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**Statement by Prof. Jallal Toufiq, President,
International Narcotics Control Board (INCB)
Sixty-seventh session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs**

Item 5(a) Changes in the scope of control of substances

INCB Statement 1:

4-Piperidone and 1-boc-4-piperidone

Vienna, 19 March 2024

Mr. Chair, Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,

1) The International Narcotics Control Board has the **responsibility under article 12 of the 1988 Convention** to assess chemicals used in the illicit manufacture of drugs in order to determine whether they should be placed under international control.

2) In the discharge of its functions under article 12 of the 1988 Convention, the Board submitted to the Chair of the Commission a recommendation to place two precursors of fentanyl and a number of fentanyl analogues in Table I of that Convention.

3) Because of the similarities, I will cover the two chemicals together in one statement.

- The first chemical is **4-Piperidone**, an early-stage precursor involved in most synthetic routes to fentanyl and some fentanyl analogues. Specifically, it can be used to make NPP, ANPP, 4-AP and norfentanyl. All four substances are listed in Table I of the 1988 Convention.
- **1-Boc-4-piperidone** is a chemically protected derivative of 4-piperidone and can be used to make 1-boc-4-AP and subsequently norfentanyl. Both substances are listed in Table I of the 1988 Convention. 1-Boc-4-piperidone may also be converted back into 4-piperidone.
- The final products, **fentanyl and fentanyl analogues**, are very potent narcotic drugs, typically 10-100 times stronger than heroin. Their **high potency** continues to result in overdose deaths in users and in inadvertent exposure of law enforcement personnel and other personnel along the distribution chain.

4) In making its assessment pursuant to article 12, paragraph 4, of the 1988 Convention, the Board finds that:

- a) The volume and extent of **public health or social problems** caused by illicitly manufactured fentanyl and fentanyl analogues are issues that warrant international action.

- b) 4-Piperidone and 1-boc-4-piperidone are **very suitable precursors for the illicit manufacture** of fentanyl and a number of fentanyl analogues. Incidents of illicit use involving the two substances have been reported since 2019.
- c) There is limited known **legitimate manufacture of and trade** in 4-piperidone and 1-boc-4-piperidone, limited to small amounts, typically for research and development purposes.
- 5) In light of its findings, **the Board recommends adding 4-piperidone and 1-boc-4-piperidone to Table I of the 1988 Convention**. International control of the two substances will limit their availability for illicit drug manufacture and subsequently reduce the quantity of fentanyl and fentanyl analogues manufactured illicitly from them.
- 6) The Board is of the view that the proposed controls will have **no adverse effect** on the availability of the two substances for any of the limited known legitimate uses.
- 7) **Placement in Table I** will provide Governments with the possibility to request pre-export notifications as a means of monitoring shipments entering their territories.

I thank you for your attention.

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