

24 August 2017

Original: English*

**Subcommission on Illicit Drug Traffic and
Related Matters in the Near and Middle East****Fifty-second session**

Beirut, 13-17 November 2017

Item 3 of the provisional agenda**

**Current situation with respect to regional and
subregional cooperation****Statistics on drug trafficking trends in South, West and
Central Asia, the Near and Middle East, and worldwide****Report of the Secretariat***Summary*

The present report provides an overview of the latest trends in the illicit production of and trafficking in drugs worldwide, with a focus on the member States of the Subcommission. 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 and statistics on the illicit cultivation of drug crops to the end of 2015 and, where available, 2016.

Member States of the Subcommission account for large proportions of global seizures of cannabis resin, heroin, amphetamine and “ecstasy”-type substances. While trafficking of cannabis resin and heroin is mostly concentrated in the Golden Crescent area and Turkey, amphetamine seizures are predominant in the Near and Middle East. Seizures of “ecstasy”-type substances among member States of the Subcommission have been concentrated in Turkey in recent years.

While both cannabis herb and resin seizures among member States of the Subcommission have increased in recent years, heroin seizures have remained relatively stable since 2008. In 2015, preliminary data suggest that record amphetamine seizures were reported by member States of the Subcommission, continuing with the marked increasing trend observed over the past three years. Seizures of “ecstasy”-type substances in Turkey were the highest reported by any country in 2015, confirming the increased trafficking of such drugs in the country in recent years.

* Available only in Arabic, English and Russian, which are the working languages of the subsidiary body.

** [UNODC/SUBCOM/52/1](#).



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, with a particular focus on trends within Member States of the Subcommittee on Illicit Drug Traffic and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East.¹ The analysis includes information available to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) up to December 2016. For the purpose of this report, the term “Middle East” refers to the following countries collectively: Bahrain, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syrian Arab Republic, United Arab Emirates and Yemen.
2. Section II addresses the illicit cultivation and production of plant-based drugs for the years up to and including 2015 and, where available, 2016. With regard to drug trafficking, section III focuses on seizure statistics for 2015 and previous years and provides an update on trafficking trends with regard to cannabis, opiates, cocaine and amphetamine-type stimulants.
3. The principal sources of information on the illicit cultivation of drug crops and the production of plant-based drugs are the latest UNODC illicit crop monitoring surveys. In addition, replies by Governments to part IV of the annual report questionnaire for 2015 provide the primary source of information on drug trafficking patterns and seizures of illicit drugs.
4. At the time of writing, UNODC had received replies to part IV of the 2015 annual report questionnaire from 98 Member States and two territories, including 14 Subcommittee Member States. Supplementary sources of information include official published government reports and reports submitted to the subsidiary bodies of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs. The *World Drug Report 2016*² also aided the analysis of the current situation with regard to drug trafficking. In total, seizure data for 2015 was available for 18 Member States of the Subcommittee.
5. In general, statistics on drug seizures offer valid indirect indicators of drug trafficking trends. However, seizure statistics should be treated with caution, since they also reflect different reporting practices.

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

A. Cannabis herb cultivation and cannabis resin production

6. Unlike illicit crops such as coca bush and opium poppy, the cannabis plant lends itself to diverse cultivation methods and so grows in a variety of environments. This makes assessing the extent of its cultivation and production difficult. Reports of cannabis cultivation and eradication show that a wide range of practices exist globally. Cannabis cultivation reports range from accounts of individuals growing a small number of plants for personal consumption to reports about large-scale commercial operations in indoor warehouses, on farmland and within forests.
7. Seizure data suggest that the cultivation of cannabis herb continues to occur in most countries worldwide and in all regions of the world. In contrast, the large-scale production of cannabis resin remains confined to a few countries in North Africa and South-West Asia, the most prominent of which are Afghanistan and Morocco.
8. Morocco reported eradicating 5,000 ha of cannabis in 2013 and estimated that, after eradication, 42,000 ha remained under cannabis cultivation. This represents a

¹ Member States of the Subcommittee include: Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Egypt, India, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon, Oman, Pakistan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Turkey, Turkmenistan, United Arab Emirates, Uzbekistan and Yemen.

² United Nations publication, Sales No. E.16.XI.7.

reduction of almost 70 per cent compared with 2003 levels (134,000 ha).³ Morocco reported a stable trend with regard to the area under illicit cannabis cultivation in 2013 and a decrease in the production of cannabis resin, which amounted to 700 tons (down from 3,040 tons in 2003).

9. Afghanistan, despite having a significantly smaller estimated area under cannabis cultivation than Morocco (10,000 ha in 2012), had a potential cannabis resin production estimated at 1,400 tons, almost double the estimated production in Morocco. In 2015, cannabis cultivation in Afghanistan remained linked to opium poppy cultivation, with 29 per cent of poppy-growing villages also reporting cannabis cultivation, compared with 20 per cent of non-poppy-growing villages.

10. Among the remaining Subcommittee Member States, Egypt and India reported eradicating 140 and 818 ha of cannabis respectively in 2015, while in Central Asia, Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan reported eradicating 140 and 580 cannabis cultivation sites respectively during the same period.⁴ Lebanese authorities reported⁵ that cannabis cultivation, used mostly to produce kif, is prevalent in certain areas of the country, in particular across the border with the Syrian Arab Republic. Egyptian authorities reported that cannabis cultivation is widespread across the country, with cannabis herb being mostly produced on the Sinai Peninsula and Nile islands in Upper Egypt.⁶

B. Opium poppy cultivation

11. At the time of writing, information for 2016 was only available for Afghanistan. Afghanistan and Myanmar continue to account for the majority of illicit opium poppy cultivation worldwide. Cultivation in Myanmar remained relatively stable in 2014 and 2015, after increasing steadily between 2006 and 2013, while in 2015 Afghanistan saw the first decrease in opium poppy cultivation since 2009. Global opium poppy cultivation decreased by about 10 per cent in 2015, owing mainly to the decrease in Afghanistan. The decline in Afghanistan was temporary since opium poppy cultivation in the country bounced back in 2016, increasing by 10 per cent with respect to 2015.

12. In 2015, Opium poppy cultivation in Afghanistan decreased to 183,000 ha after reaching record levels in 2014 of 224,000 ha.⁷ The vast majority of the cultivation (90 per cent) took place in the southern and western regions of the country, where significant decreases were recorded. In 2016,⁸ cultivation in the country increased again, reaching 201,000 ha. Sharp increases were recorded in the Eastern and Northern regions of the country, which represented a combined 13 per cent of total national cultivation, up from 8 per cent in 2015. The number of poppy-free provinces decreased in both 2015 and 2016.

13. In 2015, potential opium production in Afghanistan reached 3,300 tons, the lowest level since 2001. This decline was not only due to the fall in the area under cultivation, but also a consequence of a sharp decrease in the yield due to adverse weather conditions, from 28.7 kilograms per hectare in 2014 to 18.3 in 2015, the lowest level on record. In 2016, the fore mentioned increase in cultivation and a higher yield of 23.8 kilograms per hectare, resulted in an increase in potential opium production of 43 per cent with respect to the previous year, reaching 4,800 tons.

³ United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and Government of Morocco, "Maroc: enquête sur le cannabis 2003" (December 2003).

⁴ Egypt, India, Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan, 2015 Annual Report Questionnaire response.

⁵ Country report submitted by Lebanon to the Fifty-first Meeting of the Subcommittee on Illicit Drug Traffic and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East.

⁶ Country report by Egypt to the Twenty-sixth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Africa.

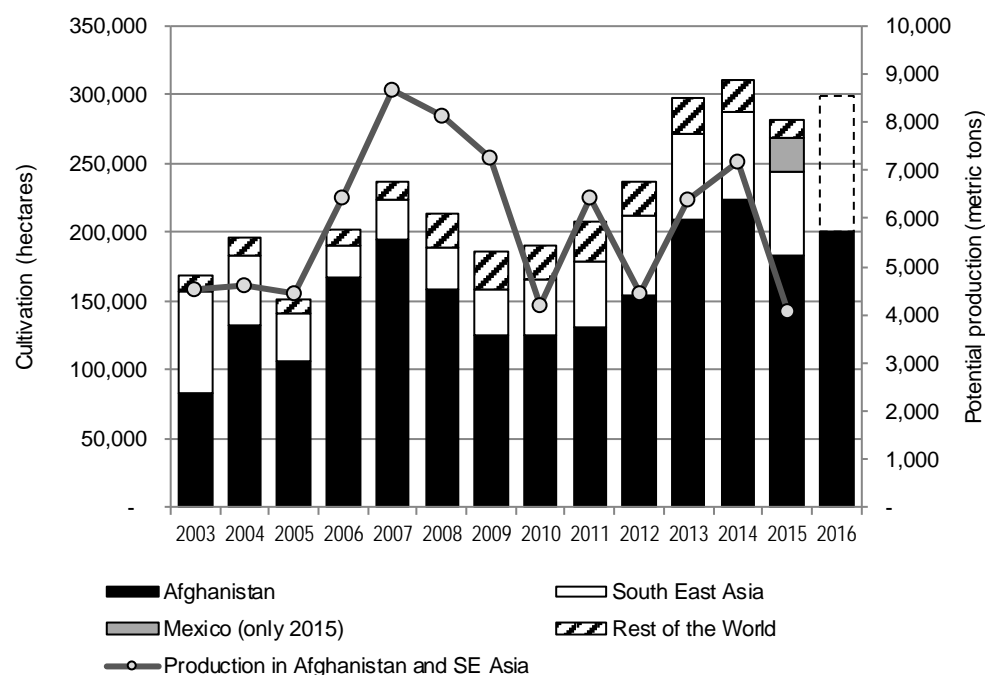
⁷ *Afghanistan Opium Survey 2015*.

⁸ UNODC and Ministry of Counter Narcotics of Afghanistan, *Afghanistan Opium Survey 2016: Executive Summary* (Vienna, October 2016).

Despite the increase, the yield recorded in 2016 is still the third lowest value on record in Afghanistan.

Figure I

Opium cultivation by region and potential opium production in Afghanistan and South-East Asia (2003-2016)^a



^a Only the cultivation in Afghanistan was available at the time of writing for 2016.

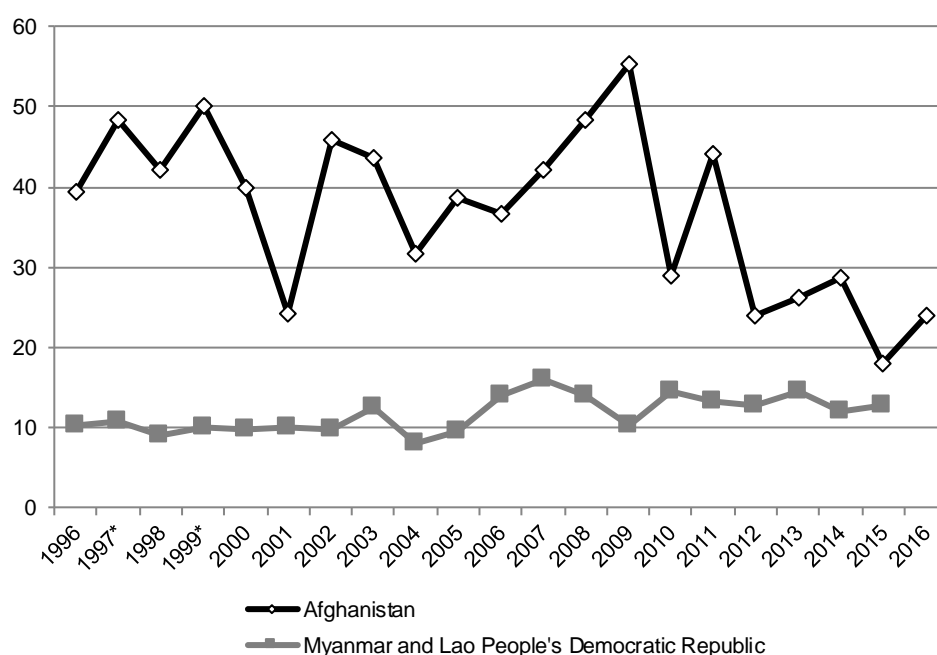
14. The *South-East Asia Opium Survey 2015* estimated that illicit opium poppy cultivation in the region covered 61,200 ha. After steadily increasing from 21,600 ha in 2006 to 57,800 ha in 2013, opium poppy cultivation in Myanmar has decreased slightly, reaching 55,500 ha in 2015. In the Lao People's Democratic Republic, cultivation steadily increased from 1,500 ha in 2007 to 6,800 ha in 2012. In 2015, estimated cultivation in the Lao People's Democratic Republic reached 5,700 ha.

15. Because of the geographical environment in which opium is cultivated in South-East Asia, on hills with poor soil and no irrigation, the yield in that region has traditionally been notably lower than in Afghanistan. However, the yield in Afghanistan has declined notably since 2009 and was similar to that observed in South-East Asia in 2015 (see Figure II). Overall, Myanmar and the Lao People's Democratic Republic produced an estimated total of between 731 and 823 tons of opium in 2015, a value similar to 2014, when production reached 762 tons.

16. Almost 87 per cent of global opium poppy cultivation in 2015 took place in Afghanistan and South-East Asia. According to the first *Mexico Opium Survey*, carried for the 2014-2015 period by UNODC and the Government of Mexico, the area under opium poppy cultivation in the country between July 2014 and June 2015 was estimated at 24,800 ha, which represents about 9 per cent of global cultivation. During 2015, Mexican authorities reported the eradication of 25,960 ha of opium poppy, a 21 per cent increase with respect to 2014 (21,445 ha) and a 77 per cent more than in 2013 (14,662 ha).

Figure II
Yield of opium poppy cultivation in Afghanistan and South-East Asia (1996-2016)

(Kilograms per hectare)



* Figures for Myanmar and the Lao People's Democratic Republic in 1997 and 1999 only reflect the yield in Myanmar.

17. Opium cultivation occurs among Subcommission Member States outside of Afghanistan as well. Egypt and India reported eradicating a total of 98 and 3,461 ha respectively in 2015, while Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan authorities eradicated a combined total of 487 opium cultivation sites during that year.⁹ According to Lebanese authorities, the cultivation of opium poppy, which was used mostly for the extraction of morphine, has been partially eradicated in the country.¹⁰ Egyptian authorities reported that, while opium is cultivated in the Sinai and Upper Egypt region for local consumption, there are no recorded instances of heroin production in the country.¹¹

C. Coca cultivation

18. Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Colombia and Peru continued to account for virtually all cultivation of coca bush worldwide. The total area under cultivation in the three countries increased by 18 per cent from 132,500 ha in 2014 to 156,500 ha in 2015, the most significant increase on record since the 1980's. This was due mainly to a sharp increase of almost 40 per cent in Colombia.

19. After reaching historically low levels (48,000 ha) in 2013, the *Coca Cultivation Survey 2015*, conducted jointly by the Government of Colombia and UNODC, showed that coca bush cultivation in Colombia doubled in two years, reaching 96,000 ha in 2015, the highest value since 2007. Potential cocaine production in Colombia increased sharply to 646 tons in 2015 after reaching 290 metric tons in 2013, the lowest value since the mid-1990's (see Figure III). During 2015, the Colombian authorities destroyed a total of 3,591 laboratories for the extraction of

⁹ Egypt, India, Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan, 2015 Annual Report Questionnaire response.

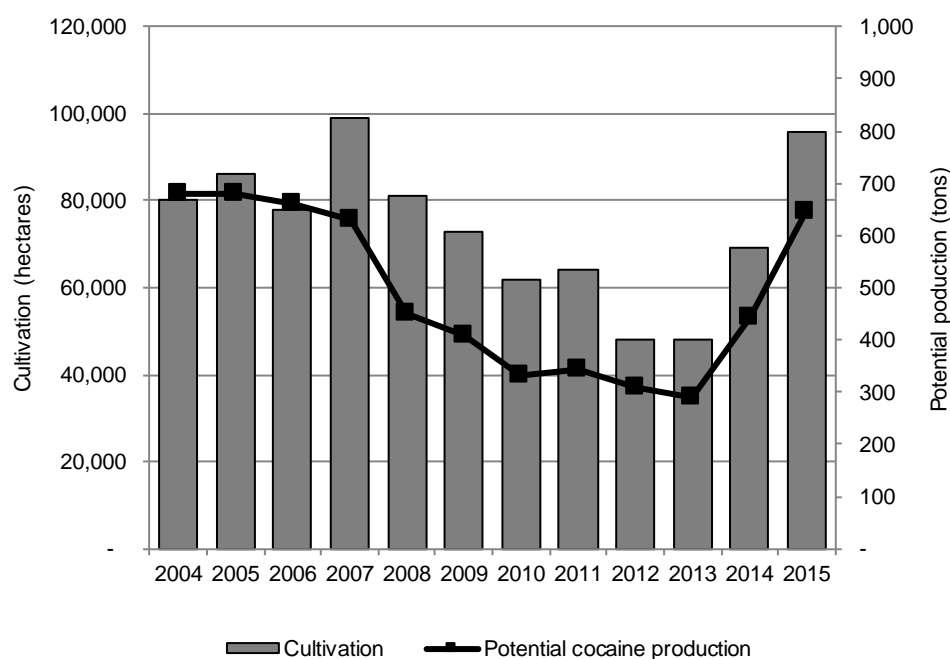
¹⁰ Country report submitted by Lebanon to the Fifty-first Meeting of the Subcommission on Illicit Drug Traffic and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East.

¹¹ Country report by Egypt to the Twenty-sixth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Africa.

coca paste or cocaine base (64 per cent increase with respect to 2014), as well as 236 cocaine hydrochloride laboratories (45 per cent increase).

Figure III

Coca bush cultivation and potential cocaine production in Colombia (2004-2015)



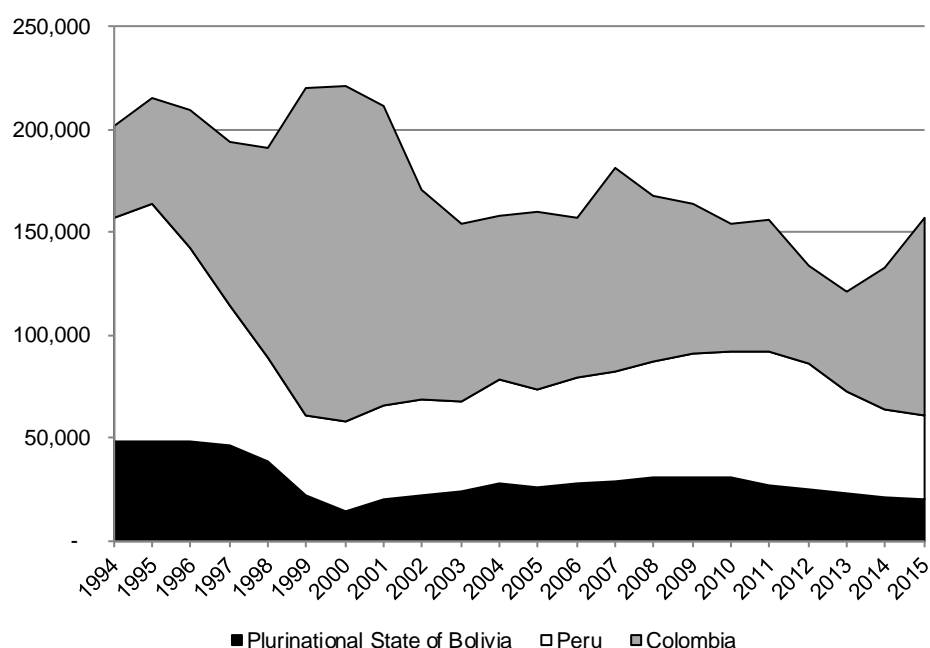
20. According to the *2015 National Coca Monitoring Survey* in the Plurinational State of Bolivia, the cultivation of coca bush remained stable at 20,200 ha in 2015, the lowest level recorded since 2001. The production of dried coca leaf in the Plurinational State of Bolivia in 2015 was estimated at 32,500 tons, the lowest value on record since 2005. The manual eradication of coca bush in the Plurinational State of Bolivia remained stable in 2015 for the fourth consecutive year, reaching 11,020 ha, while the number of cocaine hydrochloride laboratories destroyed by the authorities has increased notably since 2008, when 7 laboratories were destroyed, reaching 74 in 2014 and 73 in 2015.

21. According to the *2015 National Coca Monitoring Survey* conducted by UNODC and the Government of Peru, the area under coca bush cultivation in Peru at the end of 2015 stood at 40,300 ha, a 6 per cent decrease compared with 2014 (42,900 ha), and the lowest level recorded since 1999. The production of dried coca leaf in Peru was estimated at 96,300 tons in 2015, of which 9,000 were destined for traditional consumption. Eradication increased by more than 15 per cent compared with 2014, reaching a record 35,900 ha. Authorities reported¹² that the State's eradication efforts in recent years had caused drug-trafficking organizations to shift illicit cultivation to increasingly scattered and isolated areas.

¹² Country report submitted by Peru to the Twenty-sixth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Latin America and the Caribbean.

Figure IV
Coca bush cultivation in Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Colombia and Peru (1994-2015)

(Hectares)



22. Although the manufacture of cocaine occurs mainly in Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Colombia and Peru, clandestine laboratories processing coca leaf derivatives also exist outside those countries. According to data from responses to the annual report questionnaire for 2015, several countries in South America, including Argentina, Chile, Ecuador and Honduras, reported the detection of clandestine laboratories processing coca leaf derivatives. In 2015, Spain, Portugal, Greece and Hong Kong (SAR of China) also reported the detection of such laboratories.

III. Global trends in illicit drug trafficking and seizures

23. The table below shows the quantities of the major drug types seized globally and reported to UNODC in 2013, 2014 and 2015, and the estimated trend in 2015.

Table
Reported global drug seizures and trends, 2014 and 2015

Drug Type	Subcommission Member States			Global Seizures	
	2014	2015	Trend ^(a,b)	2014	2015
	(Tons)			(Tons)	
Cannabis herb	634.9	551.6	Decrease (-14%)	5 877	5 676
Cannabis resin	450.8	601.2	Increase (34%)	1 440	1 506
Cocaine ^c	1.3	1.3	Stable	655	850
Heroin	40.9	49.8	Increase (22%)	81.7	80.1
Opium	511.0	573.0	Increase (12%)	526	587
Illicit morphine	20.2	9.1	Decrease (-55%)	20.9	9.6
Amphetamine	29.4	> 26.8 ^d	N/A	46.4	> 51.8 ^d
Methamphetamine	2.8	2.5	Decrease (-12%)	108.7	131.5
“Ecstasy”	1.0	1.5	Increase (58%)	9.4	6.2

^a Since data for 2015 were incomplete at the time of preparation of the present report, the trend was estimated by comparing total seized quantities for countries and territories for which data was available for both 2014 and 2015. Totals for 2015 are preliminary.

^b The term “stable” refers to an annual variation of less than 10 per cent.

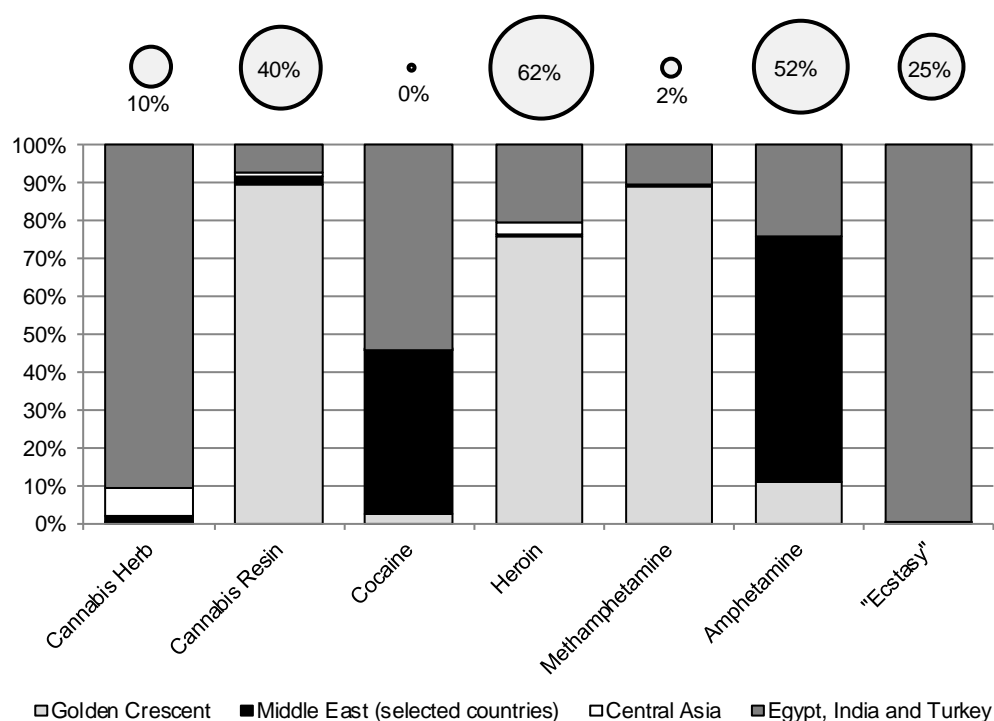
^c Includes base, pastes, salts and “crack” cocaine.

^d Data for amphetamine seizures among Subcommittee Member States is incomplete, but preliminary data indicate that at least 26,774 kilograms were seized in the region. Similarly, global reported seizures amounted to at least 51.8 tons.

Figure V

Proportion of global seizures that occurred in Subcommittee Member States and geographical distribution, by drug type, 2015

(Percentage)



24. Subcommittee Member States accounted for between 40 and 65 per cent of global seizures of cannabis resin, heroin and amphetamine in 2015 (see Figure V). While cannabis resin seizures in the region are mostly concentrated in the Golden Crescent,¹³ amphetamine trafficking is concentrated in the Middle East, Egypt and Turkey. Heroin trafficking seems to affect the whole region, with seizures being concentrated in the Golden Crescent as well as Turkey, India and Egypt in 2015. Additionally, the region also accounts for about a quarter of global seizures of “ecstasy”-type substances, owing almost exclusively to large amounts being seized in Turkey.

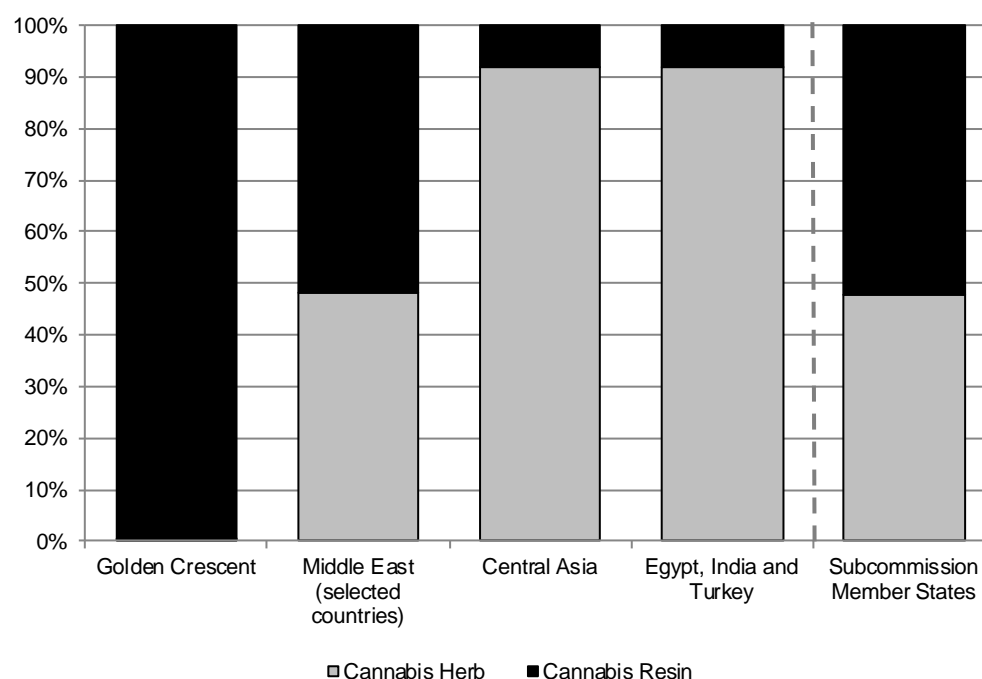
A. Cannabis

25. As seen in Figure VI, about half of all cannabis seized among Subcommittee Member States corresponds to herb, and the other half to resin. However, the distribution changes significantly from one subregion to another. Cannabis resin trafficking is prevalent in the Golden Crescent, where virtually no cannabis herb is seized. In Egypt, India and Turkey, as well as in Central Asia, cannabis is more commonly trafficked in its herb form, even though cannabis resin is also seized in these subregions. Around the Middle East, as previously defined in this document, cannabis herb and resin were seized in similar amounts in 2015.

¹³ Afghanistan, Iran (Islamic Republic of) and Pakistan.

Figure VI
Distribution of cannabis herb and resin seizures among Subcommittee Member States, by subregion, 2015

(Percentage)



Cannabis herb

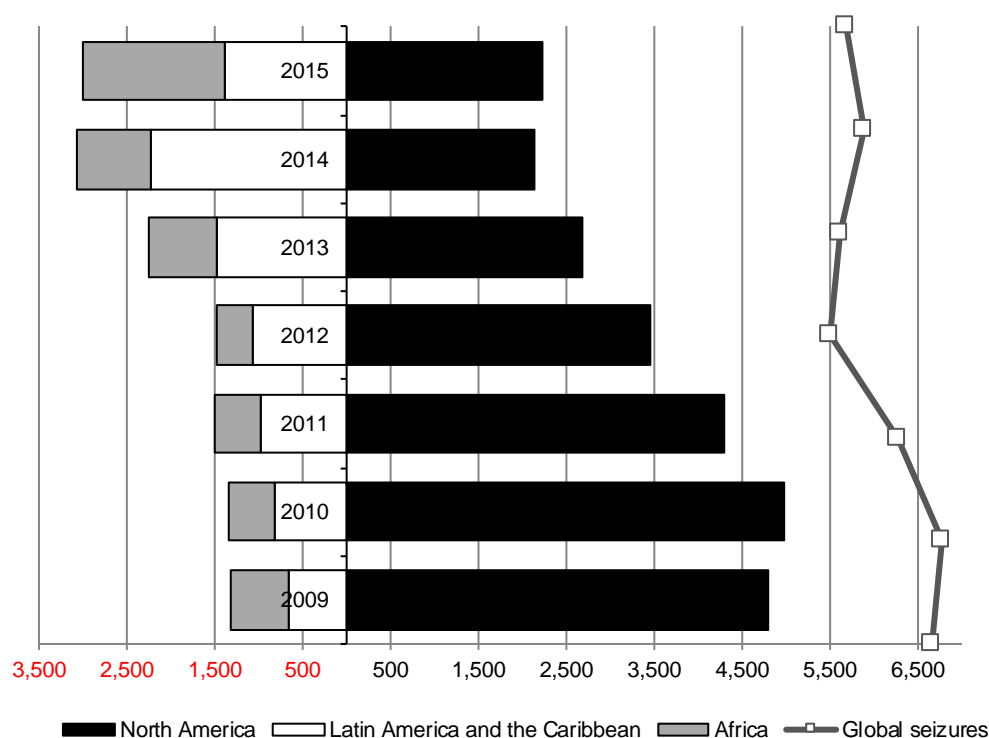
26. Even though cannabis herb seizures occur in almost every corner of the globe, the Americas have represented more than 60 per cent of global seizures every year since the early 1990s. While North America has traditionally accounted for most of these seizures, there has been a shift towards Latin America and the Caribbean, especially since 2011 (see Figure VII). In 2015, global cannabis herb seizures remained stable, with changes in the recent trends observed in North America, Latin America and the Caribbean and Western and Central Europe.

27. As seen in Figure VII, cannabis herb seizures in North America have been decreasing sharply since 2010. In 2015, preliminary data indicate that seizures in the region remained stable, mainly due to the first increase in Mexico in five years, which offset a 22 per cent decrease in the United States of America with respect to 2014. As a result, Mexico recorded the highest cannabis herb seizures reported by a single country in 2015 (1,242 tons), surpassing the United States (970 tons) for the first time since 2007. United States' authorities reported that the decreasing trend observed since 2010 may be related to changing law enforcement priorities in states with legalized cannabis herb.¹⁴

¹⁴ United States of America, 2015 Annual Report Questionnaire response.

Figure VII
Cannabis herb seizures by region and globally (2009-2015)^a

(Tons)



^a Data for 2015 are preliminary.

28. Unlike North America, cannabis herb seizures in Latin America and the Caribbean increased sharply between 2009 and 2014, from 650 to over 2,000 tons. In 2015, preliminary data suggest that cannabis herb seizures in the region decreased to under 1,400 tons, owing mostly to a sharp decrease in the Caribbean, where record levels were observed in 2014. Cannabis herb seizures in South America also decreased from a record 1,427 tons in 2014 to close to 1,300 tons in 2015, according to preliminary data, owing mainly to a decline in Paraguay from 711 to 510 tons.

29. Between 2009 and 2014 cannabis herb seizures in Western and Central Europe have nearly doubled, from 65 to 125 tons, partly due to the fact that in recent years domestically produced herbal products have become more prevalent, displacing imported resin in many countries.¹⁵ In 2015, however, cannabis herb seizures in the region decreased sharply to under 87 tons, owing mainly to sharp reductions in Belgium (764 kg seized, down from 10,744 in 2014), Greece (2.5 tons, down from 19.6) and Italy (9 tons, down from 33). The production and trafficking of cannabis herb is an area of growing concern for law enforcement efforts in Europe because of the increasing involvement of organized crime in the region.¹⁶

30. In 2015, global cannabis herb seizures remained stable, mainly due to a sharp increase in seizures reported in Africa that offset the decline in the Americas and Europe (see Figure VII). While information on cannabis herb seizures in the region is limited,¹⁷ certain countries with high levels of reported seizures like Egypt, Morocco and Nigeria, have consistently responded to part IV of the annual report questionnaires, and all show increasing trends in recent years. In Nigeria, cannabis herb seizures have oscillated between 100 and 350 tons during the 2005-2014 period,

¹⁵ EMCDDA, *EU Drug Markets Report: Strategic Overview*, 2016.

¹⁶ European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction, *European Drug Report: Trends and Developments 2015* (Luxembourg, 2015).

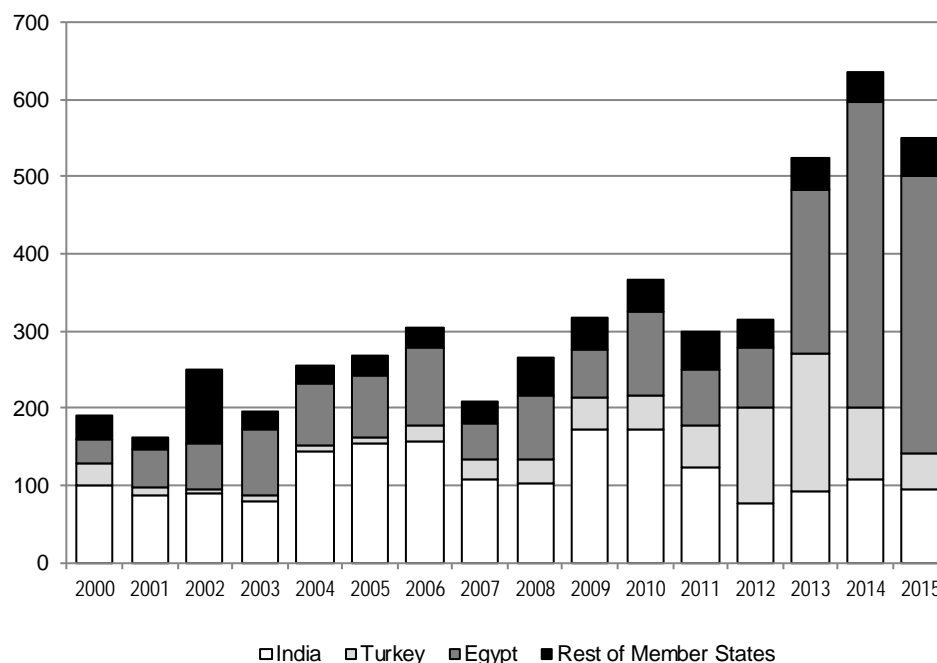
¹⁷ At the time of writing, 8 African countries had reported cannabis herb seizures in their annual report questionnaires for 2015.

and reached a record 871 tons in 2015, the highest level reported by a single country that year outside of North America.

Figure VIII

Cannabis herb seizures among Subcommittee Member States, 2000-2015

(Tons)



31. Among Subcommittee Member States, cannabis herb seizures have increased notably in recent years, owing mainly to significant seizures in Egypt, India and Turkey. These three countries have accounted for over 80 per cent of total cannabis herb seizures in the region since 2003. Egypt has recorded the highest cannabis herb seizures among Subcommittee Member States in recent years, with a total of 212, 396 and 360 tons in 2013, 2014 and 2015 respectively. In Turkey, cannabis herb seizures increased sharply from 5 tons in 2002 to over 180 in 2013, before decreasing to 90 and 45 tons respectively in 2014 and 2015. In India, cannabis herb seizures have remained between 75 and 175 tons during the 2000-2015 period.

Cannabis resin

32. In contrast with the cultivation of cannabis herb, the production of cannabis resin is concentrated in a smaller number of countries, the most prominent of which are Afghanistan and Morocco. Consequently, seizure statistics for cannabis resin are also concentrated in and around those two source countries, in North Africa, South-West Asia, and in Western and Central Europe, the main consumer market. While ten years ago cannabis resin seizures were concentrated mainly in Western and Central Europe, seizures have been more evenly distributed across those three regions in recent years (see Figure IX).

33. As the main entry point for cannabis resin from Morocco into Western Europe, Spain continued to be the country with the highest amount of cannabis resin seized in the world, with seizures in 2015 surpassing 380 tons, virtually the same amount as in 2014. Over 50 per cent of total seizures in the country occurred in Cádiz, due to its strategic position with respect to Africa.¹⁸ Other Western European countries reporting large amounts of cannabis resin seized during 2015 were Italy (67 tons) and France (60 tons), with the drug entering these countries either directly from Morocco or through Spain. In Turkey, cannabis resin seizures have decreased sharply in recent

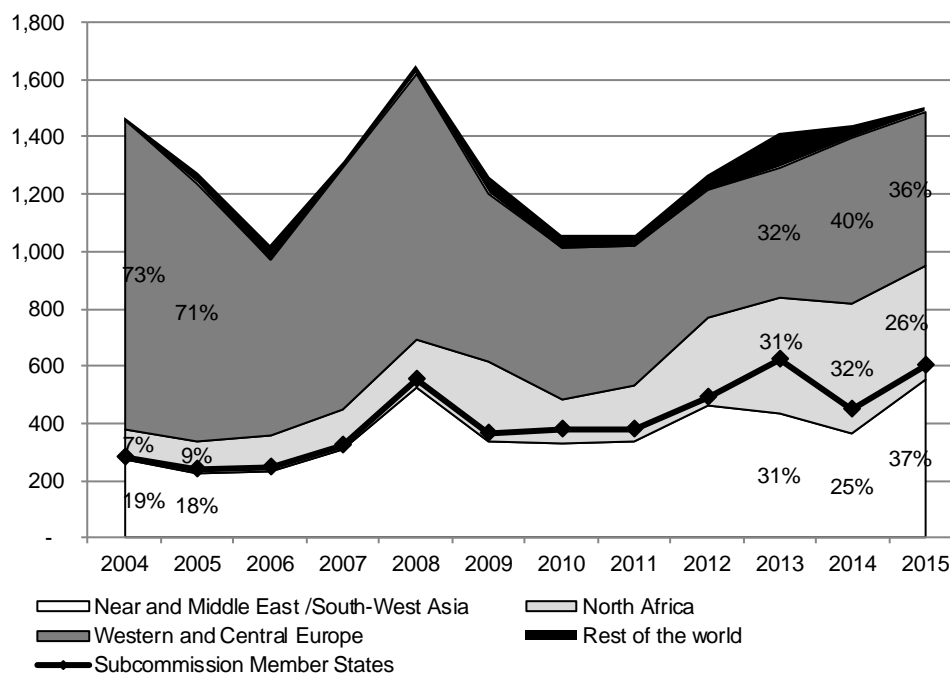
¹⁸ Country report by Spain to the Twenty-sixth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Latin America and the Caribbean.

years, from an unprecedented 94 tons in 2013, to 7.8 tons in 2015, the lowest level since 2007.

Figure IX

Global and Subcommittee Member States seizures cannabis resin seizures, with percentage by region, (2004-2015)

(Tons)



34. In 2015, cannabis resin seizures in North Africa decreased for the first time since 2009, reaching 395 tons, 14 per cent less than the previous year, mainly due to sharp decreases in Algeria and Egypt with respect to 2014. Despite the declines in 2015, cannabis resin seizures in these two countries have increased more than twenty-fold since 2005. In Morocco, an unprecedented 235 tons of cannabis resin were seized in 2015. While cannabis resin is mostly smuggled into Egypt over land from Morocco, there is also evidence of smuggling attempts from South-West Asia by land (through Jordan) and by sea (from Pakistan and Afghanistan).¹⁹

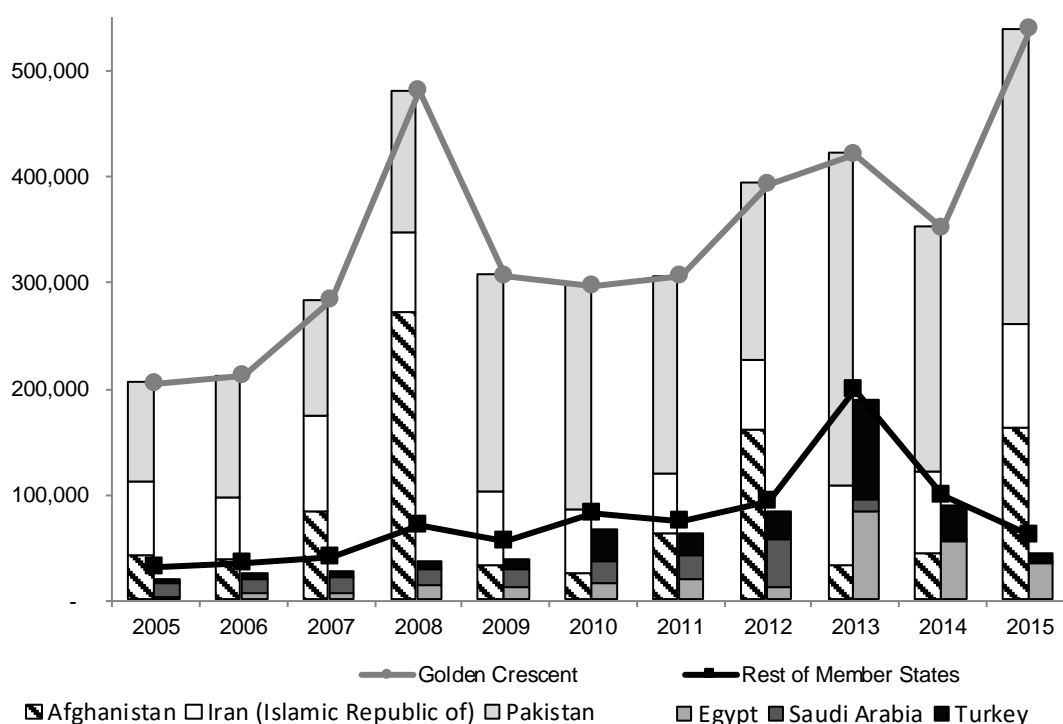
35. Cannabis resin seizures in the Near and Middle East and South-West Asia, are concentrated in Afghanistan and its neighbouring countries, Iran (Islamic Republic of) and Pakistan. Seizures in all three countries have increased sharply in 2015, with total cannabis resin seizures in the Golden Crescent reaching the highest level on record. In 2015 cannabis resin seizures in the Islamic Republic of Iran amounted to a record 98 tons, a 26 per cent increase with respect to 2014. About 90 per cent of seized cannabis resin in the country in 2015 entered from Pakistan.²⁰ After decreasing in 2014, cannabis resin seizures in Pakistan increased again in 2015 to 279 tons, the second-highest value since 2000. Cannabis resin seizures in Afghanistan reached 163 tons, the highest value on record since 2008.

¹⁹ Country report by Egypt to the Twenty-sixth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Africa.

²⁰ Iran (Islamic Republic of), 2015 Annual Report Questionnaire response.

Figure X
Cannabis resin seizures in Subcommittee Member States, 2005-2015

(Kilograms)



36. Among Subcommittee Member States outside of the Golden Crescent, cannabis resin seizures are concentrated in Egypt, Saudi Arabia and Turkey. Cannabis resin seizures in Egypt and Turkey have followed similar trends, increasing sharply since 2005 and peaking in 2013, before decreasing notably in 2014 and 2015 (see Figure X). Similarly, seizures in Saudi Arabia have decreased in recent years, after reaching a historical high of almost 44 tons in 2012. In 2015, Egypt and Saudi Arabia reported 34 and 3 tons of cannabis resin seized respectively. While Egyptian authorities identified West Africa as the main source of cannabis resin smuggled into the country, the drug also reaches the country from Lebanon via Jordan and, in smaller amounts, from the Golden Crescent.²¹

B. Opiates

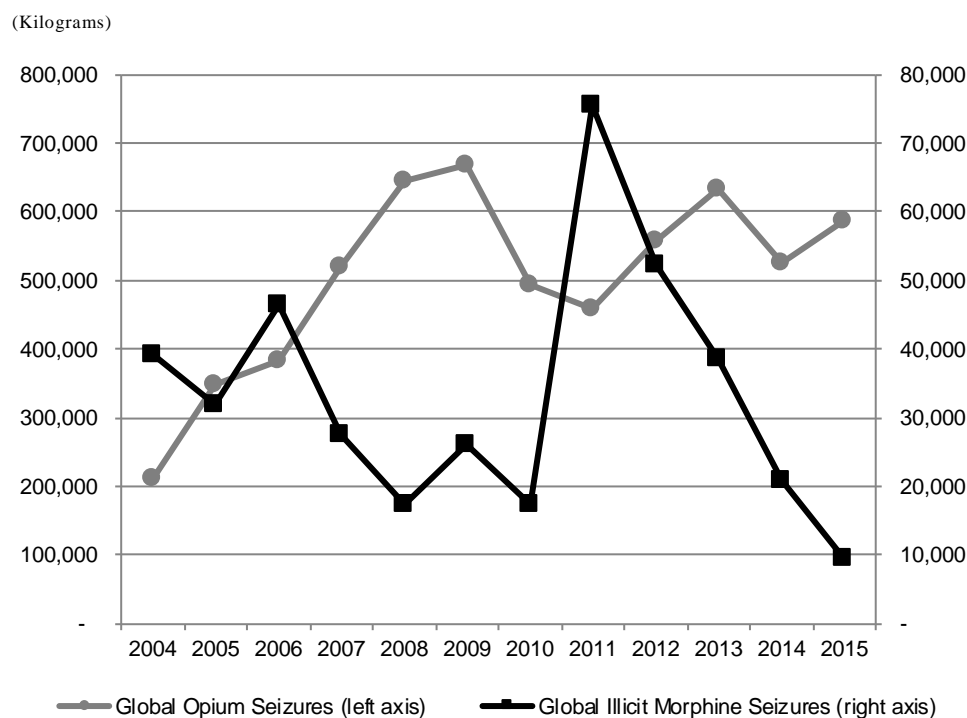
Opium and illicit morphine

37. The Near and Middle East and South-West Asia virtually represent between 95 and 100 per cent of global opium and illicit morphine seizures. In particular, significant seizures in the region occur almost exclusively in Afghanistan and neighbouring countries, Iran (Islamic Republic of) and Pakistan.

38. After decreasing in 2014, global opium seizures increased by 10 per cent in 2015, reaching 587 tons. Opium seizures in Afghanistan have been declining sharply in recent years, from a record 124 tons in 2012, to 30 tons in 2015, the lowest level since 2004. However, sharp increases in Iran (Islamic Republic of) and Pakistan have offset this decrease. A record 59 tons were seized in Pakistan in 2015, while opium seizures in Iran (Islamic Republic of) have reached the highest level since 2009, at 479 tons.

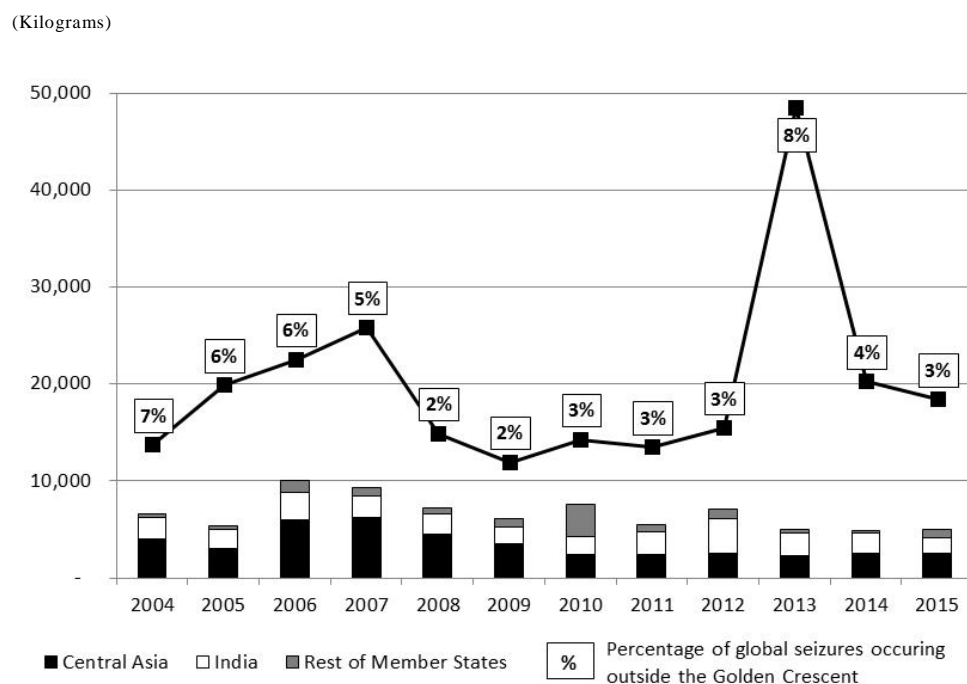
²¹ Country report by Egypt to the Twenty-sixth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Africa.

Figure XI
Global opium and illicit morphine seizures (2004-2015)



39. While opium seizures outside the Golden Crescent amount to less than 10 per cent of global annual seizures, Subcommittee Member States such as India and Central Asian countries report significant amounts of opium seized every year (see Figure XII). Since 2006, there has been a decreasing trend in opium seizures in these countries. While India reported in 2015 the lowest value on record since 1999 with just under 1.7 tons of opium seized, total reported seizures in Central Asia have remained around 2.5 tons of opium since 2010, a significant decrease from the levels observed during previous years.

Figure XII
Opium seizures outside of the Golden Crescent, 2005-2015



40. Global illicit morphine seizures have been decreasing sharply since reaching a record 75 tons in 2011 (see Figure IX). In 2015, global illicit morphine seizures amounted to just over 9 tons, a 54 per cent decrease with respect to 2014 and the lowest level on record since the early 1990s.

41. Similarly to what has happened with opium in recent years, illicit morphine seizures in Afghanistan have decreased notably since peaking at 64,028 kilograms in 2011, to only 18 kg in 2015. Seizures in Pakistan have also been declining sharply over the last 10 years, reaching 762 kilograms in 2015, the lowest level on record since 2000. In Iran (Islamic Republic of), illicit morphine seizures reached 8.3 tons in 2015, a 35 per cent decline with respect to 2014.

Heroin

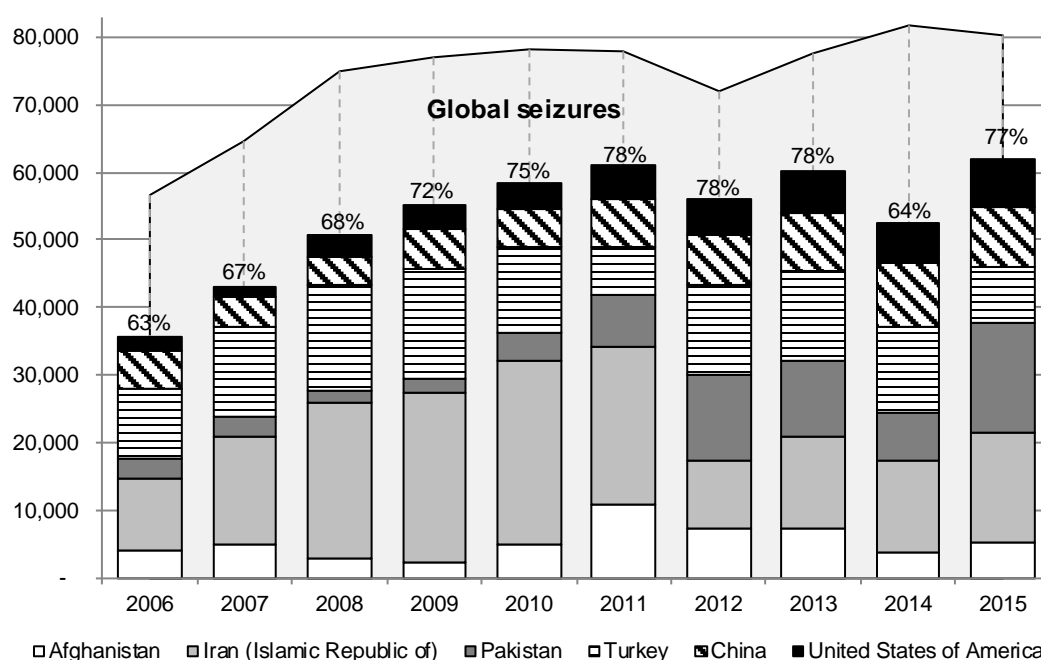
42. Compared with seizures of opium and illicit morphine, heroin seizures occur in a much wider range of countries, in particular around the larger markets in North America, Europe and Asia-Pacific. Each of these three markets is mostly supplied by a different producing region. While East and South-East Asia are supplied in the main by production in Myanmar and the Lao People's Democratic Republic, most of Europe is supplied by Afghan heroin through the "Balkan route" and the "southern route" through Iran (Islamic Republic of), Pakistan and, increasingly, countries in Africa.²² The "northern route" continues to link heroin from Afghanistan to markets in the Russian Federation.²³ In North America, the United States are mostly supplied by heroin produced in Latin America.

43. At the global level, heroin seizures have remained relatively stable at high levels since 2008. Afghanistan, China, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Pakistan, Turkey and the United States are the six countries with the highest annual amounts of heroin seized in recent years, consistently accounting for between 60 and 80 per cent of global seizures since 2006 (see Figure XIII). Hence, global trends are heavily influenced by what occurs in these countries.

Figure XIII

Heroin seizures in selected countries and worldwide (2006-2015)

(Kilograms)



²² UNODC, *Afghan Opiate Trafficking through the Southern Route* (Vienna, June 2015).

²³ UNODC, *The Illicit Drug Trade through South-Eastern Europe* (Vienna, March 2014).

44. In the Asia-Pacific region, the majority of heroin seizures are concentrated in China, where the amount of heroin seized increased from 4.6 tons in 2007 to over 9.4 tons in 2014. In 2015, seizures in this country declined slightly to 8.8 tons. According to Chinese authorities, almost 94 per cent of heroin seized during the first nine months of 2015 originated in the Golden Triangle, while about 2 per cent was produced in the Golden Crescent²⁴. Despite remaining stable at around 13 tons in 2015, heroin seizures in the Asia-Pacific region have followed an increasing trend over the last decade, with seizures in Viet Nam and Myanmar increasing almost ten-fold since 2007.

45. The most used route for Afghan heroin into the European market continues to be the Balkan route, with high levels of heroin seized in the Golden Crescent and Turkey. In 2015, heroin seizures increased sharply in Afghanistan, Iran (Islamic Republic of) and Pakistan, reaching 5.3, 16.1 and 16.3 tons respectively. This represents increases of 41 per cent in Afghanistan with respect to 2014, 20 per cent in Iran (Islamic Republic of) and 138 per cent in Pakistan. In Turkey, heroin seizures decreased by 35 per cent in 2015, to 8.3 tons, the lowest level since 2011.

46. Despite a spike in 2014 due to a multi-ton seizures in Greece, heroin seizures in Western and Central Europe have been following a decreasing trend, from 11.6 tons in 2000 to 4.6 tons in 2015, the lowest level on record since the late 1980s. In 2013 and 2014, the amount of large individual seizures of over 100 kilograms has increased notably in the European Union, and a number of Member States have recorded their largest ever seizures in this period,²⁵ showing a change in the modus operandi of traffickers in recent years.

47. In the Americas, heroin seizures more than doubled between 2007 and 2010, and have remained stable afterwards. In 2015, heroin seizures in the region reached record levels, owing mostly to an unprecedented 7 tons seized by the United States. United States' authorities reported that the majority of the heroin trafficked in the country is produced in Mexico and Colombia.²⁶ Heroin seizures in both Mexico and Colombia increased in 2015 with respect to the previous year, reaching 546 and 393 kilograms respectively.

48. Various regions in Africa are developing significant roles in facilitating the transit of heroin by the "southern route", with networks on the continent taking control over trafficking routes.²⁷ In Egypt, record heroin seizures were reported in recent years, with 613 and 516 kilograms in 2014 and 2015 respectively. While heroin is mainly trafficked into Egypt from the Golden Crescent and the Golden Triangle via the Gulf of Aqaba, national authorities have reported the recent detection of East African syndicates smuggling heroin into the country through airports and other legitimate entry points.²⁸ In addition, authorities from Mozambique reported that the country is being used as a transit point for heroin from Pakistan into the United Republic of Tanzania, which may be a result of measures taken by this country and Kenya, forcing traffickers to move south.²⁹

49. While heroin continues to be trafficked to Central Asia and the Russian Federation via the Northern route, seizures along this route have decreased over the last five years with respect to the first decade of the century. In 2015, preliminary data indicate that heroin seizures in Central Asia reached 1.5 tons, down from 3 in 2014. In the Russian Federation, heroin seizures amounted to under 2 tons in 2015, the lowest level since 2002.

²⁴ Country report submitted by China to the Fortieth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Asia and the Pacific.

²⁵ EMCDDA, *EU Drug Markets Report: Strategic Overview*, 2016.

²⁶ United States of America, 2015 Annual Report Questionnaire response.

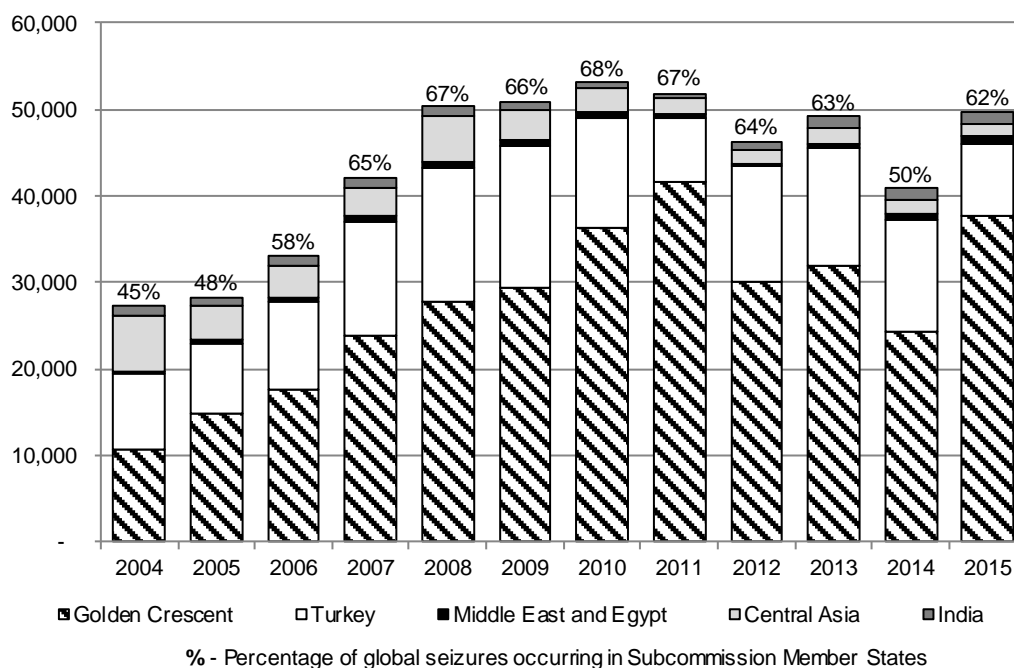
²⁷ *Afghan Opiate Trafficking through the Southern Route*.

²⁸ Country report submitted by Egypt to the Twenty-sixth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Africa.

²⁹ Country report submitted by Mozambique to the Twenty-sixth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Africa.

Figure XIV
Heroin seizures among Subcommittee Member States, 2004-2015

(Kilograms)

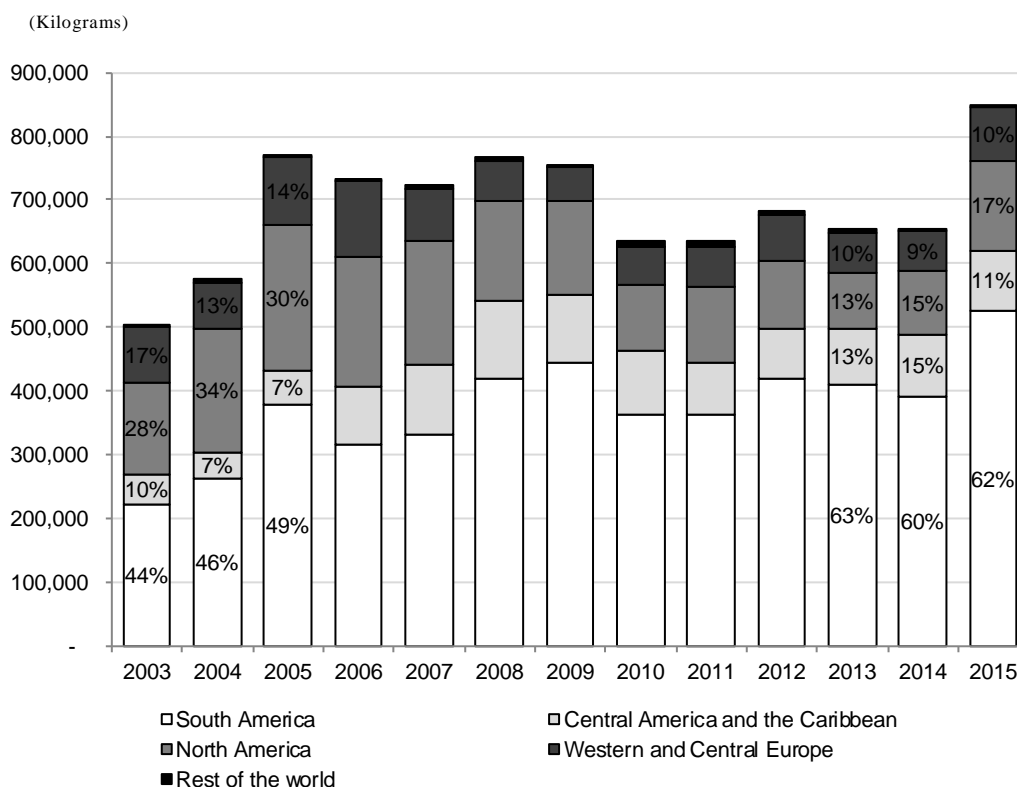


C. Cocaine

50. The main consumer markets for cocaine in the world, North America and Western and Central Europe, continue to be supplied by cocaine originating in South America. Therefore, global cocaine seizures are concentrated in these regions, as well as in transit regions like Central America and the Caribbean. Available data for 2015 suggest that global cocaine seizures increased sharply in 2015, reaching the highest level on record, with significant increases in almost all regions (see Figure XV).

51. In South America, after decreasing slightly between 2012 and 2014 to 392 tons, preliminary data indicate that an unprecedented 525 tons of cocaine were seized in the region in 2015. A record 297 tons of cocaine were seized in Colombia, up from 191 in 2014, while 65 tons were seized in Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), also a historical high and more than double the average annual seizures of 26 tons reported during the previous six years. In Ecuador, cocaine seizures increased for the fifth year in a row, from 15 tons in 2010, to over 65 tons in 2015.

Figure XV
Global seizures of cocaine (base, paste and salts) by region, 2003-2015



52. In 2015, five European countries³⁰ listed Central America and the Caribbean, in particular Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic and Panama, as transit and departure points for cocaine. These three countries also recorded the highest cocaine seizures in the region in 2015. While preliminary data indicate that cocaine seizures increased in Panama (53 tons) and the Dominican Republic (9.4 tons), seizures decreased by 36 per cent in Costa Rica after the peak of 2014, reaching 17 tons in 2015.

53. Global cocaine seizures seem to have been shifting geographically from the main markets to the origin and transit regions. While seizures in the production and transit regions of South America and Central America and the Caribbean have increased significantly over the last 10 years, cocaine seizures in the main markets of Western and Central Europe and North America have followed a marked decreasing trend over the same period.

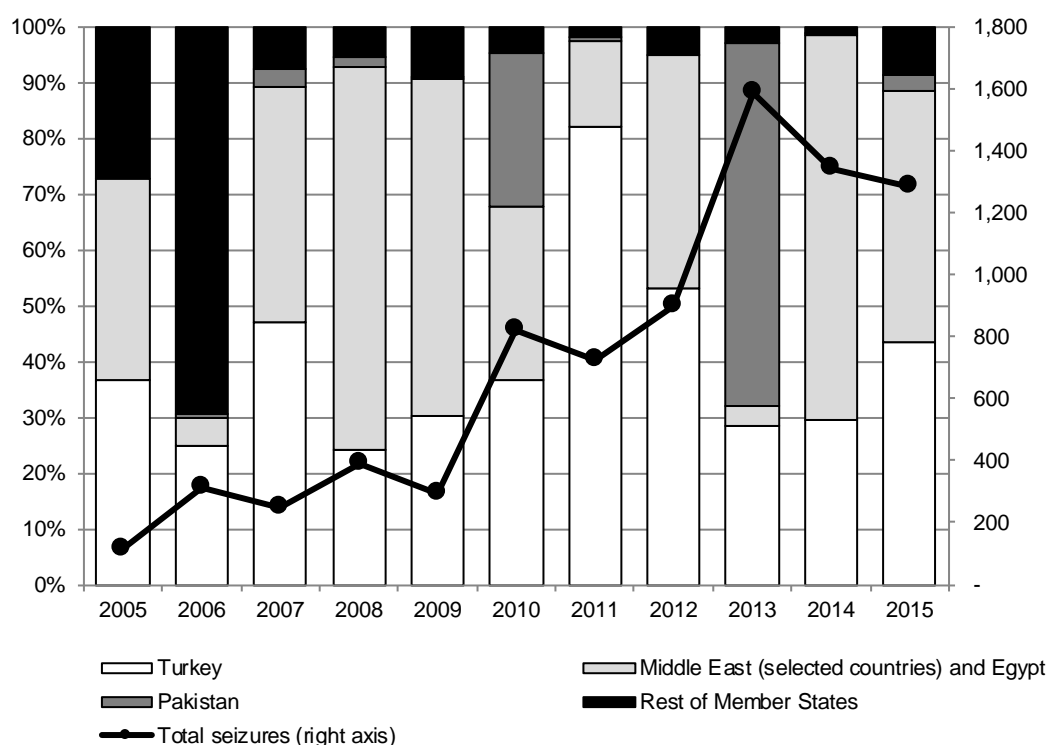
54. In North America, after decreasing to 87 tons in 2013, the lowest level reported since the late 1980s, cocaine seizures increased to 100 tons in 2014. Preliminary data suggest that cocaine seizures may have increased once again to 141 tons in 2015, with sharp increments in both Mexico and the United States.

55. Cocaine seizures in Western and Central Europe peaked at 121 tons in 2006, then declined to an average of 62 tons between 2008 and 2014. In 2015, cocaine seizures in the region reached 82 tons, the highest value since 2006. This rise was mostly driven by sharp increases in Belgium, the Netherlands, France and Portugal, where cocaine seizures reached 17, 12, 11 and 6 tons, up from 9, 9, 7 and 3.7 tons in 2014 respectively. The country with the highest cocaine seizures in the region continues to be Spain, where seizures remained stable at 22 tons. In recent years, the increase of cocaine smuggling in maritime containers appears to be a major threat, given the large and increasing volume of maritime trade going into the region, with major European ports such as Rotterdam and Antwerp being targeted by traffickers.³¹

³⁰ Italy, Portugal, Spain, Sweden and Switzerland.

³¹ EMCDDA, *EU Drug Markets Report: Strategic Overview*, 2016.

Figure XVI
Geographical distribution of cocaine seizures among Subcommission Member States, 2005-2015
 (Percentages/Kilograms)



56. A secondary route for cocaine trafficked across the Atlantic to Europe involved the use of countries in Africa, notably West Africa, as transit points. Countries in West Africa have reported large seizures in recent years, with Nigeria recording over 100 kilograms every year since 2003, and Ghana seizing a total 1.3 tons during the 2013-2014 period. A more recent concern involves the use of routes established for other drugs to traffic cocaine, such as cannabis routes in North Africa or heroin routes in East Africa.³² In this line, Algeria, Egypt, Morocco and the United Republic of Tanzania have reported significant amounts of cocaine seized in recent years.

57. Among Subcommission Member States, cocaine seizures continue to be limited as seen in Figure V. However, there has been an increasing trend in recent years, from under 400 kilograms in 2009 to an annual average of 1,400 kilograms during the 2013-2015 period (see Figure XVI). Cocaine seizures in Turkey have surpassed the 300 kilogram mark every year since 2010 and reached 556 kilograms in 2015. While Pakistan has reported large annual cocaine seizures in 2010 and 2013, with 228 and 1,029 kilograms respectively, seizures in the Middle East and Egypt, as defined in this document, have increased in recent years, reaching 923 and 578 kilograms in 2014 and 2015 respectively, thanks to significant amounts of cocaine seized in Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon and the United Arab Emirates. Egyptian authorities reported that cocaine is smuggled into the country mostly from West African countries and, to a lesser extent, via air or mail from Europe.³³ Lebanese authorities reported several seizure cases in which cocaine was being trafficked into the country via air from Brazil during 2015, in amounts that varied between 3 and 4 kilograms.³⁴

³² EMCDDA, *EU Drug Markets Report: Strategic Overview*, 2016.

³³ Country report by Egypt to the Twenty-sixth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Africa.

³⁴ Country report submitted by Lebanon to the Fifty-first Meeting of the Subcommission on Illicit Drug Traffic and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East.

D. Amphetamine-type stimulants

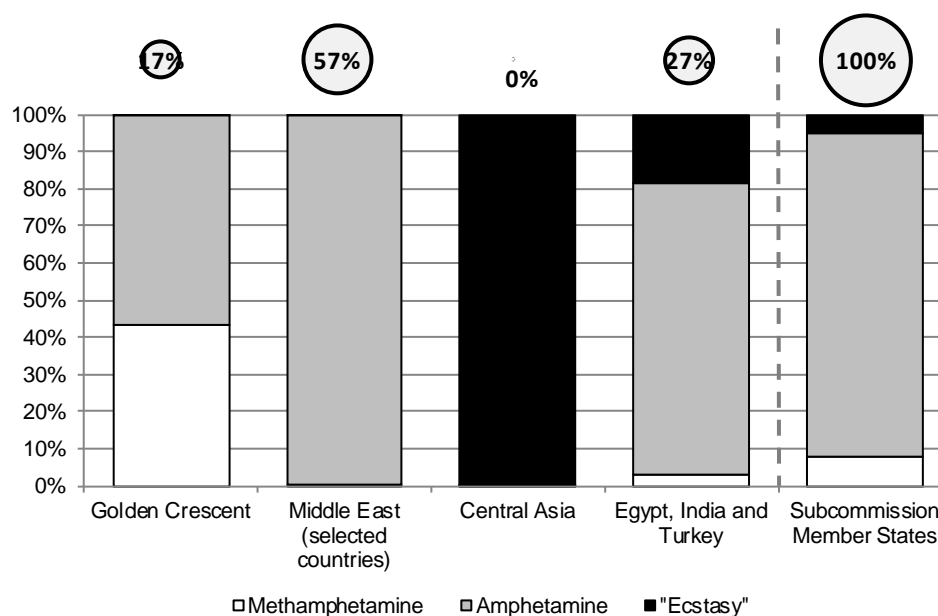
58. Amphetamine-type stimulants can be broadly classified as amphetamines (which include amphetamine and methamphetamine) and “ecstasy”-type substances.³⁵ Unlike the collection of seizure data for plant-based drugs, the collection of high-quality seizure data relating to amphetamine-type stimulants relies heavily on the proper identification and classification of seized controlled substances.

59. Among Subcommittee Member States, more than half of the amphetamine-type stimulants seized in the region occurred in the Middle East, while small amounts were seized in Central Asia in 2015 (see Figure XVII). While almost 90 per cent of amphetamine-type stimulants seized in the region corresponded to amphetamine, the types of stimulants seized vary from one subregion to the other. While countries in the Golden Crescent reported significant amounts of both amphetamine (especially Pakistan) and methamphetamine (the Islamic Republic of Iran), amphetamine in the form of captagon pills is virtually the only amphetamine-type substance trafficked in the Middle East. In 2015, Turkey and Egypt reported significant amounts of “ecstasy”-type substances and amphetamine seized respectively.

Figure XVII

Distribution of seizures of amphetamine-type stimulants among Subcommittee Member States, by subregion and drug type, 2015

(Percentage)



Methamphetamine

60. The regions of Asia-Pacific and North America account for the majority of global methamphetamine seizures, and the illicit manufacture of methamphetamine has traditionally been concentrated close to these consumer markets. However, it has recently also spread to other countries and regions, with recent reports of new trafficking flows connecting previously independent subregions.³⁶ In 2015, global methamphetamine seizures reached record levels.

61. In North America, methamphetamine seizures increased slightly, mostly owing to an increment reported by Mexico. In the United States, methamphetamine seizures reached 31 tons in both 2014 and 2015, the two highest levels since 2002. National

³⁵ Including 3,4-methylenedioxymethamphetamine (MDMA).

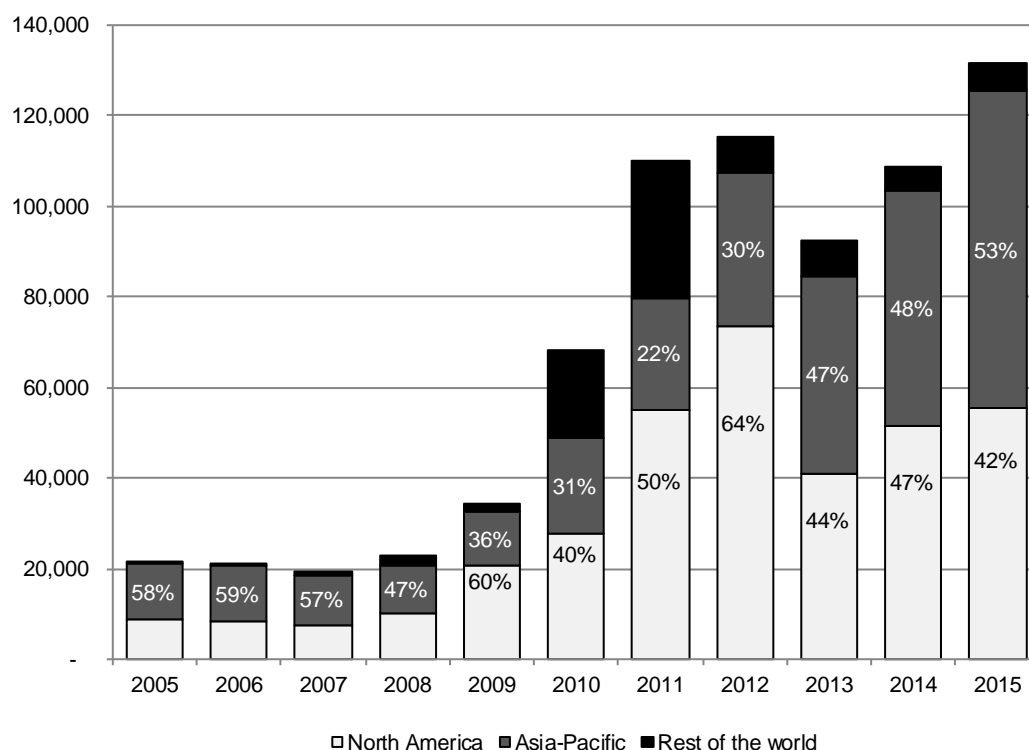
³⁶ UNODC, *Global SMART Update*, vol. 12 (September 2014).

authorities reported a significant increase in liquid methamphetamine seizures, especially along the South-West border, where the drug is smuggled from Mexico and conversion laboratories are in place.³⁷ Methamphetamine seizures in Mexico increased for the second consecutive year, from 17.9 tons in 2013 to the equivalent of 23.5 tons in 2015, including almost 9,000 litres of liquid methamphetamine. The Mexican authorities reported that methamphetamine was produced in clandestine laboratories using chemical precursors trafficked mostly from China and the United States.³⁸

Figure XVIII

Global seizures of methamphetamine, by region (2005-2015)

(Kilograms)



62. In Asia-Pacific, methamphetamine seizures have been incrementing steadily since 2008, with the total amount seized in the region increasing six-fold over the 2008-2015 period. In East and South-East Asia, methamphetamine is trafficked in tablets and in crystalline form, with tablets being manufactured and trafficked mostly within the Mekong subregion (notwithstanding recent evidence of the presence of tablets in Malaysia, the Republic of Korea and Singapore) and crystal methamphetamine being spread throughout the region.³⁹

63. Methamphetamine seizures in China have increased every year since 2008, from 6 to over 36 tons in 2015, the highest value reported by a single country that year. Chinese authorities reported that about 88 per cent of seized methamphetamine tablets are produced in the Golden Triangle, while most of the crystal methamphetamine trafficked in the country is of domestic production.⁴⁰ The sharp increase in the Asia-Pacific region is not only a consequence of a rise in China, but in many countries within the region. Australia, Indonesia, Myanmar, the Philippines and Thailand have all shown strong increasing trends since 2009.

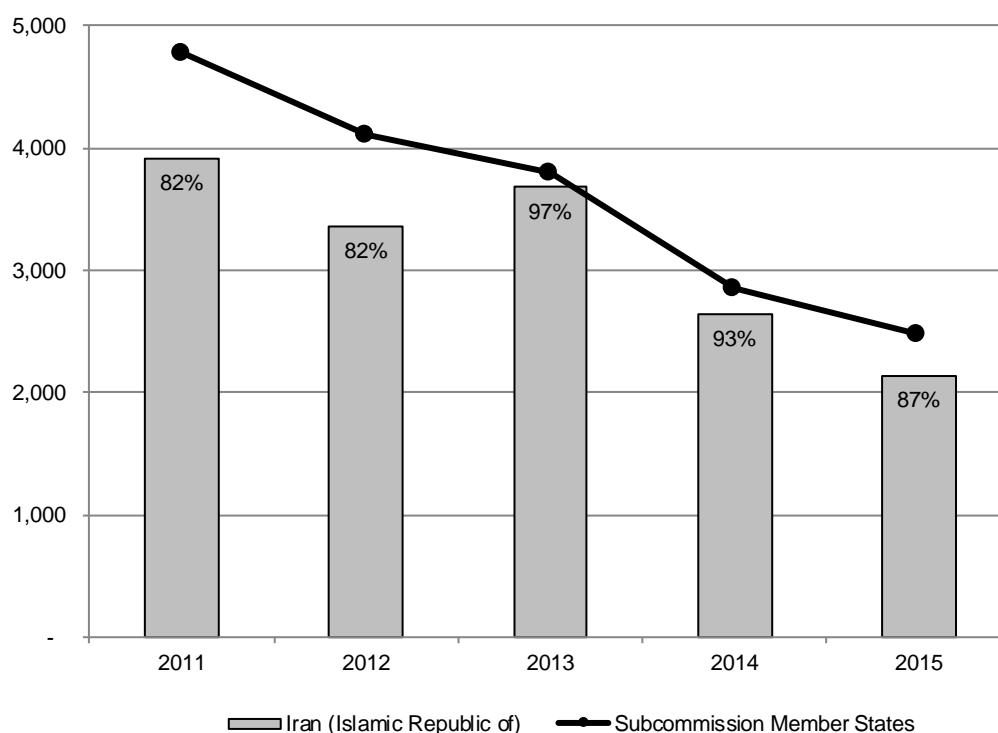
³⁷ United States of America response to 2015 Annual Report Questionnaire.

³⁸ Mexico response to 2015 Annual Report Questionnaire.

³⁹ UNODC, *The Challenge of Synthetic Drugs in East and South-East Asia and Oceania: Trends and Patterns of Amphetamine-type Stimulants and New Psychoactive Substances* (2015).

⁴⁰ Country report submitted by China to the Fortieth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Asia and the Pacific.

Figure XIX
Methamphetamine seizures among Subcommittee Member States, 2011-2015
 (Kilograms)



64. Among Subcommittee Member States, methamphetamine seizures have decreased over the last five years (see Figure XIX). Over 80 per cent of methamphetamine seizures in the region are concentrated in Iran (Islamic Republic of), where 2.6 tons were seized in 2015. While 216 methamphetamine laboratories were destroyed in Iran (Islamic Republic of) in 2015,⁴¹ Turkish authorities reported that Iranian methamphetamine is a threat that has gained great importance over the last few years⁴². Methamphetamine seizures in Turkey have increased sharply in the last 8 years, with total amounts seized surpassing the 100-kilogram mark every year since 2009. In 2015, methamphetamine seizures in Turkey reached 260 kilograms, more than double the 128 kilograms reported in 2014.

65. A recent report by UNODC⁴³ indicates an increasing activity in the synthetic drug market in Afghanistan and the wider South-Western and Central Asian region in recent years, in particular regarding methamphetamine trafficking and production. Increases in the number of methamphetamine seizures, together with reports of methamphetamine manufacture and increases in treatment registrations in certain parts of the country, suggest that synthetic drugs are of growing concern in Afghanistan.

Amphetamine

66. Since 2004, global amphetamine seizures have been concentrated mostly in the Near and Middle-East and South-West Asia (see Figure XVII). In particular, there has been a marked increase in Saudi Arabia, from less than 100 kilograms of amphetamine seized annually previous to 2003 to well over 10 tons in recent years. The increase in the region is not only a consequence of the rise in this country, but other Member

⁴¹ Iran (Islamic Republic of), 2015 annual report questionnaire response.

⁴² Country report submitted by Turkey to the Fifty-first Meeting of the Subcommittee on Illicit Drug Traffic and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East.

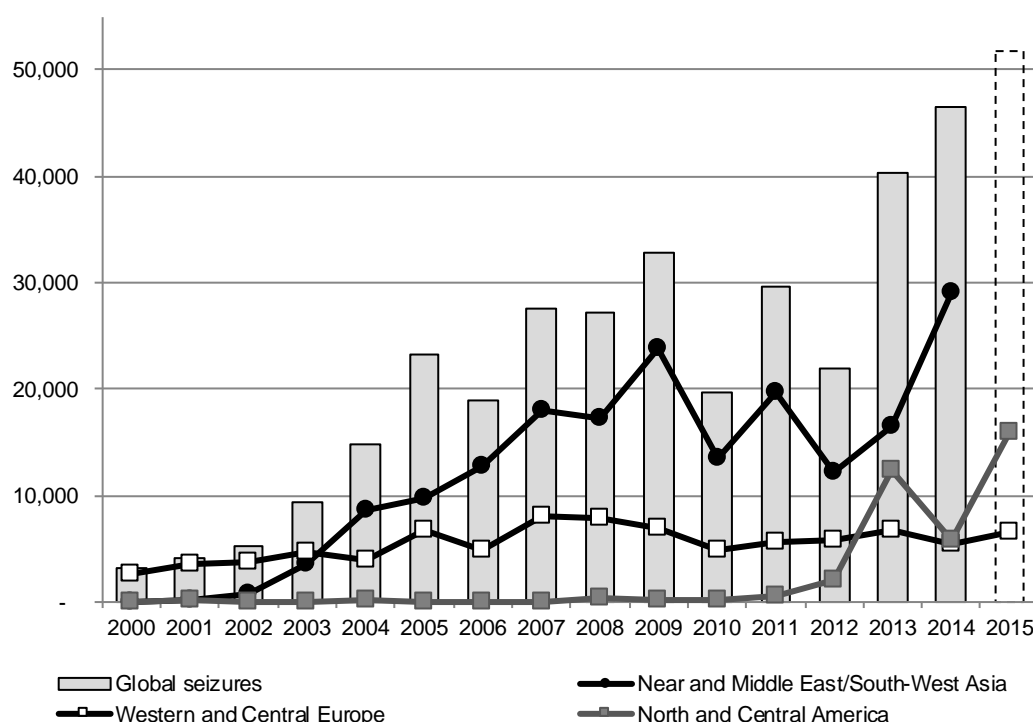
⁴³ UNODC Global SMART Programme, *Afghanistan Synthetic Drugs Situation Assessment* (January 2017).

States have experienced an increasing trend recently. Record amphetamine seizures were reported in Jordan, Lebanon, Pakistan and the Syrian Arab Republic during the 2014-2015 period.

Figure XX

Global seizures of amphetamine, by region, 2000-2015^a

(Kilograms)



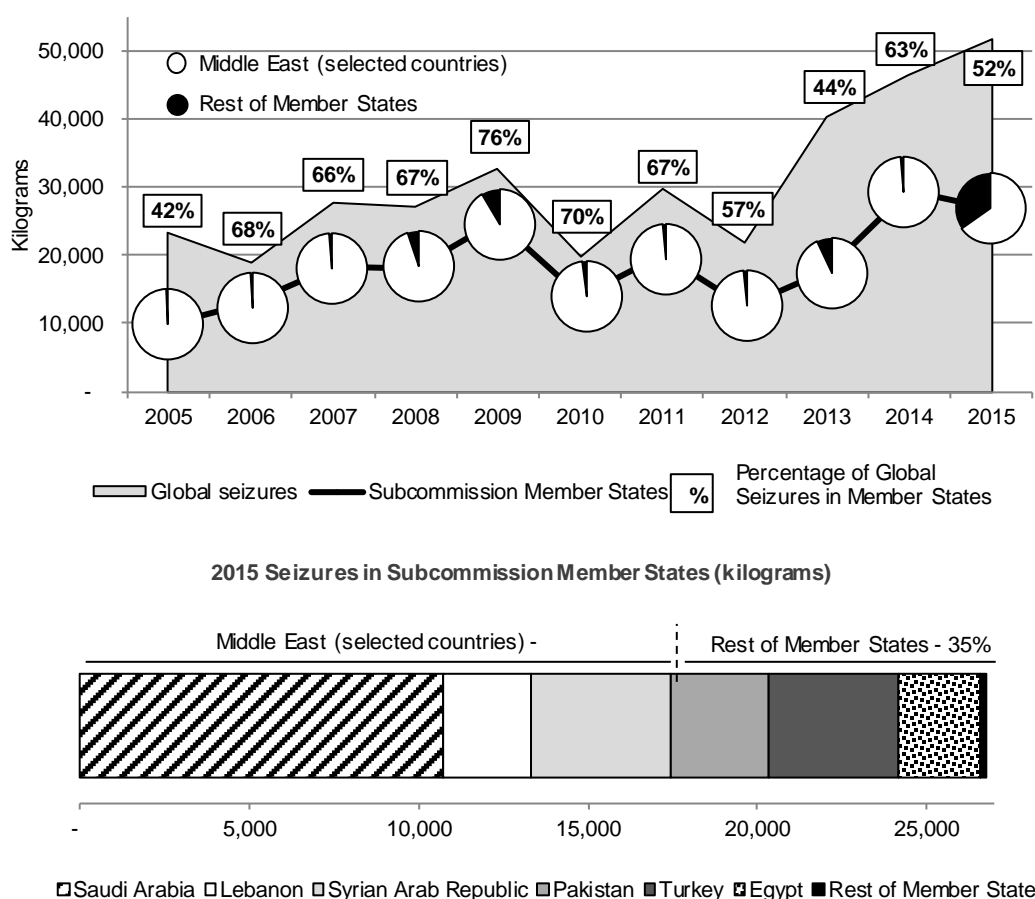
^a Data in the Near and Middle East/South-West Asia for 2015 is incomplete.

67. In Western and Central Europe, amphetamine seizures have remained relatively stable since 2005, with countries like the Netherlands, Germany and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland consistently reporting significant annual seizures. While amphetamine seizures in Germany have remained between 1.2 and 1.4 tons since 2008, the United Kingdom has reported 612 and 624 kilograms seized in 2014 and 2015 respectively, down from levels that oscillated between 1 and 3.5 tons during the 2000-2013 period. The Netherlands reported 1.5 tons of amphetamine seized in 2015.

68. In recent years, there has been an increased presence of amphetamine in the Americas, in particular in North and Central America (see Figure XVII). The United States was the country with the highest reported amphetamine seizures globally in 2013, with over 12 tons. While seizures have decreased in recent years to 4.3 and 2.7 tons in 2014 and 2015 respectively, they remain significantly above the levels reported in previous years. In Guatemala, seizures reached over 1.5 tons in 2014 and 12.7 tons in 2015, the highest level reported by a single country that year, mostly due to an unprecedented multi-ton seizure that year. Mexico also reported seizing a record 300 kilograms of amphetamine in 2015.

Figure XXI
Amphetamine seizures among Subcommittee Member States and geographical distribution, 2005-2015^a

(Kilograms/Percentages)



^a Data for 2015 is preliminary and incomplete.

69. As seen in Figure XXI, Subcommittee Member States account for between 40 and 75 per cent of global amphetamine seizures, with the vast majority of these seizures generally occurring in the Middle East, as defined in this document. While information on seizures from Jordan in 2015 was not available at the time of writing, preliminary data suggest that amphetamine seizures among Subcommittee Member States either remained stable or increased that year, despite a decrease in seizures within the Middle East. This decrease was mainly driven by a decline in Saudi Arabia, where amphetamine seizures amounted to 10.7 tons in 2015, down from a historical high of 17 tons in 2014. While seizures in Lebanon also decreased from a record 6 tons in 2014 to 2.6 in 2015, the Syrian Arab Republic reported an unprecedented 4.2 tons in 2015. Lebanese authorities reported that, even though captagon factories have been identified in the country along the border with the Syrian Arab Republic, Lebanese law enforcement officers are unable to enter these areas owing to the dangers posed by the current security situation.⁴⁴

70. In 2015, the decrease observed in amphetamine seizures in the Middle East has been offset by record levels reported in Egypt, Pakistan and Turkey, amounting to 2.5, 2.9 and 3.8 tons respectively. This represents major increases in these three countries with respect to the amounts seized in previous years. While Egypt and Pakistan had never reported annual amphetamine seizures for more than 20 kilograms before 2015,

⁴⁴ Country report submitted by Lebanon to the Fifty-first Meeting of the Subcommittee on Illicit Drug Traffic and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East.

Turkey had only reported more than 1 ton of amphetamine seized in two occasions, with 1.2 and 1.1 tons in 2009 and 2013 respectively.

“Ecstasy”-type substances

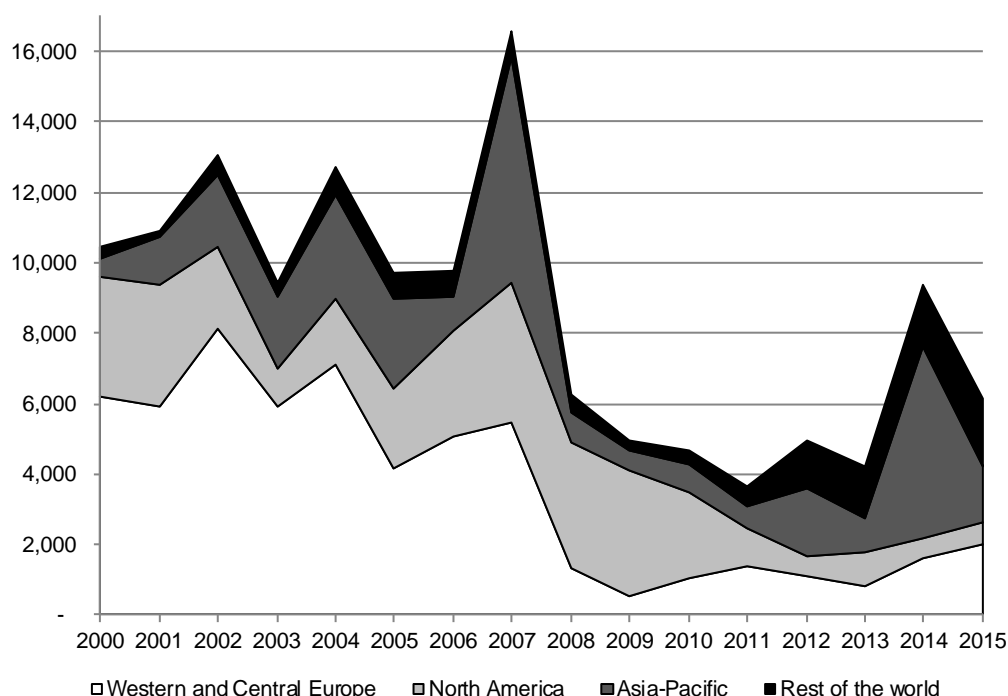
71. After increasing to 9.4 tons in 2014, global seizures of “ecstasy”-type substances decreased to 6.2 tons, a higher level than that observed during the 2009-2013 period, when seizures averaged 4.5 tons. As seen in Figure XIX, seizures of 3,4-methylenedioxymethamphetamine (MDMA) have followed a decreasing trend over the last 15 years, mostly due to declines in the North America and Western and Central Europe markets. In recent years, global trends seem to be more affected by regional tendencies in the Asia-Pacific region, suggesting that this region “might be becoming an emerging driver of the global market for ecstasy”.⁴⁵ Other regions, in particular Turkey in South-East Europe, have also seen sharp increases in “ecstasy” seizures in recent years.

72. In 2015, Turkey reported the highest seizures of “ecstasy”-type substances by a single country, with a record 1,538 kilograms. This country has reported close to one ton seized annually between 2012 and 2015, up from an average 285 kg during the previous 9 years. National authorities reported that Turkey is a final market for “ecstasy” that is produced in the Netherlands and Belgium.⁴⁶ Turkey consistently accounts for between 95 and 100 per cent of the “ecstasy”-type substances that are seized among Subcommittee Member States every year.

Figure XXII

Global seizures of “ecstasy”-type substances, by region (2000-2015)

(Kilograms)



⁴⁵ *The Challenge of Synthetic Drugs in East and South-East Asia and Oceania: Trends and Patterns of Amphetamine-type Stimulants and New Psychoactive Substances.*

⁴⁶ Country report submitted by Turkey to the Fifty-first Meeting of the Subcommittee on Illicit Drug Traffic and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East.

IV. Conclusions

73. The cultivation of cannabis continues in most countries worldwide and in all regions of the world, while the production of cannabis resin remains confined to a few countries. Globally, cannabis herb seizures have remained stable since 2012, while preliminary data suggest that cannabis resin seizures increased slightly for the second consecutive year in 2015. Cannabis resin and herb seizures among Subcommittee Member States remained high in 2015, confirming the increasing trend observed in recent years.

74. After decreasing in 2015 for the first time in six years, preliminary data suggest that the global area under opium poppy cultivation increased again in 2016. Global seizures of opium and illicit morphine remain concentrated in Afghanistan and neighbouring countries, while heroin seizures cover a wider geographic area. Global heroin seizures have remained relatively stable since 2008, at levels significantly higher than those recorded in previous years. Heroin trafficking continues to affect several regions within the Subcommittee, with seizures among Member States consistently remaining at high levels since 2008.

75. After reaching historically low levels in 2013, the total area under coca bush cultivation increased for the second consecutive year in 2015, as a result of sharp increases in Colombia. Global cocaine seizures increased sharply in 2015 reaching unprecedented levels, with increments in the Americas and Western and Central Europe. Cocaine seizures among Subcommittee Member States have increased notably in recent years, affecting countries in the Near and Middle East, Turkey and Pakistan.

76. Amphetamine-type stimulants seizures have been following a sharp increasing trend since 2008, and 2015 marked a new global record. While global amphetamine and methamphetamine seizures have followed sharp increasing trends over the last fifteen years, seizures of “ecstasy”-type substances have decreased over the same period. Subcommittee Member States continue to account for the majority of global amphetamine seizures, with high levels seized in the Near and Middle East. Seizures of “ecstasy”-type substances have increased notably in Turkey in recent years.
