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

Vienna, 14–22 March 2024

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**

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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-seventh session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs concise reports on their activities conducted in the year 2023. By 29 February 2024, the following organizations submitted reports to the Secretariat: the Arab Interior Ministers' Council (AIMC), the Colombo Plan Secretariat, the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA), and the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL).

## II. Arab Interior Ministers' Council

2. The most significant activities carried out by the AIMC Secretariat General (the Arab Office on Drugs and Crime), in the field of drug control during the year 2023, based on the tenth phase of the Arab Strategy for Combating Drugs and Psychotropic Substances:

(a) The 37th Arab Conference of Heads of Anti-Narcotics Agencies: This conference was held in Amman, Jordan, from October 31 to November 1, 2023. On the sidelines of this conference, the three procedural subgroups held meetings;

(b) Participation in the 56th session of the Sub-Commission on Illicit Drug Trafficking and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East: This was held in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, from November 21 to 24, 2023;

(c) The annual statistical report on precursors and chemicals seized in Arab countries during 2022, were aimed to production of illicit drugs;

(d) A booklet on new smuggling methods and concealment techniques used in drug cases seized in Arab member States during 2022;

(e) A report on websites that are used to buy and sell drugs and psychotropic substances or that teach how to synthesize, manufacture, or cultivate drugs;

(f) A study on "International developments in the field of drugs (production centres, consumption patterns, smuggling methods, methods of combating and addressing them), and their impact on the Arab region." This study was presented at the 35th Arab Conference of Heads of Anti-Narcotics Agencies;

(g) A study on the results of Arab and international meetings on drugs (2020–2021). This study was presented at the 35th Arab Conference of Heads of Anti-Narcotics Agencies;

(h) Three analytical studies on "Developments in the field of drugs in the countries of each of the three procedural subgroups on combating drugs." These studies were included in the documents of the meetings of the three procedural subgroups;

(i) Three analytical studies on "Operational cooperation between the countries of each of the three procedural subgroups." These studies were included in the documents of the meetings of the three procedural subgroups;

(j) A study on "Legal and procedural measures taken by Arab countries to control precursors and chemicals used in the illicit manufacture of drugs and psychotropic substances and to prevent their import, export, trafficking and distribution";

(k) A study on precursors and chemicals: Risks of their leakage and use in the illicit manufacture of drugs and psychotropic substances and mechanisms for dealing with them;

(l) A study on Arab mechanisms to counter the global trend towards legalizing or decriminalizing the use of cannabis and its products;

- (m) Preparation of a draft internal regulation for the Arab working group on the immediate exchange of information on drugs and psychotropic substances;
- (n) A revised version of the Unified Arab Blacklist of Traffickers of Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (2023 Edition);
- (o) An updated version of the Unified Arab Schedule of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (2023 Edition);
- (p) The annual unified statistical report on drug cases seized in Arab countries during 2022.

### III. Colombo Plan Secretariat

#### **Colombo Plan Drug Advisory Programme Summary Report for the 67th Commission on Narcotic Drugs, Vienna (January–December 2023)**

3. The Colombo Plan Drug Advisory Programme (CPDAP) is reputed to be one of the leading intergovernmental organizations in drug demand and supply reduction.
4. Throughout 2023, a total of seventy-three (73) training initiatives on the Universal Curricula (UC) were conducted in Asia, Africa and Latin America and the Caribbean under demand reduction programme. These trainings were conducted in different modalities such as in-person, virtual and hybrid in order to disseminate knowledge and skills to drug demand reduction professionals and practitioners at the national, regional and global levels.
5. CPDAP successfully conducted 41 trainings from January until December for 1,297 treatment professionals on the Universal Treatment Curriculum for Substance Use Disorders (UTC) inclusive of specialized UTC trainings that target substance use disorders (SUD) treatment for children and women. Additionally, 26 training courses conducted on the Universal Prevention Curriculum for Substance Use (UPC) have benefited 790 drug demand reduction (DDR) professionals across the various continents. Further, CPDAP also conducted six training courses on the Universal Recovery Curriculum (URC) benefiting a total of 118 DDR practitioners across the world.
6. Overall, a total of 2,205 DDR professionals and practitioners working in the field of prevention, treatment and recovery support from 25 countries in Asia, Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean have benefited from all these training courses conducted in 2023.
7. Besides the in-person and hybrid trainings on the UC, CPDAP has also contributed significantly to the Online Learning Hub both the instructor-led and self-led courses. These courses designed with interactive elements and flexibility enable interested working DDR workforce to enhance their knowledge remotely at their own learning pace. In the past year, DAP has conducted six instructor-led trainings on UPC-Managers and Supervisors Series in the Latin American region and two instructor-led trainings on Women's Intervention for Substance Exposure (WISE) Courses 1–4. Moreover, 2,612 have successfully completed our self-led courses in 2023. Work is currently being carried out to convert the UTC Basic level self-led courses into the Spanish language.
8. Under Supply Reduction, notably in the past year, CPDAP's efforts included organizing a private-public sector partnership initiative meeting in Washington, D.C., outlining the underlying and hidden factors driving the U.S. overdose epidemic in Washington, D.C., and co-sponsoring the DEA's International Drug Enforcement Conference in Jamaica, thus reinforcing its commitment to addressing complex challenges in the field of supply reduction.
9. A critical program launched in 2023 is the Center for Forensic Science Research and Education (CFSRE) Sentinel program. This program provides a novel early warning system on emerging, lethal synthetic drugs and complex drug mixtures

entering a nation's drug supply to better understand epidemics, prevent overdose, and protect the public health of communities worldwide. DAP issued eight (8) relevant and timely health alerts last year, and with five (5) more coming out within the next month, to update the enforcement as well as the public health sector on new psychoactive substances.

10. A highlight of DAP's initiatives in 2023 was the National Secretariats Meeting (NSM) held in Manila, Philippines from 14–16 November 2023 that brought together a total of 79 delegates from 22 Colombo Plan member countries. The NSM provided a regional platform for members to exchange their contributions and efforts in the drug demand and supply reduction in the region.

11. Advertently, CPDAP has demonstrated substantial progress in advancing its mission and contributing significantly to capacity-building of the DDR and DSR workforce, regional dialogues, and collaborative efforts in the field of drug demand and supply reduction.

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

12. In 2023, the EMCDDA faced a challenging year as it provided routine and innovative service to its stakeholders while also providing technical support to the EU institutions for the negotiation and adoption of a new regulation that laid the foundations for the EMCDDA's transition to the European Union Drugs Agency (EUDA) in 2024. The agency's work throughout the year helped to inform drug policy and actions in Europe.

13. The European Drug Report (2023), in a new, digital-first format, and the online Statistical Bulletin were published in June, providing the most recent overview of the drug situation in Europe and assessing trends and emerging threats. Meetings on the agency's key epidemiological indicators took place during the year, and the EMCDDA webinar series successfully continued in 2023.

14. In the context of drug markets and drug-related crime, the agency collaborated with Europol on an in-depth analysis of EU drug markets and published two new fully digital modules on the cannabis and amphetamine markets. In addition, a technical report entitled "Captagon trafficking and the role of Europe" was published in cooperation with the German Bundeskriminalamt (BKA).

15. In the field of public health, the EMCDDA continued its support for policymakers and practitioners dealing with drug-related issues. New "Miniguides" were published under the Health and Social Responses to Drug Problems: a European Guide, with a focus on responses to vulnerable populations such as migrants, older people and women. In addition, the EMCDDA extended its focus on health and social responses for migrants who use drugs, through a collaboration with the European Union Agency for Asylum (EUAA). The two agencies published a joint report on reception centres in Europe, based on the responses of professionals, identifying key issues and recommendations to address them.

16. In 2023, the EMCDDA had fruitful collaborations with partners and agencies in the health sector. Together with the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC), it updated the recommendations to prevent and control infectious diseases among people who inject drugs. Furthermore, the first joint publication on drug consumption rooms was launched, as a result of close cooperation with the Correlation-European Harm Reduction Network (C-EHRN).

17. In the international sphere, the EMCDDA continued to strengthen its cooperation with third countries, in particular through EU-funded technical assistance projects, namely IPA8 2023–2026 (Western Balkans) and EU4MD II 2023–2027 (European Neighbouring Policy Area). Furthermore, the agency strengthened its ties with Latin American countries through its support to the bi-regional COPOLAD

programme and the conclusion of Working Arrangements with Chile, Colombia, Ecuador and Peru.

## V. International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL)

18. INTERPOL is a neutral, intergovernmental organization mandated to facilitate international law enforcement cooperation and information exchange globally, connecting 196 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.

19. 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 141 million records on wanted individuals, stolen property, weapons, threats, etc. In 2023 alone, these databases were searched by law enforcement across the world over 7.3 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.

20. Throughout 2023, 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).

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

### INTERPOL activities in 2023

- **I-RAID – INTERPOL's Response Against Illicit Drugs:** to counter drug trafficking sustainably and with maximum impact, INTERPOL has developed a **6-year Global Drugs Programme** which leverages INTERPOL's international policing capabilities, advanced policing tools and expertise to support member countries to cooperate and address the complex criminal networks contributing to drug trafficking and associated criminal activities. The programme combines four pillars dedicated to operational and analysis support, capacity-building, targeting the proceeds of crime and fostering partnerships and synergies across sectors of expertise. This programme will encompass all of INTERPOL's counterdrugs activities;
- Implementation of **Project Mayag:** INTERPOL has initiated the implementation of Project Mayag funded by the Republic of Korea which assists in bringing a diverse range of stakeholders into operational activities, involving specific countries in Asia and the Middle East that are central in the fight against **synthetic drugs trafficking and chemical precursors** diversion. This allows INTERPOL to gather a wide range of intelligence on synthetic drugs and other drugs trafficking in different areas of the world. Several regional operations are planned to be undertaken over the next years;
- In April 2023, **Operation TRIGGER IX**, showed the pervasive nature of drug trafficking and its convergence with all other types of illicit trafficking. Although

firearms focused, the operation led to the seizure of more than **203 tons of drugs and 372 tons of precursor chemicals**. TRIGGER is a prime example of an INTERPOL-coordinated regional operation with participation of **15 countries** in the Americas. *Operation PANGAEA XVI* which took place in October 2023, with **89 participating countries**, has led to 72 arrests worldwide, the seizure of potentially dangerous pharmaceuticals worth more than **USD 7 million**, 325 new investigations and the closure of more than 1,300 criminal websites;

- **Active engagement in the Global Coalition against Synthetic Drugs:** INTERPOL is an active member of the Global Coalition against Synthetic Drugs which gathers over one hundred countries and serves to combine the efforts of the international community to prevent the production and trafficking of illicit synthetic drugs, identify emerging drug trends and use patterns, and respond to their public health impacts. INTERPOL is planning **annual global law enforcement operations** in the frame of the Global Coalition over the next years;
- **INTERPOL Fentanyl Impact Group:** in June 2023, INTERPOL coordinated its first Fentanyl Impact Group together with Canada, Mexico and the United States to exchange operational information and intelligence, share best practices and identify common strategies to actively fight drug trafficking networks behind Fentanyl trafficking and determine prevention measures to prevent fentanyl trafficking spread;
- **Global Fentanyl Survey:** In October 2023, INTERPOL launched its first global Fentanyl Survey aimed at obtaining a global overview of the extent of the fentanyl threat. The findings of the survey will serve to develop tailored operational and analytical support activities for the benefit of global law enforcement as well as dedicated capacity building modules to increase their awareness, competences and skills in preventing, detecting and investigating fentanyl trafficking;
- In 2023, INTERPOL deployed two major Operational Support Teams (OST) to provide post-drug operational and analytical support at the request of Member countries. In March 2023, INTERPOL deployed a support team to Ecuador, following the seizure of 8.7 tons of cocaine, to assist with post seizure investigation. The cocaine was concealed in a shipment of bananas destined for Antwerp, Belgium. In September 2023, INTERPOL deployed a support team to Ireland following the historic seizure of over 2 tons of cocaine. The information collected and subsequently analysed, further highlighted the expansion of organized crime groups across regions and emphasized the predicate crimes of illicit financial assets and money-laundering surrounding the illicit drugs trafficking. The intelligence gained from the OSTs also resulted in the publication of several INTERPOL Blue Notices (to collect additional information about a person's identity, location or activities in relation to a criminal investigation) and Red Notices (to seek the location and arrest of persons wanted for prosecution or to serve a sentence) related to drug trafficking;
- INTERPOL also conducted trainings for 10 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 2023, INTERPOL increased the size of the RELIEF Database which now includes over 39 countries. In 2023, the database successfully matched over 253 cases resulting in an 50 per cent hit rate;
- In 2023, INTERPOL published **23 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 **5 Intelligence Packages and 2 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.