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

Forty-second session

Agra, India, 3-7 December 2007

Report of the Subcommission on Illicit Drug Traffic and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East on its forty-second session, held in Agra, India, from 3 to 7 December 2007

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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 forty-second session

1. At its forty-second 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 are presented below. (For the observations and conclusions that led to the recommendations, see chapter V below.)

1. Cannabis plant cultivation and cannabis trafficking in the region of the Subcommittee

2. The following recommendations were made with regard to cannabis plant cultivation and cannabis trafficking in the region of the Subcommittee:

(a) Governments should be encouraged to carry out authoritative surveys of the extent of cannabis plant cultivation within their territories;

(b) Governments should develop strategies against cannabis production that discourage the illicit cultivation of cannabis plants and that offer viable alternatives to rural communities whose income depends upon such cultivation and should support demand reduction and awareness campaigns similar to those developed for other drugs of abuse;

(c) In response to the growing sophistication of the modus operandi employed in smuggling cannabis, the increasing financial returns and the large volume of consignments trafficked, Governments must support the efforts of their law enforcement authorities to develop close operational ties with the counterparts in other countries in the exchange of information, the provision of operational support and the undertaking of controlled delivery operations.

2. Law enforcement strategies to mobilize community support for drug demand reduction

3. The following recommendations were made with regard to law enforcement strategies to mobilize community support for drug demand reduction:

(a) Governments should support their drug law enforcement authorities in building their capacity to develop effective strategies and programmes aimed at reducing the demand for illicit drugs;

(b) In meeting their responsibilities with regard to implementing effective national demand reduction strategies, Governments must ensure that adequate resources are allocated to support programmes for raising public awareness, community-based prevention and treatment and rehabilitation;

(c) Governments should encourage their drug law enforcement agencies to develop partnerships with other relevant Government agencies, civil society and

non-governmental organizations, in order to implement comprehensive demand reduction strategies.

3. Trafficking in opiates, precursor control and the increased need for international cooperation

4. The following recommendations were made with regard to trafficking in opiates, precursor control and the increased need for international cooperation:

(a) In order to determine whether sufficient information exists to justify the inclusion of acetic acid in the tables of the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988, Governments should ensure that the recommendations contained in the limited international special surveillance list of non-scheduled substances are implemented. Implementation of the recommendations would make it possible to gather information on the possible diversion and misuse of acetic acid;

(b) To ensure standardization in international practices, the International Narcotics Control Board should be invited to convene an international workshop to review the pre-export notification system, in particular information exchange mechanisms and procedures;

(c) Governments are urged to support international law enforcement initiatives that focus on both illicit drugs and precursors, including operations Channel and Targeted Anti-trafficking Regional Communication, Expertise and Training (TAR CET), targeting such trafficking along the borders of Afghanistan by providing resources, equipment and technology.

II. Current situation with respect to regional and subregional cooperation

5. At its 1st meeting, on 3 December 2007, 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 a background paper prepared by the Secretariat on the current situation with respect to regional and subregional cooperation (UNODC/SUBCOM/2007/2) and a conference room paper on statistics on drug trafficking trends in the Near and Middle East, South, West and Central Asia and worldwide (UNODC/SUBCOM/2007/CRP.1). In addition, country reports were submitted by Jordan, Kuwait, Pakistan, Qatar, the Syrian Arab Republic and Turkey (UNODC/SUBCOM/2007/CRP.2-7). A representative of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) made an audio-visual presentation covering regional and global trends in drug trafficking and recent UNODC activities in the region.

6. Statements were made by the representatives of Jordan, Turkey, Kuwait, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Pakistan, the Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Azerbaijan, Oman and India.

7. Speakers noted with concern the increase in opium production in Afghanistan and the fact that the country was the source of 93 per cent of the illicit opium produced in the world. As a result of that rise in production, many of Afghanistan's neighbouring States reported an increase in the smuggling and seizure of opium,

morphine and heroin consignments in their territories. Several speakers highlighted the need to address that issue, as well as the issue of the influx of precursors into the region, by enhancing cooperation between the law enforcement authorities of their countries and those of Afghanistan.

8. Several speakers commented on the fact that trafficking patterns, routes and destinations changed constantly. The emergence of markets for heroin of Afghan origin in Bangladesh, China and Sri Lanka was also noted, and some representatives pointed to the need to address that issue in the future. The representative of Jordan, noting the correlation between instability in a country and opportunities for drug trafficking, reported that his Government had, for the first time, detected and seized a consignment of heroin that had been smuggled through Iraq. Several speakers noted that West African nationals were playing a larger role in drug trafficking in the Near and Middle East, in particular with regard to trafficking in opiates, "hashish" (cannabis resin) and cocaine, and that West Africa was increasingly being used as a transit area. One speaker expressed the view that intensified efforts against drug trafficking in Africa could result in a rise in the smuggling of cocaine through the Middle East.

9. It was noted that drug traffickers were constantly changing their modus operandi. Several speakers mentioned the increasing use of parcels for smuggling drugs. One representative noted that that method was becoming increasingly popular among drug traffickers, probably because it was efficient and relatively risk-free. Various means used by drug traffickers to conceal illicit drug consignments were also noted. Reference was also made to the frequency with which couriers on commercial airlines were used to smuggle cocaine from Latin America, through Europe, into the Near and Middle East.

10. Representatives exchanged information on the use of different techniques to detect and dismantle organized groups operating along trafficking routes. They emphasized the importance of techniques such as controlled delivery while pointing out the need to harmonize legislation regulating the use of that technique. Other speakers reported on the successful use of satellite imagery in surveying and monitoring known organized criminal groups.

11. A number of speakers emphasized the need to ensure the efficient exchange of information among law enforcement and border authorities in order to enhance cooperation between the countries in the Near and Middle East. Several speakers stressed the importance of the Paris Pact initiative, projects Prism and Cohesion and the development of bilateral agreements with neighbouring countries. International cooperation in the framework of the Central Asia Regional Information and Coordination Centre and the Turkish International Academy against Drugs and Organized Crime was also mentioned.

12. Several representatives reported that their Governments had participated in successful joint operations and underscored the essential role that information sharing had played in the seizure of significant quantities of illicit drugs. All speakers stressed that regional and international collaboration was the best way of combating the scourge of the illicit drug trade. The role of Interpol was noted, particularly with regard to the exchange of information on individuals involved in drug trafficking, and a participant expressed disappointment that the organization had not been represented at the forty-second session of the Subcommittee.

13. Some speakers called for the need to impose harsher sentences for drug-related offences, since criminal groups often exploited the more lenient laws in certain countries and used those countries as a base for their drug-trafficking operations, which had a spillover effect on neighbouring countries.

14. Several speakers said that the proceeds of the illicit drug trade needed to be targeted. Most countries had promulgated laws against money-laundering and established monitoring and enforcement entities, but the issue needed to be given greater importance.

15. Some participants shared the experiences gained by their respective Governments in terms of drug demand reduction strategies, prevention measures and awareness-raising efforts. The need to protect society, especially youth, from the destructive effects of illicit drugs was emphasized, as well as the importance of providing appropriate treatment for drug addicts and support for their families.

16. All speakers gave supplementary information to that provided in the national reports submitted to the Subcommission, including additional statistics on drug seizures, the prosecution of drug offenders and other measures implemented to fight the production of and trafficking in illicit drugs.

17. Several speakers drew the participants' attention to the increased use of online pharmacies and called on countries in the region and elsewhere to intensify collaborative efforts with a view to tackling that new transnational development.

18. A number of speakers expressed appreciation for the technical assistance and policy guidance offered by UNODC.

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

19. At its 2nd meeting, on 3 December 2007, the Subcommission considered item 5 of its agenda, entitled "Follow-up to the twentieth special session of the General Assembly". The Secretary of the Subcommission briefed participants on the decisions made by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs at its fiftieth session concerning follow-up to the twentieth special session of the General Assembly. He also gave an overview of the progress made by member States in implementing the provisions adopted by the Assembly at its twentieth special session since 1998, based on the information contained in the biennial reports. Statements were made by the representatives of the United Arab Emirates, Pakistan, Jordan, Azerbaijan, Turkey and Saudi Arabia. A statement was also made by the observer for the League of Arab States.

20. A representative of the Secretariat informed participants that most reporting States had adopted national strategies to combat illicit drugs and established central coordination bodies to guide and monitor national drug control policies, thus demonstrating a high degree of sustained political commitment to tackling the world drug problem. Globally, considerable progress had been achieved in complying with demand reduction measures, as most States continued to develop national demand reduction strategies, to assess the drug abuse problem and to provide prevention, treatment and rehabilitation services. Although progress had also been made in the implementation of the Action Plan against Illicit Manufacture, Trafficking and

Abuse of Amphetamine-type Stimulants and Their Precursors (General Assembly resolution S-20/4 A), member States needed to increase their efforts, particularly with regard to the detection and dismantlement of clandestine laboratories used to manufacture amphetamine-type stimulants and to the prevention of the abuse of amphetamine-type stimulants.

21. According to the representative of the Secretariat, most reporting States had placed under control the substances listed in the 1988 Convention. Those States that continued not to have adequate controls should be encouraged and given the support necessary to implement the required measures.

22. The representative of the Secretariat noted that, at the global level, much progress had been made in judicial cooperation. Since the holding of the twentieth special session of the General Assembly in 1998, many States had revised their legislation, rules and procedures with a view to implementing the recommendations adopted at the special session. For example, the rate of compliance with measures to combat money-laundering had increased and most member States had made it a criminal offence to launder the proceeds of drug trafficking and had passed laws to facilitate the freezing, seizure and confiscation of such proceeds. Many measures relating to extradition, mutual legal assistance, controlled delivery and law enforcement cooperation had also been implemented, and the appropriate legal and procedural framework existed in many States. Nonetheless, numerous obstacles continued to prevent the implementation of all the measures.

23. The representative of the Secretariat also noted that while considerable progress had been achieved in reducing opium poppy cultivation in South-East Asia that success had been offset by a staggering increase in opium poppy cultivation and illicit opium production in Afghanistan. Since 1998, member States had developed and improved national plans and strategies to address illicit drug crop cultivation, including alternative development and crop eradication, but only a few States had succeeded in securing the long-term support of donors and international financial institutions.

24. Several representatives reported on progress made by their Governments in implementing the various action plans and measures adopted by the General Assembly at its twentieth special session with a view to establishing balanced and multisectoral drug control strategies and setting up national drug control coordination entities. Representatives also reported on progress made by their Governments in relation to reducing drug demand, countering money-laundering and controlling precursors.

25. One representative emphasized that only a transparent assessment of the impact achieved by the implementation of the measures adopted by the General Assembly at its twentieth special session with a view to reducing illicit drug production and abuse would provide effective guidance for future action. Another representative noted that the final assessment report on the progress made on the implementation of the provisions adopted by the Assembly at its twentieth special session should accurately reflect the achievements made through regional and international cooperation.

26. With regards to the Action Plan on International Cooperation on the Eradication of Illicit Drug Crops and on Alternative Development (General Assembly resolution S-20/4 E), one representative noted that, in spite of all the

efforts that had been made and the considerable resources that had been spent on alternative development projects, the cultivation of opium poppy in Afghanistan had increased significantly. The representative expressed the view that all stakeholders engaged in Afghanistan should review their strategies in the country so as to make them more effective in reducing the quantity of opium poppy being cultivated and that those States neighbouring Afghanistan that were affected by the transit of opiates through their territories should receive greater assistance from the donor community.

27. With regards to the measures for promoting judicial cooperation, a representative noted that the lack of alignment between the legislations of different States sometimes undermined the effectiveness of controlled delivery operations and urged member States to give this matter greater attention.

IV. Implementation of the recommendations adopted by the Subcommission at its fortieth session

28. At its 3rd meeting, on 4 December 2007, the Subcommission considered item 6 of its agenda, entitled "Implementation of the recommendations adopted by the Subcommission at its fortieth session". For its consideration of the item, the Subcommission had before it a background paper prepared by the Secretariat (UNODC/SUBCOM/2007/3). The Secretary of the Subcommission introduced the agenda item. Statements were made by the representatives of Azerbaijan, India, Jordan, the United Arab Emirates, Pakistan, Turkey, Saudi Arabia, Oman, Tajikistan and the Syrian Arab Republic.

29. All those who spoke on the agenda item made statements on the first set of recommendations, on strengthening border controls. They informed the Subcommission that border control officers were given appropriate and regular training and were provided with modern equipment. The representatives said that their respective Governments had taken steps to counter corruption through the establishment of specialized units and the adoption of anti-corruption measures; they also ensured that criminal proceedings were instituted in cases where misconduct had been proved. The representative of Pakistan indicated that his Government had been among the first to sign and ratify the United Nations Convention against Corruption. The representative of Tajikistan, noting that his Government was having difficulties securing its mountainous border with Afghanistan, assured the Subcommission that measures were being taken to improve border control in that area, with the assistance of UNODC. On a similar note, the representative of Azerbaijan stated that while challenges remained owing to the fact that illicit drugs were still making their way into his country, his Government was firmly committed to ensuring the full implementation of the recommendations made by the Subcommission.

30. It was noted that the second set of recommendations adopted by the Subcommission at its fortieth session dealt with measures for countering money-laundering and controlling non-institutional financial and value transfer arrangements. All the representatives who spoke on the agenda item reported that legislation against money-laundering was in place in their countries. Several representatives reported that monitoring and investigating units had been

established to support the implementation of those laws. The representative of Pakistan noted that the laws against money-laundering and the financial regulations of Pakistan obliged banks to report suspicious transactions to the financial investigating unit of the Anti-Narcotics Force and that, to date, the Anti-Narcotics Force had frozen assets of drug criminals for an estimated value of 80 million United States dollars. Several representatives reported that in their countries underground banking was under strict control. The representative of India informed the Subcommission that India was a member of the Egmont Group.

31. The representatives of Jordan, the United Arab Emirates, Pakistan, Turkey, Saudi Arabia and the Syrian Arab Republic made statements concerning the implementation of the third set of recommendations, concerning measures, including judicial cooperation, taken to counteract new trends in the use of technology by drug trafficking groups and organized criminal groups. Several representatives reported that laws aimed at countering cybercrime had been enacted, and the representative of Jordan stated that his Government was in the process of drafting a law on that subject, to be enacted in 2008. A number of speakers referred to measures taken to ensure adequate cooperation between authorities in different jurisdictions and exchange of information on emerging trends on high-technology crime. The representative of Pakistan reported that his Government had signed a memorandum of understanding on judicial cooperation and information sharing with various countries. The representative of the United Arab Emirates reported that in his country a law on international judicial cooperation had been enacted and a special unit had been established within the department of the Ministry of Justice responsible for dealing with requests for mutual legal assistance and the exchange of information on new crime issues.

V. Consideration of topics by working groups

32. At its 4th to 7th meetings, from 4 to 6 December, the Subcommission established working groups to examine the 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. Cannabis plant cultivation and cannabis trafficking in the region of the Subcommission

33. The working group on cannabis plant cultivation and cannabis trafficking in the region of the Subcommission held one meeting, on 4 December 2007. In its consideration of the topic under review, the working group made the following observations:

(a) Cannabis plants grew wild throughout the region and had traditionally been used in the manufacture of medicine, clothing and rope. Cannabis resin was a significant drug of abuse within the region;

(b) Afghanistan was a major producer of cannabis resin. Cannabis plants were cultivated on an estimated 173,000 acres of land in 18 of the country's

34 provinces. Organized criminal groups trafficking opiates from Afghanistan through Pakistan were also engaged in trafficking in cannabis;

(c) A number of countries in the region had developed national strategies to combat illicit cannabis plant cultivation;

(d) Cannabis was trafficked through the region, often in cleverly concealed consignments weighing several tons and transported by road in commercial vehicles, and by sea in coastal vessels and commercial ship containers;

(e) More authoritative data were needed on the extent of cannabis plant cultivation worldwide, as well as clarification on the legal status of licit cannabis production.

34. The working group drew the following conclusions:

(a) With the increasing cannabis prices and the high cannabis crop yield, cannabis plant cultivation was becoming as lucrative as illicit opium poppy cultivation, making cannabis plant cultivation attractive to many Afghanistan farmers;

(b) Encouraging rural communities engaged in cannabis plant cultivation to turn to legitimate cash crops offered farmers a viable means of making a living and helped them to escape the influence of traffickers;

(c) National strategies to reduce cannabis plant cultivation should include initiatives to reduce the demand for cannabis. Those initiatives should be similar to those developed for other serious drugs of abuse, engaging families, community leaders, members of the clergy, school staff and non-governmental organizations;

(d) The criminal groups responsible for shipping large consignments of cannabis were well organized and had considerable resources, as evidenced by the fact that 2500 kg of cannabis resin had recently been intercepted in the United Arab Emirates; the cannabis resin had been concealed in shipments of automobile oil filters and electrical cables;

(e) Since cannabis was used worldwide and generated enormous profits for those who sold it, it was not surprising that organized criminal groups were engaged in trafficking in cannabis. States must review the way in which they respond to trafficking in cannabis, so as to ensure that their countermeasures were effective;

(f) Governments should undertake authoritative surveys of the extent to which organized cannabis plant cultivation was taking place on their territory.

B. Law enforcement strategies to mobilize community support for drug demand reduction

35. The working group on law enforcement strategies to mobilize community support for drug demand reduction held one meeting, on 5 December 2007. In its consideration of the topic under review, the working group made the following observations:

(a) Law enforcement efforts alone could not protect communities from the damage caused by illicit drugs. All sectors of society had a collective responsibility

to work together to support initiatives that raised and maintained public awareness of the dangers of drug abuse;

(b) There was a need to enhance cooperation and coordination between law enforcement authorities and non-governmental organizations engaged in reducing the demand for illicit drugs;

(c) Drug law enforcement authorities played a key role in the development of national drug demand strategies through the provision of first-hand information on trafficking trends, substances subject to abuse and abuse patterns;

(d) Drug law enforcement authorities should be supported in their efforts to build capacity for developing effective strategies to reduce the demand for illicit drugs;

(e) Support provided to drug abusers in rehabilitation programmes should also include assistance in their reintegration into their families and communities once their treatment had ended.

36. The working group drew the following conclusions:

(a) Demand reduction initiatives run by drug law enforcement authorities (such as the "Salvation Plan" introduced in the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Madhya Pradesh police community programme in India and the addict mentoring programme in Jordan) had proved to be effective strategies for reaching those most at risk in their communities. The experiences gained in the United Arab Emirates, where post-treatment care was given to addicts and social care was given to the families of addicts, had also been positive;

(b) Authorities should make use of all measures available to them through the public media and education systems to raise the awareness of the community about the dangers of drug abuse and to encourage the participation of the community in the fight against drugs;

(c) Having direct contact with the community, faith-based groups, schools and universities had proved to be an effective element of demand reduction initiatives because it brought drug law enforcement authorities in direct contact with key partners;

(d) Organizing technical workshops for law enforcement officers working in demand reduction programmes to bring together experts from other professional fields associated with drug abuse and rehabilitation matters would greatly assist in building capacity within existing initiatives and in furthering the exchange of information and experiences.

C. Trafficking in opiates, precursor control and the increased need for international cooperation

37. The working group on trafficking in opiates, precursor control and the increased need for international cooperation held one meeting, on 6 December 2007. In its consideration of the topic under review, the working group made the following observations:

(a) The critical level of illicit opium production in Afghanistan was of global concern;

(b) Approximately 1,500 tons of acetic anhydride were required for the illicit manufacture of heroin in Afghanistan. Despite monitoring the legitimate trade in this substance during 2006 (1,000 shipments observed), no attempts to divert acetic anhydride had been identified;

(c) Tight controls on chemicals in countries neighbouring Afghanistan had helped prevent the diversion of acetic anhydride from sources in those countries. Acetic anhydride was, however, being seized in Afghanistan, although the origins of the chemical could not be identified, since details on the seizures were not always disclosed by the Afghan authorities;

(d) In the absence of significant seizures of acetic anhydride over the previous 5-6 years, there was a growing concern that alternate methods of manufacturing heroin had been developed, particularly involving glacial acetic acid. A serious study on that matter should be carried out. The suggestion that acetic anhydride was being manufactured within Afghanistan also needed to be investigated further;

(e) Precursors used for the manufacture of amphetamine-type stimulants were increasingly being diverted to the Near and Middle East. One new development was the trade in pharmaceutical preparations from which ephedrine and pseudoephedrine could be extracted in the country of destination, to be diverted into illicit channels.

38. The working group drew the following conclusions:

(a) The sustainable eradication of illicit opium poppy crops, the dismantling of clandestine laboratories and the prevention of trafficking in precursors in Afghanistan were the responsibility of not only the authorities of Afghanistan, but also the international community;

(b) It appeared that acetic anhydride was being diverted from domestic distribution channels to be used in illicit drug manufacture;

(c) The authorities of Afghanistan should be encouraged to provide and exchange information on seized precursors so that backtracking investigations could be carried out;

(d) The experimental use of chemical markers to identify the origin of seized acetic anhydride should be encouraged. Such markers were readily available and easy to use. They did not affect the use of acetic anhydride in licit processes, but they could be used to identify the origins of acetic anhydride found in heroin.

VI. Organization of the forty-third session of the Subcommission

39. At its 8th meeting, on 6 December 2007, the Subcommission considered item 7 of its agenda, entitled "Organization of the forty-third session of the Subcommission". For its consideration of the item, the Subcommission had before it a note by the Secretariat drawing attention to certain questions that needed to be

addressed concerning its forty-third session, including the draft provisional agenda (UNODC/SUBCOM/2007/4). The Secretary made an introductory statement outlining action to be taken for the organization of the forty-third session of the Subcommission, including the need to identify Governments that would be willing to host the forty-third session of the Subcommission. Statements were made by the representatives of Pakistan, Turkey, the United Arab Emirates, India, Jordan, the Islamic Republic of Iran and Egypt.

40. There was a discussion to identify potential topics for consideration by the working groups at the forty-third session of the Subcommission. The following topics were proposed: (a) controlling the production of and trafficking in synthetic drugs, including amphetamine-type stimulants; (b) controlling the licit and illicit production of cannabis; (c) use and effectiveness of controlled delivery as an investigative tool; (d) drug trafficking and the financing of terrorism; (e) curbing opium production in the region; and (f) ensuring efficient exchange of intelligence on drug trafficking organizations. One representative expressed some reservations with regard to one of the proposed topics.

41. In view of the variety and number of topics proposed, the Secretariat was requested to consult with the member States of the Subcommission, as appropriate, and to develop a set of focused and coherent topics to be discussed at the forty-third session of the Subcommission. In doing so, the Secretariat should also take into account new developments and priorities regarding the production of, trafficking in and abuse of drugs in the region. No offers were made to host the forty-third session of the Subcommission; the Secretariat was requested to consult with member States to identify a possible host for that session.

42. On the issue of the documentation for the forty-third session of the Subcommission, a representative requested that the country reports reflect new developments in the drug situation in the countries concerned and include information on the type of drugs and on the trafficking routes and modus operandi used by traffickers.

43. The Subcommission approved the following draft provisional agenda for its forty-third 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.
5. Follow-up to the twentieth special session of the General Assembly.
6. Implementation of the recommendations adopted by the Subcommission at its forty-first session.
7. Organization of the forty-fourth session of the Subcommission.
8. Other business.
9. Adoption of the report.

VII. Adoption of the report

44. At its 9th meeting, on 7 December 2007, the Subcommission adopted the report on its forty-second session (UNODC/SUBCOM/2007/L.1 and Add.1-7), including the reports of the working groups and their recommendations, as orally amended.

VIII. Organization of the forty-second session of the Subcommission

A. Opening and duration of the session

45. The forty-second session of the Subcommission on Illicit Drug Traffic and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East, organized by UNODC and hosted by the Government of India, was held in Agra from 3 to 7 December 2007. The Additional Secretary (Revenue) to the Government of India and the representative of the Executive Director of UNODC and Regional Representative for South Asia addressed the participants at the opening meeting. Upon being elected Chairperson of the forty-second session of the Subcommission, the Narcotics Commissioner of India also addressed the participants.

B. Attendance

46. The following States members of the Subcommission were represented: Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Egypt, India, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Oman, Pakistan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Turkey, United Arab Emirates and Uzbekistan.

47. Canada, the Russian Federation and the United States of America were represented by observers.

48. The League of Arab States was also represented.

C. Election of officers

49. At its 1st meeting, on 3 December 2007, the Subcommission elected the following officers by acclamation:

Chairperson: Jagjit Pavadia (India)

Vice-Chairpersons: Fahed Bin Affas Al-Otaibi (Saudi Arabia)

Ibrahim Issa Mubarak Alboanain (Qatar)

Rapporteur: Mehmet Guzel (Turkey)

D. Adoption of the agenda

50. Also at its 1st meeting, the Subcommission 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) Cannabis plant cultivation and cannabis trafficking in the region of the Subcommission;
 - (b) Law enforcement strategies to mobilize community support for drug demand reduction;
 - (c) Trafficking in opiates, precursor control and the increased need for international cooperation.
 5. Follow-up to the twentieth special session of the General Assembly.
 6. Implementation of the recommendations adopted by the Subcommission at its fortieth session.
 7. Organization of the forty-third session of the Subcommission.
 8. Other business.
 9. Adoption of the report.

E. Documentation

51. The documents before the forty-second session of the Subcommission are listed in the annex to the present document.

F. Closure of the session

52. Closing statements were made by the Director-General of the Narcotics Control Bureau of India and by the Chairperson of the Subcommission. The representative of the United Arab Emirates also made a closing statement.

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

<i>Document</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>	<i>Title or description</i>
UNODC/SUBCOM/2007/1	2	Provisional agenda, annotations and proposed organization of work
UNODC/SUBCOM/2007/2	3	Current situation with respect to regional and subregional cooperation
UNODC/SUBCOM/2007/3	6	Implementation of the recommendations adopted by the Subcommittee at its fortieth session
UNODC/SUBCOM/2007/4	7	Organization of the forty-third session of the Subcommittee
UNODC/SUBCOM/2007/L.1 and Add.1-7	9	Draft report
UNODC/SUBCOM/2007/CRP.1	3	Statistics on drug trafficking trends in the Near and Middle East, South, West and Central Asia and worldwide
UNODC/SUBCOM/2007/CRP.2-7	3	Country reports