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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

**Draft report***Rapporteur:* Tlegen Matkenov (Kazakhstan)**Addendum****Current situation with respect to regional and subregional  
cooperation**

1. 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 on the world situation with regard to drug trafficking ([UNODC/SUBCOM/54/2](#) and [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, national country reports were submitted by Turkey, the Syrian Arab Republic, Saudi Arabia, Lebanon, Tajikistan, Egypt, the United Arab Emirates, Iran (Islamic Republic of) and Pakistan ([UNODC/SUBCOM/54/CRP.1–9](#)).
2. A representative of UNODC made a presentation on regional and global drug production and trafficking trends. The Representative of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime Regional Office for Central Asia also made a statement. Statements were made by the representatives of Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Iran (Islamic Republic of) and Saudi Arabia. Statements were also made by the observers for Germany and the United States. The observers for the Central Asian Regional Information and Coordination Centre for Combating Illicit Trafficking of Narcotic Drugs, Psychotropic Substances (CARICC) and the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) also made statements.
3. 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 level, including controlled delivery operations and the interception of drug consignments at seaports and airports. Updates and data on drug seizures, modus operandi and arrests made in connection with drug trafficking were also provided by several speakers. Delegations stressed the importance of regional and international cooperation among countries and

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



organizations and expressed appreciation for the assistance provided by UNODC to the region.

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

5. One speaker noted that, in addition to heroin, the increase of amphetamine-type stimulants from Afghanistan was alarming, and wondered where the chemicals used for their production came from. The challenge of controlling precursor chemicals such as acetic anhydride was also stressed. The threat posed by new psychotropic substances, particularly to the youth in colleges, was highlighted by one speaker. He also noted that more than 600 of those substances had been detected, making it challenging for countries to exert the necessary controls. In this connection, greater cooperation between UNODC, WHO and the pharmaceutical industry was deemed necessary.

6. 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 between Afghanistan, Iran (Islamic Republic of) and Pakistan and SCO, and the Criminal Intelligence Centre to Combat Drugs of the Gulf Cooperation Council. Reference was also made to the UNODC "networking the networks" initiative.

7. 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 concrete cases. Financial investigations of the drug trafficking organizations should also be conducted, as well as the sharing of strategic analysis and intelligence in real time.

8. 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.

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