



INTERNATIONAL NARCOTICS CONTROL BOARD

2008

Report of the  
**International Narcotics  
Control Board**  
on Follow-up to the  
Twentieth Special Session  
of the General Assembly



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## **Reports published by the International Narcotics Control Board in 2008**

The *Report of the International Narcotics Control Board for 2008* (E/INCB/2008/1) is supplemented by the following reports:

*Report of the International Narcotics Control Board on Follow-up to the Twentieth Special Session of the General Assembly* (E/INCB/2008/1/Supp.1)

*Narcotic Drugs: Estimated World Requirements for 2009; Statistics for 2007* (E/INCB/2008/2)

*Psychotropic Substances: Statistics for 2007; Assessments of Annual Medical and Scientific Requirements for Substances in Schedules II, III and IV of the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971* (E/INCB/2008/3)

*Precursors and Chemicals Frequently Used in the Illicit Manufacture of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances: Report of the International Narcotics Control Board for 2008 on the Implementation of Article 12 of the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988* (E/INCB/2008/4)

The updated lists of substances under international control, comprising narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and substances frequently used in the illicit manufacture of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, are contained in the latest editions of the annexes to the statistical forms (“Yellow List”, “Green List” and “Red List”), which are also issued by the Board.

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The text of the present report is also available on the website of the Board ([www.incba.org](http://www.incba.org)).



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International Narcotics Control Board  
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use the provisions of the 1988 Convention to facilitate extradition for serious drug-related offences.

75. Pursuant to article 7 of the 1988 Convention, States parties are required to afford each other the widest measure of mutual legal assistance in investigations, prosecutions and judicial proceedings, in order to counter drug trafficking. Article 18 of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime<sup>15</sup> contains similar provisions.

## **F. Providing legitimate alternative livelihoods**

76. Alternative development, in the context of drug control, is a strategy aimed at reducing or eliminating the illicit supply of drugs derived from illicitly cultivated plants. It has been applied in rural areas of developing countries where such plants, mainly opium poppy and coca bush, are grown. The most successful approach to getting growers of illicit drug crops to discontinue that activity involves a combination of disincentives and incentives. Thus, law enforcement and the threat of penalties and eradication, combined with the prospect of a legitimate alternative livelihood and broad sustainable economic assistance, including in the areas of education, health care and the development of infrastructure, may be the solution. In the Action Plan on International Cooperation on the Eradication of Illicit Drug Crops and on Alternative Development, the General Assembly reaffirmed the need for a comprehensive approach to eliminating narcotic drugs, stressing the special importance of cooperation in alternative development.

77. In its report for 2002, the Board underlined that, far from being a stable and sustainable source of income, illicit drug production, by nature a criminal activity, could be a destabilizing factor and an impediment to development.<sup>16</sup> Subsequently, the Board dedicated the first chapter of its report for 2005 to alternative development; in that chapter, the Board noted that a truly comprehensive concept of alternative development would include not only the cultivation of alternative crops, but also the development of infrastructure, the provision of a viable means of transporting legal products to markets and the provision of assistance in the areas of education and health care.<sup>17</sup>

78. Despite efforts by the international community, the illicit cultivation of opium poppy and coca bush continues, and there has been only limited success in developing alternative livelihoods. The Board has pointed out that alternative development programmes are possible only where adequate security and stability can be ensured. Unless Governments are able to establish their authority and provide a safe environment, alternative development efforts cannot be effective. The Board has urged the international community to provide assistance to Governments in their efforts to maintain security in areas where alternative development is to be introduced. The Board has recommended that Governments, as well as relevant international organizations, integrate alternative development into their broader development programmes.

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<sup>15</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2225, No. 39574.

<sup>16</sup> *Report of the International Narcotics Control Board for 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.XI.1), chap. I.

<sup>17</sup> *Report of the International Narcotics Control Board for 2005 ...*, para. 9.

79. In its report for 2005, the Board recommended that the current “project-by-project” approach to alternative development should be changed, with commitment being made towards long-term strategies for the provision of legitimate alternative livelihoods. The predominance of “project-by-project” implementation has not provided adequate opportunities for alternative development to have an impact on drug control on a larger scale. The vast majority of illicit crop growers have unfortunately not received direct alternative development assistance.<sup>18</sup> In addition, Governments often neglect to provide for adequate infrastructure for the transport of alternative crops, which means that the crops have no easy access to markets. Lack of general education or literacy programmes may result in legitimate livelihoods being unsustainable in the long run. The provision of health care is often inadequate, in particular taking into consideration the fact that illicit drug crop cultivation is often followed by increasing drug abuse in the farming communities.

## **G. Cooperation with other international organizations**

80. Governments cooperate with each other through the activities of organizations involved in drug control. In addition to UNODC, WHO, INTERPOL and the World Customs Organization are involved in various areas of drug control. In addition, many regional organizations have established specialized structures to assist States in dealing with issues related to drug control and have played an important role in strengthening regional cooperation in combating illicit drug abuse and trafficking.

81. Joint projects of such regional and international organizations exist. However, the Board has observed that the joint efforts that take place at the regional and international levels tend to be in the areas of supply reduction and law enforcement. Although groundbreaking work has been done by individual organizations in the area of demand reduction, such efforts are too often carried out in isolation from one another. Arguably, demand reduction efforts are by nature more specific to the given country and context. Nevertheless, much knowledge and expertise could be shared in the area of demand reduction and the Board urges further development of cooperation in that area.

## **V. Challenges**

82. The Board underlines that the goals for 2008 set by the General Assembly at its twentieth special session continue to be as relevant and as important as they were in 1998 and that new challenges to international drug control have surfaced. Some of the many challenges Governments are facing in that area are highlighted below.

83. Demand for illicit drugs continues to be high throughout the world. Measures in demand reduction must be further strengthened at the national and international levels. In particular, many Governments have not yet given priority to this issue, owing to a lack of capacity and resources, especially in the area of treating drug addiction.

84. Significant challenges remain in ensuring adequate control of ATS at the national and international levels. The diversion of pharmaceutical preparations

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<sup>18</sup> Ibid., paras. 30 and 49 (b).

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