

Introduction

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) is a global leader in the multilateral effort against illicit drugs and international crime. The three pillars of its work programme are:

- Research and analytical work to increase knowledge and understanding of drugs and crime issues and expand the evidence-base for policy and operational decisions;
- Normative work to assist States in the ratification and implementation of the international treaties, the development of domestic legislation on drugs, crime and terrorism, and the provision of secretariat and substantive services to the treaty-based and governing bodies; and
- Field-based technical cooperation projects to enhance the capacity of Member States to counteract illicit drugs, crime and terrorism.

Recognizing the importance of comprehensive, factual and objective information in the field of international drug control, the General Assembly entrusted UNODC with the mandate to publish "comprehensive and balanced information about the world drug problem" in 1998. UNODC has published such assessments annually since 1999.

This year, the Report has been reworked into a one-volume format. The detailed seizures tables which were previously presented in the second section of Volume II under the title "Seizures," are now available on UNODC's website. A PDF file containing the detailed seizure tables is available for review and downloading at: www.unodc.org/unodc/en/world_drug_report.html (the same location as the Report). The detailed seizure tables are also available on CD by request. CDs can be ordered via the following email address: RAS@unodc.org

The Report continues to provide trend analysis of the global situation and of the four main drug markets in its first section. In addition, this year's Report contains an in depth look into the relationship between translational organised crime and drug trafficking. The report also contains a small statistical annex which provides detail on production, prices and consumption. The Report's coverage remains comprehensive and it tries to give the reader a complete picture of the world's drug problem.

As in previous years, the Report is based on data obtained primarily from the Annual Reports Questionnaire (ARQ) sent by Governments to UNODC in 2006, supplemented by other sources when necessary and where available. Two of the main limitations herein are: (i) that ARQ reporting is not systematic enough, both in terms of number of countries responding and of content, and (ii) that most countries lack the adequate monitoring systems required to produce reliable, comprehensive and internationally comparable data. National monitoring systems are, however, improving and UNODC has contributed to this process.

Electronic copies of the *World Drug Report 2007* report can be accessed via the UNODC website at www.unodc.org. Comments and feedback on the report can be sent to: worlddrugreport@unodc.org.