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

Vienna, 14–18 March 2022

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**

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\* E/CN.7/2022/1.

\*\* 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-fifth session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs concise reports on their activities conducted in the year 2021. By 1 March 2022, the following organizations submitted reports to the Secretariat: the Arab Interior Ministers Council (AIM), the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO), the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA) and the League of Arab States (LAS).

## **II. Arab Interior Ministers Council (AIM)**

### **Efforts and Achievements of the Secretariat General of the Arab Interior Ministers Council in the Field of Drug Control during 2021**

#### **Conferences and meetings organized by the Secretariat General**

(i) The 35th Arab Conference for the Heads of Drug Control Agencies (Tunisia 6–7/10/2021), which discussed many important issues, e.g. international developments in the field of drugs and their impact on the Arab region, drug consumption during the Covid-19 pandemic, the establishment of an Arab working group for the immediate exchange of information on drugs;

(ii) The meetings of the three procedural sub-working groups: These meetings were held remotely on the 27th, 28th and 29th of June 2021;

(iii) Joint Meeting between Drug Control Agencies and representatives of Health Ministries in Arab countries, Tunisia (7–8/10/2021), which discussed enhancing cooperation between drug control agencies and health services in the Arab states;

(iv) The Third Meeting of a Follow up Committee on Implementing the 9th interim plan for the implementation of the Arab Strategy against the Illicit use of Narcotics and Psychotropic Substances, (Tunisia: 4/11/2021).

#### **Arab and international meetings in which the Secretariat General participated**

2. The Secretariat General and its Specialized Office on Drugs and Crime participated in the following meetings:

(i) The Scientific Seminar on Modern Techniques in Detecting Drug Smuggling/ Naif Arab University for Security Sciences: 2–3/3/2021;

(ii) The 64th Session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs/ Vienna: 12–16/04/2021 (remotely): representatives of (50) member states, (89) observer countries, and (100) organizations, including the Secretariat General of the Council took part in this event;

(iii) Celebrating the 64th Session of the CND and launching the World Drug Report 2021/Vienna: 06/25/2021, a special commemorative event dedicated to the United Nations International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking was held, June 25th 2021, and the World Drug Report was launched;

(iv) Workshop “The current situation in drug trade in the Arab World and efforts made in this regard” in celebration of the International Day for Drug Control/ Bahrain 26/6/2021);

(v) The First Inter-sessional Meeting of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs in its 64th session (Vienna: October 19–21, 2021): which discussed the increasing links between drug trafficking, corruption and other forms of organized crime.

**Annual Visits**

3. The office hosted the 14th visit of Drug officers and officers from liaison divisions to its premises, 28–29/12/2021, and also prepared for the annual visits of the three Procedural Sub-Working Groups in the member states.

**Reports and studies prepared by the Secretariat General**

- The Unified Arab Blacklist of Drug Dealers and Smugglers.
- The Annual Statistical Report of Drug Cases Seized in the Arab states.
- Follow up on the Implementation of the Arab Strategy against the Illicit Use of Narcotics and Psychotropic Substances.
- Directory of Arab and Foreign Experts in the field of Drug Control.
- The annual statistical report of precursors and chemicals seized in Arab countries destined for the manufacture of illegal narcotic drugs.
- Handbook of smuggling methods and emerging methods of concealment in drug cases seized in Member states.
- International developments in the field of drugs “production centers, consumption patterns, smuggling methods, methods of control and response”, and their impact on the Arab region.
- Arab cooperation in the field of drug control through the virtual space.
- Protection of vulnerable groups in the context of addressing the drug problem.
- Effective policies in facing new challenges in the illicit trade in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances and reducing the risks of their spread.
- The challenges and obstacles that member states faced in reducing drug demand.
- Legal and procedural measures taken by Arab countries to control precursors and chemicals used in the illicit manufacture of narcotics and psychotropic substances and to prevent their illicit import, export, trafficking and distribution.

**III. Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO)****On anti-drug measures implemented by the Collective Security Treaty Organization in 2021**

4. On April 16, 2021, a full-time Coordination meeting of the chief narcologists of the CSTO member states was held in Dushanbe (Republic of Tajikistan).
5. On April 29, 2021, a meeting of the Working Group of the Coordinating Council of Heads of Competent Authorities for Countering Drug Trafficking on the organization of anti-drug operations was held in a hybrid format (Dushanbe).
6. On May 17, 2021, a Joint Declaration of Intent was signed between the CSTO Secretariat and the General Secretariat of the International Criminal Police Organization – Interpol.
7. On June 1–3, 2021, staff negotiations on the organization of a special exercise “Thunder-2021” were held in person with special forces of anti-drug services and internal affairs bodies that are part of the special forces formations of the Collective Rapid Reaction Forces of the CSTO. (Yerevan).
8. On June 21–25, 2021, a sub-regional anti-drug operation “Canal – Granite Bastion” was conducted with the deployment of an International Coordination Headquarters in Dushanbe. More than 14.3 thousand employees of competent authorities were involved in this complex of events. According to preliminary data, as a result of coordinated actions, about 5,036.3 kilograms of drugs were seized from

illicit trafficking, including more than 4.8 kilograms of opium, 11 kilograms of hashish, 3.5 kilograms of heroin, 5 tons of marijuana, as well as 17 kilograms of synthetic narcotic drugs.

9. 543 drug crimes were revealed, as well as three facts of legalization of drug proceeds. 379 people were brought to administrative responsibility for illegal drug operations. 83 firearms and about 1,276 thousand ammunition were seized, suspicious financial transactions allegedly related to the legalization of drug proceeds totalling about 3.43 million rubles were identified by the financial intelligence units of the EAG member countries.

10. In accordance with the Plan of joint measures of operational and combat training of the management bodies and formations of the forces and means of the collective security system of the CSTO for 2021, from September 24 to 28 this year, a special exercise “Thunder-2021” was held in the Republic of Armenia, in which special forces of anti-drug departments, internal affairs bodies and special services, as well as units authorized in the field of emergency response, which are part of the formations of the special forces of the Collective Rapid Reaction Forces of the CSTO took part.

11. In accordance with the provisions of the Anti-Drug Strategy of the CSTO member states until 2025, adopted on 02/20/2021 by the CSTO Collective Security Council, a list of practical measures for its implementation was developed, agreed and approved on 11/30/2021 at a meeting of the Coordinating Council of Heads of Competent Authorities for Countering Drug Trafficking.

#### **IV. European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA)**

12. The EMCDDA provides independent scientific evidence and analysis on all aspects of the drugs problem and aims to contribute to a healthier and more secure Europe through better-informed drug policy and action. This is particularly important today in the face of an increasingly complex drug phenomenon, which covers a much broader range of substances, behaviours and people. The EMCDDA draws the bulk of its data from the [Reitox network](#) of 29 national focal points (27 EU, Norway and Turkey), the backbone of the EU drug monitoring system. Renewing its commitment to the implementation of [EMCDDA Strategy 2025](#), the network adopted during the year the second roadmap of its [Reitox Development Framework](#). At the heart of the agency’s work in 2021 was the development of a new business model, which places customers and digital transformation at its core. Adopted by the Management Board, this model is designed to ensure that the agency is fit to perform in an increasingly dynamic external environment.

13. In 2021, 52 new psychoactive substances (NPS) were reported for the first time via the [EU Early Warning System](#) (EWS), bringing the total number of NPS monitored through the system to 880. The EMCDDA responded to two synthetic cathinones (3-MMC and 3-CMC) posing public health and social threats, by launching risk assessments. On the basis of these, the Commission will propose to include these substances in the definition of ‘drug’ of Council Framework Decision 2004/757/JHA. The agency continued to implement key tools and procedures including the: European Database on New Drugs (EDND2); EWS operating guidelines; risk assessment guidelines; and working arrangements with EU agencies. Risk communications and analyses were issued, including two situation reports and two technical reports (on [synthetic cannabinoids](#) and [new benzodiazepines](#)). The [Eighth international conference on novel psychoactive substances](#), co-organized by the EMCDDA, examined the impact of COVID-19 on NPS markets. On behalf of the EU Member States, the agency submitted data on NPS to the UNODC’s Early Warning Advisory and assisted in prioritising substances to be reviewed by the WHO Expert Committee on Drug Dependence.

14. In 2021, in the context of work on drug markets and drug-related crime, the agency reconceptualised the model for the *EU Drug Markets Report* into a modular format and developed detailed analyses on methamphetamine and cocaine markets (to be launched in the first half of 2022). Building on previous work on Afghanistan, a special report, *Methamphetamine from Afghanistan: signals indicate that Europe should be better prepared*, was launched, examining the relatively recent emergence of methamphetamine production in that country and identifying actions that may be taken in Europe to mitigate the risks. Several rapid analyses on emerging drug-related security threats were also undertaken for key stakeholders. Finally, capitalising on capacities for monitoring drug supply via darknet markets, the agency developed the first darknet drug dashboards for a limited set of EU Member States, providing nationally relevant quarterly snapshots of activity on this topic.

15. In the area of public health, the EMCDDA continued to support policymakers and practitioners working with drug-related challenges during the pandemic. The *European Drug Report 2021* was informed by a targeted [trendspotter study](#) on the impact of COVID-19 on the drug situation, ensuring timeliness and relevance of findings. Autumn 2021 saw the launch of the new modular version of the *Health and social responses to drug problems: a European guide 2021* (composed of four sets of miniguides and an action framework) for designing, targeting and implementing effective responses. Another major publication in 2021 was *Prison and drugs in Europe: current and future challenges*, containing a broad overview of patterns of use, related harms, markets and responses in penal settings.

16. The EMCDDA webinar series continued with a high level of participation and interest in the chosen topics in 2021. The 10<sup>th</sup> edition of the European Drugs Summer School and first edition of a European Drugs Winter School took place virtually, as did the key [epidemiological indicator](#) meetings and events on complementary methods (e.g. [drug-checking](#) and [syringe-residue analysis](#)). The annual legal correspondents meeting also took place online and regular cannabis policy alerts were published. Additional expert events were held, including those exploring gender and drugs, prison and drugs and e-health. On drug-related harms, work advanced in support of the global hepatitis C elimination agenda, with the publication of national barometers to support countries assessing their progress against SDG goals. In the area of drug prevention, a new online platform, [PLATO](#), was launched to pilot training in the [European Prevention Curriculum](#), while a [six-step guide](#) was published on implementing quality standards.

17. The EMCDDA continued to strengthen its cooperation with non-EU countries, in particular through EU-funded technical assistance projects (2019–2023), namely the [IPA7 project](#) (Western Balkans) and the [EU4MD project](#) (European Neighbouring Policy area). It also launched a new bilateral project with Georgia ([EMCDDA4GE](#)). Finally, the agency will engage formally in the [COPOLAD III project](#) between 2022 and 2024, enhancing its cooperation with countries from Latin America and the Caribbean.

## V. League of Arab States (LAS)

### Summary of the efforts undertaken by the League of Arab States on Drug control for the year of 2021

18. The drug phenomenon that our world is experiencing is one of the most dangerous phenomena with regard to its devastating effects on the health and minds of peoples. The League of Arab States has alerted to the danger of the growing volume of illicit drug production and demand at international level which poses serious threat to human health, as well as to drug abuse related criminal activities. The General Secretariat of the League of Arab States is working hardly through its relevant subsidiary bodies to address this phenomena with firmness.

19. The Councils of Arab Ministers of Justice and Interior have taken many measures to implement the Arab Convention to Combat Illicit Trafficking in Narcotics and Psychotropic Substances, and the Arab Strategy to Combat Illicit Use of Narcotics and Psychotropic Substances, which constitute together the basis of the common Arab cooperation in facing this dangerous problem.

20. The General Secretariat of the Council of Arab Interior Ministers hold annual meetings of heads of Drug Control Agencies of Member States which adopt important recommendations related to drug control and stress the need to combat trafficking in drug at the regional level.

21. The subsidiary “Procedural Sub- Working Group for Drug Control”, established by the Council of Arab Interior Ministers, held several meetings at the headquarter of the this Ministerial Council, with the view to follow up the efforts made by the Arab States in drug control and report, on annual basis, to the annual meeting of Heads of Drug Control Agencies of Member States.

22. The General Secretariat of the League of Arab States through the Legal Affairs Sector, in its capacity of the Technical Secretariat of the Council of Arab Justice Ministers is carrying out the follow up of the implementation of the Arab Convention to Combat Illicit Trafficking in Narcotics and Psychotropic Substances and urges Arab States that have not ratified the Convention to do so.

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