The INCB and the International Drug Control Framework
International Drug Control Treaties

- **1961 Single Convention**
  - On Narcotic Drugs
  - Established INCB
  - 1972 Protocol

- **1971 Convention**
  - On Psychotropic Substances

- **1988 Convention**
  - Against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances
Narcotic drugs
130 substances under the 1961 Convention (status: September 2018)
- Natural products: e.g. opium, morphine, codeine, etc.
- Synthetic drugs: e.g. methadone, pethidine, etc.

Psychotropic substances
138 substances under the 1971 Convention (status: September 2018)
- Hallucinogens
- Stimulants
- Sedative-hypnotics
- Analgesics

Precursor chemicals
26 substances under the 1988 Convention (status: September 2018)
- “True Precursors”: e.g. ephedrine, lysergic acid, safrole
- “Essential chemicals”: e.g. solvents: acetone, ethyl ether, sulphuric acid
e.g. oxidizing agents: acetic anhydride, potassium permanganate
Main Objectives of the Drug Control Legal Framework

- Preventing the illicit production, cultivation, manufacturing and trade in controlled substances as well as their abuse
- Ensuring the adequate availability of controlled substances for medical and scientific purposes
- Providing a system of control for the international movement of controlled substances for licit purposes
- Providing a legal basis for international cooperation, such as mutual legal assistance, extradition and the exchange of information among national law enforcement agencies
The International Drug Control Bodies

General Assembly

ECOSOC

CND
53 States members

INCB
13 individual members

INCB Secretariat

WHO
Established by the 1961 Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs
Replaced predecessor bodies under the League of Nations

Additional mandates to control:
- psychotropic substances (1971 Convention);
- chemicals used in illicit drug manufacture (1988 Convention)
Composition of the Board

- 13 members, elected by ECOSOC:
  - 3 nominated by WHO
  - 10 nominated by Governments

- term of office: 5 years, may be re-elected

- serve in their personal capacity not as government representatives

- Secretariat provided by the United Nations, Vienna, Austria
Role of the INCB

- Ensuring that use of controlled substances is limited to medical and scientific purposes, while preventing their diversion
- Monitoring the licit trade in chemicals and preventing their diversion into illicit channels
- Assisting States in preventing illicit cultivation, production, manufacture, trafficking and use of drugs
- Evaluating and recommending chemicals for possible international control
- Identifying weaknesses in the implementation of the treaties and suggesting remedial action
The INCB and its Secretariat

INCB – The Board

Secretary

Convention Evaluation Section
Narcotics Control & Estimates Section
Psychotropics Control Section
Precursors Control Section
Monitor the implementation and support Parties

- Administration of the international control mechanism
- Analysis of data
- Action to encourage adequate reporting
- Investigation of discrepancies and imbalances
- Data on supply and demand of opiates
- Requests for other information
- INCB missions
- Advise to Governments
- Training for selected countries on reporting
International Control Mechanism

THREE Pillars

A. Estimates/Assessments/Annual Legitimates Requirements
B. Statistical returns
C. Control measures for international trade
Reports Analysis by the INCB Secretariat

- to identify possible cases of diversion into illicit channels
- to identify any weaknesses in the control system at the national and international levels
- to identify trends in the licit use of controlled substances

Data received and results of analysis of international movements of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances are reflected in the INCB technical reports on narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances.
Fentanyl: global manufacture, consumption and stocks, 1999-2018

Fentanyl: distribution of consumption, 2018
Address issues related to affordability

Consumption of fentanyl, oxycodone and morphine expressed in S-DDD, 1999–2018
INCB Annual Report

- Analyses the global drug control situation
- Draws attention of Governments to weaknesses in national drug control and treaty compliance
- Makes recommendations to improve drug control at the national and international levels
  - Addressed to Governments, the United Nations, other international organizations, and regional bodies
  - Implementation of the recommendations is evaluated by the Board
INCB Reports

- Annual Report of the Board
- Report on Article 12 of the 1988 Convention (Precursors)
- Technical reports
  - Narcotic Drugs
  - Psychotropic Substances
- Special Reports
Promoting Overall Treaty Compliance by Governments

- Identification and monitoring of new developments and trends in drug control, e.g.:
  - Need for gender-sensitive drug policies
  - Extrajudicial targeting of drug offenders
  - Death penalty for drug offences
  - Legalization of non-medical use of cannabis
  - Need for alternatives to imprisonment

- Initiate dialogue with Governments concerned (letters/meetings/country missions)
- Prepare special studies
- Publish the position of the Board in the annual report
Thank you

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