008



^aData for 2008 for Colombia are preliminary.

58. Cocaine seizures in South America reached record levels in 2008, amounting to 418 tons — almost one third more than the level in 2007 (322 tons). In absolute terms, the largest increase on the level in 2007 was by far the one registered in Colombia (an increase of 61.9 tons). In relative terms, significant increases were

also recorded in Peru (where seizures almost doubled), in the Plurinational State of Bolivia (where seizures rose by 62 per cent), in Argentina (51 per cent), in Brazil (21 per cent) and in Ecuador (12 per cent). A notable exception to the general increasing trend prevalent in South America was Chile, which registered a decrease of 12 per cent. Seizures in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela remained essentially stable.

59. From 2002 onwards, Colombia and the United States consistently registered respectively the largest and second-largest annual cocaine seizures worldwide. Moreover, over the period 2002-2007, cocaine seizures in the United States, the country with the largest consumer market for cocaine, kept in step with those in Colombia, the country with the largest manufacture of cocaine, to a remarkable degree (with a correlation coefficient of 0.96). However, the trends in the two countries diverged in 2008. Seizures in Colombia reached record levels in 2008, rising from 195 tons in 2007 to 257 tons²² in 2008, while seizures in the United States fell sharply from 148 tons in 2007 to 98 tons in 2008.

60. In the United States, apart from reduced seizures of cocaine, a number of indicators suggested that the availability of cocaine in the consumer market of North America had decreased. The United States reported that, from January 2007 to September 2008, the price per pure gram of cocaine increased by 89.1 per cent, while purity decreased by 32.1 per cent. Data from the Drug Enforcement Administration of the United States indicated that the increased prices and decreased purity levels were sustained into the second quarter of 2009.

61. Mexico continued to be an important transit country for large quantities of cocaine trafficked from the Andean area to the United States. In line with the trend in the United States, cocaine seizures in Mexico fell sharply in 2008, amounting to 19.3 tons. Cocaine seizures by authorities in the United States along the border with Mexico followed a generally decreasing trend between the last quarter of 2005 and the second quarter of 2008,²³ suggesting that the amount of cocaine reaching the United States through the border with Mexico was on the decline.

62. The market for cocaine in Europe has expanded significantly since 2000, both in terms of supply and of demand. Annual cocaine seizures in Europe averaged 35.5 tons over the period 1999-2001 and 102 tons over the period 2005-2007. On average,²⁴ wholesale prices of cocaine, adjusted for inflation and expressed in euros, remained stable over the period 2002-2007. Average retail prices,²⁴ adjusted for inflation and expressed in euros, decreased gradually but steadily over the period

²² Observatorio de Drogas de Colombia. Data for Colombia from the annual reports questionnaire (part III) for 2008 were not available at the time of preparation of the present report.

²³ National Drug Intelligence Center, United States Department of Justice, *National Drug Threat Assessment 2009* (December 2008).

²⁴ Weighted average over 18 European countries, based on replies to the annual reports questionnaires, data from European Police Office (Europol) and UNODC estimates (see the *World Drug Report 2009*).

2001-2007, a decrease that was also accompanied by an apparent tendency towards a decrease in purity at the retail level.²⁵

63. The recent short-term developments in the European cocaine market have been less straightforward to interpret. Seizures in Europe climbed to 121 tons in 2006, but then fell to 79 tons in 2007 (one third less than in 2006); the preliminary total for 2008 stood at 61.8 tons. A comparison of totals over 38 European countries and territories for which seizure data were available indicated a fall of 18 per cent in the transition from 2007 to 2008. (These countries and territories accounted for 96 per cent of the European total in 2007.) In particular, the three countries reporting the highest seizures in Europe in 2007, namely Spain, Portugal and the Netherlands, all registered significant decreases in 2008. Seizures fell from 37.8 tons to 28 tons in Spain (the second consecutive year-on-year decrease in that country), from 10.5 tons to 6.76 tons in the Netherlands, and from 7.36 tons to 4.88 tons in Portugal (also the second consecutive year-on-year decrease).

64. There appeared to be an emergent trend for the final stages of cocaine processing to be carried out in Europe, possibly in order to permit the substance to be trafficked more easily in forms that effectively masked its nature. Drug trafficking syndicates may have started to import cocaine in base form and then convert it to cocaine hydrochloride in laboratories in Europe, as well as trafficking the cocaine dissolved in, or mixed with, other substances, for it to be recovered in laboratories in Europe.

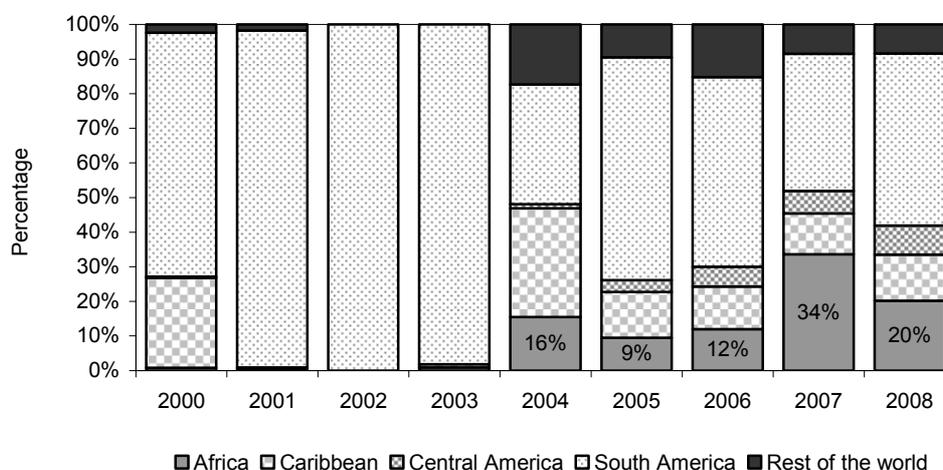
65. As of 2002, Africa, in particular West Africa, has assumed an important role as a transit area for cocaine being trafficked from South America to Europe. Cocaine seizures in Africa increased from 562 kg (of which 98 kg were seized in the subregions of West and Central Africa) in 2002 to 5.50 tons (of which 4.57 tons were seized in West and Central Africa) in 2007.²⁶ In spite of the increases that were registered, it is likely that the amounts seized in West Africa were quite small by comparison to the amount of cocaine transiting the region.

66. An analysis of cocaine consignments seized in Europe based on the UNODC individual drug seizure database confirmed the increased role of Africa as a transit point in smuggling cocaine from South America into Europe, but also suggested that the trend may have started to subside. Among those cases in which the point of origin was identified, the proportion of cases in which African countries (or Africa as a whole) were named as the point of origin was negligible until 2002, climbed to 34 per cent by 2007 but fell back to 20 per cent in 2008 (see figure XI).

²⁵ According to the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA), most member States of the European Union with sufficient data for an analysis of trends over time reported a decline in the purity of cocaine at the retail level over the period 2002-2007, with the exception of Spain and Portugal. See *2009 Annual Report on the State of the Drugs Problem in Europe* (Lisbon, EMCDDA, November 2009). The exception of Spain and Portugal may reflect the role of the Iberian peninsula as the first point of entry for large quantities of cocaine entering Europe.

²⁶ At the time of preparation of the present report, seizure data for 2008 submitted by countries in West and Central Africa in their replies to the annual reports questionnaire were too limited to allow an analysis of trends.

Figure XI
Geographical distribution of points of origin of cocaine consignments seized in Europe, 2000-2008



67. Cocaine seizures in Australia rose steadily over the period 2005-2008, from 87.5 kg in 2005 to 930 kg in 2008. With reference to the period 1 July 2007-30 June 2008, Australia mentioned the threat arising from trafficking in and subsequent transshipment of cocaine from Canada, as well as the growth in trafficking through China and the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of China.

D. Amphetamine-type stimulants

68. Illicit manufacture of amphetamine-type stimulants²⁷ has become increasingly widespread, and organized crime groups have increased the size and sophistication of manufacturing operations. Significant quantities continued to be manufactured in North America, East and South-East Asia, Europe and Oceania, but manufacture has also emerged in several countries with little or no previous history of reported manufacture, notably countries in Latin America. The reports of large seizures of precursor chemicals made in Guinea in July 2009 point to the possibility of manufacture of amphetamine-type stimulants (as well as other drugs) taking hold in West Africa.

1. Amphetamine

69. Global seizures of amphetamine amounted to 22.3 tons in 2008, essentially sustaining the record level of 2007 (23.7 tons). The Near and Middle East/South-West Asia and Europe together accounted for 98 per cent of seizures in 2008. As of 2000, amphetamine seizures grew considerably in both those

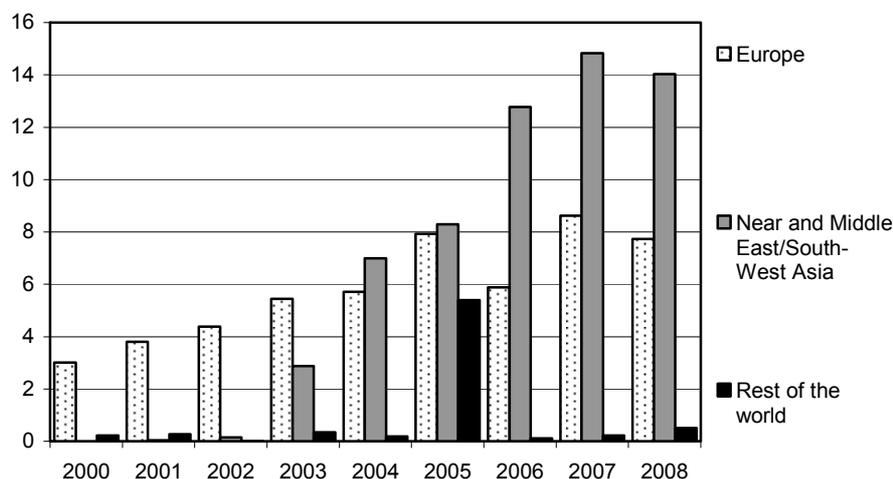
²⁷ Amphetamine-type stimulants, as defined by UNODC, consist of: (a) amphetamines (amphetamine, methamphetamine); (b) "ecstasy" (methylenedioxymethamphetamine (MDMA)) and related substances such as methylenedioxyamphetamine (MDA) (the "ecstasy"-group substances); and (c) a number of other synthetic stimulants such as methcathinone, phentermine and fenetylline.

subregions, but the growth rate in the Near and Middle East/South-West Asia outpaced that in Europe (see figure XII).

Figure XII

Breakdown of global amphetamine seizures, 2000-2008

(Ton equivalents)



70. Reports of amphetamine seizures in countries in the Middle East refer predominantly to tablets bearing the logo “Captagon”. The nature of the psychoactive ingredients in such tablets is not always clear, but reports suggest that amphetamine trafficked from South-East Europe (notably Bulgaria) is the main ingredient in Captagon tablets to be found in the consumer markets of the Middle East (notably Saudi Arabia), frequently alongside caffeine. Laboratories for converting those substances into tablet form may also exist in countries along that route. Jordan, Lebanon, Turkey and the Syrian Arab Republic serve as important transit points.

71. Annual seizures of amphetamine in Saudi Arabia rose steadily over the period 2000-2007, reaching 13.9 tons,²⁸ in 2007. Saudi Arabia reported amphetamine seizures amounting to 12.8 tons in 2008. The total for the Near and Middle East/South-West Asia amounted to 14.8 tons in 2007 and 14 tons in 2008.

72. In Europe, seizures fell by 10 per cent from the record level of 2007 (8.62 tons) to 7.73 tons. The United Kingdom reported that, over the 2007/2008 financial year, seizures of amphetamine in England and Wales amounted to only

²⁸ Data for Saudi Arabia relative to the period 2002-2007 were sourced from the World Customs Organization and the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL). It is likely that the quantities cited for Saudi Arabia for the period 2002-2007 and for 2008 represent the bulk weight of seizures, including binders and adulterants present in Captagon tablets and should, therefore, be interpreted with caution. Nevertheless, these figures remain extraordinarily large seizures and denote a clear long-term increasing trend.

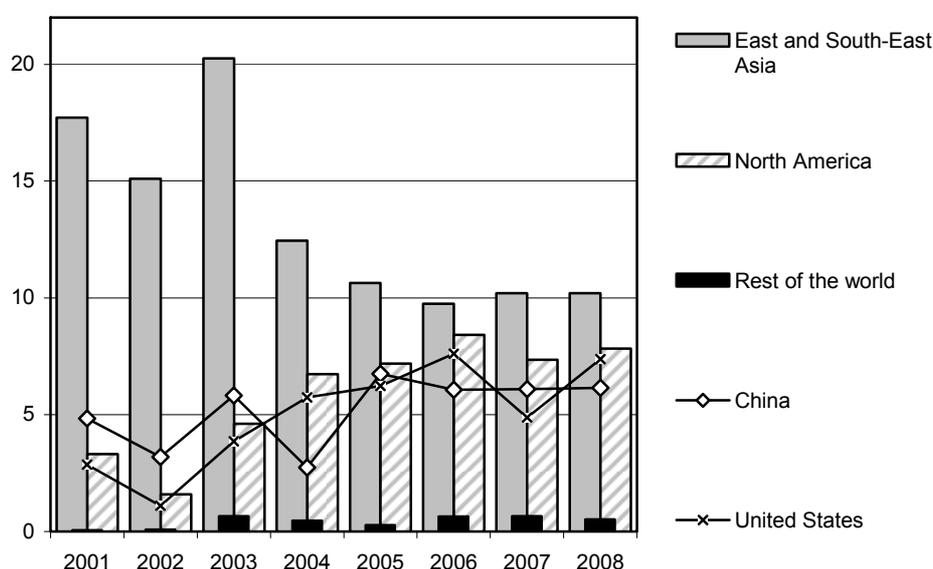
1.76 tons. In the 2008/2009 financial year, amphetamine seizures in England and Wales rose to 2.94 tons.²⁹

73. Mexico reported seizures of amphetamine amounting to 251 kg in 2008, significantly more than the annual totals for the entire subregion of North America registered throughout the period 2000-2007.

2. Methamphetamine

74. Global methamphetamine seizures remained stable for the fourth consecutive year, amounting to 18.2 tons in 2007 and 18.5 tons in 2008. East and South-East Asia (notably China) and North America (notably the United States) continued to account for the vast majority of methamphetamine seizures (97 per cent in 2008) (see figure XIII).

Figure XIII
Methamphetamine seizures worldwide, 2001-2008
(Ton equivalents)



75. The region encompassing Cambodia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Myanmar, Thailand, Viet Nam and bordering provinces of south China (often referred to as the "Greater Mekong Subregion") is central to methamphetamine manufacture, trafficking and use. Following intensified law enforcement measures in Thailand, trafficking patterns have shifted to neighbouring countries, including Cambodia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic and Viet Nam.

76. Methamphetamine seizures in East and South-East Asia remained stable at 10.2 tons in 2008. In China, seizures amounted to 6.09 tons in 2007 (the largest

²⁹ United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, "Seizures of drugs in England and Wales: 2008/09", *Home Office Statistical Bulletin* (29 October 2009).

worldwide for that year) and 6.15 tons in 2008, while seizures in Thailand rose from 1.29 tons in 2007 to 1.98 tons in 2008.

77. In North America, total methamphetamine seizures also remained essentially stable in 2008, with seizures amounting to 7.35 tons in 2007 and 7.83 tons in 2008. However, seizures in the United States rose markedly, from 4.89 tons in 2007 to 7.37 tons in 2008 (the largest worldwide for that year). The increase was offset by the portion of the North American total seized by Canada, which reported extraordinarily large seizures in 2007 (1.54 tons) but only 111 kg in 2008.

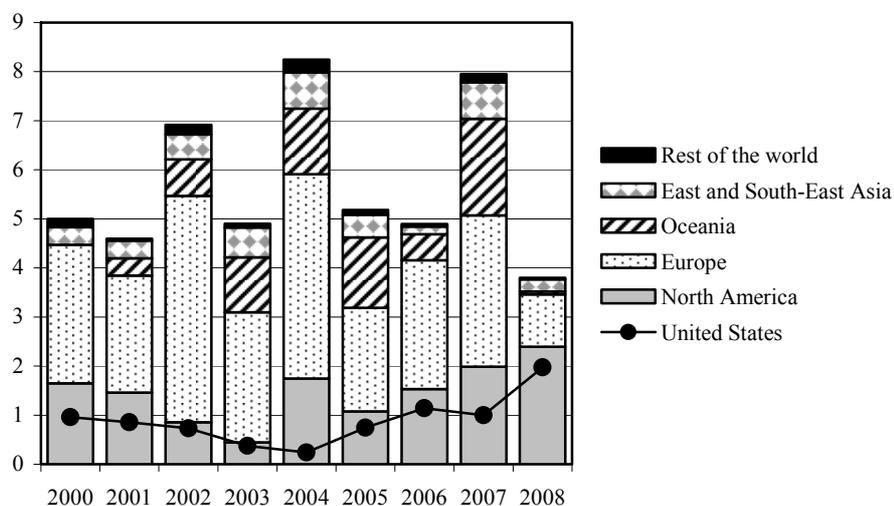
78. The United States also reported that, from January 2007 to September 2008, the price per pure gram of methamphetamine increased by 23.6 per cent, while methamphetamine purity decreased by 8.3 per cent. According to the United States Department of Justice,³⁰ in 2008 small-scale production of methamphetamine increased in several areas in the United States, and some Mexican drug trafficking organizations shifted their production operations from Mexico to the United States, particularly to California. This was possibly in response to strengthened restrictions on ephedrine and pseudoephedrine in Mexico, which resulted in a reduced availability of methamphetamine in some drug markets in the United States in 2007 and the first half of 2008.

3. “Ecstasy”-type substances

79. Global seizures of “ecstasy” (methylenedioxymethamphetamine (MDMA)) fell from a record level of 7.95 tons in 2007 to 3.8 tons in 2008, the lowest level since 1999. The low level was partly due to significantly reduced seizures in Australia and the Netherlands. On the other hand, seizures increased markedly in the United States. In 2008, North America, Europe and East and South-East Asia collectively accounted for 98 per cent of global “ecstasy” seizures (see figure XIV).

³⁰ National Drug Intelligence Center, United States Department of Justice, *National Drug Threat Assessment 2009* (December 2008).

Figure XIV
“Ecstasy” seizures worldwide, 2000-2008
 (Ton equivalents)



80. Over the period 2004-2008, seizures of “ecstasy”-type substances in the United States followed a generally increasing trend (see figure XIV). In 2008, seizures almost doubled to reach a record level, from 1 ton in 2007 to 1.97 tons. According to the United States Department of Justice,³¹ production in Canada was the primary source of MDMA in the United States, and was fuelling a rise in MDMA smuggling through the border between the two countries.

81. In Europe, seizures of “ecstasy” fell from 3.09 tons in 2007 (of which 2.16 tons were seized by the Netherlands) to 1.07 tons in 2008 (of which 409 kg were seized by the Netherlands). Seizures of “ecstasy” tablets by the Netherlands in particular fell from 8.43 million tablets in 2007 to 249,000 tablets in 2008.

82. Seizures of “ecstasy” by Australia fell drastically, from the record level of 1.97 tons in 2007 to 51.4 kg in 2008. The figure for 2007 includes a single extraordinarily large seizure of approximately 15 million tablets.³² However, the level in 2008 is low also by comparison with previous years. Over the period 2003-2006, “ecstasy” seizures in Australia averaged 1.1 tons.

³¹ Ibid.

³² Australian Crime Commission, *Illicit Drug Data Report 2006-07 (Revised Edition)* (March 2009). That seizure, which was part of a year-long controlled delivery operation, was also confirmed separately to UNODC by the Australian Federal Police. In its reply to the annual reports questionnaire for 2007, Australia reported seizures amounting to 470 kg.

IV. Conclusions and recommendations

83. To combat offences facilitated through the use of cyber-technologies, Governments are encouraged to ensure that their national legislation is adequate to sustain the successful investigation and prosecution of such offences within their jurisdictions and that their law enforcement agencies are adequately trained and prepared to enact such powers.

84. Governments must support their law enforcement agencies in fully developing the information available to them and integrating the analysis of the data into planned operational responses against persons engaged in trafficking.

85. To effectively use legislation and resources, build trust among law enforcement partners and prevent duplication of effort in the investigation of targets or syndicates, Governments should take steps now to ensure that their law enforcement agencies pool the resources available to them and encourage the development of multi-agency task forces directed against the illegal activities of traffickers.

86. Closer attention should be paid by Governments to international control of the sale and distribution of chemical precursors used in illicit drug manufacture, including the increasing trade in the chemical precursor substitutes appearing to replace those under international control.

87. In response to the growing sophistication of criminal groups engaged in drug trafficking, Governments must take steps to ensure that their forensic laboratory services are adequately funded and suitably equipped with trained and qualified professional staff and thus support the successful prosecution of cases through the courts.

88. Statistical analysis can be useful in developing an effective global strategy against drug trafficking. However, such an analysis is subject to the availability of quality data from Member States. Serious gaps in seizure data often arise precisely in those regions that are at the forefront of the latest developments. It is recommended that Member States submit their comprehensive responses to the annual reports questionnaire, as well as details of significant individual drug seizures, in a regular and timely fashion.