



### **E10 Mandate and Functions of the United Nations International Narcotics Control Board and the Emerging Threat of Unregulated Drug Markets**

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After attending this presentation, attendees will understand the important and highly sensitive role of the International Narcotics Control Board in national and transnational drug and crime fighting.

This presentation will impact the forensic community by providing the forensic community with first hand information on the membership, mandate, function and recommendations of the International Narcotics Control Board.

The independent and quasi-judicial monitoring body for the implementation of the United Nations international drug control conventions, namely the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB), was established in 1968 and had predecessors as far back as the time of the League of Nations. The mandate and functions of INCB are laid down in the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, 1961; the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971; and the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988.

INCB consist of thirteen Members elected by the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) for a term of five years. Ten members are elected from out of nominations received from Governments and three out of nominations received from World Health Organization (WHO). The members of INCB function in their personal capacities and do not represent their governments. The INCB secretariat is an administrative entity of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) reporting exclusively to the Board on matters of substance. The first part of the presentation will summarize mandate, function, membership and activities of the Board.

INCB, monitors compliance with drug control treaties, endeavors in co-operation with governments that adequate supplies of drugs are available for medical and scientific uses and that diversion of drugs from licit sources to illicit sources do not occur. The Board also monitors governments control over chemicals used in the illicit manufacture of drugs and assists them in preventing their diversion into illicit channels and supports them by different means in combating illicit cultivation, production, manufacture, trafficking and abuse of drugs. The Board identifies where weaknesses in the national and international control systems exist and contributes to correcting the situation. As a last resort, the treaties empower INCB to recommend to parties that they stop importing drugs from a defaulting country, exporting drugs to it or both.

The INCB is mandated to publish an annual report on its activities, which provides a survey of the drug control situation in the world and analyses, trends in abuse and illicit traffic and suggests necessary remedial action.

The second part of the presentation will focus on unregulated markets in relation to narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances under international control, identified by the Board as an emerging threat and elaborated thoroughly in the first chapter of its last year's annual report. Examples will be presented on the wide variation in the forms of unregulated markets and the ways they operate, which have evolved and exist in different forms, in different parts of the world. Common factors that have created demand for an unregulated market such as the limited access to hospitals, clinics or pharmacies, the lower price of most medicinal products found on the unregulated markets, the need to obtain controlled drugs in privacy, the lack of public awareness of the dangers of buying drugs on the unregulated market, the overly stringent prescription requirements in some countries and the increasing need to performance-enhancing drugs available only with a prescription will be discussed.

The presentation will also emphasize the problem of counterfeit drugs, which according to the World Health Organization comprise 25-50 percent of the medicines consumed in developing countries, the risks involved in buying pharmaceutical products through unregulated, illegal Internet pharmacies and will conclude with recommendations of the Board to Governments and relevant parties such as the industry, wholesalers, retailers, professional associations, consumer and patient groups and international organizations to remedy the situation. The presentation will also provide a personal view on the necessity of networking among forensic science laboratories of law enforcement agencies and on the urgent need of their global capacity improvement for a successful combat against unregulated markets.

**International Narcotics Control Board, International Drug Control Conventions, Organized Crime**