

4 October 2012

Arabic, English and Russian only*

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

Forty-seventh session

Antalya, Turkey, 19-23 November 2012

Item 4 of the provisional agenda**

**Implementation of the recommendations adopted by the
Subcommission at its forty-fifth session**

**Implementation of the recommendations adopted by the
Subcommission at its forty-fifth session**

1. The Subcommission on Illicit Drug Traffic and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East, at its forty-fifth session, held in Damascus, from 8 to 12 November 2010, adopted a set of recommendations following the consideration by working groups of the issues listed below.
2. In accordance with established practice, the report of the forty-fifth session was forwarded to the Governments represented at the session. A questionnaire on the implementation of the recommendations adopted at the forty-fifth session was dispatched on 5 July 2012 for responses by 3 September 2012.
3. The present report was prepared on the basis of information provided to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) by Governments in response to the questionnaire. As of 1 October 2012, seven replies had been received from the Governments of Bahrain, Egypt, Lebanon, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Turkey and Turkmenistan.

* Arabic, English and Russian are the working languages of the subsidiary body.

** UNODC/SUBCOM/47/1.



Issue 1: Afghanistan: the ongoing threat from illicit opium production and trafficking

Recommendation (a)

As part of their strategy to counter trafficking in opiates from Afghanistan, Governments should encourage their law enforcement authorities to work with their Afghan counterparts, build partnerships and increase cooperation, thus strengthening the capacity and effectiveness of the new Afghan institutions.

4. The Government of Bahrain reported that in spite of its geographic distance, it intended to increase cooperation with Afghanistan.
5. As part of its strategy to counter illicit trafficking of narcotics, the Egyptian Government was keen to enhance cooperation with all the security services in the field of information exchange and training through the training institute of the General Directorate for Drug Control and the Police Research Centre at the Police Academy.
6. The Government of Lebanon had not registered seizures of narcotics from Afghanistan.
7. The Government of Qatar reported having participated in meetings to which Afghanistan was a party. Moreover the State of Qatar supported the recommendations issued by these meetings and encouraged cooperation with the law enforcement authorities in Afghanistan.
8. The Government of Saudi Arabia reported that its competent anti-drug authorities sought to explore cooperation with Afghan counterparts to exchange information with a view to curbing trafficking in opiates.
9. In countering the Afghan originated opiate supply, the Turkish Government implemented three major policy initiatives: (i) various expertise training programmes implemented by the Turkish International Academy against Drugs and Organized Crime (TADOC) to improve the investigative capacity of Afghan law enforcement agencies, (ii) Projects targeting the Afghan opiates problem conducted by international organizations (e.g. the Paris Pact Initiative, CARICC), and (iii) appointment of liaison officers to Afghanistan, Central Asia and Islamic Republic of Iran to facilitate information exchange.
10. The Government of Turkmenistan maintained good-neighbourly relations and had established partnerships with all neighbouring States. There was a proposal to include undercover operations in the Drugs Act.

Recommendation (b)

Given the key role of cooperation between drug law enforcement agencies in combating cross-border trafficking, Governments need to ensure that their agencies have the necessary legislative authority, national contact points, an established procedure for the coordination of national authorities, fast clearance procedures and trained officers ready to respond to requests to carry out controlled delivery operations.

11. The Government of Bahrain reported having very close cooperation in respect of controlled delivery with its counterparts in the Gulf Cooperation Council States in particular and also in the Arab world and internationally.

12. The General Directorate for Drug Control of Egypt was the national focal point in drug control operations and the implementation of controlled delivery operations through the codification of procedures by the Attorney General under the provisions of Article 11 of the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988.

13. Lebanon stated that its laws allowed for controlled delivery operations and rotation in the field between the drug control agencies operating on the ground among the various States concerned.

14. Qatar reported having constant coordination between agencies concerning the fight against cross-border trafficking and staff development and training so that they would be ready and alert for any controlled delivery operation according to procedures followed in the State.

15. Saudi Arabia reported that it enacted anti-drug regulations, empowering competent authorities to carry out controlled delivery operations in collaboration with other parties to curb drug trafficking.

16. Turkish law enforcement agencies developed an effective coordination system to eliminate the barriers in domestic and international controlled delivery operations. The department of Anti-Smuggling and Organized Crime (KOM) of the Directorate-General for Security was designated as national authority to conduct domestic and international controlled delivery operations in coordination with the Authorized Ankara Chief Public Prosecutor's Office. The KOM named national contact points for controlled delivery operations. The Turkish parliament was the appropriate legislative body to enact laws on operational procedures. Controlled delivery operations were carried out in accordance with Article 250 of the Turkish Code of Criminal Procedure. In the period between 1997-2012 when relevant legal regulations were enacted in Turkey, 101 international controlled delivery operations were carried out.

17. In Turkmenistan, the competent national authorities had the necessary legislative authority in accordance with the legislation of the country.

Recommendation (c)

If they are to be effective against groups and individuals engaged in the smuggling of heroin, law enforcement authorities must work more closely together, sharing information, coordinating their targeting of suspects and undertaking operations involving controlled delivery, in accordance with national laws.

18. Bahrain reported having implemented this recommendation.

19. The Government of Egypt reported on operations to combat the smuggling of heroin through exchange and coordination of efforts to identify suspects at the national, regional and international levels. If necessary, controlled delivery operations in line with international agreements and national legislation were implemented.

20. The Drug Control Authority in Lebanon had received clear instructions as to the need for cooperation with the various competent agencies of other States in terms of exchange of information and joint investigations, as well as conducting controlled delivery, so as to contribute to the detection of criminal networks.

21. There was constant coordination between the law enforcement authorities of Qatar and their counterparts in neighbouring countries, particularly with respect to controlled delivery operations in line with national laws.

22. Saudi Arabia reported that its competent anti-drug authorities sought to exchange information with their regional counterparts and to carry out controlled delivery operations to curb drug trafficking.

23. Cooperation in Turkey was implemented in three dimensions. First, the KOM developed bilateral cooperation with the drug enforcement agencies of different countries. Second, the KOM made substantial contributions to multilateral projects of UNODC, SECI, INTERPOL, INCB and the Economic Cooperation Organization when necessary. In addition to running joint projects, the KOM provided comprehensive information and analysis to these organizations. Third, the KOM coordinated operations among multiple drug enforcement agencies of various countries. 107 operations were carried out by the KOM Department in cooperation with 27 different countries between 2005-2011. 585 suspects were arrested along with 2.2 tons of heroin, 35 kg cocaine, 15 kg opium gum, 657,815 tablets of "ecstasy", 14,942,218 tablets of captagon, 22,960 l of acetic anhydrite, 217 kg of amphetamine, 19 kg of methamphetamines and 783 g of bonsai.

24. All law enforcement and military bodies of Turkmenistan cooperated closely and exchanged information among themselves and internationally.

Recommendation (d)

Law enforcement authorities should be encouraged by their Governments to support cooperative initiatives such as the Central Asian Regional Information and Coordination Centre, the Economic Cooperation Organization, which facilitate the coordination of investigations, the gathering of information and the targeting of operations against persons or groups engaged in the smuggling of drugs through the Near and Middle East.

25. Bahrain reported supporting international cooperation initiatives.
26. The Egyptian Government welcomed cooperation with all agencies and international organizations involved in combating illicit drug trafficking through exchange of information, coordination and investigations targeting individuals and organized criminal gangs involved in drug trafficking.
27. The drug control agency of Lebanon participated in international meetings and worked in coordination with the Arab Drug Control Office and INTERPOL in terms of gathering and exchange of information and investigations to detect individuals and groups engaged in drug trafficking. Lebanon did not have any link with other regional centres at the Central Asian level.
28. Saudi Arabia reported that its competent anti-drug authorities sought to establish and explore cooperation in all areas pertaining to curbing drug trafficking.
29. Turkey devoted special efforts to initiate and maintain active cooperation with CARICC and the Economic Cooperation Organization since many years. Within this framework between 2011-2012 the KOM had attended seven CARICC meetings abroad and hosted one meeting in Istanbul. A Turkish Liaison Officer would be appointed in CARICC. In the same period the KOM had attended seven Economic Cooperation Organization meetings abroad and hosted one meeting in Ankara. The KOM played an active role in both operational and strategic terms at workshops and policy meetings. Special importance was being given to the establishment of an ECOPOL Centre.
30. Turkmenistan cooperated closely with international and regional organizations such as CARICC, the Economic Cooperation Organization and others.

Issue 2: Meeting the challenge of effective border management**Recommendation (a)**

In response to the increasing use of international mail and express transport services offered by courier companies, Governments should be encouraged to review their practices and procedures with regard to the screening of inbound and outbound consignments using those services.

31. Bahrain conducted regular meetings with postal companies as far as possible to support the above recommendation.
32. In Egypt, suspect incoming and outgoing parcels sent through international mail and express transport services were inspected on a regular basis and there were also specialized training courses for sea and airport staff on investigating suspect items.

33. The Government of Lebanon reported that customs offices subjected all mail consignments, including those sent by courier, to scrutiny. Smuggling operations had been intercepted, in cooperation with the countries concerned in order to detect the persons concerned and bring them before the competent court.
34. There were measures by the Postal Corporation of Qatar, including the examination of inbound and outbound consignments with sophisticated equipment to check that they didn't contain prohibited or restricted substances.
35. Saudi Arabia reported that its competent authorities reviewed the relevant procedure they had in place.
36. In Turkey, the KOM currently ran a nationwide project to increase the capacity of drug enforcement officers in drug interdiction from mail and transport services. The agency worked in close collaboration with mail companies. A training programme was planned for the employees of the mail and cargo companies. In 2011 KOM made significant seizures from the cargo shipments. For instance, 355 kg of heroin were seized from a cargo shipment from Van to Istanbul. In 2010, the KOM and the Serious Organised Crime Agency of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland had conducted a joint controlled delivery which ended up with interdiction of 159 kg of heroin in a cargo shipment.
37. The screening of inbound and outbound consignments using international mail and express transport services offered by courier companies was in accordance with the current legislation of Turkmenistan.

Recommendation (b)

Governments should encourage the law enforcement agencies managing their land, sea and air borders to develop cooperating agreements that promote regular information-sharing, joint training for undertaking common tasks, and coordination in the planning and execution of operations against drug trafficking.

38. Bahrain had a high degree of cooperation with its neighbouring country Saudi Arabia, because of the single land border between them.
39. Egypt reported having several bilateral agreements with neighbouring countries as well as constant exchange of information and joint training. Harmonized meetings were held for those working in border areas for the planning and implementation of joint operations to combat illicit drug trafficking.
40. Lebanon had established a military security agency to control land borders.
41. There were joint cooperation agreements between Qatar and the agencies of the Gulf Cooperation Council States and the Islamic Republic of Iran on the exchange of experiences and information and joint training.
42. Saudi Arabia reported on the continuous coordination between competent anti-drug authorities and border control agencies in exchanging information and executing joint anti-drug trafficking operations.
43. In Turkey, the KOM had launched three projects to strengthen the capacity of border interdiction in collaboration with other relevant national agencies. The first project dealt with strengthening the capacity of border provinces and had

increased the number of staff, volume of intelligence analysis and number of operational projects in the border provinces. The second project dealt with the training of airport KOM staff on risk analysis and interdiction. As a result, cocaine, heroin, methamphetamine and bonsai seizures at airports had substantially increased. The third project dealt with improving cooperation with Customs Service in seaports. Up to the present a mid-scale workshop had been held in Ankara with the attendance of 16 experts from different provincial units.

44. All law enforcement and military bodies of Turkmenistan cooperated closely and exchanged information.

Recommendation (c)

Governments should be encouraged to review their approach to border management so as to ensure that their strategies adequately meet national needs and that the border control agencies responsible for implementing those strategies are appropriately staffed, trained and equipped.

45. The Government of Bahrain reported having implemented this recommendation

46. The Government of Egypt reported having offices and branches covering all parts of its territory, which were equipped with the latest drug detectors and staff trained to work in this area.

47. The Lebanese Government was seeking to tighten control of land and sea borders by obtaining adequate equipment and human resources, but this was prevented by weak financial capabilities.

48. The Government of Qatar reported having a national strategy that responded to national needs and was striving to raise the level of the officers working on the borders and to develop new technologies for the detection of prohibited substances.

49. The Government of Turkmenistan paid great attention to ensuring that the law enforcement and military bodies of Turkmenistan were appropriately staffed and technically equipped.

Recommendation (d)

Governments should review and, where necessary, upgrade the technology available to their law enforcement agencies for detecting drugs being smuggled by land, sea and air, in order to better meet the challenges of innovative concealment techniques, and in undertaking that review, Governments may wish to seek the support and assistance of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime.

50. The Government of Bahrain reported having implemented this recommendation

51. The Egyptian Government was keen to cooperate with UNODC through the implementation of training projects to build the capacity of the control apparatus and endorsed the capacity-building project for the control apparatus of the countries of the Western Balkans and the Southern Mediterranean 2008/2009.

52. The Lebanese Government was deploying security devices that would help to detect attempts to hide contraband, including drugs, at most points of entry and, in accordance with its financial capabilities, was seeking to equip the remaining ones with such devices. In this context, the Lebanese Government hoped to receive financial support and expertise for those working in the drug control agency and at officially approved points of entry.

53. The Government of Qatar reported on its cooperation with UNODC with respect to detection of drugs through notification of innovative concealment techniques, and benefitted from UNODC's experience in this regard.

54. The Government of Saudi Arabia reported the use of technological tools by its authorities responsible for border entry and exit points to curb drug trafficking.

55. In Turkey, the KOM used the latest technology to detect drugs being smuggled by land, sea and air. A division of the agency was in charge of updating the detection technology and intelligence tools.

56. Scheduled work was being carried out in Turkmenistan to increase the level of specialized training of officers, to improve their working conditions and to improve the technical and other equipment available to them.

Issue 3: Controlling precursor chemicals and addressing the growing challenge of unregulated alternatives and trafficking in and illicit manufacture and use of amphetamine-type stimulants in the Near and Middle East

Recommendation (a)

Governments of producing, transit and destination countries should be encouraged to strengthen their control over precursor chemicals and prevent them from being diverted to be used in illicit drug manufacture by gathering and exchanging information on non-scheduled substances, including derivatives especially designed to circumvent existing controls.

57. The Government of Bahrain reported having implemented this recommendation

58. In Egypt, precursor chemicals diverted into the illicit manufacture of drugs were controlled through the Tripartite Committee and in cooperation with the INCB.

59. In Lebanon, control of substances involved in the manufacture of drugs and pharmaceutical preparations pertained to the Ministry of Public Health. Prior authorization procedures and consignments were subject to control by officials so that they were not diverted to illicit use, especially in the context of manufacturing drugs.

60. In Qatar, the Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Control Directorate of the Supreme Council of Health issued instruments to the bodies authorized to import precursor chemicals. When precursor chemicals were exported, the Directorate applied the Pre-Export Notification (PEN) system, which defined the control of precursors in Qatar.

61. Saudi Arabia reported that it encouraged and developed collective action by competent anti-drug authorities, the Health Ministry Poison Control Centre and the

Public Food and Drug Administration, including by facilitating the exchange of information on drugs and precursor chemicals.

62. Turkey's KOM had strengthened the control over precursor chemicals in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and import/export companies. National agencies worked in close collaboration. Moreover, national agencies established an early warning system to gather information on non-scheduled substances.

63. Turkmenistan reported that it did not produce precursor chemicals. The movement of precursors on the territory of Turkmenistan was carried out strictly on the basis of decisions and instructions issued by the Government.

Recommendation (b)

In order to strengthen cooperation among relevant chemical and pharmaceutical industries, Governments of producing, transit and destination countries should encourage their competent national authorities to develop codes of conduct or memorandums of understanding that support mutual cooperation in efforts to prevent precursor chemicals from being diverted to be used in the illicit manufacture of drugs, including pharmaceutical preparations and psychotropic substances.

64. The Government of Bahrain reported having implemented this recommendation

65. In Egypt, mutual cooperation for the control of precursors was carried out pursuant the guidelines issued by the INCB.

66. Qatar reported that a draft law on trading in precursor chemicals was still under consideration.

67. Saudi Arabia reported that a group of experts from anti-drug authorities and the Public Food and Drug Administration undertook visits to companies in pharmaceutical and chemical industries with a view to joining efforts to prevent those substances from being diverted for use in the illicit manufacture of drugs.

68. Turkish Government agencies worked in close collaboration with chemical and pharmaceutical industries to control the illicit movement of chemical precursors. The companies provided all necessary information on flow of licit precursors and reported to the Government when they came across suspicious movements. Necessary codes of conduct and memorandum of understanding were developed between the public and private sectors.

69. Turkmenistan did not produce precursor chemicals. The movement of precursors on the territory of Turkmenistan was carried out strictly on the basis of decisions and instructions issued by the Government.

Recommendation (c)

Governments of producing, transit and destination countries should be encouraged to develop practical procedures for the safe handling and disposal of seized precursor chemicals, in cooperation with competent regional and international bodies.

70. The Government of Bahrain reported having implemented this recommendation.

71. Egypt reported that this was done through attendance at the relevant committees.

72. Qatar reported that the texts of the Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Control Directorate regulated the import of precursor chemicals through the Pharmaceuticals Committee.

73. Saudi Arabia reported that the implementation of this recommendation was achieved through customs regulations, regulations against drugs and psychotropic substances, and regulations on chemical substance import and management.

74. Turkmenistan reported that it did not produce precursor chemicals. The movement of precursors on the territory of Turkmenistan was carried out strictly on the basis of decisions and instructions issued by the Government.

Recommendation (d)

Governments should be encouraged to develop better strategies to control the production of precursor chemicals such as acetic anhydride.

75. In Egypt, this substance was included in the Third Schedule of the Egyptian Drugs Act and subject to unprecedented controls on its import and export and legitimate uses, as well as penalties to prevent misuse.

76. In Saudi Arabia, precursor chemicals and chemicals in general were produced by authorized companies that comply with strict requirements and procedures established by the Government.

77. The Turkish National Strategy in Counter Narcotics covered effective measures on control of precursor chemicals. This strategy and national action plans were implemented in accordance with the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988 and the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem adopted in 2009.

78. Turkmenistan reported that it did not produce precursor chemicals. The movement of precursors on the territory of Turkmenistan was carried out strictly on the basis of decisions and instructions issued by the Government.
