

Item 5e. Other matters arising from the international drug control treaties

Chair of the Commission, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen.

Since 2014, the Commission has placed 71 of the most prevalent persistent and harmful new psychoactive substances in the schedules of the 1961 and 1971 conventions and ten precursor chemicals have been placed in Table I of the 1988 convention. These increases have placed extra responsibilities within Member States to implement International scheduling decisions. Support is required to continue to strengthen the capacity of forensic laboratories and a resolution on this topic is being considered by the commission this week

UNODC continues to adapt and develop its Laboratory and Scientific Services in order to assist the work of Member States. This has included the preparation and revision of UNODC manuals and guidelines on recommended laboratory methods for the identification of substances and updating the Multilingual Dictionaries of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances under International Control and Precursors and Chemicals used in the Manufacture of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances

Training courses for law enforcement and forensic personnel have been developed and delivered in the United Nations narcotics laboratory in Vienna and in the field. Over 300 national drug testing laboratories from 90 countries have been supported in 2022 through participation in the UNODC International Collaborative Exercises programme and more than 1000 reference standards of substances under International Control have been provided to National drug testing and toxicology laboratories in the last year.

The UNODC forensic early warning advisory and national and regional early warning mechanisms are key to generating and sharing the scientific evidence necessary to identify emerging harmful substances and develop appropriate responses at the national and international and I invite Member States to continue to contribute to and benefit from these tools and resources.

Thank you