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 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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** 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-sixth session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs concise reports on their activities conducted in the year 2022. By 27 February 2023, the following organizations submitted reports to the Secretariat: Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD) of the Organization of American States (OAS), International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL), the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA) and the League of Arab States (LAS).

II. Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD) of the Organization of American States (OAS)

2. CICAD held **two regular sessions**, the first (CICAD 71) in June under the chair of Costa Rica and the second (CICAD 72) under the chair of Paraguay.

3. The **Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism** completed the second year of its eighth evaluation round, on supply reduction. The information provided by OAS member States was evaluated by the Governmental Expert Group, resulting in 32 national reports, approved during CICAD's seventy-second regular session.

4. The **Institutional Strengthening Unit** supported OAS member States in the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of public policies, strategies and plans. The Unit also supported member States in strengthening monitoring and evaluation mechanisms of alternatives to incarceration programmes. The training curriculum on case care management for people in conflict with the law for drug-related offences was finalized, and CICAD concluded the first phase of the "Gender in the Criminal Justice System" project with the development of diagnostic studies in five member States.

5. The **Inter-American Observatory on Drugs (OID)** continued to provide technical assistance to OAS member States and their national drug observatories. Several training events and a virtual round table on various topics related to drug information networks, early warning systems and research methods were held in 2022. The Report on Drug Supply in the Americas 2022 was published. The Early Warning System for the Americas continued to collect alerts on emerging drugs, and the OID collaborated with different international partners to share information and harmonize indicators.

6. The **Demand Reduction Unit** organized several events such as a round table on evidence-based prevention, a meeting of the Regional Working Group of the International Consortium of Universities for Drug Demand Reduction, the Global Youth Forum on Prevention of Drug Use, and a training on the Curriculum for the Treatment of Adolescents with Substance Use Disorders. Training of trainers continued on the Universal Treatment Curriculum and the Universal Prevention Curriculum. CICAD's Demand Reduction Expert Group meeting was held virtually. School, work, and community prevention workshops were held with the national chapters of the International Society for Substance Use Professionals (ISSUP).

7. The **Supply Reduction Unit** carried out training and technical assistance activities, as well as meetings of CICAD's Group of Experts on Chemical Substances and Pharmaceutical Products and the Group of Experts on Maritime Narcotrafficking. Within the framework of the Regional Counterdrug Intelligence School of the Americas and the Caribbean Counterdrug Intelligence Training School, CICAD provided specialized training to counterdrug law enforcement investigators and analysts. Training and technical assistance activities were carried out on the control of chemical precursors, synthetic drugs, and new psychoactive substances as well as on counterdrug maritime cooperation and maritime/port narcotrafficking control. A meeting of the Working Group on the Control of Drug Trafficking by Air was

organized for Latin American member States. Within the framework of the Inter-American Program for Strengthening Gender Equality in Counterdrug Law Enforcement Agencies, the Unit held round tables on the gender mainstreaming in drug control agencies.

III. International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL)

8. INTERPOL is a neutral, intergovernmental organization mandated to facilitate international law enforcement cooperation and information exchange globally, connecting 195 member countries and their law enforcement authorities through a National Central Bureau (NCB) in each country. As appropriate, INTERPOL also supports governmental and intergovernmental organizations, authorities and services whose mission is to prevent or combat crime – within the limits of the laws existing in the different countries and in the spirit of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

9. Thanks to its global, secure communication system called I-24/7, INTERPOL facilitates the exchange of information among law enforcement. INTERPOL also manages 19 police databases containing over 126 million records on wanted individuals, stolen property, weapons, threats, etc. In 2022 alone, these databases were searched by law enforcement across the world over 5.9 billion times. Coordination of cross-border operations, provision of operational and investigative support, capacity-building to law enforcement, as well as criminal and threat analysis are also part of INTERPOL's core functions.

10. Throughout 2022, INTERPOL continued to work with law enforcement to disrupt the flow of illicit drugs around the globe by targeting complex criminal networks responsible for the global drug trade. INTERPOL assisted member countries with a variety of activities ranging from capacity-building and training to coordinating global police operations. INTERPOL also worked closely with specialized units to target criminal organizations utilizing maritime and aviation drug smuggling routes. These activities helped identify new smuggling routes and drug threats; while making a concrete impact on communities' safety and security (see reported results hereafter).

11. INTERPOL continued to provide law enforcement expertise to various international organizations, including UNODC and INCB – and is an implementing partner of the CRIMJUST and the AIRCOP programmes.

INTERPOL activities in 2022

- INTERPOL organized *Operation LIONFISH V*, resulting in the seizure of 35.5 tons of illicit drugs, 291 tons of chemical precursors and 1,357 arrests. This five-week global illicit drug operation featured **22 countries** from across the Middle East, Asia, Africa and South America resulting in the removal of **over 717 million USD** of profits from numerous top tier criminal groups. Intelligence from this operation indicated an increase in synthetic drug smuggling particularly throughout South-East Asia and the Pacific.
- INTERPOL also conducted trainings for 15 countries on the deployment and use of the **RELIEF Database**, the only global police database capable of matching drug seizures through the microscopic tool marks imprinted on the surface of the drugs during production. In 2022, INTERPOL doubled the size of the RELIEF Database which now includes over 30 countries. In 2022, the database successfully matched over 81 cases resulting in an 18 per cent hit rate.
- In 2022, INTERPOL deployed **10 Operational Support Teams (OST)** to provide post-drug seizure investigative support at the request of member countries. The OST deployments resulted in the seizure of approximately 15 tons of cocaine and the arrests of almost 75 suspects. The intelligence gained from the OSTs also resulted in the publication of **14 INTERPOL Blue Notices**

(to collect additional information about a person's identity, location or activities in relation to a criminal investigation) and **7 Red Notices** (to seek the location and arrest of persons wanted for prosecution or to serve a sentence) related to drug trafficking.

- In June 2022, INTERPOL organized the **Global Drugs Conference on Emerging Technology and Secured Communication**. The Conference was attended by over 400 participants from 91 member countries.
- In 2022, INTERPOL published **31 Purple Notices** related to drug trafficking (through which law enforcement may seek or provide information on modus operandi, objects, devices and concealment methods used by criminals) and **4 Airport Crime Alerts** (short reports meant for awareness-raising and further information collection, targeting trends and threats related to commercial air trafficking) as part of its ongoing involvement in the AIRCOP project together with UNODC and WCO.

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, characterized by a broader range of substances, behaviours and people. The agency draws the bulk of its data from the Reitox network of 29 national focal points (27 European Union Member States, Norway and Turkey), the backbone of the European Union drug monitoring system.

13. The *European Drug Report 2022* was published in June, along with the online Statistical Bulletin. An EMCDDA trendspotter study was initiated in the Spring to identify the implications for European Union drug services of the millions crossing borders to escape war in Ukraine. A ground-breaking publication on web surveys and drugs was also launched. The agency's key epidemiological indicator meetings took place during the year, as did events on complementary methods (e.g. wastewater analysis, hospital emergencies, drug-checking and syringe-residue analysis).

14. This was also the year when the European Union Early Warning System (EWS) celebrated its 25th anniversary. In 2022, 41 new psychoactive substances (NPS) were reported for the first time via the EWS, bringing the total number of NPS monitored through the system to 920. The European Commission included two synthetic cathinones (3-MMC and 3-CMC) in the definition of "drug" of Council Framework Decision 2004/757/JHA, on the basis of the risk assessments conducted by the EMCDDA in 2021. 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 European Union agencies. Risk communications and analyses were issued, including an EWS update and a technical report on nitrous oxide, while a technical meeting for EWS experts was organized on the emergence in Europe of semi-synthetic cannabinoids. The IX international conference on novel psychoactive substances in Panama was co-organized by the EMCDDA. On behalf of the European Union Member States, the agency submitted data on NPS to the UNODC's Early Warning Advisory and assisted in prioritizing substances to be reviewed by the WHO Expert Committee on Drug Dependence.

15. In the context of work on drug markets and drug-related crime, the agency launched in 2022 in-depth analyses on cocaine and methamphetamine markets, in a fully digital format. Detailed analyses of cannabis and amphetamine markets were developed and will be launched in the first half of 2023. Furthermore, three regional strategic drug market reports were published covering the European Union's

neighbours to the south, the east and in the Western Balkans. Rapid analyses on emerging drug-related security threats were also undertaken for key stakeholders.

16. In the area of public health, the EMCDDA continued to support policymakers and practitioners working with drug-related challenges. New Miniguides were published under the *Health and social responses to drug problems: a European guide* for designing, targeting and implementing effective responses. These focused on responses in specific settings (prison, schools, nightlife, community) and also responses to vulnerable populations (homeless, families, women). The EMCDDA webinar series continued with a high level of participation and interest and both the European Drugs Summer School and Winter School ran successfully. The annual legal correspondents meeting took place online and a number of technical and expert cannabis policy meetings were held. Additional expert events were organized, some in the margins of Lisbon Addictions, on co-morbidity, gender and drugs, and prison and drugs. On drug-related harms, work advanced in support of the global hepatitis C elimination agenda, with the publication of national barometers to help countries assess their progress against SDG goals. In the area of prevention, European Prevention Curriculum (EUPC) training ran on the online platform, PLATO, in an increasing number of countries.

17. The EMCDDA continued to strengthen its cooperation with non-European Union countries, in particular through European Union-funded technical assistance projects (2019–2023), namely by completing the IPA7 project (Western Balkans) and the EU4MD project (European Neighbouring Policy area) and pursuing implementation of the bilateral project with Georgia (EMCDDA4GE). The agency signed agreements with the European Commission in view of pursuing and enhancing cooperation with Western Balkan and ENP countries, through new multi-year projects (IPA 8 – 2023–2026 and EU4MD II – 2023–2027). Finally, having become an official partner of COPOLAD III in 2022, the agency will engage formally in the project activities until October 2024, enhancing its cooperation with countries from Latin America and the Caribbean.

V. League of Arab States (LAS)

18. The Arab Bureau for Drugs and Crime Affairs based in Amman (Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan), operating under the authority of the Council of the of Arab Ministers of Interior based in Tunis (Republic of Tunisia), ensure and develop cooperation among States Members of the League of Arab States in drug control, border control, criminal investigation and evidence, fighting transnational organized crime, and provide related assistance to Members States of the region.

19. During 2022, the Arab Bureau for Drugs and Crime Affairs has updated the unified Arab blacklist of traffickers of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, issued the annual newsletter of the “Statistical Bulletin” of drug cases seized in Arab countries, the annual statistical report on drug cases seized in the Arab countries, developed comparative statistical studies on drug cases seized in the Arab countries, and conducted comparative analytical studies on the outcomes of the annual Arab and international meetings on drug control.

20. Furthermore, the Bureau prepared several follow-up studies on the means of trafficking and concealing drugs and psychotropic substances by land, sea and air in the Arab region, and implemented the decisions and recommendations adopted by the (36) Arab Conference of Heads of Drug Control Agencies, in addition to its efforts to extending bridges of cooperation and establishing partnerships with the international organizations such as UNODC, namely “the containers control program” and the International Customs Organization. At the regional level, the Bureau has a strategic partnership with the Criminal Information Center to Combat Drugs of the Cooperation Council for the Gulf Arab States, and the “HEMAYA International Training Center” of the Dubai Police (United Arab Emirates).

21. The (36) Arab Conference of Heads of Drug Control Agencies held at the Council of the Arab Ministers of Interior in Tunis, on 26 October 2022, discussed various topics such as, the misuse of the transport of goods in the trafficking of narcotic substances, especially by land, the international developments in the drugs trafficking namely the illicit production areas, illicit consumption patterns, smuggling methods, controlling and tackling methods and their impact on the Arab region, the outcomes of Arab and international meetings on drugs for the “2021–2022”, as well as the establishment of an Arab working group for the instant exchange of information on narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances. The conference reviewed the experiences and plans of Member States in the field of combating trafficking in drugs and psychotropic substances. The conference was attended by representatives of Arab Member States, League of Arab States, UNODC, the Criminal Information Center to Combat Drugs, HEMAYA International Training Center and NAIF Arab University for Security and (Saudi Arab Kingdom). In addition, several meetings of the sub-working groups on drug control under the authority of the Conference of Heads of Drug Control Agencies were held to examine the efforts exerted by the Arab States to combat this phenomenon.

22. The Councils of the Arab Ministers of Justice and Interior have taken many measures to implement the Arab Convention against Illicit Trafficking in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances as well as the Arab Strategy to Combat the Illicit Use of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, and urge the Arab States that have not ratified the Convention to do so. Furthermore, the two Councils established a joint committee composed by experts of the Ministries of Justice and Interior in the Arab countries to draft an “Arab Model Law to Combat Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances”. The draft model law has been circulated for comments by Arab States competent Ministries.

23. The 6th meeting of the Committee to Follow-up the implementation of the “Regional Program for the Arab States to Prevent and Combat Crime, Terrorism and Health Threats and to Strengthen Criminal Justice Systems in Line with International Human Rights Standards (2016–2022)” was held from 13–15 December 2022, in Cairo (Arab Republic of Egypt) under the joint auspices of the League of Arab States/Legal Affairs Sector and the UNODC/Regional Office for the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) with the participation of representatives of the ministries and the competent bodies in the Arab States. The meeting approved the revised version of the “Regional Action Programme for the Arab States” (2023–2028), encompassing six main areas, dedicating the first focus area to a balanced approach to drug control.
