

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****(b) Production of amphetamine-type stimulants, in particular the detection and dismantling of “mega-labs”, the challenge of illicit manufacturing in kitchen laboratories, control of Internet pharmacies and the emergence of new designer drugs that are not under international control**

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

2. The working group made the following observations:

(a) The high levels of ATS manufacture in East and South-East Asia are reflected in the region's statistics that account for half of the reported global seizures of methamphetamine, the rising numbers of those arrested for related drug offences and an increasing demand for ATS treatment;

(b) The “ecstasy” threat is declining. However, seizures of crystalline methamphetamine in 2011 are the highest ever recorded, while the market for this substance is rapidly expanding in new directions across the region;

(c) The growing incidence of injecting methamphetamine use is of concern because of the inherent health risk to users and the dangers associated with the transmittal of infectious diseases such as hepatitis and HIV/AIDS;

* English is the working language of the subsidiary body.



(d) West African transnational organized groups are very much involved in the trafficking of amphetamine-type stimulants from source countries into and through the region;

(e) There are new developments with regard to new psychoactive substances (NPS) that are not under international control and whose pharmacological properties and effects are closely similar to known illicit substances.

3. The working group drew the following conclusions:

(a) The influence of transnational organized crime activity related to the illicit manufacture and trafficking of amphetamine-type stimulants is of concern and should be the focus of closer law enforcement cooperation across the region;

(b) Measures by drug law enforcement authorities to monitor the sale and trade in equipment such as tablet making machinery, laboratory glassware and related laboratory equipment used for illicit production or manufacture of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances could lead to the identification of clandestine manufacturing sites;

(c) The shift to the sourcing of “pre”-precursor substances, the purchase and transport of precursors in new physical forms, the use of non-controlled licit chemicals and the growing attempts at the diversion of pharmaceutical preparations are serious new challenges to effective law enforcement;

(d) The marketing of new psychoactive substances (NPS) as “legal” alternatives to illicit drug use is of emerging concern.

4. The working group adopted the following recommendations:

(a) Governments should review their legislation so as to ensure that their drug law enforcement authorities are effectively empowered to act against the new challenges that “pre”-precursor substances, non-controlled licit chemicals and the emerging new psychoactive substances being sourced by traffickers present;

(b) In response to the influence of transnational organized groups trafficking amphetamine-type stimulants into and across the region, Governments should actively encourage and support their drug law enforcement authorities to develop closer law enforcement cooperation through measures such as the proactive exchange of information, collaboration in joint targeting and interception operations against identified trafficking syndicates and the early development of bilateral procedures to support and facilitate a rapid response to requests to undertake controlled deliveries;

(c) Where they are not already doing so, Governments should ensure that their drug law enforcement authorities take measures to monitor the sale and trade in equipment such as tablet making machinery, laboratory glassware and related laboratory equipment used for illicit production or manufacture of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances so as to effectively prevent the diversion of such materials to clandestine manufacturing sites.