

30 August 2018

Original: English*

**Subcommission on Illicit Drug Traffic and
Related Matters in the Near and Middle East****Fifty-third session**

Baku, 19–23 November 2018

Item 3 of the provisional agenda**

**Current situation with respect to regional and
subregional cooperation****Current situation with respect to regional and subregional
cooperation****Report of the Secretariat****I. Introduction**

1. The area under opium poppy cultivation in Afghanistan in 2017 was 328,000 ha, a 63 per cent increase compared with the previous year (201,000 ha). Large increases were observed in almost all major opium poppy-cultivating provinces. In Helmand province alone, cultivation increased by 63,700 ha (a 79 per cent increase), which accounted for about half of the total national increase. Potential opium production was estimated at 9,000 tons in 2017, an increase of 87 per cent compared with the 2016 level (4,800 tons). For 2017, it is estimated that 7,600–7,900 tons of opium were potentially available for heroin manufacture and 1,100–1,400 tons were consumed in the form of raw opium in the region. From the 2017 opium harvest, some 550–900 tons of heroin of export quality (a purity of between 50 and 70 per cent), or 390–450 tons of pure heroin base, can be produced. The increase in production was the result of an increase in the area under opium poppy cultivation and an increase in opium yield per hectare. The average opium yield in 2017 was 27.3 kg per ha, which is 15 per cent higher than the yield in 2016. The number of provinces affected by opium poppy cultivation has increased from 21 to 24 provinces (of a total of 34 provinces), with most of the increase being in the northern region of the country. Starting in 2014, the northern region experienced a rapid expansion of opium poppy cultivation. However, the vast majority of opium poppy cultivation continues to be in the southern, eastern and western regions of the country.

2. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) estimates for 2016 suggest that 57 per cent of opium is processed into heroin, with the remaining 43 per cent left unprocessed. However, the massive increase in the opium supply may have an impact on this ratio, which will only be able to be seen through the seizure data of the coming years. In 2017, opium prices decreased in all regions of Afghanistan

* Available only in Arabic, English and Russian, which are the working languages of the subsidiary body.

** UNODC/SUBCOM/53/1.



compared with 2016. Worth between \$4.1 billion and \$6.6 billion in 2017, the overall opium supply was of considerable size compared with Afghanistan's overall economy, namely the equivalent of between 20 and 32 per cent of the gross domestic product of Afghanistan. The value of the illicit opiate economy is the farm-gate value of opium combined with revenues from heroin production and the trafficking of opiates to the Afghan border.

3. Eradication activities in 2017 remained insignificant as a consequence of the security situation, with only 750 ha of eradicated illicit cultivation. There is no single reason for the massive increase in opium poppy cultivation in Afghanistan in 2017. The multiple drivers are complex and geographically diverse, as many factors continue to influence farmers' decisions. Rule of law-related challenges, such as political instability, and the lack of government control and security have been the main drivers of illicit cultivation. Socioeconomic factors such as scarce employment opportunities, lack of quality education and limited access to licit markets and financial services continue to contribute to farmers' vulnerability to opium poppy cultivation. A combination of events may have exacerbated some of those factors and led to the large increase in 2017. The shift in the strategy of the Government of Afghanistan — focusing its efforts on countering anti-government elements in densely populated areas — may have made the rural population more vulnerable to the influence of anti-government elements. Political instability and increased insecurity particularly affected the northern region, where opium poppy cultivation has expanded drastically over the past two years. Increased poverty and vulnerability to external shocks, in combination with the economic downturn after the withdrawal of the international troops, may have caused many farmers to resort to opium poppy cultivation to sustain their livelihoods.

4. The UNODC preliminary forecast for 2018 indicates a slight decline in opium poppy cultivation in 2018, although cultivation continues to be at a high level (for example, Helmand has over 134,000 ha of opium poppy cultivation). While a slight decline is evidently welcome, indicators of overall cultivation suggest stubbornly large amounts, a situation that calls for more domestic and international action than that witnessed to date.

II. Regional and subregional cooperation

5. Regional cooperation continues to be recognized as the most viable way to effectively tackle illicit drug cultivation, trafficking and use and the related political, security, development and socioeconomic harm in Afghanistan, West and Central Asia and the wider international community. The Geneva conference to take place on 28 November will be the first ministerial conference addressing the situation in Afghanistan since October 2016, when the Brussels conference on Afghanistan took place. The Geneva conference will provide an opportunity to discuss not only the considerable development challenges but also key security and political issues, including how to support peace and development by fighting drugs and crime.

6. The record levels of high production and cultivation create multiple challenges both inside and outside the country, including increased insurgency and funding to terrorist groups and the availability of more high-quality, low-cost heroin in consumer markets. Moreover, an expanding illicit economy has permeated rural societies in Afghanistan, led to greater dependency of communities on opium, further constrained development of the licit economy and potentially further fuels corruption.

7. In response to those developments, UNODC developed a strategic document entitled "UNODC strategic actions to respond to the global threats of opiates". On 5 July 2018, UNODC and the Government of Afghanistan organized a briefing for all Member States in Vienna, at which the above-mentioned document on UNODC strategic actions and the new draft Afghanistan counter-narcotics strategy were presented. The strategic consultations relating to the counter-narcotics strategy and the common road map held in order to equally involve origin, transit and destination

countries in support of Afghan-led efforts, with the engagement of the international community to address the global threat of opiates, are converging on the same objectives. A reconvened Policy Consultative Group Meeting of the Paris Pact initiative focusing on this issue will provide an opportunity to review the common position.

8. In terms of operations, 2017 was a very active year in which significant progress was made on many fronts, seeing strengthened cooperation on countering illicit drugs and organized crime. The established regional working groups on precursors, forensics and law enforcement training were very active, with information on illicit drugs and precursors shared between States of the region, and operations were planned and conducted. Many regional workshops took place, bringing countries together to discuss emerging threats, global best practices and responses in critical areas relating to drug trafficking, illicit financial flows, the increasing use of the Internet for criminal purposes and human trafficking, among other things. An important development resulting from UNODC-supported regional workshops on corruption and asset recovery was a decision by member countries to work towards the establishment of an asset recovery inter-agency network for West and Central Asia.

9. The countries continued to share their experiences on drug prevention, treatment and HIV prevention among vulnerable groups under the framework of the regional programme and to strengthen networks and mutual support in this crucial area. There was further development and expansion of the Family and School Together programme and the Strengthening Families Programme for drug use prevention, which are helping protect children across the region and strengthen the capacity of families and schools to address potential risks.

10. A particularly significant event in 2017 was the high-level international conference on “Promoting Afghanistan’s alternative development initiatives amongst regional and international partners,” which was organized by the regional programme and the Ministry of Counter Narcotics of Afghanistan in Ashgabat, with support of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Turkmenistan. The conference was an important step in raising awareness and increasing collaboration in West and Central Asia on supporting long-term sustainable alternative development strategies as a means of countering narcotics and promoting peace and stability in Afghanistan. It allowed member countries and the wider international community to explore possibilities for new strategies and partnerships between agencies working on drug control and development in support of Afghanistan.

11. A very important element of UNODC efforts is to continue building partnerships, and the regional programme works with various agencies and frameworks that tackle drugs and crime in the region, including the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the Collective Security Treaty Organization, the European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Cooperation (Europol), the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL), other United Nations agencies and other major bilateral projects. The “one UNODC concerted approach” interconnecting Europe with West and Central Asia coordinates closely with both the Paris Pact initiative and the Heart of Asia-Istanbul Process, of which UNODC is an official observer. Both those initiatives are playing an important and active role in addressing the drug problem, and UNODC supports them in an operational capacity, building synergy between the two initiatives. UNODC was able to address States members of the Heart of Asia at the annual senior officials and ministerial meetings for the first time in 2017, highlighting the practical work carried out through the regional programme in support of the process.

III. Paris Pact initiative

12. The Paris Pact initiative is a broad international coalition, established 15 years ago, that has evolved into one of the most important global frameworks for combating the traffic in opiates originating in Afghanistan. The first dimension of the Paris Pact initiative is the partnership itself, made up of 58 countries and 23 organizations, including UNODC. The partnership is responsible for defining priorities and implementing measures in line with the Vienna Declaration,¹ based on the principle of shared responsibility.

13. The second dimension of the Paris Pact initiative is the UNODC global programme led by the Paris Pact Coordination Unit, which provides coordination support (acting as the secretariat of the Paris Pact initiative). With the assistance of UNODC thematic experts, the Paris Pact programme provides a platform for 81 Paris Pact partners, including UNODC, to identify, discuss and operationalize, through their multiple programmes, funds and projects delivered, the priorities stemming from expert and policy-level meetings, thereby linking policy and operational activities.

14. The four-pillar framework of the Paris Pact initiative (regional initiatives and cross-border cooperation, detecting and blocking illicit financial flows, preventing the diversion of precursors, and drug prevention and treatment) has given rise to interdivisional and interregional UNODC partnerships, involving the support of UNODC global, regional and country programmes² that carry out activities along the major trafficking routes, reflecting a successful “one UNODC” response to the implementation of the Vienna Declaration.

15. Following the publication of the alarming opium cultivation trends of 2017 in Afghanistan, the Paris Pact secretariat organized at the session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs in March 2018 a high-level side event which provided an opportunity to reaffirm partners’ commitment to engaging and supporting both political and technical efforts in Afghanistan, the region and beyond in order to tackle opiates.

16. The Paris Pact’s consultative mechanism provides a unique global platform at the policy and expert levels for discussions related to the global threat of opiates. Four expert working group meetings were conducted in the past year in support of the law enforcement and health-related pillars of the Vienna Declaration:

(a) A meeting on preventing diversion of precursors (relating to pillar III), organized by the South-East European Law Enforcement Centre in Bucharest on 23 and 24 October 2017;

(b) A meeting on illicit financial flows (relating to pillar II), held in Belgrade on 21 and 22 November 2017;

(c) A meeting on cross-border cooperation (relating to pillar I), held in Tehran on 11 and 12 December 2017;

(d) A meeting on a comprehensive approach to drug treatment and care (relating to pillar IV), held in Bishkek on 25 and 26 April 2018.

17. A reconvened Paris Pact Policy Consultative Group Meeting was held on 8 March 2018 to present the findings and recommendations of the midterm in-depth evaluation of phase IV of the Paris Pact programme.

¹ The Vienna Declaration is the outcome document of the Third Ministerial Conference of the Paris Pact Partners on Combating Illicit Traffic in Opiates Originating in Afghanistan, held on 16 February 2012.

² Such as the Global Programme against Money-Laundering; the “networking-the-networks” initiative; the World Customs Organization Container Control Programme; the Global Maritime Crime Programme; the regional programmes for Afghanistan and neighbouring countries, for South-Eastern Europe, for the Arab States and for East Africa; and the UNODC strategic partnership with Gulf Cooperation Council countries.

18. The annual 14th Policy Consultative Group Meeting held in Vienna on 12 and 13 June 2018 allowed partners to review and endorse the recommendations of the expert working group meetings in the period 2017–2018 on all four thematic pillars of the Vienna Declaration and set out the workplan of the partnership for 2019.

19. Partners also discussed the recommendations of the evaluation and agreed to review the implementation modalities of the Paris Pact initiative expert working groups, including a stocktaking of the expert recommendations made since the beginning of phase IV of the Paris Pact initiative (in May 2013) and to explore the possibility of strengthening the role of regional organizations in facilitating the implementation of expert recommendations.

20. Located in UNODC offices in countries along drug trafficking routes in West and Central Asia and South-Eastern Europe, the Paris Pact initiative research and liaison officers continued to contribute to building research capacity in countries along the major trafficking routes: they provided training to law enforcement agencies on data collection and mapping tools and continued to update the Drugs Monitoring Platform.³

IV. Cooperation in Afghanistan

21. On 8 March 2018, the Security Council renewed the mandate of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan in its resolution [2405 \(2018\)](#). In the resolution, the Council expressed its deep concern about the significant increase in the cultivation, production, trade and trafficking of illicit drugs in Afghanistan and welcomed the continuing efforts of UNODC and the Afghan Ministry of Counter Narcotics. The Council also called upon States to counter the threat posed by the production, trafficking and consumption of illicit drugs originating in Afghanistan, which significantly contribute to the financial resources of the Taliban and its associates and could also benefit affiliates of Al-Qaida, the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL, also known as Da'esh) and other terrorist groups, and to act in accordance with the principle of common and shared responsibility, including through cooperation to counter trafficking in illicit drugs and precursor chemicals.

22. In 2018, UNODC-supported mobile detection teams in the provinces of Badakhshan, Herat, Kabul, Nangarhar, Baghlan and Nimroz, conducted a total of 325 counter-narcotics operations which resulted in significant seizures of illicit drugs and the arrest of suspects. UNODC-established border liaison offices continued to build up capacity and operational efficiency. UNODC upgraded the capacity of the Airport Interdiction Unit at Hamid Karzai International Airport. In the period 2017–2018, UNODC continued to support key crop value chains in Afghanistan. In particular, through its implementing partners, pistachio saplings were distributed and training was provided to over 500 farmers. A further 400 farmers received training on the grape value chain, in order to establish vineyards in Herat and Kandahar. A total of 160 farmers were provided saffron bulbs and trained in saffron production and processing. In addition, 180 women were assisted in establishing a women-led saffron association and in marketing.

23. In Afghanistan, UNODC provided support for law enforcement agencies, including the Counter-Narcotics Police of Afghanistan, the Afghan Border Police and the Customs Department of the Ministry of Finance. The Counter-Narcotics Training Academy, the training cadre of the Counter-Narcotics Police, has an established ability to train new recruits in Kabul and to provide in-service training to provincial officers. In addition, the mobile detection teams are recognized by the international community as an effective enforcement arm capable of executing intelligence-led

³ The Drugs Monitoring Platform is an online mapping information system that allows the early identification of drug trafficking routes and generates national-level data. The Platform provides information for the annual report questionnaire, the *World Drug Report* and other Paris Pact initiative publications, including the country fact sheets.

operations. Support was also provided to the forensic laboratory of the Counter-Narcotics Police, which is equipped and mentored by UNODC and is submitting reports that contribute to prosecutions and investigations. The interdiction and investigation capacity of the chemical precursors unit was enhanced, leading to intelligence-led operations, backtracking investigations and substantial precursor chemical seizures. Inter-agency and cross-border coordination were also enhanced through the establishment of the border liaison offices. In addition, successes were also achieved through pilot airport interdiction units created at the Herat, Kabul, Kandahar and Mazar-e-Sharif airports.

24. Since November 2017, law enforcement authorities of Afghanistan have conducted a total of 2,450 counter-narcotics operations, leading to the seizure of 2,139 kg of heroin, 64,738 kg of morphine, 45,425 kg of opium, 119 kg of methamphetamine, 25,509 kg of hashish, 848 MDMA tablets, 52,790 kg of solid precursor chemicals and 77,215 litres of liquid precursor chemicals. A total of 50 heroin laboratories and 3 methamphetamine laboratories were dismantled. Those operations led to the arrest of 3,778 suspects and the seizure of 430 vehicles, 203 weapons, 646 mobile phones and 8 radios.

25. Since November 2017, the Afghan Border Police has seized a total of 146 kg of heroin, 348 kg of opium, 2,559 kg of hashish and 2.4 kg of methamphetamine. A total of 37 suspects were arrested in connection with those seizures.

26. The UNODC country programme for Afghanistan for the period 2016–2019 enhances assistance at the provincial level; creates sustainable alternative livelihoods for opium poppy farmers; expands health care, drug demand reduction and HIV prevention; and enhances the capacity of the Ministry of Counter Narcotics to conduct research, surveys and analysis.

27. The Russian Federation has renewed its support for specialized training on drug interdiction for Afghan law enforcement officials, to be delivered by the Domodedovo Training Centre. The initiative was funded by the Government of Japan under a triangular cooperation framework.

V. Cooperation in Pakistan

28. Pakistan shares a 2,430 km border with Afghanistan, the world's leading opium producer, and the vast majority of opium production occurs in the southern and western provinces of Afghanistan that border Pakistan. According to the *World Drug Report 2017*, Pakistan accounted for 10 per cent of the world's seizures of heroin and 19 per cent of heroin and morphine seizures. Pakistan is also a transit country for controlled precursor chemicals destined for Afghanistan for the illicit manufacture of heroin.

29. Pakistan is also seriously affected by drug use and related problems. According to the national survey on drug use conducted by the Government of Pakistan and UNODC in 2013, 4.25 million people were considered dependent on substances and required structured treatment for their drug use disorders. An estimated 860,000 people, or 0.8 per cent of the population aged 15–64 years, used heroin regularly in the year preceding that survey. Among the problem drug users, an estimated 430,000 people between the ages of 15 and 64 years injected drugs, with 73 per cent reporting that they shared needles and syringes and are thus at increased risk of drug-related harms, including the acquisition of blood-borne viruses such as HIV and hepatitis B and C.

30. The country programme for Pakistan for the period 2016–2019, with a total budget of \$77 million, is composed of three subprogrammes: (a) countering illicit trafficking and border management; (b) criminal justice and legal reforms; and (c) drug demand reduction, prevention and treatment. Another project, entitled "Pakistan action against counter-terrorism" is conducted with support from the European Union.

31. Through the country programme, UNODC provides and facilitates platforms for the Government of Pakistan to conduct various regional and international forums and other multilateral cooperation initiatives. The UNODC country office for Pakistan works closely with the Government and the law enforcement agencies of Pakistan, including the foreign law enforcement community in Islamabad, to promote the rule of law in the country. The country office actively supports efforts to enhance the technical and operational capacities of the country's law enforcement officials at the international level, in particular in the areas of countering illicit trafficking and border management, criminal justice and drug demand reduction and HIV/AIDS prevention. The country office devised a capacity-building training strategy for the Anti-Narcotics Force of Pakistan, which helped the Force to conduct various successful operations in collaboration with regional counterparts under the umbrella of the Triangular Initiative and made record drug seizures over the past four years, including more than 400 tons in 2016.

VI. Cooperation in the Islamic Republic of Iran

32. The Islamic Republic of Iran seized 32 tons of heroin and morphine intended for trafficking on the Balkan route. The quantities of opiates seized by the country's authorities in 2016 were 528,928 kg of opium, 23,172 kg of heroin and 10,903 kg of morphine. The Islamic Republic of Iran reported that 80 per cent of the morphine and 85 per cent of the heroin it seized in 2016 had been trafficked into the country via Pakistan, with the rest being smuggled directly from Afghanistan. Much smaller amounts of heroin were trafficked along a branch of the Balkan route that goes from the Islamic Republic of Iran to the southern Caucasus for onward trafficking along the eastern branch of the Balkan route to Western Europe. Some Afghan opiates are trafficked to Europe through the so-called "southern route", which goes from Afghanistan to Pakistan (and in part to the Islamic Republic of Iran) for subsequent shipment to countries of the Persian Gulf and East Africa and trafficking onward to Europe.

33. The country's Drug Control Headquarters annual report for 2017 indicated that Iranian law enforcement authorities had conducted 1,750 operations against drug trafficking groups, which resulted in the dismantling of 2,280 drug gangs and 141 amphetamine-type stimulant laboratories, and the arrest of 248,716 drug traffickers and drug distributors. In those operations, the Iranian law enforcement authorities and anti-narcotics police seized 23,785 kg of heroin, 15,073 kg of morphine, 630,551 kg of opium, 108,546 kg of hashish, 2,302 kg of methamphetamine, 4,313 kg of other types of drugs, and 24,969 litres of precursor chemicals.

34. The Drug Control Headquarters annual report for 2017 reported that several drug prevention and cultural activities were conducted for various social groups and settings including families, schools and university students, and workers, among others. In 2017, 7,516 government and private outpatient clinics throughout the country provided treatment and social support. There were 241 drop-in centres and 331 mobile teams which offered harm reduction and HIV case services to drug users in the country.

35. The use of stimulants among both socially integrated and marginalized young people has been increasing in the Islamic Republic of Iran. A qualitative study in the country identified three groups of young methamphetamine users. The majority were those who had started using methamphetamine, known locally as "shisheh" (glass), as a way of coping with their current opioid use, either to self-treat opioid dependence or to manage its adverse events. Another, smaller group were those who had used "shisheh" during their first substance use or after a period of cannabis use, as novelty-seeking and to experience a new "high". The last group were those who had switched to methamphetamine use after participating in an opioid withdrawal programme and abstaining from opioid use for a period.

36. Cooperation between the Islamic Republic of Iran and UNODC was cemented through the signing of a new country partnership programme. The programme has been designed and developed in a participatory way with national counterparts and members of the mini-Dublin Group in Tehran. It seeks maximum synergy with UNODC programmes in the region, including the country programmes for Afghanistan and Pakistan, the programme for Central Asia and the regional programme for Afghanistan and neighbouring countries. The UNODC–Islamic Republic of Iran country partnership programme closely cooperates with Iranian national counterparts in the areas of border management and illicit trafficking; crime, corruption, international criminal justice and countering the financing of terrorism; drug demand reduction and HIV care; and alternative development and job creation.

VII. Cooperation in Central Asia

37. The Government of Uzbekistan organized the international conference on security and sustainable development in Central Asia entitled “Central Asia: shared past and common future, cooperation for sustainable development and mutual prosperity”, under the auspices of the United Nations and in cooperation with the United Nations Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia and the UNODC Regional Office for Central Asia, held in Samarkand, Uzbekistan, on 10 and 11 November 2017. More than 500 participants discussed ways to create a reliable mechanism for regional cooperation to counter the threats of terrorism, extremism, transnational organized crime and drug trafficking. Participants emphasized the need for cooperation between the Central Asian States and UNODC and INTERPOL to counter drug trafficking in the region by mobilizing additional resources, new technologies and methods to combat illicit trafficking in drugs and precursors.

38. The UNODC regional programme for Central Asia (2015–2019) has four subprogrammes, dividing activities into four thematic areas: countering transnational organized crime, illicit drug trafficking and terrorism; criminal justice, crime prevention and integrity; drug prevention, treatment and reintegration, and HIV prevention; and research and trend analysis.

39. UNODC utilizes a mechanism of integrated response to drug-related challenges and border security issues. The Office’s initiatives strengthen both national inter-agency coordination and regional cross-border cooperation by establishing port control units, border outposts and inter-agency mobile teams in Central Asian States. Additionally, the Central Asian Regional Information and Coordination Centre serves as the information and coordination platform for combating the illicit trafficking of narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and their precursors.

40. To date, UNODC has assisted in establishing 13 border liaison offices in geographically remote and potentially vulnerable checkpoints on the borders between Uzbekistan and Tajikistan (4), Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan (4), Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan (2), Uzbekistan and Afghanistan (1) and Tajikistan and Afghanistan (2). The border liaison offices are equipped with the necessary high-tech and specialized analytical software enabling the analysis of the database information. What is more, UNODC plans to support 6 additional border liaison offices that are to be located on the borders of Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan (2), Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan (2) and Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan (2).

41. In 2017, more than 200 customs and other law enforcement officers from Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan participated in the 23 theoretical, practical and advanced training activities of the Container Control Programme, as well as mentorship programmes, study visits and regional meetings.

42. As part of a balanced approach, UNODC significantly strengthened the implementation of drug abuse prevention, treatment and rehabilitation as well as the HIV prevention and care agenda in the region, building on the principle of advocating improved access for and coverage of the most vulnerable populations, with

evidence-based and informed strategies and programmes, including the Family and School Together programme and the Strengthening Families Programme.

43. UNODC continued to provide support to the Central Asian Regional Information and Coordination Centre (CARICC), which is currently undergoing a transition of directorship from Kyrgyzstan to the Russian Federation. The objective of the Centre is to build further cooperation between national and regional law enforcement agencies with respect to countering narcotics, and it is connected with other similar law enforcement centres, such as the Joint Planning Cell of the Triangular Initiative of Afghanistan, Iran (Islamic Republic of) and Pakistan. Throughout the reporting period, CARICC, jointly with the Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs of the State Department of the United States of America and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, conducted five trainings on risk targeting and detection of potential drug smugglers at international border control points, for the border control officers of Kazakhstan. Further, 11 training sessions on the use of the IBM i2 Analyst's Notebook and the IBM i2 iBase software were conducted for analytical units of the law enforcement authorities of Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan. In total, 160 officers undertook the CARICC training sessions in 2017. Specifically, 70 officers were trained on risk-targeting and 90 officers were trained on use of IBM i2 applications.

44. In the reporting period, 208 law enforcement specialists were trained in the framework of the NATO-UNODC partnership for counter-narcotics training. Specialists from Afghanistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan underwent training sessions covering such topics as operational police tactics, undercover operations and informants, organized crime investigation, canine support for units engaged in combating drug trafficking, and interviews and interrogations.

VIII. Cooperation in Turkey

45. The partnership between UNODC and Turkey continues to play an important role in South-Eastern Europe and in West and Central Asia.

46. Turkey remains a significant transit country for illicit drug trafficking. Heroin, opium and cocaine are generally trafficked through Turkey to European markets, and amphetamine-type stimulants are trafficked to markets in the Middle East and South-East Asia. Turkish authorities continue to seize large amounts of opiates and hashish in Turkey, and the Government of Turkey remains committed to upholding its international drug control obligations. Turkish law enforcement agencies remain strongly committed to disrupting illicit drug trafficking.

47. At the global level, Turkey is one of the six countries with the highest annual amounts of heroin seized in recent years (together with Afghanistan, China, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Pakistan and the United States), although heroin seizures in Turkey decreased by 35 per cent in 2015 with respect to the previous year, to 8.3 tons, the second lowest level since 2006. However, according to the annual report of the International Narcotics Control Board for 2016, Turkey has observed the gradual emergence of a second Balkan route, encompassing Iraq and the Syrian Arab Republic in addition to the countries that have historically been considered to be along the Balkan route. In addition to the fact that opioids represent a threat for the whole region, plant-based psychoactive substances such as khat (*Catha edulis*) are still widely used in parts of West Asia, for example in Oman, Saudi Arabia and Turkey.

48. The Islamic Republic of Iran and Turkey are the two countries that intercept the greatest percentage of heroin and opium destined for Europe. The Islamic Republic of Iran seizes about 30 per cent of the estimated 155 tons of heroin and opium entering its territory each year, while Turkey seizes about 17 per cent of the estimated amount entering its territory. In Turkey, cannabis resin seizures have decreased sharply in recent years, from an unprecedented 94 tons in 2013 to 7.9 tons in 2015, the lowest level since 2007.

49. The *World Drug Report 2017* shows that of the 34 tons of heroin and morphine seized on the Balkan route in 2015, the largest quantities were seized in the Islamic Republic of Iran (24.4 tons), Turkey (8.3 tons) and South-Eastern Europe (0.9 tons). In all, 3 per cent of total global cannabis herb seizures occur in Europe, most of them in Turkey. The increase in amphetamine seizures in South-Eastern Europe is primarily due to the increase in seizures reported in Turkey, which increased from 0.2 tons in 2014 to 3.8 tons in 2015. Turkish authorities suspect that amphetamine seizures in the country are linked to “captagon” trafficking in the Near and Middle East, for which Turkey functions as both a transit and destination country. For instance, in 2013 the Turkish authorities found that a consignment of “captagon” seized in Hatay province had been manufactured in the Syrian Arab Republic and was destined for the Arabian Peninsula, with Turkey being a transit country.

50. The Turkish International Academy against Drugs and Organized Crime (TADOC) provides advanced training to law enforcement professionals from Turkey and neighbouring States. In July 2018, UNODC and TADOC held detailed consultations on the future expansion of the successful cooperation of the two agencies in the Balkan region. TADOC provides various training sessions not only to the personnel of the national law enforcement agencies but also to law enforcement personnel from South-Eastern Europe and West and Central Asia. TADOC is also a significant contributor to the training projects organized within multinational organizations and institutions, including UNODC, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the NATO International Secretariat and the Economic Cooperation Organization, among others. Turkey is a strong supporter and donor to UNODC work in South-Eastern Europe.

51. Turkey also actively works with the Governments of Central Asia. For example, Tajikistan reported having established information exchanges between officers at Dushanbe International Airport and their counterparts at airports in Turkey. Turkey also reported that training programmes have been organized at the national and international levels for law enforcement authorities on synthetic drugs as well as on the manufacturing process in clandestine laboratories. The cooperation with universities working on synthetic drugs has continued to raise public awareness on this issue and to prevent harmful effects.

52. The Ministry of Health of Turkey is responsible for regulating pharmaceutical products and for issues relating to importation of chemicals for legitimate use. A Deputy Prime Minister chairs the High Council for the Fight against Drugs, whose members include six ministries and representatives of civil society, and which coordinates drug prevention and treatment programmes. Drug-related treatment is provided by public agencies, private entities and non-governmental organizations and is mainly funded through the State and health insurance. Most Turkish treatment services for those with substance use disorders are aimed at achieving a drug-free life and dealing with addiction in general and not specifically for users of illicit drugs. These programmes include psychotherapeutic and supporting methods, with the majority of drug-related treatment services taking place in inpatient settings. While illicit drug use remains modest in scale in Turkey compared with other countries of the region, the number of people seeking treatment for substance use disorders is increasing. The Ministry of Education provides funding to a non-governmental organization for the development and implementation of a healthy living and anti-drug curriculum for schools. The Ministry of Health has responsibility for promoting drug awareness and providing treatment.

IX. Cooperation in the Arab States

53. In the region of North Africa and the Middle East, UNODC work has continued to be implemented under the regional programme for Arab States to prevent and combat crime, terrorism and health threats and strengthen criminal justice systems, in line with international human rights standards (2016–2021). Cooperation with the six member States of the Gulf Cooperation Council and the Council’s Secretariat

General also continues to be enhanced through the strategic partnership, endorsed in conjunction with the regional programme, and responds to the specific challenges, resources and common institutional characteristics of the Council countries.

54. In close partnership with the League of Arab States and the 18 Arab countries covered by the regional programme, UNODC organized the second annual meeting of the steering and follow-up committee, held in Cairo in November 2017. At the meeting, representatives of the Ministries of the Interior, Justice and Health of the 18 participating countries examined progress made and identified priority areas, including combating drug trafficking. The meeting resulted in a reaffirmation of the commitment of States members of the League of Arab States to the partnership with UNODC and the League and a broad range of recommendations for setting priorities for the upcoming year, including to continue to strengthen border control and regional cooperation to counter organized crime, including drug trafficking, and to support national and regional counter-terrorism efforts.

55. In the period under review, since November 2017, the region of North Africa and the Middle East continued to be used as a production and transit zone and as a destination for global drug trafficking flows, including heroin and other opiates originating in Afghanistan, cocaine from South America and, as a growing concern, amphetamine-type stimulants, especially in the form of “captagon” tablets, which are also manufactured within the region. The Gulf region with its high income, geographic location and services provided continues to be a target for drug trafficking. At the same time, the misuse of synthetic opioids, in particular tramadol, is a growing concern in the Middle East as it is thriving.

56. To address these flows, as well as other forms of illicit trafficking and organized crime, and to support countries in North Africa and the Middle East as they reinforce their response to cross-border trafficking, UNODC has continued its work on border control, including land, sea and air borders, across the region. UNODC is providing support by setting up joint task forces and port control units, providing essential equipment and conducting capacity-building for relevant officials, which has resulted in increased seizures of illegal drugs as well as other illegal goods. UNODC has also continued to promote intelligence-led investigations aimed at dismantling criminal networks, rather than just carrying out individual seizures, by strengthening investigation capacities throughout the region.

57. Under the global Container Control Programme, UNODC continued to support the Port of Aqaba and the Queen Alia International Airport of Jordan through the country’s port control units that are focused on the profiling, targeting and inspection of high-risk containers and cargo being used by organized criminal groups for the transport of illicit goods, including for terrorist purposes. Moreover, cooperation with Jordan was extended to the Karameh land border-crossing and the Port of Aden of Yemen. In 2018, the Container Control Programme activities in Oman underwent an expansion. Assessment missions were conducted in the seaports of Salalah and Duqm and the airports of Salalah and Muscat, with the Salalah port control unit expected to be operational towards the end of the year. The newly opened Muscat airport is planned to be the first airport to be included in the air component of the Container Control Programme in the Gulf region towards the end of this year. The objective of the Container Control Programme is to strengthen the countries’ capacity to profile, select and inspect high-risk containers and cargo in order to prevent illicit trafficking and facilitate trade at the national and international levels. UNODC has received requests from several other countries in the region and is currently fundraising in order to include them in the programme.

58. In addition, the Airport Communication Project (AIRCOP) is increasingly active in the Middle East as a platform allowing authorities to better detect and interdict suspicious and high-risk passengers and airfreight in order to counter criminal activities, including drug trafficking. The programme is being implemented in consultation with several Governments in the region with a view to tailoring the initiative to national contexts and needs. In the period 2017–2018, UNODC developed

training courses and a training curriculum that gives frontline officers at international airports the required skills and knowledge to identify and interdict suspicious passengers by means of profiling, targeting and behavioural detection techniques. A regional meeting was organized in Amman in September 2017 to discuss the content of the training curriculum developed by UNODC. Participants from countries of North Africa and the Middle East, in addition to representatives from UNODC, Canada, the European Union, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and INTERPOL were engaged in in-depth discussions on the content of the curriculum and provided insightful comments on national and regional training needs. In April 2017, nine officers from the region participated in the 5th Global Meeting of AIRCOP. UNODC also partnered with the Ministry of Interior of the United Arab Emirates and organized a multilateral meeting in Abu Dhabi in April 2018 to present its integrated border control and management initiative including AIRCOP and the Container Control Programme, which are global programmes.

59. In the Gulf region, in line with the approach jointly developed with key regional and national stakeholders, UNODC continues to focus on supporting the States members of the Gulf Cooperation Council in adopting comprehensive and evidence-based drug control strategies with a balanced emphasis on drug supply and demand reduction, and tailored to national needs and priorities. The UNODC Office for the Gulf Cooperation Council Countries continues to provide technical support to strengthen the skills and capabilities of key stakeholders for the development of such strategies and to intensify their understanding of international standards related to the prevention of drug use. In February 2018, a “UN-to-UN” agreement was signed with the United Nations Development Programme in Kuwait for the implementation of the National Drug Use Prevention Policy and Management Project, and activities are starting to be implemented.

60. Within the framework of an overarching partnership on drug control and crime prevention, in August 2016, UNODC and the Ministry of Interior of the United Arab Emirates signed an agreement to deploy the goCASE software and related services. The provision of that information technology solution as a system for integrated case management and intelligence analysis is part of a comprehensive package of services to support law enforcement agencies in their efforts to curb drug trafficking. In early 2017, UNODC conducted a pre-production mission to deliver initial training for the selected administrators of the software and to meet with the designated task force to identify features to be customized to the actual needs of the country’s Federal Anti-Narcotics Department.

61. Within its ongoing strategic partnership programme with Abu Dhabi Police Forensic Evidence Department, in 2017 the UNODC Office for the Gulf Cooperation Council Countries delivered two training-of-trainers courses for selected officers of the Department. These courses constitute a major initial step towards establishing the training capacity and resources of the Department to disseminate good forensic evidence practices in the broader region, thereby further promoting the reliance of criminal justice systems on quality forensic evidence and practices in keeping with international standards. During the reporting period, the Office extended its cooperation with the Forensic Evidence Department until 2022. Drug characterization and profiling were cited as being among the priorities of the Department. Initial steps have been taken to operationalize a national drug profiling team under the guidance of UNODC. Although the programme is still in its early stages, the Department is demonstrating its strong commitment to strengthening cooperation with the relevant departments mandated to curb illicit drug use and counter drug trafficking by advocating the importance of providing high-quality chemical analysis of drugs, in addition to the analysis of other characteristics of drugs and operational information from the field. UNODC will intensify its efforts to support and guide the Department in that endeavour.

62. The UNODC Office for the Gulf Cooperation Council Countries continued to leverage its partnership with the Council’s Criminal Information Centre to Combat Drugs with a view to further strengthening regional cooperation in addressing drug

trafficking by supporting its role as a hub for information-sharing and as the drug supply observatory for the Gulf Cooperation Council countries. UNODC also continued to engage both the Centre and the Gulf Cooperation Council police force in taking an active part in interregional cooperation initiatives to stem illicit drug trafficking flows such as, the “networking-the-networks” initiative, the Indian Ocean Forum on Maritime Crime and the Paris Pact initiative. The Centre became a full member of the Paris Pact initiative in February 2017.

63. In the framework of its long-standing partnership with Dubai Police general headquarters, the UNODC Office for the Gulf Cooperation Council Countries co-hosted the thirteenth annual International Hemaya Forum on drug control-related issues, that was convened on 12 and 13 March 2018. National experts and practitioners from across the Arab region attended the forum where they were able to exchange experiences and practices in drug control-related fields.

64. As part of the strategic partnership with the Gulf Cooperation Council countries, UNODC continues to encourage the Council’s member States to participate in the UNODC Global Programme against Money Laundering, Proceeds of Crime and the Financing of Terrorism, which is key to supporting States in effectively preventing drug offences and other crimes. Since 2016, UNODC continues to engage the United Arab Emirates in a tailored training programme to assist financial investigation capabilities in combating illicit financial flows related to transnational organized crime and terrorism, in addition to supporting the deployment of the goAML software (for countering money-laundering), following the signature of a service-level agreement to that effect.

65. UNODC, in partnership with Naufar, a newly established drug dependence treatment centre based in Doha, delivered in 2017 the first Naufar international conference, on the theme “Opioid addiction and interdisciplinary treatment informed by wellness”. Following an official expression of interest on the part of Naufar, UNODC and the centre have agreed upon the terms of a partnership agreement to implement a comprehensive programme of technical cooperation on drug demand reduction, specifically to promote the implementation of the outcome document of the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem held in 2016 and international standards related to both drug treatment and prevention across the countries of the Gulf Cooperation Council, North Africa and the Middle East, and Southern Europe. In the United Arab Emirates, UNODC is working on the operationalization of a programme to train the labour agency on its role in supporting the social reintegration of released inmates and rehabilitated drug users.

66. As rates of HIV transmission and drug use are still on the rise in the region, UNODC will continue to support the development of laws, policies, strategies, guidelines and practices related to drug prevention, treatment and care, as well as comprehensive packages of key HIV prevention, treatment and care interventions for people who inject drugs and people in prisons. UNODC will also strive to ensure that existing legislation, policies and practices are up-to-date with regard to scientific evidence on drug use, drug dependence and HIV, and that they conform with international human rights obligations.

67. In 2017, UNODC launched a regional project on HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment, care and support in prison settings. Egypt, Morocco and Tunisia are the first three countries to participate in this project. Rapid situation assessments have been conducted at all prisons that will receive assistance under the project to assess the infrastructure, equipment and available consumables in order to tailor technical assistance.

68. In November 2017, an assessment on illicit drug use (non-prescription drugs) in the State of Palestine was released, updating the existing 11-year old data on drug use. The assessment provides significant data and information on drug use and high-risk drug users in the State of Palestine and serves as a road map for future interventions. In addition, UNODC has supported the establishment of the National

Rehabilitation Centre, which will open by September 2018. Further, an opioid substitution therapy pilot programme for Egypt was developed.

X. Cooperation in India

69. India's geographical location between the Golden Triangle and the Golden Crescent makes it very vulnerable to drug trafficking, affecting not only national security but also the health of innumerable people. The recent bumper crop of opium poppy cultivation and opium production in Afghanistan is likely to have repercussions for India, which has a large youth population and shares a border with several countries. The latest Government sources of information point to an increase in trafficking of heroin, a 10-fold increase in the quantity of amphetamine-type substances seized; smuggling of pharmaceutical preparations containing narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances; and abuse and challenges posed by new psychoactive substances.

70. National efforts alone are not adequate to deal with the drug problem. Bilateral, regional and international cooperation is essential. Areas requiring extensive international cooperation are the coordinated action against the emergence and abuse of new psychoactive substances and effectively controlling the illicit trafficking of precursors for use in the manufacture of drugs.

71. India is firmly committed to the three international drug control conventions. India is committed to ensuring the availability of controlled substances for medical and scientific purposes while preventing their diversion, abuse and trafficking, and ensuring the availability of drugs for palliative care, pain relief and opioid substitution therapy for cancer patients and people who use drugs. Several steps are being taken to strengthen activities for supply and demand reduction, as well as treatment and after-care facilities, by taking a public health approach. India embarked on a national drug use survey two years ago and is promoting opioid substitution treatment for drug-dependent individuals. India also has a national policy on narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances.

72. In August 2018, the meeting of Chief Ministers of states of northern India to chalk out an anti-narcotics strategy pointed to the Government's commitment to addressing the drug demand and supply agenda in a comprehensive manner.

73. In order to enhance regional cooperation to combat crimes related to drugs and money-laundering in the region, India, in coordination with UNODC and other countries of South Asia, is advancing in the establishment of the South Asian Regional Intelligence and Coordination Centre on Transnational Organized Crime, which may provide the most effective response to an unprecedented drug challenge in the region.

74. Under its new Regional Programme for South Asia for the period 2018–2021, UNODC is also promoting a balanced approach to the drug problem. The regional office actively supports efforts to enhance the counterparts' technical and operational capacities at the international level, in the areas of countering illicit trafficking and border management, criminal justice and drug demand reduction and HIV/AIDS prevention.

75. For the past few years, the Government of India has funded the UNODC South Asia regional drug law enforcement project, which has been successful in imparting effective capacity-building to law enforcement and forensic officers in South Asia.