

## Information note

### Background

The [International Narcotics Control Board \(INCB\)](#) is the independent and quasi-judicial control organ for the implementation of the United Nations drug conventions, established by the [Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961](#). It had predecessors under previous drug control conventions dating back to the time of the League of Nations.

### ECOSOC

ECOSOC elects the 13 members of INCB. INCB members serve on the Board in their personal capacity, not as government representatives. Three members with medical, pharmacological or pharmaceutical experience are elected from a list of persons nominated by the World Health Organization (WHO) and 10 members are elected from a list of persons nominated by Governments. Members of the Board are persons who, by their competence, impartiality and disinterestedness, command general confidence. ECOSOC, in consultation with INCB, makes all arrangements necessary to ensure the full technical independence of the Board in carrying out its functions.

### INCB members

The members, with mandates expiring on 1 March of the year indicated, are:

Joseph Bediako ASARE	Ghana	2010
Sevil ATASOY	Turkey	2010
<a href="#">Madan Mohan BHATNAGAR</a>	India	2007
<a href="#">Elisaldo Luiz de ARAÚJO CARLINI</a>	Brazil 🇧🇷	2007
Tatyana Borisovna DMITRIEVA	Russian Federation	2010
<a href="#">Philip O. EMAFO</a>	Nigeria 🇳🇮	2010
<a href="#">Gilberto GERRA</a>	Italy	2007
<a href="#">Hamid GHODSE</a>	Iran (Islamic Republic of) 🇮🇷	2007
<a href="#">Melvyn LEVITSKY</a>	USA	2007
<a href="#">Robert LOUSBERG</a>	Netherlands	2007
<a href="#">Rainer Wolfgang SCHMID</a>	Austria	2007
Camilo URIBE GRANJA	Colombia	2010
Brian WATTERS	Australia	2010

🇳🇮 Elected by ECOSOC from among nominees submitted by WHO.

### INCB President

Professor Hamid Ghodse, Professor of Psychiatry and International Drug Policy at the University of London and the Director of the International Centre for Drug Policy at St. George's Medical School, currently serves as the Board's president. Professor Ghodse has been a member of the INCB since 1992 and has also served as President of the Board in the years 1993, 1994, 1997, 1998, 2000 and 2001. Editor of several scientific periodicals on psychiatry, substance misuse and addiction, Professor Ghodse is also the author of over 300 scientific books and papers on drug-related issues and addiction, including "Drugs and Addictive Behaviour: A Guide to Treatment", Cambridge University Press, 2002.

### INCB secretariat

INCB has a secretariat in Vienna that assists it in the exercise of its treaty-related functions. The INCB secretariat is an administrative entity of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, but reports solely to the Board on matters of substance. INCB closely collaborates with the Office in the framework of arrangements approved by the Council in its resolution 1991/48. INCB also cooperates with other international bodies concerned with drug control, including not only ECOSOC and its Commission on Narcotic Drugs, but also the relevant specialized agencies of the United Nations, particularly WHO. It also cooperates with bodies outside the United Nations system, especially the International Criminal Police Organization (Interpol) and the Customs Co-operation Council (also called the World Customs Organization).

For more information about INCB, please contact: Mr. Koli Kouame, Secretary, International Narcotics Control Board (phone 431 26060 4277, fax 431 26060 5867, e-mail: [koli.kouame@incb.org](mailto:koli.kouame@incb.org))