

2 November 2012

English only*

**Thirty-sixth Meeting of Heads of National Drug
Law Enforcement Agencies, Asia and the Pacific**

Bangkok, 30 October-2 November 2012

Agenda item 9

Adoption of the report**Draft report***Rapporteur:* Mr. Mark Day (New Zealand)**Addendum****Consideration of topics by working groups****(a) Precursor chemicals, including the identification of new smuggling routes
and of trafficking groups involved in the diversion of precursors
and their *modi operandi***

1. The working group on the above topic met during the 3rd and 4th meetings, held on 31 October 2012. In its consideration of the issue, the working group formulated the following observations, conclusions and recommendations.

2. The working group made the following observations:

(a) It is the obligation of governments to establish controls that ensures the adequate availability of controlled substances for medical and scientific purposes while simultaneously preventing abuse, diversion and trafficking;

(b) Ketamine as a recreational substance, is often taken in combination with other drugs and favoured by those who use it because its effects are of a short duration. Nevertheless, authorities noted an increase in social problems and specific deterioration in health associated with its long-term use;

(c) Before a preparation such as ketamine can be considered for international control it must be subject to evidence-based assessment in multiple areas such as documentation on evidence of misuse, current best practices in its application,

* English is the working language of the subsidiary body.



expert peer review and Member State expert discussions at the Expert Committee on Drug Dependence (ECDD) convened by WHO;

(d) It was noted that airfreight and express courier services were particularly favoured for smuggling precursor chemicals and related chemical substances into the region and special attention needed to be given to training and equipping authorities stationed at entry points to recognize their threat and correctly identify them.

3. The working group drew the following conclusions:

(a) Good international cooperation is vital to implement effective countermeasures to prevent precursor chemical diversion;

(b) The problems of identification of controlled chemicals and other chemical substances that can be modified to produce controlled precursors remains a challenge for front line law enforcement officers. The chemical substances hydroxylamine and APAAN were current examples of non-controlled substances suited, by simple conversion process, to be transformed into a substance of abuse or an active precursor chemical for illicit drug manufacture;

(c) The problem of ketamine abuse requires a comprehensive approach from all government agencies responsible for illicit drug control, including the use of resources to gather and monitor statistics on its trafficking and use;

(d) The Pre-Export Notification Online (PEN Online) system supported by the International Narcotics Control Board has proven to be a very effective mechanism for confirming the legitimacy of commercial parties involved in international transactions in precursor chemicals and an effective countermeasure to stop attempts at diversion;

(e) Government authorities (both law enforcement and administrative) must engage in broader partnerships in response to the new challenges to maintaining effective border control to prevent diversion of precursor chemicals.

4. The working group adopted the following recommendations:

(a) Where they have not already done so, Governments should ensure that the sale and use of the preparation ketamine is controlled and monitored so as to prevent its diversion for illicit use;

(b) Governments must ensure that the staff of their authorities responsible for the administration of procedures managing chemical substances and internationally controlled precursor chemicals are properly trained and equipped to identify controlled chemicals and other chemical substances of concern;

(c) Governments should consider the establishment of inter-agency partnerships comprised of ministries with the appropriate mandates to regulate, oversee and enforce the importation and export, national manufacture, trade and distribution of precursor chemicals.