

UNDCP/SUBCOM/1998/1

11 May 1998

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

THIRTY-THIRD SESSION OF THE SUBCOMMISSION  
ON ILLICIT DRUG TRAFFIC AND RELATED  
MATTERS IN THE NEAR AND MIDDLE EAST  
Beirut, 29 June to 3 July 1998  
Item 2 of the provisional agenda

**ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

***Provisional agenda***

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda.
3. Current situation with respect to regional and subregional cooperation.
4. Consideration of topics by working groups:
  - (a) Illicit trafficking in precursors;
  - (b) Terrorist organizations involved in drug trafficking;
  - (c) Illicit cultivation and production of opiates;
  - (d) New trends in illicit traffic in drugs.
5. Implementation of the recommendations adopted by the Subcommission at its thirty-first session.
6. Implementation by States of the region of the provisions of the 1988 Convention.
7. Review of issues for consideration by the special session of the General Assembly on international drug control.
8. Organization of the thirty-fourth session of the Subcommission.
9. Other business.
10. Adoption of the report.

### Annotations

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

Elections are held in accordance with rule 15 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council (E/5975/Rev.1). At its thirty-second session, the Subcommission elected a Chairman, two Vice-Chairmen and a Rapporteur.

#### **2. Adoption of the agenda**

The provisional agenda for the thirty-third session of the Subcommission was proposed by the Subcommission at its thirty-second session and approved by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs at its fortieth session. Following the adoption of the agenda, the Meeting establishes a timetable for the session. A provisional timetable for the consideration of the Meeting is attached.

Participants are invited to submit to the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP) at their earliest convenience a two- to three-page country report on trends in illicit drug traffic during the past year. Reports not exceeding three pages received by 10 June 1998 will be translated into the other working languages of the Meeting.

*Special note.* In order to focus better on the substantive discussions, the Commission has recommended that general statements concerning national trends in illicit drug trafficking and statistics should not be read out but rather circulated in written form. The time and interpretation services thus saved could be used for the examination of more concrete topics.

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

At its thirty-eighth session, the Commission on Narcotic Drugs placed emphasis on better coordination at the regional and subregional levels, and in particular on cross-border cooperation, so as to counter illicit drug-trafficking operations at the regional level. Participants should inform the meeting only of new and important trends having an impact on cooperation, or of new developments that drug law enforcement agencies from a particular region should be made aware of.

Participants are invited to inform the Meeting of the main issues impeding cooperation between law enforcement agencies. The focus of attention is cross-border drug law enforcement cooperation, including bilateral and multilateral agreements or arrangements recently concluded in areas relating to controlled delivery, witness protection, tracing, freezing and seizing of assets of drug crime, extradition and transfer of proceedings in criminal matters. The aim is to better enable agencies to keep abreast of and to track illegal operations, interdict drugs, dismantle criminal syndicates and bring offenders to justice.

The item will be introduced by UNDCP, and will include an overview of the evolving and ongoing subregional law enforcement cooperation programmes between Governments and UNDCP.

### ***Documentation***

Current situation with respect to regional and subregional cooperation (UNDCP/SUBCOM/1998/2).

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

As in the past, the Meeting will review specific regional issues, with the objective of resolving operational problems facing drug law enforcement officials and enhancing regional cooperation. It is proposed that the issues be considered by informal ad hoc working groups to ensure a frank and open exchange of views concerning ways and means of addressing specific problems facing the region and to present specific findings and recommendations to the plenary.

The topics indicated below were agreed upon at the thirty-second session, and are suggested for consideration by the working groups.

### **(a) Illicit trafficking in precursors**

Prior to the discussion, there will be a presentation by a representative of the World Customs Organization on this topic and a technical background paper prepared by the Secretariat of the International Narcotics Control Board will have been made available to all Subcommission Session attendees. The Working Group may then wish to elaborate on matters including:

Current trends in illicit trafficking in precursors within the region; known or suspected sources of such materials; points of vulnerability in terms of diversion of precursors to illicit markets from licit channels; capabilities of national services to combat illicit trafficking in precursors; measures to improve such capabilities; means of enhancing cooperation with licit manufacturers and suppliers of chemicals that may be used in illicit drug production and manufacture; adherence to international conventions and guidelines relating to precursors; enhancement of regional and cross-border cooperation in this field; means of increasing levels of awareness within the region to precursor control measures and to raising the effectiveness of national services in preventing the diversion of precursors to illicit markets.

**(b) Terrorist organizations involved in drug trafficking**

Prior to the discussion, there will be a presentation by a representative of Turkey on this topic. The Working Group may then wish to elaborate on matters including:

Identification of terrorist groups within the region that are known or are suspected to have links with illicit trafficking; measures for disrupting such links, including the ready exchange of information; the extent to which the financial assets of terrorist groups are bolstered by profits derived from trafficking activity, whether directly or indirectly; measures to seize and confiscate such assets; the extent to which action against drug traffickers by national services is prevented or impeded as a result of involvement on the part of terrorist groups; connections between illicit drug trafficking and the illicit trade in arms; obstacles to regional or cross-border cooperation in combatting the involvement of terrorist groups in the illicit drugs trade; means of increasing such regional and cross-border cooperation.

**(c) Illicit cultivation and production of opiates**

Prior to the discussion there will be a presentation by a representative of Pakistan on this topic. The Working Group may then wish to elaborate on matters including:

Current regional trends in illicit cultivation of opium poppy and cannabis; means of increasing knowledge concerning the areas and extent of illicit cultivation; measures to reduce or eliminate illicit cultivation, including possibilities for alternative development initiatives; means of increasing understanding of the dynamics pertaining to the movement of illicitly produced raw opium to locations where it will be used in the illicit manufacture or production of morphine and heroin; measures to locate and destroy clandestine laboratories; measures to prevent the establishment of clandestine laboratories; means of raising awareness within national services of clandestine laboratories and of the equipment and other materials associated with them; measures to increase regional and cross-border cooperation in respect of illicit cultivation of opium poppy and cannabis and of the clandestine manufacture and production of opiates.

**(d) New Trends in illicit traffic in drugs**

Prior to the discussion, there will be a presentation by a representative of ICPO-Interpol on this topic. The Working Group may then wish to elaborate on matters including:

New types or variants of illicit drugs appearing within the region; new trends in terms of trafficking routes and modes of concealment employed by traffickers; identification of areas of the region that are of increasing or emerging significance in the context of trafficking; means of increasing and improving anti-trafficking activities in areas of potential vulnerability, e.g., free trade zones and remote border crossings; means of improving awareness and

throughout the region of relevant new trends in illicit traffic, including increasing and speeding up the contribution of data to international and regional information systems; measures to ensure that information of potential operational or strategic value reaches those 'front line' services who are best placed to utilize it in combatting illicit trafficking.

## **5. Implementation of the recommendations adopted by the Subcommission at its thirty-first session**

Participants are invited to inform the Meeting of action taken by their Governments in the implementation of the recommendations adopted at the thirty-first session. The Meeting will have before it a document prepared by UNDCP on the basis of replies received to a questionnaire concerning action taken by Governments in implementing the recommendations.

To enable the Secretariat to prepare a meaningful report on the status of implementation of the recommendations adopted at the thirty-first Meeting, participants are urged to return the completed questionnaire by 10 June 1998.

*Special note.* The Subcommission at its thirty-first session agreed on the advisability of examining the implementation of recommendations not one year but rather two years after their adoption, to ensure that Governments had sufficient time to take action with a view to their implementation and to report on such action to the Secretariat. Therefore, at the thirty-fourth session of the Subcommission, there should be an agenda item on the implementation of the recommendations adopted at the thirty-second session.

### ***Documentation***

Review of implementation by States of the region of the recommendations adopted by the Subcommission at its thirty-first session. (UNDCP/SUBCOM/1998/3).

## **6. Implementation by States of the region of the provisions of the 1988 Convention**

Participants are invited to inform the Meeting of action taken by their Governments to implement the provisions of the 1988 Convention.

The Subcommission at its thirtieth session requested UNDCP to prepare a special, article-by-article questionnaire designed to assess the regional implementation of the 1988 Convention. Pursuant to that request, UNDCP prepared and circulated the questionnaire to the members of the Subcommission at its thirty-first session with a request for replies in order to facilitate the review and assessment by UNDCP of the implementation of the provisions of the Convention. Further copies of the questionnaire were dispatched with the letters of invitation to the thirty-second session of the Subcommission.

Due to insufficient replies received at the thirty-second session of the Subcommittee, it was not possible for the Secretariat to undertake an in-depth analysis of the status of implementation of the 1988 Convention in the region. Therefore, it was decided to continue examining the implementation of the 1988 Convention at its thirty-third session. UNDCP was also requested to evaluate and continuously monitor such implementation.

### *Documentation*

Review of implementation by States of the region of the provisions of the 1988 Convention (UNDCP/SUBCOM/1998/4).

## **7. Review of issues for consideration by the special session of the General Assembly on international drug control**

The twentieth special session of the General-Assembly (8-10 June 1998), will be devoted to the fight against the illicit production, sale, demand, traffic and distribution of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances and related activities. It is envisaged that the special session will adopt: the draft political declaration; draft declaration on the guiding principles of drug demand reduction; action plan on international cooperation on eradication of illicit drug crops and on alternative development; action plan against illicit manufacture, trafficking and abuse of amphetamine-type stimulants and their precursors; control of precursors; measures to promote judicial cooperation and countering money-laundering.

Taking place subsequently to the special session, the Meeting may wish to consider new modalities by which to pursue more effective regional cooperation and develop a more coordinated regional machinery in the suppression of illicit traffic.

The Meeting may also wish to consider ways by which supply and demand reduction measures might be better balanced. More emphasis might be placed on the prevention of illicit drug consumption in the context of socio-economic development and change and bearing in mind regional diversities.

The Meeting may wish to propose ways by which to develop and promote an international long-term enforcement strategy taking into account lessons learned by the key national agencies and to be implemented under the United Nations auspices in the context of relevant mandates.

## **8. Organization of the thirty-fourth session of the Subcommittee**

The Meeting is invited to consider a draft provisional agenda (future UNDCP/SUBCOM/1999) for its thirty-fourth session, including proposed issues for consideration by working groups.

For future planning, it would be helpful if the venues for the thirty-fourth and thirty-fifth sessions of the Subcommittee could already be established. The Secretariat will supply, upon request, a copy of the standard letter of agreement explaining the contributions of the United Nations and the contributions of the host country.

The Meeting is also invited to discuss any other matter related to the organization of its deliberations with a view to improving their substantive content and follow-up.

### *Documentation*

Organization of the thirty-fourth session of the Subcommittee  
(UNDCP/SUBCOM/1998/5).

## **9. Other business**

Under this agenda item, the Meeting may wish to address any other important issue or urgent matter arising from the country reports.

## **10. Adoption of the report**

Before closing, the Meeting adopts its report, including the reports of the working groups and recommendations.

**Provisional timetable**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Subject</b>
Monday, 29 June 1998	8 a.m.	Registration/1
	10 a.m.	Opening of session
		<i>Item 1.</i> Election of officers
		<i>Item 2.</i> Adoption of agenda
Tuesday, 30 June 1998		<i>Item 3.</i> Current situation with respect to regional and subregional cooperation
	2 p.m.	<i>Item 3.</i> Continuation of discussion
	9 a.m.	<i>Item 5.</i> Implementation of recommendations adopted by the Subcommission at its thirty-first session
	2 p.m.	<i>Item 6.</i> Implementation by States of the region of the provisions of the 1988 Convention
	2 p.m.	<i>Item 7.</i> Review of issues for consideration by the special session of the General Assembly on international drug control
Wednesday, 1 July 1998		<i>Item 4.</i> Consideration of topics by working groups (time permitting)
	9 a.m.	<i>Item 4.</i> Working groups (cont'd)
	2 p.m.	<i>Item 4.</i> Working groups (cont'd)
Thursday, 2 July 1998	9 a.m.	<i>Item 4.</i> Working groups (cont'd)
	2 p.m.	<i>Item 4.</i> Working groups (cont'd)
Friday, 3 July 1998	9 a.m.	<i>Item 8.</i> Organization of the thirty-fourth session of the Subcommission
		<i>Item 9.</i> Other business
	2 p.m.	<i>Item 10.</i> Adoption of the report

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Registration will begin in the afternoon of Sunday, 28 June, and continue from 8:00 a.m. on Monday, 29 June 1998, at the venue of the Meeting.