

28 November 2017

English only*

**Forty-first Meeting of Heads of National
Drug Law Enforcement Agencies,
Asia and the Pacific**

Bangkok, 27–30 November 2017

Agenda item 10

Adoption of the report**Draft report***Rapporteur:* Lee Pin How (Singapore)**Addendum****Consideration of topics by working groups****(b) Measures to counter the illicit manufacturing of, the diversion of and trafficking in precursors**

1. The working group on the above topic met during the 4th meeting, held on 28 November 2017. 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) The methamphetamine market in East and South-East Asia is continuing to expand rapidly, while countries in West Asia face the particular persistent challenge posed by heroin, as well as the diversion of acetic anhydride used in the manufacture of heroin;

(b) The region is vulnerable due to the rapidly growing chemical industry, with a large number of companies and people involved in the industry;

(c) Transnational organized crime groups continue to find ways to circumvent existing precursor control mechanisms;

(d) Given the significant quantities of illicit drugs seized in the region, the relatively low precursor detection rate in the region is of concern;

(e) Strengthening the public-private partnership is crucial to countering the trafficking in and diversion of precursor chemicals;

(f) Although countries in the region understand the importance of effective precursor controls, no concrete regional strategy has been developed yet to address challenges posed by precursor control.

* Available only in English, which is the working language of the subsidiary body.



3. The working group drew the following conclusions:
 - (a) Information sharing among countries in the region is an essential element in the successful interdiction of precursor chemicals;
 - (b) The development of a regional database mechanism on precursor chemicals, in particular drug signatures and fingerprints, would be beneficial as such data could be utilized for backtracking investigations;
 - (c) There is a need to increase knowledge and to strengthen the capacity of relevant national authorities in the area of trafficking in and diversion of precursor chemicals.
4. The working group made the following recommendations:
 - (a) Governments are encouraged to develop robust national legislation and regulatory mechanisms on precursor controls in order to better monitor and respond to flows of precursor chemicals;
 - (b) Governments should provide additional capacity-building opportunities to their national law enforcement, forensic and regulatory authorities, with the view to improving the identification and interdiction of precursor chemicals, in particular of those substances that are not commonly used;
 - (c) Governments should improve their use of existing tools, such as PEN Online and the Precursors Incident Communication System (PICS), developed by INCB to control precursor chemicals;
 - (d) Governments are encouraged to undertake additional efforts to assess how precursor chemicals are diverted and trafficked at national and regional levels;
 - (e) Governments are encouraged to counter illicit financial flows related to trafficking in and diversion of precursor chemicals.
