



CONTROLLING PRECURSOR CHEMICALS IN SOUTH ASIA

Regional Office for South Asia

Precursor chemical control is one of the five key areas identified by the United Nations General Assembly Special Session (UNGASS) held in June 1998 as requiring time-bound action. Precursors are chemicals frequently used in the illicit manufacture of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances. Since precursors are often trafficked across borders, there should be harmony between the laws of different countries both in terms of which precursors are controlled and what kinds of controls are imposed on them.

PART 1: MAIN FINDINGS

Legislation and national control systems

- Bangladesh, Pakistan and India have national precursor control laws in place.
- Nepal and Maldives required assistance in drafting their relevant legislation.
- Sri Lanka has decided to draft precursor control laws.
- Bhutan may need assistance following the introduction of new laws.

Information exchange

- Mechanisms for the collection of information on the import and export of precursors are available in Bangladesh, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.
- Bhutan is in the process of collecting information on the import of precursors into the country.
- Maldives, Nepal and Sri Lanka have to pass legislation in this respect.
- India and Pakistan have mechanisms in place to facilitate the multilateral exchange of information on stopped shipments and the suspicious transaction of precursors.

Substitute chemicals

- There are no regulatory measures on substitute chemicals listed in the limited international Special

Surveillance List (SSL) in any of the countries.

PART 2: RECOMMENDATIONS

Legislation and national control systems

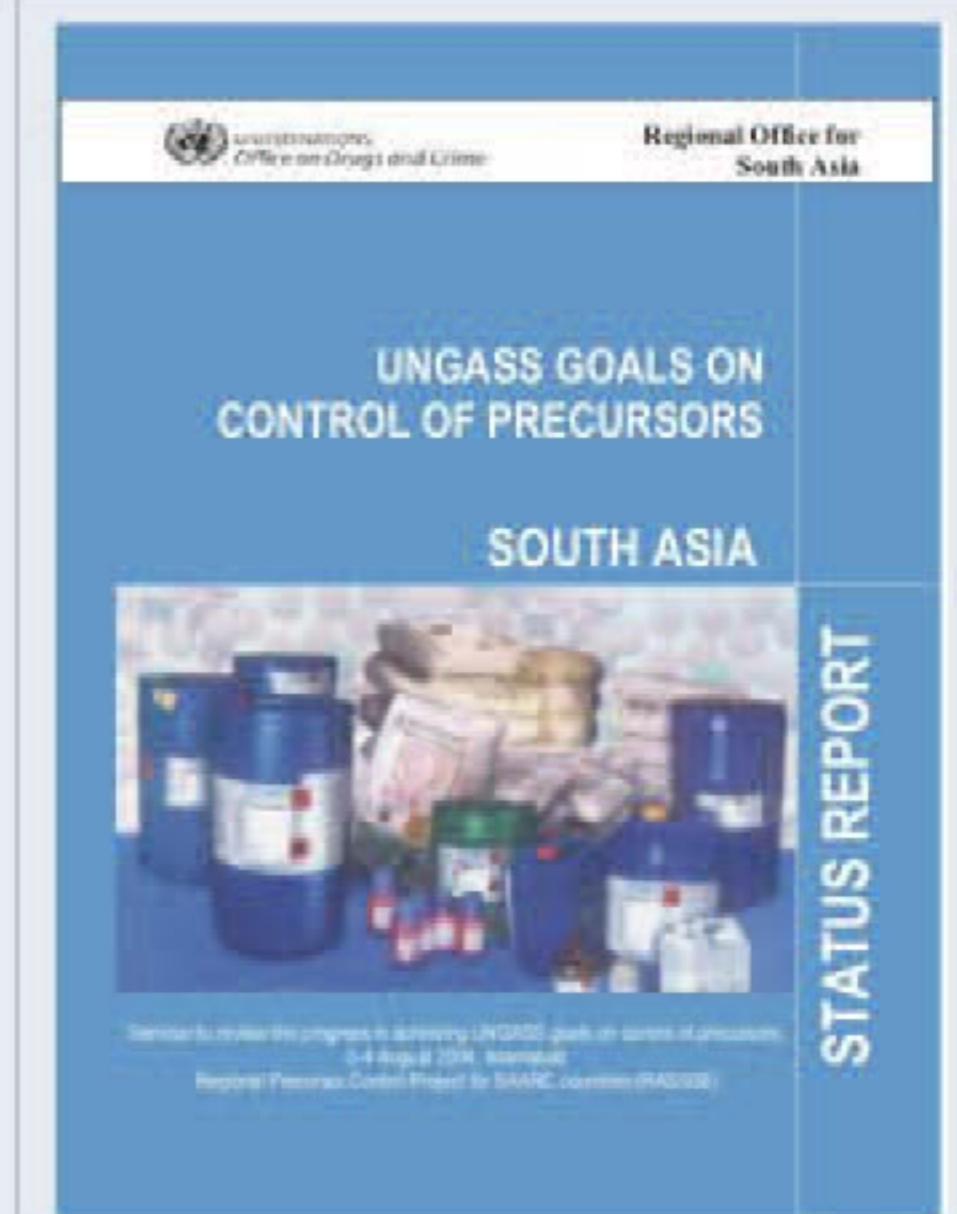
- Adopt legislative measures to comply strictly with Article 12 of the UN Convention 1988.
- Review and strengthen existing precursor control legislation.
- Adopt penal measures for violations.
- Exchange experience on procedures for adoption of legislation.
- Submit timely reports to INCB.
- Implement ecologically-safe disposal of precursors

Information exchange

- Improve mechanisms and procedures for monitoring the trade in precursors.
- Notify INCB and other concerned states about stopped shipments.

Data collection

- Establish flexible mechanisms for the collection of data on the manufacture, import and export of precursors.
- Establish and increase cooperation with trade and industry, e.g., via voluntary codes of conduct.
- Institutionalize uniform procedures for the exchange of information.
- Promote multilateral arrangements for the exchange of information on international trade.
- Disseminate information on trafficking methods adopted by criminals.



THE REPORT

In August 2004, the UNODC Regional Precursor Control Project for SAARC Countries organised a seminar of the Competent National Authorities of the seven project countries - Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka to review the progress made in achieving the UNGASS goals in respect of the control of precursors.

This report provides a view of the situation in the region and what remains to be done before 2008.

- Promote technical assistance programmes for states upon request for strengthening controls.
- Promote exchange of experience relating to investigations, interception, detection and control of diversion of precursors.
- Organize expert meetings on combating illicit trafficking and diversion of precursors.

Substitute chemicals

- Cooperate with INCB in preparing a limited International Special Surveillance List (SSL) of non-scheduled chemicals prone to diversion.
- Apply monitoring measures in cooperation with chemical industry to prevent diversion of SSL chemicals.

PRECURSORS OF MAJOR CONCERN IN SOUTH ASIA



Acetic anhydride
(used to produce heroin)



Ephedrine
(used for amphetamine-type stimulants)



Pseudoephedrine
(Used for amphetamine-type stimulants)



Anthranilic Acid (used for methaqualone)