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**Forty-first Meeting of the Heads of  
National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies,  
Asia and the Pacific**

Bangkok, 27-30 November 2017

Item 3 of the provisional agenda\*\*

**Major regional drug trafficking trends and  
countermeasures****Statistical analysis of drug trafficking trends in East,  
South-East and South 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 2015 and, where available, 2016.

While global opium cultivation decreased in 2015 for the first time since 2009, cultivation in South-East Asia increased sharply between 2008 and 2013, and has remained relatively stable since. Heroin seizures in the Asia-Pacific have followed a similar trend to that of opium cultivation in the region. In 2015, heroin seizures in the region increased slightly with respect to the previous year, reaching 13 tons.

Global methamphetamine seizures reached unprecedented levels in 2015, mainly due to sharp increases in the Asia-Pacific. Methamphetamine seizures in the region have increased 7-fold between 2008 and 2015, and accounted for more than 50 per cent of global amounts seized in 2015. Global seizures of “ecstasy”-type stimulants decreased in 2015 with respect to 2014, mainly due to a sharp decline in the Asia-Pacific, in particular in Australia.

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

\*\* UNODC/HONLAP/41/1.



## 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) up to December 2016.
2. Section II addresses the illicit cultivation and production of plant-based drugs for the years up to and including 2015 and, where available, 2016. With regard to drug trafficking, section III focuses on seizure statistics for 2015 and previous years and provides an update on trafficking trends with regard to cannabis, opiates, cocaine and amphetamine-type stimulants (ATS).
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 questionnaire for 2015 provide the primary source of information on drug trafficking patterns and seizures of illicit drugs.
4. At the time of writing, UNODC had received replies to part IV of the 2015 annual report questionnaire from 98 countries and two territories, including 25 Member States of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), including 13 from the Asia-Pacific. Supplementary sources of information include official published government reports and reports submitted to the subsidiary bodies of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, as well as the Drug Abuse Information Network for Asia and the Pacific (DAINAP). The *World Drug Report 2016*<sup>1</sup> was also used in the analysis of the current situation with regard to drug trafficking. In total, seizure data for 2015 were available for 31 ESCAP Member States and territories (including 17 in the Asia-Pacific).
5. 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. Global trends in illicit cultivation of drug crops and production of plant-based drugs

### A. Cannabis herb cultivation and cannabis resin production

6. Unlike illicit crops such as coca bush and opium poppy, the cannabis plant lends itself to diverse cultivation methods and so 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.
7. 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 and South-West Asia, the most prominent of which are Afghanistan and Morocco.
8. Morocco reported eradicating 5,000 ha of cannabis in 2013 and estimated that, after eradication, 42,000 ha remained under cannabis cultivation. This represents a reduction of almost 70 per cent compared with 2003 levels (134,000 ha).<sup>2</sup> Morocco

<sup>1</sup> United Nations publication, Sales No. E.16.XI.7.

<sup>2</sup> United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and Government of Morocco, *Maroc: enquête sur le cannabis 2003* (December 2003).

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).

9. 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. 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.

10. Certain countries within the Asia-Pacific show a high prevalence of cannabis herb and, hence, are affected by cultivation. Philippines' authorities reported eradicating 24 ha of cannabis in 2015<sup>3</sup> and have identified major cultivation areas concentrated in the northern part of the country.<sup>4</sup> Indonesian authorities eradicated 132 ha of cannabis in 2015 and have taken several steps towards preventing the expansion of the production of cannabis herb, including monitoring potential areas of cultivation and the implementation of alternative development plans.<sup>5</sup> While the authorities of Fiji have reported a "tremendous increase" in cannabis herb cultivation in 2012 and 2014,<sup>6</sup> New Zealand and Viet Nam reported the eradication of 150,000 plants and one ha respectively in 2015.<sup>7</sup> In South-Asia, India reported eradicating 818 ha of cannabis in 2015.<sup>8</sup>

## B. Opium poppy cultivation

11. At the time of writing, information for 2016 was only available for Afghanistan. Afghanistan and Myanmar continue 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 in 2015 Afghanistan saw the first decrease in opium poppy cultivation since 2009. Global opium poppy cultivation decreased by about 10 per cent in 2015, owing mainly to the decrease in Afghanistan. The decline in Afghanistan was temporary since opium poppy cultivation in the country bounced back in 2016, increasing by 10 per cent compared to 2015.

12. In 2015, opium poppy cultivation in Afghanistan decreased to 183,000 ha after reaching record levels in 2014 of 224,000 ha.<sup>9</sup> The vast majority of the cultivation (90 per cent) took place in the southern and western regions of the country, where significant decreases were recorded. In 2016,<sup>10</sup> cultivation in the country increased again, reaching 201,000 ha. Sharp increases were recorded in the Eastern and Northern regions of the country, which represented a combined 13 per cent of total national cultivation, up from 8 per cent in 2015. The number of poppy-free provinces decreased in both 2015 and 2016.

13. In 2015, potential opium production in Afghanistan reached 3,300 tons, the lowest level since 2001. This decline was not only due to the fall in the area under cultivation, but also a consequence of a sharp decrease in the yield due to adverse weather conditions, from 28.7 kilograms per hectare in 2014 to 18.3 in 2015, the lowest level on record. In 2016, the aforementioned increase in cultivation and a higher yield of 23.8 kilograms per hectare, resulted in an increase in potential opium

<sup>3</sup> Response by Indonesia to the 2015 annual report questionnaire.

<sup>4</sup> Country report submitted by the Philippines to the Fortieth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Asia and the Pacific (2016).

<sup>5</sup> Country report submitted by Indonesia to the Fortieth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Asia and the Pacific (2016).

<sup>6</sup> Country report submitted by Fiji to the Fortieth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Asia and the Pacific (2016).

<sup>7</sup> Responses submitted by Viet Nam and New Zealand to the 2015 annual report questionnaire.

<sup>8</sup> Response submitted by India to the 2015 annual report questionnaire.

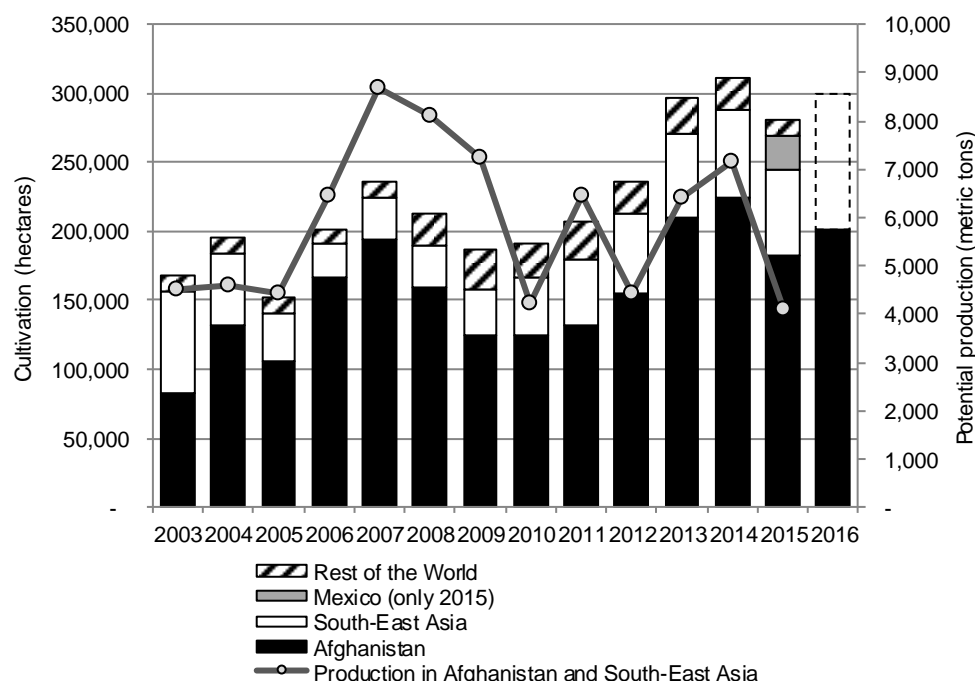
<sup>9</sup> *Afghanistan Opium Survey 2015*.

<sup>10</sup> UNODC and Ministry of Counter Narcotics of Afghanistan, *Afghanistan Opium Survey 2016: Executive Summary* (Vienna, October 2016).

production of 43 per cent with respect to the previous year, reaching 4,800 tons. Despite the increase, the yield recorded in 2016 is still the third lowest value on record in Afghanistan.

Figure I

**Opium cultivation by region and potential opium production in Afghanistan and South-East Asia (2003-2016)<sup>a</sup>**



<sup>a</sup> Only information on the cultivation in Afghanistan was available at the time of writing for 2016.

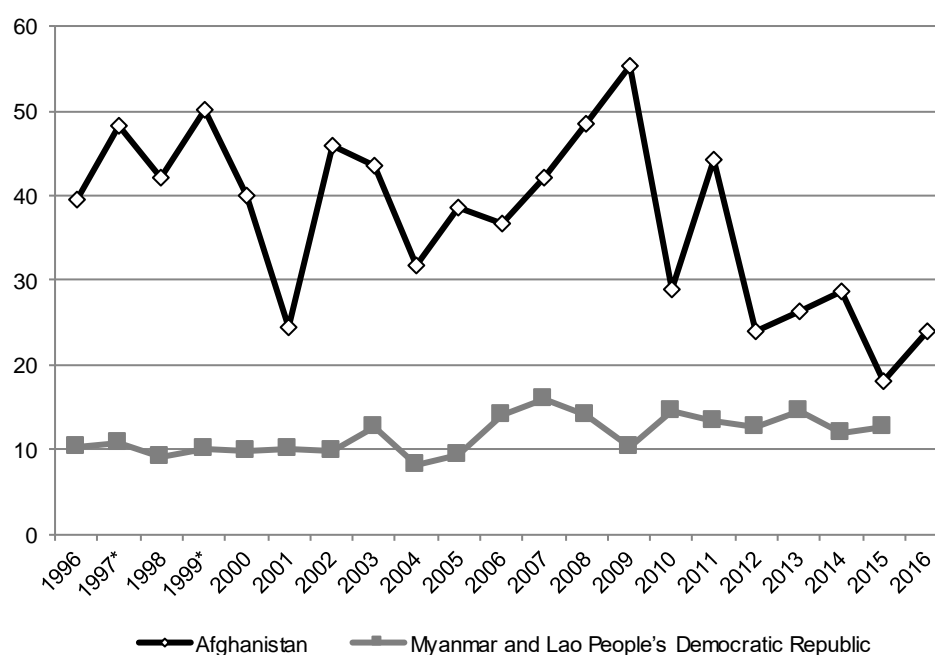
14. In the *South-East Asia Opium Survey 2015* it was estimated that illicit opium poppy cultivation in the region covered 61,200 ha. After steadily increasing from 21,600 ha in 2006 to 57,800 ha in 2013, opium poppy cultivation in Myanmar has decreased slightly, reaching 55,500 ha in 2015. In the Lao 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.

15. 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. However, the yield in Afghanistan has declined notably since 2009 and was similar to that observed in South-East Asia in 2015 (see Figure II). Overall, Myanmar and the Lao People's Democratic Republic produced an estimated total of between 731 and 823 tons of opium in 2015, a value similar to 2014, when production reached 762 tons.

16. Almost 87 per cent of global opium poppy cultivation in 2015 took place in Afghanistan and South-East Asia. According to the first *Mexico Opium Survey*, carried for the 2014-2015 period by UNODC and the Government of Mexico, the area under opium poppy cultivation in the country between July 2014 and June 2015 was estimated at 24,800 ha, which represents about 9 per cent of global cultivation. During 2015, Mexican authorities reported the eradication of 25,960 ha of opium poppy, a 21 per cent increase with respect to 2014 (21,445 ha) and a 77 per cent more than in 2013 (14,662 ha).

Figure II  
Yield of opium poppy cultivation in Afghanistan and South-East Asia  
(1996-2016)

(Kilograms per hectare)



\* Figures for Myanmar and the Lao People's Democratic Republic in 1997 and 1999 only reflect the yield in Myanmar.

17. Other countries in the Asia-Pacific region are also affected by opium poppy cultivation. Viet Nam reported the eradication of 17.5 ha of opium in 2015.<sup>11</sup> In Thailand, while opium cultivation still occurs, authorities reported that cultivation areas have been reduced to under 1,000 ha in recent years.<sup>12</sup> In South-Asia, Indian authorities reported that the country is affected by diversion of opium from licit cultivation,<sup>13</sup> with eradication reaching 3,461 ha of opium poppy in 2015.<sup>14</sup>

## C. Coca cultivation

18. 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 from 132,500 ha in 2014 to 156,500 ha in 2015, the most significant increase on record since the 1980's. This was due mainly to a sharp increase of almost 40 per cent in Colombia.

19. The *Coca Cultivation Survey 2015*, conducted jointly by the Government of Colombia and UNODC, showed that, after reaching historically low levels (48,000 ha) in 2013, coca bush cultivation in Colombia doubled in two years, reaching 96,000 ha in 2015, the highest value since 2007. Potential cocaine production in Colombia increased sharply to 646 tons in 2015 after reaching 290 metric tons in 2013, the lowest value since the mid-1990's (see Figure III). During 2015, the Colombian authorities destroyed a total of 3,591 laboratories for the extraction of coca paste or cocaine base (64 per cent increase with respect to 2014), as well as

<sup>11</sup> Response submitted by Viet Nam to the 2015 annual report questionnaire.

<sup>12</sup> Country report submitted by Thailand to the Fortieth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Asia and the Pacific (2016).

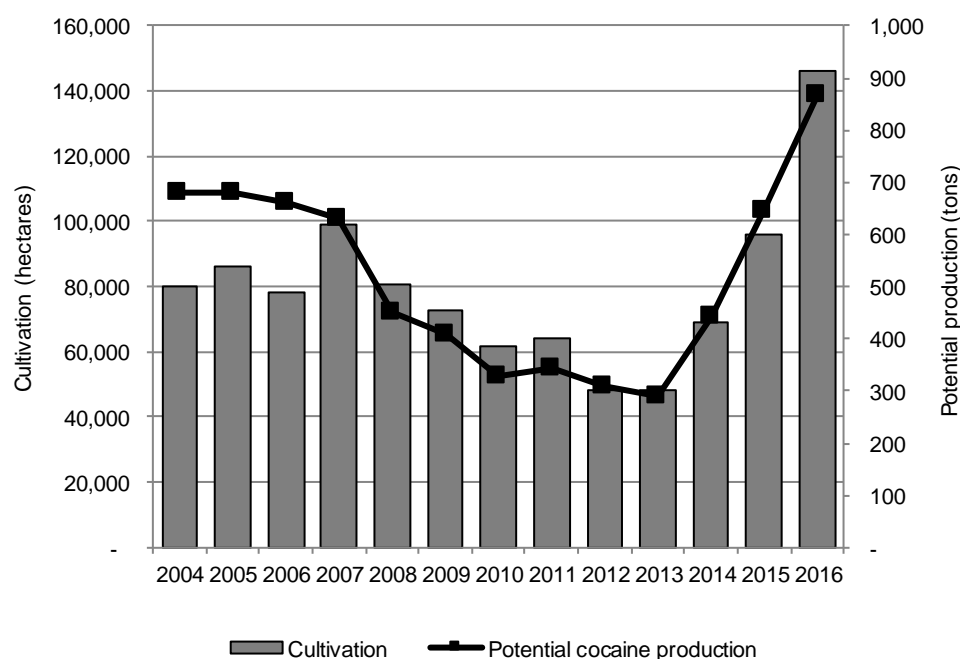
<sup>13</sup> Country report submitted by India to the Fortieth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Asia and the Pacific (2016).

<sup>14</sup> Response submitted by India to the 2015 annual report questionnaire.

236 cocaine hydrochloride laboratories (45 per cent increase). The *2016 Coca Cultivation Survey* showed that the area under coca bush cultivation in Colombia has increased sharply once again in 2016, reaching 146,000 ha, the highest level since 2000.

Figure III

**Coca bush cultivation and potential cocaine production in Colombia (2004-2016)**



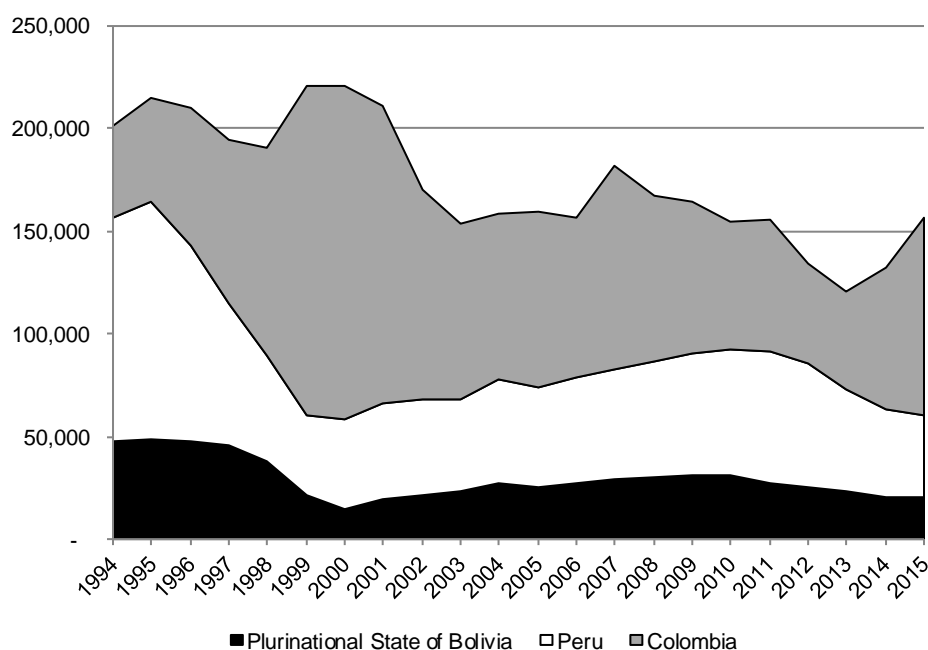
20. According to the *2015 National Coca Monitoring Survey*, in the Plurinational State of Bolivia, the cultivation of coca bush remained stable at 20,200 ha in 2015, the lowest level recorded since 2001. The production of dried coca leaf in the Plurinational State of Bolivia in 2015 was estimated at 32,500 tons, the lowest value on record since 2005. The manual eradication of coca bush in the Plurinational State of Bolivia remained stable in 2015 for the fourth consecutive year, reaching 11,020 ha, while the number of cocaine hydrochloride laboratories destroyed by the authorities has increased notably since 2008, when seven laboratories were destroyed, reaching 74 in 2014 and 73 in 2015.

21. According to the *2015 National Coca 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 2014 (42,900 ha), and the lowest level recorded since 1999. The production of dried coca leaf in Peru was estimated at 96,300 tons in 2015, of which 9,000 were destined for traditional consumption. Eradication increased by more than 15 per cent compared with 2014, reaching a record 35,900 ha. Authorities reported<sup>15</sup> that the State's eradication efforts in recent years had caused drug-trafficking organizations to shift illicit cultivation to increasingly scattered and isolated areas.

<sup>15</sup> Country report submitted by Peru to the Twenty-sixth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Latin America and the Caribbean (2016).

Figure IV  
Coca bush cultivation in Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Colombia and Peru (1994-2015)

(Hectares)



22. 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 data from responses to the annual report questionnaire for 2015, several countries in Latin America, including Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Ecuador and Honduras, reported the detection of clandestine laboratories processing coca leaf derivatives. In 2015, Spain, Portugal, Greece and Hong Kong, China also reported the detection of such laboratories.

### III. Global trends in illicit drug trafficking and seizures

23. Table 1 shows the quantities of the major drug types seized globally and reported to UNODC in 2013, 2014 and 2015, and the estimated trend in 2015.

Table 1

**Drug seizures and trends in the Asia-Pacific and worldwide, 2014 and 2015**

Drug Type	Asia-Pacific			Global Seizures	
	2014 (Tons)	2015 (Tons)	Trend <sup>(a,b)</sup>	2014 (Tons)	2015 (Tons)
Cannabis herb	107.3	83.1	Decrease (-24%)	5 877	5 676
Cannabis resin	0.2	0.1	Decrease	1 440	1 506
Cocaine <sup>c</sup>	1.4	1.9	Increase (+38%)	655	850
Heroin	12.7	13.0	Stable (+2%)	81.7	80.1
Opium	5.2	3.9	Decrease (-25%)	526	587
Illicit morphine	0.3	0.2	Decrease	20.9	9.6
Amphetamine	1.1	1.7	Increase (>100%)	46.4	>51.8 <sup>d</sup>
Methamphetamine	52.3	70.1	Increase (+32%)	108.7	131.5
“Ecstasy”	5.4	1.6	Decrease (-71%)	9.4	6.2

<sup>a</sup> Since data for 2015 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 were available for both 2014 and 2015. Totals for 2015 are preliminary.

<sup>b</sup> The term “stable” refers to an annual variation of less than 10 per cent.

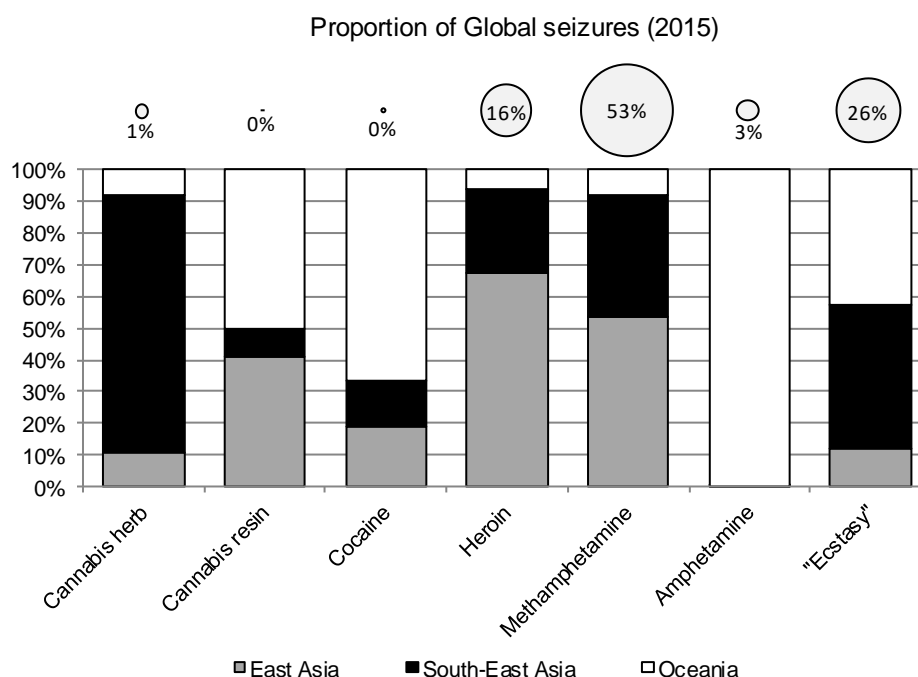
<sup>c</sup> Includes base, pastes, salts and “crack” cocaine.

<sup>d</sup> Data for amphetamine seizures in 2015 are incomplete. However, preliminary data suggest that reported seizures amounted to at least 51.8 tons.

Figure V

**Proportion of global seizures that occurred in the Asia-Pacific and geographical distribution within the region, by drug type, 2015**

(Percentage)



24. The Asia-Pacific accounted for significant proportions of global seizures of heroin, methamphetamine and “ecstasy”-type substances in 2015, as seen in Figure V. While East Asia, especially China, accounts for more than half of heroin and methamphetamine seizures in the region, Australia and several countries in South-East Asia also report significant amounts seized every year, as trafficking of these drugs affects the whole region. Seizures of “ecstasy”-type substances in the region are concentrated in Oceania, especially Australia, and South-East Asia. In 2015, the Asia-Pacific accounted for a moderately significant portion of global amphetamine seizures, mostly due to record seizures reported by Australia.

## A. Cannabis

25. In the Asia-Pacific, cannabis is consumed and trafficked almost exclusively in its herb form. As a result, cannabis resin seizures in the region are insignificant in comparison to cannabis herb seizures. Certain countries, especially in South-East Asia, consistently report significant cannabis herb seizures every year. Seizure data in South-Asia indicate that cannabis trafficking is more prevalent in this subregion, with higher reported cannabis herb and resin seizures than in the Asia-Pacific.

### Cannabis herb

26. Even though cannabis herb seizures occur in almost every corner of the globe, the Americas have represented more than 60 per cent of global seizures every year since the early 1990s. While North America has traditionally accounted for most of these seizures, there has been a shift towards Latin America and the Caribbean, especially since 2011 (see Figure VI). In 2015, global cannabis herb seizures



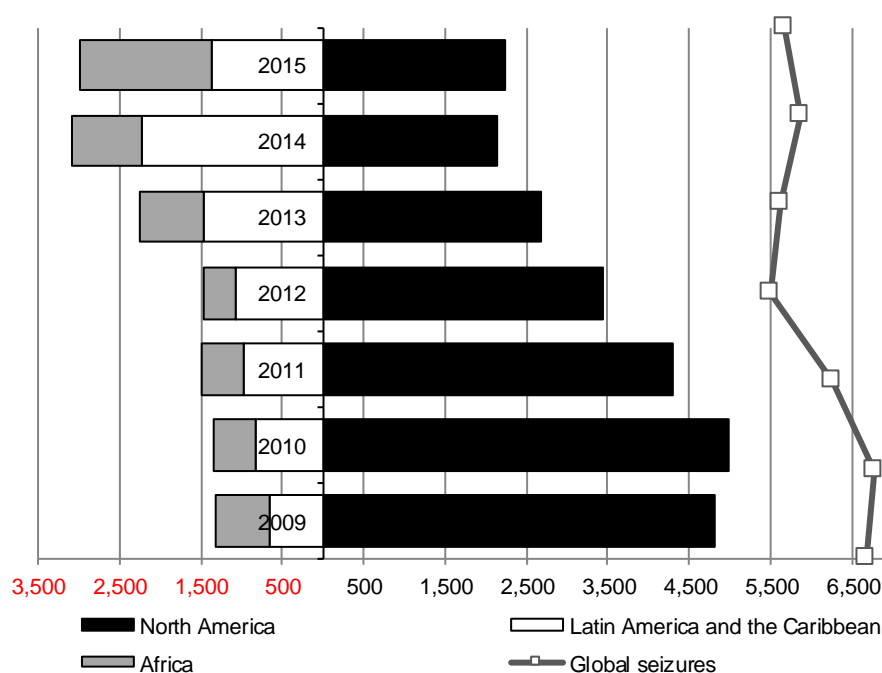
remained stable, with changes in the recent trends observed in North America, Latin America and the Caribbean and Western and Central Europe.

27. As seen in Figure VI, cannabis herb seizures in North America have been decreasing sharply since 2010. In 2015, preliminary data indicate that seizures in the region remained stable, mainly due to the first increase in Mexico in five years, which offset a 22 per cent decrease in the United States of America with respect to 2014. As a result, Mexico recorded the highest cannabis herb seizures reported by a single country in 2015 (1,242 tons), surpassing the United States (970 tons) for the first time since 2007. United States' authorities reported that the decreasing trend observed since 2010 may be related to changing law enforcement priorities in states with legalized cannabis herb.<sup>16</sup>

Figure VI

**Cannabis herb seizures by region and globally (2009-2015)<sup>a</sup>**

(Tons)



<sup>a</sup> Data for 2015 are preliminary.

28. Unlike North America, cannabis herb seizures in Latin America and the Caribbean increased sharply between 2009 and 2014, from 650 to over 2,000 tons. In 2015, preliminary data suggest that cannabis herb seizures in the region decreased to under 1,400 tons, owing mostly to a sharp decrease in the Caribbean, where record levels were observed in 2014. Cannabis herb seizures in South America also decreased from a record 1,427 tons in 2014 to close to 1,300 tons in 2015, according to preliminary data, owing mainly to a decline in Paraguay from 711 to 510 tons.

29. Between 2009 and 2014 cannabis herb seizures in Western and Central Europe have nearly doubled, from 65 to 125 tons, partly due to the fact that in recent years domestically produced herbal products have become more prevalent, displacing imported resin in many countries.<sup>17</sup> In 2015, however, cannabis herb seizures in the region decreased sharply to under 87 tons, owing mainly to sharp reductions in Belgium (764 kg seized, down from 10,744 in 2014), Greece (2.5 tons, down from 19.6) and Italy (9 tons, down from 33). The production and trafficking of cannabis

<sup>16</sup> United States of America, 2015 Annual Report Questionnaire response.

<sup>17</sup> EMCDDA, *EU Drug Markets Report: Strategic Overview* (2016).

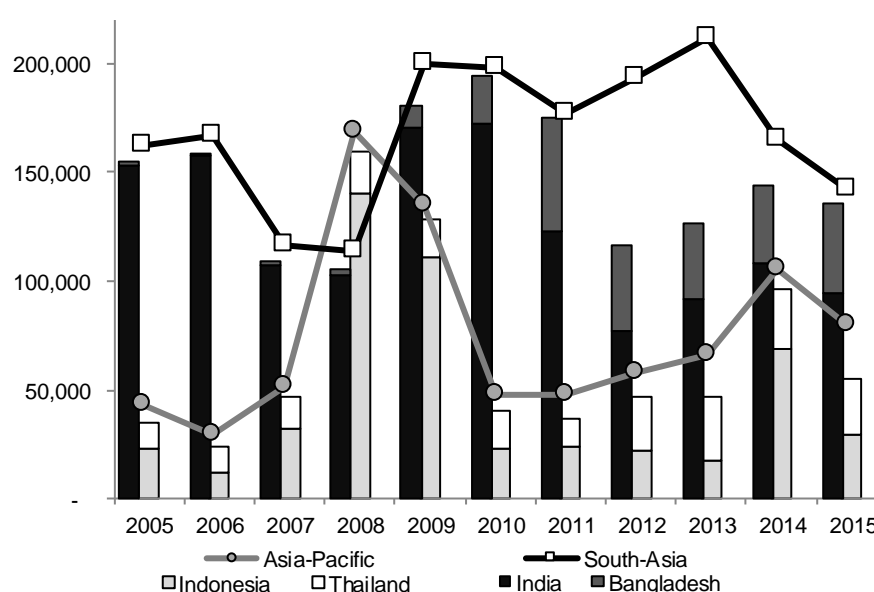
herb is an area of growing concern for law enforcement efforts in Europe because of the increasing involvement of organized crime in the region.<sup>18</sup>

30. In 2015, global cannabis herb seizures remained stable, mainly due to a sharp increase in seizures reported in Africa that offset the decline in the Americas and Europe (see Figure VI). While information on cannabis herb seizures in the region is limited,<sup>19</sup> certain countries with high levels of reported seizures such as Egypt, Morocco and Nigeria, have consistently responded to part IV of the annual report questionnaires, and all show increasing trends in recent years. In Nigeria, cannabis herb seizures have oscillated between 100 and 350 tons during the 2005-2014 period, and reached a record 871 tons in 2015, the highest level reported by a single country that year outside of North America.

Figure VII

**Total cannabis herb seizures in the Asia-Pacific and South-Asia, and in selected countries within the regions, 2005-2015**

(Kilograms)



31. In the Asia-Pacific, Indonesia and Thailand report significant annual cannabis herb seizures every year. In 2015, cannabis herb seizures in these two countries decreased, reaching 29 and 25 tons, down from 68 and 28 respectively in 2014. Despite this decrease in the Asia-Pacific in 2015, an increasing trend has been observed in the amounts of cannabis herb seized in the region since 2010, with other countries such as Australia, China and Viet Nam increasingly reporting significant seizures in recent years.

32. Cannabis herb seizure levels reported in South-Asia have been notably higher than in the Asia-Pacific since 2010, with countries like India and Bangladesh reporting 94 and 42 tons respectively in 2015. Despite seizures remaining stable in these two countries, total amounts of cannabis herb seized in South-Asia have decreased since 2013, mostly due to declines in other countries like Sri Lanka, where under 7 tons were reported in 2015, down from 82 in 2013 and 20 in 2014. As a result, the difference in reported cannabis herb seizure levels between South-Asia and the Asia-Pacific has decreased notably in recent years.

<sup>18</sup> European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction, *European Drug Report: Trends and Developments 2015* (Luxembourg, 2015).

<sup>19</sup> At the time of writing, 8 African countries had reported cannabis herb seizures in their responses to the annual report questionnaires for 2015.

## Cannabis resin

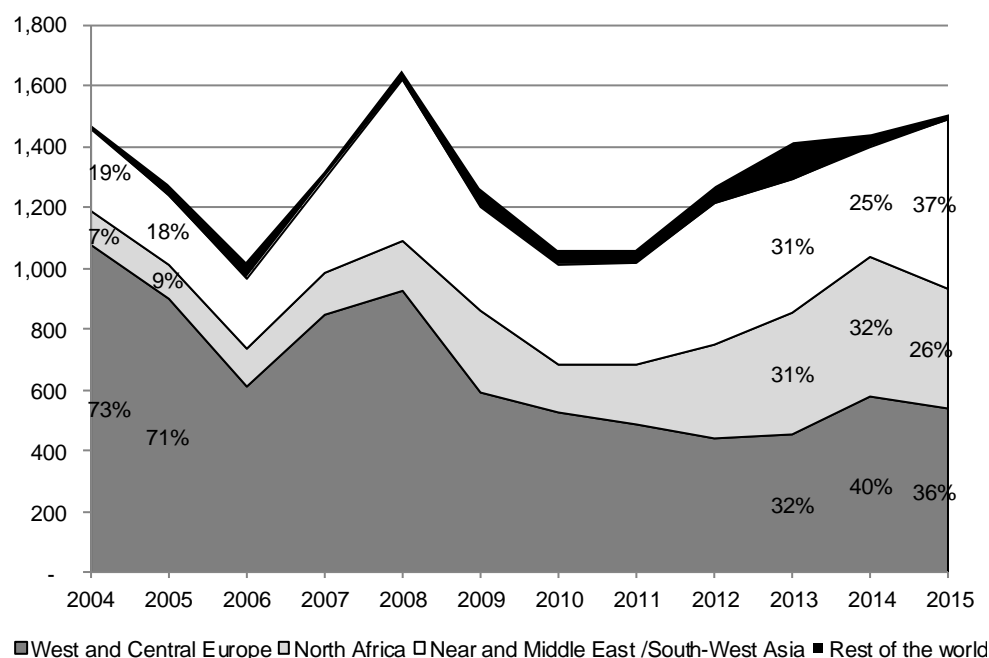
33. In contrast with the cultivation of cannabis herb, the production of cannabis resin is concentrated in a smaller number of countries, the most prominent of which are Afghanistan and Morocco. Consequently, seizure statistics for cannabis resin are also concentrated in and around those two source countries, in North Africa, South-West Asia, and in Western and Central Europe, the main consumer market. While ten 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 VIII).

34. As the main entry point for cannabis resin from Morocco into Western Europe, Spain continued to be the country with the highest amount of cannabis resin seized in the world, with seizures in 2015 surpassing 380 tons, virtually the same amount as in 2014. Over 50 per cent of total seizures in the country occurred in Cádiz, due to its strategical position in relation to Africa.<sup>20</sup> Other Western European countries reporting large amounts of cannabis resin seized during 2015 were Italy (67 tons) and France (60 tons), with the drug entering these countries either directly from Morocco or through Spain. In Turkey, cannabis resin seizures have decreased sharply in recent years, from an unprecedented 94 tons in 2013, to 7.8 tons in 2015, the lowest level since 2007.

Figure VIII

### Global cannabis resin seizures, by region (2004-2015)<sup>a</sup>

(Tons)



<sup>a</sup> Data for 2015 are preliminary.

35. In 2015, cannabis resin seizures in North Africa decreased for the first time since 2009, reaching 395 tons, 14 per cent less than the previous year, mainly due to sharp decreases in Algeria and Egypt compared to 2014. Despite the declines in 2015, cannabis resin seizures in these two countries have increased more than twentyfold since 2005. In Morocco, an unprecedented 235 tons of cannabis resin were seized in 2015.

36. Cannabis resin seizures in the Near and Middle East and South-West Asia, are concentrated in Afghanistan and its neighbouring countries, Iran (Islamic Republic of) and Pakistan. Seizures in all three countries have increased sharply in 2015. In

<sup>20</sup> Country report by Spain to the Twenty-sixth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Latin America and the Caribbean.

2015 cannabis resin seizures in the Islamic Republic of Iran reached a record 98 tons, a 26 per cent increase compared to 2014. After decreasing in 2014, cannabis resin seizures in Pakistan increased again in 2015 to 279 tons, the second-highest value since 2000. Cannabis resin seizures in Afghanistan reached unprecedented levels at 163 tons, the highest level since 2008.

37. Cannabis resin seizures in the Asia-Pacific are rare and have amounted to an average of under 110 kg annually between 2012 and 2015 for the whole region. In South-Asia, India has consistently reported between two and four tons of cannabis resin seized annually over the last ten years. In 2015, cannabis resin seizures in this country amounted to 3.3 tons, up from 2.3 in 2014.

## B. Opiates

### Opium and illicit morphine

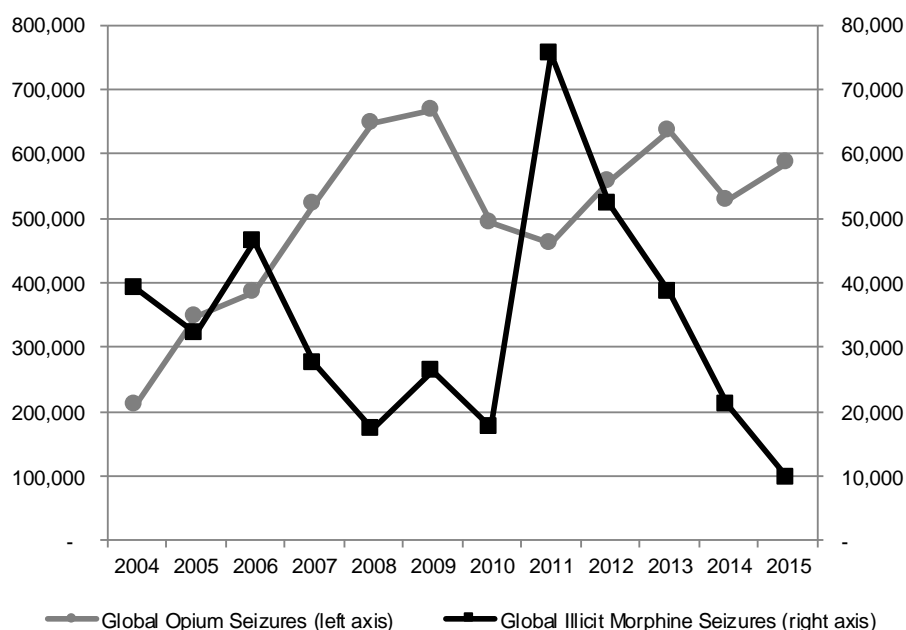
38. The Near and Middle East and South-West Asia account for virtually between 95 and 100 per cent of global opium and illicit morphine seizures. In particular, significant seizures in the region occur almost exclusively in Afghanistan and neighbouring countries, the Islamic Republic of Iran and Pakistan.

39. After decreasing in 2014, global opium seizures increased by 10 per cent in 2015, reaching 587 tons. Opium seizures in Afghanistan have been declining sharply in recent years, from a record 124 tons in 2012, to 30 tons in 2015, the lowest level since 2004. However, sharp increases in the Islamic Republic of Iran and Pakistan have offset this decrease. A record 59 tons were seized in Pakistan in 2015, while opium seizures in the Islamic Republic of Iran have reached the highest level since 2009, at 479 tons.

Figure IX

### Global opium and illicit morphine seizures (2004-2015)

(Kilograms)



40. Global illicit morphine seizures have been decreasing sharply since reaching a record 75 tons in 2011 (see Figure IX). In 2015, global illicit morphine seizures amounted to just over 9 tons, a 54 per cent decrease with respect to 2014 and the lowest level on record since the early 1990s.

41. Similarly to what has happened with opium in recent years, illicit morphine seizures in Afghanistan have decreased notably since peaking at 64,028 kg in 2011,

to only 18 kg in 2015. Seizures in Pakistan have also been declining sharply over the last 10 years, reaching 762 kg in 2015, the lowest level on record since 2000. In the Islamic Republic of Iran, illicit morphine seizures reached 8.3 tons in 2015, a 35 per cent decline with respect to 2014.

42. While illicit morphine seizures are rare in the Asia-Pacific and South-Asia, countries such as China, India and Myanmar regularly report annual opium seizures amounting to more than one ton each. In 2015, these three countries reported 2.5, 1.7 and 1 ton of opium seized respectively. China has also reported seizing 248 and 191 kg of illicit morphine in 2014 and 2015 respectively.

### Heroin

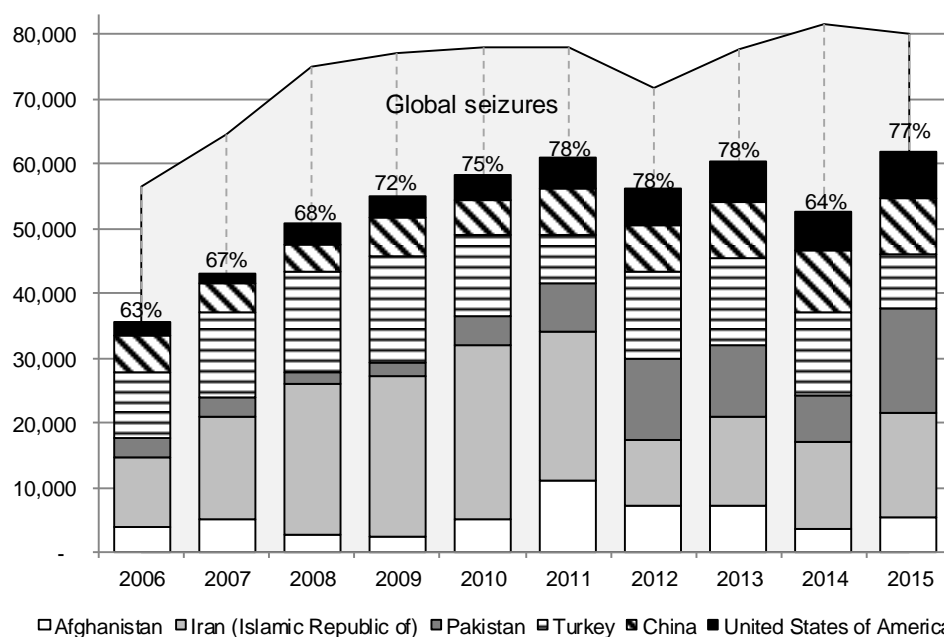
43. Compared with seizures of opium and illicit morphine, heroin seizures occur in a much wider range of countries, in particular around the larger markets in North America, Europe and Asia-Pacific. Each of these three markets is mostly supplied by a different producing region. While East and South-East Asia are supplied in the main 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 the Islamic Republic of Iran, Pakistan and, increasingly, countries in Africa.<sup>21</sup> The "northern route" continues to link heroin from Afghanistan to markets in the Russian Federation.<sup>22</sup> In North America, the United States is mostly supplied by heroin produced in Latin America.

44. At the global level, heroin seizures have remained relatively stable at high levels since 2008. Afghanistan, China, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Pakistan, Turkey and the United States are the six countries with the highest annual amounts of heroin seized in recent years, consistently accounting for between 60 and 80 per cent of global seizures since 2006 (see Figure X). Hence, global trends are heavily influenced by what occurs in these countries.

Figure X

#### Heroin seizures in selected countries and worldwide (2006-2015)<sup>a</sup>

(Kilograms)



<sup>a</sup> Data for 2015 are preliminary.

45. In the Asia-Pacific region, the majority of heroin seizures are concentrated in China, where the amount of heroin seized increased from 4.6 tons in 2007 to over

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

<sup>22</sup> UNODC, *The Illicit Drug Trade through South-Eastern Europe* (Vienna, March 2014).

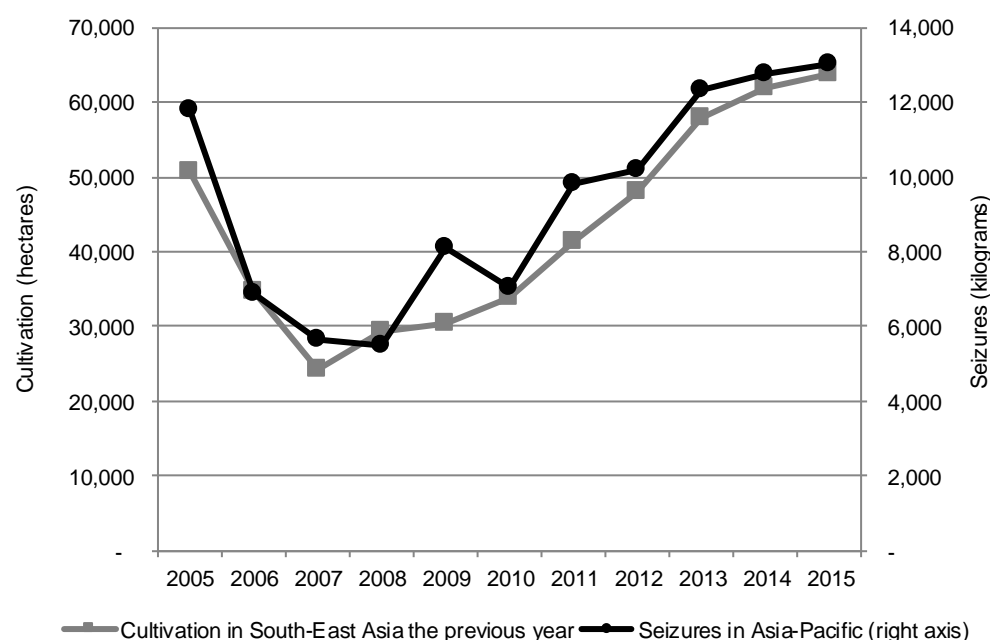
9.4 tons in 2014. In 2015, seizures in this country declined slightly to 8.8 tons. According to Chinese authorities, almost 94 per cent of heroin seized during the first nine months of 2015 originated in the Golden Triangle, while about 2 per cent was produced in the Golden Crescent.<sup>23</sup>

46. Despite remaining stable at around 13 tons in 2015, heroin seizures in the Asia-Pacific have followed an increasing trend over the last decade (see Figure XI). Heroin seizures in the Asia-Pacific have followed closely the same trend as opium cultivation in the region (see Figure XI<sup>24</sup>), which is in line with the fact that this consumer market is mostly supplied by heroin produced within the region. Seizures in Viet Nam and Myanmar have increased almost tenfold since 2007, reaching 1,510 and 725 kg respectively in 2015. In Thailand, heroin seizures have decreased from 750 kg in 2013, to 237 in 2015. Other Member States with significant seizures in the region in recent years were Australia (823 kg in 2015) and Malaysia (456 kg in 2014). Australian authorities reported that forensic profiling of heroin seized indicates that South-East Asia remains the predominant source.<sup>25</sup> In South-Asia, heroin seizures have increased in recent years, mainly due to record levels reported in India, where seizures have remained at about 1,400 kg every year since 2013.

Figure XI

**Heroin seizures in the Asia-Pacific and opium poppy cultivation in South-East Asia the previous year, 2005-2015**

(Kilograms)



47. The most used route for Afghan heroin into the European market continues to be the Balkan route, with high levels of heroin seized in the Golden Crescent and Turkey. In 2015, heroin seizures increased sharply in Afghanistan, Iran (Islamic Republic of) and Pakistan, reaching 5.3, 16.1 and 16.3 tons respectively. This represents increases of 41 per cent in Afghanistan with respect to 2014, 20 per cent in Iran (Islamic Republic of) and 138 per cent in Pakistan. In Turkey, heroin seizures decreased by 35 per cent in 2015, to 8.3 tons, the lowest level since 2011.

<sup>23</sup> Country report submitted by China to the Fortieth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Asia and the Pacific (2016).

<sup>24</sup> Heroin seizures are compared to cultivation during the previous year since "it often takes a year (or more) until opium, transformed into heroin, reaches the main consumer markets" (*World Drug Report 2016*, UNODC).

<sup>25</sup> Country report submitted by Australia to the Fortieth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Asia and the Pacific.

48. Despite a spike in 2014 due to a multi-ton seizures in Greece, heroin seizures in Western and Central Europe have been following a decreasing trend, from 11.6 tons in 2000 to 4.6 tons in 2015, the lowest level on record since the late 1980s. In 2013 and 2014, the amount of large individual seizures of over 100 kg has increased notably in the European Union, and a number of Member States have recorded their largest ever seizures in this period,<sup>26</sup> showing a change in the modus operandi of traffickers in recent years.

49. In the Americas, heroin seizures more than doubled between 2007 and 2010, and have remained stable afterwards. In 2015, heroin seizures in the region reached record levels, owing mostly to an unprecedented 7 tons seized by the United States of America. United States' authorities reported that the majority of the heroin trafficked in the country is produced in Mexico and Colombia.<sup>27</sup> Heroin seizures in both Mexico and Colombia increased in 2015 with respect to the previous year, reaching 546 and 393 kg respectively.

50. 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.<sup>28</sup> In Egypt, record heroin seizures were reported in recent years, with 613 and 516 kg in 2014 and 2015 respectively. Authorities from Mozambique reported that the country is being used as a transit point for heroin from Pakistan into the United Republic of Tanzania, which may be a result of measures taken by this country and Kenya, forcing traffickers to move south.<sup>29</sup>

51. While heroin continues to be trafficked to Central Asia and the Russian Federation via the Northern route, seizures along this route have decreased over the last five years compared to the first decade of the century. In 2015, preliminary data indicate that heroin seizures in Central Asia reached 1.5 tons, a decrease from 3 in 2014. In the Russian Federation, heroin seizures amounted to under 2 tons in 2015, the lowest level since 2002.

## C. Cocaine

52. The main consumer markets for cocaine in the world, North America and Western and Central Europe, continue to be supplied by cocaine originating in South America. Therefore, global cocaine seizures are concentrated in these regions, as well as in transit regions like Central America and the Caribbean. Available data for 2015 suggest that global cocaine seizures increased sharply in 2015, reaching the highest level on record, with significant increases in almost all regions (see Figure XII).

53. In South America, after decreasing slightly between 2012 and 2014 to 392 tons, preliminary data indicate that an unprecedented 525 tons of cocaine were seized in the region in 2015. A record 297 tons of cocaine were seized in Colombia, up from 191 in 2014, while 65 tons were seized in Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), also a historical high and more than double the average annual seizures of 26 tons reported during the previous six years. In Ecuador, cocaine seizures increased for the fifth year in a row, from 15 tons in 2010, to over 65 tons in 2015.

<sup>26</sup> EMCDDA, *EU Drug Markets Report: Strategic Overview*, 2016.

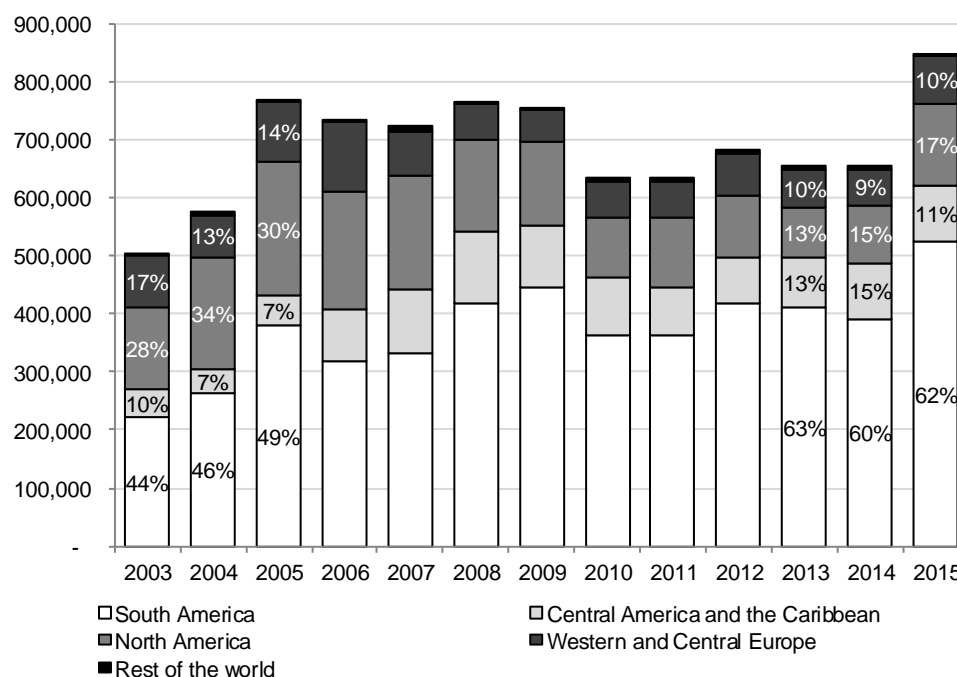
<sup>27</sup> United States of America, 2015 Annual Report Questionnaire response.

<sup>28</sup> *Afghan Opiate Trafficking through the Southern Route*.

<sup>29</sup> Country report submitted by Mozambique to the Twenty-sixth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Africa.

Figure XII  
Global seizures of cocaine (base, paste and salts) by region, 2003-2015<sup>a</sup>

(Kilograms)



<sup>a</sup> Data for 2015 are preliminary.

54. In 2015, five European countries<sup>30</sup> listed Central America and the Caribbean, in particular Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic and Panama, as transit and departure points for cocaine. These three countries also recorded the highest cocaine seizures in the region in 2015. While preliminary data indicate that cocaine seizures increased in Panama (53 tons) and the Dominican Republic (9.4 tons), seizures decreased by 36 per cent in Costa Rica after the peak of 2014, reaching 17 tons in 2015.

55. Global cocaine seizures seem to have been shifting geographically from the main markets to the origin and transit regions. While seizures in the production and transit regions of South America and Central America and the Caribbean have increased significantly over the last 10 years, cocaine seizures in the main markets of Western and Central Europe and North America have followed a marked decreasing trend over the same period.

56. In North America, after decreasing to 87 tons in 2013, the lowest level reported since the late 1980s, cocaine seizures increased to 100 tons in 2014. Preliminary data suggest that cocaine seizures may have increased once again to 141 tons in 2015, with sharp increments in both Mexico and the United States.

57. Cocaine seizures in Western and Central Europe peaked at 121 tons in 2006, then declined to an average of 62 tons between 2008 and 2014. In 2015, cocaine seizures in the region reached 82 tons, the highest value since 2006. This rise was mostly driven by sharp increases in Belgium, the Netherlands, France and Portugal, where cocaine seizures reached 17, 12, 11 and 6 tons, up from 9, 9, 7 and 3.7 tons in 2014 respectively. The country with the highest cocaine seizures in the region continues to be Spain, where seizures remained stable at 22 tons. In recent years, the increase of cocaine smuggling in maritime containers appears to be a major threat, given the large and increasing volume of maritime trade going into the region, with major European ports such as Rotterdam and Antwerp being targeted by traffickers.<sup>31</sup>

<sup>30</sup> Italy, Portugal, Spain, Sweden and Switzerland.

<sup>31</sup> EMCDDA, *EU Drug Markets Report: Strategic Overview*, 2016.



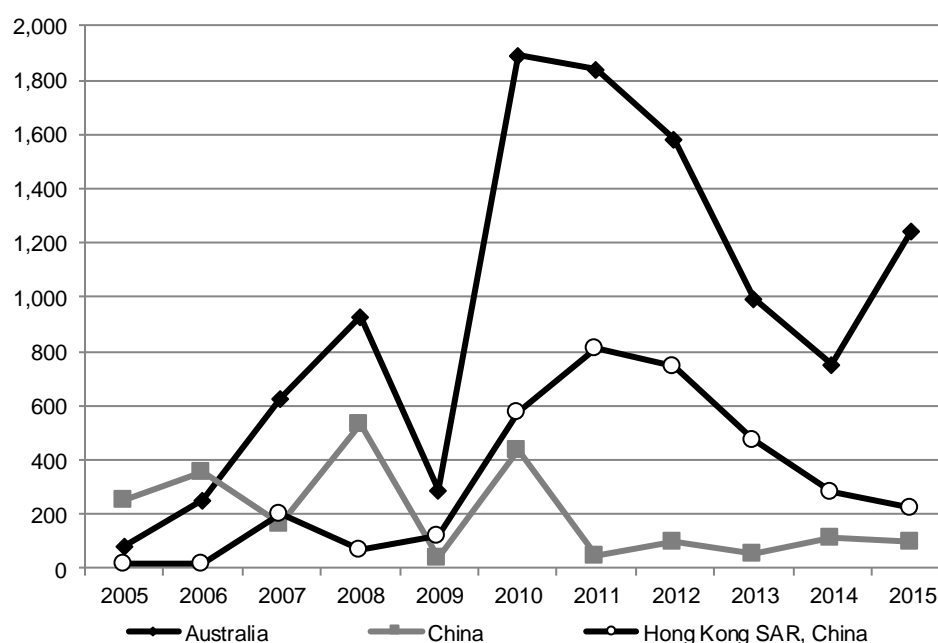
58. A secondary route for cocaine trafficked across the Atlantic to Europe involved the use of countries in Africa, notably West Africa, as transit points. Countries in West Africa have reported large seizures in recent years, with Nigeria recording over 100 kg every year since 2003, and Ghana seizing a total 1.3 tons during the 2013-2014 period. A more recent concern involves the use of routes established for other drugs to traffic cocaine, such as cannabis routes in North Africa or heroin routes in East Africa.<sup>32</sup> In this regard, Algeria, Egypt, Morocco and the United Republic of Tanzania have reported significant amounts of cocaine seized in recent years.

59. While the availability of cocaine remains limited in the Asia-Pacific compared with other types of illicit drugs, seizure data show that traffickers continue to target specific parts of the region. Over the last 10 years, Australia, China and Hong Kong, China, have accounted for between 85 and 95 percent of total cocaine seizures in the Asia-Pacific annually. As seen on Figure XIII, cocaine seizures in Australia have increased recently and remained mainly between one and two tons annually since 2010, while seizures in Hong Kong, China, have decreased after peaking in 2011. Cocaine seizures in China have remained at lower levels since 2011, compared to previous years. In 2015, cocaine seizures in Australia, China and Hong Kong, China, amounted to 1,246, 98 and 227 kg respectively. Viet Nam also reported a record 178 kg of cocaine seized in 2015.

Figure XIII

**Cocaine seizures in selected countries within the Asia-Pacific, 2005-2015**

(Kilograms)



## D. Amphetamine-type stimulants

60. Amphetamine-type stimulants can be broadly classified as amphetamines (which include amphetamine and methamphetamine) and “ecstasy”-type substances.<sup>33</sup> 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.

61. As seen in Figure XIV, amphetamine seizures in the Asia-Pacific are limited, accounting for 1 to 3 percent of global seizures, and since 2011 have occurred mostly in Oceania and South-East Asia. The proportion of global seizures of “ecstasy”-type

<sup>32</sup> EMCDDA, *EU Drug Markets Report: Strategic Overview*, 2016.

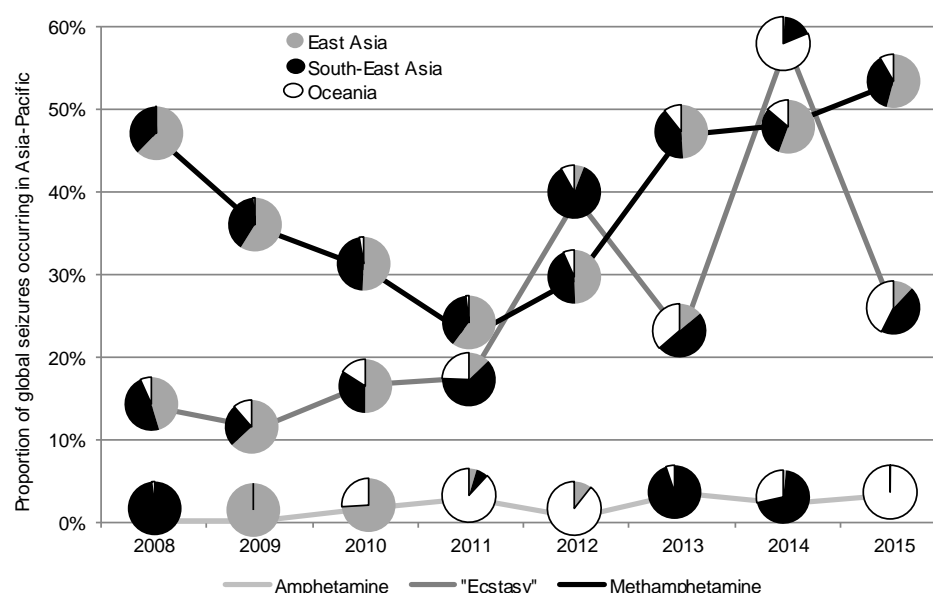
<sup>33</sup> Including 3,4-methylenedioxymethamphetamine (MDMA).

substances that takes place in the Asia-Pacific has followed an increasing trend recently, remaining above 20 percent since 2012 and reaching 58 percent in 2014. In recent years, Oceania, and Australia in particular, has accounted for a higher portion of the 3,4-methylenedioxymethamphetamine (MDMA) seized in the region, while the proportion occurring in East Asia has decreased when compared to 2010 and previous years. The Asia-Pacific region has traditionally been a main actor in the global methamphetamine market. Since 2011, the proportion of methamphetamine global seizures occurring in the Asia-Pacific increased from 22 to over 50 percent in 2015, with seizures concentrated mostly in East and South-East Asia.

Figure XIV

**Amphetamine-type stimulants seizures in the Asia-Pacific as a proportion of global seizures and geographical distribution within the region, by drug type, 2008-2015**

(Percentage)



### Methamphetamine

62. The regions of Asia-Pacific and North America account for the majority of global methamphetamine seizures, and the illicit manufacture of methamphetamine has traditionally been concentrated close to these consumer markets. However, it has recently also spread to other countries and regions, with recent reports of new trafficking flows connecting previously independent subregions.<sup>34</sup> In 2015, global methamphetamine seizures reached record levels.

63. In North America, methamphetamine seizures increased slightly, mostly owing to an increment reported by Mexico. In the United States, methamphetamine seizures reached 31 tons in both 2014 and 2015, the two highest levels since 2002. National authorities reported a significant increase in liquid methamphetamine seizures, especially along the South-West border, where the drug is smuggled from Mexico and conversion laboratories are in place.<sup>35</sup> Methamphetamine seizures in Mexico increased for the second consecutive year, from 17.9 tons in 2013 to the equivalent of 23.5 tons in 2015, including almost 9,000 litres of liquid methamphetamine. The Mexican authorities reported that methamphetamine was produced in clandestine laboratories using chemical precursors trafficked mostly from China and the United States.<sup>36</sup>

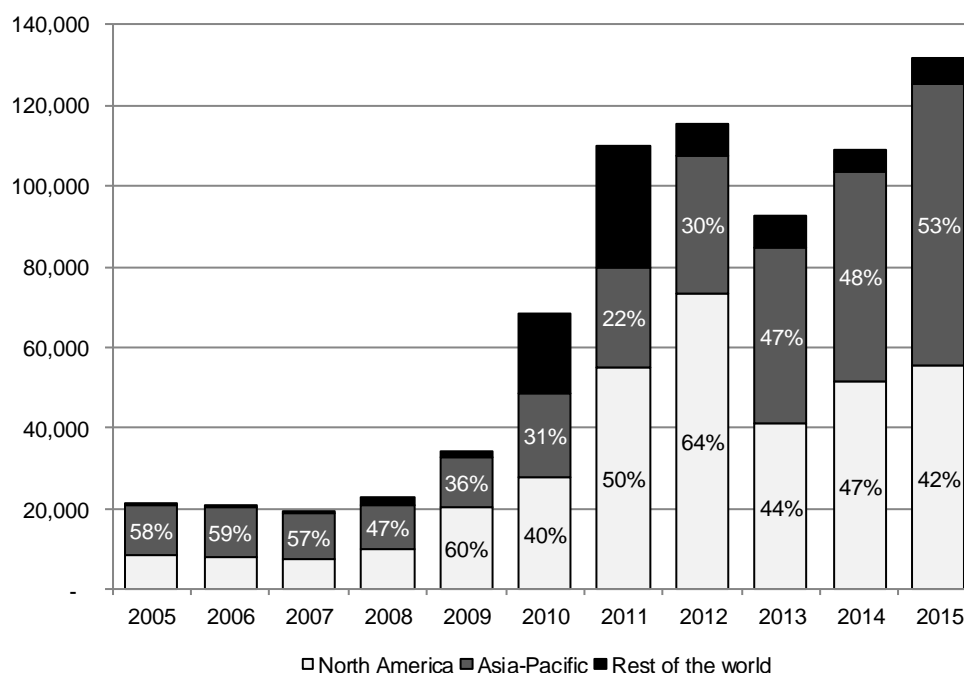
<sup>34</sup> UNODC, *Global SMART Update, vol. 12* (September 2014).

<sup>35</sup> Response submitted by United States of America to the 2015 annual report questionnaire.

<sup>36</sup> Response submitted by Mexico to the 2015 annual report questionnaire.

Figure XV  
Global seizures of methamphetamine, by region, 2005-2015

(Kilograms)



64. In Asia-Pacific, methamphetamine seizures have been incrementing steadily since 2008, with the total amount seized in the region increasing sevenfold over the 2008-2015 period. 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 Republic of Korea and Singapore) and crystal methamphetamine being spread throughout the region.<sup>37</sup>

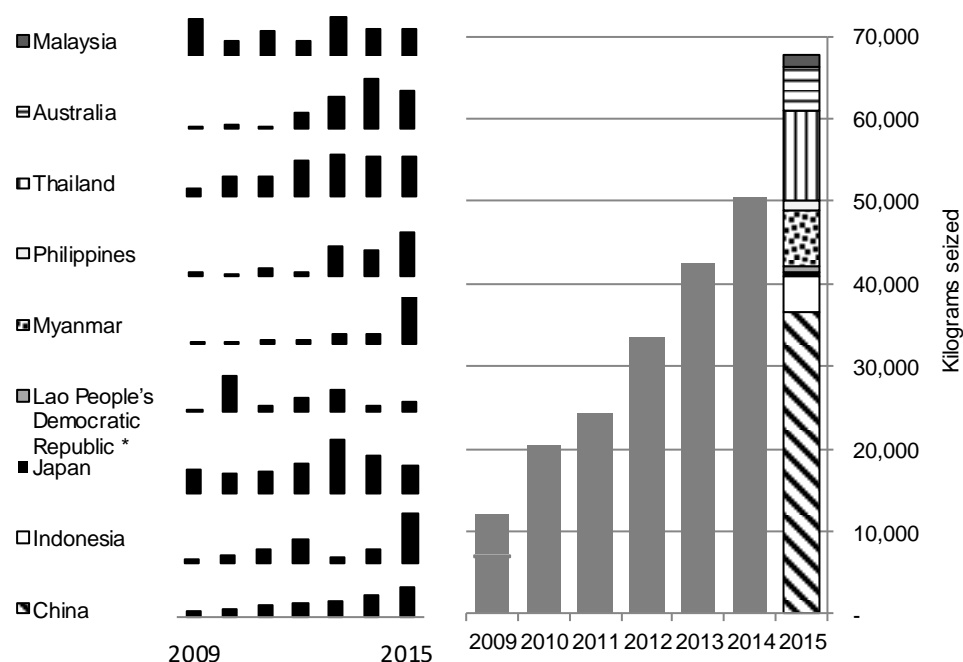
65. Methamphetamine seizures in China have increased every year since 2008, from 6 to over 36 tons in 2015, the highest value reported by a single country that year. Chinese authorities reported that about 88 per cent of seized methamphetamine tablets are produced in the Golden Triangle, while most of the crystal methamphetamine trafficked in the country is of domestic production.<sup>38</sup> The sharp increase in the Asia-Pacific is not only a consequence of a rise recorded in China, but in many countries within the region. Australia, Indonesia, Myanmar, the Philippines and Thailand have all shown strong increasing trends since 2009, as seen on Figure XVI. Myanmar and Indonesia reported record methamphetamine seizures in 2015 with 4.4 and 6.7 tons respectively, while in Thailand, annual seizures have remained between 10 and 12 tons since 2012.

<sup>37</sup> 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).

<sup>38</sup> Country report submitted by China to the Fortieth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Asia and the Pacific (2016).

Figure XVI  
**Methamphetamine seizures in selected countries within the Asia-Pacific, 2009-2015**

(Kilograms)



66. Thai authorities reported that 90 percent of crystalline methamphetamine in the country is smuggled via Myanmar for domestic consumption and further trafficking to Malaysia; the Philippines; Hong Kong, China; and Japan, with West African syndicates directing most of the trafficking.<sup>39</sup> The Japanese authorities reported that while China was the main source of the methamphetamine, in recent years there has been a diversification of sources, with methamphetamine also entering the country from Thailand; Hong Kong, China; and Mexico in 2015.<sup>40</sup> Mexico was also mentioned as the source of 28 per cent of seized methamphetamine in New Zealand in 2015, where a record 371 kg were seized.<sup>41</sup> Authorities from the Republic of Korea noted a diversification of sources of this drug in the country since 2009, seizing methamphetamine originating from African countries and Mexico in recent years.<sup>42</sup>

### Amphetamine

67. Since 2004, global amphetamine seizures have been concentrated mostly in the Near and Middle-East and South-West Asia (see Figure XVII). In particular, there has been a marked increase in Saudi Arabia, from less than 100 kg of amphetamine seized annually previous to 2003 to a record 17 tons in 2014. In 2015, amphetamine seizures in Saudi Arabia amounted to 10.7 tons. The increase in the region is not only a consequence of the rise in this country, but other Member States have experienced an increasing trend in recent years. Record amphetamine seizures were reported in Jordan and Lebanon in 2014, with 5.4 and 6 tons respectively, while Pakistan and the Syrian Arab Republic recorded historical highs of 2.9 and 4.2 tons respectively in 2015.

<sup>39</sup> Country report submitted by Thailand to the Fortieth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Asia and the Pacific (2016).

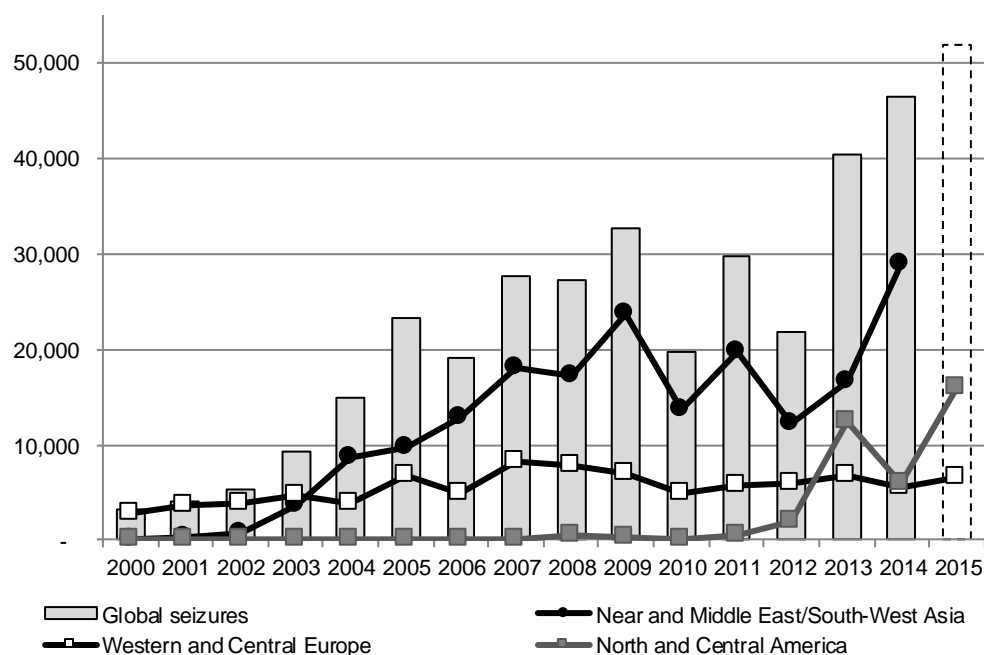
<sup>40</sup> Country report submitted by Japan to the Fortieth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Asia and the Pacific (2016).

<sup>41</sup> Response submitted by New Zealand to the 2015 annual report questionnaire.

<sup>42</sup> Country report submitted by Republic of Korea to the Fortieth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Asia and the Pacific (2016).

Figure XVII  
Global seizures of amphetamine, by region, 2000-2015

(Kilograms)



68. In Western and Central Europe, amphetamine seizures have remained relatively stable since 2005, with countries such as the Netherlands, Germany and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland consistently reporting significant annual seizures. While amphetamine seizures in Germany have remained between 1.2 and 1.4 tons since 2008, the United Kingdom has reported 612 and 624 kg seized in 2014 and 2015 respectively, down from levels that oscillated between 1 and 3.5 tons during the 2000-2013 period. The Netherlands reported 1.5 tons of amphetamine seized in 2015.

69. In recent years, there has been an increased presence of amphetamine in the Americas, in particular in North and Central America (see Figure XVII). The United States was the country with the highest reported amphetamine seizures globally in 2013, with over 12 tons. While seizures have decreased in recent years to 4.3 and 2.7 tons in 2014 and 2015 respectively, they remain significantly above the levels reported in previous years. In Guatemala, seizures reached over 1.5 tons in 2014 and 12.7 tons in 2015, the highest level reported by a single country that year, mostly due to an unprecedented multi-ton seizure that year. Mexico also reported seizing a record 300 kg of amphetamine in 2015.

70. While large annual reported amphetamine seizures are rare in the Asia-Pacific, significant levels have been reported in recent years. Australia reported 729, 309 and 1,675 kg of amphetamine seized in 2011, 2014 and 2015 respectively, while Viet Nam seized 1,361 and 758 kg in 2013 and 2014 respectively. Total amphetamine seizures in the region increased from 1.1 tons in 2014 to 1.7 in 2015, mostly due to record levels reported in Australia.

#### “Ecstasy”-type substances

71. After increasing to 9.4 tons in 2014, global seizures of “ecstasy”-type substances decreased to 6.2 tons, a higher level than that observed during the 2009-2013 period, when seizures averaged 4.5 tons. As seen in Figure XVIII, seizures of 3,4-methylenedioxymethamphetamine (MDMA) have followed a decreasing trend over the last 15 years, mostly due to declines in the North American and Western and Central European markets. In recent years, global trends seem to be more affected by regional tendencies in the Asia-Pacific, suggesting that this region “might be

becoming an emerging driver of the global market for ‘ecstasy’”.<sup>43</sup> Other regions, in particular Turkey in South-Eastern Europe, have also seen sharp increases in “ecstasy” seizures in recent years.

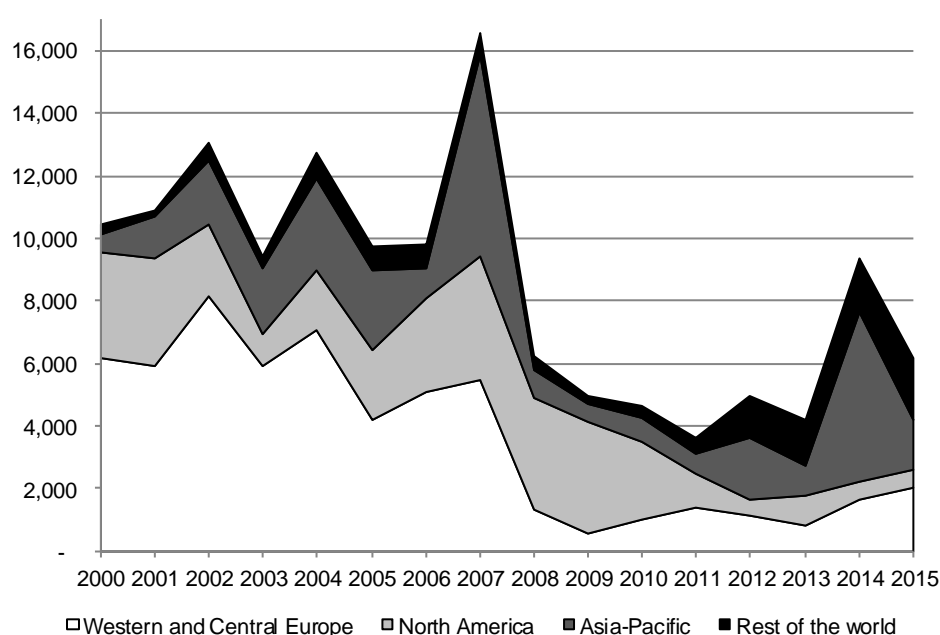
72. In 2015, Turkey reported the highest seizures of “ecstasy”-type substances by a single country, with a record 1,538 kg. This country has reported close to one ton seized annually between 2012 and 2015, up from an average 285 kg during the previous nine years. After reaching 4,375 kg in 2014, “ecstasy” seizures in Australia decreased to 671 kg in 2015.

73. As seen on Figure XIX, seizures of “ecstasy”-type substances have varied greatly over the last 10 years, from under one ton between 2008 and 2011, to over five tons in 2007 and 2014. While all three main subregions, East Asia, South-East Asia and Oceania, have contributed significantly to total seizures in the region, the highest recorded MDMA seizures in the region coincided with multi-ton seizures reported by Australia in 2007 and 2014.

Figure XVIII

**Global seizures of “ecstasy”-type substances, by region, 2000-2015**

(Kilograms)

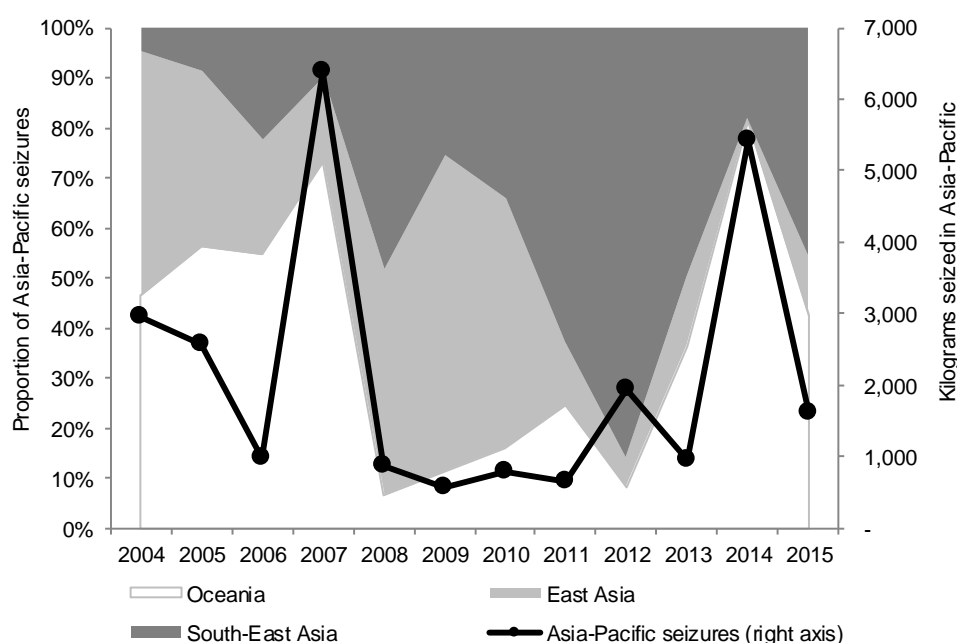


74. While seizures of “ecstasy”-type substances in East-Asia have remained at lower levels than previous years since 2011, mainly due a decrease in China, seizures in South-East Asia have increased in recent years, driven mostly by increments in Indonesia. In China and Indonesia, MDMA seizures reached 190 and 599 kg respectively in 2015, up from 49 and 147 kg in 2014. In Australia, seizures of “ecstasy”-type substances amounted to 671 kg, a sharp decrease from the 4,375 kg reported in 2014, but higher than the 133 kg reported on average by this country annually between 2008 and 2013.

<sup>43</sup> 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).

Figure XIX  
Seizures of “ecstasy”-type substances in the Asia-Pacific and geographical distribution, 2004-2015

(Percentage/Kilograms)



## IV. Conclusions

75. 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, cannabis herb seizures have remained stable since 2012, while preliminary data suggest that cannabis resin seizures increased slightly for the second consecutive year in 2015. While cannabis herb trafficking continues to affect certain parts of the Asia-Pacific, amounts seized in the region account for relatively small portions of total global cannabis herb seizures.

76. After decreasing in 2015 for the first time in six years, preliminary data suggest that the global area under opium poppy cultivation increased again in 2016. Global seizures of opium and illicit morphine remain concentrated in Afghanistan and neighbouring countries, while heroin seizures cover a wider geographic area. Global heroin seizures have remained relatively stable since 2008, at levels significantly higher than those recorded in previous years. Over the last decade, heroin seizures in the Asia-Pacific have followed the same trend as opium cultivation in the region, more than doubling between 2008 and 2015.

77. After reaching historically low levels in 2013, the total area under coca bush cultivation increased for the second consecutive year in 2015, as a result of sharp increases in Colombia. Global cocaine seizures increased sharply in 2015 reaching unprecedented levels, with increments in the Americas and Western and Central Europe. Cocaine seizures in the Asia-Pacific continue to be limited to certain parts of the region, such as Australia and Hong Kong, China.

78. Amphetamine-type stimulants seizures have been following a sharp increasing trend since 2008, and 2015 marked a new global record. While global amphetamine and methamphetamine seizures have followed sharp increasing trends over the last fifteen years, seizures of “ecstasy”-type substances have decreased over the same period. While methamphetamine seizures in the Asia-Pacific have increased 7-fold since 2008, reaching record levels in 2015, seizures of “ecstasy”-type substances in the region decreased in 2015 after peaking in 2014.