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**Fortieth Meeting of the Heads of National Drug
Law Enforcement Agencies, Asia and the Pacific**

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Item 3 of the provisional agenda**

**Major regional drug trafficking trends and
countermeasures****Statistical analysis of drug trafficking trends in East and
South-East Asia, Oceania and worldwide****Report of the Secretariat***Summary*

The present report provides an overview of the latest trends in the illicit production of and trafficking in drugs worldwide, with a focus on the Asia and the Pacific region (East and South-East Asia and Oceania). The statistics and analysis in the report are based on the latest information available to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. The report presents trends in drug seizures and statistics on the illicit cultivation of drug crops up to 2014 and, where available, 2015.

In 2015, the global area under opium cultivation decreased notably for the first time since 2009, owing to a sharp decrease in Afghanistan. In South-East Asia, the area under cultivation remained relatively stable for the second consecutive year. Heroin seizures in East and South-East Asia remained stable in 2014, with an increase in China being offset by decreases in Malaysia, Thailand and Viet Nam.

East and South-East Asia and Oceania continue to play an important role in the global amphetamine-type stimulant markets, in particular for methamphetamine and “ecstasy”-type substances. While the occurrence of unprecedentedly large “ecstasy”-type substances seizures in Australia and Myanmar seem to suggest a regional shift in the global “ecstasy” market in recent years, methamphetamine seizures have been on the rise in the Asia-Pacific region since 2009. Preliminary data suggest further increases in methamphetamine seizures in the region in 2015.

* Available only in English, which is the working language of the subsidiary body.

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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, with a particular focus on trends within East and South-East Asia and Oceania. The term “Asia-Pacific” refers to all of these regions collectively. The analysis includes information available to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC).
2. Section II addresses the illicit cultivation and production of plant-based drugs for the years up to and including 2014 and, where available, 2015. With regard to drug trafficking, Section III focuses on seizure statistics for 2014 and previous years and provides an update on trafficking trends with regard to cannabis, opiates, cocaine and amphetamine-type stimulants, with a specific focus in the Asia-Pacific region. Data from the 2015 annual report questionnaires are included if available at the time of writing.
3. The principal sources of information on the illicit cultivation of drug crops and the production of plant-based drugs are the latest UNODC illicit crop monitoring surveys. In addition, replies by Governments to part IV of the annual report questionnaires provide the primary source of information on drug trafficking patterns and seizures of illicit drugs. Over 100 Member States and territories, including 27 Member States and territories (including 13 from the Asia-Pacific region), responded to part IV of the annual report questionnaires for 2014. At the time of writing, UNODC had received eight responses from countries and territories in the Asia-Pacific region to part IV of the 2015 survey.¹ Additional sources of information include official government reports, as well as UNODC publications and country reports submitted to the meetings of the Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies in different regions and the Subcommission on Illicit Drug Traffic and Related Matters in the Middle East, held in 2015.
4. In general, statistics on drug seizures offer valid indirect indicators of drug trafficking trends. However, seizure statistics should be treated with caution, since they also reflect different reporting practices.

II. Trends in illicit cultivation of drug crops and production of plant-based drugs

A. Cannabis herb cultivation and cannabis resin production

5. Unlike illicit crops such as coca bush and opium poppy, the cannabis plant lends itself to diverse cultivation methods and grows in a variety of environments. This makes assessing the extent of its cultivation and production difficult. Reports of cannabis cultivation and eradication show that a wide range of practices exist globally. Cannabis cultivation reports range from accounts of individuals growing a small number of plants for personal consumption to reports about large-scale commercial operations in indoor warehouses, on farmland and within forests.

¹ China; Hong Kong, China; Macao, China; Indonesia; Japan; Myanmar; New Zealand; and the Philippines.

6. Seizure data suggest that the cultivation of cannabis herb continues to occur in most countries worldwide and in all regions of the world. In contrast, the large-scale production of cannabis resin remains confined to a few countries in North Africa (Morocco) and South-West Asia (Afghanistan). However, no recent information on the cultivation and production of cannabis resin in these countries has been made available to UNODC.

7. According to the latest available information, Morocco reported the eradication of 5,000 ha of cannabis in 2013 and estimated that, after eradication, 42,000 ha had remained under cannabis cultivation. This represents a reduction of almost 70 per cent compared with 2003 levels (134,000 ha).² Morocco reported a stable trend with regard to the area under illicit cannabis cultivation in 2013 and a decrease in the production of cannabis resin, which amounted to 700 tons (a decrease from 3,040 tons in 2003).

8. Afghanistan, despite having a significantly smaller estimated area under cannabis cultivation than Morocco (10,000 ha in 2012), had a potential cannabis resin production estimated at 1,400 tons, almost double the estimated production in Morocco. This represents an increase of 8 per cent compared with 2011. In 2015, cannabis cultivation in Afghanistan remained linked to opium poppy cultivation, with 29 per cent of poppy-growing villages also reporting cannabis cultivation, compared with 20 per cent of non-poppy-growing villages. Both opium poppy and cannabis cultivation in Afghanistan are concentrated in the Southern part of the country, where 73 per cent of villages take part in cannabis cultivation.³

9. While cannabis cultivation is not a major concern across most of the Asia-Pacific region, it still occurs in several countries within the region. In part IV of their 2014 annual report questionnaires, Indonesia, Myanmar, the Philippines and Viet Nam reported the eradication of 122, 10, 28 and 2.3 ha of cannabis respectively. Indonesian authorities estimated the annual cannabis herb production in the country at 106 tons,⁴ and highlighted the importance of monitoring and alternative development programmes in combating cannabis cultivation.⁵ In Viet Nam, authorities reported the detection of cannabis cultivation with other plants in residential areas and cities, near authority headquarters.⁶

B. Opium poppy cultivation

10. Afghanistan and Myanmar continued to account for the majority of illicit opium poppy cultivation worldwide. Cultivation in Myanmar remained relatively stable in 2014 and 2015, after increasing steadily between 2006 and 2013, while Afghanistan, in 2015, saw the first decrease in opium poppy cultivation since 2009.

² UNODC and the Government of Morocco, *Maroc: enquête sur le cannabis 2003* (December 2003).

³ UNODC and the Ministry of Counter Narcotics of Afghanistan, *Afghanistan Opium Survey 2015* (Vienna, March 2016).

⁴ Response submitted by Indonesia to the annual report questionnaire for 2014, part IV.

⁵ Country report submitted by Indonesia to the Thirty-ninth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Asia and the Pacific (2015).

⁶ Country report submitted by Viet Nam to the Thirty-ninth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Asia and the Pacific (2015).

Global opium poppy cultivation increased by about 5 per cent in 2014, owing mainly to an increase in Afghanistan.

11. According to the findings of the *Afghanistan Opium Survey 2015*, while the number of poppy-free provinces was reduced in 2015, opium poppy cultivation decreased to 183,000 ha after reaching record levels in 2014 of 224,000 ha. The vast majority of the cultivation (90 per cent) took place in the southern and western regions of the country. The decrease in poppy cultivation was due mainly to significant decreases in the two main cultivating regions as well as in the eastern part of the country. The combination of a fall in the area under cultivation and a sharp decrease in the yield to 18.3 kg per ha (down from 28.7 in 2014) resulted in potential opium production reaching 3,300 tons⁷ in 2015, about half the level of 2014 (6,400 tons).

12. In the *South-East Asia Opium Survey 2015*, it was estimated that illicit opium poppy cultivation in the region covered 61,200 ha. After steadily increasing from 21,600 ha in 2006 to 57,800 ha in 2013, opium poppy cultivation in Myanmar has decreased slightly, reaching 55,500 ha in 2015. In the Lao People's Democratic Republic, cultivation steadily increased from 1,500 ha in 2007 to 6,800 ha in 2012. In 2015, estimated cultivation in the Lao People's Democratic Republic reached 5,700 ha.

13. Because of the geographical environment in which opium is cultivated in South-East Asia, on hills with poor soil and no irrigation, the yield in that region has traditionally been notably lower than in Afghanistan. While the yield in the Lao People's Democratic Republic in 2014 reached 14.7 kg per ha, in Myanmar it remained at 11.7 kg per ha in 2014 and 2015. Overall, the two countries produced an estimated total of between 731 and 823 tons of opium in 2015, a value similar to 2014, when production reached 762 tons.

14. Afghanistan, Myanmar and the Lao People's Democratic Republic are not the only countries in the region affected by opium poppy cultivation. While India is a licit cultivator of opium poppy, illicit cultivation still occurs in certain pockets of the country, and authorities reported the destruction of 2,470 acres of poppy in 2014.⁸ Vietnamese authorities eradicated 17.3 ha of opium poppy,⁹ and reported that cultivation occurs in many seasons and is concentrated in the northern mountainous provinces of the country.¹⁰

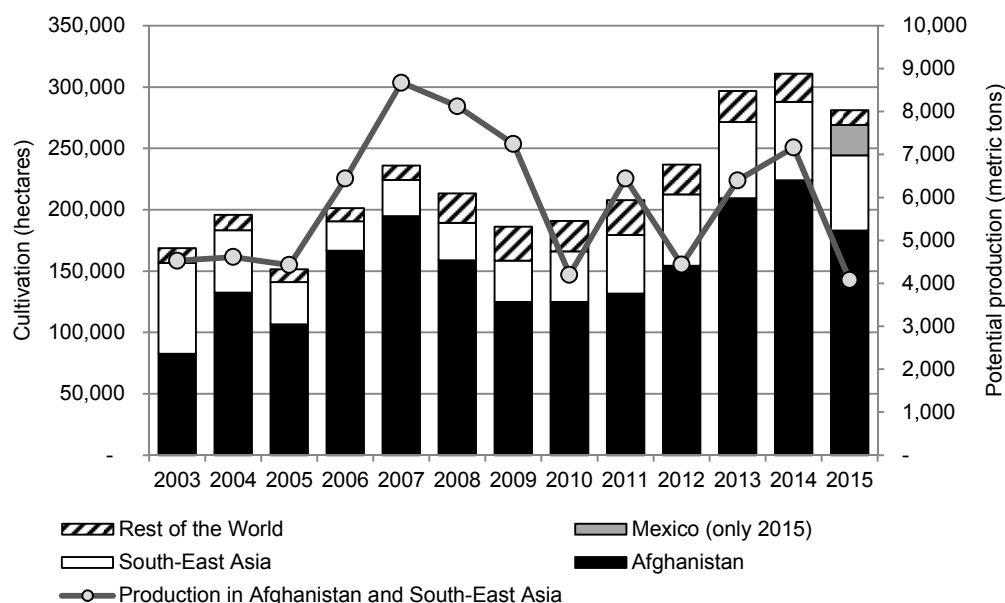
⁷ In the present report, the term "tons" refers to metric tons (1,000 kg, or 2,204.6 lb).

⁸ Country report submitted by India to the Thirty-ninth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Asia and the Pacific (2015).

⁹ Response submitted by Viet Nam to the annual report questionnaire for 2014, part IV.

¹⁰ Country report submitted by Viet Nam to the Thirty-ninth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Asia and the Pacific (2015).

Figure I
Opium cultivation by region and potential opium production in Afghanistan and South-East Asia (2003-2015)



C. Coca cultivation

15. Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Colombia and Peru continued to account for virtually all cultivation of coca bush worldwide. The total area under cultivation in the three countries increased by 18 per cent, the most significant annual growth since 1995, from 132,500 ha in 2014 to 156,500 ha in 2015. While Bolivia (Plurinational State of) and Peru recorded moderate decreases, the area under coca bush cultivation in Colombia increased by about 40 per cent for the second consecutive year in 2015.

16. After reaching historically low levels (48,000 ha) in 2013, the *Coca Cultivation Survey 2015*, conducted jointly by the Government of Colombia and UNODC, showed that coca bush cultivation in Colombia doubled in two years, reaching 69,000 ha in 2014 and 96,000 ha in 2015, the second highest value since 2003. After reaching 290 metric tons in 2013, the lowest value since 1996, potential cocaine production in Colombia increased sharply to 646 tons in 2015, owing not only to the increase in the area under cultivation, but also to a 14 per cent increase in the yield in 2014 and 2015 with respect to 2013 and lesser impact in terms of spraying and manual eradication.

17. According to the 2014 national coca monitoring survey in the Plurinational State of Bolivia, the cultivation of coca bush remained stable at 20,200 ha in 2015, the lowest level recorded since 2001. The manual eradication of coca bush in the Plurinational State of Bolivia remained stable in 2015 for the second consecutive year, reaching 11,020 ha. In addition, the number of cocaine hydrochloride laboratories destroyed by the authorities has continued to increase steadily since 2008, when seven laboratories were destroyed, reaching 74 in 2014 and 73 in 2015.

18. According to the 2014 national coca crop monitoring survey conducted by UNODC and the Government of Peru, the area under coca bush cultivation in Peru at the end of 2015 stood at 40,300 ha, a 6 per cent decrease compared with the historically low level of 2014 (42,900 ha). Planned eradication by the Peruvian authorities has been the main factor behind the reduction, with eradication increasing by 15 per cent compared with 2014, reaching a total of 35,858 ha.

19. Although the manufacture of cocaine occurs mainly in Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Colombia and Peru, clandestine laboratories processing coca leaf derivatives also exist outside those countries. According to the data from the annual report questionnaire for 2014, several countries in South America, including Argentina, Brazil, Chile and Ecuador, reported the detection of clandestine laboratories processing coca leaf derivatives. In 2014, the United States of America, Greece and Spain also reported the detection of such laboratories.

III. Trends in illicit drug trafficking and seizures

20. Table 1 shows the quantities of the major drug types seized globally and by Member States and Associate Members of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)¹¹ in 2013 and 2014, while table 2 shows the corresponding quantities for countries in the Asia-Pacific region.

Table 1

Drug seizures in ESCAP Member States and Associate Members, 2013 and 2014

Drug Type	ESCAP Member States			Global Seizures			ESCAP Members as a proportion of Global Total	
	2013 (Kilograms)	2014 (Kilograms)	Trend ^(a,b)	2013 (Kilograms)	2014 (Kilograms)	Variation	2013 (Percentage)	2014 (Percentage)
Cannabis herb	518 900	397 024	Decrease (-23%)	5 630 946	5 834 027	+4%	9%	7%
Cannabis resin	526 696	383 773	Decrease (-27%)	1 405 753	1 433 484	+2%	37%	27%
Cocaine	3 776	1 913	Decrease (-49%)	655 140	654 930	0%	1%	0%
Heroin	63 803	57 036	Decrease (-11%)	77 652	81 403	+5%	82%	70%
Opium	594 917	515 234	Decrease (-13%)	634 348	525 535	-17%	94%	98%
Illicit morphine	38 207	20 498	Decrease (-47%)	38 472	20 930	-46%	99%	98%
Amphetamine	3 231	2 181	Decrease (-33%)	40 398	46 400	+15%	8%	5%
Methamphetamine	46 579	54 722	Increase (+17%)	88 748	108 267	+22%	52%	51%
"Ecstasy"	2 259	6 418	Increase (>100%)	4 209	9 353	>+100%	54%	69%

¹¹ Afghanistan; Armenia; Australia; Azerbaijan; Bangladesh; Bhutan; Brunei Darussalam; Cambodia; China; Hong Kong, China; Macao, China; Democratic People's Republic of Korea; Fiji; India; Indonesia; Iran (Islamic Republic of); Japan; Kazakhstan; Kiribati; Kyrgyzstan; Lao People's Democratic Republic; Malaysia; Maldives; Marshall Islands; Micronesia (Federated States of); Mongolia; Myanmar; Nauru; Nepal; New Zealand; Pakistan; Palau; Papua New Guinea; Philippines; Republic of Korea; Russian Federation; Samoa; Singapore; Solomon Islands; Sri Lanka; Tajikistan; Thailand; Tonga; Turkey; Turkmenistan; Tuvalu; Uzbekistan; Vanuatu and Viet Nam.

Table 2
Drug seizures in the Asia-Pacific region, 2013 and 2014

Drug Type	Asia-Pacific seizures			Asia-Pacific as a proportion of ESCAP Member States		Asia-Pacific as a proportion of Global Total	
	2013 (Kilograms)	2014 (Kilograms)	Trend ^(a,b)	2013 (Percentage)	2014 (Percentage)	2013 (Percentage)	2014 (Percentage)
Cannabis herb	70 720	107 309	Increase (+52%)	14%	27%	1%	2%
Cannabis resin	90	151	NA	0%	0%	0%	0%
Cocaine ^c	1 803	1 354	Decrease (-24%)	48%	71%	0%	0%
Heroin	12 317	12 733	Stable (+4%)	19%	22%	16%	16%
Opium	4 220	5 173	Increase	1%	1%	1%	1%
Illicit morphine	28	260	NA	0%	1%	0%	1%
Amphetamine	1 436	1 087	Decrease (-26%)	44%	50%	4%	2%
Methamphetamine	42 732	51 823	Increase (+21%)	92%	95%	48%	48%
“Ecstasy”	957	5 425	Increase (>100%)	42%	85%	23%	58%

^a Since data for 2014 were incomplete at the time of preparation of the present report, the trend was estimated by comparing total seized quantities for countries and territories for which data was available for both 2013 and 2014. Totals for 2014 are preliminary.

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

^c Includes base, pastes, salts and “crack” cocaine.

21. While seizures for all types of drugs decreased among ESCAP Member States and Associate Members in 2014 with respect to 2013, with the exception of methamphetamine and “ecstasy”-type substances, in the Asia-Pacific region, opium and cannabis herb seizures increased, and heroin seizures remained stable. ESCAP Member States account for significant proportions of opiates and cannabis resin global seizures, which are concentrated within the region in South-West Asia. ESCAP Member States and Associate Members also account for significant amounts of “ecstasy”-type substances and methamphetamine seizures, concentrated mostly in the Asia-Pacific region. Given their geographical location, heroin seizures are significant in most ESCAP Member States and across all subregions.

A. Cannabis

Cannabis herb

22. After decreasing significantly between 2010 and 2012, global cannabis herb seizures remained stable in 2013 and 2014 with declines in North America being offset by increases in Latin America and the Caribbean.

23. Seizures of cannabis herb in North America have decreased notably every year since 2010. In 2014, cannabis herb seizures continued to decrease in both the United States (by 26 per cent compared with 2013) and Mexico (by 9 per cent), and both countries reached levels that were less than half of those reported in 2010. The United States reported changes in the trafficking routes used, with a decrease in cannabis herb entering the country through Mexico and an increase in cannabis herb transiting through the United States into other countries.¹²

¹² Replies submitted by the United States to part IV of the annual report questionnaire for 2014.

24. Having recorded more than 70 per cent of global cannabis herb seizures in 2010, North America accounted for less than 45 per cent in 2014, while Latin America and the Caribbean has accounted for an increasing proportion in recent years. Cannabis herb seizures in South America have been increasing significantly since 2010. After a sharp rise of almost 60 per cent in 2013, seizures increased again in 2014 by 9 per cent to reach 1,427 tons. While most countries in the region showed moderate decreases, Paraguay reported a sharp increase from 462 tons in 2013 to 712 tons in 2014, reaching record levels. Cannabis herb seizures in the Caribbean increased notably and amounted to almost 800 tons in 2014.

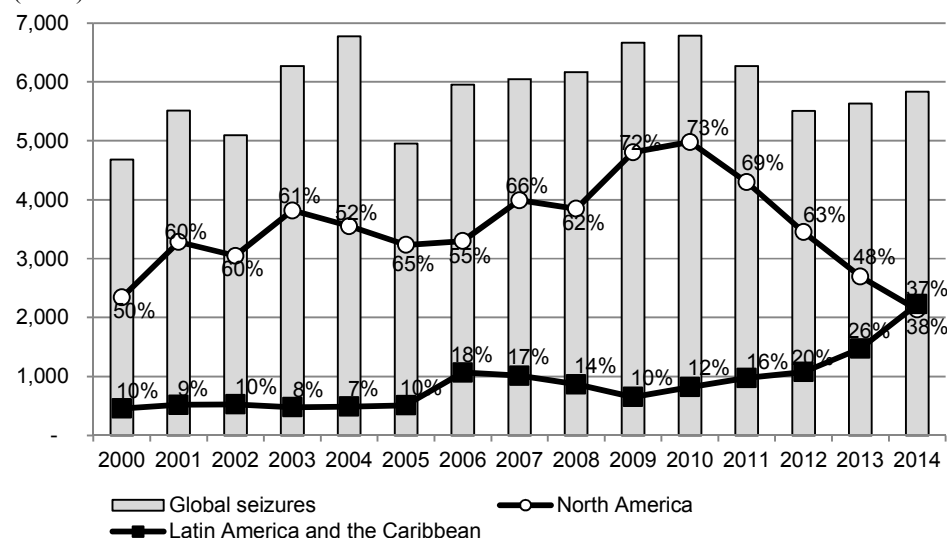
25. In Africa, the relatively limited amount of data makes the analysis of trends related to cannabis herb at the regional and subregional levels challenging.¹³ In 2014, Egypt, Morocco and Nigeria reported seizing more than 100 tons of cannabis herb each, with 396, 155 and 159 tons, respectively.

26. After reaching historically high levels in 2013 with 359 tons, cannabis herb seizures in Europe remained stable in 2014 at 352 tons. In 2014, seizures in Turkey decreased for the first time in a decade, reaching 92 tons, down from 180 tons in 2013. This decrease was offset by a sharp increase in Albania, where cannabis herb seizures reached a record 102 tons in 2014, up from 21 tons in 2013. With cannabis herb seizures increasing significantly in recent years in West, Central and Southeast Europe, the production and trafficking of cannabis herb is an area of growing concern for law enforcement efforts in Europe because of the increasing involvement of organized crime in the region.¹⁴

Figure II

Cannabis herb seizures in the Americas and globally, and proportion with respect to global seizures (2000-2014)^a

(Tons)



^a Data for 2014 are preliminary and incomplete.

¹³ At the time of the preparation of the present report, 11 African countries had completed part IV of the annual report questionnaire for 2014.

¹⁴ European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction, *European Drug Report: Trends and Developments 2015* (Luxembourg, 2015).

27. In the Asia-Pacific region, cannabis herb seizures increased notably from 71 tons in 2013 to 107 tons in 2014. While seizures decreased in Australia from 9.3 tons in 2013 to 2.6 tons in 2014, cannabis herb seizures in East and South-East Asia reached their highest value since 2009, driven mainly by a rise in Indonesia, where seizures amounted to over 68 tons in 2014, compared to 18 tons in 2013. Indonesian authorities reported that all of the seized cannabis herb in 2014 was of domestic origin and that methods of transportation have changed in recent years, with mail and sea being the most commonly used in 2014.¹⁵ In Thailand, cannabis herb seizures remained at record levels in 2014, with 28 tons.

Cannabis resin

28. In contrast with the cultivation of cannabis herb, the production of cannabis resin is concentrated in a smaller number of countries, the most prominent of which are Afghanistan and Morocco. Consequently, seizure statistics for cannabis resin are also concentrated in and around those two source countries, in North Africa, in South-West Asia and in Western and Central Europe, which is one of the main consumer markets. While 10 years ago cannabis resin seizures were concentrated mainly in Western and Central Europe, seizures have been more evenly distributed across those three regions in recent years (see figure III).

29. Cannabis resin seizures in Western and Central Europe increased in 2014 by 28 per cent with respect to 2013, reaching the highest level since 2009 with 580 tons. As the main entry point for cannabis resin from Morocco into Western Europe, Spain continued to be the country reporting the highest amount of cannabis resin seized in the world, with seizures in 2014 reaching almost 380 tons, an increase of 19 per cent compared with 2013. Other Western European countries, which reported that large amounts of cannabis resin had been seized during 2014 included Italy (113 tons), France (37 tons) and Portugal (33 tons), with most of the resin having originated in Morocco.

30. Cannabis resin seizures in North Africa have increased every year since 2009. That trend continued in 2014, with a 14 per cent rise, driven by a sharp increase in Morocco, where cannabis resin seizures more than doubled, from 107 tons in 2013 to 221 in 2014. Other North African countries reporting significant amounts of cannabis resin seized in 2014 were Algeria and Egypt, with 182 and 55 tons, respectively. While cannabis resin is mostly smuggled into Egypt over land from Morocco, there is also evidence of smuggling attempts from South-West Asia by land (through Jordan) and by sea (from Pakistan and Afghanistan).¹⁶

31. Cannabis resin seizures in the Near and Middle East and South-West Asia, have been concentrated in Afghanistan and its neighbouring countries, Iran (Islamic Republic of) and Pakistan. In 2014, cannabis resin seizures in this region decreased, owing mainly to a decline in Pakistan, where seizures amounted to 231 tons after reaching record levels in 2013 of 313 tons. Pakistan reported that 100 per cent of the cannabis resin seized originated in Afghanistan, with the majority being destined for other countries, including Belgium, Canada and the United Kingdom of Great

¹⁵ Response submitted by Indonesia to the annual report questionnaire for 2014, part IV.

¹⁶ Country report by Egypt to the Twenty-fifth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Africa (2015).

Britain and Northern Ireland. The Islamic Republic of Iran and Afghanistan reported 78 and 32 tons of cannabis resin seized respectively in 2014.

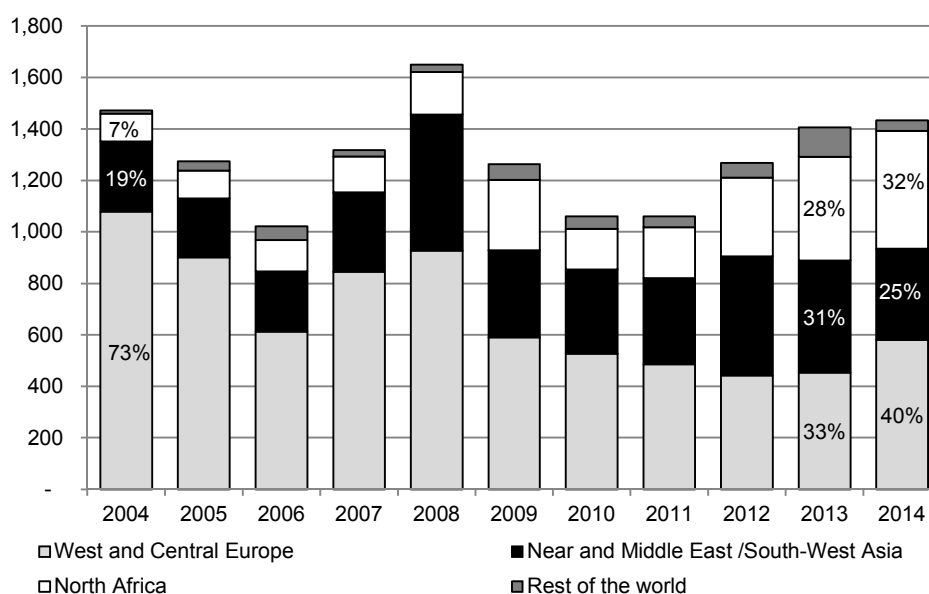
32. The Turkish authorities reported trafficking of cannabis resin into the country through Iran (Islamic Republic of) and the Syrian Arab Republic.¹⁷ Cannabis resin seizures in Turkey have surpassed the 20-ton mark every year since 2010, and record levels were reached in 2013, with 94 tons. In 2014, cannabis resin seizures in Turkey decreased sharply to 31 tons.

33. In the Asia-Pacific region, cannabis resin seizures continue to be relatively insignificant, amounting to 151 kg in 2014. Hong Kong, China, continues to seize the majority of cannabis resin in the region, with a total of 98 kg seized in 2014.

Figure III

Global cannabis resin seizures, by region (2004-2014)

(Tons)



B. Opiates

Opium

34. After increasing at a marked pace over the period 2002-2008 and peaking in 2009 at 653 tons, global opium seizures declined in 2010 and 2011. In 2012 and 2013, global opium seizures increased without reaching the previous peak (see figure VI). In 2014, global opium seizures have decreased again, driven mainly by a decrease in reported seizures by the Islamic Republic of Iran.

35. Seizure data suggest an increased trend in terms of opium trafficked in North America in recent years. In 2013, seizures of opium reached record levels in the United States, an unprecedented 38 tons. While seizures in the United States

¹⁷ Turkish National Police, Department of Anti-Smuggling and Organized Crime, *Turkish Drug Report 2014* (Ankara, 2014).

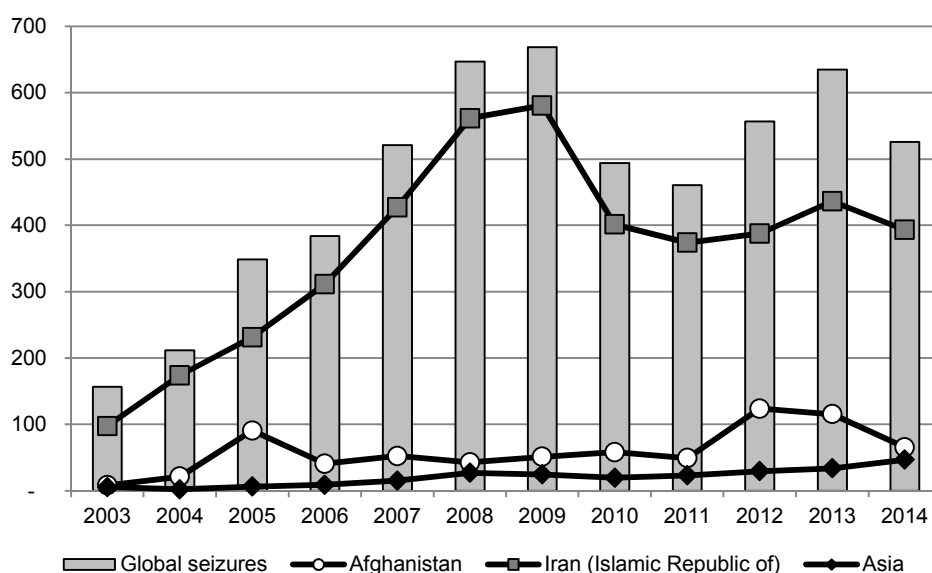
declined to 6.4 tons in 2014, for the same period Mexico reported the highest amount of opium seized on record, 3.4 tons.

36. Since 2004, three countries — Afghanistan, Iran (Islamic Republic of) and Pakistan — have consistently accounted for more than 90 per cent of global opium seizures each year, and that trend continued in 2014. The Islamic Republic of Iran remains the country reporting the largest annual opium seizures. In 2014, seizures decreased by 10 per cent to 393 tons. In Pakistan, opium seizures increased for the fifth consecutive year, reaching 46 tons in 2014, while in Afghanistan, opium seizures decreased from 116 tons in 2013 to 66 tons in 2014.

37. Opium seizures reached record levels in Australia in 2014, with 1,558 kg. Among the remaining ESCAP Member States, China, India and Myanmar have traditionally seized significant amounts of opium and in 2014 they reported seizures for 1,741, 2,063 and 1,828 kg respectively. Preliminary 2015 data indicates that opium seizures in Myanmar have decreased for the second consecutive year to 1,047 kg, while China reported their highest annual opium seizures since 2001, with 2,452 kg.

Figure IV

Opium seizures in selected countries and worldwide (2003-2014)
(Tons)



Illicit morphine

38. As with opium, seizures of illicit morphine continued to be concentrated in Afghanistan and neighbouring countries. Every year since 2005 onwards, Afghanistan, Iran (Islamic Republic of) and Pakistan together accounted for more than 90 per cent of global morphine seizures (96 per cent in 2014). After peaking at over 75 tons in 2011, global morphine seizures decreased for the third consecutive year in 2014, reaching 21 tons, owing mainly to a decline in reported seizures by Afghanistan.

39. After reaching 64 tons in 2011, illicit morphine seizures in Afghanistan decreased sharply to 6.4 tons in 2014 (24 tons in 2013). In the Islamic Republic of Iran, seizures increased for the third consecutive year in 2014, to 12.7 tons, from 10.4 tons in 2013. Pakistan reported seizures for a total of 1.1 tons of illicit morphine in 2014, down from 1.4 tons in 2013.

40. After Afghanistan, Iran (Islamic Republic of) and Pakistan, China was the country with the highest number of reported annual illicit morphine seizures at the global level in 2014, with 248 kg. This is the first significant seizure of illicit morphine in the Asia-Pacific region since the same country reported the seizure of 199 kg in 2011.

Heroin

41. Compared with seizures of opium and illicit morphine, heroin seizures occurred in a much wider range of countries, in particular around the larger markets in North America, Europe and the Asia-Pacific region. While East and South-East Asia are supplied mainly by production in Myanmar and the Lao People's Democratic Republic, most of Europe is supplied by Afghan heroin through the "Balkan route" and the "southern route" through Iran (Islamic Republic of), Pakistan and, increasingly, countries in Africa.¹⁸ The "northern route" continues to link heroin from Afghanistan to markets in the Russian Federation.¹⁹ In North America, the United States is supplied largely by Latin America, while the majority of heroin entering Canada is of Afghan origin.²⁰

42. In Western and Central Europe, heroin seizures had decreased gradually, from 11.6 tons in 2004 to 4.8 tons in 2013. However, 2014 saw a sharp increase to 7.2 tons, which was due mainly to a major 2-ton heroin seizure in June in Greece, where annual seizures rose from 235 kg in 2013 to 2,588 kg in 2014. A new study suggests that networks operating between Pakistan and Europe have become dominant in recent years and are targeting Belgium, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom for trafficking by the "southern route".²¹

43. In the Asia-Pacific region, the majority of heroin seizures are concentrated in China, where the amount of heroin seized in 2014 increased for the fourth consecutive year, reaching 9.4 tons, about 10 per cent higher than the level reported in 2013. The Golden Triangle continues to be the main source of heroin, with 74 per cent of heroin seized in 2014 originating from Northern Myanmar; however the Chinese authorities reported that Afghan heroin reaches the country by sea, land, air and mail.²² Despite the increase observed in China, preliminary data suggest that total heroin seizures in the region remained stable in 2014, with sharp decreases of 40 to 50 per cent compared with 2013 in Malaysia (456 kg), Thailand (445 kg) and Viet Nam (479 kg). Total seizures in the region follow a trend similar to that of total opium cultivation in the Lao People's Democratic Republic and

¹⁸ UNODC, *Afghan Opiate Trafficking through the Southern Route* (Vienna, June 2015).

¹⁹ UNODC, *The Illicit Drug Trade through South-Eastern Europe* (Vienna, March 2014).

²⁰ UNODC, *World Drug Report 2015* and response submitted by Canada to the annual report questionnaire for 2014.

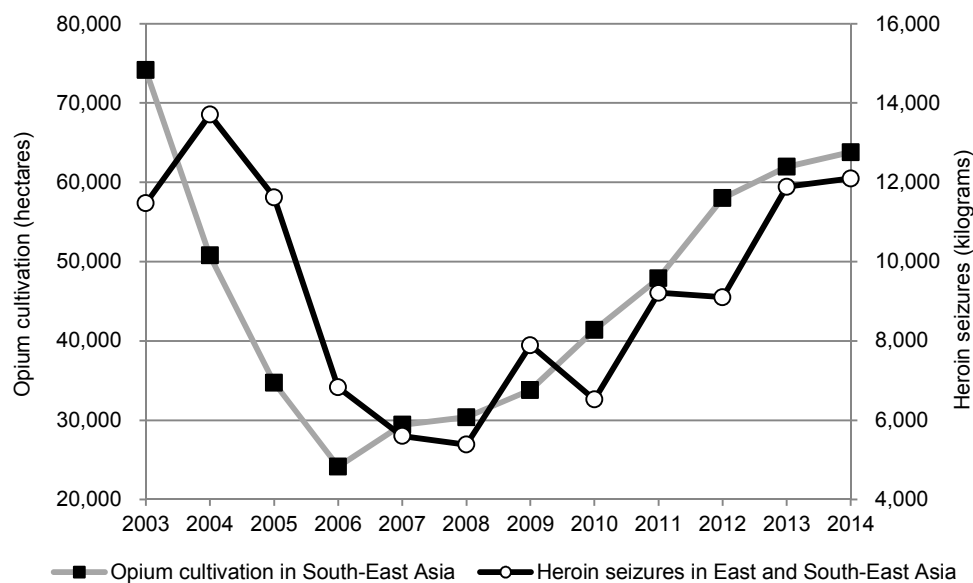
²¹ UNODC, *Afghan Opiate Trafficking through the Southern Route* (Vienna, June 2015).

²² Country report submitted by China to the Thirty-ninth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Asia and the Pacific (2015).

Myanmar (see figure V), which also remained stable in 2014. Preliminary data suggest that heroin seizures in China decreased by 7 per cent in 2015 to 8.8 tons.

Figure V

Heroin seizures in East and South-East Asia and opium cultivation in the Lao People's Democratic Republic and Myanmar (2003-2014)

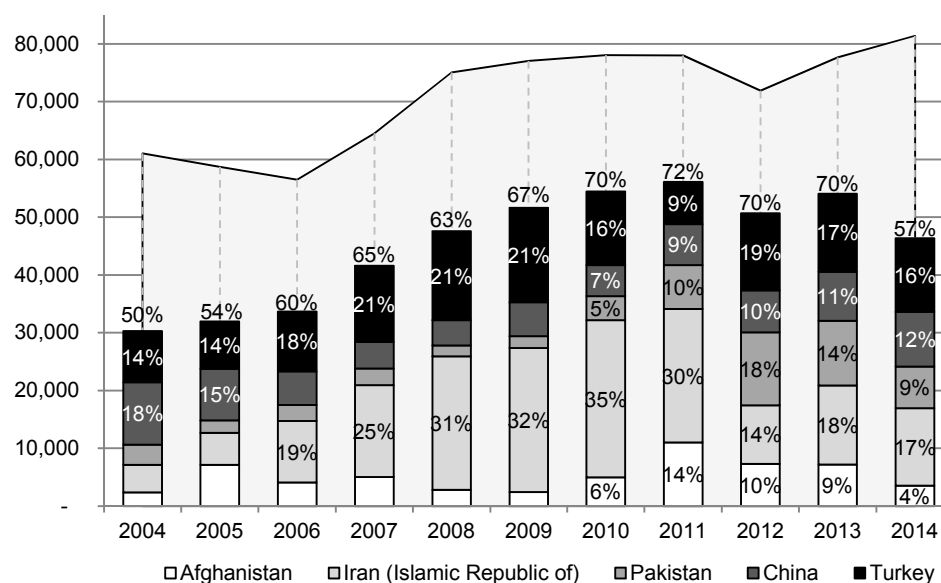


44. Afghanistan, China, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Pakistan and Turkey are the five countries with the highest annual amounts of heroin seized in recent years, consistently accounting for more than 60 per cent of global seizures since 2006. The Pakistan authorities estimated that 44 per cent of Afghan heroin transits through Pakistan,²³ while the Turkish authorities cite heroin production in Afghanistan as the source of most of the heroin seized in the country.²⁴ In 2014, heroin seizures in Pakistan decreased sharply by 35 per cent compared with 2013, reaching 7.2 tons, while seizures in the Islamic Republic of Iran remained stable at 13.5 tons. After peaking in 2011 at 11 tons, annual heroin seizures in Afghanistan decreased for the third consecutive year in 2014, to 3.8 tons. In Turkey, heroin seizures decreased slightly to 12.8 tons in 2014, down from 13.5 tons in 2013. Preliminary data indicates that heroin seizures in Pakistan reached record levels in 2015, with 16.3 tons.

²³ Country report submitted by Pakistan to the Thirty-eighth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Asia and the Pacific.

²⁴ *Turkish Drug Report 2014*.

Figure VI
Heroin seizures in selected countries and globally (2004-2014)
 (Kilograms)



45. Heroin seizures in North America have been increasing notably since 2007, surpassing the levels reported in Western and Central Europe in 2012 and 2013 (see figure VII). After increasing for six consecutive years, heroin seizures in the United States decreased slightly from 6.2 tons in 2013 to 5.9 tons in 2014. The Mexican authorities reported that Mexico was a transit country for heroin produced in Asia and South America entering the United States, as well as a supplier of nationally produced heroin.²⁵

46. Various regions in Africa are developing significant roles in facilitating the transit of heroin by the “southern route”, with networks on the continent taking control over trafficking routes.²⁶ There are also growing signs that heroin trafficking to Africa is no longer solely for the purpose of transit to other regions, but was also feeding a burgeoning domestic consumer market.²⁷ Kenya reported the unprecedented seizure of 6 tons of heroin, the fifth-highest value reported by a single country in 2014 and a record for the continent, due to a single large seizure in August.

C. Cocaine

47. The main consumer markets for cocaine in the world, North America and Western and Central Europe, continued to be supplied by cocaine originating in South America. Cocaine from the Andean region is trafficked northwards to North America and across the Atlantic to Europe through the Caribbean or Africa.

²⁵ Country report submitted by Mexico to the Twenty-fifth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Latin America and the Caribbean.

²⁶ *Afghan Opiate Trafficking through the Southern Route*.

²⁷ *The Afghan Opiate Trade and Africa: A Baseline Assessment* (March 2016).

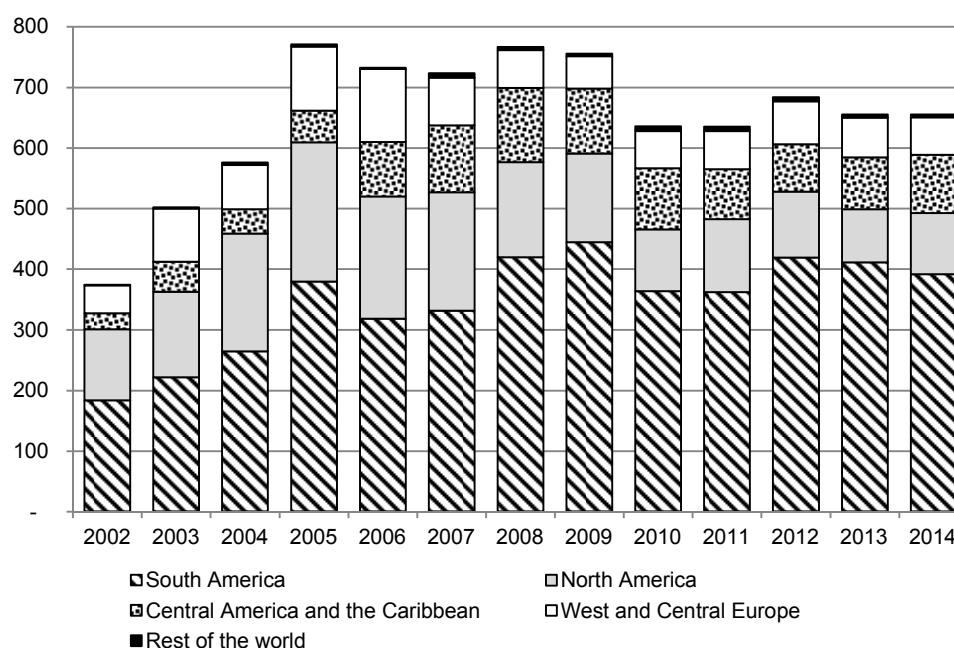
Available data for 2014 suggest that global cocaine seizures remained stable for the second consecutive year. South America continued to account for the majority of global cocaine seizures, and seizures in the region (392 tons) decreased slightly by 5 per cent with respect to the levels reached in 2012 and 2013.

48. In 2014, Colombia continued to be the country reporting the largest annual cocaine seizures worldwide, having consistently accounted for more than 30 per cent of global seizures since 2008. Despite a sharp increase in coca bush cultivation and potential cocaine production in Colombia in 2014, seizures in the country decreased slightly for the second consecutive year, from 243 tons in 2012 to 226 in 2013 and 209 tons in 2014. The authorities reported that they frequently met with resistance when conducting supply reduction activities, such as monitoring coca cultivation and cocaine production, which may have had an impact on seizures.²⁸

49. Ecuador and Brazil were the countries with, respectively, the second- and third-highest amounts of cocaine seized in South America in 2014. Cocaine seizures in Ecuador increased steadily from 15.5 tons in 2010 to 53.5 in 2014. The Ecuadorian authorities reported the diversification of transportation and concealment methods by traffickers and the use of new trafficking routes. Cocaine seizures in Brazil increased significantly in 2013 and 2014 compared with previous years, reaching 41.7 and 33.9 tons, respectively, the two highest levels on record for the country. The authorities reported that cocaine entered the country mainly over land, but also in small aircraft and by river, especially in the Amazon region. Cocaine was then either consumed in the local market or shipped to Europe (directly or through West African countries) in containers and aircraft. Peru, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Chile and Argentina also reported significant amounts of cocaine seized in 2014, with 30, 26, 22, 18 and 13 tons respectively.

²⁸ UNODC, *World Drug Report 2015*.

Figure VII
Global seizures of cocaine (base, paste and salts) by region, 2002-2014^a
 (Tons)



^a Data for 2014 are preliminary and incomplete.

50. In North America, after decreasing in 2013 to 87 tons, cocaine seizures increased by approximately 15 per cent compared with 2013, reaching 100 tons, but remained below the values recorded prior to 2010. The majority of cocaine seizures in the region continue to occur in the United States, where almost 95 tons were seized in 2014 (up from 80 tons in 2013). The authorities reported²⁹ that about 13 per cent of cocaine entering the United States was trafficked through the Caribbean (especially the Dominican Republic and Puerto Rico), while the vast majority was transported over land through Central America and Mexico. In some instances, cocaine was also transported directly from South America in containerized cargo or by couriers on commercial flights.

51. In 2014, nine European countries³⁰ listed Central America and the Caribbean, in particular Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic and Panama, as a transit and departure point for cocaine. During 2014, the two largest reported cocaine seizures in Central America and the Caribbean occurred in Panama and Costa Rica, with 35 and 27 tons respectively. Cocaine seizures in Central America and the Caribbean increased in 2014 to almost 95 tons (85 tons in 2013), partly due to a sharp increase in Honduras, where seizures reached more than 12 tons (compared with 1.7 tons in 2013).

²⁹ United States Department of Justice, Drug Enforcement Agency, *2014 National Drug Threat Assessment*.

³⁰ Belgium, Germany, Greece, Italy, the Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, Sweden and Switzerland.

52. A secondary route for cocaine trafficked across the Atlantic to Europe involved the use of countries in Africa, notably West Africa, as transit points. After reaching the highest level on record in 2013 with 901 kg, cocaine seizures in Ghana remained high at 464 kg in 2014. Annual cocaine seizures in Nigeria have remained above the 100 kg mark since 2003, reaching 226 kg in 2014. Morocco recorded the highest amount of cocaine seized since 2005, with 632 kg in 2014. In their responses to part IV of the annual report questionnaire for 2014, Ghana, Nigeria and Morocco reported Brazil as the main source country, with cocaine entering the countries mostly by means of commercial flights.

53. Cocaine seizures in Western and Central Europe peaked at 121 tons in 2006, and have remained stable since 2008, with an average of 62 tons. In 2014, cocaine seizures in the region amounted to 62 tons. As a major point of entry for cocaine from the Andean region into Europe, mostly by sea, Spain continued to be the European country reporting the highest amount of cocaine seized in 2014, with 21.7 tons, down from 26.7 tons in 2013. While Belgium, the Netherlands and France reported cocaine seizures for 9.3, 8.8 and 6.9 tons respectively in 2014, Italy, Portugal and the United Kingdom each reported seizing between 3 and 4 tons of cocaine.

54. Given their geographical location, far away from the source and main consumer markets, cocaine remains limited in Member States and Associate Members of ESCAP compared to the availability of other types of illicit drugs. However, seizure data show that cocaine traffickers continue to target specific parts of the Asia-Pacific region, in particular in Australia and Hong Kong, China. Cocaine seizures in Australia decreased for the fourth consecutive year in 2014, reaching 756 kg, while annual seizures in Hong Kong, China, decreased for the third consecutive time in 2014 with 285 kg.

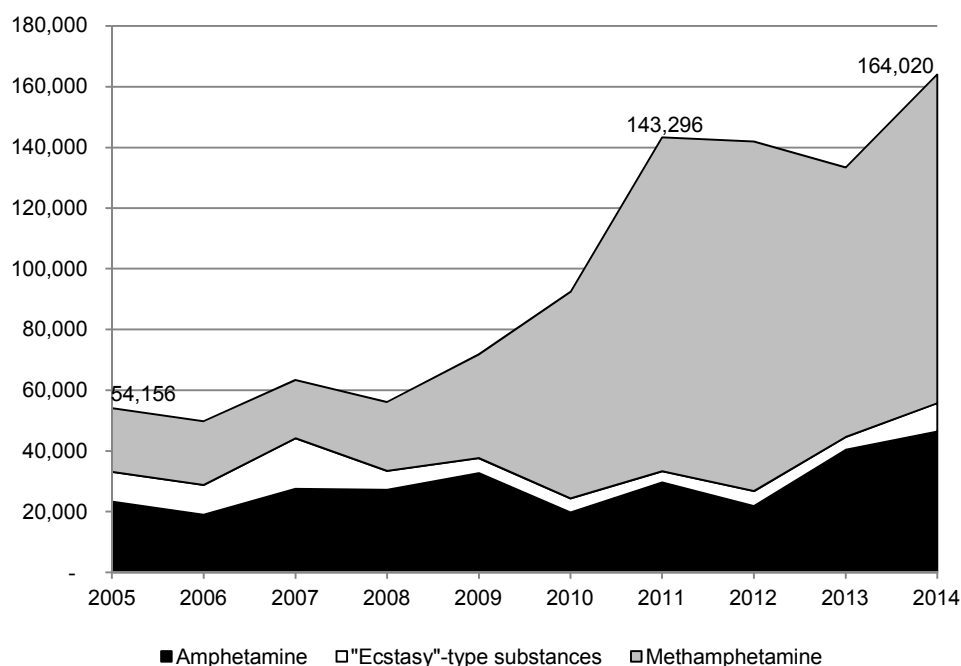
D. Amphetamine-type stimulants

55. Amphetamine-type stimulants can be broadly classified as amphetamines (which include amphetamine and methamphetamine) and “ecstasy”-type substances.³¹ Unlike the collection of seizure data for plant-based drugs, the collection of high-quality seizure data relating to amphetamine-type stimulants relies heavily on the proper identification and classification of seized controlled substances.

56. Between 2008 and 2011, the number of seizures of amphetamine-type stimulants increased rapidly, with total seizures rising by more than 150 per cent to more than 144 tons in 2011. The increase is attributable primarily to the growing number of global methamphetamine seizures, which increased almost fivefold during the period. After remaining stable in 2012, global seizures of amphetamine-type stimulants decreased in 2013 to 134 tons, thanks to the first global decrease in methamphetamine seizures since 2007. In 2014, global seizures of amphetamine-type stimulants have increased again, reaching record levels.

³¹ Including 3,4-methylenedioxymethamphetamine (MDMA).

Figure VIII
Global seizures of amphetamine-type stimulants, by drug type (2005-2014)^a
 (Kilograms)



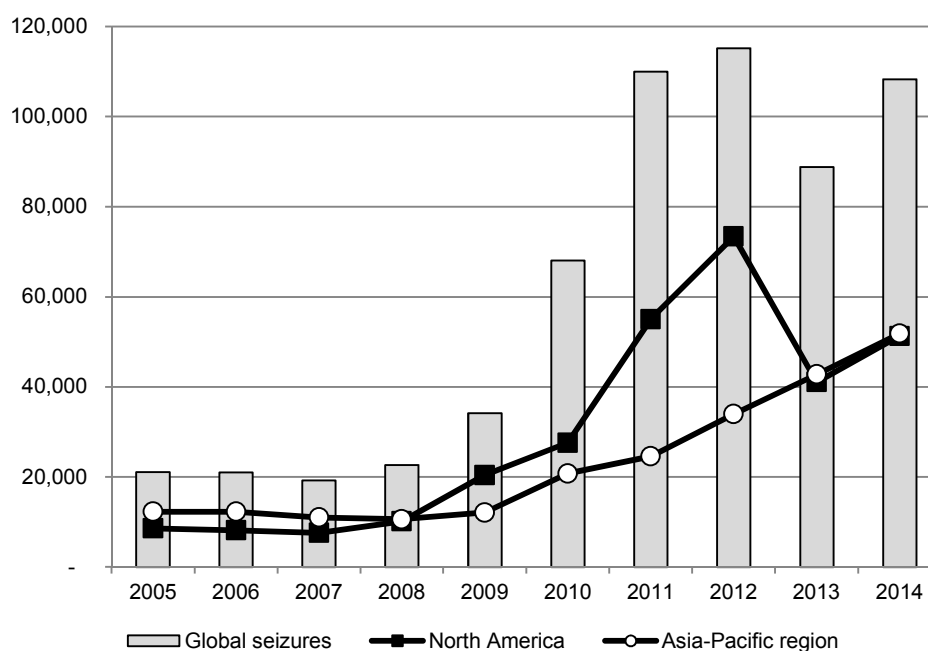
^a Data for 2014 are preliminary and incomplete.

Methamphetamine

57. In 2014, global methamphetamine seizures increased sharply to 108 tons, from 89 tons in 2013. The regions of the Asia-Pacific region and North America account for the majority of global methamphetamine seizures, and the illicit manufacture of methamphetamine has traditionally been concentrated close to those consumer markets. However, it has recently also spread to other countries, where diverse methods of manufacture are used.³²

³² UNODC, *Global SMART Update, vol. 12* (September 2014).

Figure IX
Methamphetamine seizures, global and in selected regions (2005-2014)^a
 (Kilograms)



^a Data for 2014 are preliminary and incomplete.

58. In North America, methamphetamine seizures increased sharply in 2014. The United States reported the highest level of methamphetamine seized since 2001 — 31.2 tons, up from 22.9 tons in 2013. In their response to part IV of the annual report questionnaire for 2014, the authorities reported that most of the methamphetamine available in the United States was clandestinely produced in Mexico and smuggled across the south-west border. Methamphetamine seizures in Mexico increased by 10 per cent from 17.9 tons in 2013 to 19.7 tons in 2014. The Mexican authorities reported that methamphetamine was produced in clandestine laboratories using chemical precursors, most of which were trafficked by sea from China, Japan and Singapore.³³

59. In the Asia-Pacific region, methamphetamine seizures have been increasing steadily since 2008, with the total amount seized in the region increasing fourfold over the period 2008-2013. Table 3 shows the amounts of methamphetamine seized in selected countries within the region in 2013 and 2014. In East and South-East Asia, methamphetamine is trafficked in tablets and in crystalline form, with tablets being manufactured and trafficked mostly within the Mekong subregion (notwithstanding recent evidence of the presence of tablets in Malaysia, the

³³ Country report submitted by Mexico to the Twenty-fifth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Latin America and the Caribbean.

Republic of Korea and Singapore) and crystalline methamphetamine being spread throughout the region.³⁴

Table 3

Seizures of methamphetamine in selected countries within the Asia-Pacific region, 2013-2014
(Kilograms)

<i>Country</i>	<i>2013</i>	<i>2014</i>	<i>Trend</i>
Australia	4 619	7 111	Increase (+54%)
China	19 518	26 992	Increase (+38%)
China, Hong Kong SAR	83	1 027	Increase (>100%)
Indonesia	543	1 125	Increase (>100%)
Japan	846	570	Decrease (-33%)
Lao People's Democratic Republic	1 384	364	Decrease (-74%)
Malaysia	1 754	1 342	Decrease (-23%)
Myanmar	1 090	1 186	Stable (+9%)
Philippines	838	718	Decrease (-14%)
Thailand	11 855	11 179	Stable (-6%)

60. Between 2009 and 2014, methamphetamine seizures increased significantly in Australia — where the drug enters the country by commercial cargo and post (by sea and air) — from 150 kg to more than 7 tons. During the same period, China saw an increase in annual methamphetamine seizures from 6.6 to 27 tons. The Japanese authorities reported that China was the main source of the methamphetamine seized in Japan. However, in recent years there has been a diversification of sources, with methamphetamine entering the country from Hong Kong, China; Mexico; Thailand; and West Africa.³⁵ Chinese authorities reported that 87 per cent of methamphetamine tablets seized in 2014 originated from Northern Myanmar, while almost all crystalline methamphetamine consumed in the country was produced domestically.³⁶

61. Indian authorities have reported dismantling several methamphetamine laboratories since 2003,³⁷ while authorities from the Philippines have reported the presence of manufacture of methamphetamine in the country since 1997, with the detection of 95 laboratories since then. While China continues to be the main source of methamphetamine into the Republic of Korea, there has been a diversification of sources since 2009, with African countries such as South Africa, Ghana, Kenya and Mali appearing as new suppliers.³⁸ Authorities from China; Hong Kong, China; and

³⁴ UNODC, *The Challenge of Synthetic Drugs in East and South-East Asia and Oceania: Trends and Patterns of Amphetamine-type Stimulants and New Psychoactive Substances* (2015).

³⁵ Country report submitted by Japan to the Thirty-ninth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Asia and the Pacific (2015).

³⁶ Country report submitted by China to the Thirty-ninth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Asia and the Pacific (2015).

³⁷ Country report submitted by India to the Thirty-ninth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Asia and the Pacific (2015).

³⁸ Country report submitted by the Republic of Korea to the Thirty-ninth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Asia and the Pacific (2015).

Viet Nam have noticed a spike in the abuse and trafficking of crystalline methamphetamine in recent years.³⁹

62. Preliminary data suggests that some countries in the region have experienced sharp increases in methamphetamine seizures in 2015. China and Indonesia reported their highest annual seizures, with 36.6 and 4.4 tons respectively. Myanmar and the Philippines seized 2,262 and 1,207 kg of methamphetamine each, the highest values reported since 2001 and 2004 respectively. In 2015, New Zealand also reported the highest annual methamphetamine seizures on record, with 371 kg.

Amphetamine

63. With the exception of 2013, Saudi Arabia has reported the largest seizures of amphetamine in the world since 2003, accounting for between 30 and 50 per cent of global seizures. In 2014, authorities of Saudi Arabia have reported a record 17 tons of amphetamine seized. Global amphetamine seizures increased sharply in 2013-2014 and continue to be concentrated mainly in the Near and Middle East, with countries such as Lebanon and Jordan also reporting over 5 tons seized each in 2014.

64. Other regions, such as Western and Central Europe, have also traditionally reported significant seizures of amphetamine. Some countries, including the United Kingdom, the Netherlands and Germany, continue to often report the seizure of more than 1 ton of amphetamine annually. Since 2012, there has been evidence of increased amphetamine trafficking in North America, in particular in the United States. In 2013, this country reported the highest amount of amphetamine seized by a single member State, surpassing Saudi Arabia with 12 tons. In 2014, seizures in the United States remained high at 4.3 tons.

65. Although the availability of amphetamine has traditionally been limited in the Asia-Pacific region, Thailand has reported substantial seizures in 2013 and 2014, with 1,361 and 758 kg respectively. With the exception of Australia, the rest of the region has not accounted for significant amphetamine seizures in recent years.

“Ecstasy”-type substances

66. In 2014, global seizures of “ecstasy”-type substances increased significantly, from 4.2 tons in 2013 to 9.2 tons. That 117 per cent increase was largely due to significant seizures reported by Australia, where more than 4.3 tons of 3,4-methylenedioxymethamphetamine (MDMA) were seized in 2014 (compared with 343 kg in 2013), owing in part to a single 1.9-ton seizure. In 2014, Myanmar also reported the largest ever single seizure of “ecstasy”-type substances on record, capturing 2.4 million tablets (717 kg).

67. These large seizures in Australia and Myanmar, together with a general increase in the amount of “ecstasy”-type substances being seized in East and South-East Asia in recent years, may point to the Asia-Pacific region as a new focus of the “ecstasy” market.⁴⁰ Seizures of “ecstasy”-type substances in Western and

³⁹ Country reports submitted by Hong Kong, China; and Viet Nam to the Thirty-ninth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Asia and the Pacific (2015).

⁴⁰ UNODC, *The Challenge of Synthetic Drugs in East and South-East Asia and Oceania: Trends and Patterns of Amphetamine-type Stimulants and New Psychoactive Substances* (2015).

Central Europe and North America, where the market has traditionally been concentrated, have decreased notably over the last decade.

68. Among the remaining ESCAP Member States and Associate Members, seizures of “ecstasy”-type substances have traditionally been concentrated in China, Indonesia and Malaysia. In 2014, these three countries reported sharp decreases in “ecstasy”-type substances seizures. China reported the lowest amount seized since 2000, with 49 kg, while Malaysia and Indonesia reported seizing 89 and 147 kg of “ecstasy”-type substances respectively. Authorities from the Philippines reported the emergence since December 2013 of a new drug called “fly high” or “party”, which is a mixture of methamphetamine and MDMA in capsule form.⁴¹

New psychoactive substances

69. Not all new psychoactive substances (NPS) are controlled under the international drug treaties and many are designed to mimic the effects of illicit drugs. The proper identification of NPS poses several technical challenges to forensic laboratories in the region and worldwide. Reporting of NPS in the region can be affected by such challenges.

70. The NPS market in the Asia-Pacific region seems to be closely related to the amphetamine-type stimulants market. The proportion of synthetic cathinones, which mimic the effect of amphetamine-type stimulants, with respect to all NPS reported in the region (25 per cent) is significantly higher than at the global level (15 per cent).⁴² All over East and South-East Asia, pills sold as “ecstasy” have been reported to contain NPS, primarily ketamine.⁴³ Piperazines, synthetic cannabinoids and cathinones have also been found in “ecstasy” tablets by most countries in the region in 2012 and 2013.⁴⁴

71. Global seizures of ketamine have doubled between 2012 and 2014, driven mainly by sharp increases in East and South-East Asia, where China; Malaysia; and Hong Kong, China, account for more than 90 per cent of reported worldwide seizure.⁴⁵ While authorities of Hong Kong, China, and Macao, China, have reported that ketamine is the most commonly abused drug in their territories, Indian authorities have voiced their concern regarding the increasing diversion of this drug for abuse in the country.⁴⁶

⁴¹ Country report submitted by the Philippines to the Thirty-ninth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Asia and the Pacific (2015).

⁴² UNODC, *The Challenge of Synthetic Drugs in East and South-East Asia and Oceania: Trends and Patterns of Amphetamine-type Stimulants and New Psychoactive Substances* (2015).

⁴³ Global SMART Update, vol. 11, March 2014.

⁴⁴ UNODC, *The Challenge of Synthetic Drugs in East and South-East Asia and Oceania: Trends and Patterns of Amphetamine-type Stimulants and New Psychoactive Substances* (2015).

⁴⁵ UNODC, *World Drug Report 2016*.

⁴⁶ Country reports submitted by Macao, China; Hong Kong, China; and India to the Thirty-ninth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Asia and the Pacific (2015).

IV. Conclusions

72. The cultivation of cannabis continues in most countries worldwide and in all regions of the world, while the production of cannabis resin remains confined to a few countries. Globally, preliminary data suggest that both cannabis herb and resin seizures remained stable in 2014. Cannabis herb seizures in East and South-East Asia increased notably in 2014 to their highest level since 2009.

73. After reaching record levels in 2014, annual estimates of the area under opium poppy cultivation in Afghanistan decreased in 2015 for the first time in five years. In South-East Asia, the area under opium poppy cultivation remained stable in 2014 and decreased slightly in 2015 after increasing steadily for nine consecutive years. Global seizures of opium and illicit morphine remain concentrated in Afghanistan and neighbouring countries, while heroin seizures cover a wider geographic area, with significant seizures in North America, Europe, the Near and Middle East/South-West Asia, and East and South-East Asia. East African countries are also increasingly playing important roles as transit points for heroin being trafficked via the “southern route”. Global heroin seizures have remained stable since 2008 and this trend continued in 2014. The Golden Triangle continues to be the main source of heroin being trafficked in the Asia-Pacific region, where seizures increased slightly in 2014.

74. Three Andean countries continue to account for virtually all cultivation of coca bush worldwide, and the total area under coca bush cultivation increased in 2014, as a result of a sharp increase in Colombia. Global cocaine seizures remained stable in 2014, with South America continuing to account for the majority of global cocaine seizures. African countries, in particular those in West Africa, remain transit points for cocaine trafficked to the consumer markets of Europe.

75. After decreasing in 2013 for the first time since 2008, global seizures of amphetamine-type stimulants increased in 2014, reaching record levels. Global methamphetamine seizures increased in 2014, where they were most prominent in North America and East and South-East Asia. Preliminary data suggests a sharp increase in methamphetamine seizures in the Asia-Pacific region in 2015. There is new evidence of regional shifts in both the amphetamine and “ecstasy” markets. Trafficking of amphetamine seems to have increased in North America in recent years, while seizures of “ecstasy”-type substances were concentrated in the Asia-Pacific region in 2014, where there was a five-fold increase in reported “ecstasy” seizures thanks to large single seizures in Myanmar and Australia.
