

**Economic and Social Council**Distr.: General
5 January 2011

Original: English

Commission on Narcotic Drugs**Fifty-fourth session**

Vienna, 21-25 March 2011

Item 7 of the provisional agenda*

**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. In respect of seizure statistics, the report focuses on 2008 and 2009. With regard to illicit drug crop cultivation and illicit drug production, the report focuses on the period 2009-2010.

Cannabis continues to be the most widely produced, trafficked and consumed plant-based drug worldwide. In 2009, there was a shift in seizures of cannabis resin: an increase in the amount of cannabis resin seized in Morocco, a source country, and a decrease in the amount seized in transit and consumer countries. The amount of cannabis resin seized by authorities in Morocco reached a record high level, whereas the amount seized in Spain was reported to be the lowest since 1999. The moderately increasing trend of recent years in global seizures of cannabis herb continued. The Americas continued to report the largest amount of seized cannabis herb.

Afghanistan continued to account for the largest share of the world's illicit opium poppy cultivation and illicit opium production, as well as a substantial portion of global heroin manufacture. In Afghanistan, the total area under illicit opium poppy cultivation remained stable over the period 2009-2010. Opium production in Afghanistan is expected to decrease by 48 per cent in 2010, as a result of severe crop

* E/CN.7/2011/1.

disease. Illicit opium poppy cultivation in Myanmar, the world's second largest opium producer, rose by 11 per cent, though opium production in that country remains well below the level reported in Afghanistan. The amount of global opiates seized worldwide appears to have stabilized in 2010 at a level slightly lower than the level of 2009. In 2009, Afghanistan, Iran (Islamic Republic of) and Pakistan together accounted for the largest amount of opium, morphine and heroin seized worldwide.

In 2009, illicit coca bush cultivation remained concentrated in Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Colombia and Peru. The success of the Colombian authorities in reducing illicit coca bush cultivation contributed significantly to the decrease in the total area under such cultivation. The amount of cocaine seized worldwide remained essentially stable. There was an increase in the amount of cocaine seized in the source countries. Mexico continued to be used as a key transit country for smuggled cocaine shipments into the United States of America.

Global seizures of amphetamine-type stimulants remained stable, the notable exception being methylenedioxymethamphetamine (MDMA, commonly known as "ecstasy"). The amount of "ecstasy" seized worldwide continued to decrease or remain at a low level in 2009. The illicit manufacture of amphetamine-type stimulants continued in regions where it was well established, notably East and South-East Asia, Europe, North America and Oceania, but also showed signs of spreading to vulnerable countries in regions with little or no history of such manufacture, such as South America.

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I. Introduction

1. The present report provides an overview of developments in illicit drug production and trafficking worldwide. The purpose of the overview is to assist national authorities in their efforts to combat illicit drug production and trafficking more effectively and to improve coordination of their action at the subregional and regional levels.
2. Section II of the report addresses the illicit production of cannabis, opiates and cocaine, and section III contains an update on seizure statistics for cannabis, opiates, cocaine and amphetamine-type stimulants.¹ The analysis of trends focuses on data for 2008 and, where available, data for 2009 and 2010.
3. The statistics and analysis in the report are based on the latest information available to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC).
4. Information on illicit drug crop cultivation and the illicit production of plant-based drugs has been drawn mainly from the latest illicit crop monitoring surveys published by UNODC. The primary sources of information on seizure statistics and drug trafficking were the replies to the annual reports questionnaire, part III (Illicit supply of drugs), submitted by Governments for 2009 and previous years. Secondary sources were data submitted by Governments to the Drug Abuse Information Network for Asia and the Pacific and made available by UNODC in the framework of its global Synthetics Monitoring: Analysis, Reporting and Trends (SMART) programme. Supplementary sources of information included reports on significant individual drug seizures and official Government reports (some of which are published electronically).
5. 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 also depend 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 a variety of environments. That makes assessing the extent of its cultivation and production difficult. UNODC estimates that cannabis continues to dominate the world's illicit drug markets in terms of the pervasiveness of cultivation, volume of production and number of consumers.

¹ Amphetamine-type stimulants, as defined by UNODC, consist of: (a) amphetamines (amphetamine, methamphetamine); (b) methylenedioxymethamphetamine (MDMA, commonly known as "ecstasy") and related substances such as methylenedioxyamphetamine (MDA) (the "ecstasy"-group substances); and (c) a number of other synthetic stimulants such as methcathinone, phentermine and fenetylline.

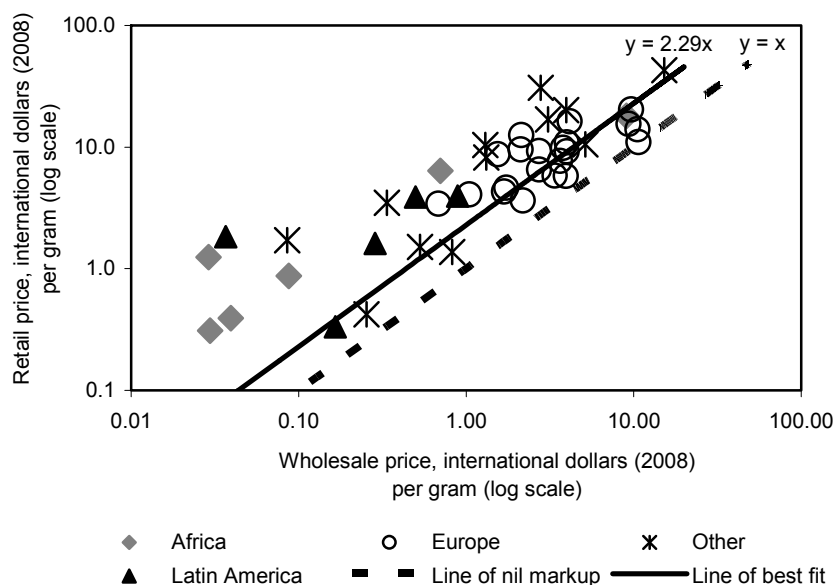
7. In Afghanistan, the first joint cannabis survey was undertaken in 2009 by UNODC and the Ministry of Counter-Narcotics of Afghanistan. The total area under cannabis cultivation in Afghanistan was estimated at 10,000 and 24,000 hectares (ha), and total production of cannabis resin was estimated at 1,400 and 3,400 tons. Based on those production estimates, Afghanistan appears to have replaced Morocco as the world's foremost producer of cannabis resin. That development has been attributed mainly to the very high cannabis yield in Afghanistan.

8. The most recent cannabis survey conducted by UNODC in Morocco took place in 2005.² The total area under cannabis cultivation in that country was estimated at 72,500 ha in 2005, down from 134,000 ha in 2003. Morocco continued to estimate the area under cannabis cultivation to be at that level in 2006 and 2007, but reported a reduction in 2008, to an estimated area of 60,000 ha, as well as the eradication of 4,377 ha of cannabis plants.

9. An analysis of the ratio between wholesale and retail prices for cannabis herb indicates that the markup from wholesale to retail prices varies considerably between countries and regions. Although the overall estimate indicates a markup of 129 per cent, the ratio tended to be higher in Africa than in Europe. One possible explanation for that could be that individual farmers tended to produce cannabis herb on a larger scale in Africa, with the economy of scale allowing for a more pronounced disparity between wholesale and retail prices (see figure I).

Figure I

Cannabis herb: typical retail and wholesale for cannabis herb prices, adjusted for purchasing power parity, 2008
(Log-log scale)



² United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, *Morocco: Cannabis Survey 2005, Executive Summary* (January 2007).

B. Opium

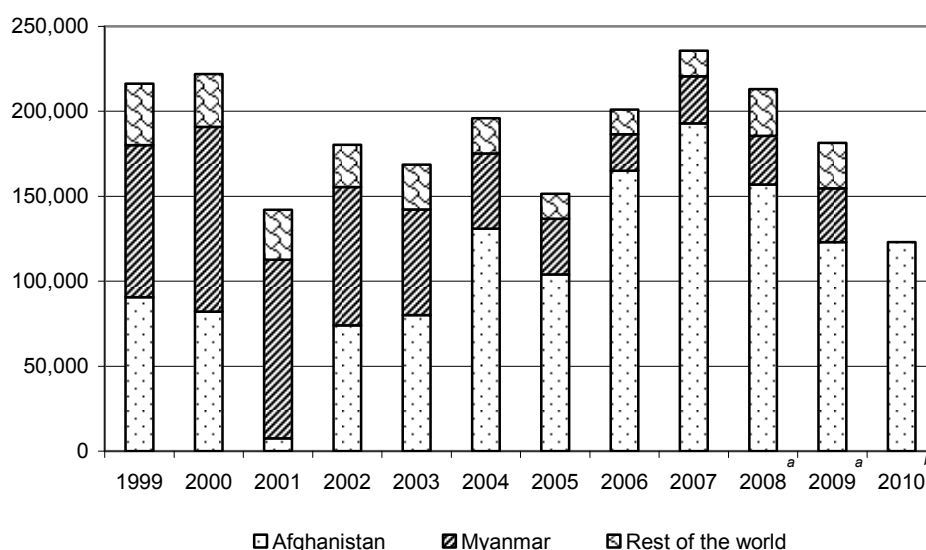
10. In 2009, the area under opium poppy cultivation worldwide fell to an estimated 181,400 ha, a decrease of 15 per cent compared with the level in 2008 (213,000 ha). The estimated global potential production of opium fell from 8,640 tons in 2008 to 7,750 tons, while the estimated global potential manufacture of heroin fell from 750 tons in 2008 to 660 tons.³

11. Globally opium poppy cultivation and opium production continued to be dominated by Afghanistan, which also accounted for a substantial portion of global heroin manufacture. Nevertheless, a significant proportion of the global supply of opiates continued to be derived from illicit opium poppy cultivation, opium production and heroin manufacture in South-East Asia. Reports from various sources indicate that opium poppy was also illicitly cultivated, albeit to a limited extent, in numerous other countries throughout the world, including in some countries for which survey data were not available.

12. The total area under opium poppy cultivation in Afghanistan peaked at 193,000 ha in 2007 and then declined for the next two years (see figure II). In 2009 and again in 2010, the total area under opium poppy cultivation amounted to 123,000 ha. The estimated opium yield in Afghanistan was unusually high in 2008 and 2009. Then, in 2010, a severe disease that affected opium poppy fields in the major growing provinces resulted in a low yield. That caused the estimate of opium production in Afghanistan to decline from 6,900 tons in 2009 to 3,600 tons in 2010 — a drop of 48 per cent. In response to that sharp decline, the average farm-gate price of dry opium at harvest time rose sharply, from 64 United States dollars per kilogram in 2009 to \$169 per kilogram in 2010 — an increase of 164 per cent.

³ Since limited information was available for 2009 from some countries with small but non-negligible levels of opium poppy cultivation, global estimates of opium poppy cultivation, potential opium production and potential heroin manufacture for 2009 were subject to minor revisions.

Figure II
Illicit opium poppy cultivation worldwide, 1999-2009
 (Hectares)



^a “Rest of the world” includes indirect estimates for some countries for which survey data were not available; since the methodology for those estimates was revised, the estimates for 2008 and 2009 are not directly comparable with those for previous years. However, the revision in methodology does not substantially affect the global totals.

^b For 2010, data were available for Afghanistan only.

13. In South-East Asia, opium poppy cultivation has traditionally taken place mainly in the Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Myanmar, Thailand and Viet Nam. Opium poppy cultivation in those countries tends to be on steep hills with poor soil and no irrigation facilities, resulting in lower yields than in Afghanistan.

14. In Myanmar, the total area under illicit opium poppy cultivation increased by 11 per cent in 2009, reaching 31,700 ha, with potential opium production estimated at 330 tons. In the Lao People’s Democratic Republic, the total area under illicit opium poppy cultivation increased to 1,900 ha in 2009, and potential opium production was estimated at 11.4 tons. Reports from the Government of Viet Nam indicate that illicit opium poppy cultivation in that country was negligible. Thailand’s crop monitoring system indicated that illicit opium poppy cultivation in that country was also limited in 2009, amounting to 211 ha (201 ha of which were eradicated).

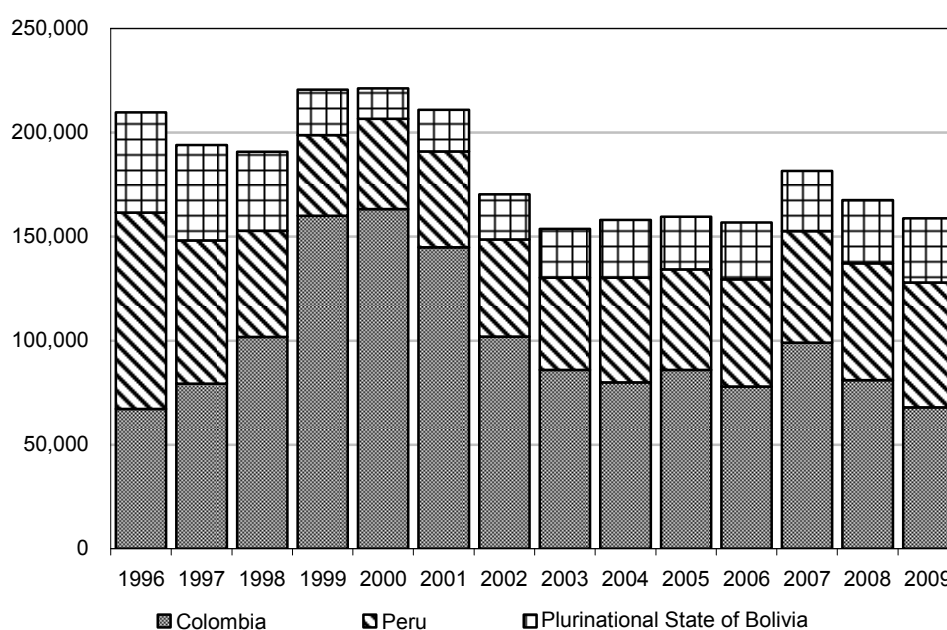
15. India reported the eradication of 2,213 ha of illicitly cultivated opium poppy in 2009. It also reported that illicit opium poppy cultivation was discovered in 2009 in some remote areas of, inter alia, Arunachal Pradesh, Bihar, West Bengal, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Uttaranchal and Manipur.

C. Coca

16. Coca bush cultivation remained concentrated in Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Colombia and Peru, where the total area under such cultivation peaked in 2007 (181,600 ha). That figure declined after that, falling from 167,600 ha in 2008 to 158,800 ha in 2009. The decline was attributable to a significant decrease in Colombia, which was only partially offset by a moderate increase in Peru. In 2009, the proportion of the total area under coca bush cultivation in those three countries that was accounted for by Colombia decreased to 43 per cent, while the proportion accounted for by Peru rose to 38 per cent (see figure III).

Figure III

Coca bush cultivation in Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Colombia and Peru, 1996-2009
(Hectares)



17. In Colombia, the total area under coca bush cultivation fell by almost one third between 2007 and 2009 (from 99,000 to 68,000 ha), and in 2009 the estimated potential manufacture of cocaine declined for the fourth consecutive year, amounting to 410 tons — 40 per cent less than the level in 2005 (680 tons). The decreasing trend in coca bush cultivation was most pronounced in the Putumayo-Caquetá region, where the total area under such cultivation dropped by one third, and in the Pacific region. In 2009, the Pacific region continued to account for 37 per cent of the total area in Colombia under coca bush cultivation; it was followed by the central region, which continued to account for slightly less than one quarter of such cultivation in the country.

18. In Peru, cultivation of coca bush rose gradually but steadily in the period 2005-2009, amounting to 59,900 ha in 2009, the highest level since 1997 and close to one quarter more than the level in 2005. While coca bush cultivation

remained essentially stable between 2008 and 2009 in the three major growing regions (Alto Huallaga, Apurímac-Ene and La Convención-Lares), there was a marked increase (in relative terms) in a number of regions where such cultivation had been limited, such as Aguaytía, San Gabán and Palcazú-Pichis-Pachitea.

19. Following a gradually increasing trend in the period 2005-2008, coca bush cultivation in the Plurinational State of Bolivia appeared to stabilize in 2009. The total area under such cultivation in 2009 was estimated at 30,900 ha,⁴ only slightly higher than the level in 2008 (30,500 ha⁴), but the highest since 1998 and one fifth more than the level in 2005 (25,400 ha⁴). Coca bush cultivation continued to be concentrated in the Yungas region of La Paz and in the Chapare region.

20. Ecuador also reported small areas under coca bush cultivation close to its border with Colombia. Surveys of those areas conducted in 2006, 2008 and 2009 by UNODC, in cooperation with the Government of Ecuador, confirmed that coca bush was being cultivated on a very small scale.

21. According to UNODC, in 2008, a total of 9,730 clandestine laboratories processing coca or coca derivatives were detected worldwide.⁵ The vast majority of those laboratories were in Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Colombia and Peru. The only other countries in South America in which seizures of such laboratories were reported in 2008 were Argentina (20 laboratories), the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela (10), Chile (4) and Ecuador (3). In Europe, such laboratories were seized in Spain (25 laboratories), the Netherlands (4), Greece (1) and the Republic of Moldova (1). It is likely that the majority of the laboratories in Europe, rather than processing coca derivatives into cocaine, are used to extract cocaine from material that has been saturated with the drug.

22. There are indications that Peru has been increasing in importance as a source country for cocaine entering Europe. Of the cocaine shipments seized in European countries in which the country of origin of the seized shipment was identified as Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Colombia or Peru, the percentage of shipments originating in Peru rose gradually but steadily from 26 per cent in 2004 to 42 per cent in 2008 and 44 per cent⁶ in 2009.⁷ That suggests that the recent gradual increases in coca bush cultivation in Peru, as well as the apparent improvement in the efficiency of the chemical process used to manufacture cocaine in that country, were feeding the flow of cocaine to Europe.

⁴ Including 12,000 ha under coca bush cultivation permitted by Bolivian law (for traditional uses of coca) (Ley del Régimen de la Coca y Sustancias Controladas, 1988).

⁵ Including laboratories manufacturing coca paste, cocaine base and cocaine hydrochloride.

⁶ The percentage for 2009 was reversed significantly, as more data on cocaine seizures became available.

⁷ The percentages should be viewed with caution, as there are a number of limitations to the underlying data. The percentages only indicate the relative importance of the three countries in cocaine trafficking and do not take into account cocaine manufacture in other countries, which is believed to be limited but not negligible. The consistently increasing percentage for Peru suggests a significant change in patterns of illicit cocaine manufacture or trafficking involving that country.

III. Trends in drug trafficking

A. Cannabis

1. Cannabis herb

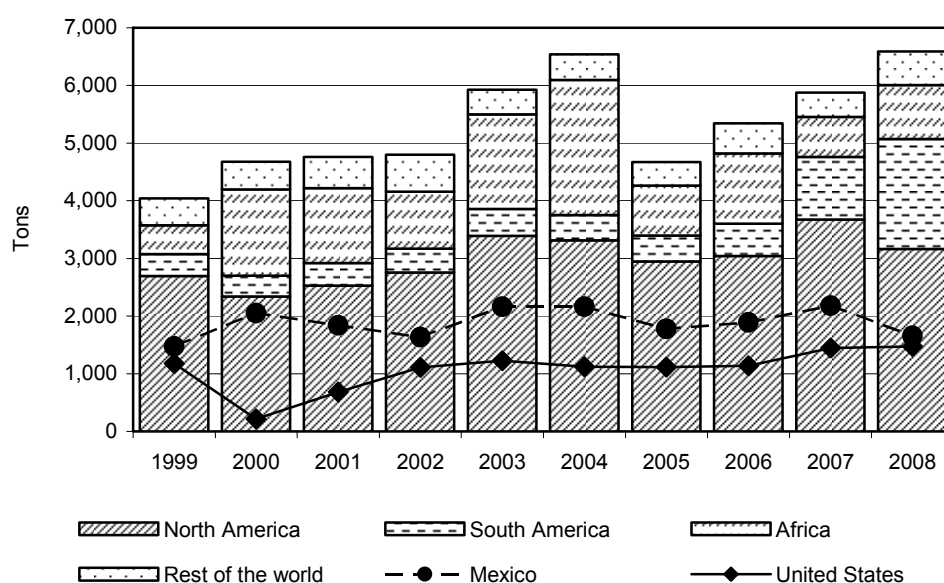
23. Global seizures of cannabis herb rose gradually but steadily over the period 2005-2008, reaching 6,579 tons in 2008, slightly exceeding the peak level attained in 2004 (6,539 tons). The region with the highest share of global seizures continued to be the Americas, followed by Africa. In 2008, a significant increase in such seizures, measured in absolute terms, was registered in South America and Africa. A significant increase in relative terms was registered in the Near and Middle East/South-West Asia, Western and Central Europe and Asia and the Pacific.

24. Every year from 2001 to 2008, the largest amount and the second largest amount of cannabis herb seized in the world were reported by Mexico and the United States of America, respectively (see figure IV). In Mexico, the total amount of cannabis herb seized rose to 2,105 tons in 2009. In the United States, the total was 1,472 tons in 2008, just above the relatively high level reached in 2007 (1,447 tons). Based on partial data provided by the authorities of the United States, the total amount of cannabis herb seized along that country's border with Mexico in 2009 rose by 19 per cent or more, as the partial total for 2009 amounted to 1,490 tons (compared with 1,253 tons in 2008).

Figure IV

Cannabis herb seized, 1999-2008

(Tons)



25. The total amount of cannabis herb seized in Africa peaked in 2004, driving the rise in the global total, but has remained significantly below that level since then. The total amount seized in the region rose to 936 tons in 2008, an increase of

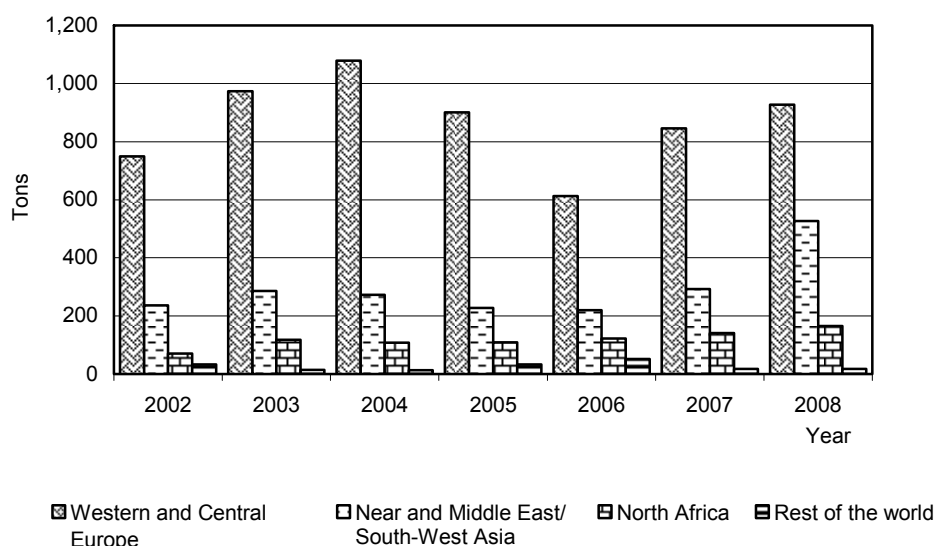
one third compared with the level of 2007 (694 tons). Africa accounted for 12 per cent of the total amount of cannabis herb seized worldwide in 2007, 14 per cent in 2008. Although data for 2009 were incomplete, a comparison of the total amount of cannabis herb seized in countries for which data were available for both 2008 and 2009 showed a decline of 35 per cent (those countries accounted for 76 per cent of the total for Africa in 2008). The decline was attributed mainly to the total amount reported to have been seized in Nigeria.

26. In the Near and Middle East/South-West Asia, the total amount of seized cannabis herb rose by more than one quarter, driven mainly by increases in Egypt, Iran (Islamic Republic of) and Turkey, while India continued to be the country in the region that reported having seized the largest amount of cannabis herb. In 2009, the total amount of cannabis herb seized in India rose by almost two thirds, from 103 tons in 2008 to 171 tons — the highest level since 1994. In Turkey, the total amount of seized cannabis herb increased sharply from 6.8 tons in 2004 to a record level of 42 tons in 2009. According to the authorities of Turkey, the increase in cannabis trafficking was attributable to the illicit cultivation of cannabis plants taking place in the rural parts of the country.

2. Cannabis resin

27. In 2008 global seizures of cannabis resin rose by one quarter, from 1,303 tons in 2007 to a record level of 1,648 tons. Seizures of cannabis resin continued to be concentrated in countries in Western and Central Europe (notably Spain), the Near and Middle East/South-West Asia (notably Afghanistan, Iran (Islamic Republic of) and Pakistan) and North Africa (notably Morocco) (see figure V).

Figure V
Cannabis resin seized worldwide, 2002-2008
(Tons)



28. From 1996 onwards, the countries in Western and Central Europe consistently accounted for more than half of the total amount of cannabis resin seized in the world each year. Every year from 1998 to 2008, Spain reported having seized more cannabis resin than any other country in the world (654 tons in 2007 and 683 tons in 2008).

29. In 2009, there appeared to be a significant shift in seizures of cannabis resin — towards the source country of Morocco and away from the transit and consumer country of Spain. The total amount of cannabis resin seized in Morocco reached a record level in 2009 (188 tons), while the amount seized in Spain fell to 445 tons, the lowest level since 1999. According to Spanish authorities, the drop in the amount of cannabis resin seized was attributable to the illicit market in Europe relying more on cannabis originating in countries other than Morocco.

30. A pronounced increase in the total amount of cannabis resin seized (both in absolute and relative terms) was registered in the Near and Middle East/South-West Asia in 2009. That increase was attributed mainly to Afghanistan, where the amount of seized cannabis resin rose to a record level of 271 tons in 2008 but receded to 11 tons in 2009 — the lowest level since 2001. The record level of 2008 was attributed mainly to an extraordinarily large single seizure of 236.8 tons of cannabis resin, effected by Afghan authorities in Kandahar province in June 2008.

31. The total amount of cannabis resin seized in Pakistan rose for two years running, reaching 205 tons in 2009 — the highest level in that country since 1995. According to Pakistan authorities, the proportion of cannabis resin seized in Pakistan and originating in Afghanistan remained at 98 per cent. In the Islamic Republic of Iran, the amount of cannabis resin seized annually fell from a peak level of 90 tons in 2007 to 75 tons in 2008 and, according to preliminary data, 69 tons in 2009. In Turkey, the total amount of seized cannabis resin rose from 864 kg in 2003 to 9.5 tons in 2009. According to the authorities of Turkey, 95 per cent of the cannabis resin seized originated in that country, but cannabis resin was entering the country from Lebanon and the Syrian Arab Republic.

32. From 2003 onwards, Asia and the Pacific accounted for 1 per cent or less of the total amount of cannabis resin seized each year. In 2007, 2008 and 2009, the countries in the region accounting for the largest amount of cannabis resin seized were India, Nepal and Viet Nam, although in India the amount declined from the peak level of 5.2 tons in 2007 to 4.1 tons in 2008 and 3.5 tons in 2009. According to Indian authorities, in 2009, one half of the cannabis resin on the territory of India originated in that country and the other half was smuggled into the country out of Nepal. The intended destinations included metropolitan areas and tourist destinations in India; however, cannabis resin was also smuggled out of India and into European countries and Canada.

33. In comparison with the global total, the amount of cannabis resin seized in the Americas remained limited: in 2008, the Americas accounted for 0.1 per cent of the total amount of cannabis resin seized worldwide. Canada has a significant illicit market for cannabis resin: in 2008, 899 kg of cannabis resin were seized in Canada — almost one half of the total amount seized in the region. In 2009, a much larger quantity of cannabis resin was seized in Canada: 9.7 tons. The routes used by traffickers to ship cannabis resin to Canada appeared to have undergone significant changes: in 2008, the three main countries of origin of the cannabis resin found in

Canada were identified as Jamaica, Morocco and India (in that order); in 2009, however, those countries were replaced by Mozambique, Pakistan and Afghanistan.

B. Opiates

34. With regard to the illicit supply of opiates at the global level, Afghanistan continued to play a major role. Traffickers used shipments of heroin from Afghanistan to meet the illicit demand in the Russian Federation and the rest of Europe. Moreover, heroin originating in Afghanistan also reached South-West Asia, Africa, Oceania and the Americas. Myanmar remained the primary source of heroin abused in China; however, the availability of heroin from Afghanistan on the illicit market in China appears to be growing. In the United States, the illicit demand for opiates is met mainly by heroin from South American countries and Mexico. The Americas appeared to constitute a largely self-contained illicit market for opiates; the few exceptions included heroin from Asia entering Canada and limited quantities of heroin entering the United States via West Africa.

1. Opium

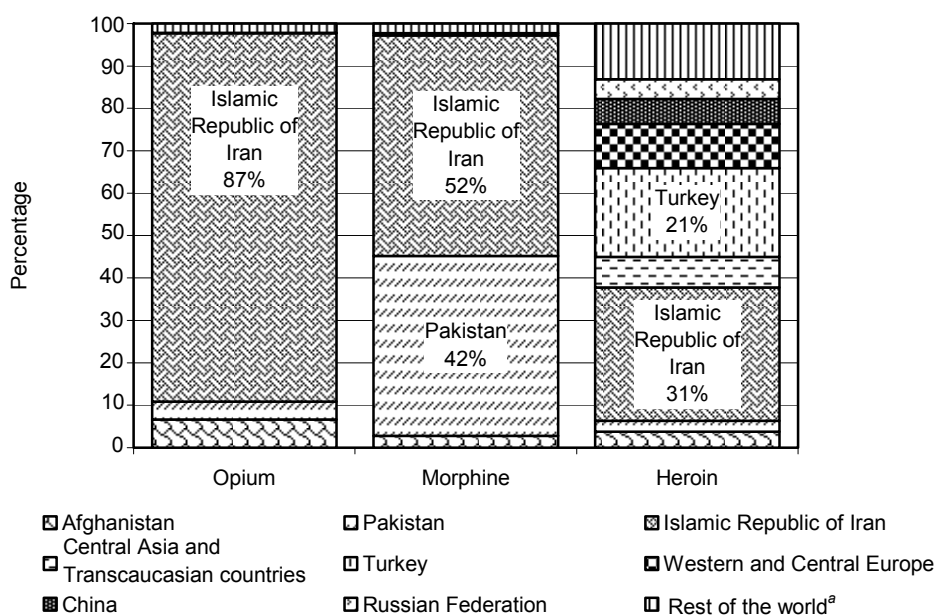
35. Global opium seizures rose steadily for six consecutive years, from 95.7 tons in 2002 to 646 tons in 2008 — an annual increase of 37 per cent for six consecutive years. That increase was driven mainly by the quantities of opium seized in the Islamic Republic of Iran, which continued to report by far the largest amount of opium seized worldwide (see figure VI). Most of the remaining opium seizures were made in Afghanistan and Pakistan. Those three countries together accounted for more than 97 per cent of global opium seizures in 2007 and 2008. According to preliminary data provided by the authorities of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the amount of opium seized in that country levelled off at 579 tons in 2009 (compared with 561 tons in 2008). A similar trend was seen in Pakistan, which reported having seized 25 tons of opium in 2009. In Afghanistan, the amount of opium seized fell from 43 tons in 2008 to 36 tons in 2009. Significant quantities of opium continued to be seized in countries in Central Asia, notably Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan, all of which share a border with Afghanistan. However, in all three of those countries, the amount of seized opium decreased from 2008 to 2009: from 1.7 to 1.0 tons⁸ in Tajikistan, from 1.5 to 1.3 tons⁸ in Turkmenistan, and from 1.1 tons to 626 kg in Uzbekistan.

36. A significant amount of opium also continued to be seized in India, though the total amount decreased from 2.0 tons in 2008 to 1.7 tons in 2009. In Turkey, the amount of opium seized reached the highest level on record in 2007 (785 kg) and remained relatively high after that, amounting to 711 kg in 2009.

37. From 1994 to 2008, the Americas accounted for less than 1 per cent of the total amount of opium seized worldwide. The only countries in South America that reported having seized opium in 2008 were Colombia (172 kg) and Peru (128 kg). In Mexico, the total amount of opium seized rose from 174 kg in 2008 to a record level of 802 kg in 2009. The United States reported having seized a total of 330 kg of opium in 2008, and Canada reported having seized a total of 108 kg.

⁸ Preliminary data submitted to the UNODC Regional Office for Central Asia.

Figure VI
Distribution of seizures of opium, morphine and heroin, 2008
 (Percentage)



^a For each drug type, the category “Rest of the world” refers to a different set of countries.

2. Morphine

38. Afghanistan, Iran (Islamic Republic of) and Pakistan continued to account for the vast majority of global morphine seizures. In 2008, the total amount of morphine seized worldwide fell to 17 tons — the lowest level since 2001. The preliminary total for 2009 amounted to 24 tons, still significantly lower than the global levels over the period 2003-2006.

39. During the period 2003-2006, Pakistan alone seized more than 20 tons of morphine each year (the highest level in the world for those years). After 2006, the amount of morphine seized in Pakistan decreased steadily to slightly less than 2 tons in 2009. In 2008, the Islamic Republic of Iran replaced Pakistan as the country reporting the largest total amount of seized morphine worldwide. From 2008 to 2009, the amount of morphine seized in the Islamic Republic of Iran rose from 9.0 to 16 tons, an increase of 80 per cent. In Afghanistan, the total amount of seized morphine reached 5.2 tons in 2009, slightly exceeding the previous record of 5.0 tons registered in 2007.

40. In Asia and the Pacific, the only countries to report morphine seizures in excess of 1 kg in 2009 were Myanmar (326 kg) and India (42 kg).

3. Heroin

41. In 2008, global heroin seizures reached a record level of 73.7 tons, up from 65.5 tons in 2007 — the second consecutive year-on-year increase. Large quantities of heroin were seized in the Near and Middle East/South-West Asia (accounting for

39 per cent of the global total in 2008), South-Eastern Europe (24 per cent), Western and Central Europe (10 per cent), East and South-East Asia (7.3 per cent), Central Asia and Transcaucasian countries (7.3 per cent), Eastern Europe (5.4 per cent) and North America (3.1 per cent).

42. From 2006 to 2008, the Islamic Republic of Iran reported the largest total amount of heroin seized annually by a single country worldwide. Turkey reported having seized the second-largest amount. In both of those countries, heroin seizures appeared to stabilize in 2009. In the Islamic Republic of Iran, the amount of heroin seized annually grew sevenfold over a period of five years, reaching 23.1 tons in 2008, and levelled off at 23.4 tons in 2009. In Turkey, the amount seized grew sixfold over a period of six years, reaching 15.4 tons in 2008, and then levelled off at 16.4 tons⁹ in 2009. The amount of heroin seized in Afghanistan declined for the second year running, falling from 2.8 tons in 2008 to 2.2 tons in 2009, the lowest level since 2003. In Pakistan, the amount of seized heroin remained stable at 2.1 tons in 2009.

43. In 2008, heroin seizures in Western and Central Europe remained stable for the third consecutive year, amounting to 7.7 tons. Incomplete data for 2009 suggest that the stable trend was sustained in 2009 (see figure VII).

44. In Central Asia, the three countries reporting the largest amount of heroin seized in 2008 all recorded significant decreases in 2009: the amount of seized heroin fell from 1.6 tons in 2008 to 732 kg in Kazakhstan, from 1.6 tons in 2008 to 1.1 tons¹⁰ in Tajikistan and from 1.5 tons in 2008 to 755 kg in Uzbekistan. Increasing (albeit smaller) heroin seizures were registered in Kyrgyzstan, where the amount of seized heroin rose from 299 kg in 2008 to 341 kg¹⁰ in 2009, and in Turkmenistan, where the amount rose from 245 kg in 2008 to 420 kg¹⁰ in 2009.

45. In Asia and the Pacific, seized heroin amounted to 6.6 tons in 2008, representing 9 per cent of the world total. The partial total for 2009 (based on incomplete and preliminary data), is 9.1 tons, an increase of 39 per cent over the level of 2008. The increase was attributable mainly to the quantities of heroin seized in China and Myanmar. In 2008, China reported the third highest amount of heroin seized in a single country worldwide — 4.3 tons. In 2009, that figure rose by one third, reaching 5.8 tons. Heroin from northern Myanmar entered China via Yunnan province. The amount of seized heroin originating in South-West Asia increased sharply, from 390 kg (234 seizures) in 2008 to 1.5 tons (333 seizures) in 2009. One increasingly important heroin trafficking route led from South-West Asia to the south-eastern Chinese province of Guangdong, through countries such as Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Viet Nam.

46. In the Americas, the United States continued to be the country reporting the largest amount of heroin seized. Although the amount of heroin seized in the United States dropped from 2.4 tons in 2007 to 2.0 tons in 2008, high wholesale purity and low prices suggested that heroin continued to be widely available in that country. The Heroin Signature Program of the Drug Enforcement Administration of the United States indicated an increase in the availability of heroin from Mexico. The amount of heroin seized by authorities in the United States along that country's

⁹ Including 331 kg of heroin in liquid form.

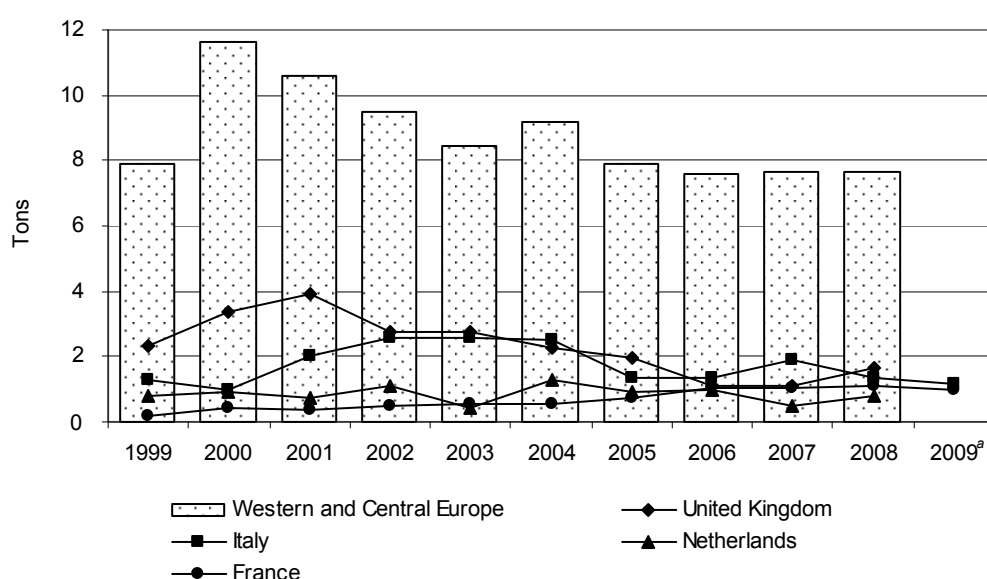
¹⁰ Preliminary data submitted to the UNODC Regional Office for Central Asia.

border with Mexico increased from 404 kg in 2007 to 556 kg in 2008, and the partial total for 2009 amounted to 642 kg. Mexico reported having seized 283 kg of heroin in 2009, up from 194 kg in 2008. Mexico estimated that the percentage of heroin originating in Mexico continued to be 30 per cent, with the remaining 70 per cent originating in Colombia. Canadian authorities seized 102 kg of heroin in 2008. The illicit market for heroin in Canada is supplied mainly by heroin from Asia. Colombia continued to report the highest seizures of heroin in South America. The amount of heroin seized in Colombia increased from 527 kg in 2007 to 677 kg in 2008. According to preliminary data, the amount of heroin seized in that country continued to increase, reaching 735 kg in 2009.

Figure VII

Heroin seized in Western and Central Europe, 1999-2009

(Tons)



^a For 2009, data for some key countries are not available.

C. Cocaine

47. After increasing significantly over the period 2002-2005, global cocaine seizures followed a stable trend, totalling 712 tons in 2007 and 709 tons in 2008. Cocaine seizures continued to be concentrated in the Americas and Europe. In 2008, there was a shift in cocaine seizures — towards the source countries. Cocaine seizures in South America accounted for 59 per cent of the world total in 2008, compared with 45 per cent in 2007. That was attributed mainly to increases in cocaine seizures in several South American countries, notably Colombia, and decreases in such seizures in North America and Europe.

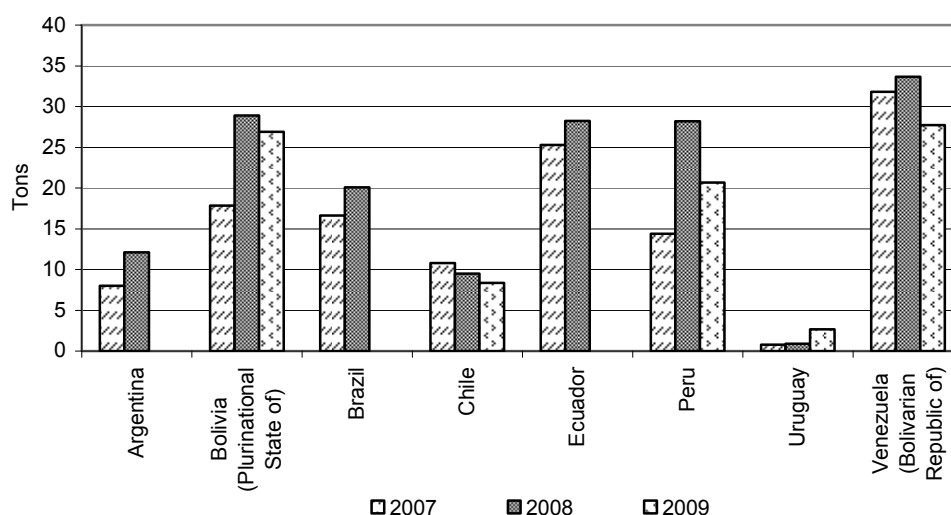
48. The amount of cocaine seized in South America rose to a record level in 2008, reaching 418 tons. The largest increase, in absolute terms, over the level of 2007 was by far the one registered in Colombia (an increase of 60 tons). A significant

increase in relative terms in the amount of cocaine seized was also recorded in Peru (where the amount seized almost doubled), the Plurinational State of Bolivia (an increase of 62 per cent), Argentina (51 per cent), Brazil (21 per cent), Uruguay (19 per cent) and Ecuador (12 per cent). In 2009, the amount of cocaine seized essentially remained at a high level in the Plurinational State of Bolivia (27 tons, compared with 29 tons in 2008) and Colombia and reached a record level in Uruguay (2.7 tons), but decreased to 21 tons in Peru (from 28 tons in 2008) and continued to decrease in Chile (8.4 tons, down from 9.5 tons in 2008). In the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, the amount of seized cocaine remained stable but at a high level in 2008 (34 tons, the second largest amount reported in South America) and fell to 28 tons in 2009 (see figure VIII). In Colombia, the amount of seized cocaine rose from 195 tons in 2007 to a record level of 256 tons in 2008.

49. According to preliminary data, in 2009 cocaine seizures in Colombia amounted to 253 tons.¹¹ In the United States, the amount of seized cocaine fell sharply from 148 tons in 2007 to 98 tons in 2008. Mexico continued to be a key transit country for cocaine shipments entering the United States. Shipments containing a total of 22 tons of cocaine were intercepted by Mexico in 2009.

Figure VIII

South American countries other than Colombia in which more than one ton of cocaine was seized each year, 2007-2009
(Tons)



50. Europe constitutes the world's second largest illicit market for cocaine. The European market for cocaine has undergone a significant expansion since the year 2000, in terms of both supply and demand. Annual cocaine seizures in Europe averaged 35.5 tons over the period 1998-2000 and 102 tons over the period 2005-2007.

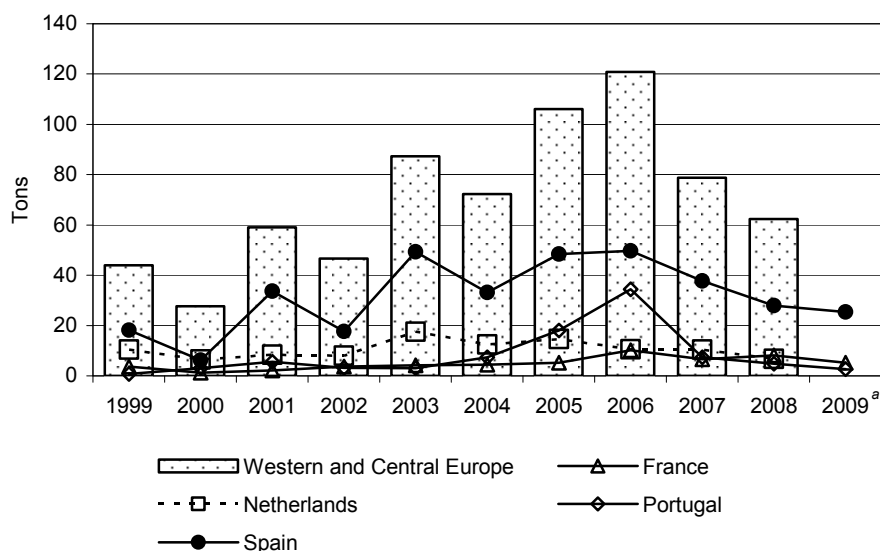
¹¹ Excluding seizures of "basuco" (1.9 tons).

51. Cocaine intended for Europe continued to be smuggled along routes that originate in Latin America and the Caribbean and either lead directly to Europe or passing through Africa to Europe. The amount of cocaine seized in Europe climbed to 121 tons in 2006 and then fell to 62.7 tons in 2008 — a decline of 48 per cent over a two-year period. The three countries reporting the highest cocaine seizures in Europe in 2007 — Spain, the Netherlands and Portugal — all registered significant decreases in 2008 (see figure IX). From 2007 to 2008, the amount of seized cocaine fell from 37.8 to 28.0 tons in Spain (the second consecutive year-on-year decrease in that country), from 10.5 to 6.76 tons in the Netherlands and from 7.36 to 4.88 tons in 2008 in Portugal (also the second consecutive year-on-year decrease). However, data on prices do not give a clear picture of a decline in the short term in the supply of cocaine entering Europe.

Figure IX

Cocaine seized in Western and Central Europe, 1999-2009

(Tons)



^a For 2009, data for some key countries are not available.

52. In the period 2004-2007, West Africa in particular assumed an important role as a transit area for shipments of cocaine destined for Europe. Cocaine was smuggled into Africa mainly by sea, but cocaine shipments were also sent in modified small aircraft from South America to various destinations in West Africa. Some indicators suggest that since 2007, cocaine trafficking via West Africa has undergone a decline or substantial diversification. Nevertheless, cocaine trafficking via West Africa persisted and that subregion remains susceptible to a resurgence in that activity.

53. Reported cocaine prices largely reflected the well-known trafficking routes leading from South America to North America and Europe. In 2008, the lowest wholesale prices for cocaine (not adjusted for purity) were registered in Peru, followed by the Plurinational State of Bolivia, Colombia, other South American

countries and countries in Central America and the Caribbean. The typical wholesale price of cocaine reported by Mexico — \$12,500 per kilogram — was in the lower end of the range reported by the United States (between \$10,000 and \$43,000 per kilogram). Most wholesale price levels reported in West African countries were significantly higher than those reported in Latin America and the Caribbean but lower than those reported by European countries, reflecting the role of West Africa as a trans-shipment area for cocaine sent from South America to Europe. The price of cocaine in Spain was significantly lower than the average in the rest of Europe, reflecting the role of that country as a major entry point for cocaine intended for the European market.

54. In 2008, the largest cocaine seizures among countries in the Near and Middle East were recorded by Israel (135 kg) and the Syrian Arab Republic (150 kg). In 2009, the amount of seized cocaine declined considerably in the Syrian Arab Republic (to 19 kg) and in Israel (to 63 kg). The Syrian Arab Republic identified Brazil and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) as transit countries used for cocaine shipments entering its territory in 2009; 95 per cent of that cocaine was estimated to be intended for Lebanon

55. In Asia and the Pacific, less than 1 ton of cocaine was seized each year during the period 2002-2007, but that figure rose to a record level of 1.6 tons in 2008. In Australia, cocaine seizures rose from 626 kg in 2007 to 930 kg in 2008. In 2009, the amount of cocaine seized in Australia fell sharply to 5.7 kg, but in 2010 two large seizures brought the partial total to more than 700 kg. In 2008, the amount of cocaine seized in China rose to 530 kg,¹² while the Philippines registered a record amount of seized cocaine: 259 kg. In Malaysia, 7.1 kg of cocaine were seized in 2008, according to the authorities.¹³

D. Amphetamine-type stimulants

56. Amphetamine-type stimulants may be categorized into two groups: amphetamines, comprised of amphetamine, methamphetamine and non-specified amphetamines; and “ecstasy”-type substances, which include methylenedioxymethamphetamine (MDMA), methylenedioxyamphetamine (MDA) and 3,4-methylenedioxyethylamphetamine (MDEA). Total seizures in the group of amphetamines reached 47.4 tons in 2008, slightly exceeding the level of 2007 (43.8 tons) and the previous record level registered of 2006 (45.9 tons). In contrast, the amount of “ecstasy” seized in 2008, fell sharply to 3.86 tons.¹⁴

57. In recent years, the illicit manufacture of amphetamine-type stimulants has emerged in several countries in Latin America and the Caribbean with little or no history of such manufacture. In August 2009, Argentine authorities seized a total of

¹² Data collated by the Drug Abuse Information Network for Asia and the Pacific.

¹³ Data submitted to the Drug Abuse Information Network for Asia and the Pacific.

¹⁴ Seized amphetamine-type stimulants are in various forms, including liquid or tablet form, and may be reported by mass, volume, number of tablets or other units. In specific cases, seizure amounts may be indicated as reported by countries, but aggregate quantities are expressed by mass. For the purposes of the aggregation, one tablet is assumed to contain 30 mg of active ingredient, with the exception of “ecstasy” tablets, which are assumed to contain 100 mg of active ingredient. Moreover, one litre of liquid is assumed to correspond to one kilogram.

4.2 tons of ephedrine (a precursor of methamphetamine) in two operations on the outskirts of Buenos Aires. Although the emergence in Argentina of the illicit manufacture of methamphetamine cannot be ruled out, it is likely that the large quantity of precursor chemical seized by the Argentine authorities had been intended for use in other countries, possibly Mexico. In August 2009, authorities in the Dominican Republic intercepted a shipment containing more than 409,000 pseudoephedrine tablets en route to Guatemala and originating in Bangladesh.¹⁵ In 2009, Guatemala reported the seizure of three laboratories illicitly manufacturing amphetamine-type stimulants, as well as the seizure of 12 tons of pseudoephedrine.

1. Amphetamine

58. Global seizures of amphetamine reached a record level of 23.7 tons in 2007 and essentially remained at that level in 2008 (23.0 tons). Amphetamine seizures remained concentrated in the Near and Middle East/South-West Asia and in Western and Central Europe, which together accounted for 96 per cent of the total for the world in 2008. Seizures of amphetamine in Asia and the Pacific remained limited, amounting to 73 kg in 2008 (less than 1 per cent of the world total) and, based on partial data, 66 kg in 2009.

59. Trafficking in counterfeit Captagon tablets affects several countries in the Near and Middle East/South-West Asia. The nature of the psychoactive ingredients in tablets bearing the Captagon logo is not always clear, but reports suggest that amphetamine smuggled out of countries in South-Eastern Europe (notably Bulgaria), is currently the main ingredient in tablets sold as Captagon in the Middle East. Those tablets frequently contain substances such as caffeine as well.

60. The total amount of amphetamine seized in Saudi Arabia rose steadily over the period 2000-2007, reaching 13.9 tons¹⁶ in 2007. Such seizures in Saudi Arabia appear to have stabilized since then: seized amphetamine amounted to 12.8 tons in 2008 and 13.4 tons¹⁷ in 2009.¹⁸ Saudi Arabia has a significant market for Captagon tablets. In January 2010, 8 million Captagon tablets were confiscated in a single seizure in Saudi Arabia. The amount of amphetamine seized in Turkey rose from 163 kg in 2008 to 479 kg in 2009, of which 473 kg were seized in Istanbul in September 2009 at a laboratory illicitly manufacturing Captagon.

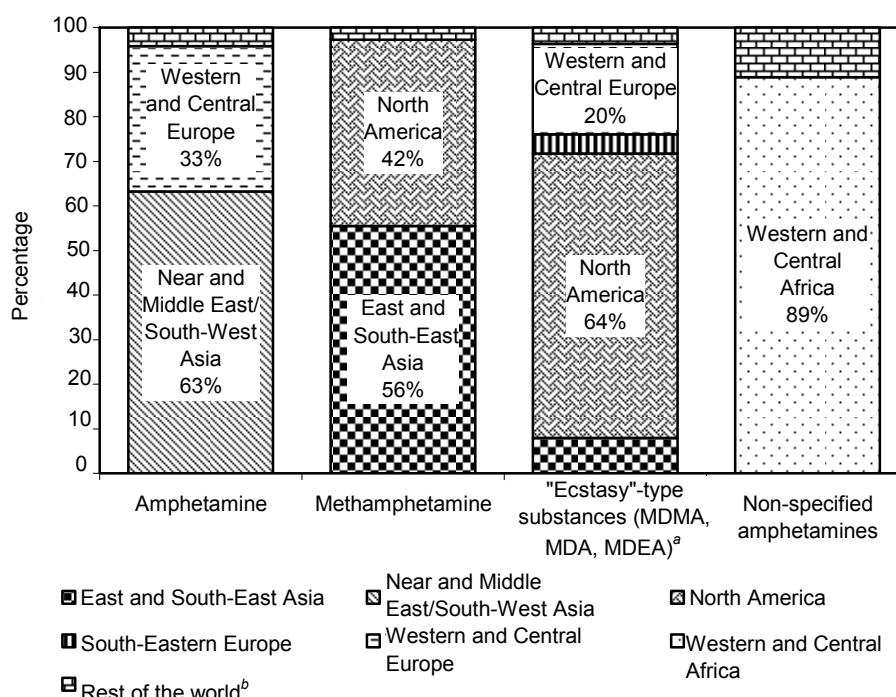
¹⁵ United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, *Global Smart Update 2009*, vol. 2, October 2009.

¹⁶ Data for the period 2002-2007 are from the World Customs Organization and the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL).

¹⁷ World Customs Organization, *Customs and Drugs Report 2009*, June 2010.

¹⁸ These quantities likely indicate the bulk weight of seizures, including binders and adulterants frequently present in Captagon tablets, and should therefore be viewed with caution. Nevertheless, they are extraordinarily large seizures.

Figure X
Distribution of seizures of amphetamine-type stimulants, by type, 2008
 (Percentage)



^a MDMA = methylenedioxymethamphetamine
 MDA = methylenedioxyamphetamine
 MDEA = 3,4-methylenedioxyethylamphetamine.

^b For each drug type, the category "Rest of the world" refers to a different set of countries.

2. Methamphetamine

61. Global methamphetamine seizures ranged between 18 and 19 tons over the period 2005-2007, but rose to 20.7 tons in 2008. Countries in East and South-East Asia (notably China) and North America (notably the United States) continued to account for the majority of methamphetamine seizures. A significant global increase in such seizures was registered in 2008 and 2009, partly as a result of seizures reported by the Islamic Republic of Iran.

62. Starting in 2005, the Islamic Republic of Iran seized increasing quantities of methamphetamine. The amount of amphetamine seized in that country rose from 38 kg in 2007 to 1.5 tons¹⁹ in 2008 and 2.4 tons¹⁹ in 2009. The amount seized in the Islamic Republic of Iran in 2008 was the fourth largest amount reported worldwide. The results of research undertaken by the authorities of the Islamic Republic of Iran

¹⁹ These quantities were reported as an aggregate of amphetamine and methamphetamine, and a breakdown was not available. All other evidence available to UNODC of trafficking in and the use of amphetamine-type stimulants in the Islamic Republic of Iran points to methamphetamine, rather than amphetamine. These quantities may include an unspecified quantity of amphetamine.

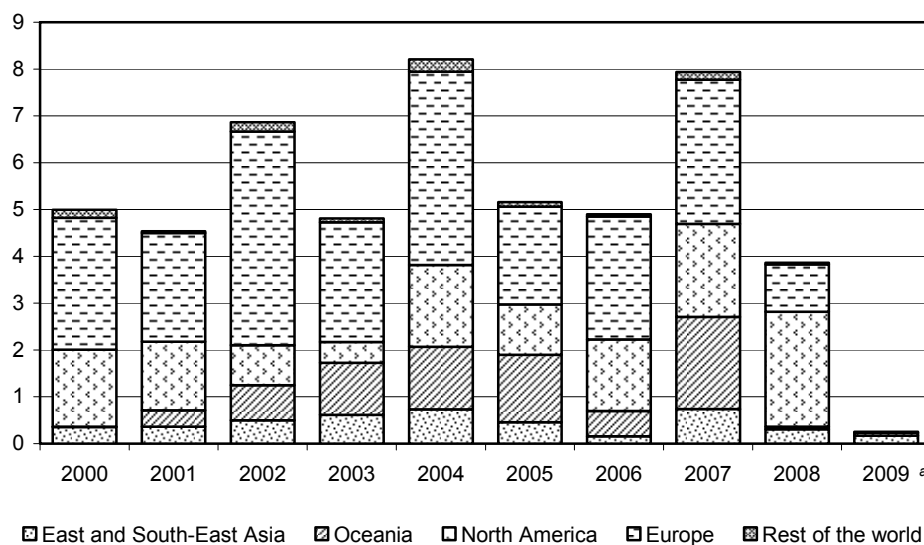
indicate that the use of methamphetamine in that country has increased. Iranian authorities identified countries in Europe and South Asia as the origin of amphetamine-type stimulants smuggled into the Islamic Republic of Iran in 2008. However, the Islamic Republic of Iran also reported that four laboratories illicitly manufacturing methamphetamine on a small scale were dismantled in Tehran in 2008. In 2009, the Islamic Republic of Iran reported that its legitimate requirements for the precursor pseudoephedrine amounted to 55 tons,²⁰ the fourth largest amount reported worldwide for that year.

3. “Ecstasy”

63. Global seizures of “ecstasy” fell from a record level of 7.9 tons in 2007 to 3.9 tons in 2008, the lowest level since 1999 (see figure XI). The low level was partly due to significantly reduced seizures in Australia and the Netherlands. In contrast, “ecstasy” seizures increased markedly in the United States. In 2008, North America, Europe and Asia and the Pacific together accounted for 99 per cent of global “ecstasy” seizures. In 2009, Turkish authorities reported the seizure of 433,000 “ecstasy” tablets and indicated that they had been manufactured in Western Europe but intended for the illicit market in Turkey.

Figure XI

“Ecstasy” seizures, 2000-2009
(Ton equivalents)



^a For 2009, totals for East and South-East Asia and for Oceania are subject to revision, and totals for other regions are not available.

²⁰ *Precursors and Chemicals Frequently Used in the Illicit Manufacture of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances: Report of the International Narcotics Control Board for 2009 on the Implementation of Article 12 of the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.10.XI.4).

64. The decline in global “ecstasy” seizures was also evident in Asia and the Pacific. By 2009, the amount of “ecstasy” seized had fallen to 106 kg in China (from 222 kg in 2007), 40 kg in Indonesia (from 151 kg in 2007), 9.2 kg in Japan (from 129 kg in 2007), 7.6 kg²¹ in Malaysia (from 183 kg in 2007) and 5.8 kg in Thailand (from 28 kg in 2007). In Malaysia, 12 “ecstasy” laboratories were seized in 2008 but only 1 was seized in 2009.²¹ Indonesia reported that 9 “kitchen” laboratories illicitly manufacturing “ecstasy” were seized in 2008 and 18 were seized in 2009.

²¹ Data collated by the Drug Abuse Information Network for Asia and the Pacific.