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**INTER-AMERICAN DRUG ABUSE  
CONTROL COMMISSION  
CICAD**

Secretariat for Multidimensional Security

**FIFTY-FIFTH REGULAR SESSION  
April 29 - May 1, 2014  
Washington, D.C.**

**OEA/Ser.L/XIV.2.55  
CICAD/doc.2086/14  
25 April 2014  
Original: English**

**SITUATION ANALYSIS AND RESPONSES TO SYNTHETIC DRUGS AND  
NEW PSYCHOACTIVE SUBSTANCES (NPS)  
MATHEW NICE, UNODC**

# INTERNATIONAL NARCOTICS CONTROL BOARD: PROJECT ION

*(INTERNATIONAL OPERATIONS ON NPS)*

55<sup>th</sup> Regular Session of CICAD

1 May 2014, Washington

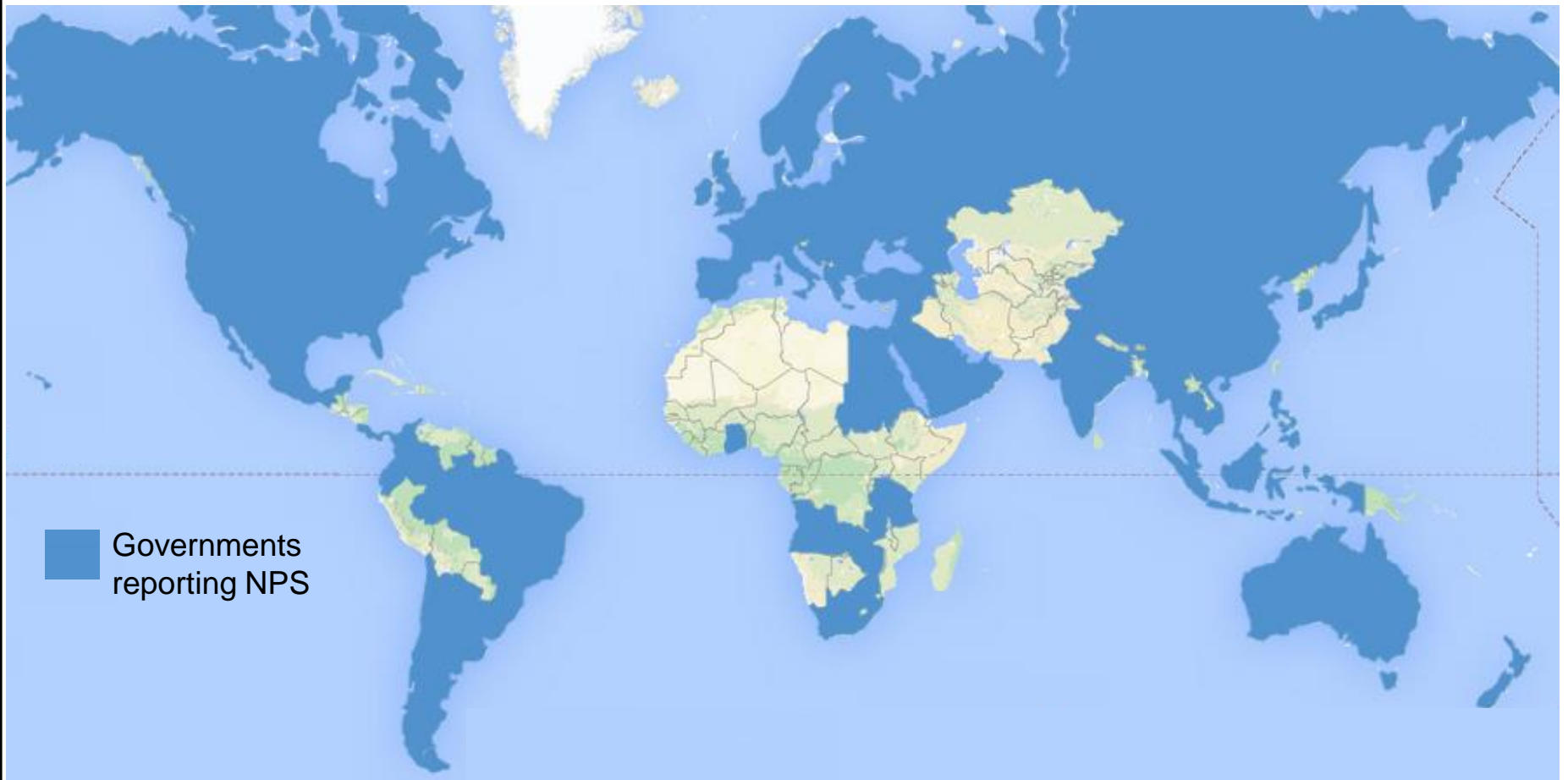
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International Narcotics Control Board

# GOVERNMENTS REPORTING NPS



Source: UNODC

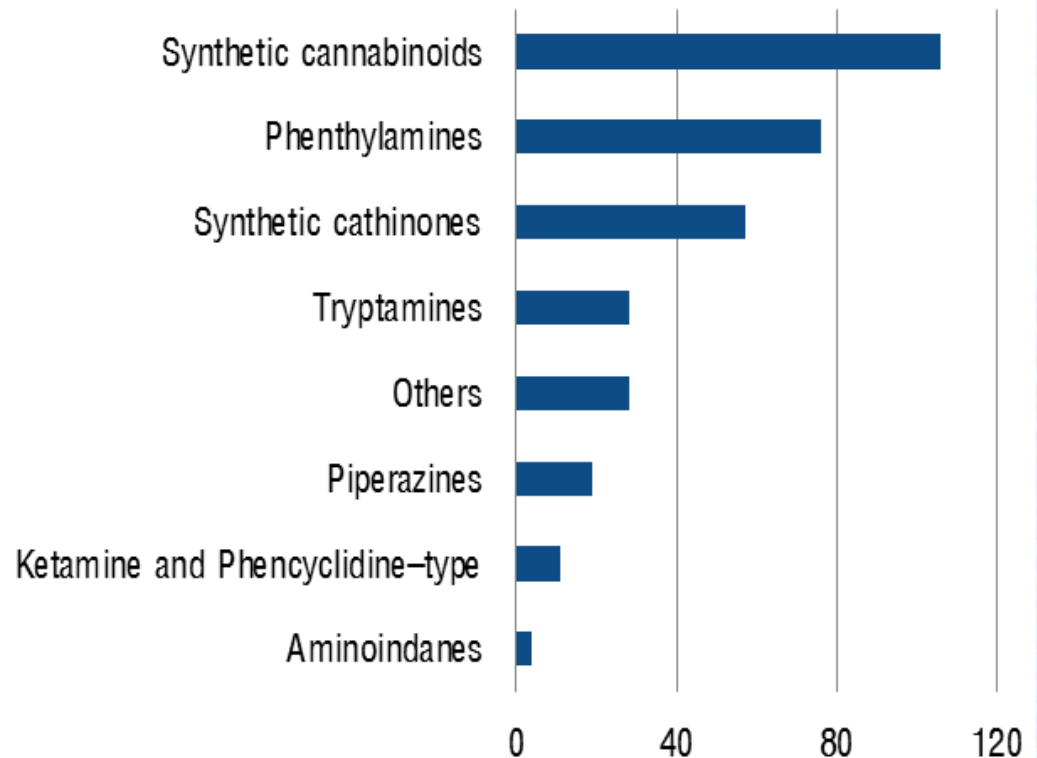
# NPS: MARKETED AS "PRODUCTS" AND SUBSTANCES



# NPS: A GROWING GLOBAL PROBLEM

- New psychoactive substances (NPS) broadly are substances of abuse, either in a pure form or a preparation, that are not controlled under the 1961 Convention on Narcotic Drugs or the 1971 Convention on Psychotropic Substances, but which may pose a public health threat;
- Little or no known medical, scientific or industrial use;
- Since 2009 more than 350 NPS across various categories have been reported by Governments

Number of synthetic\* NPS reported



\* Excludes plant-based substances

Source: UNODC

**To date, none have been added to the international control system!**

# INTERNATIONAL CALL TO ACTION AND COOPERATION

- Resolution 48/11, States and relevant international organizations to cooperate closely with the International Narcotics Control Board's task force initiatives ... to develop of live intelligence-led investigations...
- Resolution 55/1, Member States to share information [*on NPS*], through appropriate bilateral and multilateral channels...
- Resolution 56/4, ... organizations to share and exchange ideas, efforts, good practices and experiences in adopting effective responses to address the unique challenges...
- Resolution 57/L11/Rev1, ... support activities under INCB task force on NPS, nominate a focal point, exchange communications, participate in time-bound initiatives that target major organizations...

# INCB OPERATIONAL APPROACH FOR PRECURSORS

## DEVELOPING AND COMMUNICATING ACTIONABLE INTELLIGENCE

Task Force directed mechanism;  
Multilateral operational activities (*Projects  
PRISM and Cohesion*)



Real-time communication (*PICS*) and sharing  
of operational information between  
national authorities (focal points)



Prevent the diversion of chemicals to  
illicit drug manufacture

# INCB OPERATIONAL APPROACH FOR NPS

## DEVELOPING AND COMMUNICATING ACTIONABLE INTELLIGENCE

NPS Task Force directed mechanism;  
Multilateral operational activities (*Project ION*)



Real-time communication (*IONICS*) and  
sharing of operational information between  
national authorities (ION focal points)



Prevent new psychoactive substances  
from reaching consumer markets



# INCB ACTIONS TO COUNTER NPS

- Board decision to provide operational support to governments to counter NPS (May 2013)
- INCB Precursors Task Force convened (September 2013)
- Project ION (*International Operations on NPS*) formally launched at Bangkok Regional Conference (December 2013)
- Project ION Focal Points established (January 2014)
- First Operational Meeting under Project ION (February 2014)
- First NPS Task Force meeting convened (March 2014)
- IONICS secure communication platform developed (July 2014)

## PRACTICAL STEPS GOVERNMENTS CAN DO NOW

- Governments encouraged to nominate a Project ION focal point(s) to send and receive INCB special alerts communications on NPS (see circular letter E/INCB/PRE/C.L. 33/2013);
- Project ION focal points encouraged to actively participate in time-bound multilateral intelligence sharing special operations (CND resolution 57/L11/Rev1);
- Government focal points encouraged to register to the Project ION Incident Communication System (*IONICS*) and actively use the secure communication platform (currently under development) to share intelligence related to NPS suspicious shipments and traffic.

# PRACTICAL STEPS GOVERNMENTS CAN DO NOW

UNITED NATIONS  
INTERNATIONAL NARCOTICS  
CONTROL BOARD

INCB



OICS

NATIONS UNIES  
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CONTRÔLE DES STUPÉFIANTS

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Ref: E/INCB/PRE/C.L. 33/2013

ION

Con referencia a la resolución 55/1 de la Comisión de Estupefacientes, titulada “*Promoción de la cooperación internacional para enfrentar los problemas planteados por las nuevas sustancias psicoactivas*”, de marzo de 2012, y la resolución 56/4 de la Comisión de Estupefacientes, titulada “*Mejoramiento de la cooperación internacional en el reconocimiento y la notificación de nuevas sustancias psicoactivas*”, de marzo de 2013, la Junta Internacional de Fiscalización de Estupefacientes ha instituido una iniciativa operacional internacional destinada a ayudar a los organismos de represión y reglamentación a evitar que las nuevas sustancias psicoactivas objeto de abuso que no figuren en los cuadros lleguen a los mercados de consumo. La iniciativa se denominará “Proyecto ION” (del inglés International Operations on NPS, operaciones internacionales sobre las nuevas sustancias psicoactivas objeto de abuso que no figuran en los cuadros). Será dirigida por el grupo de tareas sobre nuevas sustancias psicoactivas y su organización será similar a la de los mecanismos existentes del Proyecto Prisma y el Proyecto Cohesión.

A fin de que su país pueda participar plenamente en determinadas operaciones mundiales y regionales sujetas a plazos concretos del Proyecto ION y recibir la inteligencia estratégica y operacional que estas generen, la Junta desea invitar a su Gobierno a que designe un centro de coordinación nacional u organismo nacional central (ONC).

# PRACTICAL STEPS GOVERNMENTS CAN DO NOW



**Governments still needing Project ION Focal Points**

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