

13 November 2017

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**Subcommission on Illicit Drug Traffic  
and Related Matters in the Near and  
Middle East****Fifty-second session**

Beirut, 13–17 November 2017

**Draft report***Rapporteur:* Muhammad Basharat Tahir Malik (Pakistan)**Addendum****Current situation with respect to regional and subregional  
cooperation**

1. At its 1st meeting, on 13 November 2017, the Subcommission considered item 3 of its agenda, entitled “Current situation with respect to regional and subregional cooperation”. For its consideration of the item, the Subcommission had before it two reports prepared by the Secretariat, entitled “Statistics on drug trafficking trends in South, West and Central Asia, the Near and Middle East and worldwide” ([UNODC/SUBCOM/52/2](#)) and “Current situation with respect to regional and subregional cooperation” ([UNODC/SUBCOM/52/3](#)). In addition, national country reports were submitted by Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Oman, Pakistan, Qatar, the Syrian Arab Republic, Turkey and the United Arab Emirates ([UNODC/SUBCOM/52/CRP.1-9](#)).
2. Representatives of UNODC made presentations on regional trends and on UNODC activities in countries in the region. Statements were made by the representatives of Lebanon, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Saudi Arabia, Oman and Azerbaijan. The Central Asian Regional Information and Coordination Centre for Combating the Illicit Trafficking of Narcotic Drugs, Psychotropic Substances and Their Precursors (CARICC) and the Arab Interior Ministers Council also made a statement.
3. Speakers reported on the main challenges posed by narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances for their countries and provided updates on their efforts in response at the national and regional level. The recent increase in opium production in Afghanistan was mentioned by some delegations. Reference was also made to the manufacture of and trafficking in Captagon in the region. Seizures of this substance had reached unprecedented levels. There had also been a sequential increase in the seizures of cannabis, as a result of increased cultivation in areas that lacked security.

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\* Available only in Arabic English, and Russian, which are the working languages of the subsidiary body.



4. Several speakers provided updates and data on drug seizures, highlighting that regional and bilateral cooperation had contributed to those seizures. It was also noted that seizures were not proportionate to the global increase in the production of drugs and only amounted to an average 30 per cent of the drugs trafficked by land, air and sea. That called for the need to improve the capacities of law enforcement agencies.

5. All speakers emphasized the importance of regional and international cooperation, in order to address drug trafficking effectively. Reference was made to regional initiatives and mechanisms such as the Triangular Initiative between Afghanistan, the Islamic Republic of Iran and Pakistan and its joint planning cell, or the coordination and analysis activities conducted by CARICC. Reference was also made to the important role played by UNODC for promoting cooperation among Member States. The importance of liaison officers for the exchange of information on drug trafficking was emphasized. Other effective measures were controlled delivery operations and joint investigations among neighbouring countries. Traffickers were reducing the size of their shipments to evade controls. More stringent controls of the bills of shipments on the part of shipping companies were therefore necessary. A delegation reported increased action in the Caspian Sea against drug trafficking, through the use of speedboats.

6. One speaker stressed the need to establish direct communication among national anti-drug entities in the region in order to facilitate the exchange of information. Such direct communication could also benefit from technological advancements such as “WhatsApp”, and did not necessarily need to use lengthy bureaucratic and official channels.

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