

21 November 2014

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**Report of the Subcommittee on Illicit Drug Traffic
and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East on
its forty-ninth session, held in Vienna from 10 to
13 November 2014**

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

**Recommendations adopted by the Subcommittee on Illicit Drug
Traffic and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East at its
forty-ninth session**

1. Participants in the forty-ninth session of the Subcommittee on Illicit Drug Traffic and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East:

(a) Recalled the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem, adopted by the General Assembly at its sixty-fourth session, in which Member States recommended that the General Assembly hold a special session to address the world drug problem;

(b) Also recalled General Assembly resolution 67/193, in which the Assembly decided to convene, in early 2016, a special session on the world drug problem to review the progress in the implementation of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action, including an assessment of the achievements and challenges in countering the world drug problem, within the framework of the three international drug control conventions and other relevant United Nations instruments;

(c) Welcomed the adoption by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs of resolution 57/5, entitled “Special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem to be held in 2016”, in which the Commission recognized its leading role,

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



as the central policymaking body within the United Nations for drug-related matters, in the preparations for the special session to be held in 2016;

(d) Took note with appreciation of 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, adopted by the Commission at its fifty-seventh session, in which achievements, challenges and priorities for further action, in full conformity with the three international drug control conventions and the Political Declaration and Plan of Action, were identified;

(e) Acknowledged that, in accordance with the assessment contained in the Joint Ministerial Statement, many challenges of the world drug problem have persisted and new ones have emerged in some parts of the world, and that those new trends need to be taken into account in the implementation of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action, within the framework of the three international drug control conventions;

(f) Resolved to continue to support and contribute to the preparatory process for the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem to be held in 2016, in view of the request made by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs in its resolution 56/10 to 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 at the regional level by discussing regional views on progress made in that regard and by submitting regional recommendations aimed at moving forward in the implementation of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action, and in that context emphasized the importance of including, in the agenda of the special session, discussions on regional experiences, realities, challenges and approaches, within the framework of the three international drug control conventions;

(g) Agreed to make the recommendations set out below.

1. Misuse of sea containers for the trafficking of illicit drugs, and possible investigative techniques

2. The following recommendations were made with regard to the misuse of sea containers for the trafficking of illicit drugs, and possible investigative techniques:

(a) Governments are encouraged to review their national response strategies covering, inter alia, maritime borders to ensure that they adequately reflect current needs and that their border enforcement agencies are adequately equipped, trained and prepared to act effectively against illicit trafficking by sea;

(b) Member States should provide adequate resources and equipment to border management agencies and provide technical assistance to requesting States in that regard, without conditionality;

(c) Governments of the region should be encouraged to utilize their investment in training, technology and manpower to establish an inter-agency response for container control at seaports and container terminals through the establishment of specialist units dedicated to the review, selection and search of suspect containers of interest.

2. Emerging challenges for Afghanistan and the region in relation to drug trafficking

3. The following recommendations were made with regard to emerging challenges for Afghanistan and the region in relation to drug trafficking:

(a) Governments are encouraged to contribute to the accurate assessment of global drug consumption through undertaking national drug use surveys and to update and regularly report their data on national drug consumption to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), through either the annual report questionnaire or other mechanisms;

(b) Governments are encouraged to adopt a proactive approach to strengthening the capacity of their law enforcement authorities to stop the diversion of precursor chemicals, through awareness-raising and training in the identification of scheduled precursors such as acetic anhydride, so as to prevent their use in the illicit manufacture of drugs;

(c) Governments should encourage their law enforcement agencies to engage in regional coordination agencies, such as the Central Asian Regional Information and Coordination Centre, the Criminal Information Centre to Combat Drugs of the Gulf Cooperation Council and the joint planning cell, that support their efforts to increase cross-border, regional and international cooperation in intelligence-sharing and operational cooperation against criminal organizations trafficking in illicit drugs.

3. Demand reduction responses, including to reduce the abuse of amphetamine-type stimulants and the non-therapeutic use of pharmaceutical preparations

4. The following recommendations were made with regard to demand reduction responses, including to reduce the abuse of amphetamine-type stimulants and the non-therapeutic use of pharmaceutical preparations:

(a) Governments are encouraged to share with neighbouring countries and other States in the region information related to demand reduction activities, including training programmes, educational materials, treatment methods and awareness-raising campaigns to encourage the development of culturally appropriate responses to demand reduction and treatment;

(b) Governments should support their treatment professionals, facilitate their engagement in peer-to-peer networking and encourage opportunities for them to cooperate in joint training and the exchange of professional practices;

(c) If they have not already done so, Governments are encouraged to review their legislation that empowers law enforcement and health authorities to respond speedily to the challenges posed by the introduction of new psychoactive substances onto the recreational drugs market;

(d) Governments are encouraged to gather and share information on the emerging threat to the communities of the region of the non-medical use of tramadol and to take appropriate measures to address the trends of its misuse, as well as its trafficking, its supply from illicit sources and its diversion;

(e) The controversial concepts of harm reduction and legalization of illicit drugs in some parts of the world should be avoided.

Other recommendations

5. The following additional recommendations were made by the Subcommission:

(a) The Commission on Narcotic Drugs should continue to undertake all the organizational and substantive arrangements for the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem to be held in 2016, in its capacity as the central preparatory body for that purpose;

(b) The recommendations of the subsidiary bodies of the Commission should constitute the basis of the outcome document of the special session;

(c) The outcome document of the special session should be based on regional perspectives on and approaches to addressing the world drug problem with full respect for the cultural, religious and regional sensitivities of each region;

(d) The deliberations and outcome document of the special session should be based on full respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of States, the principle of non-intervention in the internal affairs of States, the principles of equal rights and mutual respect among States and commitment to unconditional international cooperation;

(e) The special session should be a milestone on the way to achieving the goals and targets set in the Political Declaration and Plan of Action to be achieved by 2019, in full conformity with the three international drug control conventions;

(f) The special session should address the emerging threats posed by the non-medical use and abuse of tramadol, as well as its trafficking, its supply from illicit sources and its diversion. Furthermore, the special session should address the threats posed by the legalization of drugs in some parts of the world;

(g) The special session should address the need for the prohibition of international trade in poppy seeds derived from sources of illicit cultivation of opium poppy, and encourage Member States to import poppy seeds derived from licitly grown opium poppies;

(h) While expressing concern that the representation of States members of the Subcommission within UNODC, including at the senior and policymaking levels, continues to be inadequate, and reaffirming the availability of qualified candidates from those Member States who could be considered and selected for different positions at the professional and executive levels, the Subcommission recommends that the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, at its fifty-eighth session, examines that aspect and takes appropriate corrective action, with a view to enhancing overall efforts to counter the world drug problem;

(i) At its fiftieth session, the Subcommission should include an agenda item entitled "Improving the role and representation of States members of the Subcommission at United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime headquarters and field offices", and the Secretariat is requested to brief the Subcommission, at its fiftieth session, on the current situation and implementation of the recommendation above, within existing resources, keeping in mind that it is to be a one-time item, pending a decision on whether it will be discussed further at future sessions.

II. Current situation with respect to regional and subregional cooperation

6. At its 1st meeting, on 10 November 2014, 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 a note by the Secretariat on statistics on drug trafficking trends in the Near and Middle East and South, West and Central Asia (UNODC/SUBCOM/49/2) and a report of the Secretariat on the current situation with respect to regional and subregional cooperation (UNODC/SUBCOM/49/CRP.1). In addition, country reports were submitted by Azerbaijan, Egypt, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Oman, Pakistan, the Syrian Arab Republic and Turkey (UNODC/SUBCOM/49/CRP.2-9).

7. Representatives of UNODC made audiovisual presentations on global and regional trends, trafficking, maritime routes and UNODC activities in countries in the Arab region. Statements were made by the representatives of Afghanistan, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Lebanon, Pakistan and Turkey.

8. Delegations stressed the importance of regional and international cooperation among countries and organizations and expressed appreciation for the assistance provided by UNODC. One speaker highlighted the cooperation between Afghanistan, Iran (Islamic Republic of) and Pakistan under the Triangular Initiative and referred to the importance of ongoing counter-narcotics efforts under several regional initiatives, such as the Heart of Asia initiative, the Economic Cooperation Initiative, the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation, the Paris Pact initiative, the regional programme for Afghanistan and neighbouring countries and the Afghanistan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan Initiative. The importance of coordination among those initiatives was also highlighted.

9. Reference was made to the senior officials meeting of the Triangular Initiative held in Tehran in October 2014, and to the need to strengthen the capacity of the joint planning cell and cooperation among border liaison officers. Speakers also noted the need to further strengthen cooperation and the operational and technical capacity of law enforcement and other drug control agencies, also with UNODC assistance.

10. Some delegations noted that the increased number of seizures indicated the effectiveness of law enforcement measures, and stressed the need to continue focusing on that approach.

11. One delegation referred to the increased reliance of drug traffickers on the southern, maritime trafficking route. Some speakers noted the importance of keeping a balance of focus between the southern, maritime route and the northern and Balkan routes. In the view of one speaker, increased statistical data were required on the southern, maritime route. One speaker emphasized the importance of strengthening maritime cooperation, in particular with regard to law enforcement capacity. One delegation recalled in that regard that the world drug problem was a common and shared responsibility for all countries of the world.

12. The Chair of the Subcommission recalled the need for further discussion on new and emerging issues related to drug trafficking, including the use of the Internet

and digital currency (Bitcoin) and invited delegations to share any new trends they saw emerging at the national level.

13. One speaker also mentioned the need to expand regional work on demand reduction, exchange of intelligence within and outside the region and cooperation with States neighbouring the Caspian Sea.

III. Implementation of the recommendations adopted by the Subcommission at its forty-seventh session

14. At its 1st meeting, on 10 November 2014, the Subcommission considered item 4 of its agenda, entitled “Implementation of the recommendations adopted by the Subcommission at its forty-seventh session”. For its consideration of the item, the Subcommission had before it a report of the Secretariat on the implementation of the recommendations adopted by the Subcommission at its forty-seventh session (UNODC/SUBCOM/49/3), prepared on the basis of information provided by Governments in response to a questionnaire sent to all States members of the Subcommission. As of 22 October 2014, replies had been received from the Governments of Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Egypt, Jordan, Pakistan, Qatar, the Syrian Arab Republic and Turkey. Since that date, completed questionnaires were submitted by India, Iran (Islamic Republic of) and Lebanon. The Secretary of the Subcommission introduced the agenda item.

15. With regard to the *modi operandi* of organized criminal groups involved in drug trafficking, the representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran highlighted the importance of the Joint Planning Cell, established under the Triangular Initiative, which was tasked with sharing intelligence, conducting intelligence-based operations and establishing intelligence links with other regional organizations (such as the Central Asian Regional Information and Coordination Centre and the Criminal Information Centre to Combat Drugs) and international organizations (such as the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) and UNODC).

16. The Chair stressed the importance of reporting to the Secretariat and invited those delegations that had not sent the relevant information to do so.

IV. 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 preparation for the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem to be held in 2016

17. At its 1st meeting, on 10 November 2014, the Subcommission considered item 5 of its agenda, 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 preparation for the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem to be held in 2016”. For its consideration of the item, the Subcommission 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, adopted during the high-level segment of the fifty-second session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs. The Secretary of the meeting introduced the item. Statements were made by the representatives of Afghanistan, Egypt, India, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Pakistan and Turkey.

18. Several speakers stressed the value and importance of the Subcommission meetings in preparation for the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem to be held in 2016, particularly as regards recommendations emanating from the meeting and contributions from the working groups. In that regard, some delegations recommended that topics for consideration by the working groups at the fiftieth session of the Subcommission include demand reduction, supply reduction and international cooperation, in line with the Political Declaration and Plan of Action.

19. Some speakers noted the validity of the three international drug control conventions and the principle of national sovereignty of Member States in implementing those three conventions.

20. Some delegations recommended that, in order to ensure continuity, a bureau of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs to lead the preparations for the special session should be elected, based on the regional distribution of the offices of the bureau of the Commission at its fifty-seventh session.

21. Some speakers referred to the future outcome document of the special session of the General Assembly to be held in 2016, noting the importance of the recommendations of the subsidiary bodies of the Commission serving as the basis of discussions at that special session, and referred to the importance of respect for regional, religious and cultural specificities in that regard.

22. One delegation noted the crucial importance of meaningful international cooperation in order to achieve the goals set out in the Political Declaration and Plan of Action, including for its country, given its geographical location between the two major opium-producing countries, Afghanistan and Myanmar. Reference was also made to non-narcotic poppy seed production and sale and to the importance of effective enforcement of Economic and Social Council resolution 1999/32 on the matter.

23. Reference was made to the emergence of new psychoactive substances, such as ketamine and mephedrone, and UNODC was asked to consider that menace.

24. One speaker stressed its commitment to the implementation of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action and referred to national strategies and legislation to combat drugs, which included measures such as the establishment of financial intelligence units and counter-narcotic units and the involvement of non-governmental organizations in national demand reduction activities. The need to set up a mechanism to terminate cultivation and production of opium in Afghanistan, to focus on alternative development with the assistance of the international community and UNODC and to exchange intelligence among origin, transit and target countries to combat drug smuggling was emphasized. Reference was also made to the importance of global commitment to combating drug trafficking in transit countries.

25. Some delegations referred to the need to address the root causes of the world drug problem, based on the principle of common and shared responsibility, and to

take into account a balance between law enforcement and prevention measures when addressing the world drug problem. Reference was also made to the need to address emerging trends with regard to non-controlled substances such as tramadol.

26. One delegation stressed the importance of a holistic and comprehensive approach to addressing the world drug problem and informed the meeting of its efforts to improve the situation nationally. Reference was made to an improved legal framework, strengthened inter-agency cooperation and review of the national strategy to counter drugs and of policies on alternative development and other thematic areas.

V. Consideration of topics by working groups

27. At its 2nd to 4th meetings, on 10 and 11 November 2014, the Subcommission established working groups to examine the three topics under item 6 of its agenda, entitled “Consideration of topics by working groups”. The observations made by the working groups and the conclusions reached after their consideration of the topics are presented below. For the recommendations made by the working groups and adopted by the Subcommission, see section I above.

A. Misuse of sea containers for the trafficking of illicit drugs, and possible investigative techniques

28. The working group on misuse of sea containers for the trafficking of illicit drugs, and possible investigative techniques, held one meeting, on 10 November 2014. During its consideration of the topic under review, the working group made the following observations:

(a) To act effectively against trafficking groups that conceal their illicit consignments within the large volume of licit trade transported in sea containers, law enforcement agencies need to cooperate more closely with one another in sharing information and undertaking joint operations targeting those criminal groups;

(b) The law enforcement agencies of the region need equipment and training to support the targeting and screening of sea containers;

(c) Landlocked countries are also affected by the trafficking of drugs and precursor chemicals concealed within sea containers;

(d) The longer timing usually associated with transport by sea lends itself to the undertaking of controlled deliveries of illicit drug consignments detected within sea freight containers by the authorities.

29. The working group drew the following conclusions:

(a) When law enforcement agencies share information within their own country and with neighbouring countries about suspect consignments and companies and individuals believed to be engaged in drug trafficking, the success of efforts to target and profile drugs concealed within international trade transported in sea containers increases considerably;

(b) Seaports and dry ports are valuable points of trade convergence that provide an opportunity for law enforcement agencies to intercept containers containing drugs and to identify the criminal organizations behind their illicit transport;

(c) Controlled delivery remains an effective law enforcement response for dismantling trafficking networks and disrupting the trafficking of drugs in sea containers;

(d) The UNODC and World Customs Organization Container Control Programme is a tool for building capacity response in support of container targeting and border management.

B. Emerging challenges for Afghanistan and the region in relation to drug trafficking

30. The working group on emerging challenges for Afghanistan and the region in relation to drug trafficking held one meeting, on 11 November 2014. In its consideration of the topic under review, the working group made the following observations:

(a) Estimated opium poppy cultivation in Afghanistan in 2013 was a record 209,000 hectares, equivalent to 70 per cent of global illicit cultivation;

(b) The price for raw opium is remaining constant despite the increased production resulting from increased areas under opium poppy cultivation;

(c) Despite international controls being exercised over the sale and distribution of key precursor chemicals used in heroin manufacture, such as acetic anhydride, clandestine laboratories operating in Afghanistan are still able to obtain more than an estimated 500 tons of acetic anhydride each year;

(d) Possible new routes for trafficking of heroin from Afghanistan require attention.

31. The working group drew the following conclusions:

(a) Given the increased production of opiates in Afghanistan and the increased quantities of opium and morphine exported, combined with continued trafficking in precursors and the poor data on consumption and demand provided by a number of Member States, it is possible that global assessments of the misuse of opiates is underestimated, and therefore further research is required;

(b) The significant increase in heroin intercepted recently by Armenia and Georgia, combined with the general decline in reported heroin seizures from countries in the Balkans and the reported increase in trafficking along the southern route could indicate changes in regional routes for Afghan opiates being trafficked westward;

(c) If the illicit movement of diverted precursor chemicals such as acetic anhydride through the region en route to Afghanistan is to be reduced and ultimately stopped, there needs to be more cooperation between law enforcement agencies and chemical control authorities;

(d) The political and operational platform for cooperation provided through the Paris Pact partners is making a valuable contribution to the region's collective efforts to combat drug trafficking from Afghanistan and needs to be further strengthened and supported.

C. Demand reduction responses, including to reduce the abuse of amphetamine-type stimulants and the non-therapeutic use of pharmaceutical preparations

32. The working group on demand reduction responses, including to reduce the abuse of amphetamine-type stimulants and the non-therapeutic use of pharmaceutical preparations, held one meeting, on 11 November 2014. During its consideration of the topic under review, the working group made the following observations:

(a) Young people are particularly vulnerable to the abuse of amphetamine-type stimulants;

(b) Amphetamine-type stimulants have a powerful effect on the human body and prolonged use of such stimulants changes the brain in fundamental and long-lasting ways;

(c) The manufacture of amphetamine-type stimulants is a challenge for law enforcement agencies because clandestine laboratories can be easily set up, guided by information obtained from the Internet and supplied by a wide range of readily available commercial chemicals;

(d) Treatment capacity for drug abuse is a common challenge across the region;

(e) Abuse of pharmaceutical preparations is an underlying challenge across the region.

33. The working group drew the following conclusions:

(a) There is an ongoing need in many States for additional resources, including buildings, equipment and training, to support the work of treatment centres, which in turn support the rehabilitation of those who abuse illicit drugs, including amphetamine-type stimulants;

(b) Awareness-raising campaigns and education programmes, particularly those that are targeted at young people, are an effective tool for reducing the level of abuse of amphetamine-type stimulants and other illicit drugs;

(c) Further information and efforts are needed on the part of health authorities and law enforcement agencies to address the trends in the misuse of pharmaceutical preparations such as tramadol, as well as their trafficking, supply from illicit sources and diversion;

(d) There is a need to share information and best practices across the region in relation to treatment and rehabilitation centres, education and training programmes and other demand reduction activities;

(e) Actions against the abuse of prescribed medication should not impact access to those medications for medical purposes under medical supervision.

VI. Organization of the fiftieth session of the Subcommission

34. At its 4th and 5th meeting, on 11 and 12 November 2014, the Subcommission considered item 7 of its agenda, entitled “Organization of the fiftieth session of the Subcommission”.

35. For its consideration of item 7, the Subcommission had before it a draft provisional agenda for its fiftieth session (UNODC/SUBCOM/49/4, annex). The Secretary made an introductory statement outlining action to be taken for the organization of that session.

36. The Subcommission was informed that the fiftieth session was scheduled to be held from 9 to 13 November 2015. The Chair invited delegations of States interested in hosting the fiftieth session to contact the Secretariat in order to determine the venue as early as possible and thus facilitate preparations.

37. The Subcommission held a discussion on possible topics to be considered by the working groups at its fiftieth session, under item 6 of the draft provisional agenda. A number of topics were proposed, including drug trafficking and the use of the Internet, darknet and Bitcoin; emerging trends in trafficking and the abuse of pharmaceutical preparations such as tramadol; opiate trafficking from Afghanistan; and the international trade in poppy seeds.

38. Some delegations stressed the importance of the input of the Subcommission for the special session of the General Assembly to be held in 2016 and suggested that the working groups should focus on topics based on the three pillars of the Plan of Action, namely demand reduction and related measures, supply reduction and related measures and countering money-laundering and promoting judicial cooperation to enhance international cooperation. In that regard, some delegations stressed the need to include specific topics on emerging trends in order to ensure the useful input of the Subcommission.

39. One delegation referred to the geographical distribution of posts and the gender balance of nationals of States members of the Subcommission at UNODC headquarters and field offices, including at the senior and policymaking levels. In that regard, the Chair recalled the mandate given to the Subcommission and wondered whether such issues could be better addressed at other, more appropriate forums. The Chief of the Human Resources Management Service of UNODC made a presentation on United Nations staffing policies and documents and on the rules of geographical representation with regard to both regular budget posts and extrabudgetary posts, in reference to the Charter of the United Nations and General Assembly resolutions. The Meeting was also informed that the issue would be discussed at the meeting of the standing open-ended intergovernmental working group on improving the governance and financial situation of UNODC to be held on 20 November 2014.

40. One delegation proposed that the Subcommission at its fiftieth session discuss a one-time agenda item entitled “Improving the role and representation of States members of the Subcommission at UNODC headquarters and field offices”

and requested the Secretariat to provide an oral statement at that session giving statistics on the positions held by nationals of States members of the Subcommission.

41. The Meeting took note of the proposals and requested the Secretariat to finalize the issues to be discussed by working groups prior to the fiftieth session. The Subcommission approved the following draft provisional agenda for its fiftieth session:

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda.
3. Current situation with respect to regional and subregional cooperation.
4. Implementation of the recommendations adopted by the Subcommission at its forty-eighth 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, in preparation for the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem to be held in 2016.
6. Consideration of topics by working groups: [*to be determined*].
7. Organization of the fifty-first session of the Subcommission.
8. Other business: improving the role and representation of States members of the Subcommission at UNODC headquarters and field offices.
9. Adoption of the report of the Subcommission on its fiftieth session.

VII. Other business

42. At its 4th and 5th meetings, on 11 and 12 November 2014, the Subcommission considered agenda item 8, entitled “Other business”. No issues were raised under the item.

VIII. Adoption of the report

43. At its 6th meeting, on 13 November 2014, the Subcommission adopted the report on its forty-ninth session (UNODC/SUBCOM/49/L.1 and Add.1-6), including the reports of the working groups and their recommendations, as orally revised.

44. The observers for France and the European Union noted the importance of the concept of harm reduction, drawing attention to General Assembly resolutions and evidence-based studies undertaken in that regard.

45. The observer for the Russian Federation stressed that the special session of the General Assembly to be held in 2016 should highlight the importance of alternative development as a main tool for the elimination of illicit production centres of drugs around the world.

IX. Organization of the forty-ninth session of the Subcommission

A. Opening and duration of the session

46. The forty-ninth session of the Subcommission on Illicit Drug Traffic and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East was held in Vienna from 10 to 13 November 2014. A representative of UNODC made an opening statement on behalf of the Executive Director. The Chair of the Subcommission at its forty-ninth session and the Chair of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs at its fifty-seventh session also addressed the meeting.

B. Attendance

47. The following States members of the Subcommission were represented: Afghanistan, Bahrain, Egypt, India, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Oman, Pakistan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syrian Arab Republic, Turkey, United Arab Emirates and Yemen.

48. Canada, France and the Russian Federation were represented by observers. The State of Palestine was also represented by an observer.

49. The Council of Arab Ministers of the Interior, the Central Asian Regional Information and Coordination Centre, the Criminal Information Centre to Combat Drugs and the European Union were also represented.

50. UNODC served as the secretariat of the Meeting.

C. Election of officers

51. At its 1st meeting, on 10 November, the Subcommission elected the following officers by acclamation:

Chair: Abdullatif Al-Doraibi (Yemen)

Vice-Chairs: Mohammad Narimani (Islamic Republic of Iran)
Hassan Soroosh (Afghanistan)

Rapporteur: Ghassan Chamseddine (Lebanon)

D. Adoption of the agenda

52. Also at its 1st meeting, the Subcommission adopted the following agenda:

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-seventh 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, in preparation for the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem to be held in 2016.
6. Consideration of topics by working groups:
 - (a) Misuse of sea containers for the trafficking of illicit drugs, and possible investigative techniques;
 - (b) Emerging challenges for Afghanistan and the region in relation to drug trafficking;
 - (c) Demand reduction responses, including to reduce the abuse of amphetamine-type stimulants and the non-therapeutic use of pharmaceutical preparations.
7. Organization of the fiftieth session of the Subcommission.
8. Other business.
9. Adoption of the report of the Subcommission on its forty-ninth session.

E. Documentation

53. The documents before the Subcommission at its forty-ninth session are listed in the annex to the present document.

F. Closure of the session

54. The Chair of the Subcommission at its forty-ninth session made a closing statement.

Annex

List of documents before the Subcommittee on Illicit Drug Traffic and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East at its forty-ninth session

<i>Document</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>	<i>Title or description</i>
UNODC/SUBCOM/49/1	2	Annotated provisional agenda
UNODC/SUBCOM/49/2	3	Note by the Secretariat on statistics on drug trafficking trends in the Near and Middle East and South, West and Central Asia
UNODC/SUBCOM/49/3	4	Report of the Secretariat on the implementation of the recommendations adopted by the Subcommittee at its forty-seventh session
UNODC/SUBCOM/49/4	7	Note by the Secretariat on the draft provisional agenda for the fiftieth session of the Subcommittee
UNODC/SUBCOM/49/L.1 and Add.1-6	9	Draft report
UNODC/SUBCOM/49/CRP.1	3	Report of the Secretariat on the current situation with respect to regional and subregional cooperation
UNODC/SUBCOM/49/CRP.2-9	3	Country reports