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

Tehran, 16-20 November 2008

Item 6 of the provisional agenda*

**Implementation of the recommendations adopted by the
Subcommission at its forty-first session******Implementation of the recommendations adopted by the
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1. The Subcommission on Illicit Drug Traffic and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East, at its forty-first session, held in Amman, from 26 to 30 June 2006, 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-first session was forwarded to the Governments represented at the session. A questionnaire on the implementation of the recommendations adopted at the forty-first session was dispatched with the letter of invitation to the forty-third session of the Subcommission.
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 3 November 2008, replies had been received from the Governments of Jordan, Lebanon, Syrian Arab Republic and the United Arab Emirates.

Issue 1: Regional trends in trafficking in opiates*Recommendation 1*

4. It was recommended that Governments must continue to encourage their law enforcement agencies in their communication and cooperation with the new counterpart drug law enforcement authorities in Afghanistan so as to support their development and rise to full operational effectiveness.

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** This document has not been edited.



5. Jordan reported that communication with the drug control agencies in Afghanistan had been taking place at the regular meetings of the Subcommittee on Illicit Drug Traffic and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East.
6. Lebanon reported that, due to lack of a direct communication mechanism between their office and the counterpart administration in Afghanistan, they proposed to hold regional meetings of the heads of anti-drugs administrations in order to establish direct cooperation mechanisms and to strengthen mutual trust between these agencies and administration. To date, communication had been restricted to exchanging information through international communication offices in the two countries.
7. The competent anti-drug authorities of the Syrian Arab Republic had been cooperating with all concerned States, including the authorities of Afghanistan, when requested.
8. The United Arab Emirates noted that the relevant agencies had continued their communication with the agencies concerned in Afghanistan in connection with the seizure of large quantities of heroin.

Recommendation 2

9. It was recommended that States members of the Subcommittee directly affected by the transit of opiates through their territories should take proactive steps to enhance their drug law enforcement effectiveness, such as supporting and strengthening front-line officers through the provision of technical equipment to support them in their duties and should also take proactive steps to regularize closer operational cooperation with regional, subregional and international partners and to develop their domestic capacity to generate an intelligence-driven operational response to the activities of traffickers.
10. Jordan reported that it had been using modern inspection equipment at border points in order to detect narcotic drugs and to train border guards on drug detection methods and identification at special local and regional courses.
11. Although some border crossings into Lebanon had been strengthened in order to detect drugs, no anti-drugs office control points had yet been set up directly at border crossings, despite the provisions of the Drugs Act, No 672 of 26 March 1998. Furthermore, Lebanon had strengthened relations and information exchange with liaison officers stationed in the country as well as had been building its domestic capacity to combat drugs at every level through specialized courses.
12. The Syrian Arab Republic had been carrying out efforts to secure scanning equipment for use at border posts and these have reached an advanced stage. In the area of regional cooperation, a significant amount of information had been received and processed.
13. The United Arab Emirates indicated that an increased number of inspections had been conducted at several border crossing points, which had been provided with the most modern equipment. Furthermore, the exchange of information with the control agencies in the States concerned had been expanded.

Recommendation 3

14. It was recommended that in response to the increasing use of maritime conveyances to transport significant cargoes of opiates and cannabis resin, Governments should ensure that their enforcement response to target, identify and intercept drug consignments carried by that means are adequate and effective.

15. Jordan reported that action had been taken by the Royal Naval Forces operating in the Gulf of Aqaba, the only marine point in Jordan, as well as by the Ports Authority.

16. Lebanon had been strengthening some maritime access points by installing scanning equipment to search containers and mechanisms, so as to enable anti-drugs agencies to examine the movement of exports and imports and identify and check suspicious ships, especially those manned by persons with a criminal record or when smuggling drugs was suspected.

17. The Syrian Arab Republic had not identified such cases.

18. The United Arab Emirates reported that it had intensified inspection operations on maritime conveyances, which had led to the seizure of large quantities of drugs.

Issue 2: Regional cooperation in the exchange of criminal intelligence on drug trafficking*Recommendation 1*

19. It was recommended that States should be encouraged to invest in the posting of drug liaison officers to source countries that pose significant risks from illicit drug trafficking so as to facilitate the gathering of evidence in order to dismantle and prosecute syndicates engaged in cross-border trafficking in illicit drugs.

20. Jordan reported that information was exchanged through foreign liaison officers based in the States of the region.

21. Lebanon indicated that, although it had not exchanged criminal intelligence on drug trafficking due to lack of funding, it considered this to be an effective means of limiting drug smuggling operations.

22. The Syrian Arab Republic noted it had not yet established a mechanism for posting drug liaison officers in other States, although it is foreseen for the future.

23. The United Arab Emirates reported that it had been using information, supplied by liaison and coordination officers of control agencies in other countries.

Recommendation 2

24. It was recommended that in response to the growing need for faster communication between agencies when exchanging information in order to support operations against traffickers, Governments must ensure that the procedure to provide the necessary clearance is fast and involves minimum delay in transmission of the information.

25. Jordan reported that it had exchanged information with the relevant authorities by all available means, such as telephone, fax, electronic mail and official communications, depending on the degree of importance.

26. Lebanon indicated that it had made efforts to raise the level of direct cooperation with all the anti-drugs agencies in the countries concerned, especially in the field of information exchange, since it must be exploited, provided it is sent officially through the usual channels (Interpol, Foreign Ministry), bearing in mind that we recommend urging States to include this in their legislation, so as to give it a legal character which will make it easier for the judiciary relying on it to build a convincing case or to transfer the judicial case which is the subject of cooperation, especially if the case is based on information derived from abroad.

27. The Syrian Arab Republic reported that it had been conducting timely information exchanges with the relevant agencies in neighbouring States, including occasionally by telephone.

28. The United Arab Emirates reported that it had been keen to exchange information on drug cases with counterpart agencies as quickly as possible, since the time factor was important.

Recommendation 3

29. It was recommended that in anticipation of requests for assistance from foreign law enforcement agencies in the investigation of cross-border trafficking offences, States should be encouraged to adopt a proactive strategy such as the development of investigative teams ready to respond when an overseas investigation requires their domestic operational support.

30. Jordan reported that special investigation teams had been formed to investigate crimes of cross-border trafficking.

31. Lebanon noted that it was planning to either establish a committee of permanently appointed investigators or to respond to requests from other countries in the field of cooperation in investigative proceedings and the examination of drugs cases on an ad-hoc basis.

32. The Syrian Arab Republic noted that requests in this area had been dealt with separately and all assistance had been provided.

33. The United Arab Emirates reported that it had recently established several task forces, with the participation of control officers from other States, in order to follow up on information on drug trafficking.

Issue 3: Identifying sound practice in the training of law enforcement officials

Recommendation 1

34. It was recommended that Governments should take steps to ensure that their law enforcement training facilities are well-resourced and operate to the highest professional standards so as to maintain a high quality of service to the communities whose needs they meet.

35. Jordan reported that it had set up training centres, where special courses in the field of combating drugs – locally and regionally – took place.

36. The General Directorate of Internal Security Forces of Lebanon had conducted specialized courses in various fields, including drug cases and, in cooperation with

the relevant United Nations and European Union offices and other specialized organizations.

37. In the Syrian Arab Republic, the Ministry of Interior had been building the capacity of its law enforcement officers through its training establishments. Also, experts from neighbouring States and international experts had been invited and officers are had been sent to trainings in other countries.

38. The United Arab Emirates indicated that the agencies concerned with training had planned to stay informed about the latest developments in the field of training and to benefit from the experiences of States more advanced in this area.

Recommendation 2

39. It was recommended that in order to counter the increasing sophistication of the methods employed by syndicates engaged in illicit drug trafficking and to build cooperation and understanding at the grass-roots level, Governments should encourage integrated inter-agency training in counter-narcotics drug enforcement for all their front-line law enforcement agencies.

40. Jordan reported that courses and workshops on drug control and related crimes had been organized for all law enforcement relevant agencies.

41. The General Directorate of Internal Security Forces of Lebanon had assigned specialized officers to give lectures to law enforcement agencies on drugs, methods used to conceal them as well as smuggling methods.

42. The Syrian Arab Republic had been continuously conducting training courses for law enforcement officers from the various agencies.

43. The United Arab Emirates reported that joint training courses had been conducted for officers from drug control agencies and customs, also using the experience of other States in this field.

Recommendation 3

44. It was recommended that in order to develop the professional skills of their national law enforcement agencies, as well as build the foundations for ongoing and future cooperation, Governments should encourage and support their law enforcement training academies in the development and hosting of training events that include participants from counterpart enforcement agencies in foreign countries with whom they work.

45. Jordan reported the several courses on this topic for the staff of drug control agencies in neighbouring States had been organized by local or international organizations.

46. The General Directorate of Internal Security Forces of Lebanon had been designing a training strategy, also containing specialized studies on combating drugs, in cooperation with various countries.

47. The Ministry of Interior of the Syrian Arab Republic had been providing continuous support to other countries in preparing and hosting training activities. One such example is the cooperation with the International Academy in Turkey (TADOK), Interpol and Naif Arab University for Security Sciences.

48. The United Arab Emirates had organized several courses, also attended by staff of counterpart agencies of law enforcement from other countries.
