

PREFACE

The *Bulletin on Narcotics* is a United Nations journal that has been in continuous publication since 1949. It is printed in all six official languages of the United Nations: Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish.

The *Bulletin* provides information on developments in drug control at the local, national, regional and international levels that can be of benefit to the international community.

The present double issue of the *Bulletin* (vol. LVII, Nos. 1 and 2) is the first to provide a comprehensive overview of the crucial role of scientific and laboratory expertise in drug control. It should be noted that for the sake of continuity, 2005 is given as the year of publication of this issue. Thanks go to Barbara Remberg of the Laboratory and Scientific Section of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime for the preparation of this issue.