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**Commission on Narcotic Drugs**

Forty-fifth session

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**Draft report***Rapporteur:* Jaroslav **Stepanek** (Czech Republic)**Addendum****Illicit drug traffic and supply****A. Structure of the debate**

1. At its 2nd and 3rd meetings, on 11 and 12 March 2002, the Committee of the Whole considered item 7 of the agenda, entitled "Illicit drug traffic and supply: (a) world situation with regard to drug trafficking and reports of subsidiary bodies of the Commission; and (b) follow-up to the twentieth special session of the General Assembly: (i) measures to promote judicial cooperation (extradition, mutual legal assistance, controlled delivery, trafficking by sea and law enforcement cooperation, including training), (ii) countering money-laundering and (iii) Action Plan on International Cooperation on the Eradication of Illicit Drug Crops and on Alternative Development".

2. The Commission considered item 7 at its 1220th and 1221st meetings, on 14 March 2002. The Committee of the Whole and the Commission had before them the following documents:

(a) Report of the Secretariat on the world situation with regard to illicit drug trafficking and action taken by subsidiary bodies of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (E/CN.7/2002/4 and Corr.1 and Add.1);

(b) Report of the Executive Director on international assistance to the States most affected by the transit of drugs (E/CN.7/2002/5).

3. At the 2nd meeting of the Committee of the Whole, on 11 March 2002, an introductory statement was made by a representative of the Secretariat. Statements were made by the representatives of Turkey, Australia and Japan.



4. The Committee of the Whole continued its consideration of agenda item 7 in its 3rd meeting, on 12 March 2002. Statements were made by the representatives of the Czech Republic, China, Myanmar and New Zealand.

5. At the 1220th meeting of the Commission, on 14 March 2002, agenda item 7, a representative of UNDCP gave an audio-visual presentation on the world situation with regard to drug trafficking and supply trends, as well as on the outcome of the work of the Committee of the Whole.

6. At the 1221st meeting of the Commission, statements were made on agenda item 7 by the representatives of Australia, Spain, Venezuela, Germany, Bolivia, Turkey, Hungary, Belarus, Panama, South Africa, the Republic of Korea, Morocco, the Netherlands, Uruguay, Jordan, China, Nigeria, Japan, Ecuador, the Czech Republic, New Zealand, India and Ukraine.

## **B. Deliberations**

### **Reduction of illicit drug supply**

7. A representative of the Secretariat informed the Commission that the global supply of heroin had declined considerably during 2001, mainly because of the substantive reduction of opium production in Afghanistan during that year. In 2002, however, opium production in Afghanistan had increased again. Drug trafficking developments, which had been assessed for the period up to 2000, reflected a huge increase in heroin seizures at the global level, assumed to be the result of the enormous opium production peak in Afghanistan during 1999. Heroin prices had continued to decrease in North America and Western Europe. Production of cocaine in 2001 was estimated to have followed trends of previous years; Colombia had remained the main cocaine-producing country. In 2000, seizures of cocaine had declined in North America and Western Europe, the two main consumer markets for that substance; in both of those subregions, cocaine prices had continued to be stable or decreasing. As for cannabis, seizures of cannabis herb had greatly increased in 2000, while seizures of cannabis resin had continued to be stable. For the first time in many years, illicit manufacture of and trafficking in amphetamine-type stimulants had levelled off. In the case of some stimulants, such as methamphetamine in North America and amphetamine in Western Europe, there had been decreasing trends; however, methamphetamine seizures continued to rise in East and South-East Asia. Finally, trafficking in Ecstasy-type substances had increased further worldwide; countries in Western Europe, mainly the Netherlands, had continued to be the primary suppliers of such substances.

8. In the Committee of the Whole and in the plenary, those who spoke on item 7 expressed concern over the situation developing in Afghanistan and the possibility of there again being substantial illicit opium production in that country. The representative of Spain, speaking on behalf of the member States of the European Union, called for a strong international response to the recent renewed increase in opium production in Afghanistan that would take into account humanitarian aspects and ensure the sustained reduction of opium production in that country. The representative of Germany informed the Commission of his Government's initiative to assist in rebuilding the civilian police force in Afghanistan. Other representatives

pledged the support of their Governments for such initiatives. In the light of the current situation in Afghanistan, UNDCP was encouraged to contribute to efforts to maintain the “security belt” strategy and programmes in the neighbouring countries.

9. Several speakers noted that trafficking in amphetamine-type stimulants had been growing quickly in East and South-East Asia. The two main types of amphetamine-type stimulants trafficked in that subregion were methamphetamine and MDMA. The representative of Australia reported that seizures of both of those types of amphetamine-type stimulants had increased significantly in 2001. The representative of Japan noted the continued flow of methamphetamine into his country, as evidenced by the rising trend in MDMA seizures. The representative of New Zealand informed the Commission that there had been a sharp rise in the clandestine manufacture of methamphetamine in his country. The representative of the Czech Republic noted the growing threat of Ecstasy-type substances in his country. The representative of Panama stated that trafficking in Ecstasy had substantially increased in his country. The representative of the Netherlands reported on recent developments in illicit drug supply, in particular the development of an action plan aimed at substantially reducing production and distribution of Ecstasy in his country. The representative of Jordan noted the increased prevalence of amphetamine-type stimulants and other synthetic drugs in West Asia.

10. In the discussion of measures taken to combat drug trafficking, the emphasis was on international cooperation. Operation Purple, a programme for tracking individual shipments of the precursor potassium permanganate, and Operation Topaz, a similar initiative for tracking shipments of the precursor acetic anhydride, were mentioned as examples of successful initiatives requiring international cooperation. The representatives of China and Myanmar informed the Commission of cooperation activities involving China, the Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Myanmar and Thailand. Among the other drug control measures mentioned were provision of police training, the dissemination and systematic exchange of information; precursor control, efforts to combat money-laundering, the dismantling of clandestine drug laboratories, and national cooperation agreements concerning police, customs, chemical and pharmaceutical industries and the health sector. The representative of Australia noted that international cooperation and the building of partnerships were key elements of effective drug control policy. Against the background of increased globalization, the representative of Venezuela, speaking on behalf of the members of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States, called for a concerted international response to the problems of illicit drugs and crime.

11. It was noted that training was essential to efforts to counter drug trafficking and money-laundering effectively. Some speakers gave examples of some specialized training provided by national institutions, such as training in financial investigation and drug interdiction techniques and training for drug detector dogs. The representatives of Nigeria and Turkey informed the Commission that their Governments were supporting regional training academies that offered facilities for the training of law enforcement personnel.

12. A number of speakers reported on the establishment of national drug control units and on the adoption of national action plans and strategies as key elements in efforts to fight the drug problem. The representative of Hungary reported on the establishment of a new drug control division. The representative of Jordan informed the Commission of the adoption of a national anti-drug plan that included guidelines

for State institutions, as well as non-governmental organizations, on cooperation aimed at the reduction of illicit drug demand and supply; he also emphasized the importance of carrying out research studies in understanding the underlying factors of drug problems. More and more Governments were establishing inter-agency task forces to focus more on dismantling groups engaged in drug trafficking and cross-border crime and prosecuting the members of those groups. That approach was reported to be more effective in that it pooled operational resources, intelligence and legislated powers.

13. A number of speakers highlighted the importance of systematic data collection and the methodical analysis of data in supporting intelligence-led interdiction strategies and providing Governments information on current trends in drug and crime patterns to enable them to maximize the effectiveness of measures to address drug- and crime-related problems.

#### **Measures to combat money-laundering**

14. A number of speakers informed the Commission of measures that had been recently introduced to combat money-laundering. The representative of Uruguay reported the implementation of new legislation aimed at providing training for the judiciary, prosecutors and law enforcement agencies and raising awareness among the members of the banking community of their legal obligation to report suspicious transactions. Other representatives reported on the establishment of financial intelligence units in their countries to identify suspicious bank transactions for further investigation by law enforcement agencies.

[...]

#### **Measures to improve judicial cooperation**

[...]

#### **Action taken by subsidiary bodies of the Commission**

15. It was noted that the subsidiary bodies of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs had held four meetings in 2001 and one meeting in 2002: the Eleventh Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Latin America and the Caribbean, had been held in Panama City, from 2 to 5 October 2001; the Twenty-fifth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Asia and the Pacific, had been held in Sydney, Australia, from 15 to 18 October 2001; the thirty-sixth session of the Subcommittee on Illicit Drug Traffic and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East had been held in Abu Dhabi from 4 to 7 November 2001; the Eleventh Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Africa, had been held in Nairobi from 26 to 29 November 2001; and the Fifth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Europe, had been held in Vienna from 15 to 18 January 2002.

16. The issues dealt with by specialized working groups in those meetings had included the following: the increasing threat posed by amphetamine-type stimulants; precursor monitoring and control; ways to improve the coordination and effectiveness of law enforcement efforts; the situation in Afghanistan; cooperation

in the sharing of intelligence; and the challenges that cyber crime posed to law enforcement.

17. The discussion of those issues had resulted in recommendations on the following: intelligence-sharing and the establishment of national focal points for the coordination and sharing of intelligence; promoting the exchange of information and improving investigative techniques to combat money-laundering; the provision by Governments of adequate resources to tackle high-technology and cyber crime; supporting the establishment of a national law enforcement body in Afghanistan; and the improvement of training for law enforcement staff in a number of areas, including the profiling and identification of drug couriers and precursor chemicals.

18. The representative of Australia reported on the outcome of the Twenty-fifth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Asia and the Pacific. The representative of Turkey reported on the outcome of the Fifth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Europe.

### **C. Action taken**

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