



Department of Justice

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
WEDNESDAY, MAY 7, 2008
WWW.USDOJ.GOV

OPA
(202) 514-2007
TDD (202) 514-1888

JOINT STATEMENT ON COUNTERING THE DIVERSION OF PRECURSOR CHEMICALS, SYNTHETIC DRUGS AND CONTROLLED PHARMACEUTICALS

Facing the threat of illicit synthetic drugs and their components, our Three nations, under the framework of United Nations (UN) International Drug Control Conventions, are continuously strengthening cooperation to combat relevant crimes, and have made major progress in controlling those substances; both within our own countries and internationally. We also recognize, however, that international criminal groups have shifted their tactics in response to our efforts. Traffickers are now using new precursor chemicals, changing their smuggling routes and shifting into the diversion of controlled pharmaceuticals. *Today, in order to respond to this dynamic threat, we:*

1. Commit to Continued Information Exchange Among Our Three Nations:

We will continue to cooperate and exchange information relating to the control of methamphetamine precursor chemicals, the formulation of precursor control policies, and countering the illicit trafficking and production of methamphetamine and its precursor chemical ingredients.

2. Increase Efforts against the Diversion of Methamphetamine Precursors:

Call on those countries where methamphetamine precursor chemical transshipments are taking place to develop adequate laws and regulations and establish control mechanisms to prevent diversion. We encourage those countries that require assistance in this area to ask for help from regional or multilateral organizations, and from nations which are capable of providing such help.

3. Call on All Countries to Identify their Licit Need for Meth Precursors:

Resolutions adopted by the UN Commission on Narcotics Drugs urges countries to report to the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB) their

licit requirements for methamphetamine precursor chemicals, and to report all international shipments of methamphetamine precursor chemicals to the INCB. The INCB, through the online Pre-Export Notification (PEN) system, works directly with law enforcement authorities from major shipper and recipient nations to ensure that all shipments are legitimate. The provision of licit estimates greatly facilitates this task because shipments that exceed licit requirements can be automatically stopped. Over the past two years, 103 countries and jurisdictions have submitted such estimates, and we call on the more than 100 remaining countries around the globe to do so promptly.

4. Pledge to Strengthen Control Mechanisms and Work Together to Prevent the Diversion of Controlled Pharmaceuticals:

The diversion and abuse of licit controlled pharmaceuticals, especially narcotic analgesics, is a serious concern. These powerful pharmaceutical products, when utilized without proper medical oversight or for non-medical purposes, can have serious medical consequences. Diversion can occur at any point in the distribution chain, from the import/export of raw materials through manufacture of bulk/dosage forms, wholesale distribution and retail dispensing. We will continue to exchange information about this threat and to discuss ways in which to enhance domestic and international control measures. In addition, we will call upon all countries to ensure that the serious challenges posed by the diversion of controlled pharmaceutical products are part of the ongoing U.N. General Assembly Special Session (UNGASS) ten-year review process for controlled substances.

Signed: Representatives from the United States, Mexico, and China