



The INCB elects new officers and continues treaty monitoring work at its 125th session

The International Narcotics Control Board (INCB) held its 125th session from 6 May to 17 May 2019 in Vienna, Austria.



The Board's Standing Committee on Estimates met on the first day of the session to continue its work reviewing estimated requirements for narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and precursor chemicals for licit purposes. This is part of the Board's work to ensure the availability of internationally controlled substances for medical and scientific purposes while preventing their diversion to illicit channels, trafficking and abuse.

On 8 May 2019, the Board held a [dialogue with the Vienna NGO Committee on Drugs](#) on the topic of young people and drugs.

Also on 8 May, the Board held its election of officers for the coming year, with the following results:

- Cornelis P. de Joncheere, President
- Wei Hao, First Vice-President
- David T. Johnson, Second Vice-President and Chair of the Standing Committee on Estimates
- H. H. Sevil Atasoy, Rapporteur
- Galina A. Korchagina, Vice-Chair of the Standing Committee on Estimates
- Jagjit Pavadia, Chair of the Committee on Finance and Administration.

Mr. de Joncheere thanked the former President, Dr. Viroj Sumyai, and Bureau for their work on behalf of the Board over the past year. The new President of the Board expressed his commitment to working together with the Board over the coming year to continue supporting Member States and the international community in addressing the world drug problem.

During the session the Board continued to focus on its cooperation with Governments, in particular by reviewing the status of compliance with the international drug control conventions and the findings of the country missions it had conducted since January 2019. The Board remains in an ongoing dialogue with Governments with a view to promoting implementation of the drug control conventions, and to promote health and welfare of their populations.

The Board also continued its dialogue with international organizations, with consultations held with the Executive Director of the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the Chair of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND) and officials of the World Health Organization (WHO).

INCB President speaks at the opening of the 62nd session of the CND

The INCB President, Dr Viroj Sumyai, delivered remarks at the opening of the Ministerial segment of the 62nd session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs on 14 March 2019 in Vienna, Austria.

His full statement can be found [here](#).



Past events:

Launch of the INCB Annual Report 2018
Vienna, Austria
5 March 2019

62nd session of the CND,
Vienna, Austria
14-22 March 2019

Launch of the INCB 2018 Technical Reports on Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances
Vienna, Austria
20 March 2019

Fourth User Group Meeting on I2ES
Vienna, Austria
22 March 2019

125th session of INCB,
Vienna, Austria
6-17 May 2019

INCB and Civil Society discuss Young People and Drugs,
Vienna, Austria
8 May 2019

Upcoming events:

Mission to Austria
June 2019

Mission to Kosovo
June 2019

Mission to the Bahamas
September 2019

Mission to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea,
September 2019

Mission to Madagascar
September 2019

Mission to New Zealand,
September 2019

Mission to Ukraine,
September 2019

Mission to Jordan
October 2019

Mission to Kyrgyzstan
October 2019

126th session of INCB,
Vienna, Austria
28 October - 15 November 2019

INCB Annual Report 2018 launched on 5 March 2019



The INCB Annual Report, prepared in accordance with the international drug control treaties, examines the global drug control situation, and makes recommendations to Governments and regional and international organizations.

The thematic chapter of the INCB Annual Report for 2018 focuses on the risks and benefits of medical use of cannabis and looks at legislative developments on the non-medical use of cannabis.

The Report reviews the functioning of the international drug control system, and calls, inter alia, for the international community to urgently provide further support to Afghanistan.

In the report the Board urges governments to address drug-related crime through formal criminal justice responses, with respect for human rights.

The Report is accompanied by a [special supplement on the availability of internationally controlled medicines](#), as well as the [2018 Precursors report](#). (See the annual report by chapters, [here](#))



INCB publishes 2018 Technical Reports on Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances

On 20 March 2019 INCB launched the 2018 editions of its two technical reports: [Narcotic Drugs 2018: Estimated World Requirements for 2019 - Statistics for 2017](#) and [Psychotropic Substances 2018: Statistics for 2017 - Assessments of Annual Medical and Scientific Requirements](#).

The technical reports on narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances provide analysis and comprehensive data on the licit global trade in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances for 2017 and include national estimates and assessments of licit needs for medical and scientific purposes.

The 2018 report on narcotic drugs presents shifting trends in the global licit market for opiates as well as in the market for synthetic opioids, including fentanyl. Complementing the [special INCB 2018 report on availability](#), the report provides detailed information on the worldwide disparity in consumption of morphine for pain management. It also covers the rapidly growing licit market for cannabis for medical purposes.

The 2018 report on psychotropic substances has been significantly revamped, with a new format introduced for this edition. As the number of substances controlled under the 1971 Convention continues to increase, the commentary has been restructured to focus on the substances that dominate the licit global market, mostly benzodiazepines. Graphs and tables in the commentary have been completely overhauled to improve readability. Furthermore, other parts of the psychotropics report have been revised to improve the report's usability as a key reference document for competent national authorities and others interested in the licit trade of internationally controlled psychotropic substances.

The reports are published annually by INCB as mandated by the 1961 and 1971 Conventions.

Both reports are available from the links below:

[Narcotic Drugs 2018: Estimated World Requirements for 2019 - Statistics for 2017](#)



Measures to address the proliferation of non-scheduled chemicals including designer precursors

The Board has [identified](#) the proliferation of non-scheduled chemicals and designer precursors without legitimate uses, which are often specifically made to circumvent controls, as one of the most important challenges to international precursor control efforts today. The President has raised the issue at the Commission on Narcotic Drugs at its [61st](#) and [62nd](#) sessions, calling for a wider policy discussion of the matter at the international level. To inform such a discussion and take stock of the different national approaches, regulatory and law enforcement measures that are currently being taken to address the use of non-scheduled chemicals in illicit drug manufacture, the Board requested feedback and is currently consolidating the responses received from Governments. The Board welcomes any additional responses to its Circular Letter no. 8/2019 of 5 March 2019. Information about non-scheduled substances used in the illicit manufacture of drugs, including the latest edition of the limited international special surveillance list (ISSL) and other materials useful for Competent National Authorities, is available on the Board's secure [web site](#).

Activities related to article 13 of the 1988 Convention

An expert group meeting on specialized illicit drug manufacturing equipment was [convened](#) in Vienna, Austria, from 5 to 7 March 2019. Twelve experts from eight governments and international organizations discussed the latest information available and possibilities to develop mechanisms and concrete operational activities to prevent and investigate the diversion of equipment for use in the illicit manufacture of drugs, New Psychoactive Substances (NPS) and precursors. The meeting also discussed how article 13 of the 1988 Convention could be used more effectively to this end and concluded with a recommended set of actions focusing on ensuring that equipment is not diverted into illicit drug manufacturing channels. The Board is in the process of putting these recommendations into practice and counts on Governments' cooperation to this end.

The International Narcotics Control Board and Civil Society discuss Young People and Drugs

The International Narcotics Control Board (INCB) held its second meeting with the members of the Vienna Non-Governmental Organization Committee on Drugs (VNGOC), on the topic of 'Young People and Drugs' on 8 May 2019. Representatives of civil society and the members of the Board discussed the importance of preventing drug abuse among young people and measures to reduce harms and treat drug use among youth.

INCB President Viroj Sumyai opened the dialogue by recalling that children and youth have an equal right to live healthy lives, free from the challenges associated with drug abuse. The President emphasized that implementation of the international drug control conventions positively contributes to the health and welfare of all, including young people.

The Chair of the VNGOC, Jamie Bridge, gave opening remarks, introducing the in-person and video interventions from civil society representatives, which had been selected by the Committee following an open call for applications. The participating NGOs presented a broad range of perspectives and experiences on the complex factors contributing to the use of drugs by young people, and how policies and programmes affect youth.

With civil society representatives expressing appreciation for the Board's growing cooperation with civil society, the meeting was an opportunity for an informal exchange of experiences, ideas and good practices between NGOs and the Board.

There was consensus that prevention and treatment approaches should be pursued together, and should be effective and evidence-based and centred on the individual person's needs and circumstances. It was also announced that, in recognition of the importance which the Board affords to this issue, INCB had decided to prepare a thematic opening chapter for its 2019 Annual Report on 'Young People and Drugs', to be published in early 2020.

The President of the Board closed the discussion with thanks to the Vienna NGO Committee on Drugs for its role in selecting the participants and facilitating a productive dialogue. The INCB Members further noted that they appreciated hearing the experiences and lessons of the civil society participants, including young people themselves, on how best to empower and engage with young people on this important topic. All participants expressed the hope that further discussions on topics of mutual interest could take place in the future.

The video statements made at the meeting have been made available by the Vienna NGO Committee on Drugs: <http://vngoc.org/2019/05/09/incb-civil-society-hearing-2019/>.

INCB holds fourth User Group meeting on the International Import Export Authorization System (I2ES)

On 22 March 2019, Board President, Dr. Viroj Sumyai, delivered opening remarks during the fourth User Group Meeting on the International Import Export Authorization System (I2ES) for narcotic, drugs and psychotropic substances, held during the 62nd session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND).

I2ES is an online communication platform developed by INCB to support the monitoring of and to facilitate the licit trade in internationally scheduled substances. Representatives from the INCB secretariat together with almost 30 participants from around 20 countries participated in an open discussion on their experiences in using I2ES and ways to expand its use among countries trading in internationally controlled narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances.

Dr. Sumyai stressed the importance of collaboration and communication between the competent authorities as a key to reduce paperwork, expedite the issuance of authorizations and to boost utilization of I2ES. Countries shared their experience in using I2ES and exchanged views on how to promote greater usage of the system among more Governments around the world.

Additional information can be found in Chapter 2 of the INCB Annual Report for 2018: [Challenges and opportunities in promoting paperless trade for internationally controlled substances: the International Import and Export Authorization System \(I2ES\)](#).

Learn more on I2ES and how to join by going to the [I2ES web page](#).



INCB Missions

Seven INCB missions took place in the period February to May 2019. 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 on a confidential basis. The Board's recommendations will be transmitted to the governments in question.

Mission to Sri Lanka

An INCB mission visited Sri Lanka from 25 to 28 March 2018. The mission was conducted by [Professor Richard Mattick](#), member of the Board, and Ms. Ha Fung NG (Cilla) of the INCB secretariat. The last INCB mission to Sri Lanka took place in 2002. The mission was organized by the National Dangerous Drugs Control Board (NDDCB), Ministry of Defence.

The delegation met with Mr. Hemasiri Fernando, Secretary, Ministry of Defence; Hon. Thalatha Atukorale, Minister of Justice and Prison Reforms; Hon. Jayantha Jayasuriya, Attorney General; Ambassador Ravinatha P. Aryasinha, Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Mr. Pujitha Jayasundara, Inspector General of Police; Professor Saman Abeysinghe, Chairman of NDDCB; Dr. Samantha Kithalawaarachchi, Director of Presidential Task Force on Drug Prevention; Commissioner Generals of Customs, Excise, and Prisons, as well as senior officials in the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Health. The delegation also had discussions with NGOs and visited the Nawadiganthaya Treatment Center.



Mission to Uzbekistan

The Board conducted a [mission](#) to Uzbekistan from 25 to 28 March 2019. The mission was led by [Professor Sevil Atasoy](#), member of the Board, accompanied by Ms. Szilvia Petkov from the INCB secretariat and was the first mission of the Board to Uzbekistan. The mission programme was coordinated by the National Information-Analytical Centre on Drug Control under the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan (NCDC) and featured meetings with senior officials from the Ministry of Public Health, the Ministry of Interior, the Ministry of Justice, the General Prosecutor's Office, the State Customs Committee and NCDC. In addition, the mission visited the



Tashkent City Narcological Dispensary and had a discussion with the local NGO "Intilish". The opportunity was also used to raise awareness about INCB resources, projects, tools and IT platforms.

Mission to Chile

An INCB mission to Chile took place from 27 to 29 March 2019. The mission was led by [Mr. Luis Alberto Otárola Peñaranda](#), member of the INCB, and Mr. Stefano Berterame of the INCB secretariat. The last INCB mission visited Chile in 2001. The mission was organized by the Ministry of Interior and Public Security.

The delegation met with Mr. Jorge Abbott, Public Prosecutor of the Republic, Ms. Paula Daza, Vice-Minister of Public Health, Ambassadors Patricio Torres and Armin Andereya of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ms. Pia Greene, Chief of the Division of Public Security of the Ministry of Interior and Public Security, Mr. Carlos Charme, National Director of the National Service for the Prevention and Rehabilitation of Drug and Alcohol Abuse (SENDA). In addition, the mission met with senior officials from the Financial Investigation Unit, Anti-Money Laundering Unit, Police Investigation Unit, Carabineers of Chile, Customs, and the General Directorate of the Maritime Territory of the Navy. The delegation visited the Drug Treatment Courts and the oncology Department of the [Children's Hospital Roberto del Rio](#). In addition, meetings with representatives of civil society organizations engaged in the prevention and treatment of drug dependence took place.



Mission to Mauritania

From 2 to 4 April 2019, an INCB delegation visited the Islamic Republic of Mauritania with the goal of discussing the country's implementation of the three international drug control conventions. The mission was led by [Professor Sevil Atasoy](#), member of the Board, who was accompanied by Mr Paul Rabbat, Chief of the Convention Evaluation Section of the INCB secretariat.

While in Nouakchott, the INCB delegation held discussions with the Minister of Health, the Minister of the Interior, the Minister of Education, the Minister of Social Solidarities, Family and Children as well as senior officials from the Central Office on the Fight against Drugs and Directorate of Pharmacy. The delegation also visited the Nouakchott psychiatric hospital.



Scheduling Decisions by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND)

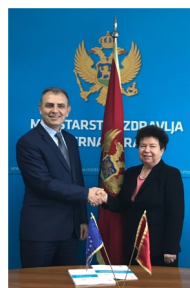
At its sixty-second session, the Commission decided to include twelve substances in the relevant schedules of the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961 as amended by the 1972 Protocol, the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971 and the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988, as follows: araufluorobutyrylfentanyl, orthofluorofentanyl, methoxyacetylfentanyl and cyclopropylfentanyl in Schedule I of the 1961 Convention as amended by the 1972 Protocol; ADB-FUBINACA, FUB-AMB (MMB-FUBINACA, AMB-FUBINACA), CUMYL-4CN-BINACA, ADB-CHMINACA (MAB-CHMINACA) and *N*-ethylnorpentylone (ephylone) in Schedule II of the 1971; “3,4-MDP-2-P methyl glycidate” (“PMK glycidate”) (all stereoisomers), 3,4-MDP-2-P methyl glycidic acid (“PMK glycidic acid”) (all stereoisomers) and *alpha*-phenylacetoacetamide (APAA) (including its optical isomers) in Table I of the 1988 Convention. The decisions will become effective 180 days after they were communicated by the Secretary-General to all parties.

The Commission also followed the Board’s recommendation not to schedule hydriodic acid in Table I of the Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988.

Mission to Montenegro

An INCB delegation visited Montenegro from 9 to 11 April 2019. The mission was led by [Dr. Galina Korchagina](#), member of the Board, accompanied by Ms. Raechelle Newman-Smajli of the INCB secretariat. It was the first mission of the INCB to Montenegro.

The INCB delegation met with the Minister of Health, the President of the High Court in Podgorica, the Director of the Agency for Medicines and Medical Devices of Montenegro, and senior officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Education, the Police Administration, the Special State Prosecutor’s Office in Podgorica, and the Customs Administration. The delegation also visited the Rehabilitation Centre Kakaricka Gora and the customs outpost Božaj. Meetings also took place with representatives of civil society and visited Reto Centar, a non-governmental rehabilitation centre. Discussions with the United Nations Resident Coordinator, the Head of the World Health Organization Country Office, and other United Nations officials were also held.



Mission to Côte d'Ivoire



The Board recently undertook a country mission to Côte d'Ivoire from 23 to 25 April 2019. The mission was led by [Prof. Jallal Toufig](#), member of the Board, who was accompanied by Mr. Martin Dessart of the INCB secretariat. The mission was organized by the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights of Côte d'Ivoire.

During the country visit, the delegation met with H.E. Mr. Daouda Diabaté, Secretary-General of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs and Mr. Mamadou Krouma, Secretary-General of CILAD. Additionally, meetings were held with officials from the Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Education and Customs. The delegation also conducted a site visit of CRFLD (Centre Regional de Formation à la Lutte contre la Drogue) a Government run treatment centre outside Abidjan. Additional meetings were held with various NGOs dealing with drug treatment, prevention and rehabilitation based in Côte d'Ivoire.

Mission to Norway

An INCB delegation undertook a mission to Norway from 21 to 23 May 2019. The mission was led by [Dr. Galina Korchagina](#), member of the Board, accompanied by Ms. Ha Fung Ng (Cilla) of the INCB secretariat.

The INCB delegation met with the Minister of Health and Care Services, the State Secretary and senior officials from the Ministry of Justice and Public Security, the Directorate of Health, the Director General and senior officials of the Norwegian Medicines Agency, the Directorate of Norwegian Customs, senior officials from the Public Health Institute and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the secretariat of the public committee responsible for drug reform. Meetings with representatives from the Municipality of Oslo also took place and visited a drug consumption room. In addition, the delegation held discussions with representatives of the civil society and the World Health Organization Collaborating Centre for Drug Statistics Methodology, part of the Norwegian Institute of Public Health.



Recent UNODC publications on drugs:

Drug Use Survey
Nigeria - 2018

Myanmar Opium
Survey 2018 -
Cultivation and
Production

Peru - Monitoreo de
Cultivos de Coca
2017

Mexico - Opium
Survey 2015-
2016/2016-2017

Afghanistan Opium
Survey 2018

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

Other items of interest on the INCB website

- ◇ INCB Alerts
- ◇ INCB Publications
- ◇ INCB Speeches
- ◇ INCB Guidelines
- ◇ INCB Press releases