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

Ashgabat, 22–25 November 2022

Item 4 of the provisional agenda\*\*

**Implementation of the recommendations adopted  
by the Subcommission at its fifty-fourth session****Implementation of the recommendations adopted by the  
Subcommission at its fifty-fourth session****Note by the Secretariat****Addendum****I. Introduction**

1. The Subcommission on Illicit Drug Traffic and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East, at its fifty-fourth session, held in Tashkent from 23 to 27 September 2019, adopted a set of recommendations following the consideration by working groups of the issues listed below.
2. In accordance with established practice, the report on the fifty-fourth session was forwarded to the Governments represented at that session. A questionnaire on the implementation of the recommendations adopted at the fifty-fourth session was dispatched on 21 June and 1 August 2022 for responses by the deadline of 31 August 2022.
3. The present document was prepared on the basis of the information provided to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) by Governments in response to that questionnaire. Eight replies had been received, from the Governments of Azerbaijan, Iraq, Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Türkiye and Turkmenistan.

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

\*\* [UNODC/SUBCOM/55/1](#).



## II. Responses from member States to the questionnaire

### Issue 1. Importance of exchange of actionable intelligence and the role of regional cooperation platforms in facilitating that exchange

#### Recommendation 1

**Governments should be encouraged to further strengthen cooperation at the national level among law enforcement bodies (police, customs, border protection services, specialized agencies etc.) to ensure swift completion of internal procedures for the timely exchange of actionable intelligence.**

4. Azerbaijan reported that cooperation at the national level was governed by the State Programme for Countering Trafficking in Narcotic Drugs, Psychotropic Substances and Their Precursors and for Combating Drug Dependence, covering the period between 2019 and 2024.
5. The Government of Iraq indicated that all law enforcement agencies engaged in cooperation at border crossing points, whenever they had cross-checked intelligence, in order to provide support and backing for the Anti-Narcotics Directorate.
6. Kyrgyzstan reported that joint investigative activities relating to drug trafficking were carried out with the State Customs Service, the State Committee for National Security and the State Penal Service. Those activities resulted in the blocking of websites through which drugs were advertised and distributed and in the prevention of drug-related transactions and money-laundering.
7. Lebanon reported on coordination of efforts among the Central Narcotics Control Bureau, the Customs Administration, the General Directorate of General Security, all Lebanese Army posts and all Internal Security Forces branches.
8. The Government of Qatar indicated that law enforcement entities were encouraged to exchange intelligence through immediate cooperation at the national level in order to ensure swift completion of internal procedures.
9. Saudi Arabia reported that liaison officers from the General Directorate of Narcotics Control, Customs, the Office of the Public Prosecutor and the Border Guard worked together in order to establish procedures for exchanging information and to develop security plans for responding to drug trafficking offences.
10. The Government of Türkiye reported having established a coordination mechanism to counter drug trafficking, with the involvement of the Counter Narcotics Department under the National Police and other law enforcement agencies, such as the Gendarmerie General Command, the Coast Guard Command, the General Directorate of Customs Enforcement and the Financial Crimes Investigation Board.
11. Turkmenistan reported having acted on recommendation 1.

#### Recommendation 2

**Governments should encourage their law enforcement agencies to regularly use the platforms of regional cooperation centres, such as the Central Asian Regional Information and Coordination Centre (CARICC), the Joint Planning Cell and the Criminal Information Centre to Combat Drugs of the Gulf Cooperation Council, for the collection, analysis and exchange of criminal intelligence and coordination of multilateral operations. Governments should be encouraged to make better use of the network of law enforcement liaison officers for those purposes.**

12. The Government of Azerbaijan reported that the State Security Service, as part of its efforts to combat transnational organized crime groups, exchanged experiences with international and regional organizations, such as UNODC, the Central Asian Regional Information and Coordination Centre (CARICC) and the Organization for Democracy and Economic Development (GUAM). Alerts and other information

regarding detected cases of drug trafficking were exchanged with neighbouring countries and countries of destination.

13. Iraq indicated its willingness to cooperate with relevant countries in the region and beyond in countering drug trafficking, in accordance with the agreements to which it had acceded.

14. Kyrgyzstan reported that controlled deliveries were carried out as part of both bilateral and multilateral cooperation with international organizations (UNODC, the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO) and CARICC). In addition, information on the results of joint operations and on the drug situation in Kyrgyzstan was regularly exchanged through the CARICC platform.

15. The Government of Lebanon reported that Lebanon was a party to several cooperation agreements with neighbouring States, as well as with other States in the region with shared concerns, with a view to responding to the proliferation of psychotropic substances and other internationally controlled drugs in the region. Coordination with all United Nations offices involved in countering trafficking in psychotropic substances and other internationally controlled drugs and in combating drug-related crime was also taking place. The Government also liaised with all regional coordination agencies and participated in all meetings and seminars on promoting regional cooperation. Furthermore, meetings were held with liaison officers appointed by foreign embassies in Lebanon, and intelligence was exchanged in order to limit the spread of controlled drugs, to prevent transnational crime and to identify and dismantle drug trafficking networks.

16. Qatar reported that law enforcement agencies were encouraged to cooperate with relevant regional cooperation centres to collect and exchange intelligence in joint operations and to make continuous use of existing networks of law enforcement liaison officers.

17. Saudi Arabia reported that it had been cooperating with the Criminal Information Centre to Combat Drugs of the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf (also known as the Gulf Cooperation Council) and had joined the Southeast European Law Enforcement Center (SELEC) as an operational partner. Information was provided with regard to drug control liaison officers, who were involved in coordination activities with competent authorities from 30 countries around the world.

18. Türkiye indicated that regional and global research and risk analysis activities were carried out by the Directorate General of Customs Enforcement, using regional and global reports and bulletins prepared by law enforcement units of other countries and by relevant international organizations, especially CARICC, SELEC, UNODC and the World Customs Organization. The Directorate General of Customs Enforcement attached great importance to international cooperation in the fight against drug trafficking and worked in close cooperation with international organizations, relevant law enforcement units of other countries and law enforcement liaison officers from various countries accredited in Türkiye. As a result of those joint efforts, significant drug seizures had been carried out both in Türkiye and in other partner countries in 2021.

19. Turkmenistan reported having acted on recommendation 2.

### **Recommendation 3**

**Governments should undertake the steps necessary to support face-to-face meetings of the law enforcement officials involved in ongoing investigations to ensure the exchange of specific information and facilitate further post-seizure investigations.**

20. Azerbaijan reported that meetings were held regularly with law enforcement officials to ensure the exchange of related information and facilitate further post-seizure investigations.

21. Iraq reported that its competent authorities jointly collected all available information through the databases of law enforcement agencies. Investigations were conducted jointly.
22. The Government of Kyrgyzstan reported that the technical sectors of the State Coordinating Committee for the Control of Narcotic Drugs, Psychotropic Substances and Precursors held annual joint meetings on issues relating to drug abuse prevention, including among prisoners and young people, to ensure effective inter-agency cooperation. Furthermore, an analysis centre had been established as part of the Service for Combating Drug Trafficking of the Ministry of Internal Affairs to collect information on, inter alia, drug-related money-laundering, cybercrime and new types of synthetic drugs, with a view to improving inter-agency cooperation and information exchange.
23. Lebanon indicated that drug control officers received relevant training, in their home country and abroad, that enabled them to utilize available capacities, modern methodologies and best practices.
24. Qatar reported that face-to-face meetings were held by law enforcement officials during ongoing investigations to ensure the quality and accuracy of the information exchanged.
25. Saudi Arabia reported having carried out controlled delivery operations that required the holding of meetings among officers specialized in such operations.
26. The Government of Türkiye reported that operational coordination meetings, the sharing of official intelligence and other related information-sharing activities were regularly carried out taking into account the distinct jurisdictions of the different law enforcement agencies involved. Planned operations, including international and national controlled delivery operations, were carried out by the law enforcement agency responsible for the jurisdiction in question.
27. Turkmenistan reported having acted on recommendation 3.

## **Issue 2. Trafficking in synthetic opioids and synthetic cannabinoids and measures to counter such trafficking**

### **Recommendation 4**

**Governments should consider allocating more resources to modernizing their drug-testing laboratories, enhancing the skills of scientists and providing adequate tools and equipment to front-line law enforcement officers.**

28. Azerbaijan reported that the State Security Service had obtained state-of-the-art equipment in order to modernize drug-testing laboratories.
29. Iraq reported that testing procedures for narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances were confined to the forensic medicine departments of the Ministry of Health, in line with the national drug control legislation. The relevant departments possessed all the technical equipment and expertise required for that purpose.
30. Kyrgyzstan indicated that staff of the Service for Combating Drug Trafficking of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and of the State Forensics Service participated in advanced training courses and in relevant forums fostering an exchange of good practices, organized by international organizations such as UNODC and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE).
31. Lebanon reported that a liaison officer at the German Embassy in Beirut was provided with samples of “captagon” tablets that had been seized. The liaison officer used the samples to search a database in order to link them with manufacturing and drug trafficking networks.
32. The Government of Qatar reported that modern devices for drug-testing laboratories had been purchased; the national database had been modernized to

include new drugs and psychotropic substances; and the Pharmaceuticals Oversight Laboratory within the Department of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Oversight had continued to modernize its laboratory and enhance the skills of its staff.

33. Saudi Arabia reported having constructed a modern building for the General Directorate of Narcotics Control that included an integrated section for managing precursors, as well as laboratories that used modern equipment and technology.

34. The Government of Türkiye reported that drug-testing laboratories were operating under the Turkish National Police (Police Criminal Laboratories), the Gendarmerie General Command (Gendarmerie Criminal Laboratories), the General Directorate of Customs Enforcement (Customs Laboratories) and the Ministry of Justice (Forensic Institute).

35. Turkmenistan reported having acted on recommendation 4.

## **Recommendation 5**

**Governments should be encouraged to make full use of the United Nations Toolkit on Synthetic Drugs, which includes a wide range of resources such as guidelines, technical information and links to useful resources, instruments and training to assist Member States in designing effective countermeasures to contain the threats posed by synthetic drugs.**

36. Azerbaijan reported that the State Security Service made full use of the United Nations Toolkit on Synthetic Drugs.

37. Iraq reported that several publications available on the website of the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB) had been circulated to competent authorities, including the Guidelines for a Voluntary Code of Practice for the Chemical Industry, *Precursors and Chemicals Frequently Used in the Illicit Manufacture of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances*, the European Union guide on the illicit production of synthetic drugs and the international monitoring list of equipment used in the illicit manufacture of drugs.

38. Kyrgyzstan reported that its competent authorities collaborated and cooperated with international organizations (including OSCE, UNODC, the European Union and the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL)) in combating drug-related crime. It also reported that training activities on strengthening collaboration and cooperation in the investigation of drug-related crime had been carried out.

39. Lebanon indicated that competent authorities made use of such existing coordination tools and mechanisms as the Pre-Export Notification Online system for international trade shipments and reported seizures and illegal incidents involving precursors through the Precursors Incident Communication System.

40. Qatar indicated that all tools and resources provided by the United Nations were well utilized.

41. Saudi Arabia reported having cooperated directly with UNODC and INCB. In addition, it received regular reports on synthetic drugs and strived to keep abreast of international trends when taking measures to tackle the threat posed by such drugs.

42. Türkiye reported that it actively followed all relevant publications, expert meetings and training activities of UNODC, INCB, the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA), the European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Cooperation (Europol) and INTERPOL and that the United Nations Toolkit on Synthetic Drugs was also being used at the national level.

**Recommendation 6**

**Governments should take advantage of the information available in the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) early warning advisory on new psychoactive substances and should be encouraged to provide information to UNODC on new psychoactive substances when they are identified by national drug-testing laboratories to enhance understanding on patterns and trends in their emergence.**

43. Iraq reported that lists of narcotic drugs subject to international control, containing recent additions or deletions, were circulated occasionally to all law enforcement agencies.

44. Kyrgyzstan reported that, in order to effectively and fully expand cooperation in combating drug-related crime, the Service for Combating Drug Trafficking of the Ministry of Internal Affairs had prepared a draft plan for the implementation of a national warning system relating to the emergence of new synthetic drugs and new psychoactive substances.

45. Lebanon indicated that the Central Narcotics Control Bureau utilized an early warning programme to monitor developments that were relevant to controlling narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances. The Bureau provided relevant organs of the Council of Arab Ministers of the Interior with bulletins on manufactured drugs and new psychotropic and psychoactive substances.

46. Qatar reported having made good use of all tools and resources provided by the United Nations. New developments were being monitored continuously.

47. Saudi Arabia reported having provided UNODC and INCB with reports and laboratory information on new drugs and psychoactive substances. In that connection, it had appointed a liaison officer specialized in drug control to serve at its Permanent Mission to the United Nations (Vienna).

48. Türkiye reported that it was an active member of the UNODC early warning advisory on new psychoactive substances. Data related to new psychoactive substances were also provided through the EMCDDA mechanisms and the UNODC annual report questionnaire.

**Recommendation 7**

**Governments should be encouraged to allow national forensic laboratories to participate in the UNODC International Collaborative Exercise programme, which is aimed at assisting drug-testing laboratories worldwide in assessing their own performance and taking corrective actions, when appropriate.**

49. Iraq reported having participated, in an online format, in UNODC conferences aimed at enhancing the capacity of law enforcement and criminal investigation agencies and in conferences concerning precursor chemicals. National laboratories would be provided with technical support in line with global developments.

50. Lebanon indicated that in order to test a sample of seized drugs, the Central Narcotics Control Bureau sent the sample to the Forensic Laboratories Office for analysis and to determine its characteristics. The seized substance would be identified based on the results of the analysis.

51. Türkiye reported that law enforcement agencies and related laboratories were participating in the International Collaborative Exercises programme. The laboratories under the National Police received UNODC certification for analysis of specific new psychoactive substances.

52. Saudi Arabia and Turkmenistan reported having acted on recommendation 7.

**Recommendation 8**

**UNODC should be encouraged to provide financial and technical assistance, including specialized drug control equipment and training, to national drug-testing laboratories.**

53. Iraq reported that funds from the national budget were allocated each year to all drug-testing medical laboratories affiliated with the Ministry of Health.

54. The Government of Lebanon reported that samples of seized items were analysed by a central laboratory established for that purpose by the General Directorate of Internal Security Forces, which provided it with the necessary equipment and funds.

55. In Qatar, the drug-testing laboratory had been provided with modern equipment and related capacity-building support.

56. Turkmenistan reported having acted on recommendation 8.

**Issue 3. Record levels of opiate production and related challenges****Recommendation 9**

**Governments should be encouraged to introduce and/or further develop profiling techniques to ensure the targeting of trafficking in drugs and precursors while facilitating legal trade. The UNODC Container Control Programme is instrumental in providing training on those techniques in relation to container shipments.**

57. Iraq reported on cooperation with the Container Control Programme that involved the training, in an online format, of a number of personnel. The Programme would be implemented at an air border control point and at a land border control point. There were also plans to implement the Programme at seaports.

58. Kyrgyzstan reported that competent authorities collaborated and cooperated with international organizations (including OSCE, UNODC, the European Union and INTERPOL) in combating drug-related crime. It was indicated that training activities on strengthening collaboration and cooperation in the investigation of drug-related crime were being carried out.

59. Lebanon reported that container monitoring and the early warning system were utilized to detect and inspect smuggled shipments.

60. Qatar reported that high-risk States, companies and means of transport were handled by an enterprise management system. Intelligence regarding suspicious companies was followed up and monitored, and when necessary the required action was taken at border crossings in accordance with risk management standards. Furthermore, coordination took place at the local, regional and international levels to target drug trafficking shipments and their sources.

61. The Government of Türkiye reported that profiling studies on heroin and cannabis had been undertaken by the criminal laboratories under the Gendarmerie General. The coverage of profiling studies had expanded through a joint European Union twinning project on strengthening the capacity of Turkish forensic laboratories in combating drug trafficking. The project had been implemented between 2018 and 2020 together with the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the Criminal Department of the Turkish National Police and the Criminal Department of the Gendarmerie General Command. Profiling for heroin, cannabis, amphetamine-type stimulants and cocaine was ongoing and was expected to increase the national capacity to counter organized crime more effectively.

**Recommendation 10**

**Governments should undertake appropriate measures at the national level and cooperate at the international level to identify and investigate the diversion of precursor chemicals (specifically acetic anhydride) and the subsequent trafficking thereof.**

62. Iraq reported on continuous measures undertaken to prevent the use and diversion of acetic anhydride.

63. Kyrgyzstan reported that in accordance with national legislation and relevant international conventions, work was under way to identify and seize trafficked drugs, precursors and non-scheduled chemicals.

64. Lebanon noted that Member States, with the assistance of UNODC and INCB, as appropriate, should further strengthen national, regional and international cooperation, participate in relevant global initiatives of UNODC and INCB and facilitate cooperation in specific cases, when required.

65. Qatar reported that its competent entities endeavoured to identify any diversion of precursor chemicals, strengthen staff capacity and combat trafficking in precursors, including “designer precursors” and non-scheduled precursors, in particular acetic anhydride. Mechanisms for bilateral, regional and international cooperation were being strengthened. Full advantage was being taken of international electronic platforms and tools.

66. Saudi Arabia reported that information exchange regarding shipments of precursors and the import and export of precursor chemicals was taking place through the Precursors Incident Communication System and the Pre-Export Notification Online system, with a view to ensuring effective monitoring at the local and international levels.

**Recommendation 11**

**Governments should be encouraged to further support the efforts of Afghanistan to reduce opium poppy cultivation, counter trafficking in opiates, dismantle clandestine laboratories and implement alternative development programmes.**

67. Kyrgyzstan reported that measures were being taken on an ongoing basis to support the efforts of Afghanistan to reduce opium poppy cultivation and counter drug trafficking, including through contributing to strengthened and intensified cooperation within the framework of international organizations, such as the Collective Security Treaty Organization, the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, UNODC and CARICC.

68. Lebanon reported that measures were in place to dismantle drug trafficking operations and to raid laboratories and facilities used to illicitly manufacture drugs, including “captagon” tablets.

69. Qatar reported that it had supported efforts to promote alternative development aimed at countering illicit cultivation of opium poppy and dismantling clandestine laboratories.

70. The Government of Saudi Arabia indicated that it had welcomed relevant measures implemented by the international community with regard to recommendation 11.

71. Iraq and Turkmenistan reported having acted on recommendation 11.



## **Issue 4. Practical measures tailored to the specific needs of children and youth to prevent and treat drug abuse among them**

### **Recommendation 12**

**Governments should be encouraged to implement a system of prevention at the national level that incorporates a number of integrated prevention interventions that are based on science, aligned with the *International Standards on Drug Use Prevention* and take cultural factors into consideration.**

72. Iraq reported on a national programme, involving all competent institutions, aimed at preventing the abuse of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances. The action taken involved media, cultural and educational campaigns to raise awareness, as well as the introduction of preventive measures.

73. Kyrgyzstan indicated that the Cabinet of Ministers had drawn up a drug control programme and a plan of action for its implementation covering the period 2022–2026, in accordance with international standards in the area of drug abuse prevention.

74. Lebanon reported that a national drug control strategy had been developed in partnership with various ministries and in coordination with non-governmental organizations and the Central Narcotics Control Bureau, in order to reduce the illicit demand for and supply of drugs by utilizing health-based approaches and scientific evidence.

75. Qatar reported that drug use prevention interventions targeted various stages of childhood development. Related family and school programmes had been prepared and implemented, comprising efforts to raise awareness of the harmful effects of drug use. Treatment and rehabilitation centres for drug addicts had been established, providing also aftercare and reintegration services.

76. Saudi Arabia reported having integrated the relevant United Nations standards in its national drug abuse prevention programmes.

77. Türkiye reported that national prevention activities aimed at providing counselling and treatment support for persons who used drugs and reintegrating those persons into society through rehabilitation and social integration programmes. The National Strategy Document and Action Plan on the Fight against Drugs for the period 2018–2023 had designated the Ministry of National Education as the lead institution for educational and awareness-raising activities aimed at preventing drug abuse. Prevention activities were to be carried out in cooperation with other relevant agencies, such as the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of the Interior, the Ministry of Family and Social Services, the Ministry of Labour and Social Security, the Ministry of Youth and Sports and the Turkish Green Crescent.

78. Turkmenistan reported having acted on recommendation 12.

### **Recommendation 13**

**Governments should recognize that drug use and drug use disorders are a multifactorial health disorder and ensure that quality drug use disorder treatment is available for all persons in need of services.**

79. Iraq reported that continuous action was being taken to establish a treatment centre and related medical facilities for drug abusers, with a view to reducing cases of drug abuse.

80. Lebanon reported that ongoing cooperation was in place between the Central Narcotics Control Bureau and treatment entities, including the Oum el Nour organization, Youth against Drugs and other organizations.

81. Qatar reported that state-of-the-art treatment centres had been established to provide follow-up care services for drug users, to reintegrate them into society and to prevent relapses.

82. Saudi Arabia reported that addiction treatment and rehabilitation hospitals operated by the Ministry of Health provided health-care services for persons with drug use disorders.

83. The Government of Türkiye reported on its approach to drug use and drug use disorders as a health-care issue.

84. Turkmenistan reported having acted on recommendation 13.

#### **Recommendation 14**

**Governments should be encouraged to utilize established platforms and networks for collecting data and sharing best practices in prevention and treatment among countries in the region.**

85. Iraq reported that provisions had been made to strengthen cooperation with countries in the region, with a view to sharing expertise among the competent health-care services.

86. Kyrgyzstan reported that meetings were held annually, within the framework of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, to enable the sharing of experience relating to drug abuse prevention and treatment.

87. Lebanon indicated that several conferences had been organized in the region to collect data and to exchange practices on preventing and treating drug abuse and combating drug trafficking.

88. Qatar reported having established a standing committee on addiction treatment that was aimed at coordinating governmental and non-governmental efforts in the treatment of drug users and in ensuring appropriate follow-up. In 2021, the Ministry of Public Health had conducted a comprehensive review of treatment protocols for users of addictive substances. The review had examined the need to improve coordination between the care system and the relevant bodies and assessed those bodies in the light of the standards formulated by the World Health Organization in 2020.

89. Saudi Arabia reported that best practices in drug use prevention and treatment were shared with the States of the Gulf Cooperation Council.

90. Türkiye reported that the Turkish Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (TUBİM) under the National Police was the national focal point of EMCDDA. TUBİM was responsible for monitoring and collecting all drug-related data and activities in the country, prepared the annual national drug report and shared relevant data with its international counterparts, including UNODC.

91. Turkmenistan reported having acted on recommendation 14.

#### **Recommendation 15**

**Governments should place a value on youth empowerment and the inclusion of youth in policy discussions around the issues of risk behaviours, including substance use.**

92. Iraq reported that, in addition to other ongoing activities, an inter-agency committee had been recently established to develop a strategy aimed at protecting young people from the risks of drug abuse.

93. Kyrgyzstan reported having organized round tables and meetings, with the participation of young people, on the use of new psychoactive substances and the negative consequences of such use.

94. Lebanon reported that seminars, meetings and lectures had been organized in schools and universities to raise awareness among youth about the harmful effects of drug use.

95. Qatar reported having implemented awareness-raising programmes addressing the issue of drug abuse. The programmes provided for the implementation of a wide range of preventive activities, including seminars, conferences, exhibitions and training sessions; scientific, technical and mathematical competitions; open meetings with students and guardians; and the distribution of related publications.

96. Saudi Arabia indicated that national protection programmes covered specific groups of youth in educational settings, in order to ensure that they were duly included in the efforts aimed at drug use prevention.

97. Türkiye reported on specialized drug use prevention interventions and projects implemented in order to integrate the broader community, especially youth, in efforts to address and counter the drug problem.

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