

3 March 2017

English only

**Commission on Narcotic Drugs****Sixtieth session**

Vienna, 13-17 March 2017

Item 5 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****Reports by intergovernmental organizations on drug control activities<sup>1</sup>****Report of the Secretariat****Contents**

	<i>Page</i>
I. Introduction . . . . .	2
II. Arab Interior Ministers Council . . . . .	2
III. Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) . . . . .	3
IV. Central Asian Regional Information and Coordination Centre for Combating Illicit Trafficking of Narcotic Drugs, Psychotropic Substances and their Precursors (CARICC) . . . . .	4
V. Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO) . . . . .	4
VI. Council of Europe — Pompidou Group . . . . .	5
VII. INTERPOL . . . . .	6
VIII. League of Arab States . . . . .	7

\* E/CN.7/2017/1.

<sup>1</sup> 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 sixtieth session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs concise reports on their activities conducted in the year 2016. By 14 February 2017, the following organizations submitted reports to the Secretariat: the Arab Interior Ministers Council, the Collective Security Treaty Organization, the Council of Europe – Pompidou Group, Interpol and the League of Arab States.

## II. Arab Interior Ministers Council<sup>2</sup>

2. The drug phenomenon constitutes one of the most hideous phenomena experienced in our contemporary world. It is also the most dangerous phenomenon in view of its destructive effects on the health and minds of peoples, as well as its negative impact on the economy, progress and stability of States. Since its inception, the Council of Arab Ministers of the Interior became conscious of the gravity of this scourge and thus has been actively engaged in countering it attentively and effectively, using the various means of prevention, control and treatment. To that end, the Council has made many achievements, most significantly in the following areas:

3. *Implementation of the Arab Strategy against the Illicit Use of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances*: addressing the phenomenon with all its dimensions and on the various local, regional and international levels. This strategy constitutes a basis and a point of departure for mutual Arab cooperation to counter this grave problem. Up to date, eight progressive plans have been ensued from this Strategy, aimed at implementing the objectives and elements it encompasses.

4. *Conferences and Meetings*: Up to this date, the General Secretariat of the Arab Interior Ministers has organized 30 conferences for the anti-drugs organs. The General Secretariat also holds meetings for the three subsidiary procedural working groups involved in countering illicit drugs, to examine drug emerging issues and developments, the respective terms of reference within the framework of exchanging communications and information on drug smugglers and traffickers, as well as their pursuit, the gathering of evidence on them and the investigation of their cases. Up to date, the meetings convened included the following: 33 for the first subsidiary procedural working group, 32 for the second working group and 27 for the third working group. Moreover, the General Secretariat has been keenly engaged in constant participation and active presence in the conferences convened by the United Nations against drugs, as well as the meetings held by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, the Subcommission on Illicit Drug Traffic and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East, the United Nations International Drug Control Programme, the Interpol and other entities.

5. *Research and Studies*: The General Secretariat has been keenly engaged in the pursuit and preparation of research, studies and specialized reports and in their dissemination to the Arab countries. Most significant were the following: Annual comparative statistical study on cases of drugs seized in the Arab countries; Investigation of drug cases and ways and means of coordination of the efforts of investigators in the Arab States; Controlled delivery of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances in the Arab region; International developments in the area of drugs (production centres, consumption patterns, smuggling methods, ways of control and responses) and the extent of their impact on the Arab region; Linkages between drug trafficking and terrorist organizations; Abuse of psychoactive pharmaceutical substances; Realities concerning the spread of drugs among children in the Arab world; Project for an Arab fund for financing the establishment of centres for treatment and after-care for drug addicts in the Arab States; Illicit use of psychoactive and mentally active medicines in the Arab States; Controls and

---

<sup>2</sup> This is an official translation into English of the original text, which was submitted in Arabic.

policies to ensure the non-diversion of sedatives and pain killers and the prevention of their abuse; Legal and procedural measures adopted by Arab States for the control over the precursors and chemicals used in the illicit manufacture of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances and the prevention of the illicit importation, exportation trafficking in and distribution of such substances; Role of illicit trafficking in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances in the financing of terrorism; Illicit use of psychoactive and mentally active medicines.

6. *Courses, Symposia and Scientific Seminars*: The Naif Arab Academy for Security Sciences, the scientific organ of the Council of Arab Ministers of the Interior, has been active in raising the level of performance and efficiency of staff of Arab security, judicial, social and public information organs by convening training courses, organizing symposia and scientific seminars, staging security exhibitions and giving security lectures and providing specialized academic diploma, masters and Ph.D. programmes. Up to date, the Academy has held more than 96 training and laboratory courses that were attended by a significant number of participants from various Arab countries. The Academy also organized nearly 38 lectures, 22 symposia and forums and 35 scientific seminars. The number of dissertations and scientific theses that were approved by the Academy in the field of drug control, as of this date, accounted for almost 165 papers, in addition to 59 masterly scientific publications in the field of raising awareness of the harmful effects of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances and the methods of controlling and combating those substances.

### III. Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)

7. The vision of a drug-free ASEAN is an integral part of the ASEAN Political-Security Community and the larger ASEAN Community. The year 2016 has been significant for ASEAN in its efforts to suppress and eliminate the scourge of drugs.

8. Following its formal institutionalisation in 2015, the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Drug Matters (AMMD) continues to provide the political impetus and strategic guidance to regional efforts in combating the drug problem.

9. The AMMD adopted the ASEAN Work Plan on Securing Communities Against Illicit Drugs 2016-2025 (ASEAN Work Plan 2016-2025) which details ASEAN's 10-year plan to address illicit drug activities and mitigate its consequences to society. The Work Plan includes activities in the area of preventive education, law enforcement, treatment and rehabilitation, research, alternative development and extra-regional cooperation. The implementation of the Work Plan is currently underway. In the same vein, the theme of "*Securing ASEAN Communities Against Illicit Drugs*" has also been adopted.

10. To bring greater awareness and focus to regional efforts, ASEAN launched the green-and-white Anti-Drug Abuse Ribbon which signifies health, vitality and strength as an expression of ASEAN unity. The symbol will be used in preventive education activities and campaigns throughout the ASEAN region in order to spread a common message among youths and communities about the need to be resilient against illegal drug use.

11. To show ASEAN's unity in pursuing our aspiration of a Drug-Free ASEAN, joint ASEAN statements were delivered at the 59th session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs in Vienna, Austria, and the United Nations General Assembly Special Session on the World Drug Problem in New York, U.S.A., by Singapore and Malaysia in March and April 2016, respectively. The statements demonstrate the region's solidarity and commitment in combating illicit drugs.

12. The ASEAN Drug Monitoring Report 2015 was launched in August last year. This was the first-ever drug report produced by ASEAN Member States which contained drug-related information, with the aim of identifying early warning signs of emerging drug problems, as well as establishing information networks.

13. The ASEAN Airport Interdiction Task Force and the ASEAN Seaport Interdiction Task Force have also been established to enhance joint operations and investigations to disrupt the network of regional and international drug syndicates. A list of Focal Points to facilitate communication among airport and seaport interdiction officers in a timely manner is being maintained.

14. ASEAN is looking more seriously into mitigating the drug problem in the Golden Triangle through the development of an ASEAN cooperation plan that specifically addresses illicit drug production and trafficking in the area.

#### **IV. Central Asian Regional Information and Coordination Centre for Combating Illicit Trafficking of Narcotic Drugs, Psychotropic Substances and their Precursors (CARICC)**

15. As part of CARICC coordination activities, seven counter-drug operations have been implemented with the participation of the competent bodies of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, the Russian Federation and Tajikistan. As a result, drug-trafficking channels from Afghanistan to Tajikistan, from Tajikistan via Kyrgyzstan to the Russian Federation, and from Kyrgyzstan to Kazakhstan, the Russian Federation and Lithuania have been interdicted. 30 leaders and members of drug trafficking organizations (DTOs) were arrested, and in total 192 kilos of illicit drugs were seized.

16. In terms of counteraction to illicit trafficking of new psychoactive substances (NPSs), CARICC has developed and initiated the adoption of the concept of a regional operation "REFLEX" that envisaged to establish an early warning system of NPSs. This operation implementation is scheduled in 2017 with the participation of the competent authorities of CARICC member states, Afghanistan, Iran, and Pakistan.

17. In terms of the fight against illicit shipments of precursors, CARICC in coordination with the UNODC Regional Programme for Afghanistan and Neighbouring Countries has drafted a plan of operation "Substitute, Phase 2". This operation is scheduled in 2017 with the participation of the competent authorities of member states and partners of the Centre.

18. In the analytical field, CARICC has developed an information basis to make a strategic survey of the drug situation and to define the amount of Afghan opiates trafficking along the "Northern" route.

19. A survey of drug smuggling through the territory of CARICC member states, including on the basis of criminal cases files provided to the Centre for 2013-2015.

20. Along with this, for the first time in the practice, CARICC initiated the study of problems to counteract legalization (laundering) of proceeds derived from illicit drug trafficking in CARICC member states. To create the conditions to undermine the economic foundations of transnational drug trafficking structures and to form a systematic approach, the Centre has prepared a draft Regional Programme on combating legalization (laundering) of proceeds derived from drug trafficking in CARICC member states for 2017-2020.

#### **V. Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO)<sup>3</sup>**

21. In 2016 the practical measures undertaken to counter drug trafficking were based on the anti-drug strategy of CSTO member States for the period up to 2020.

22. At the United Nations special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem (New York, 19-21 April 2016) the Armenian presidency of the CSTO

<sup>3</sup> This is an official translation into English of the original text, which was submitted in Russian.

circulated a declaration by CSTO member States on issues related to countering the drugs threat.

23. In addition, on 1 June 2016 the Deputy Secretary-General of CSTO addressed a meeting of the United Nations Security Council Committee pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999), 1989 (2011) and 2253 (2015), giving a presentation entitled “The experience of cooperation among the anti-drug services of CSTO member States in the fight against drug trafficking emanating from Afghanistan”.

24. In 2016 practical cooperation was further developed between the CSTO Secretariat and the UNODC Regional Programme for Afghanistan and Neighbouring Countries. For instance, on 27-29 May 2016 a coordination meeting of drug control authorities of CSTO member States was held in Yerevan with the participation of UNODC representatives.

25. On 21 and 22 April 2016 the Siberian Legal Institute of the Russian Federal Drug Control Service held an international academic and practice-oriented conference on “National and international action to counter the drugs threat in the area of responsibility of CSTO”.

26. An informational and analytical review entitled “The drug situation in the CSTO region of responsibility (2009-2015)” was published, along with an analytical report entitled “The drug situation in the CSTO region of responsibility in 2015”. Similar reports for 2016 are currently being prepared.

27. On 2 November 2016, the eighteenth session of the Coordinating Committee of Competent Drug Trafficking Control Authorities of States members of CSTO was held in Astana, Kazakhstan, which elected the Committee’s new President and Secretary and updated its 2017 work plans.

## **VI. Council of Europe — Pompidou Group**

28. The Council of Europe is an international organisation with 47 member states. Its objective is to promote and protect human rights, democracy and the rule of law. The Council of Europe serves over 820 million people across Europe. The Pompidou Group is the Council of Europe’s drug policy cooperation platform. It is an open arrangement of voluntary membership that allows for participation of Council of Europe member states as well as other countries. It has 39 member states including three from outside Europe.

29. The Pompidou Group upholds the core values of the Council of Europe — human rights, democracy and rule of law — and promotes a balanced approach to drug policy, supporting both demand and supply reduction of illicit drugs. It offers a forum for open debate, exchange of experiences and, as a platform for science and evidence based innovation, it links policy, research and practice.

30. The Pompidou Group’s Work Programme for 2015-2018 includes support in the development, implementation and review of national drug policies, capacity building and executive training. It also facilitates law enforcement networks and cooperation in respect of trafficking through airports, diversion of precursor chemicals and drug-related cybercrime. Cybercrime work includes regular monitoring of drugs in the DarkNet and crypto currencies.

31. Prevention involves various forms of support for data gathering and drug school surveys, as well as a biennial drug prevention prize awarded to young people and youth organisations by a jury of young people.

32. Over the last two years, the Pompidou Group helped Ukraine to build up prevention for internally displaced persons (IDPs) suffering from post-traumatic stress disorders (PTSD) and for service men and women who had been involved in armed conflict. The Group assists in the development of alternatives to imprisonment in certain countries, supports treatment for prisoners with drug

problems in a number of Eastern and South-East European countries and facilitates regional cooperation.

33. Its Mediterranean Network (MedNET) is a unique longstanding example of North-South and South-South cooperation that extends now to 14 countries. The network responds to the needs and requests of its members, sharing experience and assisting in the development of drug policies and the setting up of treatment and care services for substance use disorders. MedNET supports university programmes on addiction treatment in some Southern Mediterranean countries, as well as national observatories and population surveys.

34. Among its recent achievements, the Pompidou Group adopted a policy paper on civil society-government cooperation, is now finalising a document containing guidance on opiate agonist treatment (OAT/OST) and is expected to complete in 2017 a policy paper on the effects and associated costs of drug policy. It is working actively on the human rights dimension of drug policy, and on drugs, women and violence. In recent years, it has held symposia on new developments in drug policy and on novel psychoactive substances (NPS); NPS is the theme of the Group's 2017 Executive Training. It also expects to resume work on drugs in the workplace. To cite a few, the Pompidou Group's rich catalogue includes guidance or policy documents on:

- Harm reduction
- Coherent policies for licit and illicit drugs
- Public health and ensuring essential services in drug policy in times of austerity
- Transcultural drug work
- Road traffic safety and substitution treatment

35. Certain publications are available in more than one language. For more information, go to [www.coe.int/pompidou](http://www.coe.int/pompidou) or contact [PompidouGroup@coe.int](mailto:PompidouGroup@coe.int).

## VII. INTERPOL

36. INTERPOL, with 190 member countries, is the world's largest international police organization. Its role is to enable police around the world to work together to make the world a safer place. With a high-tech infrastructure of technical and operational support it aims at addressing the growing challenges of fighting crime in the 21st century. INTERPOL's strategic framework and its operating model effectively respond to the evolving needs of its membership and provide for a dynamic approach to tackle international crime threats. The operating model comprises a set of policing capabilities — our core services and tools — and corporate capabilities, supporting INTERPOL's three global programmes: Counter-terrorism, Cybercrime and Organized and emerging crime.

37. Under this framework, INTERPOL's primary drug-control role is to identify new drug trafficking trends and criminal organizations operating at the international level and to assist all national and international law enforcement bodies concerned with countering the illicit production, trafficking and abuse of drugs. Among its activities, INTERPOL's projects in the illicit drug field focus on the most commonly used and trafficked narcotic drugs — cannabis, cocaine, heroin and psychotropic substances — in addition to precursor chemicals.

38. *Project AMEAP* (Africa- Middle East- Asia and the Pacific) assists national authorities to identify security threats and tackle organized crime groups engaged in illicit drug trafficking in those three regions. In Africa, the project aims to address the trafficking of cocaine, heroin, synthetic drugs and their chemical precursors to and from Africa. In the Middle East, the project has allowed the establishment of an operational platform aimed at addressing the increased production and distribution

of Captagon and crystal methamphetamine. In the Asia and the Pacific region, project AMEAP targets the trafficking of synthetic drugs especially in the Darknet, where the complex encryption and anonymization tools used to access it have created many challenges for drug enforcement administrations.

39. The *Interflow Initiative* supports drug enforcement administrations in their fight against drug trafficking linked to Africa. The project has created a network of national investigators from Africa, the Americas, Europe, the Middle East, and Asia who meet annually to discuss and share information on specific on-going cases within a secure and restricted law enforcement environment. INTERPOL monitors the intelligence exchange between the participating countries and assists them in facilitating the exchange of information.

40. *Project Fortaleza* focuses on organized crime groups in Central and South America with particular emphasis on Mexican Cartels, Colombian criminal structures and Central American juvenile gangs. The drug trafficking activities carried out by these OC groups have a worldwide impact as they are both violent and well-financed. Project Fortaleza identifies and locate the members of these groups and supports the disruption of their criminal activities through the collection and centralization of data, operational working group meetings and targeted cross-border operations.

41. The *Cocaine Route Program* is a European Union funded joint initiative by INTERPOL, the UNODC and Transparency International that seeks to strength criminal investigation and criminal justice cooperation along the cocaine route in Latin America, the Caribbean and West Africa. INTERPOL's major role in this program is to enhance the capacity of law enforcement to collect evidence for successful prosecution of OC cases, as well as to promote the exchange data and conduct of joint investigations to tackle OC on the inter-regional level.

42. *Project AIRCOP* seeks to create synergy at international airports among different law enforcement agencies (immigration, border police, customs, and drug agencies) through vetted multi-agency units. The project includes countries from Africa, South America, and the Caribbean. It is being implemented by UNODC and supported by INTERPOL.

43. The *West African Coast Initiative (WACI)* supports the implementation of the ECOWAS action plan to address the growing problem of illicit drug trafficking, organized crime and drug abuse in West Africa. It is being implemented by INTERPOL, UNODC, UNOWAS, and DPKO. A keystone in the project are the Transnational Crime Units (TCU), meant to enhance national and international coordination, as well as to enable intelligence-based investigations.

## VIII. League of Arab States<sup>4</sup>

44. The Secretariat-General of the League of Arab States (LAS) has placed the issue of combating narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and addiction within its priority areas of interest, particularly under the current circumstances in the Arab region and due to the consequential destructive impact on the brain of young generations in the region, where the proceeds of illicit drug trafficking are being used to finance terrorist operations.

45. In this context, the Secretariat-General of the League of Arab States is undertaking the following activities:

### **Follow-up to the Arab Convention against Illicit Trafficking in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1994**

46. The Secretariat-General of the League of Arab States (Legal Affairs Sector) has been undertaking a follow-up work on the ratification by Arab States of the

<sup>4</sup> This is an official translation into English of the original text, which was submitted in Arabic.

Convention that was approved by the Council of Arab Interior Ministers by virtue of its resolution No. 215 of 5 January 1994, issued at its eleventh session, and which called upon Member States to ratify the Convention in accordance with their established constitutional norms. The Convention is aimed at fighting illicit trafficking in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, bearing in mind the various aspects of the problem as a whole, particularly those aspects that have been addressed by existing treaties in the field of drugs and psychotropic substances control. It entered into force on 30 June 1996.

**Follow-up on the implementation of the Regional Programme of Arab States to Prevent and Control Crime, Terrorism and Health Threats and Strengthen Criminal Justice Systems in line with International Human Rights Standards (2016-2021)**

47. This Programme comes within the framework for cooperation between the League of Arab States and the Regional Bureau of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) for the Middle East and North Africa region. Amongst its most important tasks is the provision of technical and substantive support to the efforts deployed by Member States of the League of Arab States in the prevention of drug use, the treatment and rehabilitation of those suffering of drug use disorder, and HIV/AIDS prevention. The first meeting of the Steering and Follow-up Committee of the Regional Programme was held in November 2016 at the Headquarters of the Secretariat-General of the League of Arab States. Among its most important recommendations were the establishment of a regional observatory to study the phenomenon of drug abuse, and the update of the Memorandum of Understanding between the LAS Secretariat-General and UNODC in order to ensure the achievement of the objectives of the Arab Strategy against AIDS, 2014-2020, and the efforts in the field of addiction treatment and rehabilitation.

**Update of the Unified Arab Model Law on Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances**

48. The Law was formulated in a manner that took into account international developments in this field. The objective of this Law is to serve as a guide for Member States in amending their existing laws or promulgating new laws and legislation. Currently, work is being undertaken within the Arab Interior and Justice Ministers Councils on an updated version of the Law that would respond to recent developments in this area.

**Pan-Arab Bureau for Narcotics Affairs Drugs**

49. In 1950, the Pan-Arab Bureau for Narcotics Affairs was established within the scope of the Secretariat-General of the League of Arab States. It is currently based in Amman, Jordan. As of 1 April 1984, it was subordinated to the Council of Arab Ministers of the Interior as one of the specialized bureaux associated with the Secretariat-General. The objective of the Bureau is to secure and develop cooperation among Member States, as well as to provide assistance to them, upon request, in combating drug crimes.

**Council of Arab Ministers of Health**

50. The Council is endeavouring to adopt all the necessary measures for the prevention and treatment of drug abuse through the promotion of cooperation between the relevant international and regional organizations, such as the Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean Region of the World Health Organization, the Regional Bureau of the United Nations Development Programme, the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) for the Middle East and North Africa Region, the Middle East and North Africa Harm Reduction Network and the United Nations Office on Drug and Crime (UNODC).