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

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Item 3 of the provisional agenda*

**Current situation with respect to regional and subregional
cooperation****Current situation with respect to regional and subregional
cooperation****Report of the Secretariat****I. Introduction**

1. The 2008 Afghanistan opium poppy survey carried out by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the Ministry of Counter Narcotics (MCN) of Afghanistan, shows a cultivation of 159,000 hectares of opium poppy, a decrease of 19 per cent compared to 2007. Favourable weather conditions also led to historically highest opium yields in 2008 (48,8 kg per hectare) compared also to the high yield in 2007 (42,5 kg per hectare). As a result, in 2008 Afghanistan produced an extraordinary 7,700 tons of opium (6 per cent less than in 2007), thus remaining the largest supplier of opiates in the world (accounting for over 90 per cent of global production). As a result, Afghanistan's neighbouring States and those used as transit countries to channel heroin to illicit markets further west, in Central Asia and the Near and Middle East, continue to be challenged by trafficking of opium, morphine and refined heroin through their territories as well as by the diversion and smuggling of precursor chemicals, the operation of clandestine laboratories manufacturing illicit drugs and the expansion of trafficking networks within their countries. Trafficking in Afghan heroin and precursors throughout the region remains therefore the driving force behind almost all regional and subregional cooperation efforts. In order to counter the different thematic and geographic areas, UNODC has further elaborated the Rainbow Strategy, which encompasses seven segmented initiatives, starting from within Afghanistan, dealing with border issues

* UNODC/SUBCOM/2008/1.



and cross-border cooperation, intelligence, precursor control, money flows and demand reduction/HIV, out of which five measures are already operational.

II. Afghanistan

2. Unlike previous years, 98 per cent of the 2008 total cultivation is confined to seven provinces with security problems: five of these provinces are in the south and two in the west of Afghanistan. Of the 34 provinces in the country, 18 were poppy free in 2008 compared to 13 in 2007 and 6 in 2006. This includes the eastern province of Nangarhar, which was the number two cultivator in 2007 and now is free from poppy cultivation. At the district level, 297 of Afghanistan's 398 districts were poppy free in 2008. Only a tiny portion of the total cultivation took place in the north, north-east and east. Together these regions counted for less than two per cent of cultivation. Seven southern and western provinces contributed to 98 per cent of Afghan opium cultivation and production. This clearly highlights the strong link between opium cultivation and the lack of security.

3. In 2008, UNODC continued to support the establishment of provincial MCN offices including construction, equipping and training. Training courses were held in office administration, community mobilization, as well as management and leadership. In addition to MCN staff, counter narcotics staff from governors' offices and key line ministries (Ministry of Rehabilitation and Rural Development and Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock) also attended the training. UNODC has also been supporting the creation of an alternative livelihoods database for MCN, expanded to collect provincial and district level data. A report on mapping of alternative livelihoods investment, funding and changes in poppy cultivation between 2005 and 2008, prepared by the UNODC project team, was released in October 2008. With regard to the awareness raising, UNODC conducted a survey on public counter narcotics information campaigns. The results showed that the successes in reducing poppy cultivation in the central and northern region in recent years has been achieved primarily through messages and campaigns by strong political leaders. Two rapid assessment surveys were carried out in Balkh and Badakhshan, aimed to better understand the causes and drivers of opium poppy cultivation, as well as the impact of reduction in cultivation in recent years. Further studies will be completed in three more provinces before end-2008. The results of this research contributed to the provision of emergency aid to farmers and community at risk of backlash, by the World Food Programme, a major partner of UNODC within the framework of the Opium Poppy Free Roadmap. Besides, the research helped UNODC and the international community (including UK and US) to support the preparation of provincial CN plans, which are currently being prepared by governors as a main recommendation from the VII JCMB meeting held Tokyo in February 2008. A donor conference, organized by UNODC, was held end of May to increase the support to Badakhshan and resulted in the support of the counter narcotics trust fund for funding of labour-based infrastructure activities in Badakhshan, to be implemented before end-2008.

4. In the area of drug demand reduction, as a follow-up phase to the initial capacity-building projects over recent years, new proposals were developed and have started, which aim at institutionalizing drug demand reduction capacity within Government authorities in a more comprehensive manner. These include the

development of a drug abuse prevention programme as well as a drug dependence treatment and rehabilitation system in Afghanistan, which envisages the integration of drug treatment into the primary health care system; HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment and care among injecting and non injecting women in Afghanistan and in prison setting. UNODC has started in June 2008 to conduct a nationwide drug abuse survey. The results of the survey will be available early in 2009. Finally, a major conference on drug demand reduction, organized by UNODC and the European Commission, was held in July 2008 to raise awareness amongst donor countries of the current state of drug demand reduction and treatment and rehabilitation services in Afghanistan.

5. In the area of law enforcement, progresses were recorded in three main areas: capacity-building of the Counter Narcotics Police (CNPA), border control management, and precursors control. In particular, UNODC over the years contributed to strengthen the operational capability of CNPA to effectively combat drug trafficking in the country by establishing offices in nine provinces whereas two more are currently under construction. In addition, support has been provided to the establishment of a Counter Narcotics Training Academy within CNPA. UNODC's current efforts are to set training standards in drug law enforcement and prepare relevant guidelines, curricula and manuals for training, in order to achieve a wide-range basic police training. UNODC also provides advisory and mentoring services to the radio communication department of CNPA and Afghan Border Police, as well as enhance forensic laboratory capacity within CNPA and comprehensive and dedicated intelligence database to support their capability. In regard to border management, UNODC field mentors continued to provide support in the development of the Afghan Border Police tactical level field operations, with particular focus on the Afghan-Iranian. UNODC's border management activities are now recognized by donors as best practice in Afghanistan, and activities underway in the Western border (including Nimroz) will be used as a model for border management capacity-building in other areas of the country. Finally, recent collaborative efforts in the precursors control field have resulted in an unprecedented and definitive strategic assessment of the precursors' situation in Afghanistan, and intelligence data is regularly exchanged with neighbouring transshipment countries as well as those where precursor consignments are known to have originated. The distribution and use of UNODC precursor test kits and written technical material throughout Afghanistan further contributed to an increase in law enforcement activity and interdiction efforts, and arguably to increased seizures.

III. Cooperation involving Afghanistan, Iran (the Islamic Republic of) and/or Pakistan

6. In order to promote regional and sub-regional cooperation in drug within the framework of South-South cooperation, UNODC, jointly with the Drug Control Headquarters, organized a study tour on "drug control and HIV prevention among drug users in prison settings" for a delegation from Afghanistan and Pakistan on 2-6 December 2007. The purpose of this study tour was to introduce measures taken in the field of demand reduction in Iran and practices of Prisons Organization to the Afghan and Pakistani officials; and to build for a tripartite Drug Demand Reduction initiative.

7. UNODC Iran organized the Third Law Enforcement Experts meeting on 17-18 February 2008. UNODC field offices in Pakistan, Afghanistan, Central Asia and Turkmenistan participated in this meeting. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss preparations for the next senior technical and ministerial level meeting within the framework of Triangular Initiatives.

8. UNODC Iran jointly with the Drug Control Headquarters (DCHQ) organized the 2nd Communications Experts Meeting among the I.R. of Iran, Afghanistan and Pakistan on 26-27 February 2008. The purpose of this meeting was to discuss and reach an agreement on modalities of cross-border communication among the 3 countries within the framework of Triangular Initiative and to discuss about required equipment for the mentioned cross-border communication.

9. UNODC Iran organized the fourth Law Enforcement Experts meeting in Tehran on 4-5 May 2008 within the framework of Triangular Initiative. Officials from UNODC Country Office for Afghanistan and Pakistan participated in the meeting. The above-mentioned meeting was followed by the 2nd Ministerial Meeting of the Triangular Initiative.

10. On 6 May 2008 the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran hosted the 2nd Senior Officials meeting of the Triangular Initiative in Tehran. The meeting was a follow up to the first Triangular Initiative Ministerial Meeting between the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), held in Vienna on 12 June 2008. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss, within the framework of the Triangular Initiative, a common regional strategy to face the growing and destabilizing threat of drugs and crime across reciprocal sensitive borders. The issues were discussed during the 2nd Senior Officials meeting included the need of a joint operational centre to plan and implement joint anti-drugs operations; the establishment of Border Liaison Offices able to easily communicate and exchange intelligence; the organization of joint training; the provision of communication equipment and language training courses and the integration of operation TARCET in Triangular Initiatives.

11. The 2nd Senior Official Meeting was followed by the 2nd Ministerial Meeting of the Triangular Initiative, held in Tehran on 7 May 2008 and hosted by the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran. The meeting was jointly organized by the Drug Control Headquarters and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. The objective of the meeting was to endorse operational measures to improve cooperation in drug control among Afghanistan, Iran and Pakistan. Recommendations proposed by the representatives of the Senior Officials Meeting were adopted by the Ministerial Meeting under the Triangular Initiative.

IV. Cooperation in Iran (Islamic Republic of)

12. UNODC organized a study tour to Italy for the Iranian officials from Judiciary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and law enforcement on 9-14 December 2007 on organized crime, money-laundering and mutual assistance, which was followed by a workshop on “International standards, best practices, legislation and institutions dealing with organized crime, money-laundering and mutual legal assistance: outcomes of the study tour to Italy” on 23 January 2008.

13. UNODC participated in “The First Asian Consultation on the prevention of HIV related to drug use”, which was held on 28-31 January 2008 in Goa, India. The purpose of the meeting was to introduce and share the experiences of I.R. of Iran in the area of HIV prevention and care for Injecting Drug Users (IDUs).
14. UNODC participated in the “19th international conference of the International Harm Reduction Association”, held on 10-16 May 2008 in Barcelona, Spain. The purpose of the conference was to bring together top DDR/HR experts from different countries to present their best practices, introduce potential obstacles and learn from each other in an attempt to better design programs in order to reduce and/or alleviate drug abuse harms.
15. UNODC jointly with the DARIUS Institute organized the training workshop on primary drug and HIV/AIDS prevention in drug users’ spouses on 12-13 May 2008. The main objective of organizing this workshop was to increase the practical knowledge of experts active in drug use prevention and treatment, especially NGOs, in the field of drug use primary prevention methods and principles in spouses of drug users.
16. Within the framework of Project S12 (Improvement of Iranian Legislative and Judicial capacity to tackle Organized Crime and Money Laundering and promotion of Mutual Legal Assistance) UNODC organized 2 study tours to Italy and Thailand respectively on 6-10 July 2008 and 28 July-2 August 2008 for Iranian judges, prosecutors, diplomats and representatives from other governmental and private institutions. The purpose of these study tours was to study IT and data base solutions adopted to counter organized crime, money-laundering, and cyber-crime and to enhance mutual legal assistance as well as developing effective mutual legal assistance.
17. UNODC with the cooperation of the Drug Control Headquarters organized a one-week training course on Operation TARCET on 2-7 August 2008. The training course was a follow up to the Operation Transshipment which was launched in August 2006. The Operation Transshipment focused on identification and seizure of consignments of chemicals, particularly acetic anhydride smuggled into Afghanistan from various border crossings. This was the first Operation of this nature by UNODC and INCB in which training was provided as a practical exercise involving multiple agencies in joint field activities of various countries.
18. UNODC jointly with the Drug Control Headquarters organized an international training course on “Management of Effective HIV/AIDS Programme Targeting Injecting Drug Users (IDUs) on 2-14 August 2008. The training course covered topics such as: Harm Reduction Principles and Practice; Preventing HIV transmission among IDUs; HIV Testing, Treatment, Care and Support of HIV positive IDUs.
19. Within the framework of south-south cooperation, UNODC organized a study tour to Iran on HIV Prevention and Care Programmes in Prisons and Community for a delegation from South Asian countries (Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Maldives, Bhutan, Nepal and India) on 26-29 July 2008.
20. UNODC with the cooperation of the Drug Control Headquarters organized a study tour on drug prevention for Iranian senior experts to the Netherlands and Sweden on 2-13 September 2008. The purpose of this study tour was to visit and

study Dutch and Swedish organizations and learn a different and successful drug demand reduction programme with special focus on primary drug prevention programme and expose Iranian experts to organizations, experts and prevention and health promotion programmes in local community, education system, prison, workplace, family, HIV/AIDS and other programmes established according to the needs of the community to deal with drugs use.

V. Cooperation efforts in Turkey

21. Turkey is located on the main transit route for opiates, namely morphine base, opium and heroin, which are being trafficked from the opium cultivation point of Afghanistan to the lucrative markets of Europe. With a comparatively low prevalence of opiate use in Turkey and therefore insignificant local market, Turkey's geographic location determines its importance as a major transit country and a secondary distribution point for Afghan opiates. Small numbers and scales of clandestine heroin laboratories revealed in Turkey would tend to indicate limited production. Heroin laboratories that have been discovered are generally directed towards purification rather than production. It is perceived that the opium and its derivatives are smuggled into Turkey from Eastern Borders in the form of heroin, and transported to the European markets from Western Borders.

22. With modernization, an emerging youth culture in the large cities, and a booming tourist industry, Turkey has become a destination country for synthetic drugs. While they are currently imported from Western Europe it is considered (as has been proven in surrounding countries of the Balkans) that the illicit manufacture of synthetic drugs may follow in Turkey. Such local production may be driven by the high profitability, access to appropriate chemicals and ease of concealment of laboratories in rural areas. Already several laboratories for the pressing of captagon paste smuggled from Europe into tablets have been dismantled by Turkish law enforcement agencies, notably the Gendarmerie, and whilst they generally supply for smuggling on southern routes into the Arab states, this proves that illicit production has commenced.

23. The trafficking of precursor chemicals and particularly Acetic Anhydride pose a major threat. Their effective interdiction would have a significant impact in the capacity of Afghan groups to refine and supply heroin. As a growing industrial nation Turkey has a licit need for a number of chemicals within legitimate manufacturing processes, which could further be utilized by trafficking organizations as a cover for their illegal activities.

24. Whilst in recent years Turkey has maintained an effective struggle against drugs trafficking (more than 30 tons of heroin seized in 2005-2007) the sheer scale of the problem and the geographic size of the country dictate that further measures are now urgently required in rural areas.

25. Turkey adopted the "National Policy and Strategy Paper on Addictive Drugs and the Fight against Drug Use" covering the period between 2010-2012 on 20 November 2006 in order to maintain its fight against narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances in a more systematic and planned manner. The "1st National Action Plan (2007-2009)" in harmony with the National Policy and

Strategy Document has been drafted with the contribution of the (24) Institutional Focal Points of TUBİM and approved in December 2007.

26. An Anti-Trafficking Law has been updated and enforced in the year 2007. Furthermore, within project “TR02-JH-06 – Twinning Project for Strengthening the Fight Against Organized Crimes” carried out together with Germany within the scope of the National Programme for Adopting the EU Acquis, a “Strategy Document on Fight against Organized Crimes” was also approved in 2007. This document is aimed at increasing the capacity in the field of cooperation between the law enforcement units and judicial cooperation, and also covers the fight against drugs and stimulants.

27. Taking into consideration the above set up, UNODC prepared a new project “Strengthening of Capacity for the Interdiction of Drugs in Rural Areas in Turkey” that is aimed at ensuring cooperation, coordination and information exchange between law enforcement agencies within the framework of the Turkish national strategy for combating drug trafficking. It is envisaged that through this targeted project, Turkey’s capacity to fight against illicit narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances will be enhanced through provision of best practices, various resources and training. While the main beneficiary of the project is the Gendarmerie General Command, all four Turkish drug law enforcement institutions will benefit from the project, and a common approach to countering drug trafficking will be established. This much needed project will be the first to address drug trafficking in the rural areas of Turkey. The implementation of the project started in December 2007.

28. In 2007, UNODC continued to implement one of the flagship projects in the region “Strengthening of the Turkish International Academy against Drugs and Organized Crime (TADOC)”. In the course of 2007, computer-based training (CBT) courses were held at TADOC and development of new modules continued. Four new CBT sites were established in the Police Academy, the Dog Training Centre, the Coast Guard Command and the Gendarmerie School. According to the mutual cooperation stipulations, all CBT sites have reserved seats for Gendarmerie, Customs and Coast Guard officers. Three new modules – on money-laundering, intelligence and interdiction techniques, will be introduced.

29. In 2007, the total number of people who have taken CBT courses at TADOC has reached 6,746 since the beginning of the CBT activities in Turkey in June 2004 (this figure includes 277 officers from the Turkish Customs, 672 officers from the Gendarmerie, 196 Coast Guards, 5,188 Police officers as well as law enforcers from Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan).

VI. Cooperation efforts in Central Asia

30. Central Asia continues to be a key corridor for trafficking in opium and heroin originating from Afghanistan. Around 21 per cent of all heroin smuggled from Afghanistan transits the “Northern Route” to the Russian Federation and Europe in 2006 with undetermined amounts also trafficked to Western China (Xinjiang Province). With excess production in Afghanistan, going far beyond the world demand for opiates, an increasing amount of drugs are absorbed locally along the routes.

31. In the course of 2007 and 2008, UNODC's Regional Office for Central Asia has focussed on implementing and operationalizing Action Plans devised under the "Rainbow Strategy". Particular attention has been paid to the Red Paper, "Targeting precursors used in heroin manufacture", the Yellow Paper, "Securing Central Asia's borders with Afghanistan" and the Violet Paper, "The Caspian Sea Initiative". These Actions plan now perform a key role in UNODC's strategy for the region and various activities are underway to ensure a coordinated and concerted response to counter-narcotic interventions in the region.

32. As part of the strategy for "Targeting precursors used in heroin manufacture", the Regional Office for Central Asia (ROCA) in close cooperation with the Paris Pact initiative launched Operation TARCET. During the operation, existing UNODC projects in the region were used as platforms to assist Governments in conducting, coordinated intervention activities aimed at identifying and intercepting consignments of precursor chemicals, particularly acetic anhydride, being smuggled into Afghanistan. The results of the operation, which involved the participation of the competent authorities of Afghanistan, Islamic Republic of Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan were encouraging and, for the first time since 2001, Afghanistan's neighbours seized consignments of chemicals being smuggled through the region. Furthermore, synergies were developed with other UNODC projects including, in particular, the Central Asian Regional Information and Coordination Centre (CARICC) which served, for the first time, as an independent operational entity by functioning as the Operational Control Unit for Operation TARCET. In addition to the training and operational skills passed on to national authorities by the international trainers participating in the operation, a number of seizures of acetic anhydride were also made. Through these seizures, the illicit manufacture of over 15 tonnes of heroin was prevented.

33. The Action Plan for "Securing Central Asia's Borders with Afghanistan" merges existing projects for promoting the exchange of intelligence and cooperation among border officials, and the establishment of mobile interdiction teams to form a cohesive action plan for securing the borders between Afghanistan and its neighbours in Central Asia. Under this initiative, UNODC is facilitating cross-border cooperation between Central Asian and Afghan officials, who will, in time, lead to the establishment of Border Liaison Offices (BLOs) in identified high-risk areas, not only on the Afghan border but at key internal Central Asian border crossings and potentially at the Central Asian borders with China and Iran. Such BLOs are essential to increase the capabilities of border guards, customs and law enforcement bodies posted in these areas through promoting cross-border communication, cooperation and coordination for improved information sharing systems. In order to complement activities aimed at securing and improving fixed border crossings through the establishment of BLOs, the strategy also promotes the creation and use of mobile interdiction teams (MOBITs) as another way to secure Central Asia's borders. MOBITs have currently been established in Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan. UNODC ROCA with the support from US CentCom and DEA instructors has organized MOBITs induction training for the first four MOBITs teams (33 officers).

34. The Caspian Sea Initiative (CSI) was the principal outcomes of the expert round table in Turkmenbashi, Turkmenistan, in September 2007 which was convened to coordinate the delivery of technical assistance on drug control in the

area of the Caspian Sea. Under this initiative UNODC will work to increase the analytical capacity of the law enforcement forces of the countries in the area of the Caspian Sea with a view to generating more effective and better targeted strategies. The initiative will be piloted in Turkmenistan, a country that will become a hub for seaport and maritime cooperation in the area of the Caspian Sea. Both UNODC (through the Container Control Program and the creation of inter-agency Port Control Units) and the European Commission (through the Drug Profiling Units of the program for Border Management in Central Asia) are to coordinate activities in the seaport of Turkmenbashi. Within the newly launched initiative (CSI) UNODC hosted, with the support of the Government of Turkmenistan, its first senior law enforcement officials meeting on 24-26 June 2008 to develop its action plan for upcoming three years (2008-2010). Similar activities are also underway elsewhere in Turkmenistan through the project "Strengthening border control along the Turkmen-Afghan border, in particular at Imam-Nazar checkpoint. In 2008, a study tour was organized for law enforcement officials to Turkey which introduced law enforcement officials to operational drug interdiction practices at airport and land border including risk profiling and database management with scanning and monitoring equipment applications. In addition, UNODC facilitated on-site training in the field of searching techniques and risk profiling for land border control operations (passenger, vehicle, luggage and cargo), delivered at Imam-Nazar in May 2008.

35. UNODC continued to support cooperation to increase information exchange among law enforcement agencies in Central Asia, including through the expansion of the regional project aimed at developing national intelligence databases in Afghanistan and Azerbaijan. The Central Asia Regional Information and Coordination Centre (CARICC) will provide the legal framework and mechanism for sharing the information. The necessary legal and institutional instruments have been developed and finalized but, as of October 2007, they have been signed only by six of the seven member States. Turkmenistan ratified the Agreement on 28 December 2007. Kyrgyzstan ratified the Agreement on 19 September 2008. According to a resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Kazakhstan dated 1 July 2008, the CARICC Agreement was endorsed and submitted to the Parliament. CARICC's strategic plan provides the basis for it to become a fully operational agency at the earliest opportunity once the ratification process has been successfully concluded. While not yet fully operational, in 2007, the heads of the legal departments of the ministries of foreign affairs and high-ranking officers of the law enforcement agencies of the participating countries endorsed the pilot phase of CARICC and recommended its initiation by 1 November 2007. During this pilot phase, CARICC has served as the operational and coordination role for a number of law enforcement projects and initiatives in the region, the prime example being Operation TARCET. In addition, a number of foreign liaison officers have already established operational contact with CARICC and a number of operations have been conducted based on the information provided through liaison officers' network and working links with law enforcement liaison officers of a number of countries have been established. Measures are being taken to ensure cooperation with Afghan authorities which are expected to result in observer status in CARICC being granted to Afghanistan and the posting of an Afghan liaison officer. Links are also being established with Chinese counterparts. There is strong support for the project from Europol, Interpol, and World Customs Organisation (WCO). Interpol will have an

office within the Centre and the Interpol I-24/7 system was installed in December 2007, with training provided to CARICC staff by Interpol officers. Work is underway to complete testing of WCO's CEN-COMM secure communication environment provided to CARICC by WCO.

36. UNODC continued to provide legal assistance for improving the legislation and practice in cases of extradition and mutual legal assistance. UNODC organized jointly with the OSCE a workshop on Seizing, Confiscating and Sharing/Returning of Proceeds/Instrumentalities of Crime Transferred to Foreign Jurisdictions in Almaty, Kazakhstan, attended by Kazakh, Kyrgyz, Russian, Tajik, Turkmen, Ukrainian and Uzbek agencies. Other participants included judges, prosecutors, law enforcement officers and/or experts from Ireland, the United Kingdom, the Netherlands, Financial Intelligence Units of Afghanistan, Interpol and Europol.

37. As regards drug demand reduction projects, UNODC continues to assist countries of the region in developing their capacity for the improved responses to HIV prevention, treatment and care among injecting drug users and in prison settings, and treatment and rehabilitation of drug abusers. In 2007 and 2008 some key projects providing technical assistance on diversification of HIV services for injecting drug users, policy advice to national counterparts, and prevention of drug use using media and journalists and civil society organisations were successfully completed.

VII. Paris Pact initiative

38. At the Conference on Drug Routes from Central Asia to Europe, held in Paris on 21 and 22 May 2003, more than 55 countries and international organizations agreed on concerted measures to limit the trafficking of Afghan opiates through West and Central Asia and Europe and on the need for stronger and better coordinated action in border control and law enforcement. UNODC was invited to act as a clearing-house mechanism and to provide comprehensive information on and analysis of action priorities in the most affected countries through a project entitled the "Paris Pact initiative".

39. Following the Second Ministerial Conference on Drug Trafficking Routes from Afghanistan held in Moscow in June 2006 and in line with consultations with Paris Pact partners, the second phase of this project was launched in January 2007. This second phase has six new elements: (a) improving the operational focus of the expert round tables; (b) following upon the Paris Pact recommendations; (c) ensuring the wider use and sustainability of the Automated Donor Assistance Mechanism (ADAM); (d) strengthening counter-narcotic analytical capacities; (e) advocating a balanced approach to drug issues; and (f) fostering partnerships with subregional, regional and international players. Through the Paris Pact initiative, UNODC has facilitated periodical consultations and strategic thinking at the expert and policy levels between partners in order to jointly discuss, identify and set in motion coordinated actions to stem the increasing levels of opiates trafficked from Afghanistan and address the drug abuse situation in priority countries.

40. The coordination of counter narcotics technical assistance is promoted through the use of the Automated Donor Assistance Mechanism (ADAM) an internet-based "clearing house" mechanism, that groups together technical assistance projects in

countries along the main opiates trafficking routes from Afghanistan, thus avoiding duplication, and ensuring the most effective use of scarce donor resources. ADAM offers a unique opportunity to provide donor and recipient countries with a real time assessment of assistance needs and priorities. The tool securely and instantly provides partners with information on who is doing what, where and how in the field of counter-narcotics in Afghanistan, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Pakistan, the Russian Federation and in the Central Asian and South-Eastern European countries. The success of ADAM means that UNODC now provides its partners with information on projects on counter narcotics enforcement in Afghanistan, Islamic Republic of Iran, Pakistan, Russia, Central Asian and South Eastern European countries, as reported to UNODC. Currently, 138 active users take advantage of ADAM. Similarly the online database provides updated statistical tables and digital maps showing information on seizures, drug abuse, HIV and AIDS, crime and population for the previous five years thus providing essential information for strategic planning and action. The second phase of the project will run for three years, from January 2007 to December 2009, and has an estimated budget of 3.1 million United States dollars.

41. The implementation of Paris Pact priority actions/recommendations (from 2004 to date) is being promoted through what has become known as the “Rainbow Strategy”. In 2007, UNODC translated the outcomes and recommendations of Paris Pact expert round tables into seven action plans, four of which were already drawn up and launched by UNODC in the course of 2007 and three are in development and due to be finalized by the end of 2008.

42. The blue paper is an action plan that aims to increase the number of provinces free of opium poppy and to improve governance records in Afghanistan. In the document, priority provinces in Afghanistan and concomitant areas are identified for targeting through the provision of incentives and rewards and the building of synergies among all stakeholders and partners. The blue paper was last updated in June 2008.

43. To enhance border management cooperation in drug control among Afghanistan, Iran (Islamic Republic of) and Pakistan is the objective of the green paper, an action plan developed in June 2007 during a ministerial meeting on the subject. The aims of the action plan are expected to be achieved through a step-by-step approach that includes both confidence-building measures, information exchange and operational activities, and that it will be implemented over three years. Ultimately, the action plan aims to block the southern and eastern drug trafficking routes by strengthening control of Afghanistan’s borders with Iran (Islamic Republic of) and Pakistan. In furthering the process, a second Triangular Ministerial Conference took place in Tehran on 6-7 May 2008 where, inter alia, three new actions were agreed upon, those being: (i) the creation of three pilot border liaison offices (BLOs) at each of the borders; (ii) to have intelligence based joint operations as soon as possible and at least one or two operations within twelve months to come and; (iii) to formulate guidelines under the Afghanistan Transit Trade Agreement (ATTA between Pakistan/Afghanistan) and the Transport International Routier (TIR between Iran/Afghanistan) allowing efficient control on trade flows to Afghanistan, in particular containers, within a standardized regional approach.

44. The yellow paper, entitled *Securing Central Asia's Borders with Afghanistan*, is an action plan that aims to strengthen narcotic interdiction efforts at the start of the northern trafficking route (Afghanistan – Central Asia – Russian Federation – Europe). In particular, the action plan looks at developing and coordinating intelligence using both conventional and non-conventional means, strengthening overall interdiction capacities through the development of a cross-border liaison mechanism between Central Asian States and Afghanistan and developing operating standards for the green border, the uncontrolled area along and beyond border crossing points. The action plan, that harmonizes efforts on both sides of the Afghan border, is based on three pillars: (a) the analysis and sharing of intelligence; (b) the establishment of border liaison offices; and (c) the establishment of mobile interdiction teams.

45. The red paper calls for the launch of time-bound operations focusing on the trafficking of acetic anhydride in Afghanistan, China, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan, as well as in India and the United Arab Emirates, in collaboration with several Paris Pact partners. The action plan targets the smuggling of precursors used in heroin manufacture en route to Afghanistan through the implementation of Operation TARCET (*Targeted Anti-trafficking Regional Communication, Expertise and Training*). During the first few months of this operation in 2008, 19 tons of acetic anhydride and over 20 tons of other chemicals were seized in the Islamic Republic of Iran, Pakistan, Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan.

46. The violet paper, which is to be finalized by the end of 2008, is on the Caspian Sea and Turkmen border initiatives. Two of the five countries bordering the Caspian Sea (Iran (Islamic Republic of) and Turkmenistan) also neighbour Afghanistan and are, therefore, seriously affected by the recent increase in opium poppy cultivation. The Executive Director of UNODC and the President of Turkmenistan met in January 2008 and finalized the initial agreement for the launch of the Turkmen border initiative.

47. Two further action plans will be developed: (a) the orange paper to tackle the financial flows to and from Afghanistan linked to illicit opiates production and trafficking; and (b) the indigo paper which will be an action plan aimed at fighting opiates addiction and HIV/AIDS epidemics in Afghanistan and neighbouring countries. Finalisation of these papers is planned for the end of 2008.

48. In 2008, two round table meetings of senior experts in counter-narcotic enforcement and drug demand reduction have been organized, each with a separate geographical or thematic focus: the first was on the Black Sea region and was held in Bucharest, Romania from 9 to 11 July 2008. Its recommendations included, inter alia, support and utilization of communication and information networks; operational cooperation and information exchange between countries in the region and effective mechanisms for cross-border prosecutorial and judicial cooperation. The working group on drug demand reduction recommended, inter alia, the development of national policies and legislations and expansion and further development of the prevention, treatment and harm reduction services in prisons.

49. A second round table meeting was held in Nairobi, Kenya from 22 to 24 September 2008 and focussed on the Eastern Africa region. A third expert round

table on the financial flows linked to the illicit production and trafficking of Afghan opiates is scheduled to be held in Vienna on 6 and 7 November 2008.

50. Two separate teams, made up of experts from UNODC and Paris Pact partners made site visits to one pre-selected seaport and airport in the Black Sea region between 21 May and 3 June 2008 to highlight good practices on border management in the field of counter narcotics enforcement and jointly develop proposals to further strengthen cooperation.

51. Data collection and analytical capacities have been strengthened further through the established network of Paris Pact National Strategic Analysts based in the UNODC Country Offices in Afghanistan, Islamic Republic of Iran, Pakistan and the Russian Federation, as well as the Regional Office of Central Asia, including Turkmenistan. As a result of the work of the National Strategic Analysts, the quality and quantity of data and information on drug related issues from the Governments of Afghanistan and neighbouring countries has increased substantially. The Paris Pact National Strategic Analysts also launched four Illicit Drug Trends reports in early 2008 covering topics including opium cultivation, opiate production, trafficking, seizures, trafficking of precursor chemicals, as well as drug abuse and HIV/AIDS in Afghanistan, Central Asia, Pakistan and the Russian Federation.

52. The annual Paris Pact Policy Consultative Group meeting is scheduled to take place on 15-16 December 2008 at the United Nations Office in Vienna, Austria. Paris Pact Policy makers will have the opportunity to report on how their respective countries and organizations have supported the implementation of the Paris Pact priority actions for Afghanistan and neighbouring countries, as well their respective plans to do so in the future.

VIII. Cooperation efforts in the Near and Middle East

53. The preparatory meeting of the programme of capacity-building in the Western Balkans and the Mediterranean region through targeted drug law enforcement exchange was held during the period from 23 to 24 April 2008 at the premises of the Anti-Narcotics General Administration – Ministry of Interior in Cairo, Egypt. Countries represented at the meeting were: Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco and the Palestinian Authority. The delegations were composed of the Head of the Anti-Narcotics Department in Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon and the Palestinian Authority and the identified project focal points in Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco and the Palestinian Authority. On the first day of meeting, Police Liaison Officers of the French and Spanish Embassy attended the meeting as observers. The presentations focused on the efforts achieved in the area of fighting drug trafficking, enhancing regional and international cooperation as well as the perspectives of capacity-building and cooperation provided by the LexPro. Subsequently, as agreed in Cairo, workshops were held on Train the Trainers and on Controlled Delivery at the premises of TADOC, Ankara-Turkey with the participation of two representatives from the Anti-Narcotics Department in Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Morocco, the Palestinian Authority and Tunisia.

54. Countries of the Arabian Peninsula adopted the Tripoli Action Plan on Combating Trafficking Drugs and Money Laundering through the Mail. The Tripoli Action Plan includes joint measures taken to combat drug trafficking and money-

laundering through the international mail, as well as the developing of Human Resources, Awareness Raising, and the Role of Media in Combating Drug Trafficking through the Mail. Cooperation for this action plan was also sought from private companies dealing with mail services.

55. Convened by UNODC, officials from the Governments of Egypt, Jordan, Morocco, Algeria, Libya, Lebanon, UAE, Oman, Iran, Pakistan, Afghanistan, and the Palestinian Administered Territories dealing with demand reduction issues met with counterparts from Belgium, the Netherlands, Germany, Sweden and France, as well as WHO and the Pompidou Group of the council of Europe to develop a network that links national institutions to European best practice centres to promote good practices for reducing demand for and harm from drugs; and develop national work-plans to implement project activities in the areas of: drug prevention, drug treatment, drug rehabilitation, outreach, substitution treatment for opioid dependence, and finally drug use and HIV prevention and care in prison settings.

56. Though most regional cooperation focused on law enforcement, there have been some important initiatives in demand reduction. Some countries from the Arabian Peninsula are also participating in the establishment of a network with Governments of some European countries linking best practice centres in demand reduction. Study tours to Iran for officials from in Egypt, Jordan, and Lebanon were also organized by UNODC, to view prevention services in prisons. Moreover, as part of the UNODC regional strategy on HIV/AIDS and drug use in prisons settings, officials from Jordan, Egypt and Lebanon participated in a study tour to Spain to achieve experience of evidence-based substance abuse and HIV/AIDS prevention, care and treatment strategies in prison settings.

57. The results and findings of the rapid situation assessment (RSA) on drug abuse in prisons in Jordan were presented in May 2008. Based on these results, national task force representatives of several countries in the region (Egypt, Jordan Lebanon and Morocco) prepared national workplans with regards to the capacity-building for drug use and HIV/AIDS prevention and care services in prison settings. Country delegations from Egypt, Jordan, Morocco, Lebanon and Oman also presented national workplans in implementing outreach programs for problematic drug users.

58. With the assistance of UNODC, Israeli and Palestinian officials continued to explore methods of improving cooperation. A series of meeting of policy makers was held to review possibilities of cooperation within the framework of the Joint Declaration agreed upon in Cairo in December 2005.