



The Board holds its 122nd Session and renews President's mandate



The INCB held its 122nd Session in Vienna from 7 to 18 May 2018, renewed the mandate of its President, Viroj Sumyai, and elected a new Bureau for a one-year term. Upon the closing of the session the INCB President, Dr. Viroj Sumyai, emphasized the importance of compliance of countries with the three international drug control treaties and the consequences of non-compliance for public health and well-being.

In the course of the session the Board analysed the drug control situation on a country-by-country basis and reviewed compliance by State Parties with the three international drug control treaties. The Board examined the findings of a recent country mission and agreed on recommendations to be made to the respective Government to strengthen their national drug control system. It also reviewed the implementation by Governments of mission recommendations made over recent years.

As part of its mandate towards ensuring the availability of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances for licit uses while preventing their diversion to illicit channels and abuse, the Board reviewed the licit movement of these substances, as well as the supply of and demand for opiates for medical and scientific purposes. In accordance with its mandate under the 1988 Convention, the Board also reviewed the licit movement and preventing diversion of precursors.

The Board held in-depth discussions on the non-medical and non-scientific use of cannabis, which did not comply with the drug control conventions, and the serious consequences that non-compliance can have on public health, particularly among young people.

The Board also considered the opioid overdose crisis faced in a number of countries and efforts to address the situation, including the Board's own new initiative, the [Operational Partnerships to Interdict Opioids' Illicit Distribution and Sales \(OPIOIDS\) Project](#).

As part of its commitment to concerted international action towards effectively addressing and countering the world's drug problem, the Board held consultations with the President of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), the Chair of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, the Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, and representatives of the World Health Organization (WHO).

During the session, INCB also commenced work on its Annual Report for 2018. The report will be finalized during the Board's 123rd session and will include a thematic chapter on the use of cannabis. The report will also be supplemented by a special report on availability of controlled drugs for medical and scientific purposes.

INCB expresses deep concern about the legalization of cannabis for non-medical use in Canada

On 21 June 2018 the International Narcotics Control Board issued a press release expressing its concern about the legalization of cannabis for non-medical use in Canada which is in violation of the 1961 Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, and which also undermines the international legal drug control framework and respect for the rules-based international order.

The Board will continue to monitor developments and remain engaged with the Government of Canada on this serious issue.

The full press release can be found [here](#).

Past events:

121st session of INCB, Vienna, 5 – 9 February 2018

Launch of the INCB Annual Report and Precursors Report, Vienna, 1 March 2018

61st CND Session, 12-16 March 2018

3rd I2ES User Group Meeting, Vienna, 16 March 2018

122nd session of INCB, Vienna, 7 – 18 May 2018

Upcoming events:

ECOSOC, CMM New York, 2-3 July 2018

Mission to Mauritius July 2018

Mission to Mongolia July 2018

Mission to Germany September 2018

Mission to Luxembourg September 2018

Mission to the UAE September 2018

Mission to Paraguay October 2018

Mission to Sri Lanka October 2018

Mission to Tunisia Second half of 2018

123rd session of INCB, Vienna, 30 October 2018 – 16 November 2018

INCB's 2017 Annual Report and Precursors Report released

International Narcotics Control Board (INCB) President, Dr. Viroj Sumyai, released the [INCB Annual Report for 2017](#) that highlights human rights and has a thematic focus on treatment, rehabilitation and social reintegration for drug use disorders on 1 March 2018

The Report comes ahead of the 70th anniversary of the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights and takes a closer look at the links between human rights and drug policy.

INCB provides an analysis of the current world situation and makes recommendations to help States take effective measures to address drug-related challenges in full compliance with international human rights standards and norms.

Journalists from various regional and international news outlets joined the launch in Vienna and also via webcast, and engaged in an interactive discussion. During the launch Dr. Sumyai called on States to ensure that drug control measures fully comply with international human rights standards and norms.

Concluding the event, Dr. Sumyai said: "Although challenging, drug use disorders are treatable health conditions for which effective treatment and rehabilitation interventions are available.

Working in the spirit of the international drug control system and implementing the recommendations in INCB's Annual Report, all Governments can positively support their commitments to promoting the health and welfare of humankind."



INCB Side Event at the CND's 61st session: Launching New Data Reporting Tools

The Psychotropics Control Section, along with the Narcotics Control and Estimates Section, of the INCB secretariat hosted a side event during the 61st Session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND) launching several new tools for competent national authorities (CNA) to improve their capacity to more accurately and quickly provide statistical reports to meet treaty obligations under the 1961 and 1971 Conventions.

The event began with remarks from INCB President Dr. Viroj Sumyai who launched the INCB E-Learning Courses which provide training for CNAs to better determine their estimates for narcotic drugs, assessments for psychotropic substances and legitimate requirements for precursor chemicals. Dr. Sumyai also highlighted the accomplishments of the INCB Learning (GLOY04) project that have trained over 150 officials from 68 countries and territories.

Following the statement by Dr. Sumyai, the Narcotics and Psychotropics control sections conducted a brief review of the data reporting obligations under the 1961 and 1971 Conventions. This was followed by the launch of the Excel version of Form A (Quarterly Statistics of Imports and Exports of Narcotic Drugs), Form A/P (Quarterly Statistics of Imports and Exports of Substances in Schedule II of the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971) and Form P (Annual Statistical Report on Substances Listed in the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971). The Excel form offers CNAs a third option beyond the paper form and NDS XML to submit data to INCB and are available now on the INCB website alongside the existing forms.

The event concluded with a brief update on other data reporting issues, namely that conversion factors for psychotropic substances in the Green List have been updated and go into effect beginning on 1 January 2019 and that competent national authorities should only use the new conversion factors on data gathered from that date onward. Additionally, a question and answer period followed the presentation where CNAs and the INCB secretariat were able to exchange thoughts and other potential issues regarding statistical reports.

3rd User Group Meeting for the International Import Export Authorization System (I2ES)



On 16 March 2018 more than 30 participants from over 30 countries joined in an open discussion on their experiences in using I2ES and ways to expand its use among Member States at the margins of the 61st session of CND. More details of the event can be found at

http://www.incb.org/incb/en/news/news_2018/third-user-group-meeting-for-the-international-import-export-authorization-system.html

Competent national authorities interested in knowing more about I2ES are most welcome to write to incb.i2es@un.org



International Narcotics Control Board meets with civil society

On 7 May 2018 the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB) held a meeting with civil society representatives on the "the use of cannabis for medical and non-medical purposes". The meeting brought together a number of representatives of non-governmental organizations (NGOs), selected by the Vienna NGO Committee on Drugs (VNGOC), and members of the Board.

In his opening address, INCB President Viroj Sumyai emphasized the significant role played by civil society in ensuring the implementation of the provisions of the three international drug control conventions, and fulfilling the health and welfare objectives of the conventions, particularly in the areas of prevention, treatment and rehabilitation. The INCB President further underscored the importance of productive cooperation with civil society for the purpose of advancing the common goal of addressing the world's drug problem.

The INCB President expressed appreciation for the cooperation developed with the Vienna NGO Committee over the years, including through an annual informal dialogue at the margins of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, and the meetings with NGOs during INCB country missions. The Board had decided to build upon this cooperation by listening to what NGOs have to say about the medical and non-medical uses of cannabis.

Chair of the VNGOC Jamie Bridge, in his remarks, introduced the VNGOC and the newly reformed Civil Society Task Force on Drugs. This was followed by interventions of the representatives of ten civil society organisations, identified by the Committee from the many applications received from across the world. The INCB members heard the views and experiences of the NGO representatives, some in person, others through pre-recorded video messages. The NGO presentations covered a wide range of different perspectives and issues - including medical cannabis use and patient advocacy, policing, economics, the rehabilitation of cannabis users, the UN drug control conventions, and varied perspectives on the regulation, legalization and commercialization of cannabis.

The President of the Board expressed his thanks to the Vienna NGO Committee on Drugs for its role in facilitating the selection of NGO representatives and Mr. Bridge thanked the Board for hosting the event which was moderated by the Director of the United Nations Information Service Vienna, Martin Nesirky.

INCB President takes part in 71st World Health Assembly in Geneva

The President of INCB, Dr. Viroj Sumyai, attended the seventy-first session of the World Health Assembly in Geneva, Switzerland on 28 May 2018. On the margins of the Assembly, the President met with several senior officials of the World Health Organization (WHO), including the Deputy Director-General for Programmes, the Assistant Director-General for Noncommunicable Diseases and Mental Health (NMH), and the Assistant Director-General for Access to Medicines, Vaccines and Pharmaceuticals. A meeting also took place with the Chair of the Lancet Commission on Global Access to Palliative Care and Pain Control (GAPCPC), a joint project between researchers at Harvard University and the University of Miami.

The World Health Assembly is the decision-making body of WHO. It convenes annually and is attended by delegations from all WHO Member States. This year's World Health Assembly took place on 21-26 May 2018. Among other things, the INCB President's participation in the event was intended to further the Board's long-standing cooperation with WHO. A recent milestone in this cooperative relationship was the [joint statement on the implementation of the UNGASS 2016 recommendations](#), issued together with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) at the 61st session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND).



On the first day of the World Health Assembly, Dr. Sumyai met with the Assistant Director-General for Noncommunicable Diseases and Mental Health (NMH), Dr. Svetlana Akselrod, and two other senior officials.

Among the topics discussed were activities in preparation for the United Nations General Assembly's third High-level Meeting on the prevention and control of noncommunicable diseases, which will take place in late September 2018.

On 24 May 2018 a meeting took place between the President of the Board and the Assistant Director-General for Access to Medicines, Vaccines and Pharmaceuticals, Dr. Mariângela Simão, to exchange views on matters related to the availability of internationally controlled substances for medical purposes. Possible areas of cooperation were also explored. On the same day Dr. Sumyai also held a consultation with the Deputy Director-General for Programmes, Dr. Soumya Swaminathan, on the future areas of co-operation between INCB, WHO and UNODC.

In addition to holding discussions with senior officials of WHO, the INCB President also interacted with representatives of civil society and had a meeting with Dr. Felicia Marie Knaul, the founder and Chair of the Lancet Commission on Global Access to Palliative Care and Pain Control. The exchange focused on the issue of access to morphine and other controlled substances for pain management. Ways of working together in the coming year, in particular in the lead-up to the high-level session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs in 2019, were also discussed.

INCB Missions

Five INCB missions took place in the first half of 2018. The findings of the mission to Estonia were presented to the Board at its 122nd session in May 2018. The findings of the other missions will be presented at the coming 123rd session in November 2018. The objective of these missions was to examine the authorities' implementation of the international drug control treaties and to review the developments related to drug control since the Board's last visit. The Board's recommendations will be transmitted to the governments in question.

Mission to Estonia



An INCB mission visited Estonia from 4 to 6 April 2018. The mission was led by [Cornelis de Joncheere](#), member of the Board, accompanied by Ms. Marketa Jackova of the INCB secretariat.

The mission was coordinated by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and included meetings with officials from the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Interior, Police and Boarder Guard Board, the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Social Affairs, the State Agency of Medicines, the National Institute for Health Development, the Tax and Customs Board and the Estonian Forensic Science Institute. A field visit was organized to the port of Tallinn, as well as to the Estonian Post.

The mission also held a meeting with the World Health Organization (WHO) Country Office in Estonia and visited two hospitals in Tallinn, one providing opioid substitution treatment and the second providing palliative care. In addition, the mission met with several non-governmental organizations (NGOs).

Mission to France

From 4 to 7 June the Board conducted a mission to France to discuss the implementation of the international drug control legal framework with national stakeholders. The mission was led by [Prof Jallal Toufiq](#), First Vice-President of the Board, accompanied by Mr Paul Rabbat of the INCB secretariat and was coordinated by the Interministerial Committee on drugs and addictive behaviours (*Mission Interministerielle de lutte contre la drogue et les conduites addictives*).

The INCB delegation held meetings with the Minister of Solidarities and Health, the President of the Interministerial Committee on drugs and addictive behaviours, the President of the law commission of the French National Assembly, members of Parliament as well as senior officials from the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Justice, Health, Education and Interior, representatives of customs and law enforcement agencies as well as health regulatory authorities. A meeting and exchange of views was also held with representatives of French civil society groups.

The INCB representatives held discussions with the French Observatory of Drugs and visited a drug consumption room, the Pierre Nicole treatment and prevention facility and the Psychiatric facility at Bichat Hospital. A further site visit was undertaken to a customs facility at Roissy Charles de Gaulle airport.



Mission to Botswana



An INCB mission visited Botswana from 5 to 7 June 2018. The mission was led by [H. H. Sevil Atasoy](#), Member of the Board, accompanied by Marketa Jackova of the INCB secretariat. The objective of the mission was to review the implementation of the three international drug control treaties by the Republic of Botswana and to examine drug control developments since the last mission of the Board in 1985.

The mission was organized by the Ministry of Health and Wellness and coordinated by the Ministry of International Affairs and Cooperation. The mission met the Minister of Health and Wellness, Hon. Dr. Alfred R. Madigele, and other high-level officials from the Ministry of Health and Wellness, the Ministry of International Affairs and Cooperation, the Ministry of Defence, Justice and Security, the Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development, the Ministry of Nationality, Immigration and Gender Affairs, the Ministry of Employment, Labour Productivity and Skills Development, and the Unified Revenue Service.

The mission also held a meeting with the World Health Organization (WHO) Country Office in Botswana and visited the Police Forensic Science Laboratory in Gaborone. In addition, the mission met representatives of a non-governmental organization that provides substance abuse education, prevention, and rehabilitation services to the general public.

Scheduling Decisions by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND)

At its sixty-first session, the Commission decided to include twelve substances in the relevant schedules of the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961 as amended by the 1972 Protocol, the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971 and the Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988, as follows: carfentanil in Schedules I and IV of the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961 as amended by the 1972 Protocol; ocfentanil, furanylfentanyl, acryloylfentanyl (acrylfentanyl), 4-fluoroisobutyrfentanyl (4-FIBF, pFIBF) and tetrahydrofuranylfentanyl (THF-F) in Schedule I of the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961 as amended by the 1972 Protocol; AB-CHMINACA, 5F-MDMB-PINACA, AB-PINACA, UR-144, 5F-PB-22 and 4-fluoroamphetamine (4-FA) in Schedule II of the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971.

Mission to the Netherlands

From 11 to 14 June INCB undertook a mission to the Kingdom of the Netherlands. The mission was led by [Amb. David Johnson](#), Member of the Board, who was accompanied by Mr Paul Rabbat from the INCB secretariat and was coordinated by the Nutrition, Health Protection and Prevention Department of the Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport. Over the course of the mission, meetings were held with representatives from the Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport (Nutrition, Health Protection and Prevention Department, Office of Medicinal Cannabis), the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Social Development Department, Counter-terrorism and National Security Division), the Ministry of Justice and Security, the Public Prosecution Service, the Dutch National Police and the Ministry of Finance (National Office Dutch Customs, Fiscal Intelligence and Investigation Service).



The INCB delegation also visited the Netherlands Forensic Institute, the Trimbos Institute, the Joint Inspection Centre customs facility at Schiphol airport as well as a shelter/use facility for individuals suffering from drug and alcohol use disorders in Utrecht aimed at providing them with social and other services and ultimately reintegrating them into Dutch society.'

Mission to Armenia



INCB undertook a mission to the Republic of Armenia from 25 to 28 June 2018 to discuss the country's implementation of the three drug control conventions, to which it is a State Party. The mission was led by [Dr Galina Korchagina](#), Member of the Board, who was accompanied by Mr Paul Rabbat of the INCB secretariat and was coordinated by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Armenia.

While in Armenia, the INCB delegation held meetings with several senior drug control stakeholders including the Deputy Minister of Health, the Deputy Minister of Justice, the Deputy Minister of Education and Science, the Head of the General Department on the Fight against Organised Crime of the Armenian Police, the Head of the Department of International Organisations of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Head of the Division on Monitoring Drugs and Drug

Addiction. A meeting was also held with the UNDP Resident Coordinator in Armenia.

The INCB delegation carried out site visits to the Republican Narcological Centre of Armenia, ARPIMED, a drug manufacturer in Armenia, and to the Bagratshen customs facility on the Armenian-Georgian Border. Meetings were also held with representatives from civil society organisations.

Highlights from the INCB website

- ◇ INCB holds side event on drug control, human rights and the Sustainable Development Goals at United Nations Headquarters
- ◇ INCB presents plan of action at G-7 expert meeting on innovative responses to the challenges posed by synthetic drugs
- ◇ INCB holds consultations with WHO and the Heads of UNODC, CND and ECOSOC
- ◇ INCB countering precursor and opioids trafficking with its international partners
- ◇ INCB - UPU partnership responds to deadly synthetic opioids
- ◇ INCB President participates in the 61st session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs
- ◇ INCB launches new tools to help ensure the availability of controlled substances
- ◇ INCB President presents Annual Report and Precursors to the Commission on Narcotic Drugs
- ◇ Joint Statement of INCB, UNODC and WHO on Implementation of the UNGASS 2016 Recommendations

Recent UNODC publications on drugs:

Afghan Opiate Trafficking along the Northern Route

Acetic Anhydride in the Context of Afghan Heroin

World Drug Report 2018

Afghanistan Opium Survey 2017

Illicit Drug Use in Palestine

Useful links:

United Nations

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

Commission on Narcotic Drugs

United Nations Economic and Social Council

World Health Organization

World Customs Organization

INTERPOL