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**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******Report of the Secretariat**

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* [E/CN.7/2019/1](#).

** 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 sixty-second session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs concise reports on their activities conducted in the year 2018. By 18 February 2019, the following organizations submitted reports to the Secretariat: the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), EUROPOL, INTERPOL, The Colombo Plan, and the Southeast European Law Enforcement Center (SELEC).

II. Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS)¹

2. Within the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), steps continued to be taken to develop the legal and regulatory framework for cooperation and to strengthen the system of coordination and collaboration among the CIS member States and bodies in combating trafficking in narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and their precursors, taking into account the monitoring and forecasting of the drug situation.

3. An inter-State protocol on the procedure for transferring narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and their precursors, firearms and their essential parts, ammunition, explosives and explosive devices where such items constitute physical evidence in criminal cases, signed in October 2017, entered into force. The implementation of the protocol will help to further deepen cooperation in the detection and investigation of offences committed in the territories of the CIS States.

4. In order to strengthen the legal, organizational and practical mechanisms for cooperation among the competent authorities in relation to the emergence of new psychoactive substances and narcotic drugs, a draft protocol amending the Agreement on Cooperation among the State Members of the Commonwealth of Independent States in Combating the Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs, Psychotropic Substances and Precursors, of 30 November 2000, was prepared for signature. The protocol is to be signed by the Heads of Government of the CIS member States in 2019.

5. The implementation of the Programme of Cooperation among the States Members of the Commonwealth of Independent States in Combating the Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs, Psychotropic Substances and Their Precursors and in Countering Drug Addiction, covering the period 2014–2018, was concluded. The activities carried out resulted in an overall decline in the level of drug-related crime in the CIS States and the emergence of positive trends with regard to prevention of the smuggling and illicit sale of drugs.

6. At a meeting of the CIS Council of Heads of State on 28 September 2018, the Council approved an inter-State programme of joint measures to combat crime for the period 2019–2023, including measures to counter the drug threat as a contemporary challenge and threat to security.

7. Matters relating to cooperation in combating drugs were discussed as part of security consultations held on 18 September 2018 between the foreign ministers and other representatives of the CIS States and representatives of the CIS bodies.

8. Particular attention was given to the practice of simultaneous implementation in the CIS States of comprehensive preventive law enforcement measures, which resulted in the seizure of more than 35 tons of narcotic drugs and more than 42 kg of psychotropic substances, the dismantling of 130 clandestine drug laboratories, the eradication of illicit drug crops covering an area of approximately 2,800 hectares, the detection of 14,626 drug trafficking offences and the criminal prosecution of 10,964 individuals.

9. Active cooperation in the training, advanced training and retraining of the personnel of counter-narcotics units continued. In order to provide information and

¹ This is an official translation into English of the original text, which was submitted in Russian.

training resources in support of their activities, an analytical review of the outcomes of actions taken to combat trafficking in narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and their precursors and to counter drug addiction in the territory of the CIS member States was prepared.

III. EUROPOL

10. The illicit supply of drugs is a catalyst for top-level organized crime groups (OCGs). It forms the most lucrative part of their profit-generating activities that are also linked to violence, corruption, money laundering, exploitation of people, trafficking of firearms and other forms of serious crimes.

11. The recurring Europol's objective is to support the European Union (EU) Member States investigations targeting individuals that constitute the highest risk of serious and organized crime threats for two or more Member States (MS). Europol is contributing to a measurable reduction of the availability of illicit drugs by providing strategic and operational services to law enforcement engaged in disrupting large scale drug trafficking, dismantling of OCGs, tracing criminal assets, developing effective intelligence-led law enforcement and increasing intelligence sharing.

12. In 2018 overall drugs related information exchange between the MS and Europol has increased by 7 per cent. While the increase in cannabis, heroin, synthetics and new psychoactive substances related contributions corresponds to increasing availability of drugs, decline in cocaine related information exchange contradicts the European and global phenomenon and represent a significant intelligence gap.

13. In 2018 Europol's Drugs & Organised crime unit supported more than 150 complex MS led investigations against organized crime networks engaged in supply of illicit drugs. The number of cases is slightly below the level as of 2017, however most of operational services provided have increased and nearly doubled, e.g. number of operational reports produced. With Europol's support MS were able to arrest 21 High Value Target involved in multiple crime areas and constituting significant serious and organized crime threats to two or more MS.

14. The increased complexity of operational support provided, namely via analytical products, operational meetings organized, tactical and forensic support, financial support, Darknet investigative packages, deployments and successful application of High Value Target and Operational Task Force concept points to the high demand of increased operational support towards the MS investigative authorities. This is also in line with the global and European trends on increased drug supply, organized crime and counter measures applied.

15. Europol's Drugs and Organised Crime Unit remains the centre of excellence in the EU when it comes to operational, analytical, forensic and expertise support to the MS in combating production and trafficking of illicit drugs. In this domain various type of support is much anticipated, e.g. specialised training in dismantling of illicit labs, which is Europol's flagship training in cooperation with EMCDDA and CEPOL. Data collection tools on synthetics, new psychoactive substances, cocaine and cannabis are continuously being utilised in maintaining situational awareness on drug situation in Europe. It also supports the strategic reporting with EMCDDA (e.g. EU Drug markets report) and provides leads to new investigations.

16. "The Action Plan for Enhancement of Drug Crime Investigations" was established based on the recommendations outlined in a report "Toward a Bold Europol Response to Drugs in Europe", subsequently approved by the MS senior drug enforcement officers during annual conferences held in 2017 and 2018. The Action Plan includes specific operational and capacity development activities to respond to demands from the MS investigation units for operational service provision by Europol. The ownership of actions is distributed between the MS, Europol, EMCDDA, European Commission and other stakeholders involved. The Programme Board on drug supply reduction is meeting regularly to oversee the implementation

of the Action Plan and examine further options how drug investigations and Europol's operational support could be enhanced.

17. With the implementation of the EU Policy Cycle for organized and serious international crime law enforcement authorities have been successful in dismantling a number of OCGs active across all crime areas, including drugs trafficking. Complementary approach, which include improved targeting mechanisms, will continuously enhance investigations against High Value Targets constituting serious and organized crime threats. Building on the operational successes, Europol will further aim to increase its operational, technical, analytical and financial support to the MS, in particular concerning investigations against top-level OCG members, operating in multiple jurisdictions and crime areas.

IV. INTERPOL

18. Since the types of drugs trafficked and the routes used are constantly evolving, it is essential that countries work together in a united and coordinated way. INTERPOL assists national, regional and international law enforcement bodies to counter the illicit production, trafficking and abuse of drugs in the following ways:

Notices and databases

19. Over 2018, INTERPOL's capabilities were instrumental in the arrest of major drug trafficking suspects. These arrests result from intense police cooperation, through INTERPOL's secure global communication system, I-24/7, which enables police forces from INTERPOL's 194 Member countries to be connected to one another, and the cross checking of information recorded into INTERPOL's criminal databases.

Operations

20. INTERPOL coordinates drug trafficking operations spanning different regions of the world, and support drug operations and investigations led by national or international agencies. The "*Lionfish*" model of operations targets drug trafficking along every possible route: air, land and sea. First conducted in 2013 in Latin America, it has since expanded to other regions of the world.

21. In 2018, Operation Lionfish coordinated by INTERPOL across 93 countries led to the arrest of 1,300 suspects and the seizure of more than 55 tons of illicit substances and drugs. During this first global initiative, INTERPOL's I-24/7 secure police communications system enabled participating countries to synchronize their actions by connecting police from one end of the world to the other. A series of INTERPOL Purple Notices were also published to highlight new *modi operandi* and drug concealment methods.

Intelligence analysis

22. Police need timely, accurate criminal intelligence in order to understand crime trends so they can adapt their activities and policies accordingly. INTERPOL supports its member countries with intelligence through dedicated analysis on drug trafficking.

23. In 2018, INTERPOL launched its Drugs Analysis File (DAF). With 114 participating countries, it is the widest Analysis File of INTERPOL. It gathers a significant volume of intelligence on illicit regional and international drug trafficking. Through the DAF, INTERPOL analyses the links between suspects, locations, substances and routes; and shares the results in comprehensive analytical products with all participating countries. INTERPOL encourages all its member countries to join the Drugs Analysis File.

Relief markings

24. Since 2018, INTERPOL manages a cutting edge database called Relief. Developed by the Czech Republic with financial support from Switzerland, the database stores information about the markings left on drug packages and tablets by pressing plates and cartridge. Law enforcement in INTERPOL's 194 member countries can check INTERPOL's database to see if the same device has been used to compress another seized drug package, in a different case, somewhere else in the world. Relief also stores information on tablet logos and the chemical composition of different drugs.

Training

25. Ensuring police worldwide have the knowledge and skills to prevent, investigate and disrupt drug trafficking is a key part of INTERPOL's drug strategy. Training can be combined with operational support to assist member countries in planning and executive on-the-ground operations against drug trafficking.

26. For instance, in June 2018, INTERPOL organized a Fentanyl Officer Awareness and Safety Seminar in cooperation with the United States Drug Enforcement Administration, for law enforcement officers from 18 countries to exchange on Fentanyl related substances, safety, web sales and intervention techniques.

Support

27. INTERPOL's activities are undertaken in the frame of INTERPOL's Project AMEAP (Africa-Middle East-Asia Pacific) funded by the INTERPOL Foundation for a Safer World and the UAE. They are also supported by INTERPOL's CRIMJUST project, implemented jointly with the UNODC and Transparency International and funded by the European Union.

V. Southeast European Law Enforcement Center (SELEC)

28. SELEC is a law enforcement, treaty-based international organization that brings together the resources and expertise of Police and Customs authorities of its 11 Member States, (Republic of Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Republic of Bulgaria, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Hellenic Republic, Hungary, Republic of Moldova, Montenegro, Romania, Republic of Serbia and Republic of Turkey) that join synergies in combating more effectively trans-border organized crime, including the drug trafficking.

29. Additionally, SELEC works also with its 24 partner countries and organizations, and is using the judicial resources of its Member States to further facilitate and speed-up the cooperation in the Southeast European region through a created within SELEC auspices SEEPAG prosecutorial network.

30. A key priority for SELEC is to maximize the support for the Member States in responding more promptly and efficiently to nowadays multi-layered threats and associated risks arising from drug trafficking.

31. Being a law enforcement organization, the main areas of activities are the exchange of information, requests of assistance, joint investigations, regional operations, operational meetings, as well as drafting analytical reports addressing major crime areas in the region.

32. We have specialized Anti-Drug Trafficking Task Force which comprises complex and multiple intra-agency operational activities supported by an extensive exchange of information and a high number of joint investigations.

33. Illegal production and smuggling of drugs has long been a feature of the regional arena. Countering drug trafficking is a national and regional priority in Southeast Europe, mounting up many efforts from national and international entities. SELEC

plays a strategic role in combating the increasing threat posed by drug trafficking, as the region is the shortest corridor between producer countries and destination heroin markets, offers to criminals many route options to initiate irregular large transport of cocaine, has the capacity to produce and smuggle large quantities of cannabis, as well as it represents a transit and manufacture area for synthetic drugs.

34. Analysis, including collecting, processing, validating, collating, dissemination of data, as the basis of intelligence-led policing, is a key component of the operational activities.

35. SELEC develops strategic, operational and evaluation reports, including an annual Report on Drug Seizures in Southeast Europe, representing an enlarged and compiled overview of the drug trafficking situation, trends and routes. In addition, it is useful instrument for designing regional strategies and operational approaches for a more efficient response towards drug trafficking. Yet, the most comprehensive analytical product is the Organized Crime Threat Assessment for Southeast Europe (OCTA SEE) which provides strategic recommendations and represents an instrument for decision makers in setting up common strategies in combating trans-border organized crime, including drug trafficking. The last released is the OCTA SEE 2018 which pinpoints drug trafficking as one of the key priorities in the region.

36. In 2018, SELEC continued to provide tailored operational support in combating drug trafficking to its Member States in investigating active OCGs operating in the region, 41 joint investigations and 23 operational meetings being carried out in the framework of the Anti-Drug Trafficking Task Force. In addition, there were 5,459 drug-related exchanges of requests and information disseminated using SELEC's channels.²

37. Furthermore, in 2018, during the Interpol's Global Operation LIONFISH, SELEC hosted and supported the regional Operational Coordinating Unit (OCU) involving participating European countries including several Middle East countries, being one of the five worldwide OCUs set up for conducting this anti-drug trafficking operation.

VI. The Colombo Plan

The Colombo Plan Drug Advisory Programme

38. The Drug Advisory Programme (DAP) is the Permanent Programme of the Colombo Plan Secretariat, dedicated to address the growing substance use and trafficking concerns of its member states. DAP primarily focuses on building capacity of individuals and institutions working to reduce the demand and supply of drugs around the world.

39. In the year 2018, a total of 3300 individual from 32 countries were beneficiaries of the approximately 80 initiatives conducted by DAP to disseminate its evidence based training curricula. This was an increase of 35 per cent from the number of beneficiaries of DAP programmes in 2017. Training programs that were disseminated during the year included the Universal Treatment Curriculum (UTC), the Universal Prevention Curriculum (UPC), the Child Intervention for Living Drug Free Curriculum (CHILD), Recovery Coach Curriculum, (RC) and the Women Interventions for Substance Exposure Curriculum (WISE). The WISE curriculum was undergoing its pilot phase during the year 2018.

40. DAP also initiated a program to develop a curriculum on Drug Treatment Alternatives to Incarceration for Drug Users involved in the Criminal Justice System. The curricula which aims to provide policy makers with tools to design country specific Alternatives to Incarceration programs is expected to be ready for dissemination in 2019. Reviews of new curricula developed on Rural Based

² The figures presented in this section are not final

Prevention and Treatment, as well as the Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity curricula were also conducted during the year.

41. In 2018, DAP continued to facilitate dialogue among experts in the field, academics and both Government and Civil Society Stakeholders by conducting conferences and consultations. This included supporting conferences organized by institutions such as the International Consortium of Universities on Drug Demand Reduction, Engaging key stakeholders from Afghanistan working on Drug Demand Reduction and conducting regular sessions of both the Prevention and Treatment Expert Advisory Groups.

42. DAP also continued to also provide direct technical assistance and support to organizations dealing directly with drug users and implementing field level work. This included supporting more than 80 treatment centres in Afghanistan and supporting several outpatient treatment centres in Indonesia, Bangladesh, Philippines and Paraguay. DAP's support to the treatment centres in Afghanistan enabled approximately 10,485 individuals to have access to free treatment and aftercare services.

43. DAP continued its support to the International Society of Substance Use Prevention and Treatment Professionals, which it founded in 2015 together with the Bureau for International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL) of the United States State Department. DAP conducted a number of trainings, meetings at the annual ISSUP Workshop which took place in Nairobi, Kenya in December 2018. The activities at this workshop included the 7th ICCE Commission Meeting, the second Global Forum for Youth Leaders and Trainings on UTC, UPC and WISE.
