

26 September 2019

Original: English*

**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:* Ivan Dobryshin (Kazakhstan)**Addendum****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**

1. At its seventh 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 (UNGASS), entitled “Our joint commitment to effectively addressing and countering the world drug problem” as well as 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”.
2. 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 and its ministerial segment, held in Vienna 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.
3. 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 also made statements.

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



4. Several speakers reiterated the willingness of their Governments to implementing 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 level.
5. Some speakers reported that legislative measures that had been adopted, and legislative frameworks improved, to facilitate the implementation of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action and the outcome document of the thirtieth special session of the General Assembly.
6. The 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.
7. On the supply reduction side, those measures had included the promulgation of legislation to combat drug-related money-laundering, the implementation of measures to control precursor chemicals, including by using PEN Online and PICS systems, and cooperation with neighbouring States for border control. Other measures regarded the training of staff in investigation techniques, exchange of information and container control at seaports and airports. These actions had resulted in the seizure of significant quantities of heroin, opium, amphetamine-type stimulants and new psychoactive substances. One speaker reported on efforts for combating cybercrime and the sales of narcotics over the Internet.
8. As regards demand reduction, several speakers reported establishing treatment and rehabilitation centres and providing services, as per 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 recommendations of the UNGASS outcome document the number of addicts in their countries had diminished, mainly as a result of prevention and treatment efforts. Among the prevention measures taken were workshops, round tables, sport events, awareness raising activities and the involvement of non-governmental organizations in demand reduction activities. One speaker referred to the successful use of YouTube and Instagram channels for prevention activities.
9. 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 in the scope of SCO was mentioned as a successful example. International cooperation efforts also included participation in international meetings and conferences and the posting of drug liaison officers abroad.
10. 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.
11. Speakers also reported on action taken to ensure the availability of controlled substances for medical and scientific purposes and to prevent their diversion and abuse. 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, that was being studied by WHO and would require the introduction by countries of specific legislative and regulatory measures.