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English only*

Forty-first Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Asia and the Pacific

Bangkok, 27-30 November 2017

Item 4 of the provisional agenda**

Implementation of the recommendations adopted by the Thirty-ninth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Asia and the Pacific**Implementation of the recommendations adopted by the Thirty-ninth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Asia and the Pacific**

1. The Thirty-ninth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Asia and the Pacific, held in Bangkok from 19 to 22 October 2015, adopted a set of recommendations following the consideration by working groups of the issues identified below.
2. In accordance with established practice, the report on the Thirty-ninth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Asia and the Pacific, was forwarded to the Governments represented at that Meeting. A questionnaire on the implementation of the recommendations was dispatched on 4 July 2017, with a deadline for replies set at 22 September 2017.
3. The present report was prepared on the basis of information provided to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) by Governments in response to that questionnaire. As at 13 October 2017, replies had been received from the Governments of Brunei Darussalam, China, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Japan, Myanmar, Pakistan, the Philippines, the Russian Federation, Tajikistan, Thailand and Turkey. Member States that have not provided responses for inclusion in the present report or Member States whose responses have not been included because they were received after that date may wish to brief the Meeting on the implementation of recommendations under the corresponding agenda item.

* Available only in English, which is the working language of the subsidiary body.

** [UNODC/HONLAP/41/1](#).



Issue 1: Current trends in the manufacture, trafficking and consumption of amphetamine-type stimulants and new psychoactive substances

Recommendation (a)

Governments should be encouraged to develop national prevention strategies against amphetamine-type stimulants that aim to reduce demand, strengthen social policies and deliver targeted interventions that support vulnerable and at-risk individuals.

4. Brunei Darussalam reported that its Narcotics Control Bureau was active in providing educational drug prevention services to primary and secondary schools, higher education institutions, government agencies and the private sector. Furthermore, the Bureau was working closely with its strategic partners, such as the Ministry of Education and private agencies, to support the country's demand reduction strategy, including through the dissemination of information on drug prevention education. In addition, the Bureau continued to acquire more information on the latest trends in psychoactive substances, including amphetamine-type stimulants. Brunei Darussalam was of the view that sharing information and knowledge was a crucial means of contributing to national prevention strategies and that the information received from Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) counterparts was vital for developing reliable national prevention strategies. Those strategies could then be used as a benchmark for formulating social policies, improving educational approaches to drug prevention and planning appropriate interventions to support vulnerable and at-risk individuals.

5. In order to target the use of amphetamine-type stimulants, especially among young people, China had implemented a national plan on drug prevention education for teenagers for 2016 to 2018. China had also held meetings on the promotion of the "6·27" drug prevention and education project for teenagers, as well as meetings to enable schools around the country to exchange experiences on drug prevention and education, and to promote drug prevention and education among teenagers. More than 90 per cent of schools across China had provided drug prevention education to a total of 150 million students, which was an effective means of raising awareness regarding drugs, especially amphetamine-type stimulants, among teenagers. A national competition on young people's knowledge of drug control, in which — 9.75 million students from 150,000 schools answered questions online, thus boosting the reach and influence of drug prevention education. The "One Million Anti-drug Volunteers into Households" campaign was carried out, with college students being encouraged to spend their summer vacation conducting anti-drug campaigns in neighbourhoods. Teenagers were also encouraged to take part in anti-drug campaigns and education activities under a programme of publicity and education for drug prevention and anti-drug social services.

6. The Islamic Republic of Iran reported that in the past four years, its drug control policies had been characterized by a community-based approach to countering narcotic drugs, amphetamine-type stimulants and new psychoactive substances. In that framework, educational workshops had been held in schools and universities and counselling services had been provided at cultural centres in order to promote and raise awareness among both individuals exposed to harm and the wider community of the harm caused by addiction to narcotic drugs.

7. Japan reported that its relevant agencies conducted a promotional visit programme for drug abuse prevention at schools and an awareness-raising campaign through pamphlets, television and radio. Former prisoners who were addicted to amphetamine-type stimulants and the families of those prisoners received recovery and treatment services, including cognitive behavioural therapy.

8. Myanmar reported that its Drug Enforcement Division had seized 49.95 million pills of amphetamine-type stimulants in 2015, 98.35 million in 2016 and 32.15 million by July 2017. Under the management of the Central Committee for Drug Abuse

Control, public awareness activities against the consumption of amphetamine-type stimulants in Myanmar had been carried out at all levels.

9. Pakistan reported that, through its National Anti-Narcotics Policy 2010 (updated in 2011), the key objective of which was to reduce drug demand by focusing on prevention and the treatment of drug users, it had sought to enhance public participation in combating drug abuse, strengthening drug enforcement structures and boosting treatment and rehabilitation services. Pakistan also indicated that amphetamine-type stimulants were covered by sections 6 and 7 of the Control of Narcotic Substances Act of 1997. The Anti-Narcotics Force of Pakistan had continued to conduct drug demand reduction activities, including public awareness-raising of the dangers posed by drugs. Activities included seminars, lectures, awareness walks, sporting events, painting and essay competitions, free medical camps, advertisements through print and electronic media, the distribution of informational material, as well as public service messages through various media. The Anti-Narcotics Force had also launched a youth ambassador programme, which was aimed at engaging young people in raising public awareness regarding drug abuse, especially in education institutions, with the message “Say No to Drugs”, and at raising awareness among street children, students, parents and teachers regarding the emerging trend of drug abuse.

10. Furthermore, the Anti-Narcotics Force of Pakistan administered three model addiction treatment and rehabilitation centres in Islamabad, Quetta and Karachi, including a special ward for women and children at the hospital in Karachi. Those centres provided free treatment, board and lodging to patients undergoing treatment for drug addiction, and followed Government-approved treatment protocols. A number of private drug treatment centres were also operational across the country, under the jurisdiction of the respective provincial health departments.

11. The Philippines noted that the establishment on 6 March 2017 of the Inter-Agency Committee on Anti-Illegal Drugs exemplified the holistic approach taken by its Government in addressing the national drug problem. One of the aspects on which the Committee’s strategy focused and for which its Advocacy Cluster was responsible was the reduction of the demand for illegal drugs among all sectors of society. The Drug Enforcement Agency of the Philippines chaired the Committee and had overall responsibility for ensuring that its clusters focused on the Committee’s main functions and objectives, namely enforcement, justice, advocacy, rehabilitation and reintegration. The Philippines also noted that its demand reduction strategies had been intensified owing to strengthened cooperation between member agencies, and that interventions had focused primarily on anti-drug advocacy campaigns in schools and workplaces, and among community officials.

12. The Russian Federation reported that it was implementing its State Anti-Drug Policy Strategy for the period up to 2020, which had been approved by Presidential Decree No. 690 of 9 June 2010.

13. Tajikistan reported that, in the framework of its national strategy for combating drug trafficking for 2013-2017, measures had been envisaged to counter the spread of drugs, including amphetamine-type stimulants. Meetings were held regularly with various segments of the population in order to prevent a further increase in drug addiction, raise the population’s awareness of the issue, and prevent the spread and use of synthetic amphetamine-type stimulants. During those meetings, participants received information about the drug control legislation of Tajikistan, the consequences of drug addiction, and the methods used to prevent and treat drug addiction. Tajikistan noted that the current drug situation was characterized by an increase in the incidence of trafficking in and non-medical consumption of highly concentrated drugs, and that their impact on the spread of HIV and viral hepatitis posed a serious threat to State security, the economy and public health.

14. Thailand reported that its Office of the Narcotics Control Board and relevant agencies had established a drug prevention strategy that targeted: (a) young people, who had been divided into six groups on the basis of their age (early childhood, and those at the stage of primary school, high school, vocational school, university and

post-education) and provided with appropriate activities; (b) workers, in whose regard the Government had encouraged the implementation of standards on drug prevention in workplaces nationwide and had also raised awareness of the danger of drugs among employers and employees; and (c) the general population, with the Government having enhanced civic and social responsibility and encouraged communities to overcome their own drug problems.

15. In Turkey, effective measures were in place with regard to national prevention strategies against all illicit drugs, including amphetamine-type stimulants. Those strategies were aimed at reducing demand, strengthening social policies and delivering targeted interventions in the framework of a national anti-drug strategy document and action plan for 2016-2018 and a national fight against organized crime strategy document and action plan for 2016-2018.

Recommendation (b)

With a view to encouraging the coordination of operational responses in combating the cross-border trafficking of amphetamine-type stimulants, Governments are urged to support their drug enforcement authorities and cooperate in the timely exchange of actionable information that will lead to effective interventions against syndicates and their operatives.

16. Brunei Darussalam reported that it had set up a multi-jurisdictional taskforce, the day-to-day operations of which were managed by the Department of Immigration and National Registration. That taskforce also served to facilitate joint operations between law enforcement agencies as part of investigations to counter various cross-border crimes and enhance the overall security of the land borders of Brunei Darussalam. In addition, the Narcotics Control Bureau of Brunei Darussalam worked closely with its law enforcement partners at the national and international levels. Timely and regular exchanges of information between Brunei Darussalam and Malaysia were ongoing.

17. China supported the “5·14” mechanism, which was aimed at promoting a multidimensional prevention and control system that covered land, sea, air and mail channels in order to prevent cross-border trafficking in drugs, especially amphetamine-type stimulants, from the Golden Triangle. A drug interdiction operation had been carried out and a database had been established to assist key provinces in analysing the high-risk populations and vehicles in relation to drugs. During the operation, 31,000 cases had been uncovered, 37,300 suspects had been arrested, and 44.0 tons of drugs and 2,065.3 tons of precursor chemicals had been seized. The police forces responsible for border control, railways, civil aviation, forests, customs and the postal department took the initiative and combined forces. China extended its cooperation activities to fight international and cross-border drug crimes with foreign counterparts. China had solved 87 international and cross-border drug cases, in relation to which 816 suspects had been arrested and 5.85 tons of drugs seized. Furthermore, China had conducted the third joint drug interdiction operation on the Sino-Vietnamese border jointly with Viet Nam, the second phase of the 2016 “Safe Mekong” joint operation with Cambodia, the Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Myanmar, Thailand and Viet Nam, as well as Operation Blaze, which was a joint drug operation between China and Australia.

18. In order to implement this recommendation, in 2016, the Anti-Narcotics Police of the Islamic Republic of Iran had engaged in the timely sharing of intelligence with the police forces of Afghanistan, Germany, Spain, Turkey and the United Arab Emirates. That cooperation had led to intelligence-based operations aimed at combating narcotic drugs, including synthetic drugs and new psychoactive substances. For instance, a shipment containing 145 packages of synthetic cannabinoids (sold under the name of “bonsai”) had been seized in Spain and several individuals had been arrested during operations carried out in collaboration with the Italian police.

19. In Japan, enforcement agencies held meetings to enhance cooperation and exchange up-to-date information on drug and firearms trafficking at the central and regional levels.

20. Myanmar noted that it engaged in the timely exchange of actionable information in order to combat cross-border trafficking in amphetamine-type stimulants, and that it had established border liaison offices with China, India, the Lao People's Democratic Republic and Thailand.

21. Pakistan stated that its Government's resolve to combat illicit drugs effectively was evidenced by the establishment of the Anti-Narcotics Force, which had adopted stringent measures at all entry and exit points of the country in order to detect cross-border drug trafficking. Those measures were being further enhanced by the coordination of the counter-narcotics activities of all the other law enforcement agencies through an inter-agency task force. Pakistan reported that between January and June 2017, it had seized 1,842 kg of amphetamine, 18 kg of methamphetamine and 2 kg of tablets containing synthetic psychotropic substances.

22. The Philippines reported that it held monthly intelligence workshops in order to enhance intelligence-gathering and synchronize the efforts of law enforcement agencies against drug traffickers, particularly high-value targets. In order to combat cross-border trafficking in amphetamine-type stimulants, the Government, through the efforts of its Drug Enforcement Agency, had established the Ninoy Aquino International Airport Inter-Agency Drug Interdiction Task Group, the main objective of which was to facilitate timely cooperation between the agencies involved in combating the smuggling of illegal drugs into the country. The Group was composed of the Manila International Airport Authority, the Drug Enforcement Agency, the Bureau of Customs, the Bureau of Immigration, the National Police Drug Enforcement Group, the National Police Aviation Security Group, the National Bureau of Investigation, the Office for Transportation Security and the National Prosecutor's Office of the Department of Justice. Similar task groups were being established at Clark and Cebu-Mactan international airports. The presence of such task groups at airports also enabled rapid responses to information received from counterparts regarding possible trafficking in illegal drugs.

23. Furthermore, the Academy of the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency was conducting airport interdiction seminars at several airports for the purpose of creating additional anti-illegal drug task groups at other international airports in the country. A seaport inter-agency drug interdiction unit had also been created that would operate in the area of maritime drug interdiction and would be operationalized as soon as possible, in accordance with the strategy of the Airport Inter-Agency Drug Interdiction Unit.

24. Tajikistan noted that the problem of countering the illicit manufacture of drugs was not limited to identifying and suppressing the activities of clandestine laboratories, and that the most important factor in achieving success in that area of work was a thorough understanding of the situation regarding the legal trade in precursors. Tajikistan also noted a steady increase in the detection of clandestine laboratories used to manufacture synthetic drugs and the suppression of the criminal activities of persons involved in their organization.

25. Thailand noted that drug control and international cooperation in drug law enforcement had been one of the top priorities of its Government and that its Office of the Narcotics Control Board and other drug law enforcement agencies had been working closely with the drug law enforcement agencies of neighbouring countries via telecommunications networks. The Office had assigned officers to be minister counsellors for drug control at Thai embassies in all neighbouring countries, and was in the process of assigning another officer to the embassy in Kuala Lumpur. The minister counsellors served as officers who could be contacted immediately for timely responses in intelligence exchange and cross-border cooperation activities. There were also other mechanisms for timely cooperation, such as the ASEAN Airport Interdiction Task Force and the Safe Mekong project. The customs authorities of

Thailand also performed intelligence exchanges through international online mechanisms, while forms of international cooperation were carried out via specific joint operations and/or controlled delivery.

26. Turkey reported that it had well-established coordination structures in place to counter drugs, consisting of the High Council for the Fight against Drugs, the Board for the Fight against Drugs and the Technical Board for the Fight against Drugs, with the participation of all relevant ministries. There was also a coordination board for the law enforcement authorities within the Ministry of the Interior. In addition, the Directorate General of Customs Enforcement of Turkey attached great importance to cooperation with its international counterparts, other law enforcement units and relevant regional and international organizations, including in the area of controlled delivery. Since 2014, 16.5 kg of synthetic cannabinoids and 6.0 kg of cocaine had been seized over the course of seven controlled deliveries.

Recommendation (c)

Governments should support the establishment of inter-agency task forces that bring together the specialist skills of their interdiction agencies, organized crime investigators, forensic accounting experts and prosecutors, in response to the dynamic strategies adopted by trafficking syndicates and in order to be better prepared to dismantle and prosecute the transnational organizations that are involved in trafficking amphetamine-type stimulants across the region.

27. Brunei Darussalam reported that, although it had not set up a specific task force to tackle trafficking by transnational organizations in amphetamine-type stimulants across the region, it had excellent working relationships with other national agencies. China indicated that it had taken no action to implement this recommendation.

28. The Anti-Narcotics Police of the Islamic Republic of Iran monitored the criminal activities of drug traffickers and drug syndicates, including their activities in cyberspace, and sought to maintain online contact with the police agencies of other countries as well as regional and international organizations. The Islamic Republic of Iran thus benefited from systems that monitored the diversion of chemical precursors into illicit channels, such as the Precursors Incident Communication System and the Pre-Export Notification Online system. The Islamic Republic of Iran actively participated in training courses that were organized by regional and international organizations and covered various legal and criminal topics, with a view to ensuring timely reactions to the strategies adopted by drug syndicates. Such reactions to drug trafficking rings could take place through the timely exchange of intelligence. The joint planning cell of the Drug Control Headquarters, which had been established with UNODC support, and included Afghanistan, Iran (Islamic Republic of) and Pakistan, had played a crucial role in the exchange of intelligence among countries and regional organizations.

29. Japan reported that in 2016, it had seized 1.5 tons of methamphetamine trafficked by international syndicates and Japanese gangs (*boryokudan*), during successful joint operations between national agencies.

30. Myanmar reported that in 2016, its Drug Enforcement Division had carried out Operation Dragon in order to combat drug trafficking. During that Operation, it had exchanged information and conducted joint investigations with the Drug Enforcement Administration of the United States of America, the Australian Federal Police, the Office of the Narcotics Control Board of Thailand and the National Narcotics Control Commission of China. The Law Enforcement Supervisory Committee of Myanmar, led by the Deputy Minister of Home Affairs, held quarterly meetings to strengthen and enhance the specialist skills of counterpart agencies in Myanmar, such as Customs, the CE office, the Union Count Office and the Attorney General's Office.

31. Pakistan reported that in 2010, it had established an inter-agency task force in which 32 federal and provincial law enforcement agencies and other departments collaborated with the Anti-Narcotics Force to implement effectively the national

anti-narcotics policy for 2010. In that framework, the Anti-Narcotics Force and other law enforcement agencies cooperated and, whenever required, established joint operational teams to target drug trafficking syndicates. Moreover, all the leading law enforcement agencies received training at the Anti-Narcotics Force Academy in specialist skills relating to the interdiction of organized crime, investigation, forensics, intelligence-based operations, interdiction techniques and preparation of cases for prosecution, in response to the dynamic strategies adopted by the trafficking syndicates involved in trafficking amphetamine-type stimulants across the region.

32. The Philippines reported that its Inter-Agency Committee on Anti-Illegal Drugs would unify, integrate and synchronize counter-narcotics efforts and strategies and address the current gaps and issues encountered by the various agencies mandated to implement anti-drug laws and policies, in order to ensure the effective and efficient implementation of those laws and policies and to promote an environment that fostered synergy between all agencies. The Committee had 20 members, including the Dangerous Drugs Board, the Department of the Interior and Local Government, the Department of Justice, the Department of Health, the Department of Education, the Department of Social Welfare and Development, the Department of Trade and Industry, the Department of Agriculture and the Department of National Defence, as well as the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority. The Committee also included among its members the Philippine Information Agency, the Public Attorney's Office, the Office of the Solicitor General, the Coast Guard, the National Police, the National Bureau of Investigation, the Armed Forces and the Anti-Money Laundering Council.

33. Furthermore, the Philippines referred to the Anti-Money Laundering Council Desk in the Agency, which was established in order to facilitate financial investigations relating to the violation of Republic Act No. 9165. The Philippines also referred to its national coast watch system, which was a central inter-agency mechanism for a coordinated and coherent approach to national maritime issues and maritime security operations, and the establishment of the National Coast Watch Centre which was an inter-agency maritime surveillance and coordinated response mechanism. The coast watch system was composed of the National Coast Watch Council, a central inter-agency body that provided strategic direction and formulated and promulgated policy guidelines for the National Coast Watch Centre, which, in turn, provided technical and administrative support to the Council and the Centre. Close coordination with the Anti-Money Laundering Desk had also been established, and several bank accounts used to deposit the proceeds of drug-related crime had already been frozen and subsequently confiscated.

34. The Russian Federation reported that the State Anti-Drug Committee had been established in October 2007 in order to improve State management of efforts to combat trafficking in narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and their precursors. The Committee coordinated the activities of the federal executive agencies, the executive agencies of the constituent entities of the Russian Federation and the municipal authorities in relation to combating trafficking in narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and their precursors and to monitoring and assessing the drug situation in the Russian Federation as it evolved.

35. Tajikistan noted that illegally manufactured amphetamines were not subject to quality control and that they often contained by-products and intermediate products that could provide useful information about the method of illegal manufacture. Tajikistan also noted that the objective factors contributing to the spread of illicit drug manufacture included the presence of a well-developed chemical industry; a lack of effective controls; the involvement of chemists in the manufacturing process; the development of analogues of narcotic drugs, which were not under control; and the availability of detailed information on drug manufacturing methods on the Internet and in specialized literature.

36. Thailand noted that its Government supported the establishment of inter-agency task forces that brought together the specialist skills of interdiction agencies, crime

investigators, forensic accounting experts and prosecutors in order to better respond to the dynamic strategies adopted by trafficking syndicates and to be better prepared to dismantle and prosecute the transnational organizations involved in trafficking amphetamine-type stimulants across the region. There was a special counter-narcotics unit, the Airport Interdiction Task Force, the main office of which was located at Suvarnabhumi Airport and which consisted of various law enforcement agencies such as the Office of the Narcotics Control Board, the Immigration Bureau, the Police Narcotics Suppression Bureau, the Anti-Money Laundering Office, the Food and Drug Administration and Customs. The objective of the Task Force was to cooperate and coordinate all counter-narcotics matters with other related agencies, both domestically and internationally. The main functions of the Task Force were to intercept drug trafficking operations at the country's international airports, conduct controlled deliveries and undertake proactive investigations into syndicated drug trafficking activities. In view of the successful results of the Task Force, ASEAN member States had agreed to expand the scope of cooperation to cover activities aimed at countering drug trafficking via seaports; the cooperation mechanism was in the process of being established.

37. Furthermore, Thailand reported that on 30 May 2016, it had set up Task Force Storm with the Australian Federal Police, with the objective of investigating international drug trafficking syndicates and drug-related crimes in Australia, Thailand and the wider region. The Task Force comprised the Office of the Narcotics Control Board, the Police Narcotics Suppression Bureau, the Anti-Money Laundering Office and the Department of Special Investigation. The first phase of the Task Force had ended on 30 November 2016 and all agencies had agreed to extend its mandate for one more year.

38. Turkey noted that it was a member of international expert groups and task forces, including the Precursors Task Force of the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB), the expert group on the early warning system of the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction, and the UNODC early warning advisory group.

Issue 2: Successful solutions and practices in the area of forensics

Recommendation (a)

Governments are encouraged to invest in their forensic laboratories, including the training of staff involved in the identification, collection and securing of forensic evidence, and ensure that their country's legislation adequately supports the valuable contribution that forensics services provide to drug law enforcement and the handling of related offences.

39. In Brunei Darussalam, the Department of Scientific Services of the Ministry of Health was responsible, as the national laboratory, for the analysis of controlled drugs. The Narcotics Control Bureau had a close working relationship with the Department of Scientific Services in the area of the latest trends in drugs of abuse. The Department of Scientific Services had a number of laboratories that had the capability to perform scientific analysis of forensic evidence, such as drug analysis, analysis of unknown samples, trace analysis and DNA profiling. The Narcotics Control Bureau had a dedicated drug scene unit that was responsible for identifying, collecting and securing the forensic evidence found at crime scenes. The unit had been set up in 2012 and had been actively deployed to crime scenes, especially those that related to major drug cases. Recently, the unit had successfully presented evidence in court for major drug cases.

40. China reported that its National Narcotics Laboratory now employed 18 technicians and its equipment was worth over 20 million United States dollars. It had established instrument and equipment standards for narcotics laboratories, and had included those standards in the directory of equipment for unified distribution to the drug control departments of the public security organs. Construction standards for local narcotics laboratories had been further regulated. In 2016, five training sessions

had been held on drug analysis technology, drug abuse testing and drug profiling. Technical staff working in narcotics laboratories of the drug control departments of the public security organs across the country had completed a three-year rotational programme, which had significantly improved the professional skills of local drug control technical teams. A manual for identification of the common characteristics of clandestine laboratories had been compiled in 2016. A workshop on the identification and investigation of such laboratories had been held in order to improve the ability of frontline case-handling units to detect and investigate them effectively. Efforts had been made to continue to improve the profiling and correlation analysis of drugs and precursor chemicals. Guidance had been provided to local narcotics laboratories to conduct correlation analysis for over 1,000 samples of heroin and crystal methamphetamine seized locally. Multiple local drug trafficking and transportation channels and distribution networks had been identified. The National Narcotics Laboratory had continued to provide analysis services for local public security organs. In 2016, the Laboratory had analysed 1,052 samples submitted for inspection and issued 107 copies of scientific reports, thus providing strong technical support for the joint investigation of drug-related cases and criminal proceedings.

41. The Islamic Republic of Iran had set up a laboratory network for drug analysis in 17 target provinces and had enhanced cooperation with university laboratories and research centres in order to update the training of laboratory staff. The Islamic Republic of Iran noted that UNODC had organized annual training courses on drug analysis for drug control experts who worked in police laboratories, with a focus on new psychoactive substances. Reference was made to a laboratory course on drug analysis held in Vienna in August 2017, and it was noted that similar courses had been held for experts from drug analysis laboratories in Afghanistan, Iran (Islamic Republic of) and Pakistan. With regard to the identification of newly emerging drugs and the analysis of their effects on consumers, the Anti-Narcotics Police would make the necessary plans for the review and amendment of national legislation.

42. Japan's forensic laboratories had exchanged useful information, such as new analytical methods and drug chemical databases, which had improved drug-profiling techniques.

43. Myanmar reported that it had conducted and attended a number of training courses and seminars on drug identification and analysis in other countries. The Central Committee for Drug Abuse Control coordinated the organization of drug-profiling training courses for Myanmar with the Office of the Narcotics Control Board and the CE of Myanmar.

44. Pakistan reported that it did not have any dedicated forensic laboratories for drug profiling and that, as an interim measure, the existing forensic set-up was being employed for the chemical analysis of seized illicit drugs. Nevertheless, efforts were being made to establish a dedicated forensic laboratory with the help of donor countries and organizations.

45. The Philippines noted that its Republic Act No. 9165 reflected the emphasis that its legislation placed on the importance of forensic services to drug law enforcement, and that the relevant provisions of that Act provided for the establishment of forensic laboratories in every province and city, and for the certification of forensic laboratory results.

46. The Russian Federation reported that it was purchasing forensic equipment in the framework of State defence procurement.

47. Tajikistan reported that, in the framework of cooperation between experts, the Ministry of the Interior, the Ministry of Justice and the Drug Control Agency analysed narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and their precursors.

48. Thailand reported that its Office of the Narcotics Control Board had provided training to persons working in forensic science laboratories in Thailand on how to manage their work in the manner set out in ISO/IEC 17025:2005. There was a standardized approach to verification, in accordance with ISO/IEC 17025:2005.

49. In Turkey, there were police crime laboratories and gendarmerie crime laboratories within the Ministry of the Interior, as well as a forensic science institution within the Ministry of Justice. Those forensic laboratories had been accredited at the national and international levels in view of their high capacity.

Recommendation (b)

Governments should support regional cooperation in the forensic science sector as a means of enhancing the professional knowledge and skills of forensic practitioners, promoting the sharing of good practices and facilitating the exchange of information, such as drug profiling data, for drug law enforcement purposes.

50. Brunei Darussalam noted that its Department of Scientific Services of the Ministry of Health did not currently have the expertise or capacity to undertake drug-profiling studies.

51. China stated that its National Narcotics Laboratory was open to exchanging information on drug profiling with foreign counterparts. In 2016, the Laboratory had engaged in information exchanges on drug analysis technologies with experts from countries including France, the Netherlands, Thailand and the United States. In 2016, an expert team from the Laboratory had visited the Special Testing and Research Laboratory of the United States Drug Enforcement Administration and the drug laboratory of the German Federal Police in order to exchange information and experiences. Over the previous two years, the Laboratory had collected drug samples from Afghanistan, Australia, New Zealand and Pakistan, provided samples of new psychoactive substances to Germany and exchanged samples with the United States.

52. Synthetic drugs were a major concern for the Anti-Narcotics Police of the Islamic Republic of Iran, where the police laboratory unit had categorized the activities of the drug laboratory, as well as the scientific data banks. The unit was prepared to share information with any country that was willing to cooperate in the exchange of scientific findings and research. The Islamic Republic of Iran noted that UNODC welcomed any police initiative in the laboratory sector based on policies pertaining to newly emerging drugs and psychotropic substances.

53. Japan indicated that it had taken no action to implement this recommendation.

54. Myanmar reported that it had been performing only routine analyses and identification of drugs and that, to date, it had not shared knowledge or exchanged information or experiences on drug law enforcement. Myanmar attended meetings on sharing information and practices among ASEAN countries held under the global Synthetics Monitoring: Analyses, Reporting and Trends programme.

55. Pakistan noted its commitment to active regional cooperation on all drug-related issues, including forensic sciences, and reported that it made full use of the limited opportunities available in terms of seminars, workshops and working groups on forensic sciences relating to drugs. Therefore, Pakistan regularly participated in the Regional Working Group on Forensic Capacity and Illicit Drugs under the UNODC Regional Programme.

56. Under this recommendation, the Philippines provided the information included in its response under the previous recommendation.

57. The Russian Federation referred to the work of the joint central administrative board of the ministries of internal affairs. Tajikistan noted that its judicial experts on the communications of drug laboratories in the territories of the States members of the Economic Cooperation Organization participated in the meetings of the Regional Working Group on Forensic Capacity and Illicit Drugs under the UNODC regional programme.

58. The laboratory of the Office of Narcotics Control Board of Thailand had organized training sessions on the physical and chemical characteristics of crystal methamphetamine (“ice”) and a tablet form of methamphetamine (“yaba”) for

neighbouring countries including Cambodia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic and Myanmar. Thailand also referred to information exchanges that had taken place on the characteristics of "ice" and "yaba". The information gained from those exchanges had been added to a master database for Thailand and used to analyse the source of drugs. In addition, the Office had conducted training on initial drug and precursor screening for government officials working along the country's international borders, such as those with Cambodia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic and Myanmar, with a view to increasing knowledge and skills relating to the screening and identification of drugs or precursors in drug manufacture, and to using that knowledge to intercept drugs and chemical precursors.

59. Turkey indicated that it had taken no action to implement this recommendation.

Recommendation (c)

Governments should facilitate the availability of reference standards for new psychoactive substances for use by their forensic science laboratories to aid in the detection and identification of these substances.

60. In Brunei Darussalam, drug analysis was under the purview of the Department of Scientific Services of the Ministry of Health. The Narcotics Control Bureau regularly updated the Department on the latest trends in the area of abuse of new psychoactive substances. Brunei Darussalam had not yet detected new psychoactive substances that had been trafficked into or abused in the country. The Narcotics Control Bureau was studying the legal frameworks used to combat new psychoactive substances in other jurisdictions. Brunei Darussalam reported that, once the national legal framework had been finalized, subsequent initiatives would be set in motion to develop the capability of the Department's laboratory to detect and identify new psychoactive substances.

61. In China, the National Narcotics Laboratory had implemented measures to identify suspected new psychoactive substances. To date, over 100 new psychoactive substances had been identified and the related sample pool, library of reference material and analysis database had been established. In addition, the technical specifications for examining and appraising the qualitative and quantitative analysis of new psychoactive substances had been formulated. Furthermore, nearly 4,000 bottles of reference material for 48 types of controlled drugs and precursor chemicals had been produced and distributed to 238 forensic laboratories across the country, providing strong support for the successful conduct of drug inspection and identification activities in various areas.

62. The Islamic Republic of Iran noted that drug traffickers were manufacturing new types of narcotic drugs using various preliminary methods without specific standards. With reference to the annual laboratory courses, the Islamic Republic of Iran noted that UNODC called on countries to observe the relevant standard rules and use well-known drugs, such as heroin, morphine and cocaine, in laboratory tests. As a result, there were no common scientific names that could be used as a reference as far as standard samples of new types of drugs were concerned. It had been proposed that countries exchange their scientific laboratory findings concerning newly emerging drugs in order to establish a scientific databank that would set standards for synthetic drug derivatives.

63. In Japan, the National Institute of Health Sciences provided reference standards for new psychoactive substances to all the forensic science laboratories of drug law enforcement agencies.

64. Myanmar reported that there were no available reference standards for use by its forensic science laboratory, that its CE office always requested UNODC and other agencies to provide such reference standards, at a high cost, and that the support of UNODC in that regard would produce good results in respect of purity in drug profiling.

65. Pakistan reported that its list of known new psychoactive substances had already been shared among law enforcement authorities and that, with appropriate legislation, reference standards for the identification and detection of new psychoactive substances by forensic science laboratories might be facilitated by the Government.

66. The Philippines referred to a laboratory service relating to the emergence of new psychoactive substances and to facilitating the procurement of reference standards for those substances, when available.

67. The Russian Federation noted that, in terms of both routine and proactive measures, information circulars and recommendations relating to research on controlled substances were regularly prepared and distributed, as were databases for the identification of such substances using scientific instruments. Chemical and toxicology laboratories operating as part of the health-care system of the Russian Federation made it possible to identify a broad range of narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and new psychoactive substances. The Russian Federation also noted that the number of such substances was growing each year, and the staff of all Russian laboratories were informed when a new psychoactive substance emerged. Moreover, information on new psychoactive substances was exchanged through the distribution of circulars containing guidance issued by health-care agencies, recommendations for doctors with regard to diagnosis and treatment, articles in scientific journals and presentations at medical conferences.

68. Tajikistan indicated that it was not possible to import standards since licensing law did not specify which body was responsible for issuing licences for the import of standard samples of narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and their precursors.

69. Thailand reported that the laboratory of the Office of the Narcotics Control Board had carried out a survey and prepared a budget for the procurement of a reference standard for the newly identified psychoactive substance recently detected in that country, which had been added to the appropriate account under the Narcotics Act of 1979. Butylone and 4-MEC (4-methylethcathinone) had been added to the narcotics account on 23 June 2016. Turkey indicated that it had taken no action to implement this recommendation.

Issue 3: Harmonization of legislation and practices at the international level

Recommendation (a)

Governments should take steps to review their procedures upon receipt of formal requests for mutual legal assistance from the drug enforcement authorities of other countries in order to ensure a timely response with minimal delays that might otherwise jeopardize an active investigation.

70. In Brunei Darussalam, mutual legal assistance was under the purview of the Attorney General's Chamber. The Narcotics Control Bureau would endeavour to fulfil requests for mutual legal assistance as directed by the Chamber. The Narcotics Control Bureau had also been directly assisting foreign law enforcement counterparts in tracking persons of interest and taking statements without using the formal process of mutual legal assistance.

71. China indicated that there had usually been no delays, provided that all the documents or evidence required had been collected.

72. The Islamic Republic of Iran noted that, in relation to controlled delivery operations, an appropriate mechanism had been proposed in relation to the accession of countries to the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988. The liaison officers of the Islamic Republic of Iran in various countries facilitated the sharing of intelligence.

73. Japan noted that its Ministry of Justice, which had primary responsibility for mutual legal assistance, was constantly reviewing its procedures in order to provide evidence to requesting countries in a timely manner. Japan transmitted requests for mutual legal assistance to the competent authorities for execution as rapidly as

possible and monitored the progress of those requests. Moreover, Japan became party to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime on 11 July 2017, thus achieving the more expeditious provision of such assistance to other parties without using diplomatic channels for cases of drug-related crime perpetrated by organized criminal groups.

74. Myanmar stated that its legislation and regulations on mutual assistance in criminal matters had entered into force on 28 April 2004, that a central authority had been established to respond to formal requests made by the authorities of other countries, and that such requests would be addressed in accordance with the law.

75. Pakistan reported that its Anti-Narcotics Force endeavoured to interact extensively with counterparts from all over the world on matters of mutual legal assistance, and that it responded to all requests without delay. In that context, the provisions of the Control of Narcotic Substances Act of 1997 were in accordance with the international drug control treaties. In addition, Pakistan had signed memorandums of understanding on drug-related issues with 33 countries, covering the areas of cooperation, exchange of information and mutual legal assistance.

76. The Philippines noted that it was now more common for States to submit requests for mutual legal assistance directly to the designated central authority, which, in its case, was the Department of Justice. At the same time, in order to ensure a timely response with minimal delays, law enforcement agencies such as the Drug Enforcement Agency of the Philippines were able to provide a broad range of mutual legal assistance services to counterparts from other countries through joint investigations between the law enforcement agencies of both countries, cooperation protocols and memorandums of agreement.

77. Tajikistan reported that its Drug Control Agency cooperated with similar structures in Afghanistan, the Russian Federation and the United States, as well as countries in Central Asia, in order to exchange operational information. Tajikistan also regularly reviewed its domestic procedures in order to simplify the provision of mutual legal assistance and to ensure timely responses to requests.

78. Thailand reported that it had recently amended the Act on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters of 1992. The Act on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters (No. 2) of 2016 came into force on 18 April 2016 with a view to enhancing effective cooperation in criminal matters. That Act contained a clear time frame for the relevant agencies to manage matters relating to mutual legal assistance appropriately, which began upon receipt of a note from the Attorney General and ended upon submission of a report after the case had been completed.

79. Turkey reported that it was a member of and provided support to international organizations, including UNODC, INCB, the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction, the International Criminal Police Organization and the Southeast European Law Enforcement Centre, and had engaged in bilateral and multilateral cooperation with other countries to combat all types of organized crime, including drug-related crime. Furthermore, the Directorate General of Customs Enforcement of Turkey exchanged information and real-time intelligence with its counterparts and liaison officers posted in Turkey in order to improve international cooperation in the fight against drug trafficking.

Recommendation (b)

Participating Governments are encouraged to use the Safe Mekong Initiative as a platform for strengthening closer operational collaboration.

80. Brunei Darussalam reported that at the Fifth ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Drug Matters, held in Singapore in October 2016, ASEAN member States had endorsed and adopted the ASEAN Cooperation Plan to Tackle Illicit Drug Production and Trafficking in the Golden Triangle. The objectives of the Plan were: (a) to strengthen cooperation among ASEAN member States to tackle illicit drug production and trafficking in the Golden Triangle under the ASEAN Work Plan 2016-2025;

(b) to intercept the smuggling of precursor chemicals into drug production areas in the Golden Triangle; (c) to interdict drug trafficking from the Golden Triangle into the ASEAN region; and (d) to support the implementation of the Safe Mekong Operation Project, with the participation of Cambodia, China, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Myanmar, Thailand and Viet Nam.

81. China reported that in 2016, it had conducted the 2016 "Safe Mekong" joint operation (Phase II) with Cambodia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Myanmar, Thailand and Viet Nam, during which 6,476 cases had been uncovered, 9,927 suspects had been arrested and 12.7 tons of drugs had been seized. In 2017, China sent three officers to the Safe Mekong Coordination Centre in Thailand during Phase I, from March to June, and three officers to the Safe Mekong Coordination Centre in Myanmar during Phase II, from July to September.

82. The Islamic Republic of Iran noted that it welcomed all initiatives to curb the world drug problem. Myanmar indicated that the Safe Mekong Coordination Centre was operating in Kyaing Tong and hosted by Myanmar. Myanmar also referred to weekly exchanges of information and the reinforcement of drug law enforcement agencies.

83. Japan indicated that it had taken no action to implement this recommendation, as it was not applicable.

84. Pakistan reported that operational cooperation with its international counterparts to counter drugs was one of the principal functions of its Anti-Narcotics Force. There had therefore been close operational collaboration between Pakistan and China, which was a member of the Safe Mekong Initiative. However, that bilateral collaboration was not taking place under the Safe Mekong Initiative. Given the opportunity, the Anti-Narcotics Force would be interested in using that platform to enhance operational collaboration.

85. The Philippines reported that in order to strengthen information exchange between international counterparts regarding individuals involved in drug crimes and drug trafficking, its Government engaged in active cooperation with the Governments of Australia, China (including Taiwan Province of China), Indonesia, Japan, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Mexico, Myanmar, New Zealand, the Republic of Korea, the Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, the United States and Viet Nam. The Philippines referred to the Safe Mekong Initiative and noted that, with the assistance of its foreign counterparts, it had conducted seminars and training courses for its operatives in order to create cooperation networks between countries and establish measures to protect its borders against drug traffickers.

86. The Russian Federation noted that in Hanoi on 25 July 2017, during a working meeting between the Deputy Minister of the Interior of the Russian Federation and the Minister of Public Security of Viet Nam, a memorandum had been signed on cooperation between the two ministries to combat the manufacture, transportation, distribution and abuse of, and trade in, new psychoactive substances.

87. Tajikistan indicated that it had taken action to implement this recommendation. Thailand reported that, in addition to the four countries of the Safe Mekong Initiative (Phases I and II), Cambodia and Viet Nam had joined the three-year Safe Mekong Project (2016-2018). Therefore, the project's members were countries located along the Mekong River, namely Cambodia, China, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Myanmar, Thailand and Viet Nam. The project was a very effective platform for collaboration between the six countries at that stage. Turkey indicated that it had taken no action to implement this recommendation.

Recommendation (c)

Governments are encouraged to actively support the Asset Recovery Inter-Agency Network for Asia and the Pacific in the investigation, tracking and tracing efforts to launder the proceeds of drug trafficking.

88. Brunei Darussalam noted that it was a member of the Asset Recovery Inter-Agency Network for Asia and the Pacific and that its focal point agency was the Attorney General's Chamber. Brunei Darussalam also noted that it fully supported the Network's initiatives, that its delegates regularly attended Network meetings and that it cooperated with all Network members.

89. China reported that it had issued a notice on establishing a working mechanism for drug-related anti-money-laundering, in order to prompt the drug control and anti-money-laundering departments to strengthen intelligence and case-led consultations and collaboration through that mechanism. In 2016, a national training course on countering drug-related money-laundering had been held to improve capacity-building.

90. The Islamic Republic of Iran indicated that it had taken no action to implement this recommendation. Myanmar noted that its Financial Intelligence Unit had become a member of the Asset Recovery Inter-Agency Network for Asia and the Pacific on 14 April 2017 and that under Myanmar law, drug trafficking was one of the predicate offences of money-laundering.

91. Japan noted that it had been a member of the Steering Group of the Asset Recovery Inter-Agency Network for Asia and the Pacific since its establishment in 2013, and that it actively contributed to the Network's development. Japan was chairing the Network in 2017 and had hosted its general meeting in September.

92. Pakistan reported that, pursuant to bilateral agreements, the national legislation of various countries and United Nations treaties, Pakistan was actively facilitating judicial cooperation with regard to requests through diplomatic channels. Pakistan could provide to and collect from other countries evidence and documents, execute search warrants and share information regarding asset recovery with foreign States. The Anti-Narcotics Force of Pakistan traced, froze, ordered the forfeiture of and auctioned all assets of drug traffickers derived from drug proceeds. The accused could receive a term of imprisonment of between 5 and 14 years, in addition to the forfeiture of their assets; to date \$65.18 million worth of assets had been frozen. Pakistan also noted that, although the Asset Recovery Inter-Agency Network for Asia and the Pacific provided a platform to facilitate collaboration in relation to the recovery of drug proceeds, significant capacity-building was required by the drug law enforcement agencies of developing countries in order to remove impediments to the recovery of illicit assets derived from drug trafficking.

93. The Philippines reported that its primary investigating body in the area of money-laundering was the Anti-Money Laundering Desk, and noted that the Drug Enforcement Agency was in favour of the Philippines becoming a member of the Asset Recovery Inter-Agency Network for Asia and the Pacific, as that could enhance the country's asset recovery strategies.

94. Tajikistan reported that it had taken action to implement this recommendation. Thailand noted that assets had been recovered by many agencies, acting under their respective mandates, during the investigation, tracking and tracing of efforts to launder the proceeds of drug trafficking. Thailand also noted that the sharing of information among agencies continued to be limited and that UNODC should support the integration of information and intelligence through the Asset Recovery Inter-Agency Network for Asia and the Pacific. Turkey indicated that it had taken no action to implement this recommendation.

Conclusions

95. All the responding Governments reported that they had been developing national drug prevention strategies, including, in some countries, strategies that specifically targeted amphetamine-type stimulants. Those strategies were aimed at reducing demand, strengthening social policies and delivering targeted interventions that supported vulnerable and at-risk individuals.

96. Most Governments had provided support to their drug enforcement authorities and cooperated in the timely exchange of actionable information, leading to effective interventions against syndicates and their operatives.

97. A number of responding Governments supported the establishment of inter-agency task forces that brought together the specialist skills of their interdiction agencies, organized crime investigators, forensic accounting experts and prosecutors, while several Governments had taken other measures in response to the dynamic strategies adopted by trafficking syndicates.

98. Several Governments either invested or planned to invest in their forensic laboratories, including the training of staff involved in the identification, collection and securing of forensic evidence. A number of Governments referred to UNODC initiatives in that regard.

99. Several Governments engaged in or expressed support for regional cooperation in the forensic science sector, with some Governments referring to their readiness to share information with counterparts and mentioning UNODC initiatives in that regard.

100. Several Governments reported that they had facilitated the availability of reference standards for new psychoactive substances for use by their forensic science laboratories in order to aid in the detection and identification of those substances. At the same time, some Governments referred to constraints at the national level and the need for support from UNODC in that regard.

101. Almost all the responding Governments had taken steps to ensure timely responses with minimal delays upon receipt of formal requests for mutual legal assistance from the drug enforcement authorities of other countries, and some Governments had reviewed their procedures, as appropriate.

102. Many of the responding Governments either used the Safe Mekong Initiative as a platform for strengthening operational collaboration, or were interested in using it and, in some cases, collaborated with its members.

103. Several Governments referred to their efforts to support the Asset Recovery Inter-Agency Network for Asia and the Pacific in the investigation, tracking and tracing of efforts to launder the proceeds of drug trafficking, with some Governments indicating that they wished to become members of the Network.
