



INTERNATIONAL NARCOTICS CONTROL BOARD

**Press conference to
launch annual
report of INCB**

Report embargo: 19 February 2009, 11 a.m. Central European Time



2008 Annual Report

**Embargo date: 19 February
2009 (10:00 hours GMT)**



INTERNATIONAL NARCOTICS CONTROL BOARD



**What is the International
Narcotics Control Board?**





**Established by the
1961 Single Convention on
Narcotic Drugs to replace
predecessor bodies
under League of Nations**

**Additional mandates to control
psychotropic substances under
the 1971 Convention; and
chemicals used in illicit drug
manufacture under the 1988
Convention**



INCB History

➤ Geneva Convention, 1925

- **PCB** *Permanent Central Opium (or Narcotics) Board (1929-1967)*

➤ 1931 Convention

- **DSB** *Drug Supervisory Body (1933-1967)*

➤ Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, 1961

- **INCB** *International Narcotics Control Board*

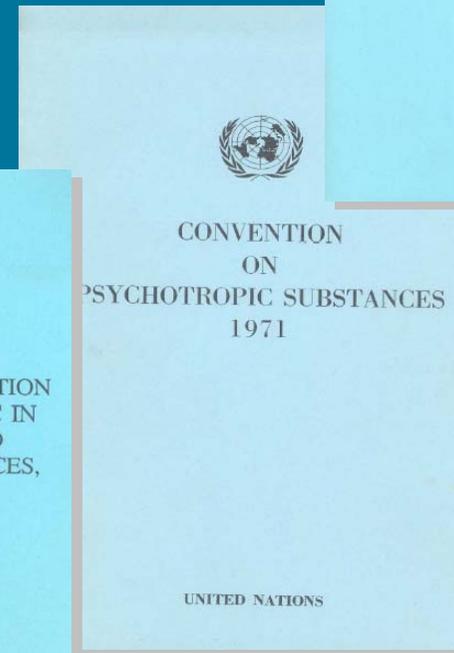
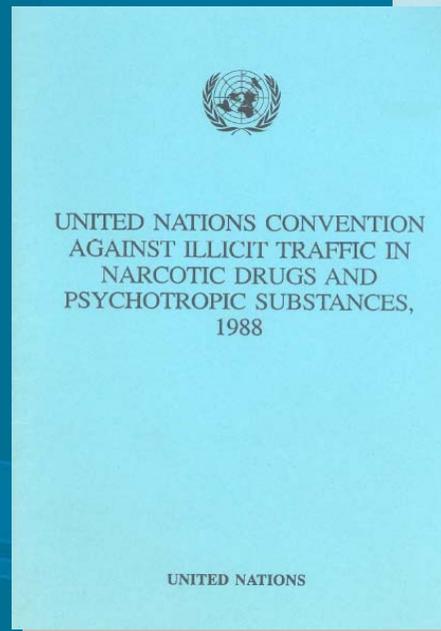
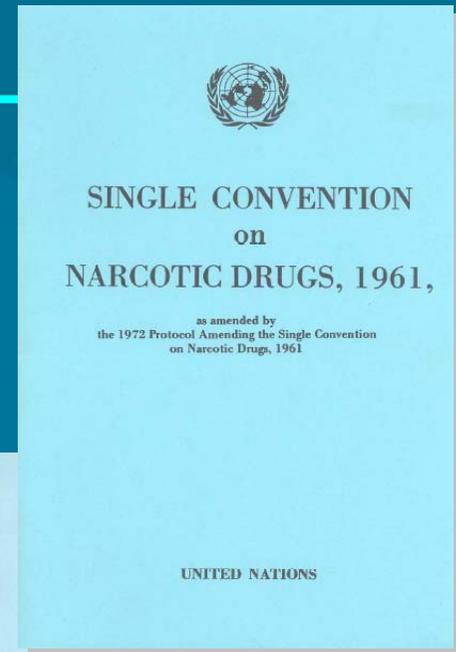
(as of 1968)



Functions of INCB

- To monitor and promote treaty compliance
- To encourage dialogue with Governments

Quasi judicial function





INCB reports

- **Annual Report of the Board**
- **Three technical reports on**
 - **narcotic drugs**
 - **psychotropic substances**
 - **precursors**



**INTERNATIONAL
NARCOTICS CONTROL
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**Annual Report
2008**

The highlights





Thematic review:

International drug control Conventions

(Press release no. 2, Chapter 1 of report)



History, achievements, challenges

100 years of international drug control:

- International Opium Commission in Shanghai, China, held in February 1909
- Shanghai Commission laid foundation for the international drug control treaty system
- First International Opium Convention signed at The Hague in 1912, followed by series of treaties



History, achievements, challenges

Treaties currently in force:

- Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, 1961
- Convention on Psychotropic Substances, 1971
- United Nations Convention Against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, 1988



History, achievements, challenges

- Achievements:
 - Treaties enjoy high degree of international acceptance
 - Over 95 per cent of United Nations Member States (covering 99 per cent of the world's population) are parties to the international drug control Conventions
 - All major drug manufacturing countries, major drug exporting countries and major drug importing countries are parties to the three Conventions



History, achievements, challenges

- Achievements:
 - Licit control system set up by the Convention has managed to absorb:
 - an ever increasing number of substances controlled by the Conventions (119 narcotic drugs, 116 psychotropic substances)
 - a continuously rising demand for narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances
 - No cases of diversion from licit international trade to illicit traffic of narcotic drugs detected in the course of 2007
 - Few diversions of strictly controlled psychotropic substances (such as amphetamine, MDMA) from licit trade



History, achievements, challenges

Challenges

- Access to controlled drugs for medical and scientific purposes still a problem in over 150 countries
 - Up to 86 million people estimated to suffer untreated moderate and severe pain annually
- Governments need to address the reasons for this problem (lack of training of health-related professionals, low priority of issue in health plans etc.)



History, achievements, challenges

Challenge:

- Inconsistent implementation of cannabis control provisions throughout the world
 - Tolerance of cannabis use in some countries at odds with the position of cannabis in schedules I and IV of the 1961 Convention;
 - More potent forms of cannabis are available, particularly in developed countries;
 - Overlap and confusion in public perceptions of the alleged medical uses of cannabis and its recreational use.



History, achievements, challenges

Challenge

- Primary prevention
 - Crucial issue: Early onset of drug abuse may be a predictor of the development of health and social problems as a whole;
 - Progress in using prevention as part of the global response to the drug problem has been slow
 - Citizens should demand from their Governments to place high priority on prevention of drug abuse for youth and other vulnerable groups



Recommendations

Governments should

- Make greater investments in prevention, especially for youth and vulnerable groups
- Stimulate rational use of opioid analgesics for medical purposes and consider working with the pharmaceutical industry with a view to making them more affordable to the poorest countries
- Examine how to best ensure the effective functioning of the 1961 and 1971 Conventions



Regional highlights

Press release No. 3, Chapter 3 of report



ASIA

- Drug control situation in Afghanistan still major concern: largest producer of Illicit opium poppy cultivation, significant cultivation of cannabis;
- Large seizures of amphetamine-type stimulants in South Asia might point to the emergence of an illicit market in those substances
- Sharing needles among drug abusers remains one of the main causes of HIV transmission in many countries in South-East Asia.



OCEANIA

- Recent increase in drug trafficking from Canada to Australia;
- Illicit drugs seizures in Fiji, Papua New Guinea and Vanuatu confirm concerns that Island States in Oceania are vulnerable to exploitation by drug traffickers due to porous maritime border and relatively weak control measures.



Amphetamine-type stimulants

Press release No. 6



Amphetamine-type stimulants

- Abuse of amphetamine-type stimulants (ATS) worsening in some regions of the world;
- Large seizures of these substances in Saudi Arabia and other countries on the Arabian peninsula indicate an abuse problem;
- Criminal organizations often pose as legitimate importers to obtain the chemicals ephedrine and pseudoephedrine, the main chemicals used in the illicit manufacture of ATS;
- INCB supports Governments in their action against trafficking of chemicals.



INCB recommendations

Chapter 4



INCB Recommendations

- Chapter 4: Presentation of major recommendations made throughout the report;
- Implementation of these recommendations will be reviewed by the Board.



2008 Report

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Supplementary slides





INTERNATIONAL NARCOTICS CONTROL BOARD



Annual Report

Functions of INCB





Role of INCB

Work focuses on six main aspects :

- ensure that cultivation, production, manufacture and utilization of drugs are limited to medical and scientific purposes
- ensure availability of drugs for medical and scientific purposes
- identify weaknesses in the implementation of the international drug control conventions
- prevent illicit cultivation, production, manufacture, trafficking and use of drugs
- evaluate and recommend chemicals for possible international control
- monitor chemicals and prevent their diversion into illicit channels



Composition of the Board



- 13 members
 - 3 nominated by WHO
 - 10 nominated by Governments
- ➔ elected by ECOSOC for a period of 5 years
- ➔ serve in their personal capacity not as government representatives

***Board members are persons who,
“by their competence, impartiality and
disinterestedness, will command general confidence”
(Article 9 (2), 1961 Convention)***



Impartiality of INCB members (a)

Impartiality - central principle

- *“During their term of office they shall not hold any position or engage in any activity which would be liable to impair their impartiality in the exercise of their functions.” Article 9, paragraph 2, 1961 Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs*



Impartiality of INCB members (b)

- ECOSOC/Governments should ensure that principle of impartiality is adhered to at the time of election.
- INCB has established internal procedure to ensure impartiality during term of office of Board member.



INCB secretariat

→ Located in Vienna within UNODC

→ Maintains full technical independence

→ Responsible only to the Board on matters of substance

→ Acts on behalf of the Board





Dialogue with Governments



- **Correspondence**
- **Meetings**
- **Country missions**
- **Technical visits**



INCB missions 2008



- *Ethiopia*
- *Japan*
- *Mauritius*

- *Romania*
- *Ukraine*
- *United Arab Emirates*



INTERNATIONAL NARCOTICS CONTROL BOARD



Thematic issues





Afghanistan “Licit poppy proposal”

- Proposal to “legalize” opium poppy cultivation is simplistic, not feasible and based on the wrong premise
- Claim: Purported shortage of licit opiate raw materials
- Reality: since 1999, total production of licit opiate raw materials has exceeded global demand
 - In 2005, total stocks of licit opiate raw materials were sufficient to cover global annual demand for almost two years
- Cultivation of licit opium only works if certain conditions for success are met, e.g. functional control mechanisms to prevent diversion into the illicit market, rule of law etc.
- Reality: In Afghanistan, current situation characterized by rampant illicit production, significant levels of drug abuse, and weak and dysfunctional control system



Drug injection rooms

- **INCB gravely concerned about drug injection rooms**
- **Drug injection rooms are facilities where drugs acquired on the illicit market are abused**
- **Such rooms exist in Australia, Canada, Germany, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Spain and Switzerland**
- **Drug injection rooms run counter to fundamental principle of the international drug control system, namely that drug use be limited to medical and scientific purposes**
- **Drug injection rooms do not address the root cause of the drug problem**



Control of coca leaf

- **Coca leaf controlled under provisions of 1961 Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs**
- **Last review of World Health Organization was in 1993, concluded that coca leaf is “appropriately scheduled” under the 1961 Convention “since cocaine is readily extractable from the leaf”**
- **Since that time, no new facts have come to light to justify a reversal of that decision**
- **States parties are bound by their obligations under the 1961 Convention**



**Thank you
for your attention**