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Commission on Narcotic Drugs**Fifty-first session**

Vienna, 10-14 March 2008

Item 3 of the provisional agenda*

Thematic debate on the follow-up to the twentieth special session of the General Assembly: general overview and progress achieved by Governments in meeting the goals and targets for the years 2003 and 2008 set out in the Political Declaration adopted by the Assembly at its twentieth special session**Complementary drug-related data and expertise to support the global assessment by Member States of the implementation of the declarations and measures adopted by the General Assembly at its twentieth special session****Report by the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS)*****Summary*

Pursuant to Commission of Narcotic Drugs resolutions 49/1 “Collection and use of complementary drug-related data and expertise to support the global assessment by Member States of the implementation of the declarations and measures adopted by the General Assembly at its twentieth special session” and 50/12 “Measures to meet the goal of establishing by 2009 the progress achieved in implementing the declarations and measures adopted by the General Assembly at its twentieth special session”, intergovernmental organizations active in the field of international drug control were invited to submit regionally consolidated comparative analyses of the current situation and trends in various areas of drug control in their fields of action with that prevailing in the period 1998-2000. Organizations were also invited to present the actions and changes that had taken place in their regions or fields of action in relation to the implementation of the goals and targets set in the Political Declaration and the measures to enhance international

* E/CN.7/2008/1.

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cooperation to counter the world drug problem, and related action plans, adopted at the twentieth special session of the General Assembly, 8 to 10 June 1998 (A/RES/S-20/2, A/RES/S-20/3 and A/RES/S-20/4).

Several organizations provided information in response to the above request. In addition, UNODC also received unprocessed data from a number of organizations.¹ Where relevant, this information was used to complement the data provided by Member States through the Biennial Reports Questionnaire (BRQ) and reflected in the fifth report of the Executive Director on the world drug problem (E/CN.7/2008/2 and Addenda 1 to 6).

The report by **CIS** contains information on collaboration by the member States of the Commonwealth of Independent States in activities to combat drug trafficking.

¹ ASEAN and China Cooperative Operations in Response to Dangerous Drugs (ACCORD); Caribbean Financial Action Task Force (CFATF); South-American Financial Action Task Force (GAFISUD); South-Caucasus Anti-Drug Programme (SCAD) and the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS).

Information on collaboration by the member States of the Commonwealth of Independent States in activities to combat drug trafficking

The member States of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) represent an area of active expansion in drug trafficking. The geopolitical situation of most CIS member States ensures that their territory is of interest to drug criminals for use as a transit route for drugs destined for various regions and countries of the world and for the establishment of drug trafficking channels. This geopolitical situation has greatly exacerbated the drug problem in the various countries of the CIS and in the Commonwealth as a whole. In combination with internal factors, it makes the population of these States very vulnerable to drug-related crime. According to expert estimates, in the States of the Commonwealth there are between 600 000 and 700 000 drug addicts and up to 10 million people are occasional drug users. These numbers are increasing by up to 10 per cent every year.

Besides these two factors, which complicate the drug situation in all member States of the CIS, each State has its own special factors which encourage the spread of drug addiction and drug-related crime.

For the above reasons, the drug problem is an urgent one for all CIS member States. One particular feature affecting any solution to the problem is that the drug threat within the boundaries of any one member State of the Commonwealth and in the Commonwealth as a whole can be reduced only by means of close cooperation between the State and social structures of the countries which make up the CIS.

In this area, an effective fight against illicit drug trafficking is possible only if there is close cooperation in the international community. The basis for this cooperation is provided by the universal norms of international law designed to create global control mechanisms limiting access to drugs. These norms are centred on three international conventions: the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, 1961, the Convention on Psychotropic Substances, 1971 and the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, 1988.

The experience gained from the history of the CIS as regards its integration efforts shows that regional cooperation between the member States of the Commonwealth in joint action to combat illicit trafficking remains one of the most urgent and most worthwhile forms of cooperation and is multi-layered and dynamic.

Guided by the provisions of these conventions and by other United Nations decisions and recommendations, on 30 November 2000 the governments of the CIS member States adopted an agreement on cooperation to combat illicit trafficking in narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and precursors. This instrument lays down the basic principles, guidelines and forms of cooperation, the competent agencies authorized to establish direct contacts and the procedures for formally requesting cooperation and responding to requests.

In order to promote the further development of the legal framework for cooperation, on 7 October 2002 the Heads of State of the CIS countries adopted a plan for cooperation between the member States of the CIS in activities to combat illicit trafficking in narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and precursors.

Practical activities to implement the above agreement and plan have taken the form of two cooperation programmes between CIS member States for activities to combat illicit trafficking in narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and their precursors,

covering the periods 2002-2004 and 2005-2007. The implementation of these programmes helped to extend and strengthen the basis in international law for cooperation between CIS member States; helped to improve and harmonize national legislation, conduct agreed preventive, operational and investigative measures and special operations; contributed to the information and scientific aspects of cooperation; contributed to cooperation in training; and helped to enhance the qualifications of experts.

These programmes have allowed the CIS countries to cooperate on many levels, which makes activities to counter the spread of drugs more effective.

For instance, concerted efforts were made to promote the ratification and implementation of procedures under national law to bring about the entry into force of agreements already adopted within the CIS and for the accession of CIS member States to international agreements adopted by the United Nations. This issue was considered at meetings of the Interparliamentary Assembly, the Council of Ministers of Internal Affairs and the Council of Heads of Security Agencies and Special Services of the CIS member States.

The Interparliamentary Assembly of CIS member States adopted a model law on narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and their precursors and recommended to the parliaments of the CIS member States that they use the model law in preparing their own national legislation.

In connection with the above programmes, the relevant agencies of the CIS member States conducted a series of joint, targeted activities and special operations to combat illicit trafficking in narcotics, particularly in Afghanistan.

Pursuant to the decision of the Council of CIS Heads of State of 16 September 2004, a structural subunit has been created within the bureau for the coordination of activities to combat organized crime and other dangerous forms of crime on the territory of CIS member States, which is now operating to coordinate activities to combat illicit trafficking in narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and precursors, with a regional operations group for the Central Asian region based in Dushanbe, Tajikistan.

Specific activities have been undertaken to develop cooperation with United Nations bodies and regional international organizations responsible for combating illicit trafficking in narcotic drugs, especially the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). On 1 July 2005, the Executive Committee of CIS signed a protocol on cooperation with UNODC; the plan of action for the implementation of the protocol is currently being implemented.

For instance, a seminar on improving international cooperation between law-enforcement agencies, organized by the UNODC Regional Office for Central Asia was held in Minsk, Belarus from 28 to 30 June 2006.

Every year, the Executive Committee of CIS prepares a report on the status of implementation of the programme of the Council of Heads of State and the Council of Heads of Government.

An important landmark in joint activities to combat drug-related crime in the context of the CIS is the approval by the Council of Heads of State of the CIS, meeting in Dushanbe on 5 October 2007, of the regular programme of cooperation

between CIS member States on activities to combat illicit trafficking in narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and their precursors for the period 2008-2010, which will bring a new quality to cooperation within the Commonwealth in joint practical action to combat the drug threat.
