

**Economic and Social Council**Distr.: General
6 January 2004

Original: English

Commission on Narcotic Drugs

Forty-seventh session

Vienna, 15-22 March 2004

Item 6 (a) of the provisional agenda*

**Illicit drug traffic and supply: world situation with regard
to drug trafficking and action taken by the subsidiary
bodies of the Commission****Action taken by subsidiary bodies of the Commission on
Narcotic Drugs****Report of the Secretariat****Contents**

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* E/CN.7/2004/1.



I. Introduction

1. Four meetings of the subsidiary bodies of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs were held in 2003: the thirty-eighth session of the Subcommission on Illicit Drug Traffic and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East, held in Amman from 23 to 27 June; the Thirteenth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Africa, held in Port Louis from 8 to 12 September; the Thirteenth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Salvador, Brazil, from 20 to 24 October; and the Twenty-seventh Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Asia and the Pacific, held in Bangkok from 8 to 12 December.
2. Following a review of trends in drug trafficking and regional and subregional cooperation, each of the subsidiary bodies addressed drug law enforcement issues of priority in its region. Consideration of those issues was facilitated by the discussions that had been held during informal meetings of the working groups established for that purpose. In addition, the implementation of previous recommendations is reviewed on a biennial basis by all of the subsidiary bodies except the Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Europe, which is convened triennially.
3. At its thirty-eighth session, the Subcommission on Illicit Drug Traffic and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East considered the following issues: (a) regional trends in opiate trafficking; (b) identifying traffickers through effective document control; and (c) illicit manufacture and distribution of stimulants. The Thirteenth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Africa, considered the following issues: (a) regional trends in trafficking in opiates and cannabis; (b) illicit manufacture and distribution of stimulants; (c) identifying sound practice in training for Africa's law enforcement officials; and (d) mobilizing community support for law enforcement anti-drug strategies. The Thirteenth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Latin America and the Caribbean, examined the following issues: (a) value of effective controlled delivery operations; (b) strengthening information exchange and operational cooperation at the inter-agency, cross-border and regional levels; (c) new global threats: challenges to law enforcement from globalization. The Twenty-seventh Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Asia and the Pacific, considered the following topics: (a) effective mechanisms to support operational cross-border cooperation; (b) the appropriateness of national drug law enforcement strategies to the current world situation; (c) identifying traffickers through effective document control; and (d) the region's response to the increasing availability of amphetamine-type stimulants.
4. The recommendations of those meetings of the subsidiary bodies are contained in the reports of those meetings (UNODC/SUBCOM/2003/5, UNODC/HONLAF/2003/5, UNODC/HONLAC/2003/5 and UNODC/HONLAP/2003/5), which will be made available to the Commission in the working languages of the respective subsidiary bodies. The recommendations are summarized in section II below.

II. Recommendations of the subsidiary bodies

A. Thirty-eighth session of the Subcommission on Illicit Drug Traffic and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East

1. Regional trends in opiate trafficking

5. Governments of countries in the Near and Middle East should continue to develop and implement sound demand reduction strategies that offer treatment and rehabilitation facilities in response to the threat posed by increasing availability of heroin.

6. To be effective against those engaged in trafficking in illicit drugs and other cross-border criminal activities, Governments should review their existing bilateral agreements to ensure that they are still relevant and meet the current needs of their law enforcement agencies and judiciary in the investigation, arrest and prosecution of offenders.

7. Acting against the illicit manufacture of heroin in clandestine laboratories in and around the territory of Afghanistan, Governments should observe and implement the guidelines promulgated by the International Narcotics Control Board concerning the control and movement of essential precursor chemicals such as acetic anhydride and, in instances of the interception of diverted consignments, should initiate backtracking investigations into the sources and origins of the seizure.

8. Governments should ensure that their law enforcement agencies are regularly exchanging information concerning illicit trafficking in narcotic drugs and precursor chemicals, current updates on the *modi operandi* employed, methods of concealment used and nationalities involved among the States of the region either through direct communication with one another or through other trusted media such as the network of regional intelligence liaison offices of the Customs Cooperation Council (also known as the World Customs Organization) or the data transfer options offered by the International Criminal Police Organization (Interpol) to its members.

9. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, in coordination with appropriate organs of the United Nations system, Interpol and other international organizations, should be invited to study the drug situation in the territories outside the control of the legitimate Governments of the countries in the region (Afghanistan, Iraq and the Nagorny-Karabakh region of Azerbaijan) and to report on the results of that study to the Subcommission.

2. Identifying drug traffickers through effective document control

10. Because of the importance placed on national identity cards, passports and other travel documents, Governments should take steps to ensure that such official documentation is protected as much as possible by using modern security techniques to render their alteration difficult, if not impossible.

11. Because of an increasing concern for security and the need for States to have reliable information regarding the true identity and reasons for travel of persons crossing international borders, Governments should review the penalties for offences relating to those convicted of dealing in, attempting to obtain and

possessing false passports or identity documentation to ensure that such offences carry penalties appropriate to the seriousness of the offence and acted as an effective deterrent.

12. Governments should be invited to establish a system of focal points in immigration departments or ministries responsible for passport control to be available to respond immediately to requests or enquiries from recognized foreign government agencies concerning details about their national passports.

13. To be effective against persons who attempt to cross international borders using false documentation in order to further their criminal enterprises, Governments must take steps to ensure that there is coordination in the work of the control agencies that operate the primary inspection line at the immigration desk and the secondary inspection line at customs and exit points.

3. Illicit manufacture and distribution of stimulants

14. In response to the worldwide surge in the manufacture of and trafficking in amphetamine-type stimulants, Governments should take steps to ensure that personnel in their front-line control agencies are aware, and well trained in the recognition, of amphetamine-type stimulants and current smuggling *modi operandi*.

15. To curb the illicit manufacture of amphetamine-type stimulants, in particular in those regions identified as being at risk to clandestine production, Governments are urged to take immediate steps to ensure that the substances listed in Tables I and II of the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988¹ are placed under the control of their regulatory authorities.

16. All States of the region are called upon to actively support Project Prism, an initiative of the International Narcotics Control Board and the international community, in order to maintain proactive control over the manufacture, sale and distribution of the essential chemicals required for the illicit manufacture of amphetamine-type stimulants.

17. Governments should be invited to take immediate action, through well-supported demand reduction strategies, to correct any misconception among the young people in their populations that so-called “recreational” drugs such as methylenedioxymethamphetamine (MDMA, commonly known as Ecstasy) are non-addictive and harmless.

18. Governments should respond to pre-export notifications expeditiously.

B. Thirteenth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Africa

Issue 1. Regional trends in trafficking in opiates and cannabis

19. Governments should direct their representatives attending sessions of the African Union to urgently raise the issue of the seriousness of the threat of cannabis in Africa as well as that of other drugs such as cocaine, heroin and amphetamine-type stimulants in that forum so as to promote the change necessary in the

continent's approach to the consequences of drug abuse and trafficking. The Drug Control and Crime Prevention Unit of the African Union should, in collaboration with African subregional organizations, step up its advocacy role among African heads of State and Government to strengthen political will and ensure resource allocation for drug control on the continent.

20. States should support the use by their respective law enforcement agencies of the new secure Internet communication platforms being offered by both Interpol and the World Customs Organization for rapid and inexpensive communications in support of national, regional and interregional drug law enforcement operations.

21. States that have not yet done so should establish national coordination mechanisms to coordinate the enforcement efforts of those agencies mandated with countering trafficking in illicit drugs and cross-border crime law enforcement.

Issue 2. Illicit manufacture and distribution of stimulants

22. Governments should recognize the threat of rapidly escalating abuse of amphetamine-type stimulants in Africa. In that context each country should develop a multifaceted strategy against the manufacture of, trafficking in and abuse of amphetamine-type stimulants, as well as against trafficking in and diversion of precursor chemicals.

23. Close inter-agency cooperation, involving, for example, the authorities responsible for the regulation of precursor chemicals and of licit drugs, the police, customs authorities and border patrols, should be promoted and investigative methodologies should be developed.

24. Governments should, where necessary, establish authorities with specific responsibility for monitoring precursor chemicals.

25. Law enforcement agencies should receive specialized training in the search, investigation and dismantling of clandestine laboratories, as well as handling and gathering of evidence. Their staff should also be trained in profiling containers and other shipments, monitoring precursors and applying safety regulations for handling chemicals. Training could be initiated bilaterally and involve enforcement agencies with wide experience in the investigation of clandestine laboratories and precursor control.

26. Governments that have not yet done so should enter into bilateral and regional agreements, including the use of intergovernmental bodies, such as Interpol, the World Customs Organization or other international organizations, to promote information- and intelligence-sharing on a regular basis on the modus operandi of traffickers.

27. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the International Narcotics Control Board and Interpol should cooperate more closely in the gathering of intelligence on and trends in the manufacture of amphetamine-type stimulants and diversion of and trafficking in precursor chemicals and should also share data on other subjects to enable Member States to gain a clearer picture of the drug problem on the continent.

Issue 3. Identifying sound practice in training for Africa's law enforcement officials

28. An assessment of training needs should be undertaken to ensure that investment in training is focused to meet the specific needs of each agency. Governments should ensure that trained persons stay in their positions for a suitable time after receiving training to derive the maximum benefits from that training.

29. Training centres should aim to train instructors who can share their knowledge with fellow officers in their home countries or regions.

30. Training centres should make known and harmonize their curricula in order to avoid duplication.

31. Training centres should train the personnel of drug law enforcement agencies and promote awareness of drug trafficking and inter-agency cooperation. Demand reduction strategies should be an integral part of drug law enforcement training curricula.

32. Higher priority should be given to training in the investigation of money-laundering offences and forfeiture of assets for investigators and prosecutors from countries that have recently adopted legislation against money-laundering.

Issue 4. Mobilizing community support for law enforcement anti-drug strategies

33. If they have not already done so, Governments should take steps to draft national demand reduction strategies that draw on the resources available in all their ministries.

34. Governments should ensure that study of the principles of demand reduction and the role of law enforcement officers in demand reduction is included in the training curriculum of national drug law enforcement agencies.

35. Governments should actively support the inclusion of demand reduction objectives in drug law enforcement programmes in order to ensure the involvement of local communities, non-governmental organizations, educational institutions and other social services provided by the State.

C. Thirteenth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Latin America and the Caribbean

Issue 1. Value of effective controlled delivery operations

36. Governments should be encouraged to review procedures in respect of controlled delivery operations to ensure that the relevant legislation, resources, expertise, procedures and coordination mechanisms are in place to facilitate those specialist and complex operations.

37. Governments should be requested to consider how cooperation and coordination could be strengthened between the police, prosecutors and the judiciary to encourage joint efforts to facilitate efficient and effective controlled

delivery operations. The establishment of joint training courses should be considered.

38. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime should be requested to liaise with Interpol to consider initiating a review of the Interpol manual on controlled delivery to ensure that it contained up-to-date information regarding legal procedures, legal systems and competent authorities or focal points for controlled deliveries. Member States should be asked to ensure that any requests for such information made by Interpol or the Office with a view to updating the manual are met in a timely manner.

39. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime should be requested to consider organizing an expert group meeting to identify best practices, standardize procedures and improve international cooperation and coordination in controlled delivery operations.

40. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime should also be requested to consider developing model regulations in relation to controlled delivery.

Issue 2. Strengthening information exchange and operational cooperation at the inter-agency, cross-border and regional levels

41. Regional intelligence centres should be supported and consideration should be given to extending the concept to other regions with a view to creating a network for sharing information.

42. Law enforcement agencies should be encouraged to engage with their counterparts at the country level and in other countries to conduct joint operations.

43. Governments should be encouraged to develop and implement appropriate formal agreements at the cross-border and regional levels to assist in facilitating law enforcement operations against transnational crime and to support those agreements by responding in a timely manner to official requests for information and assistance.

44. Consideration should be given to further developing opportunities for joint training and exchange of officers from different investigating agencies, including those responsible for border control, and to including relevant language training for selected law enforcement officials to assist in facilitating international law enforcement cooperation and operational activity.

Issue 3. New global threats: challenges to law enforcement from globalization

45. Governments should consider establishing a regional consultative group to consider the issues regarding the growing problem of cyber crime and to recommend appropriate measures to combat the criminal use of the Internet.

46. Law enforcement authorities should develop courses to provide specialist training to ensure that adequate numbers of law enforcement personnel have the expertise to investigate cyber crime.

47. Law enforcement authorities should consider reviewing current systems and procedures with a view to strengthening cooperation with postal or courier companies to prevent and detect the smuggling of drugs through the postal system and, where appropriate, facilitate controlled delivery.

48. The training of drug law enforcement officers should include specific emphasis on dealing with the increasing problem of synthetic drugs.

49. The competent authorities should develop effective liaison with port authorities and commercial cargo companies to ensure that appropriate information systems and controls are in place to combat the use of containers for the smuggling of drugs and other contraband.

D. Twenty-seventh Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Asia and the Pacific

Issue 1. Effective mechanisms to support operational cross-border cooperation

50. The cross-border information exchange system should be improved to facilitate the timely interdiction of illicit drug production and trafficking. The establishment of a structured and organized information-sharing mechanism with fewer layers of communication and bureaucratic procedures should be discussed and agreed upon by Governments of countries in Asia and the Pacific.

51. Human resource development among cross-border law enforcement personnel should be promoted by Governments of countries in the region; in particular, law enforcement officers on both sides of a national border must undergo similar training to ensure ease of communication in a common language.

52. Standard operating procedures should be mutually agreed upon by Governments, ensuring prompt action and confidentiality.

53. Governments should promote trust-building through activities such as regional workshops, study trips and team-building events.

Issue 2. The appropriateness of national drug law enforcement strategies to the current world situation

54. Governments should act immediately to examine the speed and ability of their legal, judicial and law enforcement services to respond effectively to requests for assistance from other States with differing languages, legal systems and professional skills and capabilities of counterpart agencies, in order to assess their preparedness to meet the challenges posed by transnational crime.

55. Governments should ensure that the process followed to draft, amend and implement national legislation is responsive and adaptable, in order to provide the support needed by law enforcement agencies and the judiciary to respond effectively to the challenge of new technologies employed by criminals in their illegal acts and to quickly allow authorities to use as countermeasures the latest scientific advances available.

56. If they have not already begun doing so, Governments should take immediate steps to provide the resources and political support necessary to enable their national law enforcement agencies to develop an intelligence-led response to their operations to combat the criminal activities of traffickers and other criminals engaged in cross-border organized crime.

57. Governments should consider controls on those chemicals not currently listed in Tables I and II of the 1988 Convention which can be used in the illicit manufacture of amphetamine-type stimulants.

Issue 3. Identifying traffickers through effective document control

58. Governments should ensure that their front-line law enforcement agencies adopt and apply new procedures and technologies that strengthen the efficacy of their efforts to suppress illicit drug trafficking and cross-border organized crime.

59. Governments should immediately take proactive steps to implement appropriate mechanisms that will support closer links between front-line law enforcement agencies and the commercial transport and trade sectors in the exchange of information, which will result in an improved ability to identify persons or companies engaged in illicit drug trafficking or cross-border organized crime.

60. Governments should act immediately to improve the communication between those ministries responsible for issuing identity and travel documentation, public security and border control through such measures as establishing mechanisms for inter-ministerial coordination, in order to ensure that there are effective checks and balances in place to stop attempts at obtaining such official documentation illegally.

Issue 4. The region's response to the increasing availability of amphetamine-type stimulants

61. There should be more training to improve drug-profiling capacities, including impurity analysis of seized amphetamine-type stimulants.

62. Professional training should be provided to countries in the region on precursor control and identification of clandestine laboratories. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime should be encouraged to take an active role by providing countries in the region with training media, such as the digital video disc (DVD) precursor training programme.

63. Governments should put more emphasis on and allocate more resources to providing parents and children with adequate information on the effects of amphetamine-type stimulants. There should be more emphasis on drug abuse prevention in both school curricula and extra-curricular activities. To that end, a regional guide should be produced and translated in various languages with the assistance of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, subject to the availability of resources.

64. A better understanding of partners and joint efforts should be encouraged. Agencies should share detailed information on modus operandi, trends and routes of trafficking in amphetamine-type stimulants. In addition, details such as dyes and logos used in the manufacture of amphetamine-type stimulants, as well as machinery and other production equipment, should be disclosed to Governments of countries in the region.

Notes

¹ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1582, No. 27627.