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Illicit drug traffic and supply and related measures**Strengthening the law enforcement capacity of the main transit States neighbouring Afghanistan, based on the principle of shared responsibility****Report of the Executive Director***Summary*

Data collected in the *Afghanistan Opium Survey 2009: Summary Findings* show that between 2008 and 2009 the area of land under opium poppy cultivation decreased by 22 per cent, from 157,000 hectares (ha) to 123,000 ha. This dramatic turnaround, especially in the province of Helmand, can be attributed to stronger governance and leadership (including through the successful introduction of “food zones” to promote licit farming), more aggressive counter-narcotics action and market dynamics. During the same time period, the number of opium poppy-free provinces increased from 18 to 20. Most of the cultivation remains confined to the provinces with security problems, further substantiating the link between insecurity and opium poppy cultivation that has been observed since 2007. Despite the decrease in the area under opium poppy cultivation, Afghanistan is still responsible for cultivating 93 per cent of the world’s opium poppy. Afghanistan’s neighbouring countries in Central Asia and in the Near and Middle East continue to be challenged by the trafficking in opiates through their territories as well as by related illicit activities, such as the smuggling and manufacturing of precursors. Trafficking in heroin originating in Afghanistan and precursors throughout the region remains a source of funding for organized crime and instability.

This report has been prepared pursuant to Commission on Narcotic Drugs resolution 52/2, entitled “Strengthening the law enforcement capacity of the main transit States neighbouring Afghanistan, based on the principle of shared responsibility”. It contains an overview of progress made by UNODC and Member States during 2009.

* E/CN.7/2010/1.



I. Introduction

1. In its resolution 52/2, entitled “Strengthening the law enforcement capacity of the main transit States neighbouring Afghanistan, based on the principle of shared responsibility”, the Commission on Narcotics Drugs reaffirmed its determination and commitment to grapple with the world drug problem using an approach based on the principle of shared responsibility; also reaffirmed the commitments assumed by Member States in the Political Declaration adopted by the General Assembly at its twentieth special session (General Assembly resolution S-20/2, annex) and the measures to enhance international cooperation to counter the world drug problem (Assembly resolutions S-20/4 A to E); welcomed the Paris Pact initiative; acknowledged progress in implementing the National Drug Control Strategy; welcomed the ongoing efforts to strengthen regional cooperation in combating trafficking in drugs of Afghan origin and the diversion of precursor chemicals undertaken by several regional and subregional organizations; took note with concern of the opium poppy survey for 2008 published by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), in which the Office stated that in 2008 Afghanistan had produced 7,700 tons of opium, representing 93 per cent of global production; and commended the efforts and achievements of States neighbouring Afghanistan in controlling the flow of illicit drugs and the support provided by UNODC to promote enhanced and operational drug control coordination.

2. In its resolution 52/2, the Commission requested the international community, in particular countries of destination, to provide, based on the principle of shared responsibility, urgent and sufficient technical assistance and support to the most affected transit States, in order to promote the capacities of such States to counter the flow of illicit drugs. It urged all Member States and UNODC to provide or facilitate the provision of the technical assistance and support needed for implementing the initiatives of Afghanistan, Iran (Islamic Republic of) and Pakistan, including the Triangular Initiative within the framework of the Paris Pact initiative and the Rainbow Strategy. It also urged the relevant international organizations, financial institutions and donors to support and provide the necessary technical and financial assistance to the States most affected by the transit of illicit drugs and to Afghanistan. It further urged UNODC and Member States with the capacity to do so to organize training seminars and workshops for the relevant law enforcement agencies of Afghanistan and its neighbouring States.

3. The present report has been prepared using information available to UNODC at the end of 2009 on activities and policies aimed at strengthening the law enforcement capacity of the main transit States neighbouring Afghanistan, including reports voluntarily submitted by Member States. It contains an overview of progress made under the Paris Pact initiative during 2009 and in line with the Rainbow Strategy, which essentially translates the recommendations contained in the Paris Pact into operations to be implemented on the ground and which guides the work of the UNODC field offices in Afghanistan and neighbouring countries. Among the most significant highlights of the year under review were the evaluation of phase two of the Paris Pact initiative, the formulation of a third phase of that initiative and the finalization of the UNODC regional programme for Afghanistan and neighbouring countries, which was endorsed at the meeting of the Group of Eight held in Trieste, Italy, from 25 to 27 June 2009.

II. Afghanistan

4. The *Afghanistan Opium Survey 2009: Summary Findings*, was published by UNODC and the Ministry of Counter-Narcotics of Afghanistan in September 2009. Between 2008 and 2009, the land under opium poppy cultivation in Afghanistan decreased by 22 per cent, from 157,000 hectares (ha) to 123,000 ha. This dramatic turnaround, especially in the province of Helmand, can be attributed to stronger governance and leadership, more aggressive counter-narcotics action, terms of trade that are more favourable to legal crops and the successful introduction of “food zones” to promote licit farming. Around the country, the number of opium poppy-free provinces increased from 18 to 20. Opium production dropped less dramatically (by 10 per cent, to 6,900 tons) because farmers extracted more opium per bulb. Most of the land under opium poppy cultivation is in the provinces with security problems: 99 per cent of the total cultivation took place in seven provinces in the southern and western regions, including the most insecure provinces in the country. This further substantiates the link between insecurity and opium cultivation that has been observed since 2007. Despite the decrease, Afghanistan is still responsible for over 90 per cent of the world’s opium.

5. States neighbouring Afghanistan and States in Central Asia and the Near and Middle East through which heroin is smuggled to illicit markets further west continue to be challenged by the trafficking in opium, morphine and refined heroin through their territories, as well as by the diversion and smuggling of precursor chemicals, the operation of clandestine laboratories manufacturing illicit drugs and the expansion of trafficking networks within their countries. The shared narcotics problem is, however, also the driving force behind various regional and subregional cooperation efforts. UNODC aims to strengthen further the principle of shared responsibility through the Rainbow Strategy, which comprises seven impact-oriented initiatives that deal with border control and cross-border cooperation, intelligence sharing, precursor control, money flows, drug demand reduction and the spread of HIV/AIDS. The Rainbow Strategy, developed largely but not exclusively with funding from the Government of Canada, remains of paramount priority for Paris Pact members (see E/CN.7/2009/8) and UNODC. As highlighted on other occasions, the Afghan national challenge requires a regional solution (E/CN.7/2009/7). In the last quarter of 2009, UNODC developed a regional programme for Afghanistan and neighbouring countries to operationalize the strategic priorities set forward in the Rainbow Strategy.

6. In October 2009, UNODC published a regional study entitled *Addiction, Crime and Insurgency: The Transnational Threat of Afghan Opium*, containing detailed estimates with regard to opium poppy cultivation, opium production, labour force, revenues and domestic prices. The report is one of several research and analytical publications produced by UNODC (see also past opium poppy surveys and the upcoming surveys on cannabis, corruption, drug demand etc.). It presents a perspective that is deep in scope and broad in geographical coverage, and that looks at the multiple consequences of smuggling drugs from Afghanistan through neighbouring States, along the Balkan and Eurasian routes, to countries in Europe, to the Russian Federation and even to China and India. The information contained in the October 2009 study is meant to help the international community appreciate the fact that we are all affected by the Afghan drug problem and that we must all work

for its solution, addressing all links of the drug chain by providing assistance to farmers to reduce supply, by preventing and treating drug abuse to curb demand and by enforcing the law against smugglers.

7. Also in that report, UNODC stresses that the most sinister development is taking shape outside Afghanistan: every year, more people (perhaps 100,000 worldwide) die from opium originating in Afghanistan than from any other drug. The number of people who die from heroin overdoses in States members of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) (above 10,000) is five times higher than the total number of NATO troops that have been killed in Afghanistan over the past eight years. The number of addicts in the Russian Federation has multiplied tenfold during the past 10 years. Despite major efforts to deal with drug trafficking, the Islamic Republic of Iran is swamped with opium originating in Afghanistan, as attested by the estimated 1 million Iranian opiate users. Central Asia, once only a conduit for heroin from Afghanistan, is now a major consumer; as a result, countries in the region are facing an HIV epidemic caused in large part by injecting drug use. The Silk Route has turned into a heroin route. It is carving out a path of death and violence through one of the world's most strategic, yet most volatile regions. The report provides a diagnosis of the transnational threat posed by the opium originating in Afghanistan, a threat that can only be addressed through an international and truly comprehensive effort.

8. In the area of law enforcement, within the framework of the project on strengthening the operational capacities of the Counter-Narcotics Police of Afghanistan, UNODC has continued to support the modernization and greater efficiency of the Counter-Narcotics Police of Afghanistan with a view to enhancing law enforcement cooperation against organized crime and drug trafficking. During 2009, activities focused on providing additional support to the construction of provincial directorates of the Counter-Narcotics Police of Afghanistan, including in Ghazni and Baglan.

9. An international consultant worked as a mentor to enhance the capacity of the drug forensics laboratory of the Counter-Narcotics Police of Afghanistan. Under his guidance, the laboratory started producing more accurate test results for the counter-narcotics tribunal, resulting in an increase in the number of convictions and a closer relationship between staff and prosecutors and investigators of the Counter-Narcotics Criminal Justice Task Force. The mentor made recommendations for the procurement of required equipment and chemicals and delivered comprehensive training on modern analytical techniques and methods for testing drugs. In addition, the laboratory published two issues of the quarterly *Laboratory Information Bulletin*, available on the UNODC website (www.unodc.org).

10. Under the project to support a counter-narcotics training unit within the Afghan police academy,¹ UNODC continued to support the Counter-Narcotics Training Academy by providing adequate resources and equipment for the organization of training for newly recruited officers of the Counter-Narcotics Police of Afghanistan. UNODC also worked towards the development of a

¹ The total budget of the UNODC programme in Afghanistan (18 projects) amounts to approximately \$120 million for the period to 2012, with contributions provided by the Governments of Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Lithuania, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, the United Kingdom and the United States.

train-the-trainer approach within the Academy in order to ensure sustainability. Procurement for and construction of a branch of the Academy in Kandahar got under way; it is expected that the Directorate of the Counter-Narcotics Police of Afghanistan will be located in the same place. Twenty counter-narcotics police officials were trained by the Turkish International Academy against Drugs and Organized Crime in the Counter-Narcotics Training Academy and 21 officers from various departments of the central and provincial branches of the Counter-Narcotics Police of Afghanistan attended a train-the-trainer course in Moscow.

11. With regard to border management (project on strengthening border control in the western and southern provinces), UNODC field mentors continued to provide support for the development of the Afghan border police and its tactical field operations, particularly along the western border of Afghanistan, where seizures of illicit consignments (e.g. of drugs and weapons) tripled. UNODC supported the construction of a regional border control centre in Nimroz, in coordination with the International Organization for Migration and the Government of Japan.

12. Within the framework of the project on regional cooperation in precursor control between Afghanistan and neighbouring countries, in addition to supporting the second phase of the Targeted Anti-trafficking Regional Communication, Expertise and Training (TARCET II) initiative, UNODC supported the establishment of the Precursor Control Unit at the Counter-Narcotics Police of Afghanistan headquarters (10 officers at the Kabul office and 12 officers for provisional deployment). In June 2009, all members of the Unit underwent polygraph exams. Training programmes commenced in May 2009, initially focusing on staff in Kabul, to be delivered also to provincial staff. UNODC, in collaboration with the Government of France, completed a two-week training course for 10 officers from the Unit, six officers from the Counter-Narcotics Training Academy and three officers from the Kabul mobile detection team of the Counter-Narcotics Police of Afghanistan.

13. As one of Afghanistan's neighbours, China has suffered directly from the smuggling of drugs into and through China by international drug cartels. China's National Narcotics Control Commission worked with the relevant law enforcement agencies to strengthen efforts to block the flow of drugs by strengthening internal controls and blocking entry at ports. China rejected all applications for the export of chemical precursors to Afghanistan, Iran (Islamic Republic of) and Pakistan, as well as Central Asian countries, when the receiving country had not agreed to import those substances. Furthermore, Chinese law enforcement agencies in charge of drug control strengthened mechanisms for intelligence exchange and case cooperation with Afghanistan, India, Pakistan, Tajikistan and Thailand.²

14. The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland committed £510 million in support of the Afghanistan National Development Strategy

² Between 2006 and 2009, 12 controlled cross-border deliveries were successfully completed. A number of criminal gangs were broken up and criminals involved in drug trafficking arrested. China has also supported the law enforcement agencies of concerned countries by providing personnel training and equipment.

(S/2006/105, annex) for the period to 2013.³ In addition, in 2008 the United Kingdom helped fund Governor Mangal's counter-narcotics plan in Helmand and the distribution of free wheat seed to 32,000 farmers in that province (for the establishment of "food zones"). The United Kingdom supported the Helmand counter-narcotics plan again in 2009, in the framework of which wheat seed was distributed to nearly 39,000 farmers in Helmand. In the period 2008-2009, the United Kingdom spent £29 million to support interdiction and law enforcement efforts. The United Kingdom played a central role in creating the Counter-Narcotics Police of Afghanistan, including by providing training, mentoring and equipment, and also provided financial support to the Kabul and Helmand offices of the Counter-Narcotics Police of Afghanistan, further contributing to making the latter an effective, intelligence-led organization.⁴

15. The United Kingdom was a major contributor to the European Union Police Mission in Afghanistan (EUPOL) and helped build the capacity of the Counter-Narcotics Criminal Justice Task Force,⁵ a multi-departmental detention, investigation, prosecution and judicial team targeting the narcotics trade. The United Kingdom has also provided advisers and officers to promote the development of the prison sector through training and mentoring. It is providing training and mentoring to Afghan law enforcement officers to help them tackle corruption, including narcotics-related corruption. The Ministry of Counter-Narcotics of Afghanistan has been operational since December 2004 and is supported by the United Kingdom through a capacity-building programme worth £12.5 million.

16. Italy supported capacity-building efforts by contributing to the UNODC programme in the Islamic Republic of Iran and by providing in-kind assistance through the drug liaison officers deployed in the region. In particular, in September 2009 the drug liaison officer at the Italian Embassy in Kabul participated as a trainer in an analysis course organized in the framework of TARCET II and in October 2009 he held a course on the project on strategy and analysis for police officers working in the Ministry of Counter-Narcotics of Afghanistan.

17. During the reporting period, many Member States, including the United Kingdom and the United States, discussed and reviewed their policies and strategy for Afghanistan by adopting a more integrated regional approach. In March 2009, the United States launched its white paper on the United States' policy on

³ This represents an increase in the United Kingdom's commitment of £330 million for the period 2006-2009. The funds committed for the current period will be focused on development, as promoting licit livelihoods remains a priority.

⁴ Between April 2008 and April 2009, the Helmand office of the Counter-Narcotics Police of Afghanistan arrested 134 narcotics traffickers and seized over 6,500 kg of opium, 240 kg of heroin and over 17 tons of poppy seeds. United Kingdom policing advisors work bilaterally and through the European Union Police Mission in Afghanistan (EUPOL) in support of the Helmand office of the Counter-Narcotics Police of Afghanistan and reform of the Ministry of the Interior.

⁵ The Counter-Narcotics Criminal Justice Task Force was established, with United Kingdom support, in December 2005. It consists of Afghan investigators, prosecutors and judges, and is designed to work alongside the Counter-Narcotics Police of Afghanistan on drug-related prosecutions. In 2008 and 2009, the Task Force's primary court dealt with 236 cases from across Afghanistan involving 393 defendants, 259 of whom were convicted, representing a conviction rate of 66 per cent.

Afghanistan and Pakistan, which included expanding security forces and police capacity, breaking the link between narcotics and insurgency, and mobilizing greater international support for common objectives with regard to Afghanistan. In particular, the United States Agency for International Development made a substantial contribution to opium poppy eradication efforts through a \$150 million agreement for the period 2009-2013. In part, those funds will be used to encourage alternative agriculture. In April 2009, the United Kingdom presented a renewed strategy setting out the new approach to Afghanistan and Pakistan; the strategy emphasizes collaboration among international partners to leverage resources and ensure burden sharing and improved coordination between Afghanistan and Pakistan, especially at the border areas, with regard to counter-terrorism, counter-insurgency, counter-narcotics, governance and development.

18. Two new large initiatives were presented during 2009. The United Kingdom-backed Comprehensive Agriculture and Rural Development project and the World Bank's initiative contained in its Interim Strategy Note. Both tools may contribute to further reducing the vulnerability of farmers to backlashes. Coupled with the World Bank-funded National Solidarity Program, they constitute essential forms of development assistance.

19. Several major international conferences were also held in 2009, including the International Conference on Afghanistan: A Comprehensive Strategy in a Regional Context, held in The Hague, the Netherlands, on 31 March, where attendees renewed their commitment to Afghanistan and their intention to coordinate with and strengthen local institutions. At the Third Regional Economic Cooperation Conference on Afghanistan, held in Islamabad on 13 and 14 May, participants called for further concerted efforts to provide alternative livelihoods, to open up regional markets for Afghan horticulture and agricultural produce, and to strengthen legal and security counter-narcotics mechanisms. At the meeting of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly held in Oslo from 22 to 26 May, participants reiterated that the security situation in Afghanistan was of central concern. The Foreign Ministers Council Meeting of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) held in May and the SCO Heads of State Council Meeting, held in Yekaterinburg, Russian Federation, on 15 and 16 June 2009 pledged greater unity, economic cooperation, resolve to combat terrorism and tackle the global economic crisis, build an equitable global financial system and ensure energy and food security, with the United Nations playing a coordinating role. The meeting launched the SCO cooperation mechanism for drug control, leading cooperation for drug control within SCO into a new phase. A three-level working mechanism involving the leaders of drug control agencies, senior officials and experts is to be set up and is expected to play a significant role in improving cooperation on drug control within SCO.⁶

20. The Group of Eight held a meeting in Trieste, Italy, from 25 to 27 June 2009. At that meeting, the States members of the Group of Eight, together with Afghanistan and Pakistan, pledged to work together to tackle insurgency, corruption and other regional challenges, as it was agreed that stability and development in the

⁶ SCO member States will organize a meeting of senior drug control officials to study and decide on an SCO strategy for drug control. In order to strengthen cooperation between drug control agencies of SCO member States, four expert groups will be set up covering the legal basis, law enforcement in drug policing, control over chemical precursors and drug demand reduction.

region were linked. Topics discussed included border control, narcotics trafficking in the region and refugees, as well as infrastructure, agriculture and food security. At the meeting, the UNODC regional programme for Afghanistan and neighbouring countries was adopted. The regional programme was elaborated in conjunction with the third phase of the Paris Pact initiative. Priorities included border management and cooperation, intelligence sharing, financial crime and money-laundering and judicial cooperation.

21. On 26 and 27 November 2009, the yearly Paris Pact policy meeting was held in Vienna. Participants were given an overview of the outcomes of the Paris Pact Expert Round Table on Western Europe, held in Paris on 22 and 23 October, and received the recommendations of the working groups on counter-narcotics enforcement and drug demand reduction. Information and updates were also provided on related initiatives by the Central Asia Regional Information and Coordination Centre (CARICC), the NATO-Russia Council and the International Police Organization (INTERPOL). Wide-ranging discussions and interventions took place on the importance of precursor chemical control (especially through the TARCET initiative and the work of the International Narcotics Control Board) and on hawala and other remittance systems. Support for further work on precursors and for cooperation in border management and financial flows was particularly strong. The emphasis at the seventh consultative Paris Pact policy meeting was on the future goals of a possible third phase of the Paris Pact initiative within the context of the findings of the external evaluation that had taken place between May and August 2009, as the current phase of the project was due to finish at the end of May 2010. Suggestions were made for a more thematic approach, including more expert working groups and therefore more expert-driven meetings. It was further agreed that in a third phase of the Paris Pact initiative three of the main components would be addressed: the initiative's consultative mechanism would be enhanced, engagement with partners would be heightened and the Automated Donor Assistance Mechanism would be improved.

III. Cooperation involving Afghanistan, Iran (the Islamic Republic of) and Pakistan

22. Cooperation among Afghanistan, Iran (the Islamic Republic of) and Pakistan has progressed on several fronts. In particular, coordination in many sectors has improved through existing regional mechanisms for strengthening border cooperation and information exchange, for example through the Triangular Initiative and the action plan set out in the "green paper" of the Rainbow Strategy.

23. A joint planning cell was established in Tehran at the end of February 2009 in order to gather and analyse intelligence in Afghanistan, Iran (Islamic Republic of) and Pakistan. The three countries nominated focal points for planning regional operations against trafficking in drugs and chemical precursors, guided by the analysis of crime-related intelligence. That initiative was instrumental in the launch of the first joint operation against drug trafficking networks carried out in the framework of the Triangular Initiative, in March 2009. The second joint operation, between Afghanistan and Iran (the Islamic Republic of), was carried out in July 2009. A month later, the Iranian and Pakistani authorities carried out a

third joint operation.⁷ The joint planning cell will continue to work in a pilot phase until permanent focal points from the three countries are appointed.

24. The second trilateral ministerial meeting between Afghanistan, Iran (Islamic Republic of), UNODC and the United Nations Mission in Afghanistan was held in Kabul, at the Iranian Embassy, in May 2009. The Deputy Minister of the Interior (in charge of counter-narcotics) of Afghanistan welcomed the increased cooperation between Afghanistan and Iran (Islamic Republic of) in this field.

25. In May 2009, the first presidential meeting on trilateral cooperation was held by the Heads of States of Afghanistan, Iran (Islamic Republic of) and Pakistan. At the meeting, participants adopted the Tehran Declaration, in which the need to work collectively to improve the economic conditions of the populations in those three countries was emphasized, as was the need to address the root causes of terrorism and violent extremism and the need to combat transnational organized crime.

26. In July 2009, UNODC held, in Kabul, a briefing of team leaders involved in TARCET II, an initiative aimed at preventing the smuggling into Afghanistan of chemicals used in the illicit manufacture of heroin. The briefing was the first of its kind held in Afghanistan and was attended by over 40 delegates from 13 countries and international and regional organizations. In August 2009, the first seizure was made under TARCET II (4,620 kg of acetic anhydride in Baluchistan).

27. A third senior official meeting under the Triangular Initiative was held in Tehran on 29 and 30 July 2009. The meeting brought together senior counter-narcotics enforcement officials from Afghanistan, Iran (Islamic Republic of) and Pakistan, as well as UNODC officials. The action plan agreed upon by the participating senior officials contains a series of measures on information and intelligence sharing, border liaison offices, cross-border communication, joint operations and precursor control. The three countries agreed on a series of measures to strengthen the effectiveness of the joint planning cell, including by connecting it to CARICC in the framework of TARCET II.

28. The third trilateral initiative ministerial meeting among ministers of the interior and ministers for counter-narcotics from Afghanistan, Iran (Islamic Republic of) and Pakistan was held on 27 October 2009 at UNODC premises in Vienna. Discussions were held on the joint planning cell, joint operations, cooperation mechanisms, border liaison offices and cross-border communication. A number of practical steps to strengthen cooperation and capacity in joint efforts against drug trafficking were adopted. It was agreed that senior official meetings would be held twice a year and that they would be chaired by the heads of the Counter-Narcotics Police of Afghanistan, the Iranian anti-narcotics police and Pakistan's Anti-Narcotics Force of the Ministry of Narcotics Control. The fourth ministerial meeting is expected to be held in Islamabad in 2010.

⁷ During the first joint operation, the Iranian anti-narcotics police and the Counter-Narcotics Police of Afghanistan seized 497 kg of opium, 93.5 kg of heroin and 98 kg of hashish. Three criminal gangs were dismantled and 22 persons arrested. The third joint operation was carried out by the counter-narcotic agencies of Iran (Islamic Republic of) and Pakistan on 24 and 25 August 2009. During that operation, 664 kg of different kinds of drugs were seized by the Iranian anti-narcotics police.

29. In keeping with the statement issued at the meeting of foreign ministers of the Group of Eight and of Afghanistan and Pakistan held in Potsdam, Germany, on 30 May 2007, Canada facilitated cooperation between Afghanistan and Pakistan in a series of technical, practical workshops known as “the Dubai Process”. As a result of the Dubai Process, detailed action plans in five areas (customs, counter-narcotics, managing movement of people, law enforcement and connecting Government to the people through social and economic development) were developed, in the framework of which Canada is facilitating the implementation of recommendations by Afghanistan and Pakistan, including on counter-narcotics. More broadly, Canada is providing Can\$ 52 million to UNODC for counter-narcotics programming in Afghanistan for the period 2007-2011. During 2009, Canada and UNODC streamlined their initiative supporting border control management in the region and aligned the Trilateral Initiative and the UNODC national counter-narcotics capacity-building programme with the Dubai Process.

IV. Cooperation with the Islamic Republic of Iran

30. UNODC provides technical cooperation to the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the field of counter-narcotics enforcement, drug demand reduction and HIV/AIDS, as well as on the rule of law. In each of these areas, the UNODC country programme for the Islamic Republic of Iran⁸ is meant to facilitate dialogue between the international community and the Iranian Government and thus the provision and implementation of technical assistance at both the bilateral and multilateral levels. The UNODC country programme also facilitates the implementation of the following three segments of the Rainbow Strategy in the country: the “green paper” on the Trilateral Initiative, the “red paper” on the TARCET initiative and the “indigo paper” on drug demand reduction and HIV/AIDS.

31. Representatives from the UNODC Country Office in the Islamic Republic of Iran participated in the law enforcement expert meeting that was organized by UNODC in the framework of the Triangular Initiative and held from 2 to 5 February 2009. On 13 May, the Country Office organized a meeting with the Italian and Saudi Arabian drug liaison officers based in Tehran to discuss possible cooperation with the judiciary and other national counterparts in the fight against organized crime and money-laundering, as well as to promote mutual legal assistance.

32. Between January and March 2009, the UNODC Country Office in the Islamic Republic of Iran carried out a series of activities in the framework of the project on integrated border control in the Islamic Republic of Iran, including the installation of a body scanner and the organization of training sessions on its use at Imam Khomeini Airport and launches of procurement bids for a second body scanner and the training of 10 drug detection dogs.

⁸ The UNODC country programme for the Islamic Republic of Iran for the period 2008-2011 is made up of 13 projects. The total budget of the programme amounts to approximately \$20 million, with \$9 million provided by Belgium, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, the Netherlands, Sweden and the United Kingdom, as well as the European Union.

33. In the first three months of 2009, a number of activities were implemented in the framework of the project on advocacy and regional cooperation in drug demand reduction in the Islamic Republic of Iran. Among those activities were the follow-up on networking and sustainability of non-governmental organizations with the national drug control headquarters and trainer non-governmental organizations and follow-up and technical appraisal of the report on the chemical profiling of amphetamine-type stimulants in tablet form in the Islamic Republic of Iran, which was shared with relevant entities at national drug control headquarters and the UNODC Laboratory and Scientific Section.

34. On 28 and 29 April 2009, the UNODC Country Office in the Islamic Republic of Iran, together with the Iranian anti-narcotics police and the national drug control headquarters, organized the eighth International Conference of Drug Liaison Officers in Tehran. The Conference was attended by drug liaison officers and other participants from Afghanistan, Canada, China, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Japan, Kuwait, the Netherlands, Pakistan, Qatar, Romania, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, the United Arab Emirates and the United Kingdom and the European Commission delegation in Kazakhstan. A visit to the joint planning cell was organized on the first day of the conference.

35. UNODC, with the cooperation of the national drug control headquarters, organized an advanced training course on TARCET II that was held from 7 to 13 October 2009. The training course was a follow-up to Operation Trans-shipment, which had been launched in August 2006, and focused on the identification and seizure of consignments of chemicals, particularly acetic anhydride, smuggled into Afghanistan through various border crossings.

36. Under the project on improving the Islamic Republic of Iran's legislative and judicial capacity to tackle organized crime and money-laundering and on promoting mutual legal assistance, three Iranian financial intelligence unit officers received training from Italian instructors from 25 to 29 October 2009. The anti-money-laundering bylaw, which was signed on 2 December, came into force on 9 December.

V. Cooperation with Pakistan

37. During 2009, UNODC⁹ repositioned itself in Pakistan in order to implement a comprehensive country programme in support of the work of the Friends of Democratic Pakistan. Furthermore, UNODC proved itself to be uniquely placed to support the Government of Pakistan to effectively respond to the challenges posed by drugs and crime. Over the past two decades, UNODC has assisted the Government of Pakistan to implement projects and programmes to eliminate the local cultivation of opium poppy, develop a drug control master plan and increase law enforcement and drug demand reduction capacities. UNODC has developed a subregional plan of action to counter the negative impacts of opiates originating in Afghanistan.

⁹ At the end of 2009, the UNODC country programme portfolio for Pakistan was made up of 15 ongoing projects with a total budget of \$13.3 million. The country programme, which had a shortfall of \$7.2 million at the end of 2009, received funding from Australia and Canada.

38. The UNODC Country Office in Pakistan has started developing a new precursor control pillar, the main objective of which will be to stem the flow of precursors from Pakistan into Afghanistan. The main focus will be on improving capabilities to detect and interdict illicit shipments of precursors into Pakistan and from Pakistan into Afghanistan and to strengthen cooperation with Afghanistan, China, India, Iran (Islamic Republic of) and Tajikistan, unless diversion from domestic trade is significant.

39. Furthermore, UNODC is part of the “One UN Programme” signed with the Government of Pakistan on 4 February 2009.

40. The Friends of Democratic Pakistan held a ministerial meeting in April 2009. At that meeting, the resolve of the Government of Pakistan to promote peace, security, stability and prosperity within the region and to work with the international community constructively to promote those goals at the global level was recognized. In that context, the Government of Pakistan and the donor community acknowledged the important role that UNODC could play in the security sector. The UNODC Country Office in Pakistan is currently in the process of implementing a programme on the rule of law, security and justice.

VI. Cooperation with Central Asian States

41. Central Asia¹⁰ continues to be a key corridor for trafficking in opium and heroin originating in Afghanistan. In 2006, about 15 per cent of all the heroin smuggled out of Afghanistan was transported along the northern route through the Russian Federation and on to Europe, while undetermined amounts were also smuggled into western China (Autonomous Region of Xinjiang). With Afghanistan producing quantities of opiates far in excess of world demand, an increasing amount of the drugs is being absorbed in areas along the smuggling routes.

42. In view of the success of the TARCET initiative, a second phase, called TARCET II, was launched. A high-level planning session for TARCET II was held in Tashkent in May 2009 in order to identify further proactive and practical activities that could be taken in Afghanistan and neighbouring States that would lead to the identification and interception of smuggled chemicals to be used in the illicit manufacture of heroin. Additionally, the meeting served to ensure regional and interregional cooperation, as well as the development of the Governments’ own capacities to organize and launch intelligence-driven operations. A meeting on intelligence gathering was conducted in Kabul in June 2009 in order to ensure better focused interventions during TARCET II.

43. UNODC has continued to provide legal assistance for improving the legislation and practice in cases of extradition and mutual legal assistance.

¹⁰ The UNODC Regional Office for Central Asia had 19 ongoing projects in 2009 with a portfolio of over \$60 million. Counter-narcotics enforcement projects focused on the implementation of the Rainbow Strategy, including by providing support to the Drug Control Agency in Tajikistan, border control measures along the entire Central Asia-Afghanistan border, with an emphasis on mobile units and the use of intelligence and analysis, precursors control, controlled deliveries, NATO-Russia Council training sessions, computer-based law enforcement training and the establishment of CARICC.

In May 2009, UNODC and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe organized a workshop on seizing, confiscating and sharing or returning the proceeds of organized crime transferred to foreign jurisdictions in Almaty, Kazakhstan. The workshop was attended by representatives of agencies from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, the Russian Federation, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine and Uzbekistan, as well as by judges, prosecutors, law enforcement officers and/or experts from Ireland, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. Representatives of the financial intelligence units of Afghanistan, INTERPOL and the European Police Office (Europol) also attended.

44. CARICC, which is hosted by the Government of Kazakhstan, has become fully functional, having been officially inaugurated on 9 December 2009. Established as a UNODC technical assistance initiative to facilitate information exchange and drug trafficking analysis, CARICC supports the coordination of operations carried out by the law enforcement agencies of Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, the Russian Federation, Turkmenistan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. The Centre has established informal cooperation mechanisms with international organizations such as INTERPOL, Europol and the World Customs Organization, as well as with competent law enforcement authorities in various European States, in Canada and the United States, and in other countries. Work has commenced on formalizing bilateral cooperation agreements with INTERPOL, Europol and the World Customs Organization. Databases for collecting information contained in reports submitted to CARICC have been established and strategic analytical reports based on that information are being published. By promoting coordination between law enforcement authorities, CARICC has contributed to the interruption of 12 transnational heroin smuggling routes and the seizure of more than 200 kg of heroin. CARICC has also contributed to operational law enforcement training through a real-time controlled delivery exercise involving Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. The exercise addressed the practical issues confronting agencies by helping to plan joint operations, handle evidence, hand over procedures, maintain surveillance from one country to another and ensure real-time exchange of information throughout. CARICC staff kept the Centre operational on a 24-hour basis during the training, functioning as a coordinator.

VII. Conclusions and recommendations

45. The Commission on Narcotic Drugs may wish to consider:

(a) Encouraging continued support to Afghanistan and neighbouring countries to ensure that the priority targets set out in the Rainbow Strategy and the new regional programme for Afghanistan and neighbouring countries are sufficiently well funded to achieve the result-based impact aimed for and encouraging bilateral and multilateral support with a view to maximizing the operational impact of that Strategy;

(b) Welcoming the development of the regional programme for Afghanistan and neighbouring countries, which aims to operationalize the Rainbow Strategy by including new areas such as international judicial cooperation and capacity-building on scientific and forensic services for Afghanistan and neighbouring countries; encouraging Afghanistan and neighbouring countries, as well as other Member

States and Paris Pact partners, to actively support those priority areas and contribute to regional cooperation;

(c) Encouraging the provincial roll-out of technical assistance in Afghanistan, thereby merging drug control efforts such as law enforcement, alternative livelihoods and demand reduction, with criminal justice and anti-corruption assistance and supplementing those provincial efforts with activities aimed at strengthening the borders of Afghan provinces adjacent to neighbouring countries (e.g. Iran (Islamic Republic of Iran) and Pakistan along the southern route and Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan along the northern route);

(d) Welcoming the achievements of the Triangular Initiative; encouraging the secondment of officials (from Afghanistan and Pakistan) to the joint planning cell and the exchange of intelligence between the three countries involved in the Triangular Initiative; and urging those three countries to execute joint operations developed by the cell;

(e) Bearing in mind the importance of exchanging information and intelligence, of cooperating across borders and of using modern interdiction techniques in tackling drug smuggling groups, urging Central Asian States to make the best use possible of CARICC, the border liaison offices and the mobile interdiction teams and to connect those initiatives with similar interventions (i.e. the joint planning cell and the Gulf Centre for Criminal Intelligence) in Afghanistan and throughout the wider region;

(f) Considering the regional, international and inter-agency collaboration demonstrated during the TARCET initiative and TARCET II, an example of best practice, calling for the continuation of TARCET and similar strategies in 2010;

(g) Urging Paris Pact partners, particularly those that have funded, on a bilateral basis, initiatives in the field of counter-narcotics enforcement, to make available data and other information on the bilateral assistance provided, in the area of drug control, through the Automated Donor Assistance Mechanism (www.paris-pact.net).