INTERNATIONAL NARCOTICS CONTROL BOARD

The International Narcotics Control Board

Mandate and activities

General Assembly

The General Assembly provides policy guidance on international efforts to restrict the use of drugs to medical purposes. It operates in that field through the Secretary-General and the Economic and Social Council, which advise and assist the Commission on Narcotic Drugs. Recognizing the central role that must be played by the United Nations in fostering confidence and cooperation among all countries, the General Assembly, in the report of its sixty-second session, adopted Resolution 66/12, in which it invited the Commission on Narcotic Drugs to continue its role in the United Nations with appropriate support and resources. The Report of the Secretary-General on the activities of the United Nations system in the field of international drug control expresses the shared concern of the United Nations that drug abuse and drug-related crime and corruption should be prevented and addressed.

Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)

The Economic and Social Council, which is assisted and advised by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, unites the countries of the United Nations in dealing with social development issues and the world drug problem. In accordance with its mandate, the Council of ECOSOC, in its resolution 196/258 of 10 December 1965 on the drug problem, and the General Assembly in its resolution 66/36 of 14 December 2011 on the world drug problem, have resolved that the Commission on Narcotic Drugs should be the principal United Nations body for the consideration of programmes of action related to drug abuse and drug-related crime. The Commission also advises the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly on drug-related questions within its competence.

Working Group on International Narcotics Control

The Working Group on International Narcotics Control (hereinafter referred to as the Working Group) is responsible for the supervision of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs on the basis of the recommendations contained in the report of the Secretary-General on the activities of the United Nations system in the field of international drug control. It makes recommendations on the work of the Commission and reports to the Economic and Social Council on progress and developments in international drug control. The Working Group is composed of seven members elected by the Economic and Social Council. The members are elected by rotation among the following regions: Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean, Eastern Europe, North America, Central and Western Europe, and Oceania. The full name, position and country of origin of each member are as follows:

Hamid Ghodse* Islamic Republic of Iran 2012
Sevil Atasoy Turkey 2010
José Bediako Asare Ghana 2010
Brian Watters Australia 2010
Camilo Uribe Granja Colombia 2010
Melvyn Levitsky United States of America 2012
Tatyana B. Dmitrieva Russian Federation 2010

* In accordance with article 22 of the 1997 Convention and Resolution 57/13 of the General Assembly on the holding of special sessions of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, the Working Group may request additional members for its work on specific issues. The full name, position and country of origin of each member are as follows:

Sevil Atasoy Turkey 2010
Camilo Uribe Granja Colombia 2010
Melvyn Levitsky United States of America 2012
Tatyana B. Dmitrieva Russian Federation 2010

The Working Group meets as required by the Secretary-General and is assisted by a Secretariat, which is composed of a Chair and a technical team.

Secretariat

The functions of the secretariat are to provide secretarial, administrative and financial services to support the activities of the Working Group. The secretariat is composed of not less than five and not more than ten persons, the number of whom shall be determined by the Secretary-General, subject to the approval of the Economic and Social Council.

UNODC

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) promotes international, regional and national efforts to strengthen the capacity of United Nations Member States to fight international crime, including drug abuse, fraud, corruption and terrorism. It provides technical assistance, training and policy guidance to help Governments strengthen their institutions and legal frameworks, support the development of anti-corruption strategies, and combat international terrorism. It also promotes the rule of law and provides support to the work of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in the field of terrorism.

WHO

The World Health Organization (WHO), whose mandate is to protect and improve the health of peoples, promotes cooperation in the fields of health and the prevention and control of drug abuse, and works with local, national and international organizations to strengthen the capacity of Member States to address drug-related issues. WHO has been involved in the international drug control conventions since their inception in 1961, and plays a key role in implementing them.

In accordance with the terms of reference of the 1961 Convention and the 1971 Convention, WHO provides technical assistance and support to Member States and other international organizations in the field of drug control, and provides technical advice and policy guidance to countries and international organizations on the handling of drug-related issues.

The functioning of the Secretariat is determined by the Secretary-General in consulting the Working Group and the member States of the United Nations.

The work of UNODC is financed by the United Nations.

To contact the Secretariat of the Working Group on International Narcotics Control, interested persons may use the following channel: World Health Organization, 1211 Geneva 27, Switzerland. E-mail: secretariat@incb.org

INTERNATIONAL NARCOTICS CONTROL BOARD

The United Nations

UNITED NATIONS

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In December 1971, the United Nations General Assembly adopted the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961, which was expanded and amended by the 1972 Protocol to the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961. The 1961 Convention establishes strict controls on the use and production of a large number of drugs that are believed to “undermine the economy, and to create problems of public health and social problems in some countries. The 1951 Convention on Psychotropic Substances was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 1951. The Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961 is aimed at achieving effective and adequate control over chemicals used in the illicit manufacture of drugs and cooperates with Governments in providing the direction of such chemicals into illicit channels.
In February 1909, the first international drug control conference, the International Opium Commission, was held in Shanghai, China. Almost three years later, the International Opium Conference began at the Hague on 1 December 1911 and culminated with the signing of the International Opium Convention on 23 January 1912. The 1912 International Opium Convention endeavoured to bring about the gradual suppression of the abuse of opium, morphine and cocaine and to limit the use of narcotic drugs to medical and other legitimate purposes.

Following the establishment of the League of Nations in 1919, international control of narcotic drugs made continuous progress. The International Opium Convention signed in Geneva on 19 February 1925 brought the international trade in narcotic drugs under effective international supervision. The 1931 Convention for Limiting the Manufacture and Regulating the Distribution of Narcotic Drugs introduced the obligatory system of estimates to limit the manufacture of and trade in narcotic drugs to medical and scientific purposes. Each country must furnish annually advance estimates of the narcotic drugs needed for those purposes. The estimates were binding and determine the maximum amounts to be manufactured or imported in any given year. The Convention of 1936 for the Suppression of the Illicit Traffic in Dangerous Drugs was aimed at achieving effective and adequate penal sanctions and formulated general principles to that end. Two international agreements designed to bring to an end the practice of opium smoking were adopted in 1925 and 1931.

The League of Nations assumed the responsibility for overseeing the implementation of the earlier drug control treaties. The Permanent Central Board, established by the 1925 International Opium Convention, and the Drug Supervisory Body, established by the 1931 Convention, assisted the League in carrying out the drug control functions. Both performed duties similar to those performed by INCB today. In addition, the Advisory Committee on Traffic in Opium and Other Dangerous Drugs performed the functions of a policymaking body for the control system, work that is carried out by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs today.

In 1946, the newly founded United Nations assumed the drug control functions and responsibilities formerly carried out by the League of Nations. By that time, with several international agreements and two control bodies, the existing international drug control machinery had become very complex. Therefore, the United Nations decided in 1948 to begin work on drafting a new, single convention that would replace the existing international instruments and would provide for a single body to perform all control functions except the policymaking function, which had been entrusted to the Commission on Narcotic Drugs.

The Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961 created the International Narcotics Control Board, which became fully operational in 1968, four years after the entry into force of the Convention.
Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961

The 1961 Convention, which was expanded and strengthened by the 1972 Protocol, is considered a major achievement in international drug control because it consolidated all previous conventions and streamlined the international drug control machinery.

The 1961 Convention establishes strict controls on the cultivation of opium poppy, coca bush, cannabis plant and their products, which, in the Convention, are described as “narcotic drugs” (although cocaine is a stimulant drug rather than one that induces sleep). Control is exercised over 119 narcotic drugs, mainly natural products, such as opium and its derivatives, morphine, codeine and heroin, but also synthetic drugs, such as methadone and pethidine, as well as cannabis and coca leaf.

Parties to the 1961 Convention undertake to limit the production, manufacture, export, import, distribution and stocks of, trade in and use and possession of the controlled drugs so that they are used exclusively for medical and scientific purposes. The production and distribution of controlled substances must be licensed and supervised, and Governments must provide estimates and statistical returns to INCB on the quantities of drugs required, manufactured and utilized and the quantities seized by police and customs officers.

The control system established under the 1961 Convention functions well, and the system of estimates first introduced by the 1931 Convention is considered to be the key to that success. The system of estimates covers all States, regardless of whether or not they are parties to the 1961 Convention.

Each year, INCB publishes in a technical publication information about the licit movement of the internationally controlled narcotic drugs.

Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971

The 1971 Convention was adopted to curtail the abuse of certain psychotropic substances, which had resulted in public health and social problems in some countries. The 1971 Convention extends the same principles of control as those of the 1961 Convention to drugs such as central nervous system stimulants, sedative-hypnotics and hallucinogens. One hundred sixteen psychotropic substances are controlled by the 1971 Convention.

On the basis of the experience gained from the system of estimates enshrined in the 1961 Convention and recommendations by INCB, a system assessment, similar to the system of estimates has been developed to prevent diversion from legitimate manufacture and trade. As a result, the diversion of this class of drugs to illicit channels has been significantly reduced.

Each year, in a technical publication INCB publishes information about the licit movement of the internationally controlled psychotropic substances.

United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988

The 1988 Convention focuses on action against drug trafficking and contains comprehensive provisions on extradition, mutual legal assistance and the prevention of money-laundering.

Article 12 of the 1988 Convention introduces a number of control measures on key chemicals (precursors) frequently used in the illicit manufacture of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances. The chemicals have a wide variety of legitimate uses. The article entrusts INCB with the responsibility of monitoring the implementation by Governments of the measures of control over such substances. In addition, INCB is responsible for assessing chemicals for possible international control. Some 30 chemicals are controlled by the 1988 Convention.

INCB reports yearly to the Commission on Narcotic Drugs on Government implementation of article 12 of the 1988 Convention.
**Activities**

**Analysis of reports provided by Governments**

There are currently more than 180 States parties to the conventions. They provide to INCB estimates and assessments, as well as statistics, on the actual manufacture of, international trade in and consumption of internationally controlled substances. INCB analyses the data to see whether drugs are accounted for at the main stages of production, manufacture and trade. If there are any discrepancies, they are investigated and the causes clarified. INCB also monitors Government control over chemicals used in the illicit manufacture of drugs and cooperates with Governments in preventing the diversion of such chemicals into illicit channels.

**Evaluation and support of national efforts**

By examining and analysing the information it receives from more than 200 countries and territories, INCB monitors whether the conventions are being effectively implemented throughout the world. Through its continuous evaluation of national efforts, INCB is able to recommend action and suggest adjustments to both international and national drug control regimes. Where appropriate, the Board recommends to the relevant United Nations organs, specialized agencies and Governments that technical or financial assistance be provided in support of Governments’ efforts to comply with their treaty obligations.

**Dialogue with Governments**

To further the aims of the conventions, INCB maintains ongoing discussions with Governments. If those aims are being endangered by any country, INCB can recommend remedial measures or, as a last resort, propose sanctions against the defaulting country. INCB communicates with Governments, through regular consultations and special missions. Such “quiet diplomacy” has brought about the strengthening of legislation in several countries that have acknowledged the need for coordination of national drug control efforts.

**Training for Government officials**

To enhance the functioning of national drug control administrations, the INCB secretariat conducts training programmes for drug control administrators. The training focuses on meeting treaty obligations, especially those that relate to cooperation between INCB and parties to the conventions. National administrations may send officials to the INCB secretariat for training. Depending on the availability of funds, regional training seminars are organized in close cooperation with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime or other competent international organizations, in particular WHO.
One of the central functions of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs is to allow exchanges in the current context of international drug control, making proposals for new conventions and drug control instruments. The Commission makes decisions on which new substances are to be brought under the control of the conventions and decides what level of control is required. To this end, it receives information and recommendations from WHO on narcotic drugs (substances under the control of the 1961 Convention) and from INCB on precursor chemicals (substances under the control of the 1988 Convention), which it may accept or reject in the light of the economic, social, legal and administrative factors that are considered relevant.

**International Narcotics Control Board**

**Mandate and activities**

UNODC plays a very important role in providing technical assistance, through expertise and training, to help Governments set up adequate drug control structures and to develop comprehensive national plans. These may encompass a wide range of activities such as: top-down rural and alternative development and the enforcement of drug-related laws, drug abuse prevention, the treatment and rehabilitation of drug abusers and legislation and anti-narcotics actions.

World Health Organization (WHO) is the leading international health authority, is actively involved in activities to prevent drug abuse, which is a major health problem in many countries.

**Membership**

The current members of INCB and the year in which their terms expire (on the eve of the May session of the Board) are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Member Country</th>
<th>Year in which terms expire</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Joseph Bediako-Johns</td>
<td>Ghana 2010</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Abdou Karim Badji</td>
<td>Senegal 2010</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tatiana R. Berenbom</td>
<td>Russian Federation 2010</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Philip D. Busto</td>
<td>Vietnam 2010</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hamid Ghodaei</td>
<td>Islamic Republic of Iran 2012</td>
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<tr>
<td>Carmen Linder</td>
<td>Germany 2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Melvin Lovett</td>
<td>United States of America 2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aaron Flores-Medina</td>
<td>Mexico 2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deepak Srivastava</td>
<td>India 2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joseph Bediako Asare</td>
<td>Ghana 2010</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sevil Atasoy</td>
<td>Turkey 2010</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Suryawati*</td>
<td>Indonesia 2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Giorgio Fihade Stolpe</td>
<td>Colombia 2010</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bobi Waterer</td>
<td>Australia 2010</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Raymond Vans</td>
<td>Belgium 2012</td>
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<td>Vi To</td>
<td>Viet Nam 2012</td>
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</tbody>
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**Secretariat**

The INCB secretariat can be reached at the following address:

**United Nations**

**Secretariat**

The International Narcotics Control Board

**Mandate and activities**

The International Narcotics Control Board

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One of the central functions of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs is to advise on changes in the current system of international drug control, making proposals for new conventions and drug control instruments. The Commission makes decisions on which new substances are to be brought under the control of the conventions and decides what level of control is required. To this end, it receives information and recommendations from WHO on narcotic drugs (substances under the control of the 1961 Convention as amended by the 1972 Protocol) and psychotropic substances (substances under the control of the 1971 Convention) and from INCB on precursor chemicals (substances under the control of the 1988 Convention), which it may accept or reject in the light of economic, social, legal and administrative factors that are considered relevant.

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) coordinates international efforts to combat illicit drugs and international crime. Its headquarters are in Vienna and it has 20 field offices, as well as liaison offices in New York and Brussels.

UNODC is mandated to assist Member States in their efforts to address illicit drugs, crime and terrorism. In particular, it carries out the Secretary-General’s functions under the international treaties in those areas and assists the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and INCB in the implementation of their treaty-based functions.

UNODC plays a very important role in providing technical assistance, through expertise and training, to help Governments set up adequate drug control structures and to develop comprehensive national plans. These may encompass a wide range of activities such as integrated rural and alternative development and the enforcement of drug-related laws, drug abuse prevention, the treatment and rehabilitation of drug abusers and legislative and institutional reforms.

World Health Organization

WHO, the leading international health authority, is actively involved in activities to prevent drug abuse, which is a major health problem in many countries.

The international drug control conventions assign specific responsibilities to WHO in terms of initiating changes in the control of substances and placing substances in appropriate schedules. WHO studies the medical and scientific characteristics of drugs to assess dependence liability, therapeutic usefulness and public health and social problems related to their abuse. Once the assessment is completed (by a group of experts), WHO communicates to the Commission on Narcotic Drugs the findings, together with recommendations on control measures. The scheduling decision is taken by the Commission, which also takes into account economic, social, legal and other factors.

In accordance with article 9 of the 1961 Convention, WHO also nominates candidates with medical, pharmacological or pharmaceutical experience for service as INCB members. Three of the 13 INCB members are elected from a list of persons nominated by WHO.
Membership

The current members of INCB and the year in which their terms expire (on the eve of the May session of the Board) are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Member</th>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Year in which term expires</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Joseph Bediako Asare</td>
<td>Ghana</td>
<td>2010</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sevil Atasoy</td>
<td>Turkey</td>
<td>2010</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tatyana B. Dmitrieva</td>
<td>Russian Federation</td>
<td>2010</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Philip O. Emafo*</td>
<td>Nigeria</td>
<td>2010</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hamid Ghodse*</td>
<td>Islamic Republic of Iran</td>
<td>2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carola Lander</td>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Melvyn Levitsky</td>
<td>United States of America</td>
<td>2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maria Elena Medina-Mora</td>
<td>Mexico</td>
<td>2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sri Suryawati*</td>
<td>Indonesia</td>
<td>2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Camilo Uribe Granja</td>
<td>Colombia</td>
<td>2010</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brian Watters</td>
<td>Australia</td>
<td>2010</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Raymond Yans</td>
<td>Belgium</td>
<td>2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yu Xin</td>
<td>China</td>
<td>2012</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Elected by the Economic and Social Council from a list of persons nominated by WHO.

INCB sessions are held three times a year: in February, May and November.

Secretariat

The INCB secretariat may be reached at the following address:

Vienna International Centre
P.O. Box 500
1400 Vienna
Austria

In addition, the following may be used to contact the secretariat:

- Telephone: +(43-1) 26060
- Fax: +(43-1) 26060-5867
- Internet: http://www.incb.org
- E-mail: secretariat@incb.org

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