

7 April 2021

English only

**Commission on Narcotic Drugs****Sixty-fourth session**

Vienna, 12–16 April 2021

Item 6 of the provisional agenda\*

**Follow-up to the implementation at the national, regional and international levels of all commitments, as reflected in the Ministerial Declaration of 2019, to address and counter the world drug problem**

**Reports by intergovernmental organizations on drug control activities\*\***

**Report of the Secretariat**

Contents

	<i>Page</i>
I. Introduction . . . . .	2
II. Central Asian Regional Information and Coordination Centre for Combating Illicit Trafficking of Narcotic Drugs, Psychotropic Substances and their Precursors (CARICC) . . . . .	2
III. Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO) . . . . .	3
IV. INTERPOL . . . . .	4
V. Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) . . . . .	5

\* E/CN.7/2021/1.

\*\* 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-fourth session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs concise reports on their activities conducted in the year 2020. By 29 March 2021, the following organizations submitted reports to the Secretariat: the Central Asian Regional Information and Coordination Centre for Combating Illicit Trafficking of Narcotic Drugs, Psychotropic Substances and their Precursors (CARICC), the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO), INTERPOL and the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE).

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

2. Despite the COVID-19 situation in 2020, staff members of the Central Asian Regional Information and Coordination Centre for Combating Illicit Trafficking of Narcotic Drugs, Psychotropic Substances and their Precursors (CARICC/Centre) have made efforts and used all opportunities to achieve objectives set for the Centre.

3. Throughout the year, data on drug situation in CARICC member States and information for employees of relevant authorities of CARICC member States on new methods and means that criminal communities may use in the context of restrictions imposed in connection with quarantine measures, press reviews of past events in counter-narcotics, etc. were regularly published through electronic channels as part of CARICC information and analytical functions. Posting relevant materials contributed to an increase in the number of subscribers to CARICC publications.

4. The Centre also regularly produces and publishes studies, recommendations and methodological manuals. For instance, in 2020 CARICC published a handbook on “Drug Security in the context of Quarantine (using the example of the COVID-19 pandemic)” and a study on the Use of Container Transportation for Cross-Border Drug Trade in 2018–2020. The Centre hosted webinars on those themes with a wide range of participants.

5. Within the framework of the UNODC Regional Programme for Afghanistan and Neighbouring Countries, CARICC employees supported a study on movement of drugs of Afghan origin along the Northern route and a study on illicit financial flows from illicit opiate trafficking along the Northern route. The study involved interaction not only with national responsible authorities of CARICC member States, but also with financial units of the States participating in the study.

6. Having in-house databases allows for systematic storage and qualitative analysis of accumulated information. By the end of 2020 the Centralized Database has collected more than one hundred thousand objects.

7. In addition, CARICC has permanent access to UNODC information resources, Aipsin-Antinarkotiki, i24/7 INTERPOL, and the CENCOMM secure communication channel.

8. Epidemiological situation did not allow to carry out and participate in a number of annual international operations. However, CARICC has focused on assisting with specific international controlled delivery operations. Several operations were performed in late 2020 and early 2021, details are not publicly available at this point in time.

9. Seeking not only to accumulate arrays of information, but also to take efforts to transfer acquired experience to officers of relevant authorities in the region, CARICC hosts trainings, seminars, or practical exercises.

10. In view of the epidemiological situation, the Centre personnel participated and organized online courses through electronic systems. In total, in 2020 CARICC specialists participated in more than 40 online events organized by the Centre, UNODC and other international partners.

11. Also, important events for further activities of the Centre, such as meeting of expert working group of CARICC member States on improvement of legal framework of the Centre as part of revising draft Agreement between member States on exchange and protection of secret information, competitive selection of candidates to vacancies in the Centre that are employees of national authorities of CARICC member States, and expert meetings for preparations to CARICC Council of National Coordinators session and the Council meeting itself were conducted via videoconference.

### **III. Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO)**

12. The Anti-Drug Strategy of the member States of the Collective Security Treaty Organization for 2021–2025 was developed and adopted on December 2, 2020 at the session of the Collective Security Council by the Decision of the heads of the CSTO member States.

13. A meeting of the Working Group on the Organization of Anti-drug Operations and other areas of activity within the competence of the Coordinating Council of Heads of Competent Authorities for Countering Illicit Drug Trafficking (CSTO) member States was held in Moscow (Moscow, August 20, 2020), which was attended by representatives of the competent authorities of the CSTO member States and the CSTO Secretariat.

14. On November 17, 2020 the Chairman of the CSOPN of the CSTO member States, participated in the meeting of the Committee of Secretaries of the Security Councils of the Collective Security Treaty Organization (in the videoconference format), during which he reported “On the activities of the Coordinating Council of Heads of the Competent Authorities for Countering Illicit Drug Trafficking of the CSTO member States”.

15. On November 20, 2020, under the chairmanship of the State Secretary-Deputy Minister of Internal Affairs of the Russian Federation, I. N. Zubov, the meeting was held 22nd meeting of the CSTO member States’ CSOPN (in the videoconference format).

16. As a result of the event, the Plan of the main activities of the CSTO member States’ CSOPN for 2021 was approved, and an agreement was reached on holding the next stages of the anti-drug operation “Channel” in 2021.

17. Basic educational organization member States of the CSTO Siberian law Institute of the MIA of the Russian Federation prepared by the “overview of the health situation of drug trafficking in the region CSTO in 2019”.

18. With the active participation of members of the CSOPN, the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Russian Federation and the CSTO secretariat, an exhibition on anti-drug measures implemented by law enforcement agencies of the CSTO member States was launched on the sidelines of the 63rd session of the UN CSC (2–6 March, 2020, Vienna). The presentation of photo and video materials and analytical reviews took place.

19. On October 6, 2020, a regular Coordination meeting of the chief narcologists of the CSTO member States was held via videoconference.

20. Within the framework of the CSTO, “Recommendations for the CSTO member States on the prevention of substance abuse and the provision of drug treatment, as well as the inclusion of potentially dangerous substances in the lists (lists) of controlled substances” have been prepared.

21. These recommendations are developed on the basis of the United Nations international standards for the prevention of drug use, the European quality Standards for the prevention of drug use, as well as the experience of the preventive work of drug treatment services of the Member States of the Organization.

22. In addition, produced and directed the concerned departments of the States members of the Organization “guidelines for the prevention of illicit drug use and associated diseases, including its consequences”, as well as standard regulations for health workers in the prevention of substance use and associated diseases and conditions, including in the period of the pandemic COVID-19.

23. A lot of analytical work has also been carried out – based on the materials of the drug treatment services of the Organization’s member States, an analytical review of the drug treatment situation in the CSTO member States in 2015–2020 has been prepared.

#### IV. INTERPOL

24. INTERPOL strengthens the ability of law enforcement to conduct joint or coordinated cross-border investigations and encourage the systematic exchange of data at the interregional level. The aim is to reduce the amount of illicit drugs available around the world and mostly, to disrupt the criminal networks operating behind these traffics.

25. Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, INTERPOL’s support to its 194 member countries was kept to its highest level.

26. Over 2020, INTERPOL assisted member countries in identifying new drug trafficking trends and criminal organizations operating at the international level; and provided support to national and international law enforcement bodies concerned with countering the illicit production, trafficking and abuse of drugs. In particular, INTERPOL:

- Facilitates the development of relationships between specialized units and the National Central Bureaus (NCBs) to optimize information-sharing;
- Fosters communication among member countries by setting up case coordination meetings when links could be made on respective national investigations;
- Develops mechanisms for countries to systematically report seizures and other information on drug trafficking to INTERPOL;
- Provides the necessary capabilities for drugs investigation and encourages Member countries to make the most of them, notably the:

**INTERPOL Drugs Analysis File** enabling INTERPOL to systematically capture, control, analyse and publish information relating to drug trafficking. This supports the identification of links between suspects, locations, substances and routes, and results in comprehensive analytical products.

Currently 142 Member countries are part of the INTERPOL Drugs Analysis File; with new adhesions coming soon – *Countries interested in joining are encouraged to liaise with their INTERPOL National Central Bureau.*

**Relief database** enabling the tracing of the origin of drugs seized and the subsequent identification of the organized criminal group behind by analysing and comparing toolmarks left on drugs by pressing machines (brick and pills), logos and chemical composition analysis.

**Purple Notices (and other INTERPOL Notices)** enabling the immediate exchange of alerts with member countries on modus operandi, new substances, concealment methods, new routes, new trends, etc.

58 Purple Notices relating to drug matters have been published in 2020.

- Develops tailored trainings for the benefit of Member countries (drugs investigation; money-laundering in the context of drugs investigations; fentanyl awareness training; synthetic opioids investigation best practices; etc.)
- Provides ad hoc support at the request of Member countries in post seizure investigations and deploys Investigative Support Teams (ISTs) in post seizure investigation contexts. Since 2020 INTERPOL Investigative Support Teams supported national authorities in the following contexts:
  - Ecuador 3 tons of cocaine in seaport
  - Brazil 450 kg of cocaine in a helicopter
  - Germany 16 tons of cocaine in seaport
- Develops regional and international drugs investigators' networks;
- Enhances countries preparedness to respond to drug trafficking;
- Develops regional and global operations on illicit drugs in all regions of the world (2021: Operations Lionfish Mihadarati for Africa; and Lionfish Sandcat for the Middle East and North Africa).

## V. Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE)

27. The OSCE secretariat supported the 2020 OSCE Albanian Chairmanship in organizing in Vienna the 2020 OSCE-wide Conference on Combating the Threat of Illicit Drugs and the Diversion of Chemical Precursors: "Strengthening Effective Prevention of Drug Use among Youth through Community Policing". Some 200 participants from the OSCE participating States, Partners for Co-operation, international organizations and civil society discussed collective measures, exchanged best practices and lessons learned on how to advance effective drug prevention efforts. Special focus was on the role of youth in preventing their drug use and abuse and maintaining the environment in which communities can successfully stand against illicit drugs over time.

28. The OSCE secretariat in cooperation with the Central Asian Regional Information and Coordination Centre (CARICC) and the Nizhniy Novgorod Academy of the Ministry of the Interior of the Russian Federation organized in Almaty, Kazakhstan, a five-day training course on combating the spread of new psychoactive substances facilitated by the Darkweb and cryptocurrencies. More than 20 law enforcement experts from Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, the Russian Federation, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan developed techniques in identifying websites with malicious content, improved their understanding of anonymity and encryption, and the functioning of the Darkweb. They enhanced knowledge about the role of cryptocurrencies in drug-related and other crimes facilitated by the Darkweb.

29. The OSCE field operations in Central Asia continued raising awareness of citizens, especially youth, about tackling the threat of illicit drugs and the diversion of chemical precursors in line with national drug control policies and international standards. They supported drug prevention initiatives and activities aimed at promoting healthy lifestyle among youth and increasing their resilience against the negative effects of drug abuse.

30. Due to the COVID-19 travel restrictions, the OSCE field operations in the region reformatted their support to national counterparts by focusing on the production of webinars and awareness-raising videos for drug prevention and social media experts. Recorded webinars helped them to remotely study information and reach out via the Internet and social networks to a broader audience, including the youth.

31. The OSCE field operations in South-Eastern Europe organized a number of workshops and trainings, including online, which equipped police officers with skills to identify new types of drugs, effectively investigate illicit drug cases, monitor, gather evidence and report them in the court. Particular focus was on tackling the internet-based drug-related crimes. Police officers were encouraged to promote rehabilitation programmes and work closely with safety forums to maximize efforts in reducing demand, supply and spread of illicit drugs.

32. In partnership with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the OSCE Mission to Serbia supported translation into Serbian of the UNODC training material aimed at promoting family skills in preventing violence, crime and drug abuse.

---