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**Illicit drug traffic and supply and related measures:
reducing the illicit supply of drugs**

Assistance to States affected by the transit of illicit drugs**Report of the Executive Director***Summary*

At its fifty-first session, the Commission on Narcotic Drugs adopted resolution 51/7, entitled “Assistance to States affected by the transit of illicit drugs”, in which the Commission, inter alia, called on transit States, countries of destination and countries of origin to enhance cooperation in areas of border control, mutual legal assistance, law enforcement, information exchange and demand reduction. In the same resolution, the Commission called on Member States and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to strengthen initiatives to provide assistance and technical support to States affected by the transit of illicit drugs; urged international financial institutions to provide financial support to States affected by the transit of illicit drugs through their territory; and requested the Executive Director of the Office to report to the Commission at its fifty-third session on the implementation of the resolution.

The present report includes the information provided by Member States on their implementation of resolution 51/7.

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I. Introduction

1. At its fifty-first session, the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, in its resolution 51/7 entitled “Assistance to States affected by the transit of illicit drugs”, inter alia, called on transit States, countries of destination and countries of origin to enhance cooperation in areas of border control, mutual legal assistance, law enforcement, information exchange and demand reduction, consistent with their respective national legal and administrative systems, and called on all Member States to support and promote such cooperation. In the same resolution, the Commission called on Member States and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to continue to strengthen initiatives to provide assistance and technical support to States affected by the transit of illicit drugs, especially developing countries and countries with economies in transition, and invited Member States and other donors to provide extrabudgetary contributions for those purposes in accordance with the rules and procedures of the United Nations; urged international financial institutions to provide financial support to States affected by the transit of illicit drugs through their territory; and requested the Executive Director of the Office to report to the Commission at its fifty-third session on the implementation of the resolution. A note verbale was sent to Member States on 15 September 2009 requesting information on their efforts to implement resolution 51/7. The information provided by Member States is included in the present report.

II. International cooperation and the assistance of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to States affected by the transit of illicit drugs

2. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime provides direct support to States affected by the transit of illicit drugs, especially developing countries and countries with economies in transition, through its technical programmes delivered by both its headquarters- and its field office-based experts. Some key developments since the reporting to the Commission at its fifteenth session are highlighted in this report.

3. The Central Asia Regional Information and Coordination Centre (CARICC), hosted by the Government of Kazakhstan, has moved from a pilot phase towards full functionality. The Centre, established as a technical assistance initiative of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to facilitate information exchange and drug trafficking analysis, supports the coordination of operational activities of the law enforcement agencies of Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, the Russian Federation, Turkmenistan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. The official inauguration of the Centre was held on 9 December 2009.

4. CARICC has developed its regional role and established informal cooperation with, inter alia, international organizations such as the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL), the European Police Office (Europol), the World Customs Organization and competent law enforcement authorities of European States, the United States of America and Canada. Work has commenced on formalizing bilateral cooperation agreements with INTERPOL, Europol and the World Customs Organization. The communication platforms that support the

operations of the Centre and, in turn, information exchange of Centre members both with Almaty and across the region include the INTERPOL I-24/7 and the World Customs Organization's CEN COMM-2 secure communication platforms. In-house CARICC databases drawn from reports to the Centre have been established and CARICC has commenced publishing strategic analytical reports. More than 40 information and analytical bulletins on different aspects of illicit drug trafficking across the region have been disseminated to 500 recipients.

5. The role of the Centre in coordination among law enforcement authorities has resulted in the dismantling of 12 transnational heroin smuggling routes and the seizure of more than 200 kilograms of heroin. The Centre has also contributed to operational law enforcement training through a "real-time" illicit drug controlled delivery exercise involving Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. This exercise addressed the practical issues confronting agencies such as planning for conducting joint operations, evidence-handling and handover procedures, maintaining surveillance from one country to another and ensuring real-time exchange of information throughout the operation. The Centre played the role of coordination centre over the course of the operation, functioning on a 24-hour shift basis.

6. The partnership of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime with the World Customs Organization in the Global Container Programme represents a further technical assistance initiative providing practical support to transit States. The Container Programme has continued to deliver according to and beyond expectations, with no small thanks due to the dedicated and highly motivated men and women of the Joint Port Control Units (JPCUs) established by the project at each site, who have applied effectively new professional skills delivered through the technical assistance of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. This initiative has achieved notable results in intercepting sea containers carrying illicit drugs and diverted precursor chemicals, and has extended its efficacy into other areas of organized crime, resulting in the detection of the illegal shipment of endangered species, hazardous and environmentally dangerous materials, fraud and attempts at revenue evasion. The Container Programme has expanded from its 2006 pilot sites in Ecuador to sites in Ghana, Pakistan and Senegal. The year 2009 saw the coming online of Costa Rica and Panama, together with a further six States in Latin America and the Caribbean, and the establishment of new sites in Africa (Benin, Cape Verde, Mali and Togo), the Balkans (Albania, Croatia, Montenegro, Serbia and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia) and Central Asia (Turkmenistan), with the European Commission funding the Economic Cooperation Organization countries (Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, the Islamic Republic of Iran and Kazakhstan) targeted for assistance in 2010. The transference of professional skills and capacity is a key component of the technical assistance delivered, and is augmented with technical equipment and a secure communication platform through the World Customs Organization CEN COMM network. As a result, an expanding network of law enforcement professionals who work at container profiling, selection and search have been able to pass on information and operational intelligence. This ensured the seizure of 150 kilograms of heroin in Guangdong, for example, as a result of information on suspicious containers communicated by colleagues in Karachi, an enforcement response now capable of being repeated daily around the globe.

7. Building regional support networks is another element of the response of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. Through a technical assistance programme targeting law enforcement and information exchange cooperation against cocaine trafficking extending from Latin America to Africa, the Office is working with the authorities of Brazil, Cape Verde, Colombia, Ecuador, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea-Bissau, Mexico, Peru, Senegal, Togo and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) in establishing an operational trans-Atlantic network of law enforcement partners to specifically target cocaine trafficking. This technical programme, which began in April 2007, has delivered a secure communications platform through which law enforcement authorities on both continents can communicate information and intelligence about the activities of trafficking syndicates. In addition, support to enhance the interdiction capacity of the participating countries of Latin America and West Africa, including their operational responses, is being provided through networking, training and equipment. The Office is supporting the integration of this project assistance with the work of the Lisbon-based Maritime Analysis and Operations Centre-Narcotics (MAOC-N) and the Office and the Centre are now working together towards common operational outcomes.

8. Upgrading technical skills and setting benchmarks for professional standards remain a key component of the programme of capacity-building in the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. For transit States, intercepting illicit drugs en route through their territories requires their law enforcement authorities to have skills and training comparable with those of their neighbours and trade partners. The Office's Computer-based Training (CBT) initiative, which commenced in 1998, has been disseminated among 52 countries at over 300 sites. The programme delivers drug law enforcement training in a broad range of fundamental supply reduction areas such as illicit drug identification, precursor control and testing, border management, risk assessment, intelligence development, search techniques and anti-money-laundering. More than 30,000 law enforcement officers have benefited from this form of training and the yearly numbers grow. As a result, law enforcement authorities in all regions are better placed to work together cooperatively and operationally through a shared understanding of terminologies, practices and procedures delivered through this commonly adopted Office training platform. To keep pace with member State needs, the Office is moving forward in 10 new areas of the Computer-based Training curriculum, which include sea container profiling, integrity and ethics, identity crime, first responders to a crime scene, HIV/AIDS for law enforcement and investigating cybercrime.

9. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime will be delivering to States assistance in air border management, which will commence in 2010 and roll-out over the next three years. A new initiative focusing upon capacity-building and interdiction skills at international airports, called project Aircop, will direct its assistance towards upgrading the professional skills of law enforcement officers working at airports, supporting the introduction of new work practices and developing new partnerships for operational cooperation with the agencies based there. This project is similar in approach to that of the Office's global sea container initiative. Initially 10 international airports in Brazil, Morocco and West Africa will establish joint airport interdiction task forces (JAITFs), trained and connected to one another through a secure communications network. As a result, they will be able to pass on information, in real time between operation centres at airports, on

passengers of interest, consignments of concern and the exchange of information between trusted professionals working together to build a better picture of those engaged in illicit drug smuggling throughout the continent and across the globe. Assisting the Office in the roll-out of this initiative with the provision of expertise and technical support will be INTERPOL and the World Customs Organization.

10. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime Global Programme against Money-Laundering offers a Mentor Programme to Member States with a view to providing more in-depth sustainable assistance in addressing money-laundering and the financing of terrorism. The programme places senior experts for up to 12 months in requesting States to train personnel, and provide advice on the conduct of money-laundering/terrorist financing cases and on the establishment of institutions such as financial intelligence units. The Office mentors are based in Nairobi, Namibia, Palau, Senegal, Tonga, Viet Nam and Central Asia, each having a regional responsibility for delivering technical support. Through their work, they offer training that promotes “learning by doing”. In a technically complex field, government agencies need hands-on assistance when building capacity and over a longer period so that staff can learn by example and pass on the learned expertise to colleagues. The mentor initiative offers an alternative to traditional training approaches such as those provided in the classroom. The Office has found this approach to be particularly appropriate in the field of anti-money-laundering/counter-financing of terrorism, as many Member States are under pressure to adopt international standards but lack the technical expertise needed to follow through on this easily. In addition, the Office’s Global Programme against Money-Laundering provides experienced prosecutors and law enforcement personnel who can work with their counterparts in a recipient country on day-to-day operational matters with a view to developing national expertise in the identification and investigation of financial crimes.

III. Efforts by Member States to assist States affected by the transit of illicit drugs

11. Further to the note verbale dated 15 September 2009 from the Secretariat to Member States requesting information by 6 November 2009 on their implementation of Commission on Narcotic Drugs resolution 51/7, replies were received from Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Ecuador, Germany, Jordan, Lebanon, Malta, Morocco, Myanmar, the Russian Federation, Senegal, the Syrian Arab Republic, Togo and Tunisia. In addition to reporting on the multilateral assistance to transit States delivered through the United Nations, a number of Member States replied to the Secretariat regarding their responses both domestically and bilaterally. Belarus, working through a framework of regional cooperation with Ukraine and the Republic of Moldova (BUMAD), has strengthened national legislation, law enforcement investigation skills, analyst capacities, forensic services and a broad range of further linked initiatives established to combat illicit drug trafficking. Bosnia and Herzegovina reported on its close work with the Southeast European Cooperative Initiative (SECI) Centre, the restriction of border points for the official entry of precursors, the undertaking of a risk assessment of the countries’ border crossings, and the development of a national single drug-suspect database. Training courses were delivered by the United Nations Office on Drugs

and Crime, and technical equipment upgrades were conducted in bilateral cooperation with Spain.

12. Ecuador reported on its successful efforts to conclude bilateral cooperation agreements with Andean partners to combat illicit drug trafficking, on its work on strengthening border controls and on its participation in a European Union-funded regional precursor control initiative. Germany reported upon its extensive bilateral and multilateral assistance programmes, covering a broad range of technical assistance. Germany has supported the regional response of South-Eastern Europe to illicit trafficking, with specific assistance to Albania. In Africa, it has supported law enforcement capacity-building, with specific assistance to the States of the Mano River Union and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) focused on cross-border cooperation initiatives. In the region of South-West Asia, programme support has been provided to Afghanistan and has extended outward to the States of Central Asia to encompass border management capacity-building. Jordan reported on the steps taken to update and strengthen its precursor control legislation, while noting at the same time that its control authorities would benefit from technical assistance in comprehensive implementation of such tighter controls. The Government of Lebanon indicated that its response included strengthening inter-agency cooperation so as to achieve closer coordination between the authorities in combating illicit drugs. Particular attention in this regard was being focused on procedures and operations at Lebanon's land, sea and air borders.

13. Malta reported on the special vigilance exercised with regard to the transit cargoes entering and leaving through its free-port container terminal. The authorities of Malta enjoyed working closely and cooperatively with States of the European Union in the exchange of information about consignments and persons of interest. The Government of Morocco advised on initiatives taken to strengthen cooperation with neighbouring States and regionally. Morocco is host to the World Customs Organization regional office for North Africa, is joining the MAOC-N initiative and is a contributing member of the Coordination Centre to fight drugs in the Mediterranean. In a bilateral move, Morocco and Spain have formed an anti-narcotics committee for closer coordination. Myanmar has engaged in a programme to strengthen border cooperation with its neighbours through a formal border liaison office initiative. Seven initiative offices have been established along the borders with China, the Lao People's Democratic Republic and Thailand and this has resulted in the seizure of many illicit drugs. In addition, the Government has signed bilateral agreements for cooperation with a number of its key trading partners in the region of South-East Asia. Among the measures adopted by the Russian Federation were the development of a Rapid-Reaction Force of the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO) utilizing joint military, special forces and law enforcement units of participating States in drug control operations. CSTO also coordinated the running of Operation Kanal, targeting illicit trafficking across Central Asia and in the Russian Federation, and took practical steps to strengthen the collective response of participating States to attempts to launder money. Development work also began on an integrated information database within the framework of the Federal Drug Control Service, while authorities in the Russian Federation undertook a number of controlled delivery operations with competent authorities in Central Asia, in keeping with its proactive policy to extend and strengthen operational cooperation and coordination against illicit drug trafficking.

14. The Government of Senegal reported on the fact that its competent services within the Ministry of the Interior regularly exchange operational information with Western enforcement services, notably those of France, Spain and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. The Syrian Arab Republic advised that specialized units had been established to investigate drug offences and that it was cooperating closely with neighbouring States and regional partners in the exchange of information and operational intelligence for the purpose of intercepting and prosecuting those engaged in illicit trafficking. Togo reported on the adoption in 2009 of an integrated national drug and crime action plan which will strengthen the country's ability to work both domestically and internationally against illicit drug trafficking. Togo highlighted its participation in and committed support of the project Aircop and Global Container, regional initiatives of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and international cooperation against cocaine trafficking from Latin America to Africa. Tunisia informed the Secretariat that the national police and national guard rigorously enforced controls on illicit drugs, and were supported in their work with information and analyses derived from the investigation of such offences and received from both regional and international partners.

IV. Recommendations

15. Where they have not already done so, Governments should be encouraged to take steps to conclude bilateral cooperation agreements with neighbouring States and key trading partners, specifically in order to speed up the exchange of information between, and the fulfilment of requests for assistance from, their respective law enforcement agencies and judiciaries.

16. Governments should ensure that procedures for processing official requests for legal assistance in gathering evidence, filing criminal charges and obtaining the extradition of offenders are fast and efficient.

17. Governments should ensure that their law enforcement agencies have a prepared set of standard operating procedures to support controlled deliveries, together with details on all regions' national points of contact, legal constraints and any special requirements.

18. To ensure that controlled deliveries related to drug trafficking are performed successfully, Governments must act to ensure that their law enforcement authorities know the contact details for counterpart national focal points, and are aware of any legal requirements and/or technical limitations whose specification must accompany requests to undertake such operations.

19. Governments should be encouraged to strengthen their response to attempts to launder illicit drug profits in transit States through international cooperation, the sharing of intelligence gathered and the development of complementary investigative techniques.

20. Law enforcement authorities should be supported by their Governments in developing close cooperation with private sector freight forwarders, port operators, shipping companies and trade associations and in engaging their support in counter-

narcotics initiatives and in facilitating access to the pre-arrival cargo information necessary for profiling and targeting commercial goods, vehicles and passengers.
