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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

Item 4 of the provisional agenda\*\*

**Implementation of the recommendations adopted  
by the Subcommission at its fifty-second session****Implementation of the recommendations adopted by the  
Subcommission at its fifty-second session****Note by the Secretariat****I. Introduction**

1. The Subcommission on Illicit Drug Traffic and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East, at its fifty-second session, held in Beirut from 13 to 17 November 2017, adopted a set of recommendations following the consideration by working groups of the issues listed below.
2. In accordance with established practice, the report on the fifty-second session was forwarded to the Governments represented at that session. A questionnaire on the implementation of the recommendations adopted at the fifty-second session was dispatched on 11 April and 24 June 2019 for responses by the extended deadline of 5 July 2019.
3. The present document was prepared based on the information provided to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) by Governments in response to that questionnaire. As at 5 July 2019, eight replies had been received, from the Governments of Iran (Islamic Republic of), Jordan, Lebanon, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, the Syrian Arab Republic, Turkey and the United Arab Emirates.

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

\*\* UNODC/SUBCOM/54/1.



## II. Responses from Member States to the questionnaire

### Issue 1: Proactive, intelligence-led approach and capacity-building in the area of criminal intelligence collection, collation, analysis and sharing

#### Recommendation 1

**Governments should support and ensure better coordination and cooperation at the national level between law enforcement and other relevant agencies to facilitate the exchange of criminal intelligence and its proactive usage.**

4. The Islamic Republic of Iran reported that its Counter-Narcotics Police had strengthened operational cooperation with the police and other law enforcement agencies in the countries of the region and beyond.

5. The Government of Jordan reported that law enforcement and other relevant agencies cooperated at the national level in the exchange of information and criminal intelligence.

6. Lebanon indicated that, although various security agencies worked together to combat different types of crime, there was a need for greater cooperation to facilitate the exchange of criminal intelligence and its proactive usage.

7. Pakistan reported having established a forum for the purpose. The relevant law enforcement agencies were exchanging criminal intelligence information for operations.

8. Saudi Arabia reported having established, within its General Directorate of Narcotics Control, national security mechanisms (the Madar and the Siraj systems) that linked narcotics control branches and centres to the National Information Centre. The systems are designed to provide the security services with criminal intelligence and police records of suspects and to supply information for investigations into trafficking in drugs.

9. In the Syrian Arab Republic, coordination is one of the tasks entrusted to the National Commission on Narcotic Drugs, which was established in 1998. It is headed by the Minister of the Interior and includes members from all relevant agencies. Criminal intelligence is shared in the context of the Commission's work and in coordination with the various stakeholders.

10. Turkey reported having established a division of analysis within the Counter-Narcotics Department of the National Police in order to identify crime methods and elements, undertake analysis and evaluation, follow necessary procedures to transmit data to relevant divisions and ensure that criminal investigations were carried out more rapidly, objectively and effectively. All data collected were from private or public institutions and organizations and both open and closed sources.

11. In the United Arab Emirates, the Drugs Control Council is responsible for overseeing the implementation of a national drug control strategy that encompasses a comprehensive, integrated and balanced approach. It is also responsible for monitoring implementation of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem and for ensuring compliance with relevant international treaties and conventions. Three national committees operate under the Council: (a) the National Committee on Treatment, Rehabilitation and Social Reintegration; (b) the National Committee on Drug Use Prevention; and (c) the National Committee on Drug Trafficking. Work is conducted at the local rather than the national level.

## Recommendation 2

**Governments should ensure that training institutions have relevant training curricula and tools, as well as specialized equipment and software for the training of criminal intelligence analysts.**

12. The Counter-Narcotics Police of the Islamic Republic of Iran uses all the specialized training equipment and software of the University of Police and other State universities to improve the quantitative and qualitative capacities of the police, including strategic analysis of criminal intelligence.

13. The Government of Jordan indicated that it was unable to provide certain training institutions with equipment and software for the training of criminal intelligence analysts, owing to the high cost of such items.

14. In Lebanon, the issue falls within the remit of the internal security forces.

15. Pakistan reported that the Anti-Narcotics Force Academy was well equipped with instructors and relevant training curricula for basic and capacity-building courses for counter-narcotics law enforcement officers. With the cooperation of UNODC, the lectures and lesson plans of the Academy were being upgraded to bring them up to international standards.

16. Saudi Arabia reported having set up a specialized training institute in the General Directorate of Narcotics Control to design training kits for law enforcement officers on controlling drug demand and supply, as well as information about drug precursors. The institute has run special training courses for staff of narcotics control organizations in a number of countries (Bahrain, Iraq and the Sudan).

17. In the Syrian Arab Republic, annual training plans developed by the Training Department of the Ministry of the Interior on the subject of combating narcotics are delivered by the Anti-Narcotics Division. The Ministry of the Interior provides support to the Anti-Narcotics Division to deliver training. In keeping with their specific functions, other ministries and agencies also deliver training on how to deal with the problem of narcotic drugs.

18. Turkey reported having established a counter-narcotics training academy within the Counter-Narcotics Department of the National Police in order to share experiences and provide comprehensive training for national and international law enforcement staff dealing with narcotics-related criminal investigations.

19. In the United Arab Emirates, police institutes run advanced training programmes and courses on new developments in drug crime and on combating money-laundering and the online promotion of drugs.

## Recommendation 3

**Governments should encourage more active and systemic use of existing regional and international law enforcement structures for the sharing of criminal intelligence.**

20. The Counter-Narcotics Police of the Islamic Republic of Iran has developed operational cooperation, in particular, information exchange, with most of the regional and international structures in the field of information exchange, including the Joint Planning Cell of the Triangular Initiative with Afghanistan and Pakistan, the Central Asian Regional Information and Coordination Centre for Combating Illicit Trafficking in Narcotic Drugs, Psychotropic Substances and their Precursors (CARICC), the Economic Cooperation Organization and the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL), as well as with countries in the region and beyond, through the deployment of drug liaison officers.

21. Jordan reported making systemic use of regional and international law enforcement structures to send and receive all forms of information.

22. Lebanon has signed cooperation agreements with neighbouring countries and other countries in the region. Efforts are made to use existing agreements and to improve communication with other States by exchanging information and data concerning all aspects of drug trafficking operations and by increasing cooperation in the field. Lebanon responds to all requests for information and judicial assistance submitted through the General Secretariat of the Arab Interior Ministers Council and the relevant liaison points, or through UNODC.

23. Pakistan reported that its Anti-Narcotics Force shared necessary operational information and criminal intelligence with regional and international law enforcement structures such as INTERPOL, the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation Drug Offences Monitoring Desk, the European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Cooperation (Europol), the Triangular Initiative and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization.

24. Saudi Arabia reported that its General Directorate of Narcotics Control cooperated closely with the INTERPOL office in Riyadh. It shares criminal intelligence concerning the methods used by criminals to smuggle drugs around the world and information about techniques for preventing smuggling with customs authorities at national ports. Direct cooperation has been established with law enforcement agencies in several countries through liaison officers, who have been sent to those countries to help strengthen cooperation in the sharing of intelligence about cross-border drug-smuggling networks.

25. The Syrian Arab Republic indicated that, notwithstanding the negative positions adopted by some States participating in the regional and international meetings in which it took part, the Ministry of the Interior had consistently expressed its desire for stronger cooperation and had called for more coordination and sharing of criminal intelligence in order to achieve common objectives.

26. Turkey reported using an intranet network for sharing criminal intelligence among law enforcement agencies.

27. The organizational structure of the Federal Drug Enforcement Administration of the United Arab Emirates includes the Department of International Communications and liaison officers who exchange criminal intelligence and facilitate cooperation with counterparts in other States. A liaison officer is stationed in Islamabad. The Department also liaises with similar organizations in other States.

#### **Recommendation 4**

**Governments should be requested to consider appropriate policies to ensure retaining trained analysts within national organizations.**

28. The Islamic Republic of Iran reported that its long-term policy was to maintain and employ trained personnel, particularly analysts, in the proper positions.

29. Jordan indicated that its national organizations retained trained analysts as they were in great need of them.

30. Appropriate policies are available in Pakistan to retain trained analysts within the Anti-Narcotics Force and other law enforcement agencies.

31. At the training institute of the General Directorate of Narcotics Control of Saudi Arabia, skilled police personnel are trained to analyse and investigate networks involved in the selling of drugs and laundering of the proceeds. The trainees are also enlisted to run training courses for colleagues who work in the area of narcotics.

32. In the Syrian Arab Republic, the work of trained analysts is assessed on a regular basis. The process of providing guidance and follow-up is an ongoing one in order to meet the relevant goals set by the Government.

33. The Government of the United Arab Emirates reported working with UNODC to train national staff in the area of drug control.

**Issue 2: Countering money-laundering, illicit financial flows and the use of the darknet and cryptocurrencies in relation to the drug trade**

**Recommendation 5**

**Governments should encourage better cooperation between financial intelligence units, law enforcement agencies and all other relevant national agencies.**

34. The Islamic Republic of Iran reported that the Anti-Money-Laundering Subcommittee had been established in 2008 in the Drug Control Headquarters. The aims of the Subcommittee were: (a) creating a national working group for identifying the financial bases of drug trafficking networks; (b) making an online connection between the police and the financial intelligence unit; (c) establishing close cooperation between the police and the judicial system to freeze suspicious accounts; and (d) establishing an online connection between the police, the financial intelligence unit and the Office of Registration of Documents and Land to allow for the analysis of financial bases of important cases and the tracing and identification of accounts and related subjects through collaboration with the judiciary. In addition, based on provisions of the country's central bank and the national financial committee, all banks should check large financial transactions and submit the result to the financial intelligence unit and the police.

35. Lebanon reported that the Office to Combat Financial Offences and Money-Laundering was informed in writing whenever an investigation under its remit was found to involve drug offences. Biweekly reports on the amounts involved in cases under its jurisdiction were submitted to the Special Investigations Unit of the central bank.

36. A healthy state of cooperation exists between the Anti-Narcotics Force and the Financial Monitoring Unit of Pakistan in connection with the offence of drug trafficking. The Anti-Narcotics Force also updates the Financial Monitoring Unit on a monthly and quarterly basis. A memorandum of understanding has been signed between different stakeholder agencies in Pakistan, including the Anti-Narcotics Force, for the prompt sharing of information.

37. In Saudi Arabia, the Anti-Money-Laundering Department of the General Directorate of Narcotics Control has signed memorandums of understanding with the Office of the Public Prosecutor, the Financial Investigations Department and the Monetary Institution with the aim of improving processes for sharing financial information about individuals involved in drug trafficking.

38. In the Syrian Arab Republic, coordination processes have been set up between the Anti-Narcotics Division and the Anti-Money-Laundering Section of the Criminal Security Division of the Ministry of the Interior, the Commission to Combat Money-Laundering and Financing of Terrorism and other related agencies. This helps to strengthen action to combat money-laundering in the framework of a legislative decree concerning money-laundering and the financing of terrorism.

39. Turkey reported having established a division to combat the revenues of crime within the Counter-Narcotics Department of the National Police, in order to investigate sources of assets and revenues generated from crime at the national and international levels, through coordination between judicial authorities and institutions or organizations. It also noted that Governments should encourage better cooperation between financial intelligence units, law enforcement agencies and all other relevant national agencies.

40. In the United Arab Emirates, law enforcement agencies and the financial intelligence units at the central bank cooperate and conduct meetings through the national committees.

**Recommendation 6**

**Governments should be encouraging intelligence-based policing that is proactive rather than reactive. The gathering and subsequent analysis of financial intelligence are key aspects of this.**

41. About 70 per cent of the drug seizures in the Islamic Republic of Iran take place as part of intelligence-based operations. Furthermore, the Property Identification Committee of the Drug Control Headquarters, composed of representatives of the court, the police and the Ministry of Intelligence, identifies the movable and immovable property of drug smugglers that are the proceeds drug-related crime.

42. Lebanon reported making the best use of all available resources and information, including communications data and information related to financial transactions between suspicious parties. Such information was obtained through appropriate means, under the supervision of competent judges.

43. Pakistan reported that the Financial Monitoring Unit had been established to generate and share financial intelligence with relevant law enforcement agencies after appropriate analysis. The Anti-Narcotics Force gathers and analyses financial intelligence and subsequently initiates asset inquiries in potential money-laundering cases related to drug trafficking.

44. In the Syrian Arab Republic, financial intelligence is gathered, analysed and used for the specific activities of the agencies that monitor those activities. The relevant agencies follow up and coordinate with one another in order to obtain a clear and detailed picture of all money-laundering operations.

45. Financial investigations by the General Directorate of Narcotics Control in Saudi Arabia are conducted using evidentiary procedures designed to identify those who finance the sale of drugs. Proactive measures include analyses of bank accounts and the preventive seizure of suspicious funds held by the holders of those accounts. This all helps to curtail the capacity of such persons to engage in criminal activities.

46. Turkey reported having established a division to combat the revenues of crime within the Counter-Narcotics Department of the National Police.

47. The United Arab Emirates reported that the financial activities of persons involved in the sale and promotion of drugs, in particular, any financial transfers made to countries in which drugs were produced, were monitored.

**Recommendation 7**

**Governments should introduce policies and procedures that facilitate better sharing of information between public institutions and private companies in the financial sector.**

48. The Islamic Republic of Iran reported that incentive policies were implemented for increased cooperation between public institutions and private companies, including tax deductions and exemptions from customs duties on imports and exports.

49. Jordan indicated that it had not adopted policies or procedures for exchanging information with private sector companies.

50. Authorities in Lebanon receive information about financial transactions from private companies in the financial sector, under the supervision of competent judges. Policies are in place to facilitate the exchange of information between private companies in the financial sector and public institutions.

51. Pakistan reported that its State Bank and the Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan had issued the necessary instructions on the subject.

52. Saudi Arabia reported having adopted national strategic goals and an action plan to combat money-laundering. One of the strategic goals is to set up national working groups to liaise between law enforcement agencies and all financial institutions in the country. The working groups are currently developing an electronic platform and

guidance tools to facilitate the sharing of information between relevant organizations in the country and their counterparts abroad.

53. In the Syrian Arab Republic, specialized agencies of the Ministry of the Interior and the Ministry of Health have established joint monitoring mechanisms and working groups with the private sector, companies and businesses to prevent drugs from being misused.

54. Turkey noted that the recommendation was relevant to its Financial Crimes Investigation Board.

55. The United Arab Emirates reported that a 2018 Federal Act on combating money-laundering offences provided for policies and measures to promote cooperation between institutions and between the public and private sectors.

## **Recommendation 8**

**Governments should be encouraged to share case studies and research outcomes on the economic aspect of money-laundering and drug trafficking with each other, including on how the proceeds of illicit activities are transferred and used and on the role of new technologies in money-laundering.**

56. The Islamic Republic of Iran reported that the recommendation would be achieved through the formation of a working group, the preparation of instructions for mutual cooperation, the holding of interactive meetings and the exchange of information among all relevant national organizations.

57. The Government of Jordan is usually informed of the results of case studies and research outcomes related to drug offences, but it is not informed about how the proceeds of illicit activities are transferred or about the role of new technologies in money-laundering.

58. In Lebanon, biweekly reports on the amounts involved in the cases under its jurisdiction are submitted to the Special Investigations Unit of the central bank. An affidavit is also submitted to the Office to Combat Financial Offences and Money-Laundering whenever an investigation is found to involve drug offences. In addition, information is shared about the methods employed to transfer and make use of the proceeds of illicit activities and about money-laundering.

59. Pakistan reported that the necessary instructions were being issued to the relevant stakeholders and that the requisite studies would be carried out.

60. Saudi Arabia reported having established a standing committee on combating money-laundering to oversee external participation in conferences, seminars and workshops held to discuss the economic aspects of money-laundering. Those events are organized by States under the auspices of the Financial Action Task Force. The Financial Investigations Department shares information about suspicious financial transactions on an electronic platform provided by the Egmont Group. As for laundering of the proceeds from trafficking in drugs, the General Directorate of Narcotics Control exchanges information and expertise on combating money-laundering with its counterparts elsewhere in order to build up the expertise needed to raise standards when it comes to tackling money-laundering.

61. The Syrian Arab Republic reported that it was facing sanctions that had a negative impact on prospects for stronger regional and international cooperation and that countered the progress achieved previously. In any event, it consistently welcomed cooperation, notwithstanding the impact of the sanctions.

62. Turkey indicated that the recommendation was relevant to the Financial Crimes Investigation Board.

63. The United Arab Emirates reported that studies and analysis of international best practices were conducted in all fields of drug control.

**Issue 3: Effective border control****Recommendation 9**

**Governments should consider strengthening inter-agency cooperation to leverage access to information, know-how, mandates and operational capacities.**

64. The Counter-Narcotics Police of the Islamic Republic of Iran conducts joint and information-based operations with the aim of promoting the sharing of intelligence and operational intelligence.

65. Jordan reported that its agencies cooperated with one another to leverage access to information and to improve know-how in order to enhance operational capacities.

66. Lebanon indicated that there were no inspection points under the supervision of the Drugs Control Office at border crossings, in particular ports, as was found in other countries.

67. The Anti-Narcotics Force of Pakistan has always remained up to date in terms of cooperation on counter-narcotics with its regional, subregional and international counterparts. The level of operational cooperation includes international controlled delivery operations, joint coordinated operations and investigations, and assistance pertaining to drug-related inquiries. Inter-agency and cross-border cooperation among international counterparts plays a significant role in countering transnational drug trafficking organizations operating in Pakistan. The Anti-Narcotics Force also plays a very positive role in promoting inter-agency cooperation within the country. Border liaison officers are also being deployed at the borders with Afghanistan and Iran (Islamic Republic of).

68. The General Directorate of Narcotics Control of Saudi Arabia has established national security mechanisms (the Madar and the Siraj systems) that link narcotics control branches and centres to the National Information Centre. The systems are designed to provide the security services with criminal intelligence and police records of suspects and to supply information for investigations into trafficking of drugs.

69. The Syrian Arab Republic reported that coordination with all relevant agencies in the State is pursued on an ongoing basis. Some border areas were under the control of terrorist groups that relied heavily on trafficking in and smuggling and distribution of drugs to finance their activities. They also recruited local people by using narcotics to alter their mental state and then enlisting them in terrorist operations.

70. Turkey reported that a division to combat the revenues of crime and a division of analysis had been established within the Counter-Narcotics Department of the National Police.

71. The United Arab Emirates reported having made efforts to prevent trafficking in drugs through ports. It had engaged in 82 monitored operations, involving shipments destined for 36 States, in which 1,311 tons of narcotics had been seized.

**Recommendation 10**

**The capacities of existing law enforcement cooperation structures and centres, for example, in the areas of exchange of criminal intelligence and coordination of multilateral operations, should be used to the maximum extent.**

72. The Islamic Republic of Iran reported that the strengthening of cooperation and intelligence exchange among all relevant regional and transregional centres, including the Joint Planning Cell, CARICC and the Economic Cooperation Organization, were among the priorities of the Regional and International Affairs Unit of its Counter-Narcotics Police.

73. Jordan reported that existing law enforcement cooperation structures were used to exchange information and coordinate multilateral operations.

74. Lebanon indicated that it made full use of the capacities available to the various technical departments and laboratories of the internal security forces. It also



coordinated efforts and shared information as necessary with various security agencies in order to detect and prevent offences.

75. The Anti-Narcotics Force of Pakistan shared necessary operational information with regional and international law enforcement cooperation structures through the optimum use of available facilities and resources.

76. The General Directorate of Narcotics Control of Saudi Arabia cooperates closely with the INTERPOL office in Riyadh. It shares criminal intelligence concerning the methods used by criminals to smuggle drugs around the world and information about techniques for preventing smuggling with customs authorities at national ports. Direct cooperation has been established with law enforcement agencies in several countries through liaison officers, who have been sent to those countries to help strengthen cooperation in the sharing of intelligence about cross-border drug smuggling networks.

77. The strategies for combating the supply of and reducing the demand for narcotics in the Syrian Arab Republic call for efforts among various actors and for coordination and communication involving a range of stakeholders. Coordination and ongoing exchanges of information are needed, and this is a core function of the National Commission on Narcotic Drugs.

78. Turkey reported having established a division within the Counter-Narcotics Department of the National Police to collect data from private or public institutions and from open and closed sources, in order to identify crime methods and ensure that criminal investigations were carried out rapidly and effectively.

79. The Department of International Communications and liaison officers of the United Arab Emirates have cooperated with foreign liaison officers in the country. In 2018, 42 information exchanges took place, and representatives of the Department in Islamabad communicated 33 items of international-level information obtained in Pakistan.

#### **Recommendation 11**

**Governments should consider building on ongoing efforts to strengthen bilateral and regional cooperation, for example through border liaison offices, the Joint Planning Cell, CARICC, the Criminal Information Centre to Combat Drugs of the Gulf Cooperation Council, the Arab Interior Ministers Council, the Container Control Programme, the Global Maritime Crime Project, the Airport Communication Project (AIRCOP) and other ongoing programmes and initiatives of UNODC, as well as initiatives and capacities of other regional and international organizations, including the I-24/7 global police communication system of INTERPOL and the Customs Enforcement Network Communication Platform system of the World Customs Organization.**

80. The Islamic Republic of Iran reported that strengthening bilateral and regional cooperation with all relevant regional and transregional centres, including the Joint Planning Cell, CARICC, INTERPOL and the Economic Cooperation Organization, was among the priorities of the Regional and International Affairs Unit of its Counter-Narcotics Police.

81. Jordan indicated that it was strengthening bilateral and regional cooperation through border liaison offices, CARICC, the Criminal Information Centre to Combat Drugs of the Gulf Cooperation Council, the Arab Interior Ministers Council, the Container Control Programme, INTERPOL and the Customs Enforcement Network Communication Platform system of the World Customs Organization.

82. Lebanon reported liaising with all regional coordination agencies participating in all meetings and seminars held to promote regional cooperation. Meetings were held as required with liaison officers appointed by foreign embassies in Lebanon in order to exchange intelligence with a view to limiting the spread of drugs, preventing transnational crime and identifying and dismantling drug trafficking networks.

Authorities selected which containers were to be inspected on the basis of information provided to them, including whether the vessel was coming from a country in which drugs, precursors or psychotropic substances were produced.

83. Pakistan reported sharing necessary operational information with regional and international enforcement cooperation structures.

84. Saudi Arabia reported that it was a founding member of the Criminal Information Centre to Combat Drugs of the Gulf Cooperation Council and that it cooperated on an ongoing basis with the Arab Office on Drugs. Recently, it had been taking steps with a view to becoming a member of the Southeast European Law Enforcement Centre.

85. The Ministry of the Interior of the Syrian Arab Republic regularly participates in meetings and all communication activities set up to share information and strengthen bilateral and regional cooperation. The Ministry remains an active member of international and regional committees and mechanisms and makes every effort to play an active part in the formulation and implementation of the decisions that they adopt.

86. Turkey reported that a representative of its Counter-Narcotics Department had attended a meeting of CARICC held on 13 October 2018.

87. During the previous year, the Government of the United Arab Emirates had communicated intelligence on 123 shipments of narcotic substances and on the persons responsible for their transport.

## **Recommendation 12**

**Governments, as well as international and regional organizations, should consider providing increased support, including technical assistance, equipment and training and by sharing information, to the “front-line” countries, namely those situated close to areas where drugs are cultivated and produced.**

88. The Islamic Republic of Iran noted that, while it was the leading and “front-line” country in terms of combating drug trafficking originating in Afghanistan, it did not receive any tangible technical assistance and equipment.

89. Lebanon is combating the cultivation and production of drugs. Before 2012, it had razed land used to cultivate such substances on an annual basis; however, it was no longer possible to carry out that work owing to the security situation in the Syrian Arab Republic, as such crops were grown near the border with that country. It had performed that work without any support from regional or international organizations, despite the many promises made regarding the provision of assistance for alternative crops and rural development. It was hard to persuade farmers not to grow drug crops when no alternatives were available.

90. Pakistan reported receiving some equipment and training support from UNODC and the Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs of the Department of State of the United States of America, but it was insufficient and needed to be increased significantly.

91. Saudi Arabia reported having run training courses on the subjects of drug precursors and investigations into drug cases for staff of the Narcotics Control Organization of Iraq.

92. The Syrian Arab Republic noted that there was a need to provide technical assistance and accurate information to transit countries that were situated between producing and consuming countries. Drug traffickers had benefited from technological advances and the huge revenues that they accrued from the illicit trade in drugs to invent new ways to smuggle drugs. Special technologies and information were needed in order to bypass the sanctions imposed by certain States on the Syrian Arab Republic. There was still a need for modern intelligence equipment, modern detection equipment and ongoing information-sharing.

93. Turkey reported conducting meetings and interviews, as necessary, with liaison officers from neighbouring countries such as Bulgaria, Georgia and Iran (Islamic Republic of). On 22 February 2019, a meeting had been held with a liaison officer from the Islamic Republic of Iran to share general information on the fight against drugs in the region. In January 2019, with the cooperation of law enforcement authorities from Greece, 4.5 million “captagon” tablets, hidden on a freighter that had left Latakia in the Syrian Arab Republic, had been seized in the Port of Piraeus.

94. The United Arab Emirates reported that the head of the drug control forces of Pakistan had conducted a visit to the country to reaffirm the importance of cooperation in the area of information exchange on international drug trafficking.

#### **Issue 4: Prevention of drug use, focusing on children, youth, families and the education system**

##### **Recommendation 13**

**Governments should be encouraged to adopt a health-centred approach that is balanced and comprehensive when it comes to drug control.**

95. In the framework of a health-oriented approach, the Drug Control Headquarters of the Islamic Republic of Iran has already prioritized primary prevention of addiction for target groups, namely, the family, educational environments, work environments and communities. On that basis, prevention programmes are being implemented in cooperation with all cultural and preventive organizations and ministries.

96. In Jordan, steps are being taken to adopt a health-centred approach that is balanced when it comes to drug control.

97. Lebanon continued to implement the 2016–2021 Interministerial Strategy to Combat Drugs and Addiction, which had been adopted in 2017. The focus of the strategy was on reducing supply, preventing drug use, promoting treatment, rehabilitation and social reintegration, and reducing the risks posed.

98. The Government of Pakistan, under its national anti-narcotics policy for 2019, is already following a comprehensive and balanced health-centred approach to drug control. There are about 96 treatment facilities and 33 drop-in centres run by the Government, the private sector and non-governmental organizations in which treatment and rehabilitation services are provided.

99. The activities undertaken by the relevant agencies in the Syrian Arab Republic are planned and coordinated and have clear and specific objectives. Care is taken to ensure that those activities are deployed throughout the country, all year round. Oversight of plans and the work of subcommittees in the governorates, which include representatives of the relevant agencies, is assured.

100. Saudi Arabia indicated that its plans to counter the demand for drugs focused on ensuring effective coordination between the General Directorate of Narcotics Control, the Ministry of Health and the Food and Drugs Agency. Regular meetings were held among representatives of those entities to draw up balanced prevention programmes designed to include all sectors of society and tackle the scourge of drugs.

101. Turkey indicated that the recommendation was relevant to the institutions affiliated with the Ministry of Health.

102. The United Arab Emirates reported establishing an electronic system to monitor the prescription and dispensing of narcotic and psychotropic substances.

##### **Recommendation 14**

**Governments should be encouraged to use the *International Standards on Drug Use Prevention* as a framework to critically review national prevention strategies**

**in line with the outcome document of the thirtieth special session of the General Assembly and target 3.5 of the Sustainable Development Goals.**

103. The Drug Control Headquarters of the Islamic Republic of Iran, in close cooperation and interaction with the UNODC office in Tehran, is following the *International Standards on Drug Use Prevention* in the implementation of prevention programmes.

104. Jordan reported that the *International Standards on Drug Use Prevention* were taken into account in areas such as delivering lectures, conducting awareness-raising campaigns in malls and cafes, celebrating the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, conducting interviews on radio stations and satellite channels, printing awareness-raising materials and launching national initiatives to combat drugs.

105. The 2016–2021 Interministerial Strategy to Combat Drugs and Addiction of Lebanon, the aim of which is to reduce the supply of drugs, prevent drug use, promote treatment, rehabilitation and social reintegration, and reduce the risks posed by drug use, is the result of a series of technical consultations and reviews involving experts from relevant ministries and from organizations, associations and universities working in the field. The *International Standards on Drug Use Prevention* were used as a frame of reference.

106. Pakistan reported considering and implementing the *International Standards on Drug Use Prevention* as part of its national anti-narcotics policy for 2019.

107. Saudi Arabia reported that it had produced an Arabic translation of the second, updated version of the *International Standards on Drug Use Prevention* issued by UNODC and the World Health Organization. It had also applied the *International Standards* to drug prevention and awareness programmes designed for individuals and different segments of society.

108. Drug use prevention activities were included in plans for the implementation of the strategy for the reduction of drug demand in the Syrian Arab Republic. Implementation is overseen by the National Commission on Narcotic Drugs. Regular meetings are held to review the work done by the Commission, recommend future actions, discuss subjects of joint concern, decide on follow-up, assess results and draw on lessons learned.

109. Turkey indicated that the recommendation was relevant to the institutions affiliated to the Ministry of National Education, the Ministry of Family, Labour and Social Services, the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Youth and Sports.

110. In the United Arab Emirates, guidance on combating drugs in school settings has been developed in accordance with the *International Standards*.

### **Recommendation 15**

**Governments should be encouraged to adopt a science-based approach in their drug prevention programmes for youth and to document the effectiveness and cost-effectiveness of those national programmes.**

111. The Drug Control Headquarters of the Islamic Republic of Iran acts on the basis of evidence and science-based approaches in drug prevention programmes for all target groups, namely, the family, educational environments, work environments and communities, including for youth.

112. Jordan reported that a science-based approach was taken in drug prevention programmes, in cooperation with various agencies working with young people and in the area of drug prevention.

113. Lebanon reported working with civil society organizations to organize exhibitions and activities to raise awareness among young persons about the dangers of drugs and to help them make healthy choices that rejected drugs, so that they might become active members of society. Those activities included showing samples and

models of narcotic substances, talks on the causes of drug abuse and the destructive effects of drugs and lectures and discussion sessions to raise awareness about the dangers of drugs.

114. The national prevention programmes of Pakistan are developed and implemented by taking into consideration domestic needs while effectively applying technical and scientific approaches. The Universal Prevention Curriculum is also being effectively utilized for human resource development in drug abuse prevention.

115. The Department for Prevention of the General Directorate of Narcotics Control of Saudi Arabia takes a science-based approach to prevention programmes designed to shield young people from the scourge of drugs. It uses sports channels, sports personalities and social media to raise awareness among young people and enlists the support of private sector institutions in the sponsorship of such activities.

116. The Syrian Arab Republic indicated that the strategy for the reduction of drug demand through strengthened prevention activities was implemented by agencies on the basis of their mandate and the target group under their responsibility. Three types of internationally recognized prevention approaches were used: primary, secondary and tertiary prevention. Seminars, meetings, workshops and other awareness-raising processes had been used to reach out to diverse groups of young people. Those initiatives had been tailored to take account of the age and level of educational achievement of the target audience.

117. Turkey indicated that the recommendation was relevant to the institutions affiliated to the Ministry of National Education, the Ministry of Family, Labour and Social Services, the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Youth and Sports.

118. The United Arab Emirates reported that awareness-raising sessions had been held at universities to discuss the dangers of drugs.

#### **Recommendation 16**

**Governments should consider enhancing the knowledge and capacity of teachers and other relevant professionals in prevention, especially in relation to high-risk populations.**

119. The Islamic Republic of Iran reported that its Drug Control Headquarters held workshops and training courses every year for specialists and professionals, including teachers, and was planning to enhance the knowledge of experts in the field of prevention.

120. Jordan reported that training sessions on preventing drug use, including sessions led by agents from the Drug Control Administration, were held to enhance the capacities of teachers and other relevant professionals in the area of prevention.

121. In Lebanon, a cooperation protocol has been signed between the Ministry of the Interior and Municipalities and the Ministry of Education and Higher Education on the provision of lectures at schools, universities, associations and municipal governments. Awareness-raising campaigns have also been launched in the media under the supervision of the Ministry of the Interior and Municipalities in partnership with local associations and civil society organizations.

122. Regular awareness-raising and training programmes are being organized in Pakistan to enhance the knowledge and capacity of teachers in terms of prevention of drug abuse among students. Those training programmes include regular workshops by domestic trainers, as well as experience exchange through regional experts.

123. In the Syrian Arab Republic, awareness-raising events for teachers have been held to provide information about prevention in the education process. The goal is to prevent drug use among students. Teachers are provided with information about different types of drugs and their effects. They also receive information about drug addiction and methods for raising awareness, especially in relation to vulnerable groups.

124. Saudi Arabia has launched a knowledge-based programme for roll-out in the education system. It creates learning environments to develop awareness and the skills of students on the basis of the latest methodologies for formulating prevention policies and effective programmes to protect young people from the scourge of drugs. It also has a knowledge-based programme for the workplace. The goal is to create workplaces that are free from drugs by educating employees about prevention and about drugs and the risks that they pose.

125. Turkey indicated that the recommendation was relevant to the institutions affiliated to the Ministry of National Education, the Ministry of Family, Labour and Social Services, the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Youth and Sports.

126. The United Arab Emirates reported that teachers and other educational professionals received training on early detection procedures.

### **Recommendation 17**

**Governments should be encouraged to enhance cooperation among the education, law enforcement and public health sectors and other relevant stakeholders for more effective prevention and drug demand reduction efforts.**

127. The Drug Control Headquarters of the Islamic Republic of Iran, in close cooperation with all relevant national bodies, including the police, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Education, the Welfare Organization, the Ministry of Science and Research, non-governmental organizations and the private sector, pursues effective prevention programmes.

128. In Jordan, the education and health sectors and the various ministries, such as the Ministry of Youth, are working increasingly closely with the Drug Control Administration to intensify national drug control efforts, prevent drug use and reduce demand.

129. The 2016–2021 Interministerial Strategy to Combat Drugs and Addiction of Lebanon, the aim of which is to reduce supply, prevent drug use, promote treatment, rehabilitation and social reintegration and reduce the risks posed, is the result of a series of technical consultations and reviews involving experts from relevant ministries, including the ministries of health, justice and education, and from organizations, associations and universities working in the field.

130. In Pakistan, under the national anti-narcotics policy for 2019, increased cooperation and coordination are ensured among all the relevant stakeholders in education, health, human resources development, at both the federal and provincial levels. Necessary oversight and monitoring mechanisms in the form of parliamentary and departmental committees have also been established to ensure the robust implementation of drug demand reduction programmes.

131. Regular meetings are held between prevention specialists from the General Directorate of Narcotics Control, the National Commission of Saudi Arabia and educational and health sector officials to discuss best practices to ensure the effectiveness of programmes designed to reduce drug demand.

132. A working group was established in the Syrian Arab Republic as part of the National Commission on Narcotic Drugs. Its mandate is to plan, coordinate and exchange information and carry out awareness-raising activities to support prevention efforts within the framework of the strategy for the reduction of demand adopted by the country. The working group organizes regular visits to relevant institutions in order to assess whether there is a need for increased prevention efforts and for the modernization of their mechanisms.

133. Turkey indicated that the recommendation was relevant to the institutions affiliated to the Ministry of National Education, the Ministry of Family, Labour and Social Services, the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Youth and Sports.

134. Students and young people at all levels of education are among the key groups targeted by the national drug prevention programmes in the United Arab Emirates. As part of local-level and federal-level programmes, those groups are educated about the dangers of drug abuse and addiction, and prevention programmes are tailored to the target age group. High-level institutional partnerships have been established between relevant institutions to design awareness-raising programmes. Some 500,000 students at various public and private schools and universities benefit from such programmes each year.

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