

2 November 2012

English only\*

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**Thirty-sixth Meeting of Heads of  
National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies,  
Asia and the Pacific**

Bangkok, 30 October-2 November 2012

Agenda item 9

**Adoption of the report****Draft report***Rapporteur:* Mr. Mark Day (New Zealand)**Addendum****Major regional drug trafficking trends and  
countermeasures**

1. At its 1st and 2nd meetings, on 30 October 2012, the Meeting considered item 3 of its agenda, entitled "Major regional drug trafficking trends and countermeasures". For its consideration of the item, the Meeting had before it a report of the Secretariat on statistical analysis of drug trafficking trends in East, South-East and South Asia, Oceania and worldwide (UNODC/HONLAP/36/2) and a note by the Secretariat on regional and subregional cooperation in Asia and the Pacific (UNODC/HONLAP/36/CRP.1). In addition, country reports were submitted by Armenia, Australia, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, China, Fiji, Hong Kong, China, India, Indonesia, Japan, Macao, China, Malaysia, Maldives, Myanmar, New Zealand, Pakistan, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Viet Nam. (UNODC/HONLAP/36/CRP.3-22, respectively).

2. The representatives of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) introduced the item and made audiovisual presentations providing an overview of trends in illicit drug production and trafficking in the region and worldwide. The presentation was based on information provided by Governments to UNODC. The representatives of Bangladesh, India, Islamic Republic of Iran, Japan, Pakistan, Russian Federation and Thailand made statements and audiovisual

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\* English is the working language of the subsidiary body.



presentations. The observer for the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) also made a statement.

3. Several representatives reported on initiatives in their respective countries to counter drug trafficking and abuse, especially by promoting law enforcement cooperation in the region. Measures taken included: the implementation of comprehensive national strategies and institutional frameworks for law enforcement, the review and update of relevant legislation, the gathering and analysis of information, initiatives to facilitate close cooperation between national agencies with international counterparts, intelligence sharing and joint operations. Some States provided information on case studies and recent seizures and interdiction statistics. It was emphasized that the aspects of supply control and demand reduction were closely related and that adherence to the drug control conventions remained the cornerstone of international cooperation to combat the drug problem.

4. The representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran observed that, despite the ban on opium poppy cultivation and production in Afghanistan, the presence of the coalition forces and the efforts made to strengthen the Anti Narcotic Police in the country, there was an increased opiates production in the country and no sign that the situation would improve in the near future.

5. The neighbouring countries of Afghanistan were facing major challenges in stopping shipments of illicit drugs originating from there. Continuous access to high levels of precursor chemicals were also noted which, combined with insecurity in some provinces, continued to exacerbate the drug problem in Afghanistan. The representative of Pakistan informed the meeting on the trafficking of acetic anhydride for Afghan heroin production and on the precursor control regime put in place in his country. Pakistan was also taking active part in various international precursor chemicals tracking initiatives and in the precursors control operations sponsored by International Narcotics Control Board (INCB), as well as in all initiatives being undertaken by the UNODC in that regard.

6. Cannabis production in Afghanistan was also a source of concern, competing with opium poppy as another illicit crop. Some speakers emphasized that alternative development programmes to prevent and eliminate the illicit cultivation of opium poppy, particularly in Afghanistan, should be given priority by the international community. Regional and international cooperation was of vital importance in countering the drug threat in Afghanistan, especially the Triangular Initiative between Afghanistan, Iran (Islamic Republic of) and Pakistan.

7. Concern continued to grow in the region at the evidence of increasing manufacture and consumption of amphetamine-type stimulants. Methamphetamine and crystallized methamphetamine (ICE) abuse were on the rise. New modi operandi for smuggling of methamphetamine were mentioned. Case studies also revealed the preferred smuggling methods and the increased numbers of air passenger couriers.

8. Some speakers referred to the computer-based training and e-learning initiatives undertaken by UNODC. It was proposed to translate computer-based training material into local languages, to facilitate capacity-building for local law enforcement officers. The importance of relevant international drug control bodies was also emphasized. These included United Nations bodies, notably the

Commission on Narcotic Drugs and its subsidiary bodies, the UNODC as well as INCB. At the regional level, the International Drug Enforcement Conference (IDEC), the Asia-Pacific Operational Drug Enforcement Conference (ADEC) and the Anti-Drug Liaison Officials' Meeting for International Cooperation (ADLOMICO) made important contributions to strengthening cooperation. Other significant intergovernmental organizations included the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL), the World Customs Organization (WCO) and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization.

9. The Russian Federation informed the Meeting about the development of a conceptual document on an Eastern Hemisphere drug strategy aimed at countering drug trafficking groups in the region of Asia and the Pacific and on the proposal to put on the agenda of the United Nations Security Council, as a matter of priority, the problem of the illicit drug trafficking and production. In addition, the representative informed the meeting on the Russian Federation's proposal to establish an informal international team to elaborate alternative development programmes which had been put forward at the International Conference of Foreign Ministers and Heads of Specialized National Agencies against the World Drug Problem, held in Lima, Peru, on 25-26 June 2012.

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