

26 January 2009

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**Thirty-second Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law
Enforcement Agencies, Asia and the Pacific**
Bangkok, 10 – 13 February 2009

Provisional agenda*

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda.
3. Major regional drug trafficking trends and countermeasures.
4. Implementation of the recommendations adopted by the Thirtieth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Asia and the Pacific, by States of the region.
5. Follow-up to the twentieth special session of the General Assembly.
6. Consideration of topics by working groups:
 - (a) Changing trends in heroin trafficking;
 - (b) Recovering the proceeds of crime;
 - (c) Precursor control and the impact on ATS manufacture.
7. Organization of the Thirty-third Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Asia and the Pacific.
8. Other business.
9. Adoption of the report.

* This document has not been edited

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). Meetings of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies (HONLEA), Asia and the Pacific, have in the past elected a chairman, two vice-chairmen and a rapporteur.

2. Adoption of the agenda

The Commission on Narcotic Drugs, at its thirty-eighth session, recommended that general statements relating to national trends and statistic should not be read out but rather circulated in written form. Bearing in mind that recommendation, Governments were invited to submit to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), a two-page report on trends in illicit drug traffic during the past year, by 19 January 2009.

Following the adoption of the agenda, the Meeting is to establish a timetable for its proceedings. A provisional timetable for the consideration of the Meeting is contained in the annex to the present document.

Documentation

Annotated provisional agenda and provisional timetable
(UNODC/HONLAP/2009/32/1)

3. Major regional drug trafficking trends and countermeasures

The Meeting should be provided with information from Governments on action taken to enhance regional and subregional cooperation in areas such as joint investigations, law enforcement training and sharing of information and experience in drug-trafficking countermeasures.

The item will be introduced by UNODC, with an overview of current drug-trafficking trends.

Participants should inform the Meeting of measures taken to counter drug trafficking at the national and regional levels.

Documentation

Report of the Secretariat on statistical analysis of drug trafficking trends in East, South-East and South Asia, Oceania and worldwide (UNODC/HONLAP/2009/32/2)

Note by the Secretariat on the regional and subregional cooperation in Asia and the Pacific (UNODC/HONLAP/2009/32/CRP.1)

4. Implementation of the recommendations adopted by the Thirtieth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Asia and the Pacific, by States of the region

The Meeting should be informed of action taken by Governments in the implementation of the recommendations adopted at the Thirtieth Meeting of HONLEA, Asia and the Pacific, held at Bangkok, 14 to 17 November 2006. The

Meeting will have before it a note prepared by the Secretariat on the basis of replies submitted by Governments in response to a questionnaire concerning action taken.

To enable the Secretariat to prepare a report on the status of implementation of the recommendations, Governments were urged to return the completed questionnaire before 10 October 2008.

Documentation

Review of implementation by States of the region of the recommendations adopted at the Thirtieth Meeting of HONLEA, Asia and the Pacific (UNODC/HONLAP/2009/32/3)

5. Follow-up to the twentieth special session of the General Assembly

At its fifty-first session, held in 2008, the Commission on Narcotic Drugs devoted its thematic debate to a discussion by Member States on progress made in meeting the goals and targets set out at the twentieth special session of the General Assembly. At its session, the Commission adopted resolution 51/4, entitled "Preparations for the high-level segment of the fifty-second session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, relating to the follow-up to the twentieth special session of the General Assembly", in which it decided to establish open-ended, intergovernmental expert working groups to work on topics related to the action plans, declarations and measures adopted by the Assembly at its twentieth special session; those topics included supply reduction (manufacture and trafficking); countering money-laundering and promoting judicial cooperation; international cooperation on the eradication of illicit drug crops and on alternative development; and control of precursors and of amphetamine-type stimulants. The meeting will be informed of the results of the fifty-first session of the Commission and of the outcome of the working groups convened in preparation for the high-level segment. The meeting will also have the opportunity to discuss the follow-up to the twentieth special session of the Assembly and matters of concern in the region that it may wish to highlight in this context.

6. Consideration of topics by working groups

The working groups will review issues of regional importance to drug control and facilitate informal discussions and exchanges of views on such matters. Working groups are invited to present their findings, conclusions and recommendations to the Plenary for endorsement and inclusion as part of the report of the meeting. The following issues will be considered by working groups:

(a) Changing trends in heroin trafficking

The concerted effort of the countries of the region to reduce poppy cultivation and effectively control precursor chemicals has resulted in decreased/lower levels of production in the "Golden Triangle". While at the same time, the "Golden Crescent" region has emerged as a growing treath due to major increases in illicit opium production. West African crime syndicates have been identified as being particularly active in the trafficking of Golden Crescent heroin into this region, while it is observed that traditional heroin trafficking groups are now dealing in multiple substances such as heroin, pharmaceuticals and amphetamine type stimulants. Trafficking patterns are changing and therefore, in preparing for this session, participants will be encouraged to present their analysis and current assessment of

national heroin trafficking trends and the factors they have observed that influence successful countermeasures to combating this. Illustrative examples of investigations to highlight successful techniques and identified modus operandi should be included. Delegates may also like to use this opportunity of this working group to share views on future strategies for collective adoption by Member States of the region.

(b) Recovering the proceeds of crime

This working group will examine in group discussion, successful approaches to undertaking financial investigations into the proceeds of crime, in particular in a cash-based economy context. Participants will be asked to share experience in financial investigations with illustrative case examples to highlight successes gained and problems encountered, and provide examples of the levels and types of offenders being investigated. Observations and comments may be considered as elements for this debate. The following issues are points to consider for discussion:

- (i) Money movements via both cross border movement: How smuggling methods for money and drugs are the same.
- (ii) Trade-based money laundering (which could be a form of reconciliation for hawala system).
- (iii) Movement of money generated by the shipment of precursors.
- (iv) What constitutes money laundering offences?
- (v) Use of intelligence drawn by financial intelligence units to identify illicit proceeds and target investigations.

The group discussion will also look at official access to bank records and problems associated with secrecy and the potential for alerting of customers under investigation, freezing of suspected criminal proceeds and their confiscation or forfeiture.

(c) Precursor control and the impact upon ATS manufacture

This working group will look at two important areas of precursor control. The diversion of unscheduled chemicals and assessment of regional precursor threats and challenges so as to identify points of diversion and vulnerabilities in existing controls.

- (i) Unscheduled precursor chemicals: understanding the threat

As control measures are implemented to prevent the diversion of precursor chemicals scheduled in Tables I and II of the 1988 UN Convention, illicit drug manufacturers increasingly seek to source unscheduled (or non-controlled) precursor chemicals instead. In order to effectively prevent illicit drugs manufacture, it is necessary to have a comprehensive understanding of the range of chemicals that can potentially be used to produce illicit drugs. Such baseline knowledge of non-scheduled chemicals is necessary to assess potential, emerging and existing threats, and facilitate the development of preventative measures against precursor diversion.

Participants to this Working Group will be asked to share their experience in the diversion of unscheduled chemicals to illicit drug manufacture, and their assessment of the existing and emerging threats posed by non-controlled precursors to them and the region. Delegates will be asked to speak of existing response

measures and discuss suggestions as to where they see their strategies developing in the future. Examples of the problems encountered in seeking to control or prosecute persons for the diversion of unscheduled chemicals would be of interest to the meeting, together with suggestions of successful counter-measures introduced to monitor and prevent this occurring.

(ii) Assessment of precursor control challenges and vulnerabilities

The second element for discussion under this topic is the need and possible methods for assessing regional and national precursor control vulnerabilities. This will be approached through an exchange on ways to assess and analyse trading in precursor chemicals for legitimate needs, and seizures of ATS and precursors, to determine points of diversion. Existing precursor controls could also be analysed to help identify areas which require strengthening to prevent the diversion of ATS precursors. The work of the Asian Collaborative Group on Local Precursor Control will contribute to this debate.

Delegates should come prepared to contribute to a discussion on how and where the region may wish to prioritize precursor control measures and efforts against ATS manufacture and trafficking. Recent case studies of investigations concluded into ATS manufacturing, trafficking and precursor diversion would be welcomed as illustrative examples of issues for the working group's consideration.

7. Organization of the Thirty-third Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Asia and the Pacific

The Meeting is invited to consider a draft provisional agenda for the Thirty-third Meeting of HONLEA, Asia and the Pacific, including topics for discussion in working groups, and possible venues for future meetings. An early decision on the venue would facilitate planning for the Thirty-third Meeting.

For planning purposes a decision at the Thirty-second Meeting of HONLEA on the venue of the Thirty-third Meeting, as well as the topics for the working groups would greatly facilitate the preparation and organization of that Meeting. The Secretariat will provide, on request, a copy of the standard letter of agreement to any member State wishing to consider hosting the next Meeting.

Documentation

Organization of the Thirty-third Meeting of HONLEA, Asia and the Pacific (UNODC/HONLAP/2009/32/4)

8. Other business

Under the item "Other business", the Meeting may wish to address other issues, such as urgent matters arising from the country reports.

9. Adoption of the report

The Thirty-second Meeting of HONLEA, Asia and the Pacific, is to adopt a report on its proceedings, including the findings and recommendations of the working groups.

Annex**Provisional timetable of the Thirty-second Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Asia and the Pacific**

<i>Date</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Item</i>	<i>Title or description</i>
Tuesday, 10 February	8:30 a.m.		Registration
	10:00 a.m.		Opening of the Thirty-second Meeting of HONLEA, Asia and the Pacific
		1	Election of officers
		2	Adoption of the agenda
		3	Major regional drug-trafficking trends and countermeasures
	1:30 p.m.	4	Implementation of the recommendations adopted by the Thirtieth Meeting of HONLEA, Asia and the Pacific
		5	Follow-up to the twentieth special session of the General Assembly
Wednesday, 11 February	9:00 a.m.	6	Consideration of topics by working groups
	1:30 p.m.	6	Continuation
Thursday, 12 February	9 a.m.	6	Continuation
	2 p.m.	6	Continuation
Friday, 13 February	10:00 a.m.	7	Organization of the Thirty-third Meeting of HONLEA, Asia and the Pacific
		8	Other business
	1:30 p.m.	9	Adoption of the report of the Thirty-second Meeting of HONLEA, Asia and the Pacific