



Tripoli Action Plan on Combating Drug Trafficking and Money Laundering through the Mail

We, the participants in the Arab Regional Symposium on Combating Drug Trafficking and Money Laundering through the Mail, held in Tripoli, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, during the period 25 to 27 November 2007.

Expressing great gratitude to the Libyan General Company for Post and Telecommunications, the Libyan Anti-Narcotic and Psychotropic Substances Agency, the Universal Postal Union (UPU) and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, Regional Office for the Middle East and North Africa for hosting and organizing the Arab Regional Symposium on Combating Drug Trafficking and Money Laundering through the Mail and for their substantive contributions as well as providing all facilities to ensure the success of this Symposium;

Recognizing that drugs are considered weapons of mass destruction in the sense that illegal drug trafficking and smuggling of contraband pose tremendous danger on social security and harm economies of communities, bearing in mind that during recent years the majority of the regions in the world have witnessed a significant increase in such prohibited activities and that exploitation of mail services by drug traffickers in smuggling operations is still on the increase;

Recalling international and regional conventions and in particular the Universal Postal Convention in this regard;

Feeling that globalization has led to an increase in the volume of international trade as well as the use of e-commerce, which in turn, has led to a significant increase in the use of express mail and accordingly an increase in this type of smuggling;

Recalling also the reports of the International Narcotic Control Board (INCB) which refer to the information made available by member states indicating that the illicit sale of controlled pharmaceutical substances containing narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances through the internet, and the illegal distribution of these substances through the mail are considered two global problems, the addressing of which requires immediate measures on the part of the international community ;

Believing in the need to establish close cooperation at the national and international levels among all relevant parties, including law enforcement agencies, administrations of public and private postal companies as well as postal security;

In order to promote and operationalize cooperation and coordination to enhance the capacity to detect illegal drug trafficking through the mail, we resolve to take all actions and measures that would lead to an effective intervention aiming at obstructing illegal mail users and to punish all those who finance, plan, organize and participate in drug trafficking and money laundering operations through the mail, taking into account the time involved so as to ensure rapid mail delivery. Each of the above and other related reasons, the participants recommended that:

In view the above-mentioned and other related reasons, we recommend the following:

I. Measures taken to combat drug trafficking and money laundering through the international mail

- Urge all postal companies and institutions to provide anti-drug and money laundering administration and custom authorities concerned with all available information and data in order to be used in detecting smuggling attempts via the mail, with a special emphasis on reciprocity with regards to the provision of information giving due consideration to observing speed and confidentiality of mail.
- Seek to develop practical cooperation frameworks to operationalize cooperation between different law enforcement agencies and postal companies in the field of drug trafficking through the mail, in accordance with relevant international conventions.
- Work on unifying legal texts governing the functions of private courier companies and coordinate these texts in such a way so as to guarantee combating drug trafficking through the mail and force those companies to provide all supplies and equipment required to detect trafficking attempts.
- Emphasize the importance of creating a balance between security requirements and the personal rights of the beneficiaries of postal services.
- Stress that all Law enforcement agencies, postal companies and anti narcotic administrations responsible for screening mail-in-transit should adhere to the Universal Postal Convention when there is a suspicion that a drug

trafficking attempt through the mail is underway. Both despatching and receiving postal administrations of this mail should be informed, and that actions should be coordinated with legislative bodies to facilitate controlled delivery procedures as per detailed procedures referred to in the Universal Postal Agreement (Comment annexed to Article 15 of the Postal Parcels Agreement, Bucharest, 2004/unaccepted–contraband mail and parcels)

- All postal administrations should be committed to subjecting outgoing, similar to incoming, mail to customs control (as permitted by the Universal Postal Convention, and as contained in Article 18 of the 2004 Postal Parcels Agreement, Bucharest, under Customs Control.
- Encourage states and postal institutions to give financial and moral incentives to those who uncover, or contribute to uncovering, smuggling attempts through the mail.
- Participants are to encourage their governments to provide the authorities concerned in source and destination countries, international organizations such as INCB, the Universal Postal Union, Interpol and the World Customs Organization with all available information on attempts and modalities of drug trafficking and money laundering through the mail.
- Emphasize that postal companies and institutions should adhere to the laws governing money transfers that would prevent the use of mail as a means for money laundering, especially through investigating clients and sources of funds using the principle of 'know your client'.
- Assign the Permanent Arab Postal Committee to maintain contacts with the Universal Postal Union to achieve a higher level of coordination in this respect.
- Brief the League of Arab States of the importance of tackling the issue of drug trafficking and money laundering through the mail within the framework of the meeting of the General Directors of the Customs Authorities in the Arab countries.

II. Cooperation and Information Sharing

- Develop a practical mechanism for information collection and analysis and facilitate exchange of expertise on uncovering the various modalities of trafficking at the Arab and international levels.
- Develop a mechanism to facilitate information sharing among law enforcement agencies, and postal companies and institutions in different countries, with the aim of exposing suspicious operations and all that is related to the natural or legal persons involved.

- Hold national, regional and international symposiums and exchange visits of international experts and consultants working in the field of mail, anti-drug trafficking and customs inspection with the aim of building their capacities.
- Encourage Arab countries to sign memoranda of understanding expressing the wish and will of the parties concerned to cooperate and share information with the aim of reinforcing command and control efforts at the sea, land, and air points, and identifying joint responsibilities and activities to control the mail system.
- Call on the Arab countries to develop an additional protocol on combating drug trafficking and money laundering through the mail as an annex to the Arab Agreement on Combating drugs.

III. Human Resources Development

- Urge all postal companies and institutions to develop the human capacities of their staff, especially of those who review documents accompanying the mail, and those who screen the mail.
- Provide mail gathering, dispatch, and transit centres with modern equipment to develop accurate mail screening procedures and train the operators on their use seeking the assistance of Anti Narcotic Administrations in this regard.
- Train all staff assigned to conduct risk assessment and data analysis in order to build their capacities in detecting suspicious cases.
- Encourage countries to organize periodic specialized scientific symposia on drug trafficking and money laundering through the mail for the staff of postal companies and institutions and law enforcement agencies.
- Encourage postal institutions and law enforcement agencies to intensify holding theoretical and practical training sessions for their staff.

IV. Awareness Raising in the field of Combating Drug Trafficking through the Mail

- Urge postal companies and institutions and law enforcement agencies to organise awareness raising campaigns aiming at warning against the dangers of using the mail for drug trafficking and money laundering activities.
- Involve the civil society organizations in implementing these awareness raising campaigns.

- Work on issuing a unified postal stamp aiming at warning against the use of mail in drug trafficking.
- Create a website on the Internet with a view to raise awareness against the dangers of illegal use of drugs and their harmful effects.

V. Follow up on the implementation of recommendations

- Form a permanent follow-up committee within the framework of the Council of Arab Ministers of Interior. This Committee will constitute of representatives from the postal and customs administrations and other administrations responsible for drug trafficking, as well as the Arab Anti Narcotics Bureau at the Council of Arab Ministers of Interior in order to coordinate between all these administrations to follow up on these recommendations, coordinate efforts and cooperation with the relevant international and regional organizations, and to ensure the commitment of the private mail institutions and the law enforcement agencies to carrying out their duties in this regard. The Council of Arab Ministries of Telecommunications will endorse the results of this committee and be granted the right to provide guidance to the postal administrations as appropriate.
- Call on postal companies and institutions to create postal security units in charge of coordinating security matters with law enforcement agencies concerned, and of direct supervision of mail screening and detection.
- Organize an annual Arab regional symposium on anti-drug trafficking and money laundering through the mail.
- Include Tripoli Action Plan on combating drug trafficking and money laundering through the mail in the agenda of the Council of Arab Ministers of Interior and the Permanent Arab Postal Committee to put it into effect.
- Call on the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the Universal Postal Union, the Interpol, and the World Customs Organization to continue giving special importance to the issue of drug trafficking and money laundering through the mail by coordinating their work with all Arab states and authorities concerned and providing technical and scientific assistance through cooperation projects with these states.