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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 7 of the provisional agenda**

Organization of the fifty-sixth session of the Subcommission**Organization of the fifty-sixth session of the Subcommission on Illicit Drug Traffic and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East****Note by the Secretariat**

1. Representatives whose Governments wish to act as host for the fifty-sixth or a subsequent session of the Subcommission on Illicit Drug Traffic and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East are invited to inform the Subcommission accordingly. That information will be brought to the attention of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs at its sixty-sixth session, in 2023.
2. The draft provisional agenda for the fifty-sixth session of the Subcommission is annexed to the present note.
3. Item 4 of the draft provisional agenda for the fifty-sixth session of the Subcommission will be devoted to the examination of the status of implementation of the recommendations adopted by the Subcommission at its fifty-fifth session. In order to facilitate reporting, a questionnaire concerning action taken by Governments to implement those recommendations will be transmitted together with the invitation to attend the fifty-sixth session.
4. At the fortieth session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, the view was expressed that the recommendations adopted by the meetings of the subsidiary bodies of the Commission would remain meaningless if Governments did not take action, including, where necessary, the enactment of national legislation, to implement those recommendations. States represented at the session of the Subcommission are urged to implement such recommendations conscientiously and promptly so that an effective evaluation of their progress can be made.
5. It would be desirable for the fifty-fifth session of the Subcommission to identify the topics that would be most appropriate for consideration by working groups at its fifty-sixth session. The Subcommission may also wish to revisit topics that have already been discussed at previous sessions and that may benefit from further in-depth

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

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



discussion or consideration from a particular perspective. Alternatively, the Subcommission may wish to request the Secretariat to consult the participating States members informally with a view to identifying topics for consideration by the working groups.

6. At the opening of the ministerial segment of the sixty-second session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, in March 2019, Ministers and government representatives adopted by consensus the Ministerial Declaration on Strengthening Our Actions at the National, Regional and International Levels to Accelerate the Implementation of Our Joint Commitments to Address and Counter the World Drug Problem. In that Declaration, Member States made a commitment to accelerating, based on the principle of common and shared responsibility, the full implementation of the 2009 Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem, the Joint Ministerial Statement of the 2014 high-level review by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs of the implementation by Member States of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action and the outcome document of the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem held in 2016, aimed at achieving all commitments, operational recommendations and aspirational goals set out therein.

7. In the Ministerial Declaration of 2019, Member States resolved to review in the Commission on Narcotic Drugs in 2029 the progress in the implementation of all international drug policy commitments, with a midterm review in 2024. In preparation for the midterm review, and in line with its workplan for the period 2019–2023, the Commission will, in 2023, take stock of the progress made in implementing the commitments to address the challenges identified in the Ministerial Declaration.

8. Under agenda item 6, participants will be invited to discuss how they could best contribute, through the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, to accelerating the implementation of all commitments made since 2009, drawing on their technical expertise and regional experience. Participants will also be encouraged to share views on the progress made in the implementation of drug policy commitments at the regional level, thereby contributing to the preparations for the midterm review in 2024.

9. The fifty-sixth session of the Subcommission will also provide participants with an opportunity to discuss in general how the Commission's subsidiary bodies could better contribute to the practical implementation of joint commitments made, in line with the 2019 Ministerial Declaration, ensuring that the Commission is informed of regional and domestic concerns, developments and best practices by all stakeholders.

Annex

Draft provisional agenda for the fifty-sixth session of the Subcommittee on Illicit Drug Traffic and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East

1. Election of officers.
 2. Adoption of the agenda.
 3. Current situation with respect to regional and subregional cooperation in addressing and countering the world drug problem.
 4. Implementation of the recommendations adopted by the Subcommittee at its fifty-fifth session.
 5. Consideration of topics by working groups [*to be determined*].
 6. Follow-up on the implementation at the national, regional and international levels of all commitments, as reflected in the Ministerial Declaration of 2019, to address and counter the world drug problem and preparations for the midterm review in 2024.
 7. Organization of the fifty-seventh session of the Subcommittee.
 8. Other business.
 9. Adoption of the report of the Subcommittee on its fifty-sixth session.
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