

TABLE OF CONTENTS

▶ INTRODUCTION	1
----------------------	---

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING ON SUBREGIONAL DRUG CONTROL COOPERATION

▶ MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING ON SUBREGIONAL DRUG CONTROL COOPERATION BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENTS OF THE REPUBLIC OF KAZAKHSTAN, THE REPUBLIC OF KYRGYZSTAN THE REPUBLIC OF TAJIKISTAN, TURKMENISTAN, THE REPUBLIC OF UZBEKISTAN AND THE UNITED NATIONS INTERNATIONAL DRUG CONTROL PROGRAMME	2
--	---

▶ PROTOCOL ON ACCESSION OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION AND THE AGA KHAN DEVELOPMENT NETWORK TO THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING ON SUBREGIONAL DRUG CONTROL COOPERATION	5
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DOCUMENTS ADOPTED AT THE CONFERENCE ON SUBREGIONAL DRUG CONTROL COOPERATION AND THE ANNUAL REVIEW MEETINGS

CONFERENCES ON SUBREGIONAL DRUG CONTROL COOPERATION

FIRST REVIEW MEETING

ALMATY, KAZAKHSTAN, JANUARY 1998

▶ PROTOCOL	7
▶ DECLARATION	8

SECOND REVIEW MEETING

CHOLPON-ATA, KYRGYZ REPUBLIC, OCTOBER 1999

▶ PROTOCOL	10
------------------	----

THIRD REVIEW MEETING

DUSHANBE, TAJIKISTAN, SEPTEMBER 2001

▶ DECLARATION	12
▶ STATEMENT ON TERRORIST ATTACK ON USA	15

FINAL DOCUMENTS OF CONFERENCES RELATED TO THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING ON SUBREGIONAL DRUG CONTROL COOPERATION

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON ENHANCING SECURITY AND STABILITY IN CENTRAL ASIA: AN INTEGRATED APPROACH TO COUNTER DRUGS, ORGANIZED CRIME AND TERRORISM

TASHKENT, UZBEKISTAN, OCTOBER 2000

▶ DECLARATION	16
▶ PRIORITIES FOR COOPERATION TO COUNTER DRUGS, ORGANIZED CRIME AND TERRORISM IN CENTRAL ASIA	18

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON ENHANCING SECURITY AND STABILITY IN CENTRAL ASIA: STRENGTHENING COMPREHENSIVE EFFORTS TO COUNTER TERRORISM

BISHKEK, KYRGYZSTAN, DECEMBER 2001

▶ DECLARATION	21
▶ PROGRAMME OF ACTION	23

INTRODUCTION

Concerned about the harmful impact on the region of the trade in illicit drugs, the Central Asian countries and the United Nations International Drug Control Programme convened a Conference on Subregional Drug Control Cooperation in Tashkent 1996.

Resolved to meet the threat from the drug trade with a strong political answer on the international level, the parties agreed on the **Memorandum of Understanding on Subregional Drug Control Cooperation**. The Memorandum of Understanding drew the outline of a Cooperation Programme, established a support mandate for UNDCP, and thus paved the way for many essential drug control initiatives. In the course of the following years, it developed into a core document in the fight against drugs.

The Memorandum developed towards more comprehensive sub-regional coordination when membership was extended to the Russian Federation, the Aga Khan Foundation (1998) and Azerbaijan (2001).

The dynamic nature of the agreement is reflected in the regularly held review conferences. Taking place in Almaty, Kazakhstan (1998), Choplon-Ata, Kyrgyzstan (1999), Dushanbe, Tajikistan (2001), and in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan (2002), these meetings confirm the status of the Memorandum of Understanding as a pivotal forum for regional cooperation on drug control. The final documents of the review meetings have continued to develop guidelines for a concerted response to the drugs problem.

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
ON SUBREGIONAL DRUG CONTROL
COOPERATION BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENTS**

OF

**THE REPUBLIC OF KAZAKHSTAN
THE REPUBLIC OF KYRGYZSTAN
THE REPUBLIC OF TAJIKISTAN
TURKMENISTAN
THE REPUBLIC OF UZBEKISTAN**

AND

**THE UNITED NATIONS INTERNATIONAL
DRUG CONTROL PROGRAMME**

**TASHKENT
4 May, 1996**

The Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Government of the Republic of Kyrgyzstan, the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan, the Government of Turkmenistan, the Government of the Republic of Uzbekistan, hereinafter referred to as “the Governments” and the United Nations International Drug Control Programme, hereinafter referred to as “UNDCP”,

- concerned about the scale and escalation of illicit drug manufacturing, abuse and trafficking on the territory of Central Asian countries;
- concerned about the increase of drug abuse, especially among youth;
- aware of the serious danger of illicit drugs for the health and welfare of their population, and the negative impact of illicit drugs on the economy, culture and moral principles of society;
- recognizing that illicit drug trafficking leads to the aggravation of crime and is connected with international criminal activities, and that its prevention requires cooperation at international level;
- taking into account the provisions of the 1961 Single Convention, as amended by the 1972 Protocol, the 1971 Convention on Psychotropic Substances, and the 1988 Convention against Illicit Trafficking in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances;
- based on their common determination to fight effectively illicit drugs;

agreed on the following:

Article 1

The Governments reaffirmed their determination to fulfill their duties to give full effect to their national and international drug control commitments, in particular, by ratifying and fully implementing the UN Drug Control Conventions, as well as establishing the inter-ministerial coordinating bodies.

Article 2

The Governments will launch coordinated actions with a view to develop a Subregional Drug Control Cooperation Programme focusing on the following priorities:

- establishment of coordination and cooperation mechanisms at policy and operational levels;
- harmonization of drug control legislation;
- promotion of national drug intelligence units and promotion of information/intelligence exchange at the subregional level;
- assessment of illicit demand for narcotic drugs and sharing of experience in effective prevention and treatment programmes;
- implementation of joint operations to prevent trafficking of illicit drugs and precursors;
- arrangement of joint training for specialists;
- establishment and harmonization of the control system for narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances used for licit purposes, as well as precursors in agreement with the provisions of the 1961, 1971 and 1988 UN Drug Control Conventions.

Article 3

Taking into account national capabilities and interests, the Governments will provide political, financial and technical support on a cost-sharing basis.

Article 4

In order to strengthen subregional cooperation, UNDCP will provide support to joint activities, whenever appropriate, through provision of expert advice and technical cooperation projects.

Article 5

Strategies, programmes and subregional projects under this Memorandum shall be subject to approval by the Governments and UNDCP.

Article 6

- (1) In order to review the implementation of the subregional cooperation and identify and promote complementary activities, the Governments will organize annual meetings attended by the Governments' policy level officials and UNDCP's representatives.
- (2) Annual meetings will be hosted on a rotational basis by the different Governments.
- (3) If required and when agreed upon by the Governments and UNDCO, the meetings could be attended by representatives of other countries or international organizations.

Article 7

With the mutual consent of the Governments and UNDCP, the Memorandum of Understanding may be extended to cover other types of joint drug control efforts.

Article 8

Any Government or international organization willing to join this Memorandum of Understanding might do so by informing UNDCP of its will; UNDCP will then inform all the Governments within one month. During the annual meeting of the Governments, the new candidatures will be discussed and agreed upon with the mutual consent of the Governments and UNDCP. The accession will come into effect on the date of the endorsement of the new member.

Article 9

- (1) Each Government may withdraw from this Memorandum of Understanding by providing written notice to UNDCP.
- (2) If any Government withdraws from the Memorandum, the Memorandum forfeits its force in regard of that Government six months after the date of denunciation.
- (3) If the said Memorandum loses its force for one or all the Governments, then its provisions remain in force for those joint programmes, which have been started before the denouncement of the Memorandum.

Article 10

- (1) The said Memorandum comes into force on the date of its signature.
- (2) Six copies of the Memorandum, in Russian and English, are equally authentic and shall be signed by all the Governments and UNDCP.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned authorized representatives of the Governments and UNDCP to sign the present Memorandum of Understanding.

SIGNED in the City of Tashkent on 4th May 1996

**PROTOCOL ON ACCESSION OF
THE GOVERNMENT OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION AND
THE AGA KHAN DEVELOPMENT NETWORK
TO THE
MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
ON SUBREGIONAL DRUG CONTROL COOPERATION
SIGNED ON 4 MAY 1996 IN TASHKENT BETWEEN
THE GOVERNMENTS
OF
THE REPUBLIC OF KAZAKHSTAN
THE KYRGYZ REPUBLIC THE REPUBLIC OF TAJIKISTAN
TURKMENISTAN THE REPUBLIC OF UZBEKISTAN
AND
THE UNITED NATIONS INTERNATIONAL
DRUG CONTROL PROGRAMME**

The Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic, the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan, the Government of Turkmenistan, the Government of the Republic of Uzbekistan, hereinafter referred to as "the Governments", and the United Nations International Drug Control Programme, hereinafter referred to as "UNDCP",

Taking into account Article 8 of the Memorandum of Understanding signed on 4 May 1996 (Memorandum),

Noting that the Government of the Russian Federation and the Aga Khan Development Network have expressed their interest in becoming Parties to the Memorandum and their agreement to the terms and conditions underlined in the Memorandum,

Agree on the following:

1. Approve the willingness of the Government of the Russian Federation and the Aga Khan Development Network to become Parties to the Memorandum.

The rights and obligations of the terms of Memorandum shall be binding upon the Government of the Russian Federation and the Aga Khan Development Network accordingly.

2. This Protocol is considered as an integral part of the Memorandum and is hereinafter referred to as the Memorandum of Understanding on Subregional Drug Control Cooperation, the parties of which shall include the Government of the Russian Federation and the Aga Khan Development Network.

The Government of the Russian Federation and the Aga Khan Development Network take note of this Protocol and are pleased to become Parties to the Memorandum and express their willingness to cooperate closely in the implementation of its objectives.

This Protocol is signed in one original copy in Russian and in English, and both texts are authentic.

This Protocol will be kept by UNDCP and certified copies of the Protocol will be sent to the Parties.

In witness thereof, the undersigned, duly authorized representatives of the Parties, have signed this Protocol.

SIGNED in the City of Almaty on 16th January 1998

PROTOCOL

**of the Meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of Central Asian Countries,
the Russian Federation, the Executive Director of the International Drug Control
Programme (UNDCP)
and the Representative of the Aga Khan Development Network
16 January, 1998, Almaty**

The Participants in the Meeting of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Central Asian countries, the Russian Federation, the UNDCP Executive Director and the Representative of the Aga Khan Development Network,

Striving for further expansion and strengthening of cooperation in drug control as well as being guided by the Memorandum of Understanding on Drug Control Cooperation (4 May, 1996, Tashkent),

1. Consider the results achieved by the Governments and UNDCP in Central Asia in the field of drug control to be significant.
2. With a view to implement the provisions of Article 2 of the Memorandum, deem it necessary to submit proposals to the Governments of the Memorandum Member States on the feasibility of setting up a regional coordinating mechanism of cooperation between the countries of the region.
3. To assess the current drug-related situation in the region, the efficiency of the existing national coordinating mechanisms and the development of the effective regional cooperation drug control system, the Parties agreed on the need to hold in Almaty in September-October 1998 an International Conference on drug control issues in Central Asian region. During the Conference it is also planned to discuss the results and decisions of the June 1998 UN General Assembly Special Session devoted to drug control issues. The Conference is regarded as an opportunity to prepare important intergovernmental decisions at the regional level.
4. To study the issue of establishing a regional coordinating mechanism and proposing the procedures, timing and funding of the International Conference, the Parties agree to establish a working group consisting of representatives of the Parties to the Memorandum. The working group shall submit its agreed proposals to all Memorandum Parties by 1 May 1998.
5. The Memorandum Parties will submit by 16 February 1998 nominees for the working group to the National Coordinating Body of the Republic of Kazakhstan through the UNDCP Regional Office.

This Protocol is signed in one original copy in Russian and English, and both texts are authentic.

This Protocol will be kept by UNDCP and certified copies of the Protocol will be sent to the Parties.

In witness thereof, the undersigned, duly authorized representatives of the Parties have signed this Protocol.

DONE in the City of Almaty, 16th January 1998

DECLARATION

The Delegations of the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, the Russian Federation, the Republic of Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, the Republic of Uzbekistan, the Aga Khan Development Network and the United Nations International Drug Control Programme, participating in the First Annual Review Meeting of the Memorandum of Understanding on Subregional Drug Control Cooperation held in Almaty on 15-16 January 1998,

Concerned about the escalation of illicit drug production and trafficking and the rise in drug abuse and the associated problem of HIV/AIDS in the Central Asian countries;

Conscious of the serious danger of illicit drugs for the health and welfare of their populations and their negative impact on the economy, culture and moral principles of society;

Aware of that the illicit trafficking leads to the aggravation of crime and corruption;

Realizing that the illicit drug situation in Central Asia requires immediate attention, that no country can resolve its drug problems in isolation and that there is a need for active cooperation and coordination at the Subregional, regional and international levels;

Taking into account the commitments undertaken in the Memorandum of Understanding on Drug Control to strengthen national as well as collaborative drug control efforts;

Hereby,

1. Reaffirm the determination of the Central Asian countries to address the problems of drug abuse and of illicit trafficking and production in compliance with the UN conventions on drug control through a balanced and comprehensive approach and in line with their social and economic development.
2. Pledge to further strengthen their cooperation and coordination in drug control under the framework of the Memorandum of Understanding on Subregional Drug Control Cooperation and Subregional Drug Control Cooperation Programme and to commit adequate personnel and financial resources at national level to assure the successful implementation of agreed projects and other activities initiated under the Programme.
3. Agree that their Governments will as soon as possible:
 - Bring their legislation as well as related regulations and enforcement procedures on compliance with the three UN drug control conventions;
 - provide the national drug control coordinating bodies with sufficient financial resources and personnel as well as with adequate authority to oversee the planning and implementation of national drug control programmes to deal with illicit drug production, trafficking and abuse;
 - assure that in the development of national drug control programmes adequate attention is devoted to the development of drug abuse prevention activities and to the treatment and rehabilitation of drug dependent persons;
 - establish policies and procedures permitting the timely exchange of operational information on illicit drug trafficking and the individuals involved among drug control law enforcement agencies of the MOU countries;

- undertake to develop and strengthen cross-border drug control cooperation and operations among drug control law enforcement agencies in critical border areas of the subregion;
 - review existing legislative and administrative procedure for dealing with drug-related corruption and undertake to adopt revisions as required.
4. Agree that priority attention should be given to the development in new collaborative activities under Subregional Programme aimed at dealing with two urgent drug control issues in Central Asia: the rise in drug abuse and associated problem of HIV/AIDS; and the increasing flow of precursor chemicals used in the production of illicit drugs.
 5. Affirm their commitment to support on the national and Subregional levels the UNDCP initiative to develop a Law Enforcement Support programme in the countries around Afghanistan to inhibit the flow of precursor chemicals and drugs.
 6. Applaud the prospects that in the Republic of Tajikistan, one of the countries most affected by drug trafficking, there will be the first national drug control programme developed with UNDCP assistance.
 7. Agree that the Second MOU Review Meeting should review the progress, which has been made in fulfilling the commitments outlined in this Declaration.
 8. Call upon the international community to support their collaborative efforts to address the illicit drug production, trafficking and abuse problems in Central Asia.

DONE in the City of Almaty, 15-16 January 1998

PROTOCOL

of the Memorandum of Understanding on Subregional Drug Control Cooperation

The Delegations of the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, Russian Federation, the Republic of Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, the Republic of Uzbekistan, the United Nations Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention (ODCCP) and the Aga Khan Development Network by the results of the Second Review Meeting of the Participants to the Memorandum of Understanding on control for illicit drug production, trafficking, abuse of narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and precursors held in Cholpon-Ata 5-6 October 1999,

deeply concerned by the magnitude of and rising trend in illicit trafficking in narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and drug abuse;

recognizing that illicit drug trafficking and other related organized criminal activities undermine the legitimate economies and threaten the stability, security and sovereignty of the States in Central Asia, Russia and beyond;

conscious of the extension of using the territories of the MOU countries for illicit transit of narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and precursors;

recognizing that illicit drug trafficking in Central Asia and Russia requires immediate action, active cooperation and coordination at subregional, regional and international levels;

believing that consolidation of such cooperation is a common responsibility of the MOU Parties;

taking into account the 1961 Single Convention, as amended by the 1972 Protocol, the 1971 Convention on Psychotropic Substances, and the 1988 Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances;

taking into consideration the European Union' intention to draw up together with the countries of the Central Asia an Action Plan in the fight against drugs;

determined to combat effectively and collectively with illicit drug trafficking, psychotropic substances and precursors;

Hereby agree as follows:

1. To increase the efficiency of activity of the State Commissions on drug control or other Coordinating Bodies and their Secretariats by strengthening personnel structure, allocating sufficient skilled staff.

ODCCP shall consider financial and technical support to these bodies.

2. To consider the establishment or strengthening of the national specialized drug control agencies on combating illicit drug trafficking, which priorities must be: to combat illicit drug production, detection of proceeds and property gained from their illicit trafficking, and also dismantle crime organizations and major traffickers of drug business.
3. To consider posting of Drug Liaison Officers for providing secure and safe exchange of information in all aspects of drug trafficking control by MOU countries.

ODCCP shall consider financial and technical support of the activity of Drug Liaison Officers.

4. To consider the establishment of the illicit drug control funds under National Coordinating Bodies of MOU countries.
5. To create working groups aimed at elaboration of the system of timely exchange of operational information between law enforcement agencies, identifying appropriate channels, procedures and format for such exchange of information.

National Coordinating Bodies are to identify their responsibilities.

ODCCP shall consider financing the activity of these groups.

6. ODCCP is invited to consider the development of a new project, aimed at the extent of drug abuse assessment within MOU countries.
7. ODCCP is hereby to inform the Heads of the States and the Governments of the concerned countries as well as the International Community on the results of the Meeting.

DONE in the City of Cholpon-Ata on 6th October 1999

DECLARATION

Strengthening cooperation in fight against illicit trafficking of drugs, psychotropic substances and precursors and abuse

The delegations of the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, the Russian Federation, the Republic of Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, the Republic of Uzbekistan, the Aga Khan Development Network and the United Nations International Drug Control Programme, participating in the Third Review Meeting of the Memorandum of Understanding on Subregional Drug Control Cooperation held in Dushanbe on 17-18 September 2001,

Concerned by the increase in trafficking in and abuse of illicit drugs, in particular, opiates from Afghanistan throughout the states of Central Asia and recognizing the increasing connection in drug trafficking and increase of HIV/AIDS in the Central Asian Region, the Russian Federation and the Caucasus;

Noting that drug trafficking is progressively expanding to neighboring regions;

Recognizing the serious threat posed by drug trafficking to security and stability in the region and beyond;

Convinced that the drug problem has to be addressed in a coordinated and balanced manner involving both supply and demand reduction, in accordance with the recommendations of the UN General Assembly at its twentieth special session;

Supporting the Declaration and Priorities for Cooperation to Counter Drugs, Organized Crime and Terrorism adopted by the Central Asian countries at the International Conference on Enhancing Security and Stability in Central Asia: An Integrated Approach to Counter Drugs, Organized Crime and Terrorism organized jointly by the ODCCP and the OSCE Chairmanship in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, on 19 - 20 October 2000;

Taking into account the Regional Action Plan of the Six plus Two group adopted in New York on 13 September 2000;

Highly acknowledging the resolution on cooperation in countering illicit drugs in Central Asia, adopted by the 44th session of the Commission of Narcotic Drugs;

Confirming commitments to implement the 1961 Single Convention, the 1971 Convention on Psychotropic Substances and the 1988 Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances;

Commending in this regard the work done by the United Nations Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention (ODCCP) in Central Asia in promoting inter-agency cooperation, such as in the case of the Tashkent Conference 19-20 October 2000 in implementing technical cooperation activities and in raising international awareness of the threat posed by drug trafficking and abuse in the region;

Whereas the Memorandum of Understanding provides that other Governments or international organizations may join the present Memorandum of Understanding on the said terms and conditions in Article 8;

Whereas the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan has expressed its interest in becoming Party to the Memorandum of Understanding and its agreement to the said terms and conditions,

The MoU members:

1. **Unanimously endorse** the accession of the Republic of Azerbaijan to the Memorandum;
2. **Reaffirm** a wish to enhance multilateral cooperation and to take further initiatives in coordination with ODCCP including actions identified during the Tashkent Conference in October 2000;
3. **Welcome** the Regional Programme elaborated by ODCCP to address the priorities for cooperation identified during the Tashkent Conference in October 2000;
4. **Confirm** the commitment of the MOU member Governments to provide all necessary support for the implementation of the activities within the framework of the ODCCP Regional Programme and to ensure direct working contacts with the concerned institutional bodies by, inter alia, the assignment of national focal points for all specific programs and projects implemented by ODCCP within the relevant governmental body involved in the implementation of each project;
5. **Encourage** the members of the Memorandum to ensure the elaboration of proper analysis of trends in drug trafficking and abuse and to produce reliable and comprehensive information, including statistics on trafficking in narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and precursors, as well as on drug-related crime, drug abuse, drug prices, drug seizures and samples of drug packages;
6. **Welcome** the ODCCP efforts aimed at improving exchange of information among MoU members and at elaboration of relevant mechanisms to this end;
7. **Confirm** readiness to take practical steps to reduce demand for illicit drugs and HIV/AIDS prevention in their countries by, inter alia:
 - Establishing and/or strengthening focal points dealing with collection, processing, analysis, reporting and dissemination of data related to the drug abuse and HIV situation;
 - Encouraging and supporting the ODCCP efforts to provide assistance in developing national drug abuse data collection and analysis systems in the framework of the Rapid Situation Assessment Project;
 - Promoting the exchange and sharing of information related to nature, magnitude, trends and patterns of drug abuse and HIV, using similar definitions, indicators and procedures at a national, regional and global level;
 - Taking a balanced approach towards developing and implementing programmes in the field of prevention, treatment and rehabilitation of drug users and HIV/AIDS infected;
 - Assisting ODCCP activities in drug abuse needs assessment;
 - Promoting mass media involvement in drug abuse prevention and raising public awareness of the adverse effects of drugs;
 - Promoting and encouraging NGOs and CSOs in their prevention, outreach and social rehabilitation activities.
8. **Recognize** the importance of improving national legislation on drugs and organized crime in accordance with the United Nations Drug Control Conventions, as well as with the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its three supplementary Protocols adopted by the General Assembly and signed during the High-Level Signing Conference in Palermo, Italy, on 11-13 December 2000;

- 9. *Encourage*** the Memorandum member Governments to enhance cooperation in the field of trafficking of narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and precursor chemicals in countering their illicit trafficking through improvement of the national mechanisms and procedures for monitoring international trade in such substances by, *inter alia*,
- establishing systematic mechanisms for rapid communication exchange between competent national authorities, that would enable them to determine the legitimacy of transactions and to detect suspicious shipments;
 - enacting or amending relevant laws and/or regulations on transit of precursor chemicals through the territory of the member states without unreasonably impeding their legitimate use.
- 10. *Call on*** the donor community to continue supporting drug control activities to the MOU member Governments as indicated in the CND resolution on Cooperation in countering illicit drugs in Central Asia;
- 11. *Request*** the United Nations Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention to continue its effort in maintaining its activities in the region with a view to supporting the efforts of the Governments concerned, as available financial resources allow, and in promoting inter-agency cooperation and coordination.

DONE in the City of Dushanbe, 17-18 September 2001

STATEMENT
of the Delegates of the Third Review Meeting on the Memorandum of
Understanding on Drug Control Cooperation
on terrorist attack on USA

Horrible terrorist attacks happened on 11 September 2001 in the United States of America caused death of thousands of people was a shock to the whole world. We, the Delegates of the Third Review Meeting on the Memorandum of Understanding, express our solidarity with the people of the USA and together with all progressive humanity fairly condemned the acts of unprecedented violence, considering them as the challenge to the whole world community.

The tragic events in the United States of America affirmed once more the global scale of international terrorism threat and the emergency of initiating cooperative measures for its prevention. The international terrorism does not have national borders and it is important to fight against it by joint efforts.

On these difficult days for the people of the United States of America, the participants of the Meeting declare their determined condemnation to these vandal actions and express their sincere condolences and deep sorrow to the families of those who died.

Dushanbe,
18 September 2001