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**Illicit drug traffic and supply: follow-up to the
twentieth special session of the General Assembly**

International assistance to States affected by the transit of illicit drugs

Report of the Executive Director**

I. Introduction

1. The present report has been prepared pursuant to Economic and Social Council resolution 2005/27 of 22 July 2005, entitled "International assistance to the States affected by the transit of illicit drugs". The strategic approach of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) includes assistance to transit States in the upgrading of legislation and judicial procedures; the strengthening of the technical skills of law enforcement agencies; the improvement of data collection by national agencies to support informed responses to combat illicit drug trafficking and the problems associated with it; the provision of equipment to front-line operations; the strengthening of cross-border and regional cooperation and assistance to develop self-sustaining training in best operating practices for government law enforcement services.

2. The present report focuses on several specific initiatives which the Office is engaged in. These provide examples of the practical support Member States affected by the transit of illicit drugs are receiving.

* E/CN.7/2006/1.

** The present report takes into account recent consultations.



II. The global container control programme

3. The global container control programme has been designed to respond to the threat posed by the use of international sea containers as a conveyance for illicit drugs and contraband. The volume of cargo shipped in containers continues to rise significantly, with industry forecasts expecting it to double over the period 1999-2012. At present, more than 220 million sea containers are in use carrying up to 90 per cent of the world's trade. Their use in transporting illegal goods disguised as legal trade is well documented, while raised international awareness of the threats to economic and civil security have had an impact on how the security of the trade supply chain is viewed.

4. The UNODC container control programme is a fundamental building block in the international strategy to strengthen control over containers and enhance the overall security of the global trade supply chain. It is being introduced in four countries at six ports, beginning with Ecuador, in the ports of Guayaquil and Manta, and then starting in Senegal at the port of Dakar, Ghana (Tema) and Pakistan (Karachi and Port Qasim) as project agreements are signed with national counterparts and funding is received.

5. The objective of the programme is to assist these countries to establish joint port control units comprising law enforcement officials from the police and the customs and port authorities. The units will have the task of improving knowledge of and control over the movement of sea containers, in-bound and out-bound, with a view to identifying those used for smuggling of drugs and other contraband. Under the assistance package, modern working methods related to customs clearance and law enforcement are being introduced. New technical equipment, including information technology tools and software, to support the enforcement units is also being provided, along with systems to address integrity, accountability and codes of conduct for the agencies involved. The programme is assisting the new teams to become competent in effective risk assessment, targeting and profiling skills so that suspicious containers are identified early for examination by law enforcement services.

6. The programme is also giving special attention to developing the law enforcement knowledge base of freight-forwarders, shippers and consignees and to enhancing cooperation between the public sector (law enforcement agencies) and the private sector (commercial companies engaged in maritime trade). Coordination between law enforcement authorities at the national and international levels is being promoted so as to maintain control over the movement of containers in transit. The Customs Cooperation Council (also known as the World Customs Organization (WCO)) is UNODC's co-executing agency, bringing to the programme its worldwide expertise in border management. The programme is also benefiting from the WCO Framework of Standards to secure and facilitate global trade developed by its membership to secure and facilitate global trade. The newly established units are also able to use the WCO-supported Customs Enforcement Network secure communication system to connect with counterparts in other ports and regions. WCO has also taken the lead in developing an intensive training course that is being used for personnel selected for the units.

7. In Ecuador, the cooperative memorandum of understanding between UNODC, the competent enforcement agencies and port authorities was signed in June 2005 and the staff for the new Joint Port Control Unit at the port of Guayaquil were selected. From 24 October to 11 November 2005, the first intensive training course for these personnel was held and the unit is now operational. Over the next six months, the team will receive mentoring visits from law enforcement professionals selected from WCO members to assist them in the early stages of their operation. Selected staff will also be sent on an exchange study tour to view port security and container selection methods at a similarly sized port with an established enforcement response procedure. The next phase of the project in Ecuador will be the training of selected staff of the Manta Joint Port Control Unit in early 2006.

8. In Senegal, a memorandum of understanding was signed on 18 November 2005. Selection and recruitment of staff for the Joint Port Control Unit have now commenced and plans are being made for training and provision of equipment.

9. In 2006, technical assessments will be undertaken in Ghana and Pakistan, which will contribute to the development of detailed workplans to support the introduction of the programme at their selected port sites.

10. The UNODC container control programme should greatly assist the Governments concerned in their efforts to identify high-risk consignments in the international flow of maritime containers carrying legal cargo for import or export. The \$1,471,800 funding for the first phase of the programme has been secured. There is a high demand for this type of assistance, but further funding has yet to be secured. An ongoing priority for UNODC is to work with donors to support the roll-out of this initiative in other ports where such assistance is most needed. The improved capacities in the control of sea containers offered by the programme are self-evident. As more States adopt this proactive approach, it will become increasingly difficult for containers to be successfully used for illicit purposes such as trafficking in drugs, weapons, explosives and human beings and for terrorism.

III. The Central Asian regional information and coordination centre

11. The Central Asian regional information and coordination centre is a major initiative to promote and develop information-sharing and cooperation among law enforcement agencies. UNODC is working with the five Central Asian countries, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan, together with Azerbaijan and the Russian Federation to establish a regional information and coordination centre. The centre will be modelled on the European Police Office (Europol), the law enforcement intelligence agency for the member States of the European Union.

12. The centre will serve as a regional focal point for swift and secure communication, analysis and exchange of operational information. Liaison officers from each of the participating countries will be based at the centre and will work closely with the various law enforcement agencies in the region. With an initial mandate to counter drug trafficking from Afghanistan, the centre will assist in providing a more focused and coordinated operational response in specialist areas

such as controlled delivery, which should greatly enhance the effectiveness of law enforcement in the region.

13. In March 2005, a project team of law enforcement representatives of each of the involved States was established to develop the key foundation documents. That work has now been completed.

14. Offers to host the centre have been received from Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. A UNODC mission to assess the suitability of the potential sites took place in October 2005 and a detailed evaluation report prepared. Following consideration by the project team, it is expected that a firm decision regarding the venue will be taken at a high-level meeting of the parties due to take place in Tashkent in February 2006. UNODC will then commence implementation of the second phase of the project, renovating the selected building, providing appropriate equipment, recruiting and training staff and starting operational activities.

IV. Paris Pact initiative

15. More than 55 countries and organizations sealed a pact in Paris at the Ministerial Conference on Drug Routes from Central Asia to Europe, hosted by the Government of France in May 2003. They agreed on concerted measures to limit the trafficking of Afghan opiates through West and Central Asia and Europe and on the need for stronger and better coordinated action in border control and law enforcement. UNODC was invited to act as a clearing house mechanism and to provide comprehensive information on and analysis of action priorities in most affected countries. Consequently, UNODC initiated the Paris Pact project, which consists of a two-pronged consultative mechanism at the expert and policy levels and a new integrated database to support donor cooperation and coordination, the Automated Donor Assistance Mechanism (ADAM).

16. Since the inception of the Paris Pact initiative, seven round-table meetings of senior experts in counter-narcotics have been organized with a focus on the Balkan route (September 2003), Iran (Islamic Republic of) (October 2003), the Central Asian countries (April 2004), the Russian Federation (June 2004), Pakistan (March 2005), Iran (Islamic Republic of) (September 2005) and South-Eastern Europe (October 2005). At the round tables opiate trafficking and counter-narcotics activities in priority countries were analysed and emerging trafficking routes identified. In 2005, these included the Iran-Iraq borders through the provinces of Khuzestan, Kermanshah and Kurdistan and the Turkish borders along the Black Sea in the provinces of Samsun and Trabzon. Participants also recommended specific measures to improve existing border control and law enforcement measures, as well as corrective action to be taken by concerned Governments, the donor community and UNODC.

17. Paris Pact priorities implemented in 2005 have included the strengthening of border control and law enforcement measures along key trafficking routes. New border control projects have been launched along the Afghanistan-Tajikistan border through the provision of equipment, training and expertise to build the capacity of the Tajik Border Guards, following the withdrawal of the Russian Federal Border Services in July 2005. Increased border control action has been taken in Kyrgyzstan

and Turkmenistan. The border control point between Afghanistan and Uzbekistan has been upgraded with new facilities and state-of-the-art equipment and technology. Throughout Central Asia, analytical and information exchange operations are being strengthened at the national level, so as to allow focused and targeted border control measures. New precursor chemical control action at key Central Asian transit points has been agreed upon. Work to connect and harmonize precursor chemical control activities throughout the West and Central Asian region began in the second half of 2005.

18. For Iran (Islamic Republic of) and Pakistan, the 2005 round tables identified border control, law enforcement and legislative issues that required corrective action. The round table for Iran (Islamic Republic of) was preceded by a joint assessment mission of international experts from different countries and partner agencies, which visited key borders with Afghanistan, Pakistan and Turkey, as well as the port of Bandar Abbas in the Islamic Republic on the Persian Gulf. Recommended action ranged from improving integrated border control measures, strengthening analytical and intelligence capacity, upgrading training and advisory services on technical and operational measures, such as the provision of dog-sniffing programmes, sophisticated surveillance equipment and the strengthening of current port control measures. Initial funding has been received to start up the implementation of an integrated border control project for Iran (Islamic Republic of) in early 2006. Similarly, some new funding was provided for an expanded intelligence and analytical project for the Pakistani Anti-Narcotic Force and an agreement was signed to start the Pakistan component of the UNODC global container control programme. Following the round table in Islamabad, the President of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan agreed with the Executive Director of UNODC to work on the current national legal framework and on a new drug master plan as a strategic framework for balanced national drug control action. Law enforcement equipment and surveillance requirements were communicated through the Paris Pact mechanism to the donor community and bilateral negotiations on future cooperation are ongoing. In addition, specific measures are being developed to strengthen operational enforcement collaboration among the Governments of Afghanistan, Iran (Islamic Republic of) and Pakistan.

19. The round table for South-Eastern Europe adopted the Istanbul Platform, which comprises a set of action priorities in regional enforcement and new cross-border cooperation, stronger precursor control and new forms of regional delivery of training through, inter alia, the use of Turkish International Academy against Drugs and Organized Crime as a regional training and resource centre. Paris Pact partners agreed on the creation of a Foreign Anti-Narcotics Community Committee to be set up in Istanbul as a platform for operational information exchange and joint operations. It was also agreed to strengthen the role of and cooperation with the Southeast European Cooperative Initiative's Regional Centre for Combating Transborder Crime as an interlocutor in the region for the exchange of operational information on trafficking. The first of the new projects addressing these recommendations were developed in 2005, in order to start in early 2006.

20. The Paris Pact initiative has already proved to be a strong and dynamic mechanism that is capable of setting in motion concerted and targeted international assistance programmes against drug trafficking. As confirmed by the Paris Pact Policy Consultative Group, which met in Vienna on 2 December 2005, the initiative

has been successful in facilitating a significant expansion of law enforcement assistance programmes in key target areas. In 2005 alone, UNODC received additional funding of about \$12 million to finance Paris Pact priority activities in Iran (Islamic Republic of), Central Asia and Europe. Several partners, including France, Italy, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America and the European Community, expanded their bilateral projects. Strong partnerships are developing between UNODC and the European Community, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, WCO and other organizations to include new joint project action.

21. Based on these results and the potential of the Paris Pact initiative to promote a joint operational law enforcement response, the 2005 policy consultative group expressed strong support for UNODC to continue the initiative. A timetable for the thematic and geographical focus of the 2006 round tables was agreed upon and consensus reached to foster better participation within the ADAM framework by all donors and affected countries, as the best way to avoid duplication of activities and to coordinate technical assistance.

V. Automated Donor Assistance Mechanism

22. ADAM (www.paris-pact.net) is a secure web-based technical assistance coordination tool launched under the umbrella of the Paris Pact initiative. Development commenced in South-East Europe in January 2005 with the establishment of a project team based in Sofia. The aims of the mechanism are to set up automated technical assistance cooperation between donors and intended recipients, to work to avoid overlap or duplication of resources and to maximize the operational value of their technical assistance activities.

23. Using the system, donors are made aware of complementary assistance activity in their areas of interest and they are thus able to consider partnering or tailoring their assistance activities to fit in with those of other assistance providers. Alternatively, if they consider that a particular need is already being addressed, they can divert their funding to other key areas. ADAM, which utilizes modern Internet technologies, provides a mechanism for quick and clear assistance.

24. Users of the system are linked automatically through electronic correspondence and have access to the stored project documents of potentially conflicting, historical, ongoing or planned project activities. This valuable information enables donors either to build on the skills, training or equipment previously provided or else to identify a particular gap for further detailed attention. ADAM produces automated requests for updates to project managers and partners to facilitate the tracking of key performance indicators, thus keeping the information updated and “live”. With ADAM, the whole coordination process takes place swiftly and efficiently.

25. In February 2005, ADAM was enhanced with maps to cover the whole Paris Pact area (Afghanistan, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Pakistan, the Russian Federation, the Caucasus, Central Asia and Europe). The first technical expert meeting on ADAM, held in Sofia in March 2005, established ADAM focal points at the national and agency levels in both donor and beneficiary countries, as well as international organizations. Operational guidelines for focal points were developed in April and

in June 2005 ADAM user guides and promotional material were completed. The system has now been uploaded with live technical assistance data from Afghanistan, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Pakistan, the Russian Federation, Central Asia and South-East Europe. Currently there are over 80 users of the ADAM system across the Paris Pact area and over 300 technical assistance projects currently input. Taking account of donor feedback, in December 2005, further development of ADAM commenced. This offers fully automated features and graphic and table-building tools.

VI. Computer-based training

26. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime computer-based training initiative is an important element in the programme delivery of capacity-building to develop professional law enforcement skills. The initiative commenced as four regional projects in East Asia, responding to the need for a flexible, innovative and effective approach to the delivery of training for drug law enforcement personnel. The success of the first venture quickly demonstrated that that approach provided effective new solutions to traditional national and regional training constraints.

27. As a methodology, computer-based training delivers standardized training courses in the languages of the recipient country. It offers an interactive, problem-solving approach that challenges and stimulates the student. The programme syllabus is presented in high-quality voice narration, pictures and graphics that are also interspersed with interactive videos and animations. To date, over 150 hours of learning materials have been produced. Examples of syllabus content, taken from courses on interdiction techniques for land, sea and air ports, include modules on risk assessment, targeting and profiling, cargo risk indicators, document analysis and passport review. Other areas covered include techniques for searching persons, vehicles and freight, together with interview and questioning skills.

28. The computer-based training drug law enforcement programme is now being delivered in 12 languages in 19 countries, including Barbados, Cambodia, China, Fiji, Indonesia, Jamaica, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nigeria, the Philippines, Thailand, Turkey and Viet Nam. Some 50,000 law enforcement officials have already benefited from the training programme. Planned roll-out in 2006 from funded projects includes Cape Verde, Ethiopia, eight further countries in the Caribbean region and five Central Asian States. Locations for pipeline projects, awaiting implementation and subject to the availability of funding, include Belarus, Brazil, the Russian Federation and the Pacific Islands.

29. An important element of the programme is the adaptation of the course content to reflect local operational settings and characteristics. The material in the training modules was provided by subject experts from around the world and the training delivered in situ via dedicated computer-based training centres. These can, in turn, be set up near the work place, thereby reducing the travel costs often associated with training at central locations. The operation of each centre established is overseen by a local training manager who has been trained by UNODC.

30. This interactive training has proved effective for a number of reasons. It offers one-to-one personalized training that enables the student to learn at his or her own pace, make mistakes and correct them without any loss of face. The computer is the “trainer”, which means that training is not dependent on the availability of experts, while the syllabus content is benchmarked to international best practices. Students who have completed the courses have found them stimulating and engaging, a fact reflected in the high-result post-course test evaluations. Adding to and upgrading the training programmes with new syllabus materials is done rapidly and in a cost-effective way.

31. An additional bonus for the institutions operating computer-based training is the learning management system. Before and after commencing each module the student is tested. The learning management system records the name and location of each student, the courses undertaken, those completed and the results of the pre- and post-test scores. As a result, agencies have immediate access to the current state of computer-based training throughout their organizations, together with valuable evaluation data as to the skills base of their front-line staff.

32. The programme continues to develop and evolve. New syllabus topics are coming online, as are new areas where computer-based training is viewed as an effective medium. Many of the existing modules are equally applicable to combating organized crime, while new material is under development covering action to combat human trafficking, precursor chemical control and a specialized intelligence course for law enforcement officers.

33. The UNODC Global Programme against Money-Laundering has adopted computer-based training as a key platform for training and awareness-raising for law enforcement authorities. There is increasing interest on the part of the private financial sector in joining this initiative. Under the Global Programme and utilizing the expertise of regionally placed mentors, UNODC is enhancing capacity and introducing new skills and expertise to combat money-laundering.

34. Demand from Member States for the computer-based training programme is strong. To manage expectation and maintain orderly delivery of the training, UNODC has established a full-time position of coordinator, based at its Regional Office in Thailand. Working to a clearly defined strategy developed with the Anti-Trafficking Section at UNODC headquarters, the computer-based training resource is meeting an important need as regards the law enforcement capacity-building capabilities of Member States.

VII. Precursor chemical control in South-East Asia

35. The UNODC precursor chemical control initiative in South-East Asia was the first of a series of activities in this specialist field. Following introduction in Thailand in 1994, the programme is now, more than a decade later, partnering nine East and South-East Asian countries.

36. The considerable decline in opium output and the ensuing drop in heroin production in the region in recent years have been replaced by a new challenge, the widening illicit manufacture of amphetamine-type stimulants (ATS) across the region. New and large-scale manufacturing sites have been detected and dismantled

in countries other than the long-established ATS manufacturing centres in the border regions of south-eastern China and Myanmar. The Philippines has emerged as a new and substantial illicit ATS manufacturing centre, while Indonesia appears to be an emerging base for the synthesis of methylenedioxymethamphetamine (also known as Ecstasy). The precursor chemicals that fuel illicit drug manufacture in the region are diverted mostly from within the region itself then trafficked to the clandestine laboratories. Precursor chemicals manufactured in the region are also smuggled out to support clandestine manufacture elsewhere.

37. To effectively address the serious trafficking in precursors and curtail ATS manufacture in the region, national chemical control authorities and front-line law enforcement personnel need to be better informed and trained. This constitutes a considerable challenge to States with limited resources and few knowledgeable trainers with experience in this specialized field. In response, and under the auspices of its regional precursor programme in East Asia, UNODC developed a training programme in the form of a DVD together with a handbook containing all the essential teaching points. The programme provides officers with the necessary knowledge to identify attempts at precursor diversion and alerts them to the characteristics of chemical sales and distribution commonly associated with the operation of clandestine drug laboratories. The DVD is distributed in the national language of the recipients, uses sound effects and animated graphics as well as screen text and narration to keep it stimulating and engaging.

38. To date, UNODC has distributed 8,000 DVDs and 36,000 handbooks in the national languages of nine countries in East Asia. On its own initiative China has produced an additional 250,000 sets for its domestic use. In addition to the project countries, Brunei Darussalam, the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of China, Japan, the Republic of Korea and the Central Asian States and are also using the DVD for precursor control training. This training aid is also being integrated into the curriculum of a number of law enforcement training academies.

39. In 2005, within six months of the launch of the DVD in East Asia, more than 10,500 personnel with responsibilities for precursor control were trained. At the time of preparation of the present report, Cambodia, Myanmar, Thailand and Viet Nam indicated that a total of 19,300 personnel had already been trained.

40. Equally important to intercepting trafficked precursors in transit is preventing their diversion at the source. UNODC has worked with the same nine partner countries in East Asia to forge a national partnership between the chemical industry and government authorities aimed at preventing the diversion of precursor chemicals from licit trade. Following the success of the DVD training methodology for law enforcement personnel, UNODC launched a second DVD training programme and handbook entitled "Suppressing manufacture of illicit drugs: the role of the chemical industry" in June 2005. This is an initiative targeting the mass training of staff of chemical companies, informing them of the dangers of diversion and outlining their role in preventing the diversion of precursor chemicals. More than 10,000 sets of the DVDs and handbooks in national languages have been provided to the nine participating countries. Once again, China has produced on its own initiative an additional 12,000 sets to meet the needs of its own sizeable chemical industry.

41. UNODC will continue its work on these established public and private sector partnerships. Work to draft an industry code of conduct is under way, as are plans to develop guidelines for industry, including the provision of incentives to encourage cooperation. A future phase, now in planning, will be to develop training tools for countries to improve their capacity to investigate and safely dismantle clandestine laboratory operations.

VIII. Witness protection

42. The protection of witnesses is another important area of focus for UNODC. Witnesses, whether they are victims or not, are the building blocks of investigations and prosecutions. One of the essential requirements in effectively dismantling drug trafficking syndicates and organized criminal groups is to ensure that measures are in place to provide the necessary assistance, support, security and protection of witnesses.

43. The transnational dimension of drug trafficking is an additional challenge that requires inter-agency and international cooperation for witness protection efforts to be effective. The United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (General Assembly resolution 55/25, annex I) provides the framework for such cooperation and legally binds States parties to protect persons who give testimony.

44. In order to develop a manual of good practices covering both legal and operational aspects complemented by appropriate training material, UNODC is convening a series of expert group meetings. The first, relating to legal issues, was held in September 2005, followed in November by a regional meeting of Latin American States. Two further regional expert group meetings will be held in 2006. The information from the various working groups will contribute to the manual of good practices and training material for use by judicial, prosecutorial and law enforcement authorities.

IX. Demand reduction

45. Another key area where UNODC provides assistance is demand reduction. A major problem facing transit States is the increase in the domestic abuse of drugs, which is a direct consequence of the fact that a certain proportion of the drugs trafficked through their countries remain in the country. This results in abuse by the local population, the so-called “spill-over” effect. Over recent years UNODC has provided assistance to a number of transit countries facing a drug abuse problem in the form of targeted initiatives and also as part of broader regional and global programmes.

46. The Global Assessment Programme on Drug Abuse has assisted in the establishment of regional epidemiological networks in the Caribbean, Central Asia, the Middle East and Sub-Saharan and North Africa. Such drug information systems assess the drug abuse situation and monitor trends, providing useful information to aid in setting priorities, driving the development of policy and targeting budget development in response to emerging drug abuse problems.

47. In the field of prevention, UNODC has established a Global Youth Network and regional chapters, to identify, together with youth non-governmental organizations, best practices in youth prevention and to provide training to promote those best practices in organizations with a mandate to address youth drug use. In Central Asia, a media awareness programme has been implemented to provide journalists with more factual information on the drug abuse problem so as to enable them to better inform the public about this issue. Similar media awareness initiatives are envisaged for South-East Asia. In Africa, UNODC implemented a programme for the development of a local expert network on drug demand reduction with the aim of strengthening expertise in African countries facing new patterns of drug abuse.

48. Emerging and increasing drug abuse is creating specific problems for the health sector. Treatment and rehabilitation services are not well developed in many transit States. UNODC has undertaken several initiatives to strengthen the capacity of these countries, to assist them in providing targeted and effective treatment services to drug abusers. In the countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), training programmes for the diversification of treatment services have been implemented, with a view to identifying gaps and flaws in coverage, improving the ancillary support for treatment services and expanding treatment delivery.

49. In a new but related project, UNODC is developing a network of treatment providers to assist in the provision of specific best practices and treatment guidance. The network is made up of centres able to deliver and disseminate a variety of effective treatment and rehabilitation programmes in all regions that will focus on development of best practices in priority drug treatment topics, development of the necessary training materials and building the capacity of treatment professionals where the need is most critical.

50. Finally, one of the main issues related to the emergence of drug abuse in transit States is the appearance of drug injection and the serious concerns about the spread of HIV/AIDS. UNODC, as a co-sponsor of the Joint United Nations AIDS Programme (UNAIDS), has initiated several programmes in vulnerable key countries to address this issue. In particular, Central Asia and other CIS countries have been targeted for programme implementation based on the prevalence of both HIV/AIDS and drug use, the seriousness of HIV/AIDS in prisons and the vulnerability of HIV/AIDS as it relates to trafficking in persons.

51. In support of UNODC efforts, 23 staff members working exclusively on HIV/AIDS will be posted in selected transit States in early 2006 to support programme development, ensure the application of best practices and help to design and implement other critical programme elements.

52. Specifically, Afghanistan, Central Asia (Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan), South-East Asia (Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Thailand and Viet Nam) and a number of Arab States (Jordan, Lebanon and the Syrian Arab Republic) are targeted for action to improve their legal and policy frameworks as they relate to HIV/AIDS among injecting drug users and in prison settings. The focus will be on establishing favourable environments for rapid, large-scale and comprehensive interventions. In addition, actions are under way to facilitate and improve coordination between HIV/AIDS stakeholders and those who

provide direct services to injecting drug users and prison inmates. The lessons learned through this work will be documented, validated and disseminated to a wider audience in other regions to guide their efforts to address HIV/AIDS issues.

X. Conclusions

53. In addition to the specific initiatives highlighted, there are many other project activities being implemented by UNODC, providing a range of assistance measures to Member States to counter the threat posed by the transit of illicit drugs.

54. In 2006, UNODC plans include the expansion of the global container control programme, further implementation of computer-based training for law enforcement and further measures to promote information-sharing among law enforcement agencies at the cross-border, regional and international levels. This will include the development of a new law enforcement information and coordination centre for the Gulf States similar to the Central Asian Regional Information and Coordination Centre in Central Asia (see paras. 11-14 above).

55. In relation to the Paris Pact initiative, a major conference is being planned to take place in Moscow in June 2006 before the summit of the Group of Eight with a view to expanding the remit of the initiative to include issues such as money-laundering, corruption, trafficking in persons, financing of terrorism and other forms of organized crime.

56. Key to the success of future efforts will be a commitment by the Member States to support these activities. In addition to providing funding, Member States may also wish to consider contributing expertise and resources to further support the innovative approaches and measures being taken by UNODC.
