

6 November 2009

Original: English

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**Subcommission on Illicit Drug Traffic and  
Related Matters in the Near and Middle East****Forty-fourth session**

Vienna, 16-19 November 2009

Item 6 of the provisional agenda\*

**Implementation of the recommendations adopted by the  
Subcommission at its forty-second session\*\*****Implementation of the recommendations adopted by the  
Subcommission at its forty-second session**

1. The Subcommission on Illicit Drug Traffic and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East, at its forty-second session, held in Agra, India, from 3 to 7 December 2007, adopted a set of recommendations following the consideration by working groups of the issues listed below.
2. In accordance with established practice, the report of the forty-second session was forwarded to the Governments represented at the session. A questionnaire on the implementation of the recommendations adopted at the forty-second session was dispatched with the letter of invitation to the forty-fourth session of the Subcommission on 30 September 2009 for responses by 16 October 2009.
3. The present report was prepared on the basis of information provided to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) by Governments in response to the questionnaire. As of 6 November 2009, replies had been received from the Governments of Egypt, Qatar, Syria and Turkey.

**Issue 1: Cannabis plant cultivation and cannabis trafficking in the region of the  
Subcommission***Recommendation 1*

Governments should be encouraged to carry out authoritative surveys of the extent of cannabis plant cultivation within their territories.

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\* UNODC/SUBCOM/44/1.

\*\* This document has not been edited.



The Government of Egypt launched four campaigns to combat cultivation of cannabis, in areas where such cultivation occurred, as well as monitored areas where such cultivation was possible. Qatar reported that it had taken no action in this regard, since cannabis was not cultivated in that country.

Syria reported that no cultivation of cannabis plants or other narcotic plants took place on its territory. Turkey noted the importance of a powerful monitoring institution, which would organize, control and regulate the licit cannabis plant cultivation. In that country, the Ministry of Agriculture was the responsible entity in this regard.

#### *Recommendation 2*

Governments should develop strategies against cannabis production that discourage the illicit cultivation of cannabis plants and that offer viable alternatives to rural communities whose income depends upon such cultivation and should support demand reduction and awareness campaigns similar to those developed for other drugs of abuse.

Egypt's national strategy to combat drug abuse was based on: (a) combating the illicit cultivation of cannabis; (b) providing alternative development opportunities to rural and Bedouin communities; and (c) supporting demand reduction efforts.

Qatar noted that it was not a cannabis-producing country. Syria noted that it had taken no action in this regard. In Turkey, the illicit cultivation of cannabis was strictly prohibited, law enforcement bodies took immediate action to address this issue and illicit cannabis fields were destroyed by enforcement officers. Rural communities in that country were not offered viable alternatives to illicit cultivation.

#### *Recommendation 3*

In response to the growing sophistication of the modus operandi employed in smuggling cannabis, the increasing financial returns and the large volume of consignments trafficked, Governments must support the efforts of their law enforcement authorities to develop close operational ties with the counterparts in other countries in the exchange of information, the provision of operational support and the undertaking of controlled delivery operations.

Egypt contributed effectively to efforts aiming to enhance international cooperation, especially in the fields of information exchange to combat the smuggling of cannabis and to conduct controlled delivery operations, subsequent to the application of legal procedures to curb smuggling operations.

Qatar reported that it was considering and implementing this recommendation and that cooperation with member states of the Gulf Cooperation Council, as well as neighbouring states, was ongoing.

Syria indicated that it had been closely cooperating with neighbouring countries in the fields of information exchange, controlled deliveries and joint operations to combat the trafficking of drugs, in particular cannabis. Turkey noted that information sharing and international cooperation and, in particular controlled delivery operations, were the most important factors in ensuring the success of

anti-drug trafficking operations. Since 1997, 142 controlled deliveries have been conducted in that country by the Anti-Smuggling and Organized Crime Department.

**Issue 2: Law enforcement strategies to mobilize community support for drug demand reduction**

*Recommendation 1*

Governments should support their drug law enforcement authorities in building their capacity to develop effective strategies and programmes aimed at reducing the demand for illicit drugs.

In 1986, Egypt established the National Council to Combat and Treat Addiction in order to develop systems to fight and treat addiction. The Government also set up a section to liaise with the bodies responsible for demand reduction at the Ministry of Interior.

In Qatar, the Counter-Narcotics Directorate contributed to the implementation of a national project aimed at raising awareness of the harm and risks posed by drugs, and monitored the causes associated with drug use.

In Syria, the National Committee for Drug Affairs, in line with a decision by the Prime Minister, developed awareness-raising and treatment programmes. In addition, an information committee, responsible for awareness raising activities, the organization of seminars, lectures, workshops and art exhibitions, as well as for the coordination with civil society organizations and charity associations. Turkey reported that, in line with its Anti-Drug Strategy, drug supply and demand were inter-related and, thus, should be handled together.

*Recommendation 2*

In meeting their responsibilities with regard to implementing effective national demand reduction strategies, Governments must ensure that adequate resources are allocated to support programmes for raising public awareness, community-based prevention and treatment and rehabilitation.

Egypt reported that it had committed the necessary resources to supporting information programmes for addiction prevention, treatment and rehabilitation. Qatar noted its support for the Standing Committee for Drug-related Matters in providing information programmes. The Standing Committee was comprised of authorities responsible for information and prevention activities.

Syria allocated resources, within available means, to supporting awareness and prevention programmes. Furthermore, the government of that country took full responsibility for this issue, in line with the policy of free and confidential treatment. Turkey noted that, according to its National Strategy Document and Action Plan, four annual meetings were convened in order to discuss demand reduction activities.

*Recommendation 3*

Governments should encourage their drug law enforcement agencies to develop partnerships with other relevant Government agencies, civil society and

non-governmental organizations, in order to implement comprehensive demand reduction strategies.

In Egypt, this recommendation was implemented through the section, liaising with the bodies responsible for demand reduction at the Ministry of Interior. Cooperation was ensured with other relevant bodies and NGOs in order to implement demand reduction strategies.

In Qatar, there was effective participation by all the institutions, concerned with information, as well as partnerships with non-profit associations and civil society organizations in the areas of information and support to the families of addicts.

Syria noted that, in that country, governmental agencies worked together, through the information committee, whose membership included many relevant ministries, agencies and institutions. There was also coordination and cooperation with non-governmental organizations, through the distribution of publications and brochures, as well as through the organization of seminars and lectures. The Turkish Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction was responsible for cooperation and coordination of demand reduction activities among relevant institutions.

### **Issue 3: Trafficking in opiates, precursor control and the increased need for international cooperation**

#### *Recommendation 1*

In order to determine whether sufficient information exists to justify the inclusion of acetic acid in the tables of the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988, Governments should ensure that the recommendations contained in the limited international special surveillance list of non-scheduled substances are implemented. Implementation of the recommendations would make it possible to gather information on the possible diversion and misuse of acetic acid.

Egypt noted that, although acetic acid did not represent a problem for authorities in that country, responsible for combating addiction, it had no objection to including it in the tables of the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988. Qatar noted that the implementation of this recommendation was under consideration.

Syria reported that it had taken no action in this regard, since there was no misuse of this substance in that country. However, it had no objection to the inclusion of acetic acid in the tables of the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988. Turkey noted that the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB) should monitor the diversion of acetic acid.

#### *Recommendation 2*

To ensure standardization in international practices, the International Narcotics Control Board should be invited to convene an international workshop to review the pre-export notification system, in particular information exchange mechanisms and procedures.

The Government of Egypt cooperated with the INCB in imposing strict controls over precursors and chemicals, as well as in verifying the legitimacy of shipments to

Egypt. Egypt also participated in the Expert Meeting on Amphetamine-type Stimulants to review the pre-export notification system on 19-21 October 2009. Qatar indicated that the implementation of this recommendation was under consideration.

Syria reported that it had adopted and implemented the pre-export notification system. Turkey indicated that INCB could organize and convene international meetings and workshops and invite relevant countries to discuss all the aspects of this matter.

*Recommendation 3*

Governments are urged to support international law enforcement initiatives that focus on both illicit drugs and precursors, including operations Channel and Targeted Anti-trafficking Regional Communication, Expertise and Training (TARCET), targeting such trafficking along the borders of Afghanistan by providing resources, equipment and technology.

The Government of Egypt supported and participated in the international initiatives aimed at tracking drugs and precursors and welcomed participation in new initiatives.

Qatar reported that the implementation of this recommendation was under consideration. Syria noted that it had cooperated with counterparts on issues related to drugs and precursors in the framework of international initiatives. Syria had responded to requests through the Narcotics Division of the Ministry of Health and, in the last year, participated in the operation Channel in the Russian Federation.

The Turkish International Academy against Drugs and Organized Crime, given its key role in law enforcement training, should be supported to expand its regional and international activities. Turkey also noted that countries should be encouraged to develop bilateral cooperation channels.

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