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**Report of the Subcommission on Illicit Drug Traffic  
and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East  
on its fifty-fourth session, held in Tashkent from  
23 to 27 September 2019**

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

**A. Recommendations adopted by the Subcommission on Illicit Drug  
Traffic and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East at its  
fifty-fourth session**

1. At its fifty-fourth session, the Subcommission on Illicit Drug Traffic and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East adopted the recommendations set forth below, which were made by its working groups. For the observations and conclusions of the working groups that led to the recommendations, see section V below.

**1. Importance of exchange of actionable intelligence and the role of regional  
cooperation platforms in facilitating that exchange**

2. The following recommendations were made with regard to the importance of exchange of actionable intelligence and the role of regional cooperation platforms in facilitating that exchange:

(a) Governments should be encouraged to further strengthen cooperation at the national level among law enforcement bodies (police, customs, border protection services, specialized agencies, etc.) to ensure swift completion of internal procedures for the timely exchange of actionable intelligence;

(b) Governments should encourage their law enforcement agencies to regularly use the platforms of regional cooperation centres, such as the Central Asian Regional Information and Coordination Centre (CARICC), the Joint Planning Cell and the Criminal Information Centre to Combat Drugs of the Gulf Cooperation Council, for the collection, analysis and exchange of criminal intelligence and coordination of multilateral operations. Governments should be encouraged to make better use of the network of law enforcement liaison officers for those purposes;

(c) Governments should undertake the steps necessary to support face-to-face meetings of the law enforcement officials involved in ongoing investigations to

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



ensure the exchange of specific information and facilitate further post-seizure investigations.

**2. Trafficking in synthetic opioids and synthetic cannabinoids and measures to counter such trafficking**

3. The following recommendations were made with regard to trafficking in synthetic opioids and synthetic cannabinoids and measures to counter such trafficking:

(a) Governments should consider allocating more resources to modernizing their drug-testing laboratories, enhancing the skills of scientists and providing adequate tools and equipment to front-line law enforcement officers;

(b) Governments should be encouraged to make full use of the United Nations Toolkit on Synthetic Drugs, which includes a wide range of resources such as guidelines, technical information and links to useful resources, instruments and training to assist Member States in designing effective countermeasures to contain the threats posed by synthetic drugs;

(c) Governments should take advantage of the information available in the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) early warning advisory on new psychoactive substances and should be encouraged to provide information to UNODC on new psychoactive substances when they are identified by national drug-testing laboratories to enhance understanding on patterns and trends in their emergence;

(d) Governments should be encouraged to allow national forensic laboratories to participate in the UNODC International Collaborative Exercise programme, which is aimed at assisting drug-testing laboratories worldwide in assessing their own performance and taking corrective actions, when appropriate;

(e) UNODC should be encouraged to provide financial and technical assistance, including specialized drug control equipment and training, to national drug-testing laboratories.

**3. Record levels of opiate production and related challenges**

4. The following recommendations were made with regard to record levels of opiate production and related challenges:

(a) Governments should be encouraged to introduce and/or further develop profiling techniques to ensure the targeting of trafficking in drugs and precursors while facilitating legal trade. The UNODC Container Control Programme is instrumental in providing training on those techniques in relation to container shipments;

(b) Governments should undertake appropriate measures at the national level and cooperate at the international level to identify and investigate the diversion of precursor chemicals (specifically acetic anhydride) and the subsequent trafficking thereof;

(c) Governments should be encouraged to further support the efforts of Afghanistan to reduce opium poppy cultivation, counter trafficking in opiates, dismantle clandestine laboratories and implement alternative development programmes.

**4. Practical measures tailored to the specific needs of children and youth to prevent and treat drug abuse among them**

5. The following recommendations were made with regard to practical measures tailored to the specific needs of children and youth to prevent and treat drug abuse among them:

(a) Governments should be encouraged to implement a system of prevention at the national level that incorporates a number of integrated prevention interventions

that are based on science, aligned with the *International Standards on Drug Use Prevention* and take cultural factors into consideration;

(b) Governments should recognize that drug use and drug use disorders are a multifactorial health disorder and ensure that quality drug use disorder treatment is available for all persons in need of services;

(c) Governments should be encouraged to utilize established platforms and networks for collecting data and sharing best practices in prevention and treatment among countries in the region;

(d) Governments should place a value on youth empowerment and the inclusion of youth in policy discussions around the issues of risk behaviours, including substance use.

## II. Current situation with respect to regional and subregional cooperation

6. At its 1st and 2nd meetings, on 23 September 2019, 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 the report of the Secretariat on the world situation with regard to drug trafficking ([E/CN.7/2019/5](#)) and the report of the Secretariat on the current situation with respect to regional and subregional cooperation ([UNODC/SUBCOM/54/3](#)). In addition, country reports had been submitted by Egypt, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Lebanon, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, the Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Turkey and the United Arab Emirates (UNODC/SUBCOM/54/CRP.1–9).

7. A representative of UNODC gave a presentation on regional and global drug production and trafficking trends. The representative of the UNODC Regional Office for Central Asia also made a statement. Statements were made by the representatives of Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, the Islamic Republic of Iran and Saudi Arabia. Statements were also made by the observers for Germany and the United States of America. The observers for CARICC and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) also made statements.

8. Speakers reported on the main challenges posed by narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances for their countries and provided updates on their efforts in response at the national, regional and international levels, including controlled delivery operations and the interception of drug consignments at seaports and airports. Updates and data on drug seizures, *modi operandi* and arrests made in connection with drug trafficking were also provided by several speakers. Participants stressed the importance of regional and international cooperation among countries and organizations and expressed appreciation for the assistance provided by UNODC to the region.

9. One speaker highlighted the fact that it was not enough to refer only to the southern, northern and Balkan routes, as drug routes were constantly diversifying and ramifying. Routes therefore had to be continuously and scrupulously scrutinized, and countries needed to work together in that regard. By the same token, some speakers noted how flexible drug trafficking organizations were in reacting to strengthened controls by diversifying their routes. It was also noted that the lack of customs controls among countries in the Eurasian Economic Union made that area attractive to drug traffickers. The case of people involved in the legal transportation of goods being used to smuggle drugs without their knowledge was mentioned.

10. One speaker noted that, in addition to heroin, the increase in amphetamine-type stimulants from Afghanistan was alarming; he wondered where the chemicals used for the manufacture of them came from. The challenge of controlling precursor chemicals such as acetic anhydride was also stressed. The threat posed by new psychotropic substances, particularly to college students, was highlighted by one speaker. He also noted that more than 600 such substances had been detected, making

it challenging for countries to exert the necessary controls. In that connection, greater cooperation between UNODC, the World Health Organization (WHO) and the pharmaceutical industry was deemed necessary.

11. Attention was drawn by several speakers to the importance of regional initiatives and mechanisms, such as CARICC, the Joint Planning Cell under the Triangular Initiative of Afghanistan, Iran (Islamic Republic of) and Pakistan, SCO and the Criminal Information Centre to Combat Drugs. Reference was also made to the UNODC “networking the networks” initiative.

12. In the view of several speakers, cooperation among existing regional mechanisms needed to be strengthened, mechanisms for investigation improved and regional and international platforms better used for specific cases. Financial investigations into drug trafficking organizations should be conducted and strategic analysis and intelligence should be shared in real time.

13. In commenting on the statistics on drug trafficking trends reported by the Secretariat, one participant noted that more needed to be done by UNODC for an accurate analysis of data on drug supply and demand in the region and worldwide.

### **III. Implementation of the recommendations adopted by the Subcommission at its fifty-second session**

14. At its 2nd meeting, on 23 September 2019, the Subcommission considered item 4 of its agenda, entitled “Implementation of the recommendations adopted by the Subcommission at its fifty-second session”.

15. For its consideration of the item, the Subcommission had before it a note by the Secretariat on the implementation of the recommendations adopted by the Subcommission at its fifty-second session ([UNODC/SUBCOM/54/4](#)), which had been prepared on the basis of information provided by Governments in response to a questionnaire sent to all States members of the Subcommission. As at 5 July 2019, 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. Since that date, a completed questionnaire had been submitted by Kuwait.

16. The Secretary of the Subcommission introduced the agenda item and highlighted the issues related to the implementation of recommendations from the report.

17. Statements were made by the representatives of Saudi Arabia, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Uzbekistan and Afghanistan. The observer for CARICC also made a statement.

18. The representative of Saudi Arabia reported that Saudi Arabia had a security system linking the various law enforcement entities, aimed at providing them with the criminal profiles of suspects. The representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran reiterated that seizures made in the country were the result of intelligence-based operations, and referred to the Joint Planning Cell of the Triangular Initiative and to the activities conducted by CARICC. The representative of Uzbekistan reported on her country’s efforts to train analytical units on modern methods of data processing and indicated the need to receive technical expertise and assistance in that regard. She also referred to the establishment at various border crossing points of inter-agency control units equipped with modern devices to intercept drug trafficking. The country was interested in learning from the experiences and best practices of other countries, including on cargo profiling and other innovations.

19. The representative of Afghanistan referred to operations conducted by law enforcement agencies, including controlled delivery operations. He also referred to cooperation with all other countries in the region and CARICC. It was essential for all States to work together to prevent the diversion of precursor chemicals, such as acetic anhydride, and the trafficking of them into Afghanistan. He reiterated the importance of the exchange of information on drug trafficking among countries. It

was also essential to ensure the follow-up by member States of the recommendations of the Subcommission.

20. The observer for CARICC underlined the importance of the exchange of information and noted that the UNODC “networking the networks” initiative favoured the development of informal procedures for communication among States on international drug trafficking.

#### **IV. 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**

21. At its 7th meeting on 26 September 2019, the Subcommission discussed agenda item 6, entitled “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”. For its consideration of the item, the meeting had before it the 2009 Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem, the outcome document of the thirtieth special session of the General Assembly, entitled “Our joint commitment to effectively addressing and countering the world drug problem”, and the 2019 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.

22. The Secretary of the Subcommission made a presentation to introduce the agenda item, informing participants of the outcome of the sixty-second session of the Commission, held in Vienna from 14 to 22 March 2019, and its ministerial segment, held on 14 and 15 March 2019. The Secretary provided information on the content of the Ministerial Declaration adopted at the ministerial segment, as well as on further work planned by the Commission as a follow-up to the Ministerial Declaration, with a view to accelerating the implementation of all international drug policy commitments.

23. Statements were made by the representatives of Kyrgyzstan, Azerbaijan, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Pakistan, Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan. The observers for Armenia and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland also made statements.

24. Several speakers reiterated the willingness of their Governments to implement all commitments, as reflected in the Ministerial Declaration of 2019, to address and counter the world drug problem, based on the principle of common and shared responsibility. They also stressed the value and importance of the Subcommission meetings in contributing to the follow-up on the implementation of those commitments at the national and regional levels.

25. Some speakers reported on measures taken by their Governments to implement the Political Declaration and Plan of Action, the operational recommendations contained in the outcome document of the thirtieth special session of the General Assembly and the 2019 Ministerial Declaration.

26. On the supply-reduction side, measures taken by Governments had included the promulgation of legislation to combat drug-related money-laundering, the implementation of measures to control precursor chemicals, including by using the Pre-Export Notification Online system and the Precursors Incident Communication System, and cooperation with neighbouring States for border control. Other measures included the training of staff in investigation techniques, the exchange of information and container control at seaports and airports. Those actions had resulted in the seizure of significant quantities of heroin, opium, amphetamine-type stimulants and

new psychoactive substances. One speaker reported on efforts to combat cybercrime and the sale of narcotics over the Internet.

27. On the demand-reduction side, several speakers reported establishing treatment and rehabilitation centres and providing services in line with international standards. The use of methadone under medical supervision for the treatment of drug-dependence disorders was mentioned by one speaker. Some speakers indicated that, since the adoption of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action and the outcome document of the thirtieth special session of the General Assembly, the number of drug users in their countries had diminished, mainly as a result of prevention and treatment efforts. Among the prevention measures that had been taken were workshops, round tables, sporting events, awareness-raising activities and the involvement of non-governmental organizations in demand-reduction activities. One speaker referred to the successful use of YouTube channels and Instagram for prevention activities.

28. Several speakers reported on the signing of memorandums of understanding and on cooperation with regional and international organizations and initiatives such as SCO, CARICC, the Triangular Initiative and the Paris Pact. Operation “Spider Web”, conducted under the auspices of SCO, was mentioned as a successful example of such cooperation. International cooperation efforts also included participation in international meetings and conferences and the posting of law enforcement liaison officers abroad.

29. Reference was made to new psychoactive substances as an emerging threat. Countries needed to be proactive rather than reactive, and technical assistance was needed, including the provision of the necessary equipment and training for countries to identify amphetamine-type stimulants and new psychotropic substances.

30. Speakers reported on action taken to ensure the availability of controlled substances for medical and scientific purposes and to prevent the diversion and abuse of such substances. Some speakers also reported on measures to prevent the abuse of pharmaceutical products and analogues of narcotic substances. Reference was also made to the medical use of cannabis, which was being studied by WHO and would require the introduction by countries of specific legislative and regulatory measures.

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

31. At its 3rd to 6th meetings, on 24 and 25 September 2019, the Subcommission established working groups to examine the four topics under item 5 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. Importance of exchange of actionable intelligence and the role of regional cooperation platforms in facilitating that exchange**

32. The working group on the importance of exchange of actionable intelligence and the role of regional cooperation platforms in facilitating that exchange met during the 3rd and 4th meetings, held on 24 September 2019. In its consideration of the topic in question, the working group formulated the following observations:

(a) In spite of an increasing volume of intelligence exchanged, difficulties and challenges continue to exist as a result of a lack of trust and a reluctance to share sensitive information;

(b) Platforms of the regional law enforcement coordination and cooperation centres are not used to their full capacity; law enforcement agencies of the member States tend to use them on an ad hoc basis and only after other options have proved unsuccessful;

(c) Law enforcement liaison officers and their networks are considered to be effective channels in facilitating the exchange of actionable intelligence between member States;

(d) Building confidence and mutual trust through bilateral and multilateral meetings, as well as operational meetings of the officers investigating specific ongoing cases, help to facilitate exchange of information and criminal intelligence;

(e) Cooperation and exchange of actionable intelligence at the national level among law enforcement authorities, such as police, customs, border protection services and specialized agencies, need to be further strengthened and facilitated.

33. The working group drew the following conclusions:

(a) There is a need to change the mentality of law enforcement personnel from a “need-to-know” to a “need-to-share” approach in terms of sharing sensitive information;

(b) Actionable intelligence needs to be exchanged in due time, without delay, to enable proper actions by the parties involved, including the conduct of pre- and post-seizure investigations and the identification and, where needed, blocking of related financial flows;

(c) Regional law enforcement coordination centres need to actively promote their potential to member States and offer their platforms for the coordination of complex multilateral operations and for operational meetings of officers involved in investigating ongoing cases;

(d) Reliable and secure communication channels are needed to facilitate the exchange of sensitive information and criminal intelligence;

(e) Initiatives promoting direct cross-border cooperation are helpful in facilitating the timely exchange of criminal intelligence and coordination of cross-border operations;

(f) Post-seizure investigations are key elements in revealing and dismantling drug supply chains and in identifying transnational organized criminal groups involved in drug trafficking and the related financial flows;

(g) Strong cooperation between law enforcement agencies at the national level is one of the most important factors in the timely and reliable exchange of actionable intelligence at the regional and international levels;

(h) The applications of Afghanistan and Turkey for full membership in CARICC are appreciated and considered as a potential way of further increasing the exchange of important information on drug trafficking in the region, which might lead to specific operations.

## **B. Trafficking in synthetic opioids and synthetic cannabinoids and measures to counter such trafficking**

34. The working group on trafficking in synthetic opioids and synthetic cannabinoids and measures to counter such trafficking met during the 4th meeting, held on 24 September 2019. In its consideration of the topic in question, the working group formulated the following observations:

(a) Trafficking in amphetamine-type stimulants, in particular amphetamine, and prescription synthetic opioids, in particular tramadol, remains a major concern in some countries in the region;

(b) The appearance of methamphetamine manufacture in the region and increased trafficking are growing concerns. Trafficking in precursor chemicals used in the manufacture of methamphetamine and heroin to Afghanistan and neighbouring countries remains a major concern in the region;

(c) The emergence of new psychoactive substances, such as synthetic cannabinoids, in some countries in the region has become a concern. A wide range of new psychoactive substances, including synthetic opioids, and harms associated with these drugs are being seen;

(d) Some countries in the region have limited capacities and resources to identify new psychoactive substances and the chemicals used in the manufacture of these drugs;

(e) Some countries in the region lack information, including toxicological data, on different types of new psychoactive substances, which prevents them from submitting cases to the courts and from drafting legislation.

35. The working group drew the following conclusions:

(a) There is a need to strengthen the forensic capacity of the front-line law enforcement officers and scientists working in drug-testing laboratories in the correct identification of synthetic drugs, including new psychoactive substances and synthetic opioids;

(b) The reporting of new psychoactive substances, as seized and identified, needs to be enhanced in the region;

(c) There is a need to closely monitor the shipments, including domestic movements, of prescription synthetic opioids and precursor chemicals in the region.

### **C. Record levels of opiate production and related challenges**

36. The working group on record levels of opiate production and related challenges met during the 5th meeting, held on 25 September 2019. In its consideration of the topic in question, the working group formulated the following observations:

(a) Despite a drop in opium poppy cultivation in 2018, the level of opium production remains at a high level in Afghanistan;

(b) There are serious challenges in relation to countering the trafficking in precursors to Afghanistan and identifying source countries, trafficking routes and how chemicals, specifically acetic anhydride, are diverted from legal to illicit trade;

(c) Significant amounts of morphine are being trafficked from Afghanistan and seized in a number of countries, which indicates that there might be heroin-producing labs outside of Afghanistan;

(d) Corruption and money-laundering are directly linked to trafficking in drugs and precursors and should be subjected to proper, in-depth investigations;

(e) High demand in destination countries is fuelling manufacture of and trafficking in heroin from Afghanistan, and serious measures should therefore be undertaken in terms of demand reduction;

(f) The establishment of multi-agency border liaison offices on the borders between countries provides a solid foundation for simplifying, accelerating and easing the exchange of information and direct interaction between the agencies concerned;

(g) Trafficking in acetic anhydride along maritime routes, including over the Indian Ocean in containers or in small vessels such as dhows, is considered as one of the main trafficking-related concerns. Significant seizures of acetic anhydride and other precursors recorded by the authorities of Iran (Islamic Republic of) and Pakistan indicate that seaports and the coastline in general are used for trafficking in those chemicals.



37. The working group drew the following conclusions:

(a) There is a need to develop an effective targeting mechanism to tackle trafficking in heroin and precursors, including by targeting major drug trafficking organizations;

(b) Special investigative techniques, including controlled deliveries, are prerequisites for effective actions aimed at identifying, investigating and dismantling criminal organizations involved in trafficking in drugs and precursors;

(c) Large-scale measures to introduce sustainable alternatives to opium production are considered as one of the most important elements in reducing opium poppy cultivation;

(d) Measures are needed to target, identify and dismantle clandestine heroin-manufacturing laboratories;

(e) The rapid development and implementation of infrastructure projects, including the expansion of railways into Afghanistan, require measures to allow for the targeting of illicit shipments while facilitating legal trade;

(f) The international community needs to do more to support Afghanistan in pursuing balanced responses to drug supply and demand;

(g) UNODC should continue its programmes and projects supporting Afghanistan and neighbouring countries in their efforts to counter trafficking in drugs and their precursors through providing technical support, equipment and training, as well as by supporting initiatives aimed at facilitating the exchange of criminal intelligence and the coordination of multilateral operations;

(h) UNODC initiatives to support the placement of law enforcement liaison officers in Afghanistan and neighbouring countries and beyond are important and the support of the donors should be sought to continue and expand that network.

#### **D. Practical measures tailored to the specific needs of children and youth to prevent and treat drug abuse among them**

38. The working group on practical measures tailored to the specific needs of children and youth to prevent and treat drug abuse among them met during the 6th meeting, held on 25 September 2019. In its consideration of the topic in question, the working group formulated the following observations:

(a) Youth are a critical resource for mobilizing solutions to issues related to drugs and drug use behaviour in the region;

(b) Prevention interventions and treatment for drug use disorders that are based on science and adapted to the local cultural setting are effective;

(c) Improving the skills of both parents and youth is a critical component of an effective drug demand-reduction programme;

(d) Effective drug use prevention and drug use disorder treatment must be viewed through a comprehensive approach within a strategic framework;

(e) Whenever possible, the collection of data that demonstrate a decrease in use of substances should be encouraged, to show the effectiveness of particular measures.

39. The working group drew the following conclusions:

(a) While prevention is effective, attention must be paid to the cultural context and to ensuring that implementation is done properly, without increasing substance use behaviours;

(b) Drug use prevention and drug use disorder treatment and rehabilitation must be done within a strategic, multipronged approach but can be focused on key measurable components that allow for results;

(c) Successful prevention interventions may begin as early as infancy and may progress into adulthood;

(d) The availability of successful treatment and rehabilitation interventions must be increased and such interventions should be offered from the earliest ages to adulthood;

(e) Governments should involve youth representatives in the development of effective national drug use prevention programmes that are tailored to the specific needs of youth.

## **VI. Organization of the fifty-fifth session of the Subcommittee**

40. At its 7th meeting, on 26 September 2019, the Subcommittee considered agenda item 7, entitled “Organization of the fifty-fifth session of the Subcommittee”.

41. For its consideration of item 7, the Subcommittee had before it a draft provisional agenda for its fifty-fifth session ([UNODC/SUBCOM/54/5](#), annex). The Secretary made an introductory statement outlining action to be taken for the organization of that session.

42. The Chair invited delegations of States interested in hosting the fifty-fifth session to contact the Secretariat in order to determine the venue as early as possible and thus facilitate preparations.

43. The Subcommittee held a discussion on possible topics to be considered by the working groups at its fifty-fifth session, under item 5 of the draft provisional agenda. A number of topics were proposed, including: drug use prevention in the education system; treatment and rehabilitation, particularly for youth and women; and effective implementation of legal provisions as a deterrent against drug trafficking.

44. The Meeting took note of the proposals and requested the Secretariat to finalize the issues to be discussed by working groups prior to the fifty-fifth session. The Subcommittee approved the following draft provisional agenda for its fifty-fifth 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 Subcommittee at its fifty-third session.
5. Consideration of topics by working groups [*to be determined*].
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-sixth session of the Subcommittee.
8. Other business.
9. Adoption of the report of the Subcommittee on its fifty-fifth session.

## **VII. Other business**

45. During the 6th meeting, on 25 September 2019, in the context of the working group on practical measures tailored to the specific needs of children and youth to prevent and treat drug abuse among them, young people were given an opportunity to express their understanding of the world drug problem. Five young people from two university programmes in Tashkent, representing different regions of Uzbekistan, each made a speech asking the States members of the Submission to listen to young people, consider the issues from the perspective of young people and to help keep the youth of the world safe and secure. Representatives of member States expressed their appreciation of and gratitude for the statements.

## **VIII. Adoption of the report**

46. At its 9th meeting, on 27 September 2019, the Subcommittee adopted the report on its fifty-fourth session ([UNODC/SUBCOM/54/L.1](#) and Add.1–8). The reports of the working groups and the recommendations contained therein, as orally revised, were also adopted.

## **IX. Organization of the fifty-fourth session of the Subcommittee**

### **A. Opening and duration of the session**

47. The fifty-fourth session of the Subcommittee on Illicit Drug Traffic and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East was held in Tashkent from 23 to 27 September 2019. The inaugural ceremony was held on 23 September and was addressed by the Deputy Prime Minister of Uzbekistan, Aziz Abdukhakimov, the Director of the National Information Analytical Centre on Drug Control under the Cabinet of Ministers, Olim Narzullayev, and the representative of the Executive Director and representative of the UNODC Regional Office for Central Asia, Ashita Mittal.

### **B. Attendance**

48. The following States members of the Subcommittee were represented: Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon, Pakistan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Tajikistan, Turkey, Turkmenistan, United Arab Emirates, Uzbekistan and Yemen.

49. Armenia, Germany, Italy, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom, the United States and the State of Palestine were represented by observers.

50. The Council of Arab Ministers of the Interior, CARICC, the Criminal Information Centre to Combat Drugs and SCO were also represented.

51. UNODC served as the secretariat of the Meeting.

### **C. Election of officers**

52. At its 1st meeting, on 23 September 2019, the Subcommittee elected the following officers by acclamation:

- Chair:* Azizbek Erkabayev (Uzbekistan)  
*First Vice-Chair:* Timur Isakov (Kyrgyzstan)  
*Second Vice-Chair:* Abdulwahab Benseqaih (Saudi Arabia)  
*Rapporteur:* Tlegen Matkenov (Kazakhstan)

53. At the 7th meeting of the Subcommittee, on 26 September, Ivan Dobryshin (Kazakhstan) replaced Mr. Matkenov as Rapporteur, as Mr. Matkenov could not attend the full session.

### **D. Adoption of the agenda**

54. At its 1st meeting, the Subcommittee adopted the following 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 Subcommittee 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 Subcommittee.
8. Other business.
9. Adoption of the report of the Subcommittee on its fifty-fourth session.

### **E. Documentation**

55. The documents before the Subcommittee at its fifty-fourth session are listed in the annex to the present document.

### **F. Closure of the session**

56. The Director of the National Information Analytical Centre on Drug Control under the Cabinet of Ministers and the representative of the UNODC Regional Office for Central Asia made closing statements.

## Annex

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

<i>Document</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>	<i>Title or description</i>
<a href="#">E/CN.7/2019/5</a>	3	Report of the Secretariat on the world situation with regard to drug trafficking
<a href="#">UNODC/SUBCOM/54/1</a>	2	Annotated provisional agenda
<a href="#">UNODC/SUBCOM/54/2</a>	3	Note by the Secretariat transmitting the report on the world situation with regard to drug trafficking
<a href="#">UNODC/SUBCOM/54/3</a>	3	Report of the Secretariat on the current situation with respect to regional and subregional cooperation
<a href="#">UNODC/SUBCOM/54/4</a>	4	Note by the Secretariat on the implementation of the recommendations adopted by the Subcommittee at its fifty-first session
<a href="#">UNODC/SUBCOM/54/5</a>	7	Note by the Secretariat on the organization of the fifty-fifth session of the Subcommittee on Illicit Drug Traffic and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East
<a href="#">UNODC/SUBCOM/54/L.1</a> and <a href="#">Add.1–8</a>	9	Draft report
<a href="#">UNODC/SUBCOM/54/CRP.1–9</a>	3	Country reports