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Items 6 and 7 of the provisional agenda*

Implementation of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to counter the World Drug Problem**World situation with regard to drug trafficking and recommendations of the subsidiary bodies of the Commission****Reports by intergovernmental organizations on drug control activities¹****Contents**

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* E/CN.7/2013/1.

¹ This conference room paper reproduces the contribution of intergovernmental organizations in the form in which they were received.



I. Introduction

1. Intergovernmental organizations active in the field of international drug control were invited to submit to the fifty-sixth session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs concise reports on their activities conducted in the year 2012 by 11 February 2013. The following organizations submitted reports to the Secretariat: the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO), the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA), the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) and The Colombo Plan.

II. Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO)

2. During the year 2012, the Drug and Organized Crime Coordination Unit (DOCCU) of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) has held important meetings/workshops, as detailed below.

3. Workshop titled “International Cooperation in Assets Recovery”, on 10-11 October 2012, at the ECO Secretariat, Tehran: This workshop was jointly organized by the UNODC and at the DOCCU with the participation of Member States of Afghanistan, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Tajikistan and Turkey. It concluded with a set of recommendations mainly focusing on the importance of exchange of information, best practices and challenges through conduction of similar workshops/technical meetings in order to facilitate regional discussion on legal and judicial aspects of assets recovery and agree on drafting a possible MOU among the Member States in the region.

4. Workshop on “Prevention of HIV/AIDS related to Drugs”, on 15-17 October 2012, in Tehran, Iran: This workshop was organized at the Iranian Center for Psychiatric Studies within the framework of EU-funded project on “Fight Against Trafficking from/to Afghanistan with the ECO Member States” and with the technical support of Drug Control Headquarters (DCHQ) of the Islamic Republic of Iran. This workshop was the second one in the series of initiatives taken by the DOCCU for drug demand reduction. It was attended by the representatives of Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Tajikistan, Pakistan and Turkey. This Workshop was designed for specialized training on addiction related harms, harm reduction principles, current situation and existing challenges. The presentations of lecturers were focused on the definition, philosophy, strategies related to harm reduction, diseases related to HIV/AIDS addiction (hepatitis, HIV/AIDS and other sexual transmitted diseases), HIV/AIDS prevention, needle exchange, safe injection, methadone and Voluntary Counselling and Testing (VCT, Coping with Stigma & Discrimination).

5. Second Meeting of Heads of Anti-Corruption Organizations and Ombudsmen of the ECO Member States, on 21-22 November 2012, in Dushanbe, Tajikistan: This Meeting was hosted by the State Financial Control and Anti Corruption Agency of the Republic of Tajikistan and attended by the delegates of Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Tajikistan and Turkey as also the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and the Russian Social Organization Commission of Fight Against Corruption in Tajikistan. The meeting approved the Statute of the ECO Regional Center for Cooperation of

Anti Corruption Agencies and Ombudsmen (RCCACO). In a special Ceremony, the Statute of the RCCACO was signed by the heads of delegations of Afghanistan, Iran (Islamic Republic of) and Tajikistan. Other Member States would sign the Statute of RCCACO after completion of their respective national procedures.

6. The Experts Group Meeting on Scientific Detection of Crime on 18-19 February 2013 in Tehran: This meeting was organized at the International Police University of the Islamic Republic of Iran, hosted by the National Central Bureau of INTERPOL, Tehran: The meeting was attended by the representatives of Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Iran (Islamic Republic of) (host), Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan and Tajikistan. Country reports were presented by the delegates of the Member States highlighting the methods of detection of crime in their respective countries. They emphasized the need for sharing of experiences among the law enforcement agencies of the Member States. Thereafter, special lectures/presentations were delivered by the heads of different laboratories working under the auspices of the Identification Center of the Iranian Police. The participants were briefed on a number of subjects such as crime scene investigation, clarification on real and unreal finger prints, DNA extraction of bone and tooth and creating criminal genetic database.

7. Memorandum of Understanding between the ECO and the European Commission: Apart from the above activities, in accordance with the Memorandum of Understanding signed between the ECO and the European Commission on 3rd February 2009, the implementation of the project titled "Fight against Trafficking from/to Afghanistan" with the ECO Member States is well on its way. The project is being implemented by a consortium of GIZ, ECO-Drug and Organized Crime Coordination Unit (DOCCU) INTERPOL, UNODC and German BKA. Initially the DOCCU was only a beneficiary but now it has become a partner for the implementation of this project having a separate road map and budget having a series of activities in 2012 and 2013. So far, two workshops have been organized with the participation of Member States, an exclusive website of the DOCCU has been launched which can be visited at www.ecodoccu.org. Statistics and Analytical Report of Drug Situation in the ECO Region for 2009-2010 and two newsletters were published in 2012. These publications were also shared with all the stakeholders in the ECO region and the EU Delegates.

III. European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA)

8. During 2012, the EMCDDA continued its work to improve the quality and comparability of drug information in the European Union. To achieve this, the agency worked closely with its network of 30 national focal points (Reitox) to gather and analyse country data according to common data-collection standards and tools. Key results of the EMCDDA's work were released in its annual report on the state of the drugs problem in Europe, which was launched on 15 November in Lisbon. The report highlights that we may now be moving into a new era in which heroin will play a less central role in Europe's drugs problem. Increasingly, it has been noted that, in parts of Europe, new recruitment into heroin use has fallen, the availability of the drug has declined and, recently, some countries have experienced acute shortages. Also highlighted in the report are new concerns over the potential

for HIV and anthrax outbreaks among injecting drug users. The annual report was accompanied by in-depth reviews on responding to drug use in Europe's prisons and on drug users with children.

9. The year 2012 was very important in terms of detecting and controlling new drugs, with a record number of more than 70 new drugs officially reported to the EMCDDA and Europol via the EU early-warning system (EWS) on new psychoactive substances. In November 2012, a risk-assessment exercise was organized on 4-methylamphetamine in collaboration with the EMCDDA's Scientific Committee. Improvement of the responsiveness of the current EU information system to new developments on the drug market and new patterns of drug use were in the centre of the Agencies' work. In November 2012, a "trendspotter meeting" was organized to investigate trends, availability and harms of fentanyl use in Europe and in December 2012, the EMCDDA hosted a meeting on the topic of drugs and wastewater analysis, a rapidly developing scientific discipline with the potential for monitoring real-time population-level trends in illicit drug use.

10. Last year also saw work continue on designing a new European strategy for monitoring drug markets, drug-related crime and drug supply reduction. In this light, the European Commission and the EMCDDA, with an active participation of Europol, joined forces in Lisbon to organize the Second European conference on drug supply indicators. This conference gathered over 100 European and international experts to achieve technical consensus on a clear conceptual framework for information collection in this area of recognized importance to European drug policy.

11. The EMCDDA continued to collaborate with its partners at national level and its peers worldwide. In January 2012, the EMCDDA co-organized together with European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC), WHO Europe and UNAIDS a technical meeting on global and regional HIV monitoring. The event brought to Lisbon experts from more than 50 countries and international organizations to work jointly on harmonization of data-collection systems. Following the 2011 agreement to scale up cooperation, the EMCDDA increased its support for the European School Survey Project on Alcohol and Other Drugs (ESPAD) in 2012. The network provides a valuable source of longitudinal data on drug and alcohol trends. A multilingual summary of the ESPAD was published in November 2012.

12. In 2012, the EMCDDA provided technical assistance to candidate and potential candidate countries to the EU to consolidate national drug information systems. Moreover, cooperation has been continued with European Neighbourhood Countries, through a regional scientific seminar on drug prevention and drug monitoring organized in Cyprus, which gathered participants from Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Occupied Palestinian Territory and Tunisia. Upon request from Moldova, a Memorandum of Understanding has been signed between the EMCDDA and with the Ministry of Health. The EMCDDA Director was invited by the Director of the FDCS for a working meeting organized in Moscow. Delegations from Tunisia and Latin American countries visited the agency. In addition, the EMCDDA participated in several CICAD training activities, mainly to share experience on building national drug observatories. Finally, the EMCDDA organized in 2012 the 1st Reitox week, gathering representatives of National Drugs

Observatories from the EU, the Western Balkans as well as some representatives from the Neighbouring Countries of the European Union.

IV. International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL)

13. Operational aspects:

(a) Operation Ice Trail: In 2012 INTERPOL continued working on selected cases related to Methamphetamine trafficking from the Islamic Republic of Iran via different routes to South East Asia and the Pacific. An Operational Working Group Meeting brought together more than 40 investigators from source, transit and final destination countries;

(b) Project White Flow: This project focuses on cocaine trafficking from South America via African countries, mainly to Europe with the overall aim to connect, support and initiate investigations;

(c) Operation Atakora: In this operation, co-funded by ECOWAS, officers in Ghana, Togo and Benin were trained in a wide range of drug investigative matters, followed by a successful operational activity;

(d) Operation Ice Breaker: This operation, done in a close partnership with INCB and WCO, focused on trafficking of chemical precursor used for the illicit manufacture of Methamphetamine in Mexico, Central America and the Caribbean. The operation followed comprehensive capacity-building and training measures, funded by the Canadian government;

(e) Cooperation within INCB Task Forces on Project PRISM and COHESION: INTERPOL is actively participating in INCB Task Forces, mainly by supporting and initiating backtracking investigations;

(f) Operation Westerlies and Operation Sky-Net: WCO led Operations, initiated by Japan respective China Customs and focusing on illicit drug and chemical precursor trafficking, were successfully supported;

(g) Doping Initiative: Following the agreement with WADA (2009), INTERPOL's main task is to support specialized units in charge of doping investigations or international traffic of doping substances.

14. Strategic aspects:

(a) Project AIRCOP: The partnership between UNODC/INTERPOL/WCO in this project is composed of 3 phases (Aircop 1, 2 and 3) cooperating in providing secure tools of communications, operational training on drug interdiction measures and constant development of new emerging threats, routes and methods of concealment of drugs to connect African, Latin American/Caribbean and European countries;

(b) Project WACI: The cooperation between UNODC/DPKO/INTERPOL is meant to create Transnational Crime Units (TCU's) in countries in West Africa to enable better security, control and detection of drugs trafficked and transported through and/or via maritime routes affecting West African countries, Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia and Guinea Conakry. In addition INTERPOL provides them with communication tools and access to international databases;

(c) MoU with CARICC: In 2012 CARICC and INTERPOL signed a cooperation agreement on direct access to and use of INTERPOL's Police Information System.

V. The Colombo Plan

15. It was on 1 July 1951, sixty-two years ago that the Colombo Plan, a regional intergovernmental organization was established as a unique experiment in international economic cooperation aimed at furthering the economic and social development, as well as to enhance the well-being of the peoples of Asia and the Pacific. While the organization started with 7 founding members, currently the membership stands at 27, spanning all over Asia to the Pacific.

16. The forte of the Colombo Plan is in the development of human capital as the key to unlock the door to prosperity of nations. This contribution of the Colombo Plan in the development process of member countries has been truly amazing and has left its indelible mark in the economic progress of member countries. During the early years (50s to 70s) of its inception, the Colombo Plan fellowship programme was one of the few programmes available for professionals from developing countries of the region to get advanced degrees and higher training in developed countries. It is highly gratifying to note that countries which joined the Colombo Plan in the 50s and the 60s as developing economies have transformed themselves into high growth and high income countries. The most remarkable fact of the Colombo Plan is that those very countries, which benefited from the various programmes of the Colombo Plan, are giving their expertise to other member countries where the process of development is still gaining strength, in the true spirit of south-south cooperation which is the hallmark of the Colombo Plan.

17. One of the oldest programmes in the region to address the issue of drugs is the Drug Advisory Programme (DAP), which was established in 1973. Responding to the multifaceted changing needs of member countries, the DAP has embarked on several innovative strategies in six major arms of work, namely Treatment And Rehabilitation network, Prevention network, Youth network, Training and Education and Advisory/Expert Groups. Another milestone was the establishment of the Asian Centre for Certification and Education of Addiction Professionals (ACCE) in 2009, to build international treatment capacity through training, professionalizing, and expanding the treatment workforce. Lack of evidence-based treatment, a dearth of trained addiction treatment staff in the region, and a lacuna of standardised curriculum for addiction treatment professionals in the region were among the key reasons that justified for its establishment.

18. Since 2009, the ACCE grew from strength to strength, positioned itself to cater to a very niche market of targeted beneficiaries and transformed into a very specialized technical unit. At present, the ACCE has the status of an internationally approved education provider in the addiction field. To professionalize the addiction treatment services and to provide a formal indicator of the current knowledge and competence at the national and regional level, the ACCE has developed a credentialing process. This validates skills, knowledge and competence of individuals who are performing their duties optimally within an addictions treatment setting. The programme offers three levels of credentials namely the Basic Level

(ICAC I), Clinical Level (ICAC II) and Advanced Level (ICAC III). In 2012, a total of fifty activities were implemented in the region which included curriculum development and training of trainers of the INL funded Global Basic Addiction Treatment Curricula. In view of its specialization and with funding from US Government, the ACCE will implement ACCE training and certification initiative beyond the borders of the 27 member countries of the Colombo Plan, which will include Africa, UAE and Central Asian countries that are non CP member countries.

19. Another notable initiative to be launched by the DAP this coming 1 July is the International Journal of Prevention and Treatment of Substance Use Disorders, which aims at documenting applied research and lessons learned relating to evidence-based interventions in the field of drug addiction in the region. The journal will be published biannually in both English and Arabic. The initiative is implemented in collaboration with the National Rehabilitation Centre of the United Arab Emirates.

20. Finally, the Colombo Plan expresses its sincere appreciation to all the member countries in the implementation of its activities over the years.
