

3 July 2019

Original: English\*

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

Tashkent, 23–27 September 2019

**Annotated provisional agenda****Provisional agenda**

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 fifty-second session.
5. Consideration of topics by working groups:
  - (a) Importance of exchange of actionable intelligence and the role of regional cooperation platforms in facilitating that exchange;
  - (b) Trafficking in synthetic opioids and synthetic cannabinoids and measures to counter such trafficking;
  - (c) Record levels of opiate production and related challenges;
  - (d) Practical measures tailored to the specific needs of children and youth to prevent and treat drug abuse among them.
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 fifty-fifth session of the Subcommission.
8. Other business.
9. Adoption of the report of the Subcommission on its fifty-fourth session.

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



## **Annotations**

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

Elections are held in accordance with rule 15 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council. Past practice has been for the Subcommittee 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**

The draft provisional agenda for the fifty-fourth session was approved by the Subcommittee at its fifty-third session, held in Baku from 19 to 23 November 2018.

At its thirty-eighth session, the Commission on Narcotic Drugs recommended that general statements concerning national trends in drug trafficking and statistics not be read out, but rather be circulated in written form. Participants were therefore invited to submit to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), by 5 July 2019, a three-page country report on trends in drug trafficking during the past year. Only reports received by that date will be translated into the other working languages of the Subcommittee.

Following the adoption of the agenda, the Subcommittee may wish to establish a programme of work. A proposed programme of work is contained in the annex to the present document for the consideration of the Subcommittee.

#### **Documentation**

Annotated provisional agenda (UNODC/SUBCOM/54/1)

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

Participants are invited to inform the Subcommittee about the efforts of their Governments to strengthen regional and subregional cooperation in areas such as joint investigations, law enforcement training and the sharing of information and experiences relating to measures taken to counter drug trafficking.

Participants are also invited to inform the Subcommittee of any practical challenges impeding subregional cooperation and of measures taken to overcome them.

The discussions under the item will provide an opportunity to examine current trends and the *modi operandi* used in drug trafficking, operational successes in efforts to counter trafficking in cannabis, cocaine and heroin, and other issues of relevance.

#### **Documentation**

Report of the Secretariat on the world situation with regard to drug trafficking ([E/CN.7/2019/5](#))

Note by the Secretariat transmitting the report of the Secretariat on the world situation with regard to drug trafficking (UNODC/SUBCOM/54/2)

Report of the Secretariat on the current situation with respect to regional and subregional cooperation (UNODC/SUBCOM/54/3)

### **4. Implementation of the recommendations adopted by the Subcommittee at its fifty-second session**

Participants are invited to inform the Subcommittee of action taken by their Governments to implement the recommendations adopted by the Subcommittee at its fifty-second session, held in Beirut from 13 to 17 November 2017. The Subcommittee will have before it a note by the Secretariat based on replies received to a questionnaire concerning action taken by Governments to implement those recommendations.

To enable the Secretariat to prepare its note on the status of implementation of the recommendations of the Subcommission at its fifty-second session, a note verbale was transmitted to the Governments of States members of the Subcommission on 11 April 2019 and 24 June 2019, urging them to return the completed questionnaire by 5 July 2019.

### **Documentation**

Note by the Secretariat on the implementation of the recommendations adopted by the Subcommission at its fifty-second session (UNODC/SUBCOM/54/4)

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

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

### **(a) Importance of exchange of actionable intelligence and the role of regional cooperation platforms in facilitating that exchange**

The working group established under sub-item (a) will discuss the fundamental importance of exchanging actionable intelligence in a timely manner, the problems faced in that regard and the ways in which such an exchange could be facilitated at various levels. The roles and responsibilities of various law enforcement agencies will be considered by the working group, including those of police, customs, border protection agencies and other specialized agencies involved in the exchange of intelligence at the national and regional levels. The working group will also consider ways in which to improve the use of regional cooperation platforms in the exchange of intelligence, including through the Joint Planning Cell, the Criminal Intelligence Centre to Combat Drugs of the Gulf Cooperation Council and the Central Asian Regional Information and Coordination Centre. Participants will discuss ways in which to facilitate the use of such platforms by Member States and how their services can be optimized to ensure the timely exchange of actionable intelligence.

### **(b) Trafficking in synthetic opioids and synthetic cannabinoids and measures to counter such trafficking**

The working group established under sub-item (b) will consider trends in trafficking of synthetic opioids and synthetic cannabinoids in recent years, including the current situation. The working group will discuss trafficking routes and the exchange of information on potential countries of source, transit and destination. The working group will also discuss the levels of awareness and preparedness of law enforcement agencies to detect and respond to this emerging issue. Participants will share information on legal, technical and other challenges encountered in addressing the trafficking of synthetic opioids and synthetic cannabinoids and will also consider the problems and challenges faced by law enforcement agencies in identifying and countering such trafficking, including how best to engage with regulatory agencies mandated to control those substances. The working group will also consider ways in which to counter illicit trafficking in synthetic opioids and synthetic cannabinoids while ensuring access to and the availability of those substances for legitimate medical purposes and will identify best practices in that field.

### **(c) Record levels of opiate production and related challenges**

The working group established under sub-item (c) will consider the situation with regard to the record levels of opiate production and the consequences of that production. Participants will discuss the role of Afghanistan and other affected countries with a view to addressing the problem. Participants will also consider the increased demand for precursors that are needed for the production of heroin;

facilitating the sharing of information on trafficking in precursors; and identifying ways to facilitate the exchange of information between countries that produce the chemicals in question and Afghanistan, as well as the countries on the supply routes of the precursors. The working group will examine practices in developing capacity in profiling and risk assessment techniques to counter trafficking in increased volumes of opiates and their precursors. The importance of technical assistance to the source country and to countries situated on major trafficking routes will also be discussed.

**(d) Practical measures tailored to the specific needs of children and youth to prevent and treat drug abuse among them**

In 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”, Member States devoted a subsection to recommendations on cross-cutting issues, including drugs and youth, highlighting the need to take into account the specific needs of and circumstances faced by youth with regard to the world drug problem. As a result of advances in technology, increased resource development and population expansion, children and adolescents have become increasingly vulnerable. The working group will highlight the importance of measures that take into account the specific needs and circumstances of children and young people with regard to the world drug problem and the importance of sharing national experiences in mainstreaming focus on youth and children into all stages of the development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of drug demand reduction policies and programmes, placing the health, safety and well-being of all members of society, in particular our children and youth, at the very centre of our efforts with a view to promoting and protecting health, including access to treatment. Many countries in the Near and Middle East are experiencing a demographic dividend and recognize the significance of investing in young people. Since drug use prevention programmes for children and young people are most effective when they respond to the needs of a community, there is a clear need to involve all relevant sectors. Programmes also need to be cost-effective and based on scientific evidence.

**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**

At the opening of the ministerial segment of the sixty-second session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, held in Vienna in March 2019, ministers and government representatives adopted by consensus 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. In the Declaration, Member States made a commitment, based on the principle of common and shared responsibility, to accelerating the full implementation of the 2009 Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem, 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, and the outcome document of the thirtieth special session of the General Assembly.

The Political Declaration and Plan of Action, adopted at the high-level segment of the fifty-second session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs in 2009, focused on measures to enhance international cooperation, identified problems and areas requiring further action, and set out goals and targets for countering the world drug problem. In its resolution 56/10, the Commission on Narcotic Drugs requested the meetings of its subsidiary bodies to contribute to the monitoring of 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 under the agenda item on the follow-up to the Political Declaration and Plan of Action. 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, 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. The Commission also requested the meetings of its subsidiary bodies, on the basis of their deliberations, to submit regional recommendations aimed at moving forward the implementation of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action.

In 2014, the Commission undertook a high-level midterm review of the implementation by Member States of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action to determine the progress achieved and challenges faced in its implementation and adopted the Joint Ministerial Statement, identifying achievements, challenges and priorities for further action in the implementation of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action.

In 2016, the General Assembly held a special session on the world drug problem. The outcome document of that session contained a broad range of operational recommendations, covering the following seven thematic areas: (a) demand reduction and related measures, including prevention and treatment, as well as other health-related issues; (b) ensuring the availability of and access to controlled substances exclusively for medical and scientific purposes, while preventing their diversion; (c) supply reduction and related measures, effective law enforcement, responses to drug-related crime, and countering money-laundering and promoting judicial cooperation; (d) cross-cutting issues: drugs and human rights, youth, children, women and communities; (e) cross-cutting issues in addressing and countering the world drug problem: evolving reality, trends and existing circumstances, emerging and persistent challenges and threats, including new psychoactive substances, in conformity with the three international drug control conventions and other relevant international instruments; (f) strengthening international cooperation based on the principle of common and shared responsibility; and (g) alternative development; regional, interregional and international cooperation on development-oriented balanced drug control policy and addressing socioeconomic issues.

Member States resolved to take the steps necessary to implement the operational recommendations, in close partnership with the United Nations and other intergovernmental organizations and civil society, and to share with the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, as the policymaking body of the United Nations with prime responsibility for drug control matters, timely information on progress made in the implementation of those recommendations. The Commission on Narcotic Drugs initiated the follow-up process to the special session, with a particular focus on implementing the operational recommendations. With a view to sharing good practices and lessons learned in the practical implementation of joint commitments, thematic discussions were held by the Commission and focused, *inter alia*, on the operational recommendations contained in the seven thematic chapters of the outcome document. Further information on the follow-up process can be found on the Commission's web pages on the UNODC website ([www.ungass2016.org](http://www.ungass2016.org)).

Under agenda item 6, participants will be invited to consider the challenges faced by the States of the region with regard to the implementation of the 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 and the outcome document of the thirtieth special session of the General Assembly. Participants will also be invited to discuss how they could best contribute through the Commission on Narcotic Drugs to accelerating the implementation of all commitments made in the past decade, drawing on their technical expertise and regional experience.

**Documentation**

Outcome document of the thirtieth special session of the General Assembly, entitled “Our joint commitment to effectively addressing and countering the world drug problem” (General Assembly resolution S-30/1, annex)

Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem (see [E/2009/28](#), chap. I, sect. C)

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 ([E/2014/80](#), annex I)

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 (see [E/2019/28](#), chap. I, sect. B)

**7. Organization of the fifty-fifth session of the Subcommission**

The Subcommission will be invited to review a draft provisional agenda for its fifty-fifth session, including the topics for discussion in working groups and possible venues for future sessions. A decision taken by the Subcommission at its fifty-fourth session on the venue for its fifty-fifth session and the topics for the working groups would greatly facilitate the preparation and organization of the fifty-fifth session. Participants are requested to be prepared to propose and discuss topics for the working groups of the fifty-fifth session of the Subcommission. The Secretariat will provide, upon request, a copy of the standard letter of agreement setting out the contributions of the United Nations and the host Government.

Participants will also be invited to discuss any other matters related to the organization of the deliberations, with a view to improving their substantive content and follow-up.

**Documentation**

Note by the Secretariat on the organization of the fifty-fifth session of the Subcommission on Illicit Drug Traffic and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East (UNODC/SUBCOM/54/5)

**8. Other business**

Under the item entitled “Other business”, the Subcommission may wish to address any other important issues, such as urgent matters arising from the country reports.

**9. Adoption of the report of the Subcommission on its fifty-fourth session**

The Subcommission is expected to adopt the report on its fifty-fourth session, including the findings, conclusions and recommendations of the working groups, on the last day of the session.

## Annex

## Proposed programme of work

<i>Date</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>	<i>Title or description</i>
Monday, 23 September 2019	8.30 a.m.		Registration
	10 a.m.		Opening of the fifty-fourth session
		1	Election of officers
		2	Adoption of the agenda
		3	Current situation with respect to regional and subregional cooperation
Tuesday, 24 September 2019	2.30 p.m.	4	Implementation of the recommendations adopted at the fifty-second session
	10 a.m.	5	Consideration of topics by working groups
	2.30 p.m.	5	Consideration of topics by working groups ( <i>continued</i> )
Wednesday, 25 September 2019	10 a.m.	5	Consideration of topics by working groups ( <i>continued</i> )
	2.30 p.m.	5	Consideration of topics by working groups ( <i>continued</i> )
Thursday, 26 September 2019	10 a.m.	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.
	2.30 p.m.	7	Organization of the fifty-fifth session
Friday, 27 September 2019	10 a.m.	8	Other business
	2.30 p.m.	9	Adoption of the report of the Subcommission on its fifty-fourth session