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Illicit drug traffic and supply**Strengthening international cooperation in the control of
opium poppy cultivation****Report of the Executive Director**

1. In its resolution 45/10, the Commission on Narcotic Drugs called upon the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP) to strengthen its capacity in Afghanistan in the key thematic areas of drug control so that it could provide the necessary technical support, subject to the availability of voluntary resources, to mainstream drug control as a cross-cutting issue in reconstruction and development, giving priority to areas under opium poppy cultivation, and called upon the Executive Director to submit to the Commission at its forty-sixth session a report on the progress made in the implementation of the resolution. The present report is submitted pursuant to that request.

2. UNDCP has provided advisory and technical support to the Transitional Administration of Afghanistan and to the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) to ensure that drug control is an integral part of all policies, strategies and projects implemented by the Administration, the United Nations and other international organizations. The overall strategy for development in Afghanistan included drug control as a cross-cutting issue. In that multidimensional context, UNDCP has focused its efforts on the following areas of drug control: policy support, legislation and advocacy; elimination of illicit crops; suppression of illicit drug trafficking; and the prevention and reduction of drug abuse. To ensure cost-effective delivery of assistance, UNDCP has focused on capacity-building for government institutions involved in drug control and has provided a range of advisory, training, support and technical services to that end.

* E/CN.7/2003/1.



3. As an initial means of helping to build the necessary governmental capacity, UNDCP functions as the secretariat to the Counter-Narcotics Department of the National Security Council and to the Transnational Administration's working groups in the five thematic areas of drug control in Afghanistan: law enforcement; demand reduction; alternative livelihoods for poppy producers; judicial reform; and institution-building. The representative of the Programme also functioned as Special Adviser on Drugs to the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Afghanistan, ensuring close cooperation with UNAMA and the United Nations system. UNDCP plays a leading role in the coordination of drug control in Afghanistan in partnership with the Transitional Administration, UNAMA and donor countries.
4. UNDCP also provided support for the Transitional Administration in missions and meetings related to drug control. In its effort to strengthen the institutional capacity of the Counter-Narcotics Department of the National Security Council as well as that of other lead ministries, the Programme has provided expertise, policy drafting assistance and technical support. Likewise, it has continued to provide advisory and technical assistance to United Nations entities and other international and local institutions working in Afghanistan.
5. At the request of and in close cooperation with the Counter-Narcotics Department and as part of its overall strategy to build capacity, UNDCP has assisted in the creation of six joint provincial offices with the Transitional Administration that will make the provision of training and support to Afghan staff efficient and effective.
6. To the extent possible, UNDCP intends to place its international experts in the National Security Council and relevant line ministries in order to ensure the rapid transfer of technical knowledge and skills in drug control to Afghan nationals.
7. With regard to drug control legislation, UNDCP has assisted the Transitional Administration in the preparation and enactment of comprehensive drug legislation, modalities and structures.
8. UNDCP functioned as the secretariat of the Working Group on Law Enforcement, which endorsed the draft national drug control strategy. The Programme also assisted the National Security Adviser in the finalization and translation into Dari of the draft strategy for submission to the Cabinet.
9. As the secretariat of the Working Group on Alternative Livelihoods, UNDCP studied the potential positive role of micro-credit and other financing schemes to dissuade farmers from cultivating opium poppy. The Working Group worked on the improvement and standardization of the level of knowledge among its members on terminology, issues and strategies related to alternative livelihoods.
10. The Programme is working closely with the Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development to create and maintain a database of district-level activities as alternative livelihoods for opium poppy producers with the aim of offering policy and planning advice and a better understanding of best practices.
11. A seminar was held in Kabul in December 2002 for the Working Group on Demand Reduction, with UNDCP functioning as secretariat, aimed at health officials and other drug abuse officials with a view to creating a better

understanding of the drug demand situation among Afghan communities and of the extent of current service provision in the field of demand reduction.

12. UNDCP has pursued an integrated approach to demand reduction, bringing together key agencies in health care, education and community development for the purpose of training and coordination of services.

13. In an effort to provide a baseline for discussions on the extent and provincial distribution of opium poppy cultivation, to collect data on opium prices and to monitor the expansion or reduction of opium poppy cultivation, UNDCP has been working closely with the Transitional Administration to carry out an opium poppy survey. In addition, a farmers' intention survey is expected to be launched soon.

14. As requested in resolution 45/10, UNDCP has been providing advisory and technical support to UNAMA to ensure that drug control is an integral part of all policies and strategies, as well as all projects implemented by the United Nations and other international organizations.

15. As called for in resolution 45/10, UNDCP has continued to cooperate with Member States and relevant international organizations to provide alternative livelihoods for opium poppy producers. At a first quadripartite meeting, which was attended by the representatives of the Transitional Administration of Afghanistan, the Governments of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and UNDCP, with the United States of America as observer, it was agreed to cooperate in providing alternative livelihoods for opium poppy producers.
