

9 September 2013

Arabic, English and Russian only\*

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**Subcommission on Illicit Drug Traffic and  
Related Matters in the Near and Middle East**

**Forty-eighth session**

Vienna, 25-28 November 2013

**Provisional agenda and annotations**

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.
3. Current situation with respect to regional and subregional cooperation.
4. Implementation of the recommendations adopted by the Subcommission at its forty-sixth session.
5. Follow-up to the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem.
6. Consideration of topics by working groups:
  - (a) Opiate flows from Afghanistan and regional countermeasures;
  - (b) Maintaining control over precursor chemicals, pharmaceutical products and the challenge of new psychoactive substances;
  - (c) Meeting the challenges of technology and tactics used by traffickers.
7. Organization of the forty-ninth session of the Subcommission.
8. Other business.
9. Adoption of the report of the Subcommission on its forty-eighth session.

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\* Arabic, English and Russian are the working languages of the Subcommission.



## **Annotations**

### **1. Election of officers**

Elections are held in accordance with the practice set forth in rule 15 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council. Past practice has been for the Subcommission on Illicit Drug Traffic and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East to elect a Chair, two Vice-Chairs and a Rapporteur.

### **2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters**

The draft provisional agenda for the forty-eighth session was approved by the Subcommission at its forty-seventh session. Following the adoption of the agenda, the Subcommission will establish a timetable and agree on the organization of work for its forty-eighth session. A proposed organization of work for the consideration of the Subcommission is shown in the annex to the present document.

#### **Documentation**

Provisional agenda and annotations (UNODC/SUBCOM/48/1)

### **3. Current situation with respect to regional and subregional cooperation**

Participants will be invited to inform the Subcommission of their respective countries' activities regarding regional and subregional cooperation in areas such as joint investigations, law enforcement training and sharing of information and experiences in countering drug trafficking. Participants are requested in particular to indicate any practical problems impeding subregional cooperation, as well as measures to overcome those problems.

At its thirty-eighth session, the Commission on Narcotic Drugs recommended that general statements and statistics relating to national trends in drug trafficking should not be made orally during meetings but rather should be circulated in written form. In particular, the Commission recommended that participants should be informed of new and important trends with regard to cooperation and new developments that drug law enforcement agencies in the region should be made aware of. Governments are expected to submit to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime by 6 September 2013 a three-page report on recent trends in drug trafficking in their respective countries during the past year. Country reports received by that date will be made available in the other working languages of the subsidiary body.

#### **Documentation**

Report of the Secretariat on statistics on drug trafficking trends in the Near and Middle East, in South, West and Central Asia and worldwide (UNODC/SUBCOM/48/2)

Report of the Secretariat on the current situation with respect to regional and subregional cooperation (UNODC/SUBCOM/48/CRP.1)

#### **4. Implementation of the recommendations adopted by the Subcommission at its forty-sixth session**

Participants are expected to inform the Subcommission of action taken by their Governments in the implementation of the recommendations adopted by the Subcommission at its forty-sixth session, held in Vienna from 19 to 22 December 2011. The Subcommission will have before it a note by the Secretariat on the status of the recommendations, prepared on the basis of replies received to a questionnaire concerning action taken by Governments. To enable the Secretariat to prepare that document, Governments were urged to return the completed questionnaire by 6 September 2013.

##### **Documentation**

Note by the Secretariat on the review of implementation by States of the region of the recommendations adopted by the Subcommission on Illicit Drug Traffic and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East at its forty-sixth session (UNODC/SUBCOM/48/3)

#### **5. Follow-up to the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem**

In its resolution 64/182, the General Assembly, welcoming the outcome of the high-level segment of the fifty-second session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, adopted the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem and called upon States to take the necessary measures to fully implement the actions set out therein, with a view to attaining in a timely manner their goals and targets.

Member States committed themselves to effectively implementing the Political Declaration and Plan of Action through resolute international cooperation, in collaboration with relevant regional and international organizations.

In its resolution 67/193, the General Assembly encouraged the meetings of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies and of the Subcommission on Illicit Drug Traffic and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs to continue to contribute to the strengthening of regional and international cooperation.

In the Political Declaration and Plan of Action, Member States decided that the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, at its fifty-seventh session, in 2014, should conduct a high-level review of the implementation by Member States of the Declaration and Plan of Action.

In its resolution 56/10, the Commission on Narcotic Drugs requested the meetings of the subsidiary bodies of the Commission to contribute to the monitoring 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 at the regional level by discussing regional views on progress made in that regard under the agenda item entitled "Follow-up to the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem".

In the same resolution, the Commission encouraged Member States to consider the expertise and composition of their delegations to the meetings of the subsidiary bodies of the Commission, with a view to covering the various aspects of the world drug problem (demand, supply and international cooperation) in order to hold substantive discussions on the issue and to actively participate in the above-mentioned agenda item, and requested the meetings of the subsidiary bodies of the Commission, on the basis of their deliberations, to submit regional recommendations aimed at positively moving forward in the implementation of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action.

Under the agenda item, participants will be invited to consider the challenges posed to the States of the region with regard to implementation of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action, particularly of part II of the Plan of Action, on supply reduction and related measures, but also with regard to implementation of part I, on demand reduction and related measures, and the third part, on countering money-laundering and promoting judicial cooperation to enhance international cooperation. In that connection, delegations were requested in a note verbale dated 2 July 2013 to include, in their written reports on the illicit drug trafficking situation in their countries and their Government's regional and subregional cooperation efforts, information on demand reduction and international cooperation on countering money-laundering and promoting judicial cooperation.

#### **6. Consideration of topics by working groups**

Ad hoc working groups will be established in order to review issues of regional importance and to facilitate informal discussions and the frank exchange of views on specific matters. The working groups will be invited to present their findings, conclusions and recommendations to the Subcommission for endorsement and inclusion in its report on the forty-eighth session.

##### **(a) Opiate flows from Afghanistan and regional countermeasures**

The working group on opiate flows from Afghanistan and regional countermeasures will discuss the national responses to address heroin trafficking from Afghanistan and the international response. Alternative development initiatives will also be considered as they are important building blocks for breaking the cycle of dependence on illicit crops. The working group will also consider the trafficking trends observed as Governments of the region implement measures to counter trafficking in opiates. Participants will be expected to share specific case examples and initiatives that their agencies and Governments have undertaken, in order to allow the working group to identify clear recommendations to support the region's response to this threat.

##### **(b) Maintaining control over precursor chemicals, pharmaceutical products and the challenge of new psychoactive substances**

The working group on maintaining control over precursor chemicals, pharmaceutical products and the challenges of new psychoactive substances will examine steps taken by States of the region to prevent the diversion of essential precursors used in illicit drug manufacture and the trends that have been observed as a result of the steps taken by States. It will also consider the trends observed in the misuse of pharmaceutical preparations such as tramadol and similar products and whether illicit manufacture of amphetamine-type stimulants is taking place in the

territory of the participants' countries and, if so, on what scale. There are reports by authorities in the region of new psychoactive substances of abuse, either in a pure form or in a preparation. Such substances are not controlled by international drug conventions but pose a potential public health threat. Member States have responded to the challenge by using a variety of methods within their legislative frameworks. Delegates will be asked to share examples of the measures taken in their countries to counter such trafficking or illicit diversion and to discuss successful measures and recommendations to facilitate more effective controls.

**(c) Meeting the challenges of technology and tactics used by traffickers**

The working group on meeting the challenges of technology and tactics used by traffickers will explore the changing tactics and technologies used by traffickers to evade detection and disrupt investigations and discuss how the development of technology has affected the ability of authorities to investigate trafficking offences and how it has improved their action. It will also consider whether the universal move to faster and more secure communication supports bilateral, regional and international cooperation in the exchange of information on trafficking trends and how such technology can be better used to promote that cooperation.

**7. Organization of the forty-ninth session of the Subcommittee**

The Subcommittee is to consider a draft provisional agenda for its forty-ninth session, including topics for discussion in working groups and possible venues for future sessions. For planning purposes, a decision by the Subcommittee at its forty-eighth session on the venue for its forty-ninth session and on topics for discussion in working groups would greatly facilitate the organization of its forty-ninth session. The Secretariat will provide, upon request, a copy of the standard letter of agreement setting out the contributions of the United Nations and those of the host Government.

The Subcommittee may also wish to discuss any other matter related to the organization of its deliberations, with a view to improving their substantive content and the follow-up thereto.

**Documentation**

Note by the Secretariat on the provisional agenda for the forty-ninth session of the Subcommittee (UNODC/SUBCOM/48/4)

**8. Other business**

The Subcommittee may wish to address other important issues, such as urgent matters mentioned in the country reports.

**9. Adoption of the report of the Subcommittee on its forty-eighth session**

The Subcommittee will adopt the report on its forty-eighth session, including the findings, conclusions and recommendations of the working groups.

## Annex

### Proposed organization of work

<i>Date and time</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>	<i>Subject</i>
<b>Monday, 25 November</b>		
8.30 a.m.		Registration
10 a.m.		Opening of the session
	1	Election of officers
	2	Adoption of the agenda
	3	Current situation with respect to regional and subregional cooperation
3 p.m.	3	Current situation with respect to regional and subregional cooperation ( <i>continued</i> )
	4	Implementation of the recommendations adopted by the Subcommission at its forty-sixth session
	5	Follow-up to the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem
<b>Tuesday, 26 November</b>		
9 a.m.	6	Consideration of topics by working groups
2 p.m.	6	Consideration of topics by working groups ( <i>continued</i> )
<b>Wednesday, 27 November</b>		
9 a.m.	6	Consideration of topics by working groups ( <i>continued</i> )
2 p.m.	6	Consideration of topics by working groups ( <i>continued</i> )
<b>Thursday, 28 November</b>		
10 a.m.	7	Organization of the forty-ninth session of the Subcommission
	8	Other business
3 p.m.	9	Adoption of the report