Operational Recommendations on cross-cutting issues in addressing and countering the world drug problem: INCB follow-up activities on Chapter 5: NPS, precursors and pre-precursors

CND Intersessional Meeting
17 October 2017

Precursors Control Section
Secretariat of the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB)
Chapter 5: Operational recommendations

Addressing NPS, ATS, …, the diversion of precursors and pre-precursors …

b) Promoting cross-border cooperation and information-sharing …
c) Establishing and strengthening partnerships and information exchange with industries, … and other relevant private sector entities… …

New Psychoactive Substances

g) Enhancing bilateral, sub-regional, regional and international cooperation in the identification and reporting of … incidents involving [NPS]…

Precursors and pre-precursors

l) Strengthening national, regional and international monitoring of chemicals used in the illicit manufacture of drugs and NPS …
m) … enhancing voluntary efforts, including … in cooperation with relevant industries …
Current situation & challenges

• Diversion now most commonly from domestic distribution channels & subsequent smuggling across borders; diversion from international trade rare.

• Emergence of non-scheduled “designer” precursors made specifically to circumvent controls.

• Major increases in sophistication, diversification and scale of illicit manufacturing operations and the sourcing of chemicals.
Unprecedented sophistication & scale

- Technical know-how and equipment previously considered too complex / sophisticated and costly to employ in illicit settings now commonly seen
INCB follow-up activities on UNGASS’ Chapter 5:

CND Intersessional, January 2017: required action by Governments

ADDRESSING NON-SCHEDULED SUBSTANCES

- Share, and follow up on, actionable information (Project Prism/ Cohesion/ ION):
  - Invest in the timely and systematic collection and sharing of information → build up cases
  - Inform the authorities of transit and destination countries of known outbound shipments, so that those authorities may take action on incoming shipments.
  - Notify substances which have no currently recognized legitimate use beyond limited R&D.

- Explore the full potential of voluntary cooperation between national authorities and all relevant industries and trades of all sizes and at all levels:
  - Establish arrangements whereby domestic operators will systematically report cases of suspicion; and whereby denied requests/orders will be followed up & shared.
  - Explore twinning activities between countries with established voluntary industry cooperation mechanisms and those wanting to develop them.

- Give higher priority to law enforcement cooperation / joint investigations, as an effective form of prevention of serious illicit activity.

- Stop relying solely on scheduling individual substances → Explore innovative approaches, e.g.: reversal of burden of proof (NPS, precursors), “immediate precursors”
**INCB follow-up activities on UNGASS’ Chapter 5:**

- Platforms for real-time information exchange at the intersection of licit trade & trafficking of *chemicals*:
  - PEN Online (licit, intl trade) and PICS / IONICS (illicit, trafficking)
  - Global projects & initiatives (Project Prism / Cohesion / ION)
  - Facilitation of operational case cooperation

- **PEN Online**: 156 Governments, approx. 2,700 PENs/month
- **PICS**: 104 Governments (nearly 480 users / 240 agencies), almost 2,000 incidents involving > 60 countries & territories
- **IONICS**: 75 Governments (> 210 users), > 1,000 incidents
- **Global focal point network**: Prism (134 participants), Cohesion (92), Ion (125)
INCB follow-up activities on UNGASS’ Chapter 5:

- Promoting voluntary cooperation with industry & domestic controls

- Practical notes for implementing the International Narcotics Control Board guidelines for a voluntary code of practice for the chemical industry (2015)
- Quick guide & model memorandum of understanding (2015)
- Limited international special surveillance list of non-scheduled substances (1998, regularly updated)

- Workshops, expert meetings
  - “Enhancing chemical industry-government cooperation through partnership” (April 2014, Manama, Bahrain)
  - “Successes and challenges of public–private partnerships in preventing the diversion of chemicals” (May 2016, Vienna, Austria)
  - International Conferences “Precursor chemicals and NPS” in Bangkok, Thailand (December 2013, April 2015, January 2017)

- Study visits (“twinning” activities)
**INCB follow-up activities on UNGASS’ Chapter 5:**

- Training for regulatory authorities (INCB Learning Project) - regional
  - East Africa (Apr-16)
  - Asia (Jul-16)
  - Europe (Jul-17)
  - Oceania (Nov-17)
  - Central America (Dec-17)
- Joint trainings with UNODC on operational aspects of precursors
- Identifying and supporting innovative approaches: Awareness-raising / advocacy / recommended actions
Thematic chapters
2011: 20 Years of international precursor control: achievements and progress
2012: Challenges in international precursor control
2013: Action to enhance international precursor control
2014: Making precursor control fit for 2019 and beyond (a contribution to UNGASS 2016)
2015: Public-private partnerships: their merits and potential in preventing the diversion of chemicals
2016: Prevention of chemical diversion beyond regulatory controls: the role of law enforcement
THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION

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