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Distribution: Competent National Authorities/ Project Prism and Cohesion focal points

Subject: Invitation to participate in the Operation “Pseudonym”

Dear Sir/Madam,

With reference to the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB) initiatives under Project Prism and Project Cohesion, I would like to invite your Government to participate in a time-bound operation codenamed ‘Pseudonym’ focusing on shipments of ephedrine and pseudoephedrine, including pharmaceutical preparations containing these substances, traded internationally, and to the extent possible also domestically.

Ephedrine and pseudoephedrine both have legitimate medical applications in the manufacture of bronchodilators and/ or nasal decongestants and are therefore widely traded internationally. However, they are also used in the illicit manufacture of methamphetamine. While methamphetamine can and is being manufactured through other synthesis routes which do not involve these substances, the Board continues to note the use of ephedrine and pseudoephedrine, including their pharmaceutical preparations, for illicit drug manufacture in several regions of the world.

Further, there have been instances of possible diversion from international trade of these substances, which have been reported by the Board in its annual Precursors Reports. Suspected shipments of the substances which have been objected to in PEN Online and have been the subject matter of investigations, have also been noted during 2024. Operation ‘Pseudonym’ accordingly focuses on licit shipments of these substances and their preparations with a view to verifying their legitimacy, possibly also helping in identifying diversion points and areas of illicit methamphetamine manufacture, through backtracking investigations conducted into suspicious shipments and seizures.

The extent and implementation modalities are detailed in the attached operational plan. The operation will take place over a three-month period commencing on **1 October 2024** and will require the cooperation between regulatory and law enforcement authorities. At the conclusion of the operation, all participants will be informed through a Project Prism Special Alert.

Authorities which participate in the operation will solicit the cooperation of all other relevant national authorities and ensure the implementation of measures outlined in the operational plan.

Interested governments are invited to confirm their participation by **15 September 2024**, at incb.precursors@un.org (or fax 0043-1-26060-5930).

Yours truly,



for Mark Colhoun
Secretary of the Board