

14 November 2019

English only*

Report of the Forty-third Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Asia and the Pacific, held in Bangkok from 22 to 25 October 2019

I. Matters calling for action by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs or brought to its attention

Recommendations adopted by the Forty-third Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Asia and the Pacific

1. The Forty-third Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Asia and the Pacific, adopted the recommendations set forth below, which had been drawn up by the working groups.

Issue 1. Regional and international cooperation to reduce illicit cultivation and production of drugs, including alternative development

2. The following recommendations were made with regard to regional and international cooperation to reduce illicit cultivation and production of drugs, including alternative development:

(a) Governments are encouraged to actively share experience and expertise in regional and international cooperation aimed at reducing the illicit cultivation and production of drugs and at dismantling clandestine laboratories, as well as best practices in alternative development;

(b) Governments should recognize the recent exponential increase in methamphetamine production and adjust countermeasures accordingly. International and regional cooperation to prevent and dismantle supply chains for precursors and distribution channels for final products should be prioritized;

(c) Governments should undertake sustainable alternative development measures based on innovative and evidence-based approaches to enable target groups to build a sustainable livelihood, in both rural and urban areas.

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



Issue 2. New modi operandi in trafficking and trends in concealment methods and transport, and effective investigative techniques in response thereto

3. The following recommendations were made with regard to new modi operandi in trafficking and trends in concealment methods and transport, and effective investigative techniques in response thereto:

(a) Governments should further encourage their law enforcement agencies to coordinate and cooperate with each other to ensure the timely exchange of criminal intelligence and to conduct more effective operations at both the national and the international levels;

(b) Governments should encourage their law enforcement agencies to share their experiences in developing and implementing standard operational procedures for conducting controlled deliveries and other specialized techniques with partners in other countries as a means of ensuring international cooperation through the exchange of best practices;

(c) Governments should continue to regularly exchange information on trafficking routes, concealment methods and modi operandi used by criminal groups involved in drug trafficking with a view to undertaking timely preventive law enforcement measures;

(d) Governments are encouraged to increase cooperation with and support provided to important regional organizations, such as the joint planning cell and others.

Issue 3. Countering money-laundering, illicit financial flows and the use of the darknet and cryptocurrencies in relation to the drug trade

4. The following recommendations were made with regard to countering money-laundering, illicit financial flows and the use of the darknet and cryptocurrencies in relation to the drug trade:

(a) Governments should encourage their law enforcement agencies, tax and prosecutorial authorities, financial intelligence units and other relevant agencies to cooperate more closely with the banking sector and formal and informal money or value transfer service providers in undertaking anti-money laundering activities;

(b) Governments should ensure that adequate training is provided to front-line law enforcement officials to ensure that evidence related to the online drug trade, including on the darknet, is properly secured during the early stages of investigations. Training should also be provided on the use of cryptocurrencies for the online drug trade and money-laundering. Measures should be undertaken to exchange training tools and materials developed by Member States, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and other partners to ensure the widest possible coverage;

(c) Governments should carry out financial investigations aimed at freezing criminal assets when investigating drug cases with potential links to illicit financial flows.

Issue 4. Alternatives to conviction or punishment for drug-related offences and enhanced cooperation between the health, social and criminal justice sectors

5. The following recommendations were made with regard to alternatives to conviction or punishment for drug-related offences and enhanced cooperation between the health, social and criminal justice sectors:

(a) Governments are encouraged to consider, as appropriate, alternatives to conviction and punishment for minor drug-related offences, pursuant to the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for Non-Custodial Measures (the Tokyo Rules) and the international drug control conventions;

(b) Governments should ensure the effective coordination of and cooperation between all relevant government agencies involved in drug control in order to facilitate the provision of health and social services to people with drug use disorders in contact with the criminal justice system;

(c) Governments should strengthen community-based services, including prevention, treatment, care and social support, for people who use drugs, to prevent drug-related crime and recidivism.

II. Major regional drug trafficking trends and countermeasures

6. At its 1st, 2nd and 3rd meetings, on 22 and 23 October 2019, the Meeting considered agenda item 3, “Major regional drug trafficking trends and countermeasures”. For its consideration of the item, the Meeting had before it the report of the Secretariat on the world situation with regard to drug trafficking (E/CN.7/2019/5) and the report of the Secretariat on regional and subregional cooperation in Asia and the Pacific (UNODC/HONLAP/43/3). In addition, country reports were submitted by Brunei Darussalam, China, France, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Japan, Macao (China), the Philippines, the Republic of Korea, the Russian Federation, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Tajikistan, Thailand, the United States of America and Viet Nam (UNODC/HONLAP/43/CRP.2–18). The reports were made available to all delegations on a dedicated website.

7. A representative of UNODC introduced the item and gave a presentation. The representatives of India, Nepal, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Japan, Myanmar, China, Indonesia, New Zealand, Thailand, Bangladesh, the Philippines, Viet Nam, Fiji and the Russian Federation made statements or gave presentations.

8. Speakers reported on the current drug trafficking trends in their countries and on other relevant topics such as the most common drugs of abuse, drug prevalence and abuse surveys, prevention, treatment and harm reduction measures, new methods of concealment and transportation, the online drugs trade, organized crime, precursor chemicals, border control and money-laundering.

9. Many countries reported sharp increases in drug trafficking and related seizures in recent years and indicated that record levels were expected for 2019. The trend in the Asia and Pacific region was found to correspond with the worldwide trends as noted in the world drug report published by UNODC.

10. Drug trafficking routes remained dynamic within the region, with trafficking organizations shifting routes frequently in response to law enforcement efforts. At the same time, speakers noted increased drugs flows to the region from West Africa, North and South America, Europe and Oceania.

11. An increase in the use of parcel services and airline couriers was observed by many countries, notwithstanding the fact that the majority of drugs were still transported via land and sea routes.

12. Speakers referred to different trafficking methods, including innovative ways of concealing drugs in large vessels such as gas trucks, or items of everyday use such as tea packages.

13. Some speakers highlighted the continuing rise in drug trafficking by domestic, regional and international organized criminal groups and reported an increased number of joint operations in response.

14. Many speakers reported that methamphetamines, also referred to as “yaba”, “shabu” or “ice” in some forms and contexts, were the drugs most widely abused and trafficked, with seizure levels recently surpassing those of opiates in some countries. One delegation reported the production of crystalline methamphetamine on industrial levels in the country. A decline in manufacturing was reported by one delegation.

15. Increased flows of related precursors such as ephedrine and pseudoephedrine, and to a lesser extent 1-phenyl-2-propanone (P-2-P), were also observed. One speaker highlighted that the prevalence of opioids was three times higher than 15 years previously. Synthetic opioids were also addressed; many countries were closely monitoring the situation regarding fentanyl, which was not yet prevalent in the region in large quantities.

16. With regard to the use of data-gathering tools to analyse trends, one speaker reported that wastewater analysis had proved useful, including as a means of assessing the impact of major law enforcement operations.

17. A number of speakers reported on investigation successes in major drug trafficking cases, in particular, on seizures, the closing of clandestine laboratories, the dismantling of criminal groups and arrests of suspects. They discussed the usefulness of intelligence-led operations and special investigative techniques, including controlled delivery. Some speakers mentioned the work of inter-agency task forces and working groups that helped to coordinate national law enforcement agencies.

18. Speakers referred to the drug control strategies adopted by their Governments, which included measures to improve data-collection systems, responses to new psychoactive substances, strengthened expertise in Internet-related crimes and illicit financial flows, strengthened mechanisms for compliance with the international drug control conventions, legislative reforms relating to investigation methods and the regulation of new psychoactive substances.

19. A number of speakers referred to bilateral law enforcement cooperation on the basis of informal information-sharing agreements and to successful joint operations. The role of drug liaison officers was highlighted. Furthermore, joint training events and the exchange of expertise and experience were considered important aspects of bilateral and regional cooperation.

20. Speakers made reference to initiatives to strengthen international cooperation, including the Container Control Programme, operational cooperation under the auspices of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and the role of the International Narcotics Control Board and stressed the need to invite relevant regional groups to the meetings of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Asia and the Pacific.

III. Implementation of the recommendations adopted by the Forty-first Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Asia and the Pacific

21. At its 7th meeting, on 25 October 2019, the Meeting considered agenda item 4, “Implementation of the recommendations adopted by the Forty-first Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Asia and the Pacific”.

22. The Forty-first Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Asia and the Pacific, held in Bangkok from 27 to 30 November 2017, had adopted a set of recommendations following consideration by working groups. A questionnaire on the implementation of those recommendations was dispatched to Governments on 4 June 2019.

23. The note by the Secretariat on the implementation of the recommendations ([UNODC/HONLAP/43/4](#)) was prepared on the basis of responses received by 26 July 2019 from the Governments of China, France, Nepal, New Zealand, the Philippines, the Republic of Korea, the Russian Federation, Tajikistan, the United States and Macao, China. Member States that did not provide responses for inclusion in the note and Member States whose responses were not included because they were received after the deadline were invited to brief the Meeting on the implementation of recommendations under the corresponding agenda item.

24. The speakers reported on actions taken by their Governments to implement the recommendations adopted by the Forty-first Meeting. The delegation of China gave a presentation on its implementation of all four recommendations, namely: (a) the role of the Internet in addressing drug trafficking and abuse; (b) measures to counter the illicit manufacturing of, the diversion of and trafficking in precursors; (c) effective measures for coordinating border management strategies; and (d) practical measures tailored to the specific needs of children and young people to prevent and treat drug abuse among them and to address their involvement in drug-related crime, including cultivation and trafficking.

25. With regard to the role of the Internet in drug-related crime, some delegations reported that challenges remained in relation to cooperation with Internet service providers. Existing centres of excellence in Internet-related matters were providing training to law enforcement officials on addressing cybercrime. The development of guidelines on Internet drug control and steps to ensure the commitment of the industry to drug control were highlighted as good practice.

26. With regard to precursor control, the increased usage of the Precursors Incident Communication System (PICS) and Pre-Export Notification Online (PEN Online) tools developed by the International Narcotics Control Board was highlighted and the need for increased efforts to build the capacities of frontline officers was stressed. Speakers reported that the scheduling of the precursors used in the production of fentanyl had been an important step in precursor control in recent years.

27. With regard to the role of border management, one delegation had developed and launched a border management strategy with UNODC. Cooperation between border liaison offices was a challenge. The importance of maritime surveillance was also highlighted in this context. Speakers also noted the importance of cooperation with neighbouring countries in relation to operations by customs authorities to intercept drugs and provided examples of specific operations.

28. Many speakers reported on the efforts they had undertaken in relation to prevention work aimed at young people. Some countries had included the topics of drug use and crime prevention in school curricula. Other measures that were reported included, inter alia, the establishment of drug committees in schools, anti-drug scout or peer programmes, treatment programmes for school children, implementation of the International Standards on Drug Use Prevention, systematic training programmes for parents, the establishment of think tanks with universities, small grants programmes, national knowledge competitions and cooperation with the industry to develop digital educational platforms.

IV. Consideration of topics by working groups

29. At its 3rd to 6th meetings, on 23 and 24 October 2019, under agenda item 5, "Consideration of topics by working groups", four working groups each examined one of the four issues under that item. The observations made by the working groups and the conclusions reached after consideration of the issues are presented below. The recommendations made by the working groups and adopted by the Meeting are set out in section I above.

Issue 1. Regional and international cooperation to reduce illicit cultivation and production of drugs, including alternative development

30. The working group on regional and international cooperation to reduce illicit cultivation and production of drugs, including alternative development, met during the 3rd meeting, held on 23 October 2019. During its consideration of the issue, the working group made the following observations:

(a) Synthetic drugs, such as methamphetamine, are on the rise in the region and in many cases their manufacture and distribution levels exceed those of traditional plant-based drugs;

(b) In order to effectively reduce drug cultivation and production, the root causes of the problem must be addressed. Comprehensive measures undertaken by various agencies at the national level are required to this end;

(c) Effective crop substitution measures should enable target groups to build a sustainable livelihood;

(d) Efforts to address market access and integrate skill development programmes are key elements of successful alternative development programmes;

(e) Reducing the illicit cultivation and manufacture of drugs requires the dismantling of related illicit businesses, including trafficking channels and precursor supply chains in and to the countries of origin/manufacture of drugs;

(f) Effective measures are required to counter trafficking in and the diversion of precursors;

(g) As the manufacture of synthetic drugs takes place predominantly in urban settings, suitable alternative development initiatives must be developed;

(h) More effective measures are needed to identify and dismantle clandestine laboratories;

(i) No significant reduction in poppy cultivation was observed.

Issue 2. New modi operandi in trafficking and trends in concealment methods and transport, and effective investigative techniques in response thereto

31. The working group on new modi operandi in trafficking and trends in concealment methods and transport, and effective investigative techniques in response thereto, met during the 4th meeting, held on 23 October 2019. During its consideration of the issue, the working group made the following observations:

(a) Organized criminal groups are engaging in all methods of trafficking using various means of transportation – sea vessels, small vessels (dhows), containerized shipments, containers, trucks, other motorized vehicles, luggage, body concealment methods and courier parcels. Certain types of packaging such as tea packages were frequently registered in the region. Countries also reported cases of body packing of liquids to avoid X-ray detection;

(b) Controlled deliveries are used as a means of law enforcement mainly on a bilateral basis in the region, with observance of the legal framework of the respective countries involved. A lack of resources and standard operational procedures and differences in legislation are obstacles to the conduct of more frequent international controlled delivery operations;

(c) The platforms and capacities of the international and regional law enforcement cooperation organizations are not frequently used. Networks of liaison officers is used wherever available;

(d) Besides reports of a sharp increase in methamphetamine trafficking in South-East Asia, Afghanistan was also reported as one of the potential new sources of methamphetamine. A number of significant seizures of this type of drug originating from Afghanistan have been recorded;

(e) Cases have been reported of major shipments of opium poppy seeds and cannabis seeds in which misdeclaration has been used as a concealment method;

(f) Online sales of drugs and online payments (including through the use of cryptocurrencies) are increasing;

(g) Cases of the transfer of drugs from large vessels to smaller ones on the high seas for onward transportation are being observed more frequently. Large vessels that remain on the high seas and carry large volumes of illicit drugs, known as “mother

ships”, are transferring drugs to smaller boats, including fishing vessels, to deliver the drugs to the coast.

Issue 3. Countering money-laundering, illicit financial flows and the use of the darknet and cryptocurrencies in relation to the drug trade

32. The working group on countering money-laundering, illicit financial flows and the use of the darknet and cryptocurrencies in relation to the drug trade met during the 5th meeting, held on 24 October 2019. During its consideration of the issue, the working group made the following observations:

(a) The anti-money laundering activities of Member States do not always adequately address the challenges posed by organized crime in relation to drug trafficking. At times, drug-related cases are not supported by the investigation of illicit financial flows and assets generated by this type of crime are not always properly targeted;

(b) Effective measures to combat money-laundering require close cooperation between law enforcement agencies, prosecutorial authorities, the banking sector, money or value transfer service providers, tax authorities and other relevant agencies and actors;

(c) The online trade in drugs and the use of social media for that purpose has increased significantly;

(d) The extent of the use of the darknet to trade drugs and the use of cryptocurrencies for money-laundering differs from country to country. The level of training of law enforcement officers in responding to and investigating illegal activities in this area also varies. UNODC has introduced training kits in the region to that end;

(e) The investigation of drug-related money-laundering and the use of cryptocurrencies in these cases poses challenges related to, inter alia, gaps in legislation a lack of cooperation at the national and international levels and long response times to urgent requests in ongoing investigations;

(f) The Asset Recovery Interagency Network provides a platform for cooperation in the tracing, freezing and confiscation of assets generated by drug trafficking. The sharing of information on assets is vital. International organizations, including the International Criminal Police Organization and the International Narcotics Control Board, can support countries in exchanging information;

(g) As a measure to counter money-laundering, some countries have introduced in national legislation the burden of proof of “unexpected wealth” for suspects.

Issue 4. Alternatives to conviction or punishment for drug-related offences and enhanced cooperation between the health, social and criminal justice sectors

33. The working group on alternatives to conviction or punishment for drug-related offences and enhanced cooperation between the health, social and criminal justice sectors met during the 6th meeting, held on 24 October 2019. During its consideration of the issue, the working group made the following observations:

(a) The impact and costs of imprisonment affect the people convicted, their families and the community at large;

(b) Prison overcrowding is a concern in many prison systems. The use of non-custodial sanctions and measures can help reduce prison overcrowding;

(c) Non-custodial measures can be applied at various stages of the criminal proceedings and are being applied in the region to varying degrees, in particular, in relation to treatment as an alternative to imprisonment, in accordance with national legislation and policy;

(d) Legal definitions of drug trafficking vary in relation to threshold quantities and should take into account the purity and type of drug in order to establish the appropriate punishment;

(e) Drug use disorders are multifactorial and, as such, require multi-stakeholder engagement to comprehensively address the needs of individuals;

(f) The use of mobile technology applications can be effective to track diversion methods, for example, referrals to health services by law enforcement officers as well as individual criminal records;

(g) The efficacy of alcohol and other drug treatment courts remains to be proved. If a comprehensive assessment has been conducted, this criminal justice method can help provide access to the necessary services outside of criminal justice settings;

(h) Psychosocial treatment interventions for people who use methamphetamines are being implemented, including in court settings;

(i) As a treatment modality, compulsory detoxification is being implemented in some countries;

(j) There is a risk of drug traffickers abusing the criminal justice system by relying on laws that establish threshold amounts in order to avoid more serious drug charges;

(k) Young people in contact with the criminal justice system for drug-related offences are, in some cases, placed in juvenile corrections facilities as an alternative to imprisonment;

(l) Assessment of the severity of dependence allows for appropriate interventions;

(m) A balanced approach to drug control should be taken that does not hinder the work of law enforcement, including investigations into and the detection of drug suppliers, while at the same time allowing for the effective referral to drug treatment services of people who use drugs;

(n) Engagement of the faith-based sector, alongside the health, criminal justice and social welfare sectors, can contribute to a comprehensive strategy for treatment as an alternative to imprisonment;

(o) For effective alternatives to punishment and imprisonment, appropriate health services must be available in the community;

(p) While there may be limited scope for law enforcement to exercise discretion in the use of alternatives to imprisonment, there is an opportunity for the judiciary to ensure that such alternatives are being used to prevent the criminal justice system from being overburdened;

(q) Legal and policy reviews that allow for alternative measures are necessary in order for law enforcement to follow due process.

V. Follow-up on the implementation at the national, regional and international levels of all commitments, as reflected in the Ministerial Declaration of 2019, to address and counter the world drug problem

34. At its 1st meeting, on 22 October 2019, the Meeting considered agenda item 6, “Follow-up on the implementation at the national, regional and international levels of all commitments, as reflected in the Ministerial Declaration of 2019, to address and counter the world drug problem”.

35. For its consideration of the item, the meeting had before it the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem; the outcome document of the thirtieth special session of the General Assembly, entitled “Our joint commitment to effectively addressing and countering the world drug problem”; and the Ministerial Declaration on Strengthening Our Actions at the National, Regional and International Levels to Accelerate the Implementation of Our Joint Commitments to Address and Counter the World Drug Problem.

36. The Secretary of the Meeting introduced the agenda item, informing participants of the outcome of the sixty-second session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, held in Vienna from 14 to 22 March 2019, in particular, its ministerial segment, held on 14 and 15 March 2019. The Secretary provided information on the content of the Ministerial Declaration, adopted at the ministerial segment.

37. The Meeting was also informed about the multi-year workplan for the period 2019–2023, adopted by the Commission at its fourth intersessional meeting, on 24 June 2019, as a follow-up to the Ministerial Declaration, with a view to accelerating the implementation of all international drug policy commitments through the organization of thematic discussions aimed at fostering a dialogue and exchanging good practices, challenges and lessons learned.

38. Participants were encouraged to join the thematic discussions to bring their operational perspectives to the Commission and to exchange views with practitioners and experts from around the world on how to accelerate the implementation of all international drug policy commitments, addressing the challenges identified in the Ministerial Declaration, among others.

39. During the discussion of the item, the representatives of Thailand, Bangladesh, China, Pakistan, Singapore and the Islamic Republic of Iran made statements.

40. Several speakers reaffirmed the commitment of their Governments to addressing and countering the world drug problem, and to fully implementing the Ministerial Declaration of 2019, as well as all commitments made in the 2009 Political Declaration and Plan of Action, the Joint Ministerial Statement of the 2014 high-level review by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs of the implementation by Member States of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem and the outcome document of the thirtieth special session of the General Assembly. It was noted that the three documents were complementary and mutually reinforcing.

41. It was mentioned that implementation efforts were needed to protect the rights of vulnerable populations in a national context, while at the same time taking into account the rights of all families and community structures.

42. Some speakers highlighted the strong commitment of their Governments to addressing the world drug problem in a comprehensive and balanced manner, including through law enforcement and health-related responses, and in full compliance with the international drug control conventions.

43. Several speakers highlighted that cooperation and coordination among countries was crucial in addressing the world drug problem, as both drug abuse and drug trafficking required multilateral responses.

44. Some delegations invited the international community to dedicate more attention to the challenging situation in the Golden Triangle.

45. Some speakers provided information on their countries’ efforts to implement the Ministerial Declaration of 2019 and to address the challenges noted therein, providing concrete examples of law enforcement assistance and international inter-agency cooperation.

VI. Organization of the Forty-fourth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Asia and the Pacific

46. At its 7th meeting, on 25 October 2019, the Meeting considered agenda item 7, “Organization of the Forty-fourth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Asia and the Pacific”. For its consideration of the item, the Meeting had before it a note by the Secretariat on the organization of the Forty-fourth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Asia and the Pacific ([UNODC/HONLAP/43/5](#)) and a conference room paper containing the standard letter of agreement and conference requirements for hosting a meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Asia and the Pacific (UNODC/HONLAP/43/CRP.1).

47. The Secretary made an introductory statement. The representatives of the Republic of Korea, New Zealand, Fiji, Sri Lanka, the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Philippines and Singapore also made statements.

48. The delegation of the Republic of Korea offered to host the next Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Asia and the Pacific, in 2020, and the meeting welcomed the offer.

49. The following proposals were made regarding the working group topics for the Forty-fourth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Asia and the Pacific: methamphetamine, establishment of a regional coordination mechanism comparable to the European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Cooperation, new psychoactive substances, drug detection methods, cybercrime and education regarding drug demand reduction education.

50. The Meeting approved the following provisional agenda for the Forty-fourth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Asia and the Pacific:

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.
3. Current situation with respect to regional and subregional cooperation in addressing and countering the world drug problem.
4. Implementation of the recommendations adopted by the Forty-second Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Asia and the Pacific.
5. Consideration of topics by working groups: [*to be determined*].
6. Follow-up to the implementation at the national, regional and international levels of all commitments, as reflected in the Ministerial Declaration of 2019, to address and counter the world drug problem.
7. Organization of the Forty-fifth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Asia and the Pacific.
8. Other business.
9. Adoption of the report on the Forty-fourth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Asia and the Pacific.

VII. Other business

51. At its 7th meeting, on 25 October, the Meeting considered agenda item 8, “Other business”.

52. The Secretariat presented a proposal to discontinue the distribution of hard copies of pre-session documentation at the meetings. No comments were made.

VIII. Adoption of the report

53. At its 7th meeting, on 25 October, the Meeting considered agenda item 9 and adopted the report of the Forty-third Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Asia and the Pacific, including the reports of the working groups and the recommendations contained therein, as orally amended.

IX. Organization of the Meeting

A. Opening and duration of the Meeting

54. The Forty-third Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Asia and the Pacific, organized by UNODC, was held in Bangkok from 22 to 25 October 2019. Welcome remarks were made by the Chair of the Meeting. Opening statements were made by Jeremy Douglas, the regional representative of UNODC for South-East Asia and the Pacific, on behalf of the Executive Director of UNODC, Viroj Sumyai, Board Member of the International Narcotics Control Board and Somsak Thepsuthin, Minister of Justice of Thailand.

B. Attendance

55. The following States members of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific were represented: Bangladesh, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, China, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Japan, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal, New Zealand, Pakistan, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Turkey and Viet Nam.

56. Hong Kong, China, and Macao, China, were represented as associate members of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific.

57. The following States were represented by observers: Germany, Italy and Qatar.

58. UNODC served as the secretariat of the Meeting.

59. The International Narcotics Control Board, the International Organization for Migration and INTERPOL were represented by observers.

C. Election of officers

60. At its 1st meeting, on 22 October 2019, the Meeting elected the following officers by acclamation:

Chair: Earl P. Saavedra (Philippines)

Vice-Chairs: Mohammad Masoud Zabetian (Islamic Republic of Iran)

Saman Abeysinghe (Sri Lanka)

Rapporteur: Blair Macdonald (New Zealand)

D. Adoption of the agenda

61. At the same meeting, the Forty-third Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Asia and the Pacific, adopted the following agenda:

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.
3. Major regional drug trafficking trends and countermeasures.

4. Implementation of the recommendations adopted by the Forty-first Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Asia and the Pacific.
5. Consideration of topics by working groups:
 - (a) Regional and international cooperation to reduce illicit cultivation and production of drugs, including alternative development;
 - (b) New *modi operandi* in trafficking and trends in concealment methods and transport, and effective investigative techniques in response thereto;
 - (c) Countering money-laundering, illicit financial flows and the use of the darknet and cryptocurrencies in relation to the drug trade;
 - (d) Alternatives to conviction or punishment for drug-related offences and enhanced cooperation between the health, social and criminal justice sectors.
6. Follow-up on the implementation at the national, regional and international levels of all commitments, as reflected in the Ministerial Declaration of 2019, to address and counter the world drug problem.
7. Organization of the Forty-fourth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Asia and the Pacific.
8. Other business.
9. Adoption of the report.

E. Documentation

62. The documents before the Forty-third Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Asia and the Pacific, are listed in the annex to the present document.

F. Closure of the Meeting

63. Closing remarks were made by the Chair of the Meeting.

Annex

List of documents before the Forty-third Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Asia and the Pacific

<i>Document number</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>	<i>Title or description</i>
UNODC/HONLAP/43/1	2	Provisional agenda, annotations
UNODC/HONLAP/43/2	3	Note by the Secretariat transmitting the report of the Secretariat on the world situation with regard to drug trafficking
E/CN.7/2019/5	3	Report of the Secretariat on the world situation with regard to drug trafficking
UNODC/HONLAP/43/3	3	Report of the Secretariat on regional and subregional cooperation in Asia and the Pacific
UNODC/HONLAP/43/4	4	Note by the Secretariat on the implementation of the recommendations adopted by the Forty-first Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Asia and the Pacific
UNODC/HONLAP/43/5	7	Note by the Secretariat on the organization of the Forty-fourth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Asia and the Pacific
UNODC/HONLAP/43/L.1	9	Draft report
UNODC/HONLAP/42/L.1/Add.1		
UNODC/HONLAP/42/L.1/Add.2		
UNODC/HONLAP/42/L.1/Add.3		
UNODC/HONLAP/42/L.1/Add.4		
UNODC/HONLAP/42/L.1/Add.5		
UNODC/HONLAP/42/L.1/Add.6		
UNODC/HONLAP/43/CRP.1	7	Standard letter of agreement and conference requirements for hosting a meeting of heads of national drug law enforcement agencies, Asia and the Pacific
UNODC/HONLAP/43/CRP.2	3	Country reports
UNODC/HONLAP/43/CRP.3		
UNODC/HONLAP/43/CRP.4		
UNODC/HONLAP/43/CRP.5		
UNODC/HONLAP/43/CRP.6		
UNODC/HONLAP/43/CRP.7		
UNODC/HONLAP/43/CRP.8		
UNODC/HONLAP/43/CRP.9		
UNODC/HONLAP/43/CRP.10		
UNODC/HONLAP/43/CRP.11		
UNODC/HONLAP/43/CRP.12		

<i>Document number</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>	<i>Title or description</i>
UNODC/HONLAP/43/CRP.13		
UNODC/HONLAP/43/CRP.14		
UNODC/HONLAP/43/CRP.15		
UNODC/HONLAP/43/CRP.16		
UNODC/HONLAP/43/CRP.17		
UNODC/HONLAP/43/CRP.18		
