

22 October 2018

English only*

Report of the Forty-second Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Asia and the Pacific, held in Bangkok from 2 to 5 October 2018

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

Recommendations adopted by the Forty-second Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Asia and the Pacific

1. The Forty-second Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Asia and the Pacific, adopted the recommendations set forth below, which had been drawn up by the working groups.

Issue 1. Role of customs and other law enforcement agencies in effective border management strategies

2. The following recommendations were made with regard to the role of customs and other law enforcement agencies in effective border management strategies:

(a) Governments should specify and/or update information on their single national focal point to be contacted by foreign agencies for matters relating to drug law enforcement issues. The single focal point serves as the link to the national authorities. He or she ensures that information is exchanged in real time and requests are processed;

(b) Governments are encouraged to make the best use possible of the existing regional and international mechanisms and structures and of the network of the liaison officers to facilitate the exchange of criminal intelligence and the coordination of multilateral operations targeting international drug trafficking;

(c) Governments are encouraged to strengthen inter-agency cooperation between customs and other law enforcement authorities at the national level, for example by establishing inter-agency task forces.

Issue 2. Illicit cultivation and production of drugs, and latest trends in drug-related money-laundering and illicit financial flows, including the financing of terrorism through drug trafficking

3. The following recommendations were made with regard to the illicit cultivation and production of drugs, and the latest trends in drug-related money-laundering and illicit financial flows, including the financing of terrorism through drug trafficking:

(a) Governments are encouraged to conduct post-seizure and other backtracking investigations, as well as related financial investigations, on major drug

* Available only in English, which is the working language of the subsidiary body.



cases in order to identify, prosecute and dismantle organized criminal groups and to disrupt their supply chains and illicit financial flows;

(b) Governments are encouraged to engage with financial institutions, money-transfer businesses and other private actors to establish focal points and strengthen cooperation regarding the investigation and disruption of illicit financial flows related to drug trafficking;

(c) Governments should significantly strengthen inter-agency cooperation at the national level, as well as law enforcement cooperation at the regional and international levels, with a view to addressing challenges of drug-related money-laundering and the criminal use of cryptocurrencies in drug-related cases. This includes the exchange of information that would support law enforcement in the backtracking of financial flows along drug trafficking routes;

(d) Governments should develop training capacities and should provide training to law enforcement officers on the investigation of drug-related money-laundering, including in cases related to the use of cryptocurrencies. Governments should also provide basic training to front-line officers;

(e) Governments are encouraged to enhance regional and international cooperation to eliminate or significantly reduce the illicit cultivation and production of drugs, and trafficking in drugs, including by enhancing law enforcement cooperation and exchanging information and experience.

Issue 3. Inter-agency cooperation within and among countries on the control of precursor chemicals and new psychoactive substances

4. The following recommendations were made with regard to inter-agency cooperation within and among countries on the control of precursor chemicals and new psychoactive substances:

(a) Governments should strengthen their capacity to conduct forensic analyses of chemical substances in support of criminal investigations involving seizures of chemical substances, and their capacity to provide assistance in bilateral and multi-jurisdictional investigations. In doing so, they should aim, among other things, to assist other countries in identifying new psychoactive substances and alert them to the associated risks;

(b) Governments are encouraged to make full use of the existing tools to monitor the movement of chemicals with a view to minimizing the risk of their diversion into the illicit manufacture of drugs;

(c) Governments are encouraged to establish or strengthen partnerships with the industries and private sector entities involved in the manufacture of and trade in precursor chemicals;

(d) Governments should share, in a timely manner, detailed information on seizures of precursor chemicals with authorities in other jurisdictions involved in the same cases or in potentially similar ones in order to enable those authorities to conduct their own investigations and proactively prevent the diversion of similar precursor chemicals in the future. They should also share training materials, good practices and tools at the regional and international levels.

Issue 4. Raising awareness about drug-related issues in educational settings

5. The following recommendations were made with regard to raising awareness about drug-related issues in educational settings:

(a) Governments are encouraged to integrate evidence-based prevention efforts into national education curricula;

(b) Governments are encouraged to enhance cooperation among the education, health and law enforcement sectors at the national level with regard to prevention efforts that target children and young people;

(c) Governments are encouraged to further explore the use of new technologies for raising awareness among children and young people on the health and social consequences of drug use;

(d) Governments are encouraged, as a complement to prevention efforts in educational settings, to further support parenting and family skills activities that build resilience among children and young people as a form of effective drug use prevention;

(e) The collection of national data on drug use trends, including on the efficacy of prevention efforts, should be strengthened;

(f) Governments are encouraged to enhance efforts to provide sports and other healthy recreational facilities to children and young people in educational settings.

II. Major regional drug trafficking trends and countermeasures

6. At its 1st and 2nd meetings, on 2 October 2018, the Meeting considered item 3 of its agenda, entitled “Major regional drug trafficking trends and countermeasures”. For its consideration of the item, the Meeting had before it a report of the Secretariat on the world situation with regard to drug trafficking ([E/CN.7/2018/5](#)) and a note by the Secretariat on regional and subregional cooperation in South Asia, East Asia, South-East Asia and the Pacific ([UNODC/HONLAP/42/3](#)). In addition, country reports were submitted by Bhutan, Brunei Darussalam, China, Georgia, India, Japan, Malaysia, Myanmar, New Zealand, Pakistan, the Russian Federation, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Turkey.¹

7. A representative of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) introduced the item and made a presentation. The representatives of Japan, Iran (Islamic Republic of), China, Thailand, Indonesia, Turkey, Pakistan, New Zealand and the Russian Federation made statements or gave presentations.

8. Speakers reported on the current drug trafficking trends in their countries, mainly on the basis of seizure data, but also on the basis of numbers reflecting admissions to the health system. In a number of countries, methamphetamine was considered as the most widely abused drug, and methamphetamine flows in East and South-East Asia were reported to be rising dramatically. One speaker referred to high numbers of seized “captagon” pills. A number of speakers addressed the unprecedented increase in opium poppy cultivation in Afghanistan. Increased heroin flows were reported by a number of speakers, as well as increased flows of related precursors. One speaker reported that cannabis production and use was rising in his country, while another reported falling figures in that regard. Synthetic cannabinoids and synthetic cathinones were also addressed. With regard to the use of data gathering tools to analyse trends, one speaker reported that waste water analysis had proven useful, including a way to assess the impact of major law enforcement operations. Some speakers voiced concern about the growing misuse of fentanyl and its dramatic public health consequences. Some speakers highlighted the challenges faced by most affected transit States as a result of the illicit cultivation and production of drugs and trafficking in drugs.

9. Speakers referred to various trafficking methods that had been observed. Drugs had been found concealed in fishing vessels, industrial machines and items of everyday use. Some organized criminal groups reportedly used couriers travelling as tourists

¹ UNODC/HONLAP/42/CRP.2, UNODC/HONLAP/42/CRP.3, UNODC/HONLAP/42/CRP.4, UNODC/HONLAP/42/CRP.5, UNODC/HONLAP/42/CRP.6, UNODC/HONLAP/42/CRP.7, UNODC/HONLAP/42/CRP.8, UNODC/HONLAP/42/CRP.9, UNODC/HONLAP/42/CRP.10, UNODC/HONLAP/42/CRP.11, UNODC/HONLAP/42/CRP.12, UNODC/HONLAP/42/CRP.13, UNODC/HONLAP/42/CRP.14, UNODC/HONLAP/42/CRP.15 and UNODC/HONLAP/42/CRP.16.

in organized tours. Related crimes such as extortion, fraud and money-laundering were also addressed. Drug trafficking routes remained dynamic within the region, as did routes into the region coming from or through Canada, Colombia, Mexico, the United States of America and West Africa.

10. A number of speakers reported on investigation successes in major drug trafficking cases, in particular on seizures, the closing of clandestine laboratories, the dismantling of criminal groups and arrests of suspects. They discussed the usefulness of intelligence-led operations and special investigative techniques, in particular controlled delivery. Some speakers mentioned the work of inter-agency task forces and working groups that helped to coordinate national law enforcement agencies. One speaker referred to investigations into drug trafficking occurring in virtual networks on the darknet and elsewhere in cyberspace, and reported on cases in which such networks had been successfully investigated, resulting in their closure, in drug seizures and in the arrest of suspects.

11. Speakers referred to the drug control strategies adopted by their Governments, which included measures to ensure the availability of controlled drugs for medical and scientific purposes, improve treatment services for people with drug use disorders, prevent drug abuse, minimize the adverse public health and social consequences of drug abuse and collect data. Legislative reforms relating to investigation methods and the regulation of new psychoactive substances were also reported.

12. A number of speakers referred to bilateral law enforcement cooperation on the basis of informal information-sharing agreements and to successful joint operations. The role of drug liaison officers was highlighted. Further, joint training events and the exchange of expertise and experience were considered important aspects of bilateral and regional cooperation. It was recommended that financial investigations play a key role in drug trafficking investigations and that the exchange of financial information between law enforcement authorities be expedited.

13. Speakers made reference to initiatives to strengthen international cooperation, including the Triangular Initiative and the Safe Mekong Initiative supported by UNODC, the operational cooperation under the auspices of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and the role of the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL). Reference was made to the Pre-Export Notification (PEN) Online system developed by UNODC and the International Narcotics Control Board.

14. Law enforcement networks were mentioned as useful structures to enhance the exchange of information. One speaker proposed to establish a working group to monitor maritime trafficking. The appointment of focal points in the various law enforcement cooperation networks was highlighted as being crucial to the success of cooperation.

15. Responding to a country presentation, one speaker highlighted the importance of using United Nations maps during meetings organized by the United Nations.

III. Implementation of the recommendations adopted by the Fortieth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Asia and the Pacific

16. At its 2nd meeting, on 2 October 2018, the Meeting considered item 4 of its agenda, entitled “Implementation of the recommendations adopted by the Fortieth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Asia and the Pacific”.

17. The Fortieth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Asia and the Pacific, held in Colombo from 24 to 27 October 2016, had adopted a set of recommendations following consideration by working groups at that meeting.

A questionnaire on the implementation of those recommendations had been dispatched to Governments on 5 April 2018.

18. The Meeting had before it a note by the Secretariat on the implementation of the recommendations adopted by the Fortieth Meeting prepared on the basis of information provided by Governments in response to the questionnaire sent to all States that are represented at the Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Asia and the Pacific (UNODC/HONLAP/42/4). The note reflected replies received by 31 July 2018 from the Governments of Georgia, Japan, Malaysia, Myanmar, New Zealand, Pakistan, the Russian Federation, Singapore, Sri Lanka and Turkey. Shortly before the Meeting convened, completed questionnaires were also received from Bhutan, Brunei Darussalam, China, India and Indonesia.

19. The Secretary of the Meeting introduced the item and highlighted the issues related to the implementation of the recommendations referred to in the note. The representatives of Japan, China and Thailand made statements or gave presentations.

20. The speakers reported on actions taken by their Governments to implement the recommendations adopted by the Fortieth Meeting. The representative of Japan gave an update of that country's new five-year drug abuse prevention strategy and, in doing so, addressed the recommendation to adopt a comprehensive, integrated, balanced and multidisciplinary approach to the drug problem. The speaker from China briefed participants on recent developments regarding the control of new psychoactive substances and amphetamine-type stimulants in China further to the recommendations relating to forensic laboratories, the use of tools and services available through UNODC and the exchange of operational intelligence between national drug law enforcement agencies.

21. In the context of the recommendation relating to national forensic laboratories for the profiling of illicit drugs, a speaker from Thailand provided information on the work forensic laboratories were doing in that country to analyse seized illicit drugs, in particular amphetamine-type stimulants, methamphetamine and "yaba". In the context of the recommendation that Governments should consider reviewing current policies to reflect the operational recommendations contained in the outcome document of the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem held in 2016, another speaker from Thailand gave a presentation about that country's system for the treatment of drug use disorders, which was based on the paradigm that drug addiction is a health problem.

IV. Consideration of topics by working groups

22. At its 3rd to 6th meetings, on 3 and 4 October 2018, under item 5 of the agenda, entitled "Consideration of topics by working groups", four working groups each examined one of the four issues under that item. The observations made by the working groups and the conclusions reached after consideration of the issues are presented below. The recommendations made by the working groups and adopted by the Meeting are presented in chapter I above.

Issue 1. Role of customs and other law enforcement agencies in effective border management strategies

23. The working group on the above topic met during the 3rd meeting, held on 3 October 2018. During its consideration of the issue, the working group made the following observations:

(a) Cooperation and coordination between national law enforcement agencies is of key importance to the success of border management strategies;

(b) The exchange of information and intelligence between law enforcement agencies often remains fragmented or slow at both the national and regional levels;

(c) In some cases, backtracking investigations (investigations that use concrete case information in order to identify, prosecute and dismantle organized drug trafficking organizations and disrupt related financial flows) are not conducted and the focus of those cases tends to remain on the seizures themselves;

(d) There are serious difficulties in investigating cases concerning consignments that have transited through several countries or free trade zones because consignment information is fragmented among agencies in different countries, or because certain information is not properly recorded.

24. The working group drew the following conclusions:

(a) The role of customs in countering drug trafficking and other types of organized crime is in some cases underestimated or its potential underutilized;

(b) Customs and other law enforcement agencies, in some cases, may currently not be fully prepared to face the increasing challenge presented by the flow of various types of illicit drugs including methamphetamines and new psychoactive substances;

(c) There is a need to enhance inter-agency cooperation and coordination to meet the need for successful border management strategies;

(d) The varying capacities of national law enforcement agencies in the region make ensuring a regional response to transnational drug trafficking more challenging;

(e) Existing regional and international structures and mechanisms for multilateral cooperation remain underutilized.

Issue 2. Illicit cultivation and production of drugs, and the latest trends in drug-related money-laundering and illicit financial flows, including the financing of terrorism through drug trafficking

25. The working group on the above topic met during the 4th meeting, held on 3 October 2018. During its consideration of the issue, the working group made the following observations:

(a) Cooperation between law enforcement agencies and financial intelligence units is one of the key factors in countering regional and international drug trafficking and disrupting related financial flows;

(b) Online drug trade and money-laundering using cryptocurrencies have significantly increased and represent a growing challenge to law enforcement agencies in the investigation of cases involving them;

(c) Front-line officers of all relevant law enforcement agencies require at least a basic understanding of financial investigations, the disruption of illicit financial flows and cryptocurrency investigations;

(d) To eliminate or significantly reduce the illicit cultivation and production of drugs and trafficking in drugs, it is essential to have regional and international cooperation in law enforcement and financial investigations.

26. The working group drew the following conclusions:

(a) In many cases, front-line officers of law enforcement agencies are insufficiently aware of and knowledgeable about financial investigations, financial disruption and cryptocurrency investigations;

(b) Specialized training courses, course materials and tools for law enforcement agencies on online drug trafficking and transactions with cryptocurrencies are not sufficiently available to enable them to efficiently investigate cases in these areas;

(c) The information collected by financial institutions, money value transfer businesses, electronic payment providers and other actors of the private sector remains underutilized by law enforcement agencies in the investigation of drug-related money-laundering;

(d) It is important that UNODC continue providing assistance with regard to money-laundering, including by distributing information on good practices and training materials on these matters.

Issue 3. Inter-agency cooperation within and among countries on the control of precursor chemicals and new psychoactive substances

27. The working group on the above topic met during the 5th meeting, held on 4 October 2018. During its consideration of the issue, the working group made the following observations:

(a) An increased number of non-controlled substances is being identified in the illicit manufacture of drugs in the region;

(b) The region faces significant problems related to the increase of trafficking in new psychoactive substances;

(c) Countering illicit trafficking in precursor chemicals and new psychoactive substances requires the regular use of the existing tools for monitoring the international flow of these substances such as the PEN Online system and the Precursors Incident Communication System;

(d) Effective investigations into trafficking in new psychoactive substances and precursor chemicals require the swift exchange of information on seized precursor chemicals between jurisdictions involved in the same cases or in potentially similar ones.

28. The working group drew the following conclusions:

(a) There is a need for more reliable forensic data on seized drugs and chemicals to identify existing threats and design countermeasures;

(b) Forensic capacities in the region to analyse seized drugs and precursors need to be strengthened;

(c) The reporting on seizures of chemical substances used for the illicit manufacture of drugs needs to be enhanced or improved, as does the utilization of the existing tools to monitor international flows of chemicals such as the PEN Online system and the Precursors Incident Communication System;

(d) There is a need for increased control over the movement of precursor chemicals from and through free trade zones and trade hubs to prevent them from reaching the major illicit drug manufacturing regions.

Issue 4. Raising awareness about drug-related issues in educational settings

29. The working group on the above topic met during the 6th meeting, held on 4 October 2018. During its consideration of the issue, the working group made the following observations:

(a) Countries in the region are currently implementing drug use prevention programmes in educational settings that target children and young people at preschool, primary, secondary and tertiary institutions;

(b) Awareness campaigns on social and mass media for young people, including young people out of school, remain the most widely implemented type of prevention effort;

(c) Countries carry out school and family-based activities in support of drug-free communities in collaboration between law enforcement and the education sector;

(d) The growing trend of abuse of prescription medication among young people is cause for concern;

(e) Support, including counselling and other psychosocial services, is needed for the families of people who use drugs and of people in closed settings due to their drug use.

30. The working group drew the following conclusions:

(a) Drug use prevention strategies in educational settings, implemented as part of a balanced and comprehensive approach to addressing the world drug problem, should encompass multi-stakeholder engagement, including with the participation of education, health and law enforcement authorities;

(b) Prevention strategies that focus on family skills are the keys to developing and implementing effective drug use prevention plans;

(c) At the planning stage of drug use prevention efforts, consideration should be given to young people in rural areas, in particular among those growing illicit crops and their families, in order to ensure that no groups are excluded from the benefits of such efforts;

(d) Sharing good practices and materials, tools and strategies relating to evidence-based drug use prevention activities within the region would help to strengthen the evidence base further and to ensure that drug use prevention is effective in educational settings;

(e) Supply reduction by monitoring the sale and distribution of illicit substances in schools and tertiary education institutions needs to be continued.

V. Follow-up to the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem and to the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem held in 2016

31. At its 7th meeting, on 5 October 2018, the Meeting considered agenda item 6 “Follow-up to the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem and to the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem held in 2016”.

32. For its consideration of the item, the Meeting had before it the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem ([E/2009/28](#), chap. I, sect. C) and General Assembly resolution S-30/1, entitled “Our joint commitment to effectively addressing and countering the world drug problem”.

33. The Secretary of the Meeting made a presentation to introduce the agenda item, giving updated information on the preparations for the ministerial segment to be held during the sixty-second session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, in March 2019. The Secretary recalled the Political Declaration and Plan of Action, and General Assembly resolution S-30/1. She shared information on the workplan of the Commission for the fourth quarter of 2018, during which a series of intersessional meetings were to be held, with thematic and organizational segments, as well as a normative segment, in preparation for the ministerial-level meeting in 2019. The modalities for the ministerial segment were expected to be decided at the reconvened sixty-first session, to be held in December 2018.

34. During the discussion of the item, the representatives of Pakistan, the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Republic of Korea, Thailand and China made statements.

35. Speakers reiterated their Governments’ full commitment to the Political Declaration and Plan of Action and to General Assembly resolution S-30/1. It was noted that the two documents were complementary and mutually reinforcing.

Speakers also expressed their Governments' full commitment to international cooperation towards a comprehensive, integrated and balanced approach to the world drug problem.

36. One speaker analysed the documents in terms of their health, human rights and alternative development aspects, and highlighted the importance of a people-centred approach. She also highlighted the importance of taking a comprehensive, integrated and balanced approach to the world drug problem, because that contributed to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

37. Speakers called upon all Member States to make efforts to fully implement the commitments contained in the Political Declaration and Plan of Action and in General Assembly resolution S-30/1. One speaker specifically referred to efforts to implement the five targets contained in the Political Declaration and Plan of Action, highlighting that such efforts would continue to be required in the future. One speaker called upon the international community to pay attention to regional developments during the preparation for the sixty-second session of the Commission, and expressed concern about the situation in the Golden Triangle.

38. The role was recognized of the subsidiary bodies in the implementation of the commitments contained in the Political Declaration and Plan of Action and in General Assembly resolution S-30/1. One speaker made reference to the in-depth discussions held in the working groups on specific topics and called for new topics to be determined for those working groups that would cover aspects of the two documents that had not yet been addressed.

39. The importance of data collection was highlighted, because data were needed to assess the implementation of the two documents. Member States were therefore encouraged to provide data using the existing data collection tools, such as the annual report questionnaire.

40. Some speakers provided information on their countries' efforts to implement the Political Declaration and Plan of Action and General Assembly resolution S-30/1. The country of one speaker made efforts to reduce demand and supply and took part in bilateral, regional and international cooperation. The speaker provided concrete examples of law enforcement assistance and international inter-agency cooperation. Another speaker gave an update about a major recent drug seizure.

41. After discussing the agenda item, the meeting made the following recommendations:

(a) Member States are urged to reiterate their acknowledgement of the importance of the targets set out in paragraph 36 of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action in the context of the preparations for the ministerial segment to be held during the sixty-second session of the Commission, in 2019;

(b) Member States are encouraged to promote an integrated follow-up to the commitments contained in the Political Declaration and Plan of Action and in General Assembly resolution S-30/1;

(c) Member States are encouraged to accelerate efforts, both in the lead-up to the sixty-second session of the Commission and beyond, to implement the commitments contained in those two documents, which are based on a balanced approach to the drug problem and are mutually reinforcing.

VI. Implementation of Commission on Narcotic Drugs decision 60/1, on strengthening the subsidiary bodies of the Commission

42. At its 7th meeting, on 5 October 2018, the Meeting considered item 7 of the agenda, entitled "Implementation of Commission on Narcotic Drugs decision 60/1, on strengthening the subsidiary bodies of the Commission".

43. An introductory statement was made by the Secretary regarding the practical implementation of Commission decision 60/1.

44. A statement was made by the representative of Pakistan.

45. The speaker expressed appreciation for the work of the subsidiary bodies and their contribution to the implementation of General Assembly resolution S-30/1, including by holding discussions under agenda item 6, a standing item. He noted that the current way of determining topics for the working groups contributed to a balanced approach. He expressed the view that the practice of holding roughly three workshops on topics that focused more on the supply side and one on a topic that focused more on the demand side was useful and should be continued. He noted that the subsidiary bodies were already fulfilling their task by contributing to the implementation of General Assembly resolution S-30/1 and stressed that his delegation would not be supportive of any fundamental change in the role or mandate of the subsidiary bodies.

VII. Organization of the Forty-third Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Asia and the Pacific

46. At its 7th and 8th meetings, on 5 October 2018, the Meeting considered agenda item 8, entitled “Organization of the Forty-third Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Asia and the Pacific”. For its consideration of the item, the Meeting had before it a note by the Secretariat on the organization of the Forty-third Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Asia and the Pacific ([UNODC/HONLAP/42/5](#)) and a conference room paper containing the standard letter of agreement and conference requirements for hosting a meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Asia and the Pacific (UNODC/HONLAP/42/CRP.1).

47. The Secretary made an introductory statement. The representatives of Thailand, Pakistan and the Islamic Republic of Iran made statements.

48. One speaker encouraged all participating States to consider hosting future meetings of heads of national drug law enforcement agencies, Asia and the Pacific, and called on UNODC to give guidance and take a flexible approach, to the extent possible, in the negotiation of the host country agreement.

49. A proposal was made to include the following topics in future working group meetings:

(a) Regional and international cooperation to eliminate or significantly and measurably reduce illicit cultivation and production of drugs;

(b) Strengthening the forensic capacity of law enforcement authorities, in particular with regard to the challenge of new psychoactive substances;

(c) Good practices in inter-agency coordination and cooperation to effectively address drug abuse in prison settings;

(d) Measures to address drug-related crime committed in cyberspace, in particular on the darknet;

(e) The use of social media to distribute content aimed at reducing drug demand among vulnerable groups in society;

(f) The role of regional agencies, such as the Joint Planning Cell of the Triangular Initiative of Afghanistan, Iran (Islamic Republic of) and Pakistan or the Central Asia Regional Information and Coordination Centre, and the connections between them;

(g) Strengthening expertise on backtracking investigations (investigations that use concrete case information in order to identify, prosecute and dismantle drug trafficking organizations and disrupt related financial flows).

50. The Chair instructed the Secretariat to formulate themes based on those topics for consideration by working groups and, in doing so, to adhere to the priorities in the region and consult with States represented at the Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Asia and the Pacific, as required.

51. The Meeting approved the following provisional agenda for the Forty-third Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Asia and the Pacific:

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.
3. Major regional illicit cultivation, production and drug trafficking trends and countermeasures.
4. Implementation of the recommendations adopted by the Forty-first Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Asia and the Pacific.
5. Consideration of topics by working groups: [*to be determined*].
6. Follow-up to the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem and to the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem held in 2016.
7. Organization of the Forty-fourth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Asia and the Pacific.
8. Other business.
9. Adoption of the report on the Forty-third Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Asia and the Pacific.

VIII. Other business

52. At its 7th meeting, on 5 October, the Meeting considered agenda item 9, entitled “Other business”.

53. Under this agenda item, the Chair made a statement highlighting the importance of international cooperation in criminal matters. He made special reference to the situation of small island States.

IX. Adoption of the report

54. At the 8th meeting, on 5 October, the Meeting considered item 10 of its agenda and adopted the report of the Forty-second Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Asia and the Pacific, including the reports of the working groups and the recommendations contained therein, as orally amended.

X. Organization of the Meeting

A. Opening and duration of the Meeting

55. The Forty-second Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Asia and the Pacific organized by UNODC, was held in Bangkok from 2 to 5 October 2018. The regional representative of UNODC for South-East Asia and the

Pacific opened the meeting. An opening statement was made by Prajin Juntong, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Justice of Thailand. Welcoming remarks were made by Musarrat Nawaz Malik, Director General of the Anti-Narcotics Force of Pakistan.

B. Attendance

56. The following States members of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific were represented: Australia, Bhutan, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Japan, Malaysia, Micronesia (Federated States of), Myanmar, New Zealand, Pakistan, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Singapore, Thailand, Turkey and United States.

57. Hong Kong, China and Macao, China, were represented as associate members of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific.

58. The following States were represented by observers: Italy and Qatar.

59. UNODC served as the secretariat of the Meeting.

60. The International Narcotics Control Board and the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) were represented by observers.

C. Election of officers

61. At its 1st meeting, on 2 October 2018, the Meeting elected the following officers by acclamation:

<i>Chair:</i>	Craig Reffner (Federated States of Micronesia)
<i>Vice-Chairs:</i>	Mohammad Masoud Zabetian (Islamic Republic of Iran) Shwe Nyar Maung (Myanmar)
<i>Rapporteur:</i>	John O'Keeffe (New Zealand)

D. Adoption of the agenda

62. At the same meeting, the Forty-second Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Asia and the Pacific, adopted the following agenda, as orally amended:

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.
3. Major regional drug trafficking trends and countermeasures.
4. Implementation of the recommendations adopted by the Fortieth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Asia and the Pacific.
5. Consideration of topics by working groups:
 - (a) Role of customs and other law enforcement agencies in effective border management strategies;
 - (b) Illicit cultivation and production of drugs, and latest trends in drug-related money-laundering and illicit financial flows, including the financing of terrorism through drug trafficking;
 - (c) Inter-agency cooperation within and among countries on the control of precursor chemicals and new psychoactive substances;
 - (d) Raising awareness about drug-related issues in educational settings.

6. Follow-up to the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem and to the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem held in 2016.
7. Implementation of Commission on Narcotic Drugs decision 60/1, on strengthening the subsidiary bodies of the Commission.
8. Organization of the Forty-third Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Asia and the Pacific.
9. Other business.
10. Adoption of the report of the Forty-second Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Asia and the Pacific.

E. Documentation

63. The documents before the Forty-second Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Asia and the Pacific, are listed in the annex to the present document.

F. Closure of the Meeting

64. Closing remarks were made by the Chair of the Meeting and by the Regional Representative of UNODC for South-East Asia and the Pacific.

Annex

List of documents before the Forty-second Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Asia and the Pacific

<i>Document number</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>	<i>Title or description</i>
UNODC/HONLAP/42/1	2	Provisional agenda, annotations
UNODC/HONLAP/42/2	3	Note by the Secretariat drawing attention to its report on the world situation with regard to drug trafficking (E/CN.7/2018/5)
E/CN.7/2018/5	3	Report of the Secretariat on the world situation with regard to drug trafficking
UNODC/HONLAP/42/3	3	Note by the Secretariat on regional and subregional cooperation in South Asia, East Asia, South-East Asia and the Pacific
UNODC/HONLAP/42/4	4	Note by the Secretariat on the implementation of the recommendations adopted by the Fortieth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Asia and the Pacific
UNODC/HONLAP/42/5	8	Note by the Secretariat on the organization of the Forty-third Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Asia and the Pacific
UNODC/HONLAP/42/L.1 UNODC/HONLAP/42/L.1/Add.1 UNODC/HONLAP/42/L.1/Add.2 UNODC/HONLAP/42/L.1/Add.3 UNODC/HONLAP/42/L.1/Add.4 UNODC/HONLAP/42/L.1/Add.5 UNODC/HONLAP/42/L.1/Add.6 UNODC/HONLAP/42/L.1/Add.7	10	Draft report
UNODC/HONLAP/42/CRP.1	8	Standard letter of agreement and conference requirements for hosting a meeting of heads of national drug law enforcement agencies, Asia and the Pacific
UNODC/HONLAP/42/CRP.17	5 (d)	Background note by the Secretariat for the working group on raising awareness about drug-related issues in educational settings

<i>Document number</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>	<i>Title or description</i>
UNODC/HONLAP/42/CRP.2	3	Country reports
UNODC/HONLAP/42/CRP.3		
UNODC/HONLAP/42/CRP.4		
UNODC/HONLAP/42/CRP.5		
UNODC/HONLAP/42/CRP.6		
UNODC/HONLAP/42/CRP.7		
UNODC/HONLAP/42/CRP.8		
UNODC/HONLAP/42/CRP.9		
UNODC/HONLAP/42/CRP.10		
UNODC/HONLAP/42/CRP.11		
UNODC/HONLAP/42/CRP.12		
UNODC/HONLAP/42/CRP.13		
UNODC/HONLAP/42/CRP.14		
UNODC/HONLAP/42/CRP.15		
UNODC/HONLAP/42/CRP.16		
