

8 July 2010

Arabic, English and Russian only

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**Subcommission on Illicit Drug Traffic and  
Related Matters in the Near and Middle East**

**Forty-fifth session**

Damascus, 8-12 November 2010

**Provisional agenda and annotations**

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.
3. Current situation with respect to regional and subregional cooperation.
4. Implementation of the recommendations adopted by the Subcommission at its forty-third session.
5. Consideration of topics by working groups:
  - (a) Afghanistan: the ongoing threat from illicit opium production and trafficking;
  - (b) Meeting the challenge of effective border management;
  - (c) Controlling precursor chemicals and addressing the growing challenge of unregulated alternatives and the trafficking in and production and consumption of amphetamine-type stimulants in the Near and Middle East.
6. Follow-up to the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem.
7. Organization of the forty-sixth session of the Subcommission.
8. Other business.
9. Adoption of the report of the Subcommission on its forty-fifth session.



## **Annotations**

### **1. Election of officers**

Elections are held in accordance with the practice set forth in rule 15 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council. Past custom has been for the Subcommittee on Illicit Drug Traffic and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East to elect a Chair, two Vice-Chairs and a Rapporteur.

### **2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters**

The draft provisional agenda for the forty-fifth session was approved by the Subcommittee at its forty-fourth session. Following the adoption of the agenda, the Subcommittee will establish a timetable and agree on the organization of work for its forty-fifth session. A proposed organization of work for the consideration of the Subcommittee is shown in the annex to the present document.

#### **Documentation**

Provisional agenda and annotations (UNODC/SUBCOM/45/1)

### **3. Current situation with respect to regional and subregional cooperation**

Participants will be invited to inform the Subcommittee of their respective countries' efforts as regards regional and subregional cooperation in areas such as joint investigations, law enforcement training and sharing of information and experience in taking measures to counter drug trafficking. Participants are requested to indicate in particular any practical problems impeding subregional cooperation and measures to overcome those problems.

At its thirty-eighth session, the Commission on Narcotic Drugs recommended that general statements and statistics relating to national trends in drug trafficking should not be made orally during meetings but should be circulated in written form. In particular, the Commission recommended that the meeting be informed of new and important trends having an impact on cooperation and new developments that drug law enforcement agencies of the region need to be made aware of. Governments are invited to submit to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), by 27 September 2010, a two-page report on recent trends in drug trafficking in their respective countries over the past year. Only country reports that have been received by that date will be translated into the other working languages of the meeting.

#### **Documentation**

Report of the Secretariat on statistics on drug trafficking trends in the Near and Middle East, in South, West and Central Asia and worldwide (UNODC/SUBCOM/45/2)

Note by the Secretariat on the current situation with respect to regional and subregional cooperation (UNODC/SUBCOM/45/CRP.1)

#### **4. Implementation of the recommendations adopted by the Subcommission at its forty-third session**

Participants are invited to inform the Subcommission of action taken by their respective Governments in the implementation of the recommendations adopted by the Subcommission at its forty-third session, held in Tehran from 16 to 20 November 2009. The Subcommission will have before it a note by the Secretariat prepared on the basis of replies received to a questionnaire concerning action taken by Governments.

##### **Documentation**

Note by the Secretariat on the review of implementation by States of the region of the recommendations adopted by the Subcommission on Illicit Drug Traffic and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East at its forty-third session (UNODC/SUBCOM/45/3)

#### **5. Consideration of topics by working groups**

Ad hoc working groups will be established in order to review issues of regional importance and to facilitate informal discussions and frank exchanges of views on specific matters. The working groups will be invited to present their findings, conclusions and recommendations to the Subcommission for endorsement and inclusion in its report on the forty-fifth session. Each working group will be invited to take into consideration the following in the formulation of its recommendations:

- (a) Identification of specific operational and other problems facing drug law enforcement in the region;
- (b) Discussion of specific countermeasures to combat particular regional patterns of drug trafficking that could or should be implemented at the national, subregional or intraregional levels;
- (c) Enhancement of regional cooperation by identifying potential partners in specific problem areas of drug control;
- (d) Presentation of specific, relevant findings and recommendations to the Subcommission.

The topics below are suggested for consideration by working groups.

##### **(a) Afghanistan: the ongoing threat from illicit opium production and trafficking**

This working group will examine national experiences in the fight against the opiate trade and how trafficking trends are evolving. Participants will be encouraged to share case studies of seizures made and investigations undertaken, together with their observations and assessment of current and future trends. In addition, the working group will look into new and innovative initiatives to stop the flow of opiates, the strengthening of cooperation between neighbouring States and across regions, and the forging of partnerships among counterpart agencies within Afghanistan

**(b) Meeting the challenge of effective border management**

This working group will examine the approaches adopted by States in the region to border management through proactive policing and enforcement strategies. Participants will be encouraged to discuss challenges faced along land, sea and air borders and the solutions they have developed in response to those challenges. The development of inter-agency task forces, the use of risk assessment targeting, specialized search techniques, the proactive profiling of persons, vehicles and freight, and strategies to control open borders (at sea and on land) will be discussed. Delegates should be prepared to outline the enforcement strategies that have been developed, the agreements that have been reached and the procedures that have been introduced to obtain the needed information from private sector operators (airlines, freight forwarders, shipping companies) to enable effective profiling. Participants may wish to use operational examples such as the carrying out of controlled deliveries to highlight the practicalities and challenges of border management.

**(c) Controlling precursor chemicals and addressing the growing challenge of unregulated alternatives and the trafficking in and consumption and production of amphetamine-type stimulants in the Near and Middle East**

Participants in this working group will be encouraged to share their Governments' responses to precursor control and the steps taken to ensure that chemicals under international control are effectively controlled domestically. Particular attention will be given to acetic anhydride, a substance that is essential for refining morphine into heroin and that is imported in large quantities into Afghanistan. Participants will also be encouraged to speak of trends observed in the illicit use of unregulated chemicals for the illegal manufacture of drugs and any countermeasures taken. In addition, participants will be expected to provide information about their experiences and observations regarding trafficking in amphetamine-type stimulants, in particular in the form of tablets sold as Captagon, which often contain amphetamine. Information on seizures made and cases investigated should be shared. Case studies, observed trends and suggested future actions should form part of the preparation for delegates to this working group.

**6. Follow-up to the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem**

In its resolution 64/182, the General Assembly, adopted the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem as adopted at the high-level segment of the fifty-second session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and called upon States to take the measures necessary to fully implement the actions set out therein, with a view to attaining in a timely manner their goals and targets.

Member States committed themselves to effectively implementing the Political Declaration and its Plan of Action through resolute international cooperation, in collaboration with relevant regional and international organizations.

In its resolution 64/182, the General Assembly encouraged the meetings of heads of national drug law enforcement agencies and the Subcommission on Illicit Drug Traffic and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East of the Commission on

Narcotic Drugs to continue to contribute to the strengthening of regional and international cooperation.

Participants will be invited to consider the challenges posed to the States of the region with regard to the implementation of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action, in particular part II of the Plan of Action, on supply reduction and related measures, as well as the implications with regard to follow-up and the contribution that the Subcommission could make to the Commission in that regard.

## **7. Organization of the forty-sixth session of the Subcommission**

The Subcommission will have before it the draft provisional agenda for its forty-sixth session, including topics for discussion in working groups, and may wish to consider possible venues for future sessions. For planning purposes, a decision at the forty-fifth session of the Subcommission on the venue for the forty-sixth session and on topics for discussion in working groups would greatly facilitate the organization of the forty-sixth session. The Secretariat will provide, on request and for the information of the Subcommission, a copy of the standard letter of agreement for the hosting of a session of the Subcommission in which the respective contributions of the United Nations and of the host Government are set out.

The Subcommission may also wish to discuss any other matter related to the organization of its deliberations with a view to improving their substantive content and the follow-up to them.

### **Documentation**

Note by the Secretariat on the provisional agenda for the forty-sixth session of the Subcommission (UNODC/SUBCOM/45/4)

Note by the Secretariat on review of the functioning of the subsidiary bodies of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (UNODC/SUBCOM/45/5)

## **8. Other business**

In 2009 and early 2010, the Secretariat reviewed the responses of members of the subsidiary bodies of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs to a questionnaire on the functioning of those subsidiary bodies. An analysis of those responses was presented to the Commission at its fifty-third session, held from 8 to 12 March 2010, in a note by the Secretariat on the review of the functioning of the subsidiary bodies of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (E/CN.7/2010/CRP.5). That note is being brought to the attention of the Subcommission for its consideration (UNODC/SUBCOM/45/5).

The Subcommission may wish to address other important issues, such as urgent matters arising from the country reports.

## **9. Adoption of the report of the Subcommission on its forty-fifth session**

The Subcommission will adopt the report on its forty-fifth session, including the findings, conclusions and recommendations of the working groups.

## Annex

### Proposed organization of work

<i>Date and time</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>	<i>Subject</i>
<b>Monday, 8 November</b>		
8.30 a.m.		Registration
10 a.m.		Opening of the session
	1	Election of officers
	2	Adoption of the agenda
	3	Current situation with respect to regional and subregional cooperation
3 p.m.	3	Current situation with respect to regional and subregional cooperation ( <i>continued</i> )
	4	Implementation of the recommendations adopted by the Subcommittee at its forty-third session
<b>Tuesday, 9 November</b>		
9 a.m.	5	Working groups
2 p.m.	5	Working groups ( <i>continued</i> )
<b>Wednesday, 10 November</b>		
9 a.m.	5	Working groups ( <i>continued</i> )
2 p.m.	5	Working groups ( <i>continued</i> )
<b>Thursday, 11 November</b>		
9 a.m.	5	Working groups ( <i>continued</i> )
2 p.m.	5	Working groups ( <i>continued</i> )
	6	Follow-up to the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem
<b>Friday, 12 November</b>		
10 a.m.	7	Organization of the forty-sixth session of the Subcommittee
	8	Other business
3 p.m.	9	Adoption of the report