

Roundtable discussion on  
**Trade in falsified medicines: a danger to health and development**

Presentation

by

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**Second UNCTAD Illicit Trade Forum**

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The views expressed are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of UNCTAD



# UNODC

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

CONTAINER  
CONTROL  
PROGRAMME



WORLD CUSTOMS ORGANIZATION  
ORGANISATION MONDIALE DES DOUANES

A composite background image showing a large red cargo ship on the left, a white airplane flying in the sky in the center, and a truck with a green container on the right, all set against a blue sky with white clouds.

# THE UNODC – WCO - ICAO CONTAINER CONTROL PROGRAMME



## The Container Control Programme (CCP) UNODC and WCO Initiative

- Launched in 2004
- Developed jointly by UNODC and the World Customs Organization (WCO)
- Assists Governments establish and maintain effective container controls
- Focused at seaports, dry ports, land borders, railways and airports
- Prevents trafficking in drugs and other illicit goods
- Facilitates legitimate trade and protects revenue

# Background

International trade routes—sea, land, rail and air— are exploited by criminal organizations which pose a threat to the security of the international trade supply chain.

## 1. Trade Expansion

More than 800 million container movements in the maritime trade supply chain every year, transporting 90% of the world's cargo.

## 2. Illicit Trafficking

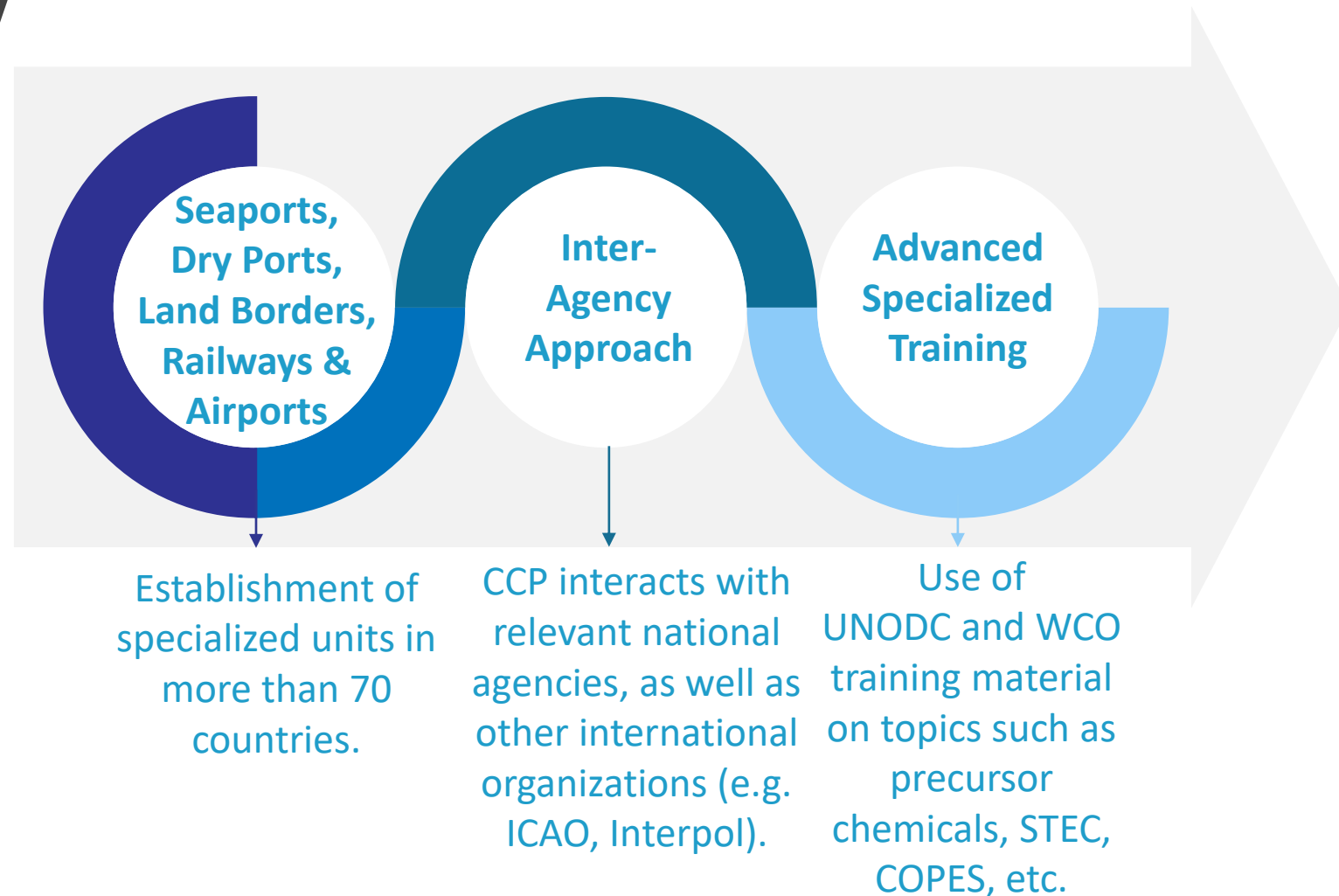
The containerized trade supply chain is exploited to traffic illicit goods.

## 3. Security

Organized criminal groups and terrorist organizations seek to exploit weak, ineffective and inconsistent border controls.

# Supply Chain Security

CCP activities strengthen the security of the international cargo supply chain by building and improving national capacities.



# Training & Mentoring

CCP assists Member States to equip, train and mentor Customs, Aviation Security (AVSEC) and other law enforcement officials to refine the selection of high-risk cargo shipments.



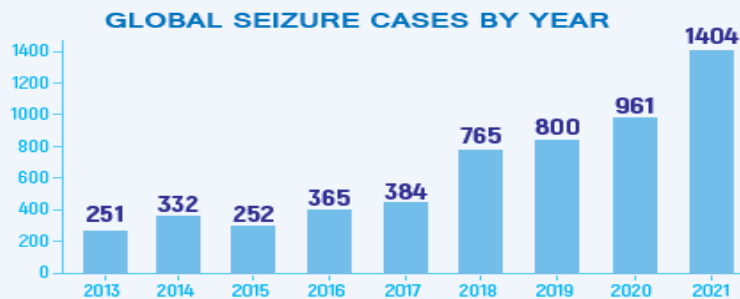


## 2021 Results & Successes





## 2021 Results & Successes



166 tons  
Precursor chemicals

13 shipments  
Falsified medical products

14,000,000  
Psychotropic drugs  
tablets

3.2 tons of protected animal bones  
29 tons and 330 cubic meters of protected timber  
24 tons of fisheries crime items  
50 containers of hazardous waste

55 tons and 55 containers  
Environmental Crime

100.4 tons of ammonium nitrate  
500 tons of radioactive monazite ore  
drones  
military knives  
rifle scopes and optics  
ammunition

16,000  
Strategic goods  
items

400,618,030  
Cigarettes  
pieces

10 tons  
Illicit Alcohol

9,000,000  
Intellectual Property Rights  
items

\$650,000  
Cash

medical equipment  
religious extremism propaganda materials  
precious stones  
cultural heritage artifacts  
gold  
beedi leaves  
fake tobacco tax stamps

32 tons  
56,000,000  
Other  
pieces



# CCP Results Since 2004

**Seized:**  
**> 619 tons of cocaine, 14 tons of heroin, > 74 tons of cannabis, 2.8 tons/121,200 liters of precursors for drugs and explosives, 1.1 tons (946,300 units) of psychotropic substances, 325 tons of tramadol, and 2,481,854,900 units of cigarettes.**  
**There have also been seizures of 90 shipments of strategic and dual use goods, 152 cases of environmental crime, 1,230 cases of IPR goods and 3 instances relating to fisheries crime .**



# The Container Control Programme (CCP)

## UNODC and WCO Initiative participated in WCO operation ‘STOP’

- To get the products from the market: we organize targeted controls, like the WCO Operation STOP, in close cooperation with Health Authorities and Private sector
- Operation STOP was launched with the aim of enhancing cooperation between Customs Administrations, in collaboration with international organizations such as INTERPOL, UNODC, Europol, OLAF, WHO and some private sector actors, focusing on falsified/illicit medicines and medical supplies while also maintaining a general focus on all goods related to the COVID-19 pandemic, which may pose a threat to consumer health and safety
- Facemasks, sanitizing gel, thermometers, testing kits, gloves , protective garment, falsified and expired medicines were detained during the operation
- Awareness raising of officers is key

## The Container Control Programme (CCP) participated in Interpol operation ‘Pangea’

- Pangea targets the online sale of counterfeit and illicit medicines and medical devices
- Participating agencies carry out coordinated operational activities against illegal websites during the same week in order to identify the criminal networks behind the trafficking
- PANGEA focussed on the Southeast Asian and African region
- Awareness raising of officers is key

## Cooperation with WHO and other stakeholders

- Final draft of the Training Guide on the Detection and Investigation Of Falsified Medical Products
- WHO has extensive experience in working and sharing intelligence data with the national regulatory agencies. As a result, we feel there is a need to include the national regulatory agencies along with customs and LE agencies in the efforts aimed to prevent and combat trafficking in falsified medical products.
- WHO and UNODC conduct joint training events.
- During a plenary meeting of the West African Network of Central Authorities and Prosecutors (WACAP) held in Dakar, two days were devoted to awareness raising and information sharing from 15 participating countries, the World Customs Organization (WCO), World Health Organization (WHO), INTERPOL and an NGO on the problems of investigating and prosecuting falsified medical product related crime
- The MOU between UNODC and the WHO was amended to include cooperation on the trafficking of falsified medical products.

# Fiji: Parcel Post Intercepted with Tramadol destined for Australia



# Central Asia: Bendax goods wrongly declared as “natural oils (black cumin seed oil)” weighing 5 tons 920 kg, no approval documents for import





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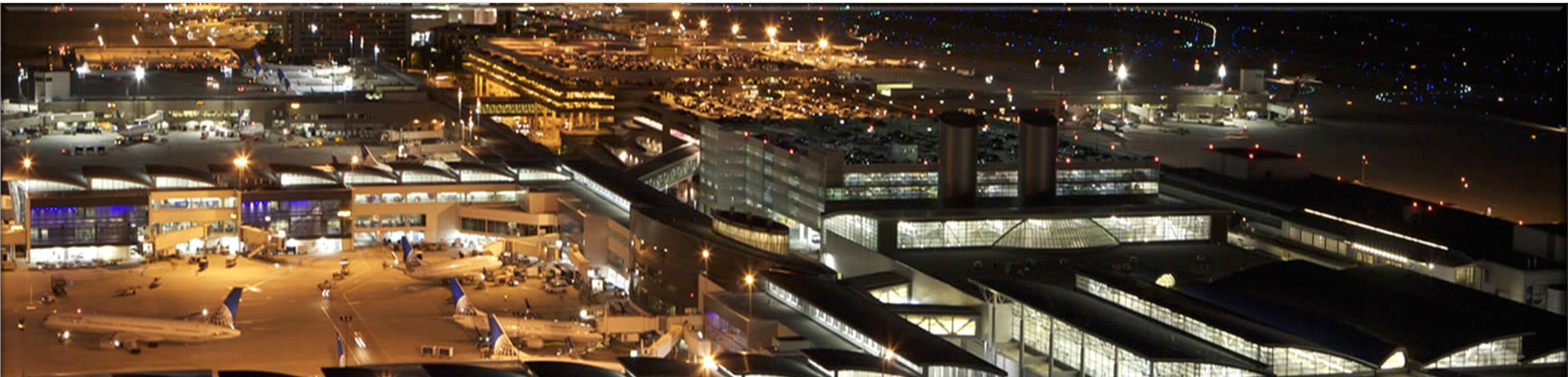
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