



DUTY TRAVEL REPORT

8th Operational Meeting to Counter Trafficking of Synthetic Opioids, Dangerous Substances and Chemicals (POSTAL8 Meeting)
(30 September – 3 October 2025, Vienna, Austria)

Staff Member	Mohammed Ajaz	
Destination:	Vienna, Austria	
Source of funding:	Fully sponsored by INCB	
Travel Dates:	Departure Date:	29 September 2025
	Arrival Date:	07 October 2025
Purpose of Travel:	I attended the conference as an OCO representative, participating in panel discussions and facilitating a session on OCO’s collaboration with INCB in support of GRIDS program subject to capacity building and enforcement capabilities for the Pacific Customs Administrations.	
Activity description:	<p>The closed-door meeting was convened by the International Narcotic Control Board with international stakeholders including postal and express courier partners, law enforcement agencies, and international organizations to address the trafficking of synthetic opioids and related substances via postal and air cargo channels. The agenda included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Threats and Trends Overview: Presentations by INCB GRIDS Program, Interpol, UPU, WCO, and regional experts that included OCO. • Operational and Investigative Updates: Shared by government representatives from Kenya, Uganda, Belgium, Kyrgyzstan, Nigeria, Thailand, and others. • Technology and Border Control Solutions: Showcased by Chile, Luxembourg, Viet Nam, and others. • Security and Intelligence Briefings: Provided by ARAMEX, USPIS, DEA, and other postal and courier partners. • Drafting and Discussion of Recommendations: Final day focused on consolidating actionable recommendations. 	
Outcomes:	<p>In general, the Meeting achieved the following outcomes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthened collaboration between postal operators, law enforcement, and international organizations. • Shared intelligence and operational experiences across regions. • Demonstrated technological tools for detection and analysis. • Identified gaps in capacity and coordination at operational levels. • Draft recommendations were disseminated for review and implementation. <p>However, for the OCO, the meeting provided a good opportunity to connect with global partners and raise its profile. CEA also had useful</p>	

	<p>discussions with the U.S. Customs and Border Protection (USCBP), who mentioned there could be an opportunity for a study visit or training for Pacific members at their National Targeting Centre in Virginia, USA. OCO can follow up on this opportunity through future dialogue with USCBP.</p>
<p>Recommendations/follow up activities:</p>	<p>The Postal8 Meeting recommendations encourage the Governments and international organisations to further expand practical cooperation, operational coordination and enhancement of Artificial Intelligence tools for robust interdiction capabilities. Cascading from the general recommendations of the Meeting, the OCO relevant recommendations are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information Sharing: Establish secure channel for real-time exchange of intelligence and alerts. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ OCO Members such as Fiji, Solomon Islands, New Caledonia, Federated States of Micronesia have been uploading the seizures on IONICS, however, the OCO is not informed of such seizures. The upcoming ICP training on drugs gives OCO an opportunity to solicit commitment from our members to equally share such reports with OCO for regional seizure report information holdings. ○ Encourage continued active participation by Members in INCB’s IONICS and GRIDS platforms. • Capacity Building: There is an opportunity to organise regional training workshop on detection, profiling, and risk assessment in partnership with the USCBP at their National Targeting Centre in Virginia, however, funding and partner cooperation needs further discussion with USCBP. Kindly recommend that the OCO moots the discussion with the USCBP by mid-February 2026 so the proposed training could be delivered in our next fiscal year July 2026 – June 2027. It is highly recommended that the UPU and INCB is looped into this training. The OCO finds it prudent to strengthen the enforcement collaboration between the Postal Operators and the Customs on supply chain security as is emphasized in WCO UPU Postal Customs Guide. The training should focus on harmonizing Customs formalities, improving security and promoting the exchange of electronic data between Postal Operators and Customs Authorities. • Joint Operations: With assistance of INCB, provide the IONICS access to the OCO-ICP and encourage participation in the global Operations that are hosted by the INCB, annually. The upcoming global operation, namely, OPERATION EVAPER8 will commence on 23 November and end on 21 December 2025. Invitations will be sent to Members, once the INCB forwards the formal invite to OCO. • Review and renewal of MoU between INCB and OCO – discuss with INCB possible in-person signing on the sides of a regional or international meeting organized by INCB or OCO.

Acknowledgement	<p>The OCO extends gratitude to the International Narcotics Control Board for organising the meeting and facilitating meaningful engagement. Appreciation is also given to all presenters and moderators for their valuable insights and contributions.</p>
Meeting documents where available <i>(to put on server with hyperlink):</i>	<p>The documents for training (including copies of presentation slides, list of participants and contact details) can be found here.</p>

Photos:



