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Report of the Subcommission on Illicit Drug Traffic and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East on its forty-fourth session, held in Vienna from 16 to 19 November 2009

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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-fourth session

1. At its forty-fourth 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 section V below.

1. Combating the ongoing challenge of illicit opiate trafficking in the region

2. The following recommendations were made with regard to combating the ongoing challenge of illicit opiate trafficking in the region:

(a) Governments should be encouraged to establish close inter-agency cooperation at their land, sea and air borders, and to consider the establishment of specialist units dedicated to the review of information enabling the selection and search of identified persons, transports and goods of interest, so as to ensure well-managed controls and make full use of the professional skills, agency resources and legislative powers made available through the public investment in such controls;

(b) To strengthen their response to the illegal diversion of precursor chemicals from licit trade, law enforcement authorities should be supported by their Governments to develop cooperation partnerships with the private sector chemical industry, and to engage its support in national counter-narcotics initiatives;

(c) It should be a priority of the Governments of the region to encourage their law enforcement agencies to share information, cooperate in cross-border training and capacity-building, and engage with one another in undertaking controlled delivery operations to dismantle sophisticated trafficking syndicates.

2. Use of the Internet in trafficking in narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and precursor chemicals

3. The following recommendations were made with regard to the use of the Internet in trafficking in narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and precursor chemicals:

(a) Governments should ensure that their law enforcement agencies are aware of the importance of electronic evidence gathered from such equipment as mobile telephones, personal computers, memory sticks and other such electronic data storage devices when investigating persons involved in illicit drug trafficking and organized crime;

(b) To meet the challenge of new cybercrime offences committed in conjunction with new communications technologies, Governments should take steps to ensure that their national legislation is adequate to secure the gathering of electronic evidence for successful prosecutions;

(c) Governments should encourage their law enforcement authorities to develop a digital evidence strategy, as a first step towards ensuring effective handling and recovery of digital evidence gathered during the investigation of persons involved in illicit drug trafficking.

3. Amphetamine-type stimulants

4. The following recommendations were made with regard to amphetamine-type stimulants (ATS):

(a) Because the development of effective ATS countermeasure strategies relies heavily upon access to accurate data relating to their spread (such as information on quantities seized, patterns of abuse and numbers of people seeking treatment), it is essential that Governments return their annual report questionnaires to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and ensure that the information contained in them is accurate and comprehensive;

(b) Where they have not already done so, Governments should be encouraged to survey their domestic precursor chemical requirements with a view to the implementation of a system of estimates in line with the International Narcotics Control Board guidelines for annual national requirements of precursor chemicals;

(c) Governments should encourage the analysis of seized ATS and support the exchange of the results between national laboratories and drug law enforcement authorities, so as to identify the active ingredients and common sources of manufacture, thus supporting the dismantling of trafficking networks through the discovery of trafficking routes and distribution patterns.

II. Current situation with respect to regional and subregional cooperation

5. At its 1st meeting, on 16 November 2009, 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 two background papers: (a) report of the Secretariat on statistics on drug trafficking trends in the Near and Middle East, in South, West and Central Asia and worldwide (UNODC/SUBCOM/44/2) and (b) note by the Secretariat on the current situation with respect to regional and subregional cooperation (UNODC/SUBCOM/44/CRP.1). In addition, national reports were submitted by India, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Pakistan, Lebanon, Kazakhstan, Qatar, Egypt and Turkey (UNODC/SUBCOM/44/CRP.2-9).

6. Two representatives of UNODC made audio-visual presentations covering regional and subregional cooperation and global trends in drug trafficking. Statements were made by the representatives of Kazakhstan, Iran (Islamic Republic of), the Syrian Arab Republic and India. One speaker noted that Central Asia continued to be seriously affected by drug trafficking and that his country supported international efforts to rehabilitate Afghanistan by providing humanitarian assistance and developing a long-term programme to build the capacity of Afghan drug law enforcement specialists. Furthermore, concern regarding the continued

production and the low level of seizures of narcotic drugs in Afghanistan was expressed.

7. The representative of Kazakhstan expressed the support of his country for the work of the UNODC Regional Office for Central Asia to implement the Rainbow Strategy and stressed the strong belief that the Paris Pact initiative should continue, as it was crucial for ensuring a comprehensive and coordinated response to drug trafficking. The speaker also indicated that the Government of his country had approved a programme for 2009-2011 and allocated it \$265 million to, inter alia, address the drug situation in that country and strengthen the control of its southern border. In addition, the speaker announced that his country had contributed \$2.7 million to the Central Asia Regional Information and Coordination Centre (CARICC), which is expected to strengthen the drug control mechanisms in that region. The importance of and active participation in Operation Channel and the Targeted Anti-trafficking Regional Communication, Expertise and Training (TARCET) operation were noted as well.

8. The representative of the Syrian Arab Republic drew attention to the fact that the increasing challenges posed by drug trafficking threatened the security and stability of countries and that collective efforts were required to reduce the consequences of such trafficking and to achieve the goals set out in the Political Declaration. Furthermore, the representative outlined his country's efforts to disrupt the illicit trafficking of Captagon and cannabis, to respond to legal assistance requests, to conduct controlled deliveries in cooperation with other countries in the region and to increase the capacity of its law enforcement authorities. He noted the importance of information exchange in the field of controlled deliveries and requested flexibility in this regard.

9. Most speakers emphasized the importance of international cooperation in addressing the issue of drug trafficking more effectively. The representative of India indicated that his country had entered into bilateral agreements on mutual legal assistance with 21 countries and had signed memorandums of understanding with four countries, including Afghanistan and Iran (Islamic Republic of).

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

10. At its third meeting, on 17 November 2009, 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 introduced the item with a briefing on the decisions made at the fifty-second session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs concerning follow-up to the twentieth special session of the General Assembly. Statements were made by the representatives of Egypt, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, India, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Turkey, Lebanon, the United Arab Emirates and Jordan.

11. In his introductory statement, the Secretary provided an overview of the work undertaken by the Commission, particularly at its fiftieth and fifty-first sessions, in 2007 and 2008, on assessing progress achieved by Member States in meeting the goals and targets set out in the Political Declaration and the measures to enhance international cooperation to counter the world drug problem adopted at the twentieth

special session of the General Assembly. He also elaborated on the areas covered and main actions envisaged in the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem, adopted at the high-level segment of the fifty-second session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, in 2009, as well as on the new commitments made by Member States therein. Attention was drawn in particular to the sections of the Political Declaration and of the Plan of Action relating to supply reduction and related measures, including those on enhancing cooperation, coordination and law enforcement operations to reduce supply, addressing new trafficking trends, addressing supply and demand reduction together, combating money-laundering and promoting judicial cooperation. Participants were informed that on 5 November 2009, at its sixty-fourth session, the General Assembly had welcomed the results of the high-level segment and the adoption of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action and had reaffirmed the commitment of Member States to enhance international cooperation in countering the world drug problem.

12. Several speakers referred to the adoption and enactment of anti-narcotics legislation in their countries, as well as to the adoption of national drug control strategies to address both illicit drug demand and supply. Legislation included measures to fight money-laundering and criminalize proceeds derived from drug trafficking.

13. Egypt and Lebanon reported having succeeded in eliminating large areas of illicit cannabis cultivation, while Pakistan was trying to achieve a poppy-free status through crop eradication campaigns and by not allowing illicit cultivation to be established in any part of the country. Action to reduce supply included the destruction of clandestine manufacturing laboratories and warehouses containing drug stockpiles. The Islamic Republic of Iran reported having provided assistance to the Government of Afghanistan in support of alternative development. One speaker noted that in spite of the efforts of UNODC, Afghanistan remained the largest supplier of opiates in the world, and regretted that a representative from that country was not present at the current session of the Subcommission.

14. The representative of Pakistan reported the existence of a large population of heroin addicts in his country, including injecting drug users who were HIV-positive. To respond to this situation, the Government had established mass awareness programmes and treatment centres and had involved non-governmental organizations in drug demand reduction. The representative of Saudi Arabia stated that in his country, amphetamine-type stimulants and cannabis were the most commonly abused drugs. Several other speakers reported on the comprehensive drug demand reduction measures they had adopted, which included drug abuse prevention, the provision of aftercare treatment for drug users and their rehabilitation and social reintegration. The representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran indicated that measures to reduce the harm associated with drug use were part of the demand reduction strategy and that in his country drug addicts were referred to treatment facilities rather than to the police.

15. Several delegates reported on their commitment to international, regional and bilateral cooperation and on having participated in international and regional initiatives such as TARCET and the Paris Pact and in joint operations with neighbouring States. The need to exchange data and intelligence and the importance of judicial cooperation, particularly to extradite and prosecute drug traffickers, and

of controlled deliveries were stressed by most speakers. The representative of Turkey referred to his country as the gateway between Asian drug-producing countries and European consuming countries and made reference to the Black Sea and southern Mediterranean trafficking routes. The representative of the United Arab Emirates expressed the view that to address new trafficking trends, new strategies were needed and that law enforcement agencies should always be one step ahead of the traffickers. He also indicated that there was a need to identify and arrest major drug traffickers in the region. One speaker proposed the posting of regional drug liaison officers and harmonizing the drug-related sentences of the various countries of the region. Some speakers noted the importance of cooperation with UNODC.

16. Several speakers indicated that their Governments, in cooperation with the International Narcotics Control Board, had established effective mechanisms and institutions to monitor precursor chemicals and to prevent their diversion. They reported significant seizures of acetic anhydride and other chemicals used in illicit drug manufacture. Reference was made by several speakers to the use of the Pre-Export Notification Online (PEN Online) system. Significant seizures of illicit drugs, including heroin, hashish and Captagon tablets, were also reported by a number of speakers.

17. Several speakers referred to the need to provide border and other checkpoints with proper equipment and infrastructure. One of the main issues remained the use of sea containers by drug traffickers at land and sea borders. Most countries in the region lacked the necessary scanning equipment for the control of these containers. Information on containers and consignments should be shared among countries. The representative of Jordan also remarked on the utility of drug-detection dogs.

IV. Implementation of the recommendations adopted by the Subcommission at its forty-second session

18. At its 2nd meeting, on 16 November 2009, the Subcommission considered item 6 of its agenda, entitled "Implementation of the recommendations adopted by the Subcommission at its forty-second session". For its consideration of the item the Subcommission had before it a background paper prepared by the Secretariat (UNODC/SUBCOM/44/3). The Secretary of the Subcommission introduced the agenda item. Statements were made by the representatives of Iran (Islamic Republic of), India, Lebanon and Pakistan.

19. With regard to the first set of recommendations adopted by the Subcommission at its forty-second session, on cannabis plant cultivation and cannabis trafficking in the region covered by the Subcommission, the representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran informed the participants that cannabis plant cultivation and cannabis trafficking were strictly prohibited in that country and that national law enforcement authorities took immediate action to address those issues. Information-sharing, capacity-building and cooperation were the most important elements in implementing this recommendation.

20. The representative of India reported that local surveys had been carried out where cannabis cultivation was reported and areas under cultivation had subsequently been destroyed. The federal Government had then been requested to

conduct a detailed survey of the country, and it was determined that cannabis cultivation was concentrated only in a few states. The representative of Lebanon noted that cultivation was restricted to the northern part of that country and that the area under cultivation had been reduced substantially. In 2009, all the identified cannabis products and storage areas were destroyed and the smuggling of drugs from Lebanon to Cyprus was disrupted. Lebanon stood ready to cooperate with the other countries in the region, particularly Jordan, to address this issue.

21. In relation to the second set of recommendations, concerning law enforcement strategies to mobilize community support for drug demand reduction, the representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran noted that actions in this regard included the enhancement of border control and capacity-building. Another strategy was the disruption of the connection between traffickers, retailers and consumers and the use of prescribed methadone and opium syrup to treat drug addiction. The low price of methadone would thus disrupt the connection between consumers and retailers. Harm reduction activities, including the distribution of syringes, were carried out as well. The Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran conducted awareness-raising activities in schools, workplaces and society at large, and involved an increasing number of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and other stakeholders in demand reduction programmes.

22. In Pakistan, community education activities were carried out in two areas. One component was awareness-raising among youth, through the creation of pressure groups in educational institutions, poster competitions, quiz sessions, sketches and other activities. Another component was the involvement of communities at the grass-roots level, NGO support programmes and dissemination of information and promotional materials. The representative of Pakistan also indicated that the national anti-narcotics force set up its own treatment centres, in addition to those run by NGOs, the Government and the private sector.

23. The approach of India in this regard was three-pronged, consisting of (a) awareness-raising and education, (b) motivational training, treatment, follow-up and rehabilitation and (c) training and building the capacity of volunteers. The Indian Narcotics Control Bureau and Central Bureau of Narcotics organized and coordinated all the awareness-raising activities and campaigns, such as posters, public service announcements and documentaries.

24. The representative of Lebanon reported that it had taken a number of drug demand reduction measures, including awareness-raising activities, rehabilitation and treatment. Moreover, there was cooperation with social institutions and mass media to raise awareness through targeted competitions and campaigns in schools and universities. The Ministry of Social Affairs appointed social workers to follow risk groups.

25. With regard to the recommendation on trafficking in opiates, precursor control and the increased need for international cooperation, the representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran pointed out the assumption that most precursors in that country transited through the United Arab Emirates and a certain Iranian port and were then smuggled to Afghanistan. The Islamic Republic of Iran requested in 2008 that the first phase of operation TARCET be conducted at that particular port. The representative also outlined the activities of the joint planning cell, set up in the framework of the Triangular Initiative, and the work of CARICC on precursors, as

well as the need for information exchange between the two entities. In 2009, the Iranian authorities had seized 200 litres of acetic chloride, a lesser amount than in 2008, although the reasons for the reduction were not clear. The need for equipment, especially X-ray equipment, was emphasized.

26. The representative of Pakistan noted that his country had been taking active part in precursor-tracking initiatives in the framework of initiatives conducted by UNODC and the International Narcotics Control Board and that it had strongly supported the continuation of TARCET. The representative stressed the need for effective cooperation and information-sharing mechanisms in monitoring trends, routes and methods used by drug traffickers and expressed support for the view of the representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran regarding the need for equipment.

27. The representative of India reported that, although there was no misuse of acetic acid in that country, his country took note of it and, should it be detected, it would take suitable steps to address it. Stringent controls were in place in India, in such forms as reports generated by manufacturers and the use of the PEN Online system. The representative of Lebanon noted that additional measures in this regard should include action against both fake companies and those specialized in the manufacture of dual-use substances.

V. Consideration of topics by working groups

28. At its 2nd to 5th meetings, from 16 to 18 November, 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 section I above.

A. Combating the ongoing challenge of illicit opiate trafficking in the region

29. The working group held two meetings, on 16 and 17 November 2009. In its consideration of the topic under review, the working group made the following observations:

(a) Despite the decreased area under illicit poppy cultivation in Afghanistan, the higher opium yield reportedly extracted from this reduced volume of raw material remains a source of great concern to the law enforcement authorities of the region;

(b) Essential precursors needed by traffickers to manufacture heroin still manage to evade the controls imposed by countries on their export;

(c) There is a need to improve the speed and efficacy of judicial cooperation between States of the region in the fight against illicit drug trafficking;

(d) The UNODC Container Control Programme offers participating ports access to training and software to support modern techniques of risk assessment, targeting and profiling; search techniques and equipment; facilitated partnerships with commercial operators; and access to secure communications between other

authorities in other ports for the exchange of information on containers, companies and vessels of interest.

30. The working group drew the following conclusions:

(a) International cooperation between law enforcement agencies is a key element of successful drug law enforcement;

(b) There is an increasing need for drug law enforcement agencies investigating those engaged in illicit drug trafficking and other forms of organized crime to adapt their strategic response to embrace special investigation techniques such as controlled deliveries, court-sanctioned electronic surveillance and the use of undercover police officers;

(c) UNODC-supported initiatives, such as the Triangular Initiative, the Global Container Control Programme and the Paris Pact, contribute significantly to building coordination and cooperation between States to combat illicit drug-trafficking and organized crime;

(d) A close and supportive engagement with private sector port operators, shipping companies and trade associations such as the Business Alliance for Secure Commerce should be encouraged as a priority for authorities wishing to gain ready access to essential shipping and trade information.

B. Use of the Internet in trafficking in narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and precursor chemicals

31. The working group held one meeting, on 17 November 2009. In its consideration of the topic under review, the working group made the following observations:

(a) Criminals use computers to promote their criminal businesses, support websites that promote illicit drug use, communicate with colleagues and store information about themselves, their illegal activities and associates;

(b) Policing the trading practices of Internet pharmacies is a challenge to law enforcement authorities;

(c) Many law enforcement agencies have limited capacity to recover evidence or data from information storage and transmission devices such as mobile phones and personal computers;

(d) Before they begin any new investigations into the activities of suspected traffickers, law enforcement authorities should have in place a digital evidence strategy for the handling of equipment and evidence encountered during their inquiries.

32. The working group drew the following conclusions:

(a) Law enforcement agencies need to ensure that their investigation staff are aware of the growing importance of electronic evidence to the investigation of those engaged in illicit drug trafficking;

(b) It is important, if law enforcement authorities are to be successful in gathering and presenting evidence obtained from electronic media such as mobile

telephones, personal computers, memory sticks and other sources, that legislation be up to date and address all forms of new technologies;

(c) Establishing a specialized unit with the necessary technical skills and equipment to support electronic data recovery and evidence-gathering should be part of any strategy devised by law enforcement when undertaking the investigation of drug trafficking and other organized crime offences;

(d) To be successful in investigating offences such as online drug trafficking and the criminal actions of those involved in illicit trafficking, authorities will need to develop effective working relationships with Internet service providers and establish closer cooperation with their law enforcement counterparts in foreign jurisdictions where evidence may be located.

C. Amphetamine-type stimulants

33. The working group held one meeting, on 18 November 2009. In its consideration of the topic under review, the working group made the following observations:

(a) Around the world, the numbers of people seeking treatment for abuse of ATS is on the increase. The numbers of those abusing ATS are higher than those for heroin and cocaine combined;

(b) Quantities of the ATS known as Captagon are on the increase across the region. It enters the region mainly from Europe, smuggled in commercial vehicles such as international road transport (TIR) trucks, in buses and by sea and air, concealed within commercial goods. In addition, growing amounts of methamphetamine are being smuggled into the region from East Asia;

(c) There appears to be a significant oversupply of ATS-related precursor chemicals such as pseudoephedrine and benzyl methyl ketone (also known as P-2-P) imported into the region, purportedly to meet legitimate manufacturing requirements;

(d) More work needs to be done in the analysis of the constituent elements of seized ATS so as to identify active ingredients, common sources of manufacture and patterns in trafficking;

(e) The expansion of the UNODC Synthetics Monitoring: Analysis, Reporting and Trends programme will support Member States in gaining better insight into ATS supply and demand trends.

34. The working group drew the following conclusions:

(a) ATS manufacture presents new problems every day, as, unlike plant-based illicit drug production, ATS manufacture is not geographically restricted, but can be undertaken anywhere;

(b) Gaining access to accurate data relating to ATS seizures, abuse and treatment is essential for developing effective countermeasure strategies. Accurate data result in better policies;

(c) There should be closer scrutiny of the quantity of imported precursors for domestic use against the assessed, legitimate needs of national industry and manufacturing. The estimates system implemented by the International Narcotics

Control Board for annual national requirements of key precursor chemicals would offer an additional safeguard against the importation of essential precursors for diversion to illicit use;

(d) Analysing the composition of seized ATS and sharing the results among law enforcement authorities and national laboratory services will increase knowledge of precursor ingredients and trafficking patterns, and strengthen the effectiveness of investigation into those responsible.

VI. Organization of the forty-fifth session of the Subcommittee

35. At its 6th meeting, on 18 November 2009, the Subcommittee considered item 7 of its agenda, entitled “Organization of the forty-fifth session of the Subcommittee”. For its consideration of item 7, the Subcommittee had before it a note by the Secretariat drawing attention to certain questions that needed to be addressed concerning its forty-fifth session and a draft provisional agenda for its consideration (UNODC/SUBCOM/44/4). The Secretary made an introductory statement outlining action to be taken for the organization of the forty-fifth session of the Subcommittee, including the need to identify Governments that would be willing to host the forty-fifth session. Statements were made by the representatives of Lebanon, India, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Pakistan, Turkey, Iraq and the Syrian Arab Republic.

36. There was a discussion on potential topics for consideration by the working groups at the forty-fifth session of the Subcommittee. The following topics were proposed for consideration: (a) preventing the diversion of precursor chemicals and highlighting the threat from the use of alternative chemicals for ATS manufacture; (b) newly identified chemicals and prevention measures; (c) illicit drug smuggling by sea, including Mediterranean and Black Sea routes; (d) illicit opium production in and trafficking from Afghanistan; (e) amphetamine-type stimulants; (f) controlled deliveries; and (g) border controls to detect illicit drug trafficking.

37. In view of the variety and number of topics proposed, the Secretariat was requested to work with member States to develop a set of focused and coherent topics to be discussed by the Subcommittee at its forty-fifth session, also taking into account new developments and priorities in illicit drug production, trafficking and abuse in the region. The Secretariat was requested to consult with Member States to identify a possible host for that session.

38. The Subcommittee approved the following draft provisional agenda for its forty-fifth 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:
 - (a) [...]
 - (b) [...]
 - (c) [...]

(d) [...]

5. Follow-up to the outcome of the high-level segment of the fifty-second session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs.
6. Implementation of the recommendations adopted by the Subcommission at its forty-third session.
7. Organization of the forty-sixth session of the Subcommission.
8. Other business.
9. Adoption of the report.

VII. Other business

39. At its 6th meeting, on 18 November 2009, the Subcommission considered item 8 of its agenda, entitled "Other business". The representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran recommended that Member States should pay tribute to law enforcement officers who lost their lives in the global fight against illicit drug trafficking, as this would provide a measure of consolation to their families. The representative of Lebanon proposed that a day should be dedicated to the commemoration of law enforcement officers fallen in the line of duty while fighting drug traffickers. The representative of the United Arab Emirates expressed support for this proposal and recommended that tribute also be paid to law enforcement officers and teams that achieve success in their investigations and prosecutions of drug traffickers. That speaker also stated that the meetings of the Subcommission were very beneficial and allowed for a useful exchange of information, experiences and best practices. The representative of Pakistan stated that more assistance should be provided by multilateral donors in order to expand alternative development programmes. The representative of Lebanon recommended that information on seizures made in the region covered by the Subcommission be regularly made available by UNODC.

VIII. Adoption of the report

40. At its 7th meeting, on 19 November 2009, the Subcommission adopted the report on its forty-fourth session (UNODC/SUBCOM/44/L.1 and Add.1-7), including the reports of the working groups and their recommendations, as orally revised.

IX. Organization of the forty-fourth session of the Subcommission

A. Opening and duration of the session

41. The forty-fourth session of the Subcommission on Illicit Drug Traffic and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East was held in Vienna from 16 to 19 November 2009. The Chief of the Technical Cooperation Section for Africa, the Middle East, Latin America and the Caribbean of the Division for Operations of

UNODC addressed the opening meeting on behalf of the Executive Director. The Chairman of the forty-fourth session of the Subcommission also addressed the meeting.

B. Attendance

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

43. Austria, Japan and the Russian Federation were represented by observers.

44. The International Narcotics Control Board was also represented.

45. The Arab Interior Ministers Council and the League of Arab States were also represented.

C. Election of officers

46. At its 1st meeting, on 16 November, the Subcommission elected the following officers by acclamation:

Chairperson: Michel Shakkour (Lebanon)

Vice-Chairpersons: Yerzhan Kazykhanov (Kazakhstan)

Yousuf A. Salem al-Adeedi (United Arab Emirates)

Rapporteur: Shahzada M. Taimur Khusrow (Pakistan)

D. Adoption of the agenda

47. 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) Combating the ongoing challenge of illicit opiate trafficking in the region;
 - (b) Use of the Internet in trafficking in narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and precursor chemicals;
 - (c) Amphetamine-type stimulants.
5. Follow-up to the twentieth special session of the General Assembly.
6. Implementation of the recommendations adopted by the Subcommission at its forty-second session.
7. Organization of the forty-fifth session of the Subcommission.

8. Other business.
9. Adoption of the report.

E. Documentation

48. The documents before the forty-fourth session of the Subcommittee are listed in the annex to the present document.

F. Closure of the session

49. The Chairman of the forty-fourth session 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-fourth session**

<i>Document</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>	<i>Title or description</i>
UNODC/SUBCOM/44/1	2	Provisional agenda, annotations and proposed organization of work
UNODC/SUBCOM/44/2	3	Report of the Secretariat on statistics on drug trafficking trends in the Near and Middle East, in South, West and Central Asia and worldwide
UNODC/SUBCOM/44/3	6	Note by the Secretariat on the review of implementation by States of the region of the recommendations adopted by the Subcommittee at its forty-second session
UNODC/SUBCOM/44/4	7	Note by the Secretariat on the organization of the forty-fifth session of the Subcommittee
UNODC/SUBCOM/44/L.1 and Add.1-7	9	Draft report
UNODC/SUBCOM/2008/CRP.1	3	Note by the Secretariat on the current situation with respect to regional and subregional cooperation
UNODC/SUBCOM/44/CRP.2-9	3	Country reports