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Arabic, English and Russian only

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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

**Provisional agenda and annotations**

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.
3. Current situation with respect to regional and subregional cooperation.
4. Consideration of topics by working groups:
  - (a) Use and effectiveness of special investigative techniques, including controlled delivery as an operational response to dismantle drug trafficking syndicates;
  - (b) Ensuring the efficient exchange of information and extending operational cooperation against drug trafficking organizations at the inter-agency, cross-border and regional levels;
  - (c) Controlling the production of and trafficking in synthetic drugs and associated problems in the area of precursor control.
5. Follow-up to the twentieth special session of the General Assembly.
6. Implementation of the recommendations adopted by the Subcommission at its forty-first session.
7. Organization of the forty-fourth session of the Subcommission.
8. Other business.
9. Adoption of the report of the Subcommission on its forty-third session.



## **Annotations**

### **1. Election of officers**

Elections are held in accordance with the practice set forth in rule 15 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council. Past custom has been for the Subcommittee on Illicit Drug Traffic and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East to elect a Chairman, two Vice-Chairmen and a Rapporteur.

### **2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters**

The draft provisional agenda for the forty-third session was approved by the Subcommittee at its forty-second session. Following the adoption of the agenda, the Subcommittee will establish a timetable and agree on the organization of work for its forty-third session. A proposed organization of work for the consideration of the Subcommittee is shown in the annex to the present document.

#### **Documentation**

Provisional agenda and annotations (UNODC/SUBCOM/2008/1)

### **3. Current situation with respect to regional and subregional cooperation**

Participants will be invited to inform the Subcommittee of their respective countries' efforts as regards regional and subregional cooperation in areas such as joint investigations, law enforcement training and sharing of information and experience in taking measures to counter drug trafficking. Participants are requested to indicate in particular any practical problems impeding subregional cooperation and measures to overcome those problems.

At its thirty-eighth session, the Commission on Narcotic Drugs recommended that general statements and statistics relating to national trends in drug trafficking should not be made orally during meetings but should be circulated in written form. In particular, the Commission recommended that the meeting be informed of new and important trends having an impact on cooperation and new developments that drug law enforcement agencies of the region need to be made aware of. Governments are invited to submit to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), by 29 September 2008, a two-page report on recent trends in drug trafficking in their respective countries over the past year. Only country reports that have been received by that date will be translated into the other working languages of the meeting.

#### **Documentation**

Report of the Secretariat on statistics on drug trafficking trends in the Near and Middle East, in South, West and Central Asia and worldwide (UNODC/SUBCOM/2008/2)

Note by the Secretariat on the current situation with respect to regional and subregional cooperation (UNODC/SUBCOM/2008/CRP.1)

#### 4. Consideration of topics by working groups

Ad hoc working groups will be established in order to review issues of regional importance and to facilitate informal discussions and frank exchanges of views on specific matters. The working groups will be invited to present their findings, conclusions and recommendations to the Subcommittee for endorsement and inclusion in its report on the forty-third session. Each working group will be invited to take into consideration the following in the formulation of its recommendations:

- (a) Identification of specific operational and other problems facing drug law enforcement in the region;
- (b) Discussion of specific countermeasures to combat particular regional patterns of drug trafficking that could or should be implemented at the national, subregional or intraregional levels;
- (c) Enhancement of regional cooperation by identifying potential partners in specific problem areas of drug control;
- (d) Presentation of specific, relevant findings and recommendations to the Subcommittee.

The topics below are suggested for consideration by working groups.

**(a) Use and effectiveness of special investigative techniques, including controlled delivery as an operational response to dismantle drug trafficking syndicates**

The working group on this topic will be asked to consider and review the various aspects involved in ensuring effective implementation of controlled delivery operations. One essential element is that appropriate legislation be in place to facilitate such operations, together with well-formulated procedures and properly trained staff. In addition to effective cross-border cooperation with competent authorities in planning and implementing controlled deliveries, domestic inter-agency cooperation is also a key element for success. Important to consider as well are the difficulties faced by law enforcement agencies in planning and implementing such operations and the preliminary steps taken by Subcommittee members to prepare themselves to undertake controlled deliveries. The aim of the working group will be to draw on operational experience, highlight key issues, identify and promote good practices and identify resources in order to enhance effective cooperation in the implementation of controlled delivery operations among members of the Subcommittee. Participants will be encouraged to share case studies based on their experience with this investigative technique and to table proposals intended to enhance related cooperation in the region.

**(b) Ensuring the efficient exchange of information and extending operational cooperation against drug trafficking organizations at the inter-agency, cross-border and regional levels**

The working group on this topic will look at ways of improving the exchange of information and intelligence on illicit drug trafficking through confidence-building and operational cooperation at the inter-agency, cross-border and regional levels. The discussion will focus on overcoming weaknesses that undermine effective cooperation and on highlighting new tactics, such as beneficial exchanges of personnel among agencies, the use of regional task forces and the importance of

national focal points. Regional intelligence structures, intelligence-led law enforcement, coordination of strategies, strong interrelationships between law enforcement and prosecution authorities, and legal, operational and funding considerations are other areas that participants may wish to include in their presentations. Participants will be invited to table recommendations intended to enhance efforts in this regard.

**(c) Controlling the production of and trafficking in synthetic drugs and associated problems in the area of precursor control**

In view of the growing demand for amphetamine-type stimulants in the region, the working group on this topic will examine the current situation with regard to the production of and trafficking in amphetamine-type stimulants and to the types, quantities and patterns of trafficking encountered in the States members of the Subcommission. Participants will be called on to share information on the manufacture of amphetamine-type stimulants in their countries and the extent to which the illicit diversion of precursor chemicals supports such manufacture. They may also wish to discuss such topics as the following: the problems associated with the diversion of pharmaceutical substances from licit to illicit channels; measures taken by member States to respond to the problem of amphetamine-type stimulants; measures that have proved successful and difficulties that have been encountered; how member States have dealt with the knowledge gap in the identification and testing of amphetamine-type stimulants and precursors; and steps and initiatives taken to enhance cooperation between authorities and private-sector chemical companies. Participants are encouraged to bring case studies to illustrate their experience in addressing the illicit manufacture of amphetamine-type stimulants. The discussion will also touch on the initiatives introduced to support front-line staff in identifying diverted precursor chemicals. Participants will be invited to focus on putting forward practical recommendations for enhancing regional cooperation in the control of amphetamine-type stimulants and their precursors.

**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 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. Implementation of the recommendations adopted by the Subcommittee at its forty-first session**

Participants are invited to inform the Subcommittee of action taken by their respective Governments in the implementation of the recommendations adopted by the Subcommittee at its forty-first session, held in Amman from 26 to 30 June 2006. The Subcommittee will have before it a note by the Secretariat prepared on the basis of replies received to a questionnaire concerning action taken by Governments.

**Documentation**

Note by the Secretariat on the review of implementation by States of the region of the recommendations adopted by the Subcommittee on Illicit Drug Traffic and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East at its forty-first session (UNODC/SUBCOM/2008/3)

**7. Organization of the forty-fourth session of the Subcommittee**

The Subcommittee will have before it the draft provisional agenda for its forty-fourth session, including topics for discussion in working groups, and may wish to consider possible venues for future sessions. For planning purposes, a decision at the forty-third session of the Subcommittee on the venue for the forty-fourth session and on topics for discussion in working groups would greatly facilitate the organization of the forty-fourth session. The Secretariat will provide, on request and for the information of the Subcommittee, a copy of the standard letter of agreement for the hosting of a session of the Subcommittee in which the respective contributions of the United Nations and of the host Government are set out.

The Subcommittee may also wish to discuss any other matter related to the organization of its deliberations with a view to improving their substantive content and the follow-up to them.

**Documentation**

Note by the Secretariat (UNODC/SUBCOM/2008/4)

**8. Other business**

The Subcommittee may wish to address other important issues, such as urgent matters arising from the country reports.

**9. Adoption of the report of the Subcommittee on its forty-third session**

The Subcommittee will adopt the report on its forty-third session, including the findings, conclusions and recommendations of the working groups.

## Annex

### Proposed organization of work

<i>Date and time</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>	<i>Title or description</i>
<b>Sunday, 16 November</b>		
10 a.m.		Opening of the session
	1	Election of officers
	2	Adoption of the agenda and organization of work
	3	Current situation with respect to regional and subregional cooperation
2.30 p.m.	3	Current situation with respect to regional and subregional cooperation ( <i>continued</i> )
<b>Monday, 17 November</b>		
9 a.m.	5	Follow-up to the twentieth special session of the General Assembly
	6	Implementation of the recommendations adopted by the Subcommission at its forty-first session
2 p.m.	4	Working groups
<b>Tuesday, 18 November</b>		
9 a.m.	4	Working groups ( <i>continued</i> )
2 p.m.	4	Working groups ( <i>continued</i> )
<b>Wednesday, 19 November</b>		
9 a.m.	4	Working groups ( <i>continued</i> )
2 p.m.	7	Organization of the forty-fourth session of the Subcommission
	8	Other business
<b>Thursday, 20 November</b>		
9 a.m.	9	Adoption of the report
2 p.m.	9	Adoption of the report ( <i>continued</i> )