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Subcommission on Illicit Drug Traffic and Related**Matters in the Near and Middle East**

Thirty-ninth session

Beirut, 26-29 October 2004

Report of the Subcommission on Illicit Drug Traffic and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East on its thirty-ninth session, held in Beirut from 26 to 29 October 2004**Contents**

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* The present report is issued in Arabic, English and Russian, the working languages of the subsidiary body.



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

Recommendations adopted by the Subcommittee on Illicit Drug Traffic and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East at its thirty-ninth session

1. At its thirty-ninth session, the Subcommittee on Illicit Drug Traffic and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East adopted a number of recommendations made by its working groups. The recommendations adopted by the thirty-ninth session of the Subcommittee are presented below. (For the observations and conclusions that led to the recommendations, see chapter V below.)

1. Trafficking in opiates and the heightened need for coordination between States and law enforcement agencies across the region

2. The following recommendations were made with regard to trafficking in opiates:

(a) To facilitate the effective dismantling of drug trafficking syndicates, the investigation of those involved and their successful prosecution, Governments of countries in the Near and Middle East should be encouraged to harmonize their legislation and judicial procedures;

(b) In order to enhance regional cooperation, participating member States of the Subcommittee on Illicit Drug Traffic and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East should extend the resources available to law enforcement to combat illicit drug trafficking, and Governments should encourage the development and implementation of joint cross-border operations, the exchange of information, experiences and intelligence and the organization of training programmes among agencies;

(c) In response to requests to undertake controlled delivery operations, Governments should ensure that their competent authorities are legally empowered and operationally able to respond;

(d) Governments should be encouraged to share best practices in the area of drug demand reduction among States participating in the sessions of the Subcommittee;

(e) Governments should be encouraged to tighten controls on parallel banking networks and companies operating in different countries, in order to ensure that they do not become involved or are used in money-laundering activities.

2. Current regional trends in the illicit manufacture of and trafficking in amphetamine-type stimulants

3. The following recommendations were made with regard to current regional trends in the illicit manufacture of and trafficking in amphetamine-type stimulants:

(a) Governments of countries in the Near and Middle East should encourage their relevant law enforcement agencies to establish lines of communication and share information with respect to trafficking in fenetylline, sold under the brand

name Captagon, both with each other and with their operational counterparts in Eastern Europe;

(b) Governments of countries in the region should consider the establishment of a regional database containing information about the physical appearance of seized amphetamine-type stimulants, including pictures, supported by detailed information about their components, signs and symbols, which should be accessible to all relevant law enforcement authorities;

(c) Governments of countries in the region should explore the potential of sharing regional expertise in combating trafficking in amphetamine-type stimulants through initiatives such as increasing the exchange of information, the secondment of specialized operational staff and the provision of joint training in the detection, identification and investigation of drug trafficking syndicates.

3. Combating corruption through effective and uncompromising law enforcement

4. The following recommendations were made with regard to combating corruption through effective and uncompromising law enforcement:

(a) In order to support the effectiveness and integrity of their law enforcement agencies, Governments should be encouraged to review their current operating conditions, in order to ensure that they are adequately prepared, resourced and funded to fulfil their duties;

(b) Governments should encourage their law enforcement agencies to develop an organizational culture and introduce measures that strengthen their integrity and public confidence in their operations, with a view to preventing, limiting and controlling corrupt practices and the misuse of official authority;

(c) Governments should be encouraged to develop a national anti-corruption strategy that includes public information and awareness-raising campaigns, in order to foster an environment where corrupt practices and misuse of authority cannot be sustained;

(d) Governments of countries in the region that have not already done so should take the measures necessary to promote their prompt adherence to the United Nations Convention against Corruption.

II. Current situation with respect to regional and subregional cooperation

5. At its 1st and 2nd meetings, on 26 October 2004, the Subcommission considered item 3 of its agenda, entitled "Current situation with respect to regional and subregional cooperation". For the consideration of the item, the Subcommission had before it a document prepared by the Secretariat on the current situation with respect to regional and subregional cooperation (UNODC/SUBCOM/2004/2) and a conference room paper on statistics on drug trends in the Near and Middle East, South Asia and Central Asia and worldwide (UNODC/SUBCOM/2004/CRP.1). In addition, country reports were submitted by the following States: Afghanistan, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Pakistan, Russian Federation, Syrian Arab Republic, Turkey, United Arab Emirates and Yemen. The representative of the

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime introduced the item. Statements were made by the representatives of Afghanistan, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Lebanon, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, the United Arab Emirates and Yemen. The observer for the Council of Arab Ministers of the Interior also made a statement.

6. It was noted that the increased levels of opium poppy cultivation and heroin manufacture in Afghanistan were matters of great concern to its neighbouring countries, the members of the Subcommission and the international community. It was emphasized that the situation that had developed, despite considerable efforts by the authorities of Afghanistan, placed greater responsibility on the international community to support the authorities in their efforts to eliminate illicit opium poppy cultivation and foster stability and security.

7. A number of representatives drew attention to the assistance that their Governments were providing to the authorities in Afghanistan, particularly in the areas of training law enforcement officers and strengthening border posts and border controls. It was emphasized that the efforts of the international community in support of Afghanistan's drug control actions needed to reflect a balance between law enforcement, which had been the focus of much attention, and the promotion of alternative livelihood programmes. It was noted that the Afghan economy was still dependent on illicit crop cultivation and that eradication efforts could not be sustainable in the short term unless support was provided to develop the economy. The representative of Afghanistan drew attention to the achievements of his Government, including the adoption of a national drug control strategy and new drug control legislation and the issuing of a complementary fatwa by the religious authorities condemning the illicit cultivation of narcotic plants. Assistance was required to implement projects to strengthen the economy and provide support to the agricultural sector, to strengthen the presence and capacity of the Counter Narcotics Police in Kabul and in provincial areas, to expand treatment and rehabilitation services for drug abusers in the country and to enhance efforts to control precursors, including by preventing the import of those substances into Afghanistan from neighbouring countries.

8. A number of participants referred to increasing levels of cannabis seizures and trafficking in the region and expressed grave concern about the serious health risk that the abuse of cannabis represented. It was noted that much emphasis had been placed on the elimination of illicit opium poppy cultivation and on combating trafficking in opiates and that insufficient attention had been paid to combating illicit cultivation of and trafficking in cannabis and its derivatives. A number of participants also noted that further international measures should be implemented to combat cannabis trafficking and that, in addition to eradication programmes, affected States in the region should consider implementing alternative livelihood programmes and that the international community should consider supporting such programmes.

9. A number of representatives referred to their Governments' drug control efforts and achievements and the difficulties encountered in combating drug trafficking. The representatives of Turkey and the United Arab Emirates placed particular emphasis on the increasingly sophisticated methods used by trafficking organizations to hide shipments of illicit drugs and on the need to enhance information exchange in order to combat drug trafficking more effectively. The representative of Turkey drew attention to the development of new drug trafficking

routes, leading from Afghanistan, particularly along the northern route and through the eastern Mediterranean, in response to successes achieved in countering drug trafficking along the Balkan route. It was also noted that precursors were being smuggled in the opposite direction, particularly from European countries and the Russian Federation and through the Middle East, and that greater cooperation and efforts to exchange information were needed to counter that phenomenon. The representative of Turkey emphasized the willingness of the law enforcement authorities in his country to exchange information and share experiences with their counterparts in other countries, as well as to provide training for law enforcement officers from other countries at the Turkish International Academy against Drugs and Organized Crime; in that context, readiness to assist the police authorities of Afghanistan was also mentioned.

10. Other representatives also drew attention to bilateral and regional cooperation efforts, particularly in relation to the provision of training for law enforcement officers from other countries. Several representatives referred to cooperation agreements and memorandums of understanding that their Governments had entered into and other such agreements that were under negotiation. It was noted that bilateral agreements played an important role in promoting and facilitating cooperation and the exchange of information. Such agreements were an important part of the framework for joint operations, including controlled delivery operations.

11. The representative of Iraq referred to his Government's drug control efforts and recent seizures of drugs in his country. It was noted that there was a drug control problem at border points and that there was a need to develop border control programmes and enhance drug law enforcement training. The representative of Iraq encouraged the Governments of other countries, in particular countries neighbouring Iraq, to support his Government's efforts. In that context, the attention of the Subcommission was drawn to the training assistance provided by the Government of Egypt to Iraqi authorities; Governments of other countries in the region in a position to provide training assistance to Iraq were encouraged to do so.

III. Follow-up to the twentieth special session of the General Assembly

12. At its 2nd and 3rd meetings, on 26 and 27 October 2004, the Subcommission considered item 5 of its agenda, entitled "Follow-up to the twentieth special session of the General Assembly". The representative of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, in introducing the item, recalled that the ministers and other government representatives participating in the ministerial segment of the forty-sixth session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs had adopted the Joint Ministerial Statement and further measures to implement the action plans emanating from the twentieth special session of the General Assembly (A/58/124), in which they had reaffirmed their commitment to the outcome of the twentieth special session of the Assembly. The attention of the Subcommission was drawn to the forty-seventh session of the Commission, at which representatives had noted that the biennial report of the Executive Director (E/CN.7/2003/2 and Add.1-6) and the report of the Secretary-General on the quinquennial evaluation of the implementation of the outcome of the twentieth special session (A/58/253) had served as useful tools in evaluating the progress made and difficulties encountered in implementing the outcome of the

twentieth special session and that those reports had facilitated efforts by Governments to continue monitoring the global illicit drug problem and to tailor their programmes to deal with new developments in the area of drug control.¹ Statements were made by the representatives of Afghanistan, Egypt, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Turkey and the United Arab Emirates.

13. The representative of Egypt highlighted some of the commitments made by States in the Political Declaration adopted by the General Assembly at its twentieth special session (Assembly resolution S-20/2, annex) and recalled that his country had established a national drug control authority already in 1889 and had enacted drug control legislation in 1879. He noted that new drug control legislation had been adopted in 1989, new legislation against money-laundering had been enacted in 1991 and 2002 and a unit for countering money-laundering had been established at the Central Bank of Egypt in 2002. He also noted that Egypt was committed to eliminating illicit crop cultivation and had conducted aerial surveillance to identify and destroy illicit crops in remote areas.

14. The representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran referred to the priority given by his Government to efforts to improve cooperation with the Governments of other countries, in particular its neighbouring countries. The Islamic Republic of Iran had signed cooperation agreements with 32 other States, including States in the Near and Middle East and members of the Commonwealth of Independent States; in addition, 33 similar agreements were under negotiation. His Government had been cooperating with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in legal assistance matters since 1996. Training had been provided for members of the judiciary, and research had been carried out on legal matters. He noted that, in the first six months of 2004, the authorities of the Islamic Republic of Iran had seized 145 tons of illicit drugs, including 50 tons of cannabis resin and 10 tons of morphine and heroin. It was noted that the principal route used for trafficking in cannabis resin was the sea route and that the Islamic Republic of Iran had established close cooperation with Pakistan to deal with that phenomenon. It was noted that at a recent regional conference held in Islamabad, in which the Gulf States had participated, mechanisms for strengthening regional cooperation to combat drug trafficking by sea had been considered. Emphasis was placed on the need to deprive drug traffickers of the proceeds of their illicit activities, which were also being used for financing terrorism. The Islamic Republic of Iran was determined to combat all aspects of drug trafficking and was taking action to enable its parliament to approve legislation against money-laundering. To that end, the awareness of money-laundering issues was being raised and an international conference on the subject had recently been held in Tehran. The Islamic Republic of Iran was implementing protocols on bilateral cooperation in the exchange of information and experiences with Kuwait, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and other countries. The Islamic Republic of Iran had contributed to the building of 25 border posts in Afghanistan along that country's border with the Islamic Republic of Iran, to the training of Afghan border police officers, and to the equipping and rebuilding of the police headquarters, in cooperation with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime.

15. Referring to the targets set in the Political Declaration and the Declaration on the Guiding Principles of Drug Demand Reduction (Assembly resolution S-20/3, annex) adopted by the General Assembly at its twentieth special session, the

representative of the United Arab Emirates reported that, following the holding of the twentieth special session, in 1998, his Government had put in place a national drug control plan that had been developed with and depended on the participation of all pertinent authorities. A comprehensive national strategy for the reduction of illicit drug demand had also been formulated with the participation of all relevant bodies. Following the twentieth special session of the Assembly and at the suggestion of the United Arab Emirates, the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf had set out to formulate a regional drug control strategy that could guide its members in designing and implementing their national drug control plans. The United Arab Emirates had conducted awareness-raising campaigns among at all sectors of society; the campaigns had had a positive impact, increasing public awareness of and preventing drug abuse. According to legislation adopted in the United Arab Emirates drug abusers who voluntarily sought treatment would not be subject to prosecution or the application of penalties. Legislation against money-laundering had been formulated to comply with international standards, and a national commission against money-laundering, chaired by the president of the Central Bank of the United Arab Emirates, had been set up; in addition, a specialized unit for countering money-laundering had been established at the Central Bank. With regard to precursor control, the Ministry of Health of the United Arab Emirates, in coordination with the Ministry of the Interior, issued import and export certificates and monitored companies using such substances. The Ministry of the Interior was responsible for checking the legal status of such companies and issuing the required security clearance. It was noted that no controlled precursors had been seized in the country so far.

16. Regarding precursor control, the representative of Turkey underlined that chemicals experts should participate in the monitoring and inspection of industries utilizing controlled precursors. He referred to Operation Purple, Operation Topaz and Project Prism, initiatives coordinated by the International Narcotics Control Board to prevent the diversion of substances used in the illicit manufacture of cocaine, heroin and amphetamine-type stimulants, respectively. Participants were encouraged to participate in those initiatives, which had achieved considerable success. It was noted that one indication of the success of Operation Topaz was the sharp increase in the price of acetic anhydride in the illicit market.

17. The representative of Afghanistan, referring to international trade in acetic anhydride, emphasized that currently there was no industrial use for the substance in Afghanistan and that there was no licit trade in the substance in the country. He reported that some 7 tons of the substance had been seized by the Counter Narcotics Police of Afghanistan. He called on the authorities of other countries to treat as suspect and stop any shipment of acetic anhydride destined for Afghanistan. The representative of Afghanistan also stated that his Government would welcome any methods for the safe disposal of acetic anhydride.

IV. Implementation of the recommendations adopted by the Subcommission at its thirty-seventh session

18. At its 3rd meeting, on 27 October, the Subcommission considered item 6 of its agenda, entitled “Implementation of the recommendations adopted by the Subcommission at its thirty-seventh session”. The representative of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime introduced the agenda item. Statements were made by the representatives of Afghanistan, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Pakistan, Turkey, the United Arab Emirates and Yemen.

19. The Subcommission recommended that, in future, the invitation to its sessions and the questionnaire relating to the recommendations adopted at its earlier sessions should be sent to its members at least one month prior to the beginning of each session.

20. It was noted that all the Governments represented in the sessions of the Subcommission were taking action to implement the recommendations adopted at its thirty-seventh session. Attention was drawn to the recommendations under topic 4, relating to demand reduction, in particular the recommendation that, in view of the importance of demand reduction and in order to pursue a balanced approach to drug control, demand reduction should be addressed by the Subcommission (UNODC/SUBCOM/2002/5, para. 5 (d)). The Subcommission recalled the recommendation made at its thirty-seventh session that, in future, delegations attending meetings of the Subcommission should include experts in demand reduction.

21. The representative of Egypt, referring to recommendations adopted by the Subcommission at its thirty-seventh session under topic 1, entitled “Inter-agency cooperation: a unified response to combating drug trafficking”, noted that in his country a newly established Internet site and other communication media were being used to inform the public of drug control efforts. Mechanisms had been established to enable the exchange of information among national law enforcement agencies. Law enforcement cooperation had been established with other countries, including France, the Republic of Korea, Saudi Arabia and the United States of America, and drug liaison officers had been posted in a number of countries. Egypt was also encouraging farmers engaged in illicit crop cultivation to abandon that activity in favour of legal agricultural activity. Regarding the recommendations adopted under issue 2, on strengthening land border controls, the representative of Egypt reported that the security directorate, border control units and customs authorities of his country held regular meetings to coordinate border operations. On the recommendations under topic 3, relating to the criminal justice system and drug abusers, Egypt was reviewing legislation on penalties for drug abusers to enable referral of drug abusers to treatment services rather than to the courts if they voluntarily sought treatment. A number of conferences, seminars and media campaigns had been organized to increase public awareness of injecting drug abuse and the related risk of HIV/AIDS infection. The Subcommission was informed that the Anti-Narcotics General Administration had been appointed as the competent authority in relation to the implementation of article 7 of the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988.² Referring to the recommendations adopted under topic 4, on demand reduction, the representative noted that Egypt had conducted campaigns,

conferences and seminars to raise public awareness of the dangers of drug abuse, and an information hotline had also been established.

22. Regarding recommendations adopted by the Subcommission at its thirty-seventh session under topic 3, the representative of Turkey noted that in his country drug abusers who voluntarily sought treatment did not face punishment but were referred to treatment. Injecting drug abuse was not significant in Turkey and campaigns were being conducted to increase public awareness of the health dangers of injecting drug abuse. Turkey shared drug abuse data and cooperated in other ways with the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction. Turkey was developing a balanced national drug control strategy to align itself with the European Union Drug Strategy and was cooperating with member States of the European Union in that regard. With regard to the recommendations adopted under issue 4, on demand reduction, the national drug monitoring centre of Turkey, in cooperation with the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction, conducted public awareness campaigns and seminars to raise awareness of the dangers of drug abuse, in particular among high-risk groups. The Ministry of Health and the directorate for youth and sports of Turkey provided treatment and rehabilitation services for drug abusers.

23. The representative of Iraq informed the Subcommission that his country was beginning the process of establishing a framework for drug control. A national drug control commission, which included the participation of all relevant government departments, had been established. The commission was redrafting drug control legislation to deal more adequately with psychotropic drugs and to include measures covering drug abusers, including the provision of treatment and rehabilitation for drug abusers. Drug control units had been established at the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of the Interior, and Iraq acknowledged the support it had received from Egypt and Jordan in that regard. The Subcommission was also informed that all relevant government departments were to participate in a seminar in November 2004 to formulate a national drug control strategy.

24. The representative of the United Arab Emirates highlighted some of the main issues referred to in his country's replies to the questionnaire on recommendations adopted by the Subcommission, in particular regarding the formulation of a national demand reduction strategy, while awaiting the guidance to be provided by a regional strategy being developed by the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf. While legislation adopted in 1995 provided for the harsher punishment of drug traffickers, it also provided for the non-prosecution of drug abusers who voluntarily sought treatment. Drug abusers who sought treatment received lighter punishment, and treatment, rehabilitation and reintegration services were provided to them. The health authorities had established special centres for the treatment and rehabilitation of drug abusers, and the authorities provided programmes for their reintegration into society. Drug traffickers were subject to stern punishment, which could include the death penalty. Regarding the recommendations adopted under topic 3, special border control units had been upgraded with good results; the armed forces were also involved in controlling land and sea borders. In relation to the recommendations adopted under topic 4, on demand reduction, public awareness campaigns targeting schoolchildren and families and utilizing the media were being implemented and there was close cooperation with the police in organizing seminars and producing information material; those efforts were being coordinated with educational

institutions. Neighbourhood information centres had also been established to conduct information campaigns. It was noted that a follow-up system for drug abuse outpatients had been established for convicts with drug abuse problems upon their release from prison and for persons who had been discharged from treatment and rehabilitation centres. Such individuals were placed in a special follow-up programme, were checked regularly and were obliged to report periodically to the pertinent authorities. As an indication of the success of demand reduction efforts in the United Arab Emirates, the Subcommission was informed that drug-related deaths in that country had fallen significantly in recent years.

V. Consideration of topics by working groups

25. At its 3rd to 6th meetings, on 27 and 28 October, the Subcommission established working groups to examine three topics under item 4 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 chapter I above.)

A. Trafficking in opiates and the heightened need for coordination between States and law enforcement agencies throughout the region

26. The working group held two meetings on 27 October 2004. In its consideration of the topic under review, the working group made the following observations:

(a) The increased scale of illicit opium poppy cultivation in Afghanistan was viewed with great concern. Instability within the region had resulted in opium poppy cultivation returning to areas previously not affected by such cultivation;

(b) International support for Afghanistan had focused on counter-terrorism, rehabilitation of the educational system, reconstruction and security in 2003 and early 2004, rather than on responses to illicit drug production, including the underlying conditions;

(c) Drug law enforcement was evolving in Afghanistan, and its impact would take some time to be felt. The judicial system in the country was weak, and the lack of a coordinated national law enforcement presence in all provinces and territories facilitated the spread of illicit opium poppy cultivation;

(d) One of the challenges currently facing law enforcement was the regional and international nature of drug trafficking syndicates whose criminal operations crossed national boundaries and jurisdictions;

(e) There was a need for effective controls to be exercised over the financial services, both formal and informal, operating throughout the region, in order to discourage their use by criminals to further their illegal activities.

27. The working group drew the following conclusions:

(a) Declining opium seizures could be an indication of the increasing capacity of drug trafficking groups operating in and around the borders of Afghanistan to manufacture heroin in the region;

(b) Law enforcement agencies must respond to the sophistication and diversity of drug trafficking syndicates operating in the region by developing better cooperation, enhancing the exchange of information on the activities of known criminals and harmonizing judicial procedures and laws to meet that threat;

(c) The use of the technique of controlled delivery in operations offered an opportunity for law enforcement agencies to dismantle drug trafficking syndicates by identifying key operatives. States in the region needed to ensure that their drug law enforcement agencies had in place a strategy and a procedure for responding to requests to undertake such operations;

(d) Depriving criminal syndicates of their access to financial services and of opportunities to utilize assets derived from illicit drug trafficking would limit the effectiveness of their operations;

(e) There was a strong link between organized crime, financial crime, terrorism, drug trafficking and precursor smuggling.

B. Current regional trends in the illicit manufacture of and trafficking in amphetamine-type stimulants

28. The working group held a meeting on 28 October 2004. In its consideration of the topic under review, the working group made the following observations:

(a) Of the amphetamine-type stimulants, the most widely abused drug in the countries in the Near and Middle East was almost exclusively Captagon (the exception was in Turkey, where Ecstasy was more widely abused). Trafficking in Captagon was rising significantly, and multi-ton seizures of that drug were being reported. An emerging trend was trafficking in fake Captagon tablets;

(b) The primary supply source of amphetamine-type stimulants was Eastern Europe, Bulgaria and Romania having been identified as countries that were sources of manufacture. The main trafficking route passed through Eastern European countries, Turkey, the Syrian Arab Republic, Jordan and Saudi Arabia;

(c) An attempt had been made to establish a small laboratory for the illicit manufacture of Captagon in Turkey, but the laboratory and the entire organization involved had been dismantled by law enforcement agencies;

(d) Recognizing the emergence of the problem, a regional conference on amphetamine-type stimulants had been organized in Istanbul by the Turkish National Police; manufacturing, transit and consuming countries participated in the conference;

(e) There was insufficient information available about how to combat and recognize amphetamine-type stimulants (including Captagon), as well as information about methods used for trafficking in such drugs and about the physical appearance of such drugs. There was not sufficient knowledge or equipment at the

front line of law enforcement to identify amphetamine-type stimulants or to carry out presumptive testing of such drugs.

29. The working group drew the following conclusions:

(a) Trafficking in and abuse of amphetamine-type stimulants, in particular Captagon, were on the increase in the Near and Middle East and needed to be addressed;

(b) Countries used by drug traffickers as transit countries were at risk of developing drug abuse problems and should be encouraged to adopt measures to prevent that development;

(c) Controlled delivery operations were effective in identifying and dismantling organizations trafficking in amphetamine-type stimulants;

(d) There was a general lack of knowledge about the physical appearance of amphetamine-type stimulants (including Captagon) and the methods of concealment used by traffickers of such drugs.

C. Combating corruption through effective and uncompromising law enforcement

30. The working group held a meeting on 28 October 2004. In its consideration of the topic under review, the working group made the following observations:

(a) Sound law enforcement was a cornerstone of community security;

(b) The problem of corruption was not confined to government agencies. It was a community issue that also had an impact on the functioning of the private sector. In some situations, its influence could affect the decision-making of public officials;

(c) A number of States members of the Subcommission had introduced procedures to safeguard standards of integrity and good performance within their law enforcement agencies. Such measures included the undertaking of background enquiries into staff, the rotation of staff between posts on a regular basis and the development of comprehensive employment conditions to encourage loyalty and good performance among staff undertaking official duties;

(d) It was possible for criminal organizations and unscrupulous individuals to exert unlawful influence on law enforcement officers in many ways. Staff needed support to successfully resist challenges such as blackmail or the offer of a bribe or a special favour.

31. The working group drew the following conclusions:

(a) It would be difficult for law enforcement agencies to regain the trust and confidence of their communities if their image were to be damaged by the illegal actions of a few staff members, resulting in the public perceiving their performance as lacking integrity and impartiality;

(b) Problems relating to low salaries, inadequate training and poor staff management threatened the effectiveness of law enforcement agencies. Well-paid and well-trained staff were more resistant to improper influence;

(c) Law enforcement agencies adopting a proactive approach to the development of integrity programmes encouraged a high standard of professionalism among their staff.

VI. Organization of the fortieth session of the Subcommittee

32. At its 7th meeting, on 29 October, the Subcommittee considered item 7 of its agenda, entitled “Organization of the fortieth session of the Subcommittee”. For its consideration of the item, the Subcommittee had before it a note by the Secretariat drawing attention to certain questions that needed to be addressed concerning its fortieth session and a draft provisional agenda for its consideration (UNODC/SUBCOM/2004/4).

33. The Subcommittee was informed of the offer of the Government of Azerbaijan to host the fortieth session of the Subcommittee in 2005. The Chairman, speaking on behalf of the members of the Subcommittee, expressed appreciation of the offer by the Government of Azerbaijan to host the fortieth session of the Subcommittee.

34. After the discussion, the Subcommittee approved the following draft provisional agenda for its fortieth session:

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda.
3. Current situation with respect to regional and subregional cooperation.
4. Consideration of topics by working groups: [*to be determined*].
5. Follow-up to the twentieth special session of the General Assembly.
6. Implementation of the recommendations adopted by the Subcommittee at its thirty-eighth session.
7. Organization of the forty-first session of the Subcommittee.
8. Other business.
9. Adoption of the report.

VII. Adoption of the report

35. At its 7th meeting, on 29 October 2004, the Subcommittee adopted the report on its thirty-ninth session (UNODC/SUBCOM/2004/L.1 and Add.1-6), including the reports of the working groups and their recommendations.

VIII. Organization of the thirty-ninth session of the Subcommittee

A. Opening and duration of the session

36. The thirty-ninth session of the Subcommittee on Illicit Drug Traffic and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East, organized by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, was held in Beirut, at the headquarters of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, from 26 to 29 October 2004. The representative of the Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime addressed the participants at the opening meeting. A statement was also made by the representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

B. Attendance

37. The following States members of the Subcommittee were represented: Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Egypt, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Pakistan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syrian Arab Republic, Turkey, United Arab Emirates and Yemen.

38. Australia, Italy and the Russian Federation were represented by observers.

39. Two intergovernmental organizations, the Council of Arab Ministers of the Interior and the League of Arab States, were represented by observers.

C. Election of officers

40. At its 1st meeting, on 26 October, the Subcommittee elected the following officers by acclamation:

<i>Chairman:</i>	General Elie Ghanimé (Lebanon)
<i>Vice-Chairmen:</i>	Abdulla Ali Rashid Al Bedaiwi (United Arab Emirates) Fahad Affas Al-Otaibi (Saudi Arabia)
<i>Rapporteur:</i>	Mohammad Reza Nabovati (Islamic Republic of Iran)

D. Adoption of the agenda

41. Also 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. Consideration of topics by working groups:
 - (a) Trafficking in opiates and the heightened need for coordination between States and law enforcement agencies throughout the region;

- (b) Current regional trends in the illicit manufacture of and trafficking in amphetamine-type stimulants;
 - (c) Combating corruption through effective and uncompromising law enforcement.
- 5. Follow-up to the twentieth special session of the General Assembly.
- 6. Implementation of the recommendations adopted by the Subcommission at its thirty-seventh session.
- 7. Organization of the fortieth session of the Subcommission.
- 8. Other business.
- 9. Adoption of the report.

Notes

¹ *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2004, Supplement No. 8 and corrigendum (E/2004/28 and Corr. 1), para. 25.*

² United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1582, No. 27627.

Annex

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

<i>Document</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>	<i>Title or description</i>
UNODC/SUBCOM/2004/1	2	Provisional agenda, including annotations and the provisional timetable
UNODC/SUBCOM/2004/2	3	Current situation with respect to regional and subregional cooperation
UNODC/SUBCOM/2004/4	7	Organization of the fortieth session of the Subcommittee
UNODC/SUBCOM/2004/L.1 and Add.1-6	10	Draft report
UNODC/SUBCOM/2004/CRP.1	3	Statistics on drug trends in the Near and Middle East, South Asia and Central Asia and worldwide