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**World situation with regard to
drug trafficking and recommendations
of the subsidiary bodies of the Commission****World situation with regard to drug trafficking****Report of the Secretariat***Summary*

The present report provides an overview of the latest trends in illicit drug production and trafficking worldwide. The statistics and analysis in the report are based on the latest information available to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. The report presents trends in drug seizures up to 2011 and statistics on illicit drug crop cultivation up to 2012.

The clearest trend to emerge from the 2011 data is the increase in global seizures of methamphetamine. In recent years, the global market for methamphetamine has expanded significantly. After relatively stable levels of seizures in the period 2001-2007, the annual amount of methamphetamine seized globally rapidly increased in 2011. According to the provisional statistics for 2011, in that year seizures of methamphetamine worldwide were almost three times the amount in 2008; analysis of the provisional data suggests that total methamphetamine seizures for 2011 are likely to exceed 60 tons.

Afghanistan continued to account for most illicit opium poppy cultivation worldwide. Opium poppy cultivation in that country covered an estimated 154,000 hectares (ha) in 2012, 18 per cent more than the estimated 131,000 ha of cultivation the previous year. However, plant diseases and bad weather damaged crops, resulting in a 36-per-cent drop in potential opium production.

*E/CN.7/2013/1.



The total area under coca bush cultivation remained stable in 2011, with three Andean States continuing to account for virtually all cultivation of coca bush worldwide. The data available at the time of preparing this report suggest a stable trend in global cocaine seizures.

Cannabis continued to be the most widely produced, trafficked and used plant-based illicit drug worldwide. Data available at the time of preparing this report suggest global seizures of cannabis herb were stable. In 2011, global seizures of cannabis resin were stable, but there were shifts in seizure trends.

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I. Introduction

1. The present report provides an overview of developments in the production of and trafficking in the main illicit drugs at the global and regional levels. Analysis is based on the latest information available to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC).
2. Section II of the report addresses the illicit production of cannabis, opiates and cocaine for the years up to and including 2011 and, where available, 2012. With regard to drug trafficking, section III of the report focuses on seizure statistics for 2010 and 2011 and provides an update on trafficking trends for opiates, cannabis, cocaine and amphetamine-type stimulants based on the latest information available to UNODC.
3. Information on illicit drug crop cultivation and illicit production of plant-based drugs was drawn from the results of the latest UNODC illicit crop monitoring surveys and the *World Drug Report 2012*. The primary sources of information on drug trafficking were the replies submitted by Governments to part IV (Extent and patterns of and trends in drug crop cultivation and drug manufacture and trafficking) of the annual reports questionnaire for 2011.
4. At the time of preparation of the present report (as of 30 November 2012), UNODC had received replies to part IV of the annual reports questionnaire for 2011 from 86 Member States. Supplementary sources of information include published official government reports and other reports received by UNODC or submitted to the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and its subsidiary bodies.
5. In general, statistics on drug seizures offer valid, indirect indicators of drug trafficking trends. However, they should be treated with caution, as they also reflect different reporting practices and are dependent on the level and effectiveness of law enforcement capacities.

II. Global trends in illicit drug crop cultivation and the production of plant-based drugs

A. Cannabis

6. Unlike other illicit crops such as coca leaf and opium poppy, cannabis lends itself to diverse cultivation methods, as it is easily grown in varied environments. That makes assessing the extent of its cultivation and production difficult. Reports of cultivation together with indirect indicators, such as seizures of cannabis plant, suggest that illicit cultivation of cannabis plant and production of cannabis herb occurred in most countries worldwide.
7. In contrast, production of cannabis resin tended to be concentrated in fewer countries, of which Morocco and Afghanistan were the most prominent. The most recent cannabis survey conducted by UNODC in Morocco took place in 2005. The total area under illicit cannabis cultivation in that country was then estimated at 72,500 hectares (ha). Morocco estimated the net area under illicit cannabis cultivation (after eradication) to be 60,000 ha in 2008 and 47,500 ha in 2011.

8. In 2011, the third dedicated Afghanistan cannabis survey was jointly carried out by UNODC and the Government of Afghanistan. The survey found that cultivation of cannabis plant and production of cannabis resin in Afghanistan appeared stable, and there was no evidence of a substantive change in comparison with the previous UNODC cannabis surveys of 2009 and 2010. Nevertheless, the number of cannabis plant-growing households in Afghanistan increased by 38 per cent, from 47,000 in 2010 to 65,000 in 2011; virtually all of those cultivating cannabis plant were sporadic growers who had chosen that year to cultivate cannabis once again, while only a small amount were first-time growers of cannabis plant. Moreover, commercial cannabis resin cultivation has spread to more provinces and cannabis was being cultivated in almost two thirds of the country's provinces (21 provinces) in 2011 as opposed to only half of them (17 of 34 provinces) in 2009.

B. Opium

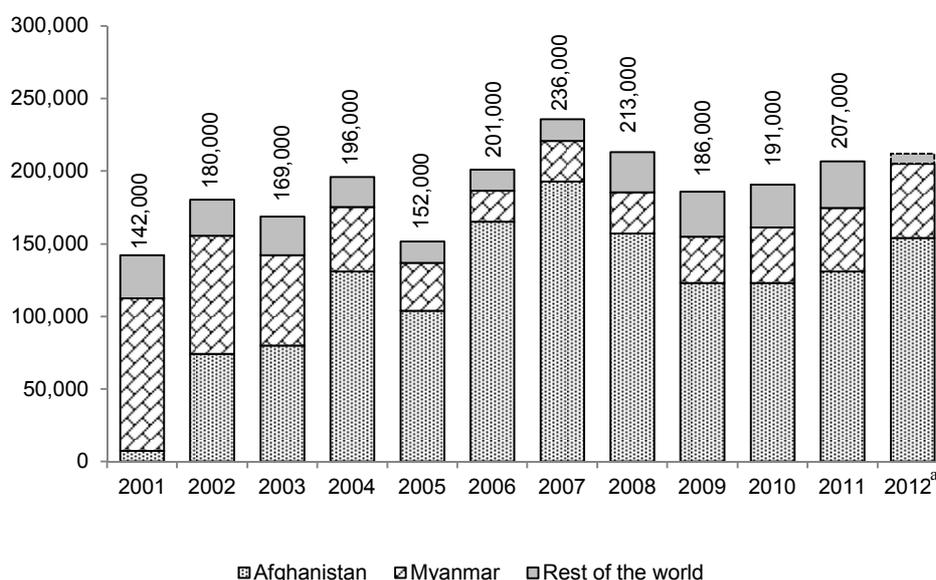
9. In 2011, Afghanistan and Myanmar continued to account for most illicit opium poppy cultivation worldwide (see figure I); 84 per cent of global opium cultivation occurred in those two countries. The UNODC *World Drug Report 2012*, stated that the global area under opium poppy cultivation increased from 191,000 ha in 2010 to 207,000 ha in 2011.

10. Afghanistan remains the main country cultivating opium poppy. According to the 2012 Afghanistan opium survey, opium poppy cultivation in Afghanistan covered 154,000 ha in 2012, 18 per cent more than the 131,000 ha recorded the previous year. However, since plant diseases and bad weather had damaged crops, potential opium production fell 36 per cent over the same period, from 5,800 tons to 3,700 tons. Cultivation increased despite a significant 154-per-cent increase in the area eradicated through Government efforts (more than 9,600 ha of opium poppy was eradicated in 2012, compared with 3,800 in 2011). The number of poppy-free provinces remained unchanged at 17. Ghor province in the west lost its "poppy-free" status in 2012, while Faryab province in the north regained it.

11. In 2012, 95 per cent of Afghanistan opium poppy cultivation was concentrated in the southern and western provinces. The southern provinces of Helmand, Kandahar, Oruzgan, Daykundi and Zabul were the main contributors; 72 per cent of cultivation occurred in those provinces, and Helmand province continued to account for approximately one half of opium poppy cultivation in Afghanistan. Farah, Herat and Nimroz in the west accounted for 23 per cent of opium poppy cultivation.

12. The farm-gate prices for opium in Afghanistan remained at a relatively high level of \$196 per kilogram (kg), a price that continues to provide a strong incentive for farmers to start or resume opium poppy cultivation in the coming season. As a consequence of low yields, the average gross income for opium poppy per hectare was down by 57 per cent to \$4,600 in 2012, from \$10,700 in 2011.

Figure I
Illicit opium poppy cultivation worldwide, 2001-2012
 (Hectares)

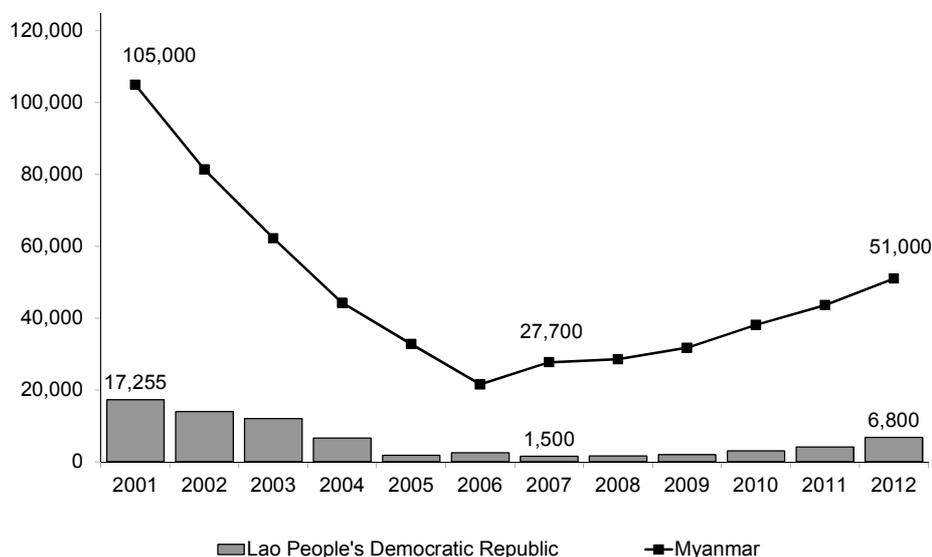


^a Data for 2012 were incomplete at the time of preparation of this report.

13. In South-East Asia, opium poppy cultivation has historically taken place in the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Myanmar, Thailand and Viet Nam. Cultivation in those countries tends to be on steep hills with poor soil and no irrigation facilities, resulting in lower yields than in Afghanistan. In Myanmar, opium poppy cultivation declined markedly over the decade preceding 2006 but followed a generally increasing trend after that year, reaching 51,000 ha in 2012 (see figure II). While still small in comparison with the peak level of 1996, the area under opium poppy cultivation in Myanmar in 2012 (51,000 ha) is significantly higher than in 2006 (21,500 ha). The estimated opium production in Myanmar rose from 610 tons in 2011 to 690 tons in 2012, making Myanmar the subregion's largest cultivator of opium poppy and largest producer of illicit opium.

14. In the Lao People's Democratic Republic, the area under opium poppy cultivation increased from 4,100 ha in 2011 to an estimated 6,800 ha in 2012. That level is still very small in comparison with the level registered in the period 1996-1999 but represented the fifth year-on-year increase and amounted to over four times the level observed in 2007 (1,500 ha). The aerial survey conducted by UNODC in 2012 revealed the existence of opium poppy cultivation in four of the six provinces in northern Lao People's Democratic Republic, namely Phongsali, Louang Namtha, Houaphan and Louangphrabang. The estimated production of opium in the country increased from 25 tons in 2011 to 41 tons in 2012.

Figure II
Opium poppy cultivation in South-East Asia, 2001-2012
 (Hectares)



15. Opium poppy cultivation also took place in Mexico. Although recent estimates from the Government of Mexico on the net area under cultivation were not available, Mexico reported the eradication of 16,389 ha under cultivation in 2011. Authorities of that country reported that opium resin is trafficked mostly by land and is produced from opium poppy cultivated mainly on the Pacific coast.¹

C. Coca

16. Three countries — Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Colombia and Peru — continued to account for virtually all cultivation of coca bush worldwide. The total area under cultivation was stable in 2011, the balance of slight increases in Colombia and Peru and a decrease in Bolivia (Plurinational State of). The illicit extraction of cocaine alkaloids from coca leaves, a first step in the manufacture of cocaine, was believed to take place exclusively in those three countries, which also accounted for most of the cocaine hydrochloride manufactured worldwide. Nevertheless, there were also indications of some limited processing of cocaine in neighbouring countries, with laboratories being seized in Ecuador, Mexico and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) in 2011. Facilities detected in Europe in recent years were predominantly secondary extraction laboratories, where cocaine was recovered after having been impregnated, dissolved or otherwise incorporated into other substances or materials.

¹ Information contained in the country report submitted by Mexico to the Twenty-second Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Antigua, Guatemala, from 1 to 5 October 2012.

17. In the Plurinational State of Bolivia, coca bush cultivation decreased, amounting to 27,200 ha in 2011, down from 31,000 ha in 2010. The Yungas region of la Paz continued to account for approximately two thirds of that area of cultivation, with most of the remainder being in the Chapare region and a much smaller area in the municipality of Apolo. Data from law enforcement agencies point to intensified efforts to contain cultivation of coca bush and the manufacture of cocaine: eradication of coca bush cultivation rose from 8,200 ha in 2010 to 10,800 ha in 2011 (including voluntary and forced eradication).

18. In Colombia, coca cultivation was 64,000 ha in 2011, up from 62,000 ha in 2010. The slight increase in 2011 follows three year-on-year decreases and is less than half the 145,000 ha recorded in 2001. Authorities in Colombia noted that measures taken to reduce the area under coca bush cultivation included the manual eradication of 34,170 ha and the eradication of a further 103,302 ha by aerial spraying.

19. While coca bush cultivation was identified in 23 of the 32 departments of Colombia in 2011, three provinces (Nariño, Guaviare and Putumayo) accounted for 54 per cent of the total. In Nariño, Guaviare, Putumayo and three other departments, the area under cultivation increased, which contributed to the overall increase in coca bush cultivation in the country. However, 14 departments recorded decreases in 2011, and 3 reported stable levels of cultivation. The largest reductions in the area under coca cultivation between 2010 and 2011 took place in the departments of Córdoba (a reduction of 2,801 ha) and Antioquia (a reduction of 2,246 ha) in the central region. In 2011, all departments were below their highest peaks of coca bush cultivation, and the departments of Bolívar and Vichada reached the lowest levels of cultivation since at least 1999. The noteworthy reduction of coca bush cultivation in the department of Meta continues, falling from 18,740 ha in 2004 to 3,039 ha in 2011.

20. In Peru, the net area under coca bush cultivation increased slightly, reaching 64,400 ha in 2011, compared with 61,200 ha in 2010. The total area under cultivation has gradually increased by 34 per cent from 2005 to 2011, but remains far below the high levels registered prior to 1996. In 2011, the area of coca bush cultivation in Peru (64,400 ha) was comparable to the cultivation area in Colombia (64,000 ha). However, in 2011 the trend in Peru of an increasing total area under cultivation was contained by eradication efforts: a total of 10,290 ha under coca bush cultivation were eradicated (including voluntary and forced eradication).

III. Trends in drug trafficking, up to 2011

21. Table 1 below shows the quantities of the major drug types seized globally in 2010 and the expected trend in 2011. The totals for 2011 are not shown, as some States with traditionally large seizures had not submitted their response to part IV of the annual reports questionnaire for 2011 at the time of preparation of this report. The most notable trend to emerge from the 2011 data is the significant increase across all regions in seizures of methamphetamine.

Table 1
Global drug seizures, 2010 and 2011

<i>Drug type</i>	<i>Seizures in 2010 (kilograms)</i>	<i>Trend in 2011^a</i>
Cannabis		
Cannabis herb	6 252 876	Stable ^b
Cannabis resin	1 136 278	Stable ^b
Opiates		
Opium	492 439	Stable ^b
Illicit morphine	19 304	Stable ^b
Heroin	81 168	Decrease
Cocaine type		
Cocaine	632 653	Stable ^b
Amphetamine-type stimulants		
Amphetamine	19 352	Increase
Methamphetamine	44 891	Increase
“Ecstasy”-type substances (MDA, MDEA, MDMA) ^c	3 787	Decrease

^a Since data for 2011 were incomplete, the trend was estimated by comparing total seized quantities for countries and territories for which data were available for both 2010 and 2011. Totals for 2011 have not been shown because data from a number of countries with significant seizures were not available as at 30 November 2012.

^b The term “stable” designates a change of less than 10 per cent.

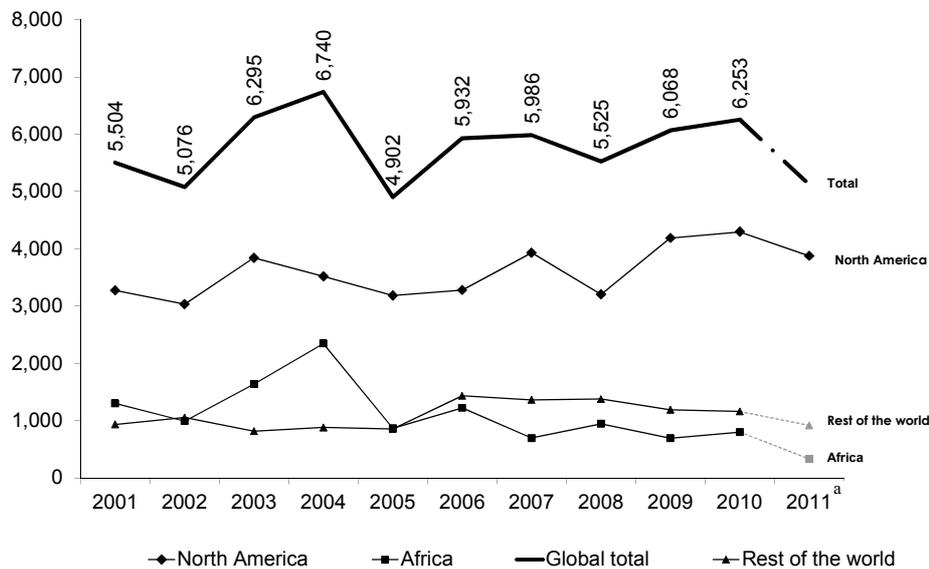
^c Methylenedioxyamphetamine (MDA), 3,4-methylenedioxyethylamphetamine (MDEA) and methylenedioxymethamphetamine (MDMA).

A. Cannabis

1. Cannabis herb

22. Given the relative ease with which cannabis herb may be produced, demand is often met through local production, resulting in a pattern of trafficking flows tending to be rather localized in comparison with other plant-based illicit drugs. In 2011, cannabis herb continued to be consumed, trafficked and produced in most countries worldwide. Between 2006 and 2010, levels of global seizures were stable, ranging from 5,525 to 6,253 tons per year, and incomplete data suggest that seizures remained stable in 2011. Figure III shows that North America accounted for the largest proportion of global cannabis herb seizures. Cannabis herb seizures in Mexico and the United States of America have accounted for between 48 and 71 per cent of annual global cannabis herb seizures in the period 2001-2011.

Figure III
Cannabis herb seizures worldwide, 2001-2011
 (Tons)

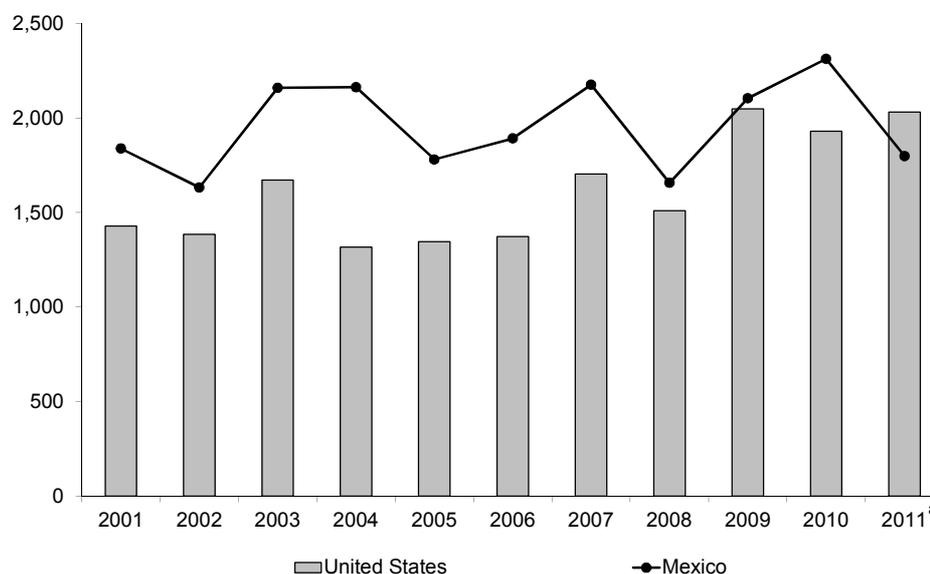


^a Data for 2011 were incomplete at the time of preparation of this report.

23. In 2011, the annual total of seizures of cannabis herb in the United States exceeded seizures in Mexico for the first time since 1988. Seizures in Mexico peaked at 2,313 tons in 2010, and initial figures for 2011 show a 22-per-cent decrease in total annual seizures, falling to 1,799 tons. In the United States, seizures increased to 2,033 tons in 2011, just below the peak of 2,049 tons of total seizures in 2009 and higher than the 1,931 tons seized in 2010. Figure IV shows seizures of cannabis herb in Mexico and the United States between 2001 and 2011.

24. Mexico reported that cannabis is most commonly trafficked by land along routes leading from the production areas in southern Mexico (mainly the state of Sinaloa) to the country's northern border. Transportation by sea is the second most common mode used to traffic cannabis. United States authorities reported that the increase in availability of cannabis herb in the country was most likely due to larger amounts of the drug being smuggled into the country and an increase in domestic cannabis cultivation.

Figure IV
Cannabis herb seizures in Mexico and the United States, 2001-2011
 (Tons)



^a Data for 2011 were incomplete at the time of preparation of this report.

25. Two countries in South America, Brazil and Colombia, seized significant quantities of cannabis herb in 2011. In Colombia, the number of seizure cases increased from 38,876 to 41,291, and the amount seized rose from 255 to 321 tons. In Brazil, the number of seizure cases were roughly the same in 2010 and 2011 (885 and 878 cases respectively), but the total amount of cannabis herb seized rose from 155 tons to 174 tons from 2010 to 2011.

26. India reported seizures of cannabis herb of 123 tons in 2011 (down from 173 tons in 2010). The assessment of the Indian authorities was that 13 per cent of that amount originated in Nepal. In Thailand, seizures fell from 18 tons in 2010 to 13 tons in 2011. Authorities of Thailand reported that the amount of trafficked cannabis herb has since increased, with 5,268 seizure cases reported and 15 tons of dried cannabis herb seized between January and September 2012.

27. Nearly all countries in Africa reported the cultivation and seizure of cannabis herb. Nigeria continued to seize the largest quantities of cannabis herb in the region, with 139 tons seized between July 2011 and April 2012.² The second largest annual seizures were in Egypt, whose authorities reported 73 tons of seizures in 2011, down from 107 tons in 2010. Two other African countries reported large increases in total annual seizures of cannabis herb: seizures in Mozambique increased from 3 tons in 2010 to 32 tons in 2011, and authorities in Burkina Faso reported seizures of 33 tons of cannabis in 2011, nearly double the 17 tons seized in 2009.

² Information contained in the country report submitted by Nigeria to the Twenty-second Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Africa, held in Accra from 25 to 29 June 2012.

2. Cannabis resin

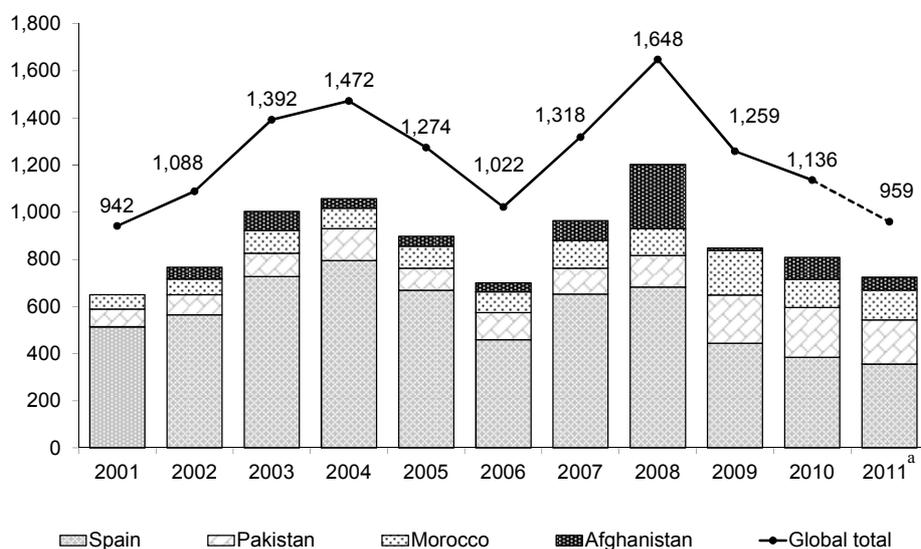
28. In 2011, an estimated 27 countries seized more than 1 ton of cannabis resin;³ 13 of those countries were in Europe. Outside Europe, seven countries in the Near and Middle East/South-West Asia and four countries in Africa, mainly in North Africa, seized more than 1 ton of cannabis resin.

29. In contrast with cannabis herb, production of cannabis resin was concentrated in a small number of countries, among which the most prominent were Afghanistan and Morocco. Consequently, trafficking of cannabis resin had more distinct flows, with large quantities reaching Europe (mainly via Spain) from Morocco and Pakistan from Afghanistan. Figure V shows the amount of cannabis resin seized in those countries between 2001 and 2011.

Figure V

Cannabis resin seizures: global total and selected countries, 2001-2011

(Tons)



^a Data for 2011 were incomplete at the time of preparation of this report.

30. The European market for cannabis resin continued to be supplied mainly through production in Morocco. In 2011, the majority of reporting countries in Europe continued to identify Morocco as a country of origin for seized cannabis resin, although three countries made reference to India and two countries made reference to Afghanistan as the country of production.

31. Spain continued to be an important point of entry for cannabis resin from Morocco reaching Europe. However, in 2011 seizures in Spain fell for the third consecutive year, amounting to 356 tons, and authorities in Spain noted that the quantities of cannabis resin seized in the past decade had shown an overall decreasing trend. Provisional information for 2011 indicates that 46 per cent of

³ Statistics for 2010 have been used where data for 2011 were not available.

global cannabis resin seizures occurred in Spain. Spanish authorities provided an assessment that 85 per cent of seized cannabis resin originated in Morocco.

32. While cannabis resin seizures in Spain in 2011 were at their lowest level since 1997, Spain still seized nearly three times the amount seized by Morocco in 2011 (Morocco was the country with the second largest amount of seizures). Seizures of cannabis resin by Moroccan authorities were up slightly, from 119 tons in 2010 to 125 tons in 2011, after a large decline from a peak of 188 tons in 2009. In 2010, Moroccan authorities noted the emergence of a new pattern of trafficking cannabis by means of light aircraft, and attributed the decline in seizures to efforts by authorities both within the country — to counter cultivation of cannabis plant — and along the country's borders, notably the northern coast.

33. In Pakistan, seizures of cannabis resin increased sharply between 2007 and 2009, and edged slightly higher in 2010, reaching 212 tons — almost twice the level in 2007 and the highest since 1995. In 2011, seizures fell to 187 tons. The assessment of authorities in Pakistan was that the entire amount of cannabis resin seized on its territory had originated in Afghanistan. In the Islamic Republic of Iran, seizures of cannabis resin decreased by 5 per cent, from 60 tons in 2010 to 57 tons in 2011.⁴

34. The next largest total annual seizures were those of Afghanistan, Algeria and France: each of these three countries seized over 50 tons of cannabis resin in 2011. In France, the level of seizures in 2010 and 2011 remained relatively stable (54 tons in 2010 and 55 tons in 2011). However, seizure amounts in Afghanistan and Algeria have been more variable in recent years. In Afghanistan, seizures were down to 55 tons in 2011 from 94 tons in 2010, while in Algeria seizures increased from 23 tons in 2010 to 53 tons in 2011.

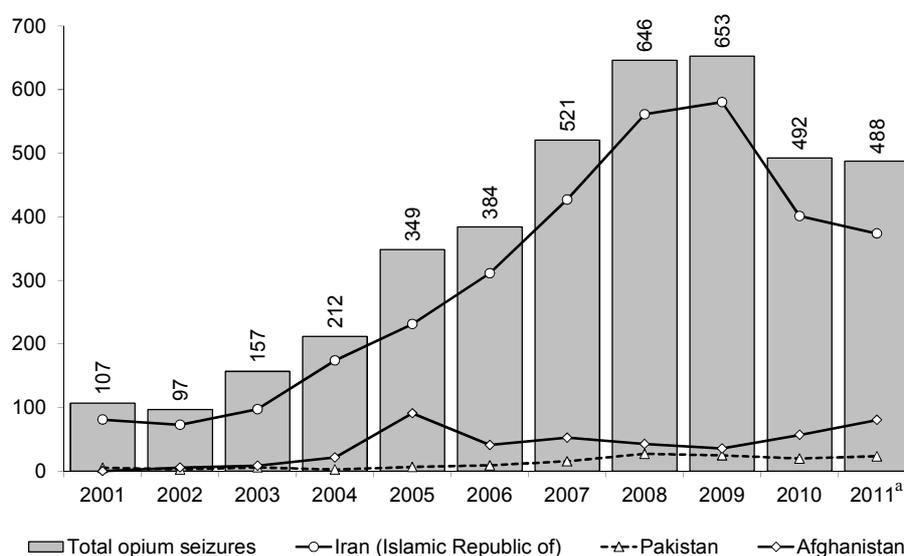
B. Opiates

1. Opium

35. Global seizures of opium grew at a marked pace over the period 2002-2008 and stabilized in 2009 at 653 tons. Global opium seizures declined to 492 tons in 2010 and fell further to 488 tons in 2011. Since 2004, three countries — Afghanistan, Iran (Islamic Republic of) and Pakistan — have consistently accounted for more than 90 per cent of global opium seizures (see figure VI).

⁴ Information provided by the Iranian National Drug Control Headquarters.

Figure VI
Global opium seizures, 2001-2011
 (Tons)



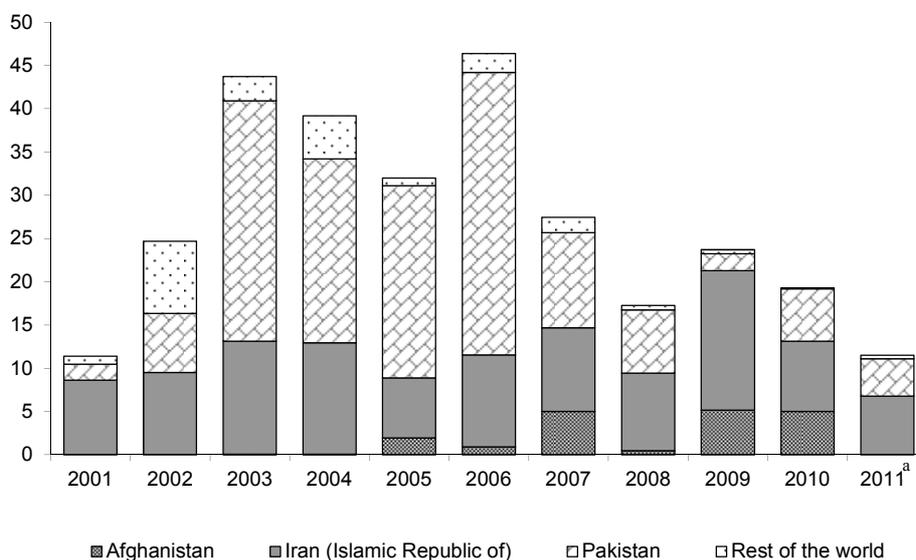
^a Data for 2011 were incomplete at the time of preparation of this report.

36. Based on the records of UNODC, the Islamic Republic of Iran has registered the highest annual total of opium seized by a single country worldwide every year since 1980. Over the period 2002-2009 in particular, seizures increased almost eightfold, climbing from 73 tons to 580 tons. In 2010, the increasing trend started to reverse, and seizures in the country fell to 374 tons in 2011.⁴ In 2011, opium seizures in Afghanistan rose for the second consecutive year, to 80 tons — the highest level since 2005, when 91 tons was seized.

2. Morphine

37. As is the case with opium, seizures of morphine continued to be concentrated in Afghanistan and neighbouring countries: every year from 2005 onwards, Afghanistan, Iran (Islamic Republic of) and Pakistan together accounted for more than 90 per cent of global morphine seizures (see figure VII). In 2011, seizures amounted to 6.8 tons in Iran (Islamic Republic of), a decrease of 16 per cent from the previous year. Authorities in Pakistan seized 4.3 tons of illicit morphine in 2011, down from 6.1 tons in the previous year.

Figure VII
Seizures of illicit morphine in Afghanistan, Iran (Islamic Republic of) and Pakistan, 2001-2011
 (Tons)

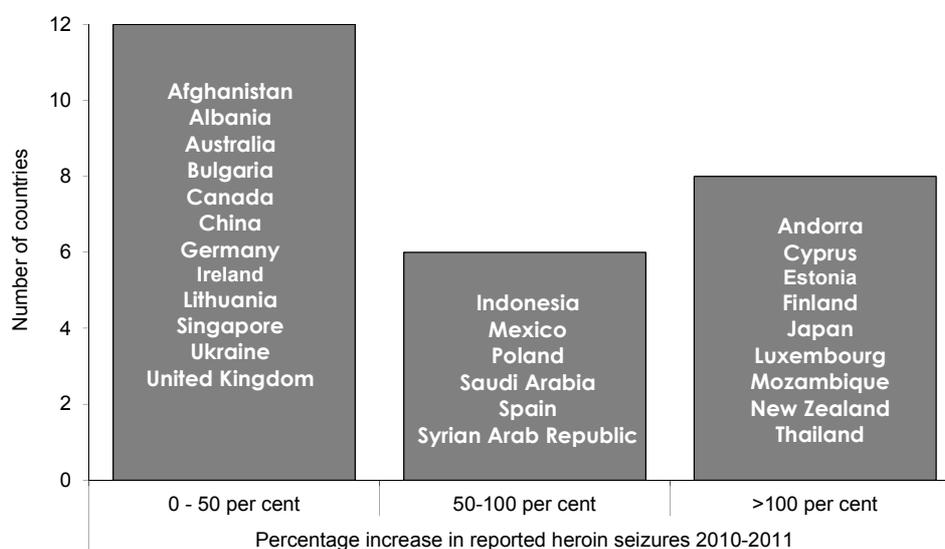


^a Data for 2011 were incomplete at the time of preparation of this report.

3. Heroin

38. Global seizures of heroin increased significantly over the period 2006-2010, reaching 81 tons in 2010. The incomplete data available indicate that the global total of seizures decreased in 2011 owing to decreases in both Iran (Islamic Republic of) and Turkey. At the time of preparation of this report, data on heroin seizures for both 2010 and 2011 were available for 61 countries. Of those 61 countries with comparable data, 34 countries recorded a decrease in the amount of heroin seized and 27 countries recorded an increase. The percentage increase in the amount of heroin seized in those 27 countries recording an increase is shown in figure VIII.

Figure VIII
Reported increases from 2010 to 2011 in seizures of heroin in comparable countries^a

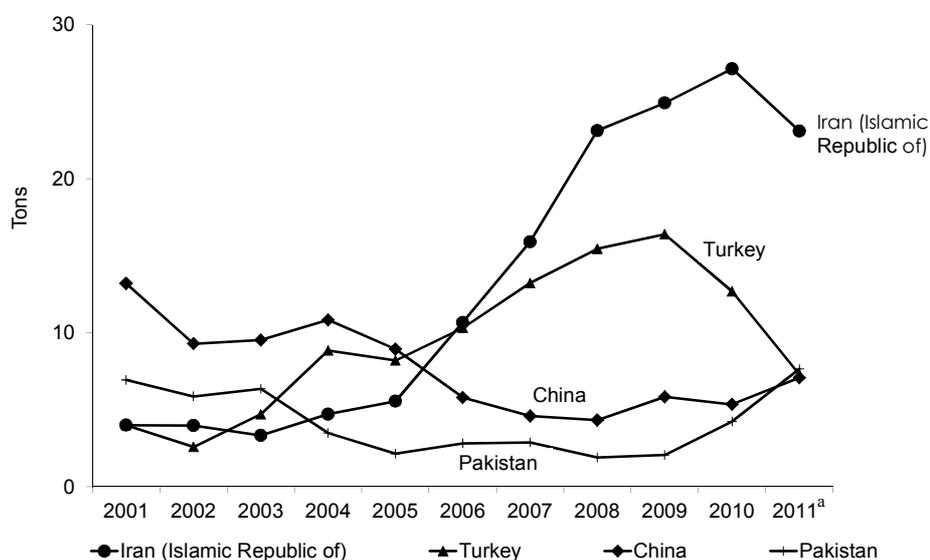


^a Based on the data available at the time of preparation of the present report; 61 countries submitted data for both 2010 and 2011.

39. Most of the countries with large annual percentage increases in heroin seizures (increases of more than 100 per cent) seized less than 5 kg of heroin in 2011. However, in Thailand seizures increased from 138 kg in 2010 to 541 kg in 2011. Authorities of that country noted that Thailand is an important transit area for heroin trafficked from the Golden Triangle to global markets. Additionally, West African drug trafficking syndicates use transport links and their established networks to smuggle heroin from the Golden Crescent region using couriers mostly recruited from Asian countries.

40. Large quantities of heroin continued to be smuggled along the Balkan route, from Afghanistan to Western and Central Europe via the Middle East and South-East Europe. The country with the largest total seizures of heroin in 2011 was Iran (Islamic Republic of). China (7.1 tons), Pakistan (7.7 tons) and Turkey (7.3 tons) seized comparable amounts of heroin in 2011 (see figure IX).

Figure IX
Heroin seizures in comparable countries, 2001-2011
 (Tons)



^a Data for 2011 were incomplete at the time of preparation of this report.

41. Between 2003 and 2010, seizures of heroin in Iran (Islamic Republic of) rose eightfold, reaching 27 tons in 2010 — a growth equivalent to seven year-on-year increases of 35 per cent. That trend ended in 2011, with seizures in the country falling 15 per cent, to 23 tons.⁴ In Pakistan, seizures of heroin doubled from 2009 to 2010, reaching 4.2 tons. That increasing trend continued in 2011, with seizures reaching 7.6 tons, the highest level in that country since 2000.

42. In terms of heroin seizure totals, the overall trend in Western and Central Europe in 2011 was a decrease — the fourth consecutive year of declines for the region. Annual heroin seizure totals declined, in comparison with 2010, in several European countries, notably Hungary (decrease of 97 per cent), Slovenia (decrease of 88 per cent), the Czech Republic (decrease of 84 per cent), Sweden (decrease of 64 per cent), Belgium (decrease of 64 per cent), Latvia (decrease of 61 per cent), Greece (decrease of 34 per cent) and Austria (decrease of 32 per cent). The most notable exceptions were Poland (increase of 90 per cent) and Spain (increase of 77 per cent). Spain seized 413 kg of heroin in 2011, and authorities of that country noted that heroin seizures in the past decade had shown a generally increasing trend.⁵

43. The Russian Federation continued to be another major consumer market deriving its heroin supply from opium production and heroin manufacture in Afghanistan. Heroin continued to be trafficked northward from Afghanistan to the Russian Federation via Central Asia. Russian authorities identified Azerbaijan,

⁵ Information contained in the country report submitted by Spain to the Twenty-second Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Latin America and the Caribbean.

Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan as major transit countries for heroin reaching the territory of the Russian Federation in 2011. Seizures of heroin in the country fell for the third consecutive year from 2.6 tons in 2010 to 2.0 tons in 2011; that is the lowest level of seizures of heroin in the Russian Federation since 2002.

44. The overall trend in heroin seizures in Central Asia and Transcaucasian countries, the major transit area for heroin trafficked from Afghanistan to the Russian Federation, continued to decline in 2011: most countries in the region recorded decreases. The exception was Azerbaijan, where 52 kg of heroin were seized in 2011. While there were no comparable data for 2010, that was the largest annual heroin seizure figure provided by Azerbaijan authorities to UNODC; the second largest was 38 kg reported for 2008.

45. China continued to be an important consumer market for heroin. In 2008, 2009, 2010 and 2011 (based on data as of November 2012), China accounted for the third largest quantity of heroin seized annually by a single country worldwide. Seizures in China rose significantly, from 5.4 tons in 2010 to 7.1 tons in 2011. For several years, the source of heroin in China had been opium cultivation and heroin manufacture in South-East Asia, notably Myanmar. However, in recent years significant quantities appeared to be trafficked into China from Afghanistan via Pakistan and possibly other intermediate countries. Nevertheless, it is believed that large amounts of heroin also continued to enter China from northern Myanmar via Yunnan province.

46. Reports from various countries confirmed that the trafficking of heroin from South-West Asia had made inroads into the consumer markets of the Asia-Pacific region, alongside opiates from South-East Asia, a more established source area for heroin trafficked in the region. Forensic profiling of heroin seizures at the Australian border indicated that heroin originating in South-West Asia accounted for most of the bulk weight of seizures analysed, while heroin originating in South-East Asia accounted for the largest share in terms of number of seizures.⁶

C. Cocaine

47. The world's main consumer markets for cocaine, namely North America and Western and Central Europe, continue to be supplied by trafficking routes originating in South America, notably the Andean region. Cocaine is trafficked mainly northward to North America, and across the Atlantic directly to Europe, via the Caribbean or Africa.

48. Global cocaine seizures decreased to 634 tons in 2010, from 732 tons in 2009. Data as of November 2012 suggest that that trend continued in 2011; comparing countries that provided data for both 2010 and 2011 reveals a 7-per-cent decrease in global cocaine seizures from 2010 to 2011 — a stable trend (defined as a change of less than 10 per cent from the previous year). Of the 63 countries for which data were available for both 2010 and 2011 at the time of preparation of this report, 32 countries (51 per cent) recorded an increase in cocaine seizures and 31 countries (49 per cent) recorded a decrease. The countries with the

⁶ Australian Crime Commission, *Illicit Drug Data Report 2009-10*, Canberra (June 2011).

largest reported increases and decreases, in terms of kilograms of cocaine seized, are shown in table 2.

49. Among South American countries, Colombia continued to seize the largest quantities of cocaine by far, but seizures in that country fell from 165 tons in 2010 to 146 tons in 2011. Colombian authorities reported that in terms of quantity of cocaine seized, the most successful seizure operations were maritime operations.⁷ An operation conducted jointly with Honduras resulted in the seizure of 8,963 kg of cocaine, and an operation carried out in July 2011, under an agreement on maritime interdiction between Colombia and the United States, resulted in the seizure of 6,900 kg of cocaine. Authorities in Honduras reported seizing 16,800 kg of cocaine in 2011, by far the largest annual amount seized by that country.

Table 2

Cocaine seizures in selected countries, 2010 and 2011
(Kilograms)

<i>Country</i>	<i>Cocaine seizures, 2010 (kg)</i>	<i>Cocaine seizures, 2011 (kg)</i>	<i>Difference from 2010 to 2011 (kg)</i>
Increase in seizures			
France	4 101	10 835	6 734
Ecuador	14 614	21 337	6 723
Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	29 090	33 967	4 877
Italy	3 842	6 342	2 500
Decrease in seizures			
Colombia	164 808	146 072	-18 736
Spain	25 247	16 609	-8 638
Peru	17 658	10 758	-6 900
Argentina	7 296	4 400	-2 896
Brazil	27 066	24 481	-2 585
Costa Rica	11 266	8 953	-2 313

50. In Peru, cocaine seizures fell by 7 tons to just under 11 tons in 2011 — the lowest level in the country since 2003. In contrast, seizures in the Plurinational State of Bolivia rose for the second consecutive year, to a new record level of 34 tons. Over the past four years there has been a noticeable increase in cocaine seizures in the Plurinational State of Bolivia. An average of 30 tons of cocaine were seized in the country per year between 2007 and 2011, a significantly larger amount than the average of 11 tons seized between 2001 and 2006.

51. According to Ecuadorean authorities, Ecuador is believed to be used as an area for the stockpiling, storage and distribution of illicit drugs, trafficking in precursor chemicals and other drug-related offences.⁸ Seizures of cocaine in the country

⁷ Information contained in the country report submitted by Colombia to the Twenty-second Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Latin America and the Caribbean.

⁸ Information contained in the country report submitted by Ecuador to the Twenty-first Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Latin America and the Caribbean, Santiago, 3-7 October 2011.

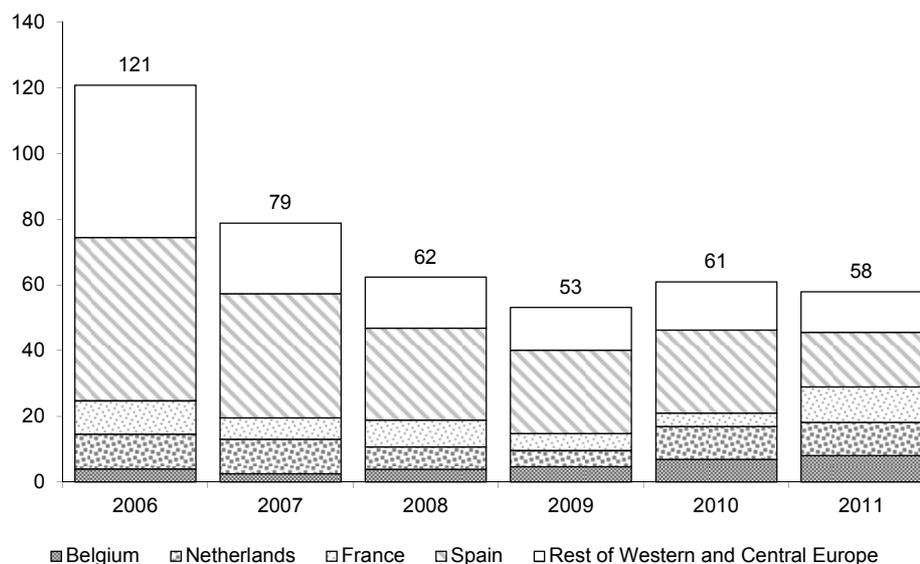
increased slightly to 21 tons in 2011, up from 15 tons in 2010. However, seizures are still significantly below the 65 tons seized in 2009. In 2011, the amount of cocaine seized in Brazil (24 tons), Chile (9 tons) and Argentina (4 tons) decreased from the previous year, while the amount of cocaine seized in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela increased slightly, to 26 tons.⁹

52. Cocaine seizures in Western and Central Europe peaked at 121 tons in 2006 then declined for three years in a row. Between 2008 and 2011, the amount of total annual seizures appeared to stabilize, ranging from 53 to 62 tons (see figure X). Spain seized 17 tons of cocaine in 2011, significantly less than the 25 tons seized in 2010. However, the number of seizure cases in Spain in 2011 increased slightly from the previous year. France seized 11 tons of cocaine in 2011, up from 4 tons in 2010. The amount of cocaine seized by France in 2011 was the largest in a single year, slightly above the previous record of 10 tons in 2006. The increase was attributed to seizures by the French navy in the Caribbean Sea.¹⁰ Seizures by Belgium (8 tons) and Italy (6 tons) increased in 2011, while seizures by the Netherlands (10 tons) and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (2.5 tons) remained at levels similar to the previous year.

Figure X

Cocaine seizures in Western and Central Europe, 2006-2011

(Tons)



53. A secondary route for cocaine trafficked across the Atlantic to Europe involves the use of countries in Africa, notably West Africa, as transit countries. In 2011, cocaine seizures in Nigeria decreased from 707 kg in 2010 to 411 kg. However, the

⁹ Information contained in the country report submitted by the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to the Twenty-second Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Latin American and the Caribbean.

¹⁰ Information contained in the country report submitted by France to the Twenty-second Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Latin America and the Caribbean.

amount seized in Nigeria was by far the largest in Africa; the second largest annual seizure in Africa was in Morocco, where 57 kg was seized.

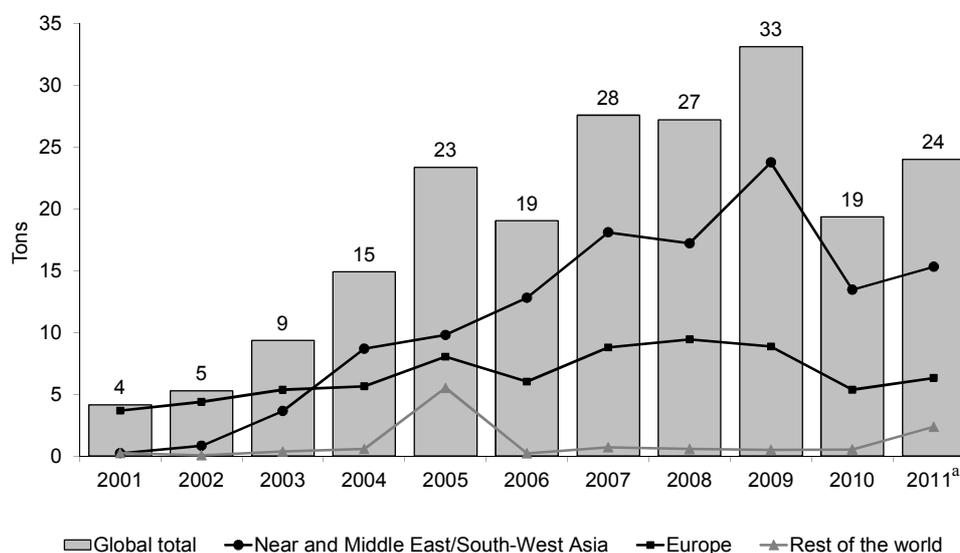
D. Amphetamine-type stimulants

1. Amphetamine

54. Global amphetamine seizures followed a generally increasing trend over the period 2001-2009, driven in part by increases in Captagon seizures registered in the Near and Middle East/South-West Asia, which as a whole overtook Europe, the other major market for amphetamine, in terms of total seizure quantities (see figure XI). This trend was reversed in 2010 due to a reduction in reported seizures in the Near and Middle East/South-West Asia. In 2011, global amphetamine seizures rebounded to 24 tons, an increase on the 19 tons seized in 2010 but below the peak of 33 tons in 2009. Seizures in Europe and the Near and Middle East/South-West Asia increased marginally in 2011, but remained below the levels recorded during the period 2007-2009.

55. For the ninth consecutive year, the largest annual seizure of amphetamine by a single country was recorded in Saudi Arabia, which has been a major consumer market for Captagon tablets. Seizures in Saudi Arabia rose from 8.8 tons in 2010 (52 million tablets) to 11.5 tons (67 million tablets). In the Syrian Arab Republic, seizures rose from 2.1 tons (12 million tablets) in 2010 to 3.9 tons (23 million tablets) in 2011, the highest level recorded in that country and slightly above the 3.7 tons (22 million tablets) recorded in 2009. For several years, the amphetamine present in Captagon tablets consumed in the Near and Middle East/South-West Asia was sourced in Europe, with countries such as Jordan, the Syrian Arab Republic and Turkey being used as important transit areas; however, it was unclear to what extent that supply may have been supplanted by other sources.

Figure XI
Breakdown of global amphetamine seizures, 2001-2011
 (Ton equivalents)



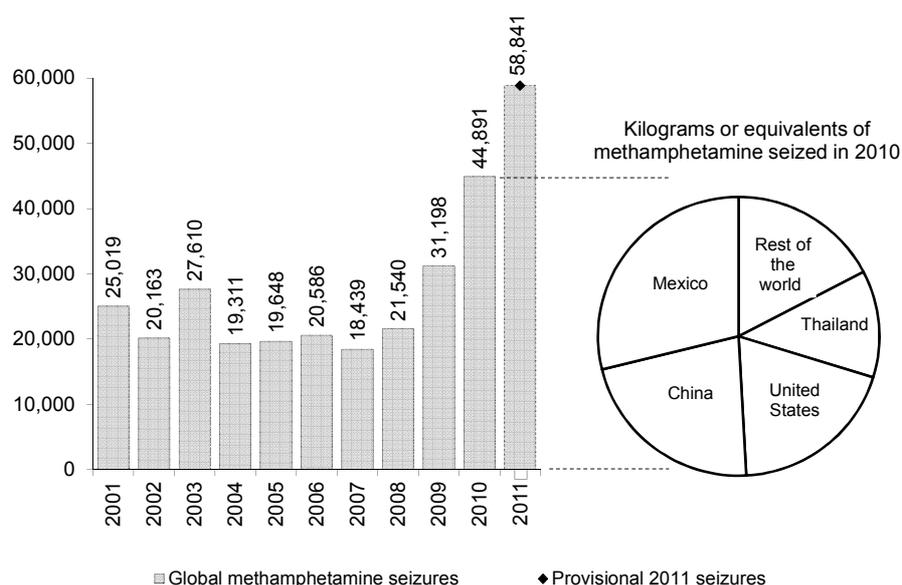
^a Data for 2011 were incomplete at the time of preparation of this report.

56. In Western and Central Europe, amphetamine seizures rose significantly over the period 2001-2007, and remained at increased levels in 2008 (7.9 tons) and 2009 (7.4 tons), but decreased significantly in 2010 (4.7 tons). In 2011, based on provisional data, amphetamine seizures in Western and Central Europe remained stable at 4.7 tons. Although the amount of amphetamine seized in Western and Central Europe was stable, seizures in the whole of Europe increased to 7.1 tons during 2011. That increase can be attributed to annual seizures by authorities of the Russian Federation. Between 2001 and 2010, the Russian Federation seized an average of 76 kg per year; however, 2,044 kg of amphetamine were seized in the country in 2011.

2. Methamphetamine

57. Between 2008 and 2011, the global market for methamphetamine expanded significantly. After relatively stable levels of seizures during the period 2001-2007 (ranging from 19 to 28 tons), the annual amount of methamphetamine seized globally increased greatly to over 58 tons in 2011. The provisional statistic for seizures of methamphetamine in 2011 is almost three times the statistic for 2008 (see figure XII); analysis of the provisional data suggests that total methamphetamine seizures for 2011 are likely to exceed 60 tons.

Figure XII
Methamphetamine seizures, 2001-2011
 (Kilograms or equivalents)



^a Data for 2011 were incomplete at the time of preparation of this report.

58. Large quantities of methamphetamine continue to be illicitly manufactured in Mexico, and seizures in Mexico have risen sharply. In 2011, over 30 tons (30,740 kg) of methamphetamine were seized in Mexico, up from 13 tons in 2010; prior to 2009, seizures in Mexico had never exceeded 1 ton. The amount of methamphetamine seized in Mexico in 2011 is equivalent to the global total just two years prior. Mexican authorities identified two major methamphetamine-producing regions: in the north (the states of Sinaloa, Sonora and Baja California) and the central region (Michoacán, Jalisco and Guanajuato).

59. Seizures of methamphetamine continued to rise markedly in East and South-East Asia, from 16 tons in 2009 to 20 tons in 2010 and 25 tons in 2011. China and Thailand account for 94 per cent of methamphetamine seizures in those subregions during 2011.

60. China continued to be affected by the manufacture, trafficking and consumption of methamphetamine on a large scale. Throughout the period 2005-2009, annual methamphetamine seizures reported by China ranged between 6 tons and 7 tons; in 2011, seizures reached 14.3 tons. Authorities in China indicated that methamphetamine was trafficked across the border from Myanmar into China. Illicit manufacture of amphetamine-type stimulants appeared to continue to take place in China, with authorities reporting the detection of 357 clandestine laboratories in 2011 (down from 378 laboratories in 2010).

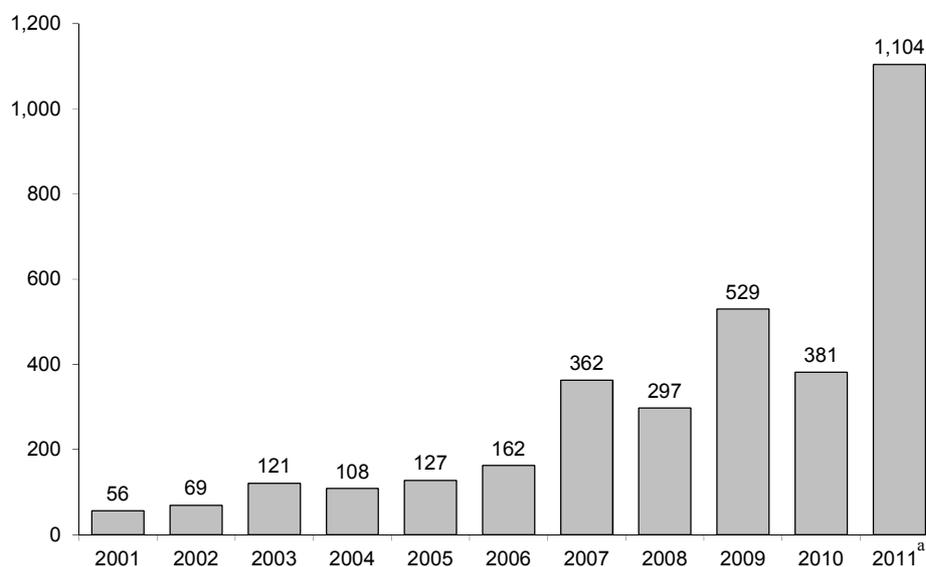
61. Thailand seized 9.6 tons of methamphetamine in 2011, up from 5.6 tons in 2010. Authorities in Thailand reported that methamphetamine pills remain the most abused and trafficked drug in Thailand and that the abuse of and trafficking in

crystallized methamphetamine continues to escalate.¹¹ Authorities also stated that traffickers have been aggressively introducing methamphetamine in the market by using different campaigns such as giving out free samples, reducing the price and selling in small quantities. Thai authorities identified Myanmar as the source country for methamphetamine and the Lao People's Democratic Republic and Cambodia as transit countries.

62. The amount of methamphetamine seized in Western and Central Europe has followed a generally increasing trend between 2001 and 2010. This trend continued in 2011, with seizures increasing significantly to 1.1 tons (see figure XIII). The largest annual seizures were in Poland (518 kg), Norway (156 kg), Lithuania (134 kg), Sweden (95 kg), Latvia (52 kg), France (49 kg), Germany (40 kg), Finland (28 kg) and the Czech Republic (20 kg). Other countries in the region either seized less than 5 kg during 2011 or had not provided data at the time of preparation of this report.

Figure XIII

Methamphetamine seizures, Western and Central Europe, 2001-2011
(Kilograms or equivalents)



^a Data for 2011 were incomplete at the time of preparation of this report.

3. “Ecstasy”-type substances

63. In recent years the global market for “ecstasy” showed a marked decline, with global seizures falling from the record level of 17 tons in 2007 to 3.8 tons in 2010. Based on the available data, the amount of “ecstasy”-type substances seized globally was 2.1 tons in 2011. Comparing the amount of “ecstasy”-type substances seized in the 49 countries with data in both 2010 and 2011 reveals a 17-per-cent

¹¹ Information contained in the country report submitted by Thailand to the Thirty-sixth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Asia and the Pacific, held in Bangkok, from 30 October to 2 November 2012.

decrease in 2011. In 2011, seizures in the United States halved to 521 kg (from 1,069 kg in 2010), and Canadian seizures fell to 192 kg from 529 kg in 2010.

64. At the time of preparation of this report, six countries had reported to UNODC annual seizures of over 100 kg of “ecstasy”-type substances in 2011: United States (521 kg), France (409 kg), Indonesia (329 kg), Canada (192 kg), Australia (120 kg) and United Kingdom (104 kg).

IV. Conclusions

65. Cannabis continues to be the most widely produced, trafficked and used plant-based illicit drug worldwide. Data at the time of preparing this report suggest global seizures of cannabis herb were stable in 2011; seizures in Mexico were down by 22 per cent, while seizures in the United States were up by 5 per cent. In 2011, global seizures of cannabis resin were stable, but there were shifts in seizure trends. The amount of cannabis resin seized in Morocco, a source country, increased by 6 per cent; whereas in Spain, seizures were down by 7 per cent, the third consecutive annual decrease. Seizures in Morocco have followed a generally increasing trend in recent years.

66. Afghanistan and Myanmar continued to account for most opium poppy cultivation worldwide. Opium poppy cultivation in Afghanistan covered an estimated 154,000 ha in 2012, 18 per cent higher than the estimated 131,000 ha recorded the previous year. However, plant diseases and bad weather damaged crops, resulting in a 36-per-cent fall in potential opium production. In Myanmar, opium poppy cultivation declined markedly over the decade preceding 2006 but has followed a generally increasing trend since then, reaching 51,000 ha in 2012 (17 per cent higher than in 2011).

67. The total area under coca bush cultivation remained stable in 2011, with three countries continuing to account for virtually all coca bush cultivation worldwide. In 2011, the area under cultivation increased in Peru, continuing the trend of gradual increases that began in 2005. In Colombia, after decreasing for the previous three years, the area under cultivation increased slightly in 2011. Cultivation decreased in the Plurinational State of Bolivia offsetting increases in Peru and Colombia. At the time of preparing this report, data suggest a stable trend in global cocaine seizures (within 10 per cent of the previous year).

68. The clearest trend to emerge from the 2011 data is the increase in global seizures of methamphetamine. In recent years, the global market for methamphetamine expanded significantly. After relatively stable levels of seizures in the period 2001-2007, ranging from 19 to 28 tons, the annual amount of methamphetamine seized globally has rapidly increased, to over 58 tons in 2011. Provisional statistics indicate that global methamphetamine seizures in 2011 were almost three times the amount seized in 2008; analysis of the provisional data suggests that total methamphetamine seizures for 2011 are likely to exceed 60 tons. Large quantities of methamphetamine continue to be illicitly manufactured in Mexico, where seizures have increased sharply. In 2011, over 30 tons of methamphetamine were seized in Mexico, up from 13 tons in 2010. China continued to be affected by manufacture, trafficking and consumption of methamphetamine, with seizures reaching 14.3 tons in 2011.