I. Matters calling for action by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs or brought to its attention

Recommendations adopted by the Subcommission on Illicit Drug Traffic and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East at its forty-eighth session

1. Participants in the forty-eighth session of the Subcommission on Illicit Drug Traffic and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East:
   
   (a) Recalled the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem (A/64/92-E/2009/98, sect. II.A), adopted by the General Assembly at its sixty-fourth session, in which Member States decided that the Commission on Narcotic Drugs at its fifty-seventh session, in 2014, should conduct a high-level review of the implementation by Member States of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action;
   
   (b) Also recalled that in its resolution 56/9, the Commission on Narcotic Drugs stressed the importance of strengthening the principle of common and shared responsibility as the basis for guiding international action in combating the world drug problem with a comprehensive and balanced approach;
   
   (c) Further recalled General Assembly resolution 67/193 of 20 December 2012, in which the Assembly decided to convene, early in 2016, a special session on the world drug problem to review the progress in the implementation of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action, including an assessment of the achievements and challenges in countering the world drug problem, within the framework of the three international drug control conventions and other relevant United Nations instruments;
   
   (d) Bore in mind the request made by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, in its resolution 56/10, to the meetings of the subsidiary bodies of the Commission, on the basis of their deliberations, to submit regional recommendations aimed at moving forward in the implementation of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action;
   
   (e) Recalled Commission on Narcotic Drugs resolution 56/12, in which the Commission decided that the medium-term review, including intersessional meetings, should take into account, inter alia, relevant studies and reports from the subsidiary bodies of the Commission, and called upon the participants in the high-level review to take account of the work of the regional meetings of heads of national drug law enforcement agencies, in particular initiatives that could further cooperation with regard to drug law enforcement;
   
   (f) Agreed to make the recommendations set out below.
1. Opiate flows from Afghanistan and regional countermeasures

2. The following recommendations were made with regard to opiate flows from Afghanistan and regional countermeasures:

   (a) States are encouraged to support cross-border and interregional cooperation along heroin trafficking routes through regular communication between their competent authorities and the convening of regular meetings between counterparts so as to strengthen operational responses to combat illicit trafficking;

   (b) States are encouraged to support regional coordination centres such as the Central Asian Regional Information and Coordination Centre for Combating the Illicit Trafficking of Narcotic Drugs, Psychotropic Substances and Their Precursors (CARICCC), the Southeast European Law Enforcement Center (SELEC), the Gulf Criminal Intelligence Centre to Combat Drugs, the Joint Planning Cell (JPC) and the Triangular Initiative, which have been established to facilitate operational cooperation to combat organized crime and illicit drug trafficking;

   (c) States are encouraged to consider, if they have not already done so, posting liaison officers in other Member States and regional coordination centres to enhance communication and speed up the exchange of operational information. Such liaison officers can act as focal points for the exchange of information;

   (d) States are encouraged to consider taking steps to accurately assess the domestic demand for illicit opiates through undertaking research, conducting surveys and commissioning studies in order to better understand the demand dynamic and so contribute to the development and implementation of effective supply reduction and demand reduction strategies.

2. Maintaining control over precursor chemicals, pharmaceutical products and the challenge of new psychoactive substances

3. The following recommendations were made with regard to maintaining control over precursor chemicals, pharmaceutical products and the challenge of new psychoactive substances:

   (a) States are encouraged, upon request, to be proactive in contributing information to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) Early Warning Advisory on New Psychoactive Substances (www.unodc.org/nps) so as to benefit from timely warning of new and emerging psychoactive substances, analysis of developing trends in trafficking, current modi operandi and legislation developed to curb the abuse of such substances;

   (b) It is recommended that States implement information and education campaigns among the general public to alert them to the dangers of the use of new psychoactive substances and so reduce demand for their availability;

   (c) In working to apply effective controls, States are encouraged to consider, as appropriate, introducing legislation that provides for the regulation of generic groups of substances that lend themselves to the manufacture of new psychoactive substances;

   (d) States are encouraged to adopt, as appropriate, measures aimed at preventing and reducing the non-medical use and abuse and illicit supply of tramadol, in accordance with their legislation.
3. **Meeting the challenges of technology and tactics used by traffickers**

4. The following recommendations were made with regard to meeting the challenges of technology and tactics used by traffickers:

   (a) States of the region are encouraged to consider reviewing, as appropriate, their existing substantive and procedural criminal legislation to ensure that it supports the investigation of, evidence gathering concerning and the prosecution of cases of drug trafficking and related offences that involve an element of modern information and communication technology;

   (b) Where they have not already done so, States are encouraged to take steps to ensure that their law enforcement agencies, prosecution services and judiciary are aware of and adequately trained in handling electronic evidence, and are supported and funded to undertake all necessary measures with regard to the prevention, investigation and prosecution of technology-facilitated illicit drug trafficking and money-laundering;

   (c) To meet the challenges of Internet-based transactions on websites that promote and offer illicit or controlled drugs and pharmaceutical preparations, and to identify those involved in placing the orders, States are encouraged to take steps to ensure that there is close cooperation and coordination between national drug law enforcement agencies and all other actors concerned, such as regulatory authorities, customs, courier and postal services, and Internet service providers;

   (d) In full conformity with its mandate, UNODC is requested to strengthen initiatives to provide technical assistance to States of the region, upon their request and according to their needs and priorities, including expertise and training courses needed to react to the emerging challenges of technology-facilitated crimes in relation to drug trafficking.

II. **Current situation with respect to regional and subregional cooperation**

5. At its 1st meeting, on 25 November 2013, the Subcommission considered item 3 of its agenda, entitled “Current situation with respect to regional and subregional cooperation”. For its consideration of the item, the Subcommission had before it: (a) a note by the Secretariat on statistics on drug trafficking trends in the Near and Middle East, South, West and Central Asia (UNODC/SUBCOM/48/2); and (b) a note by the Secretariat on the current situation with respect to regional and subregional cooperation (UNODC/SUBCOM/48/CRP.1). In addition, country reports were submitted by Jordan, the Syrian Arab Republic, Kuwait, Turkey, Pakistan, the United Arab Emirates, Uzbekistan and Yemen (UNODC/SUBCOM/48/CRP.2-9).

6. Representatives of UNODC made audiovisual presentations covering regional and subregional cooperation and global trends, illicit trafficking and action taken by the Office. Statements were made by the representatives of India, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Turkey and Yemen.

7. Speakers reported on the main challenges posed by narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances to their countries and provided updates on countermeasures