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Item 7 of the provisional agenda*

**Inter-agency cooperation and coordination of
efforts in addressing and countering the world drug
problem**

Statement submitted by Al Najm, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council**

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 36 and 37 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* [E/CN.7/2025/1](#).

** Issued without formal editing.



Madam Chair, Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates,

The illicit Captagon trade has become a major transnational security crisis, fuelling organized crime, armed groups, and regional instability. What was once a regional issue has evolved into a global challenge, threatening public health, national security, and economic stability.

Captagon is produced and trafficked at an unprecedented scale, particularly in conflict-affected areas of the Levant and Arabian Peninsula. Its illicit trade funds militias and criminal networks, worsening humanitarian crises and increasing addiction, particularly among youth and marginalized populations.

The Situation in Lebanon and Al Najm’s Role

In Lebanon, evolving regional dynamics are impacting security and drug trafficking patterns. The ongoing Lebanese-Israeli conflict since 2024 has deepened economic hardship and social instability, exacerbating vulnerabilities. Meanwhile, the fall of the Assad regime disrupted Captagon production, leading to shifts in trafficking routes. However, instability and migration pressures, combined with the adaptation of trafficking networks, continue to pose serious threats to vulnerable groups.

In response, Al Najm, an NGO dedicated to substance use prevention, implements awareness training, women-focused prevention programs, and healthy living initiatives for children. With limited resources, it works to build community resilience against substance use and strengthen crisis response capacities.

A Call for Global Action

We commend the **GCC, European partners, and international organizations** for their efforts in countering Captagon. However, urgent **global action** is needed:

1. **Enhancing International Scheduling** – UNODC, WHO, and INCB must accelerate scheduling Captagon and its derivatives to ensure a unified global response.
2. **Strengthening Law Enforcement Cooperation** – Expand intelligence-sharing and cross-border collaboration to dismantle Captagon networks.
3. **Expanding Treatment & Prevention** – Strengthen harm reduction, rehabilitation, and public awareness programs in high-risk regions.
4. **Enhancing Regional & Multilateral Cooperation** – facilitating international cooperation and intelligence-sharing on Captagon trafficking.

Conclusion

The Captagon crisis is global—its impact extends beyond the Middle East, affecting public health and security worldwide. We urge the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and all stakeholders to prioritize immediate, coordinated action to dismantle Captagon networks.

Thank you.
