



Dubai Statement

on

Strategic Planning and Co-operation in Drug Control

We, the Representatives of Arab anti drug agencies, participants in the Arab Symposium on Strategic Planning and Co-operation in Drug Control, held in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, during the period 29 to 31 October 2007.

Expressing great gratitude and appreciation to Dubai Police for hosting the Arab Symposium on Strategic Planning and Cooperation in Drug Control and for their substantive contribution as well as for all facilities provided to ensure the success of the Symposium;

Recalling the Political Declaration and the Guiding Principles of Drug Demand Reduction and Measures to Enhance International Co-operation to Counter the World Drug Problem, adopted by the General Assembly in 1998, in which Member States reaffirmed the unwavering determination and commitment to overcome the world drug problems through domestic and international strategies to reduce both the illicit supply of and the demand for illicit drugs, believing that action against the world drug problems is a common and shared responsibility requiring an integrated and balanced approach;

Recalling also the recommendations and resolutions of the Council of Arab Ministers of Interior on drug control and demand reduction and the importance of translating these recommendations and decisions into actions and promote the role of the Arab Bureau for Drugs.

Recognizing that drug trafficking and smuggling lead to expanding criminal markets, illegal enterprises, spread of violence, anarchy and lawlessness, thus threatening internal peace, security and the rule of law;

Believing in the urgent need for a multi-sectoral approach to drug control, bringing together all relevant sectors, including the military, police and the civil administration with all its relevant agencies;

Recognizing the need for co-operation and joint strategic planning among drug control agencies to prosecute transnational illegal drug dealers and disrupt smuggling lines transiting through our countries;

Confirming our commitment to unify efforts to fight drugs and related crimes through effective cooperation and continuous coordination at all levels;

Resolving to create a favorable climate against the drug culture, with the aim of reducing the negative impact of drug abuse in our societies, and to punish all those who finance, plan, organize and participate in the import, manufacture, cultivation and promotion of illicit drugs.

In order to promote and enhance cooperation and operational coordination in this area, we have agreed to achieve the following objectives:

I. Strategic Planning and Cooperation

Actions:

1. Translate the Arab Anti Drug strategy into action, assess performance and results achieved in light of international developments, and develop related operational mechanisms giving special attention to cooperation on the ground and coordination of efforts at all levels;
2. Continue to organize periodic meetings for drug control agencies especially between countries that share common borders to assess progress made in the implementation of anti-drug policies and discuss problems encountered and successes achieved and to benefit from promising practices so as to reach practical solutions in the framework of enhancing bilateral cooperation and the exchange of field visits between those concerned;
3. Assess the effectiveness of the Arab Anti-Drug Strategy and its implementation mechanisms periodically (every three years) in order to continue its development in response to emerging needs and priorities of cooperation on the ground.

II. Operationalization of cooperation and coordination

Actions:

1. Develop security measures and procedures at the legislative, organizational and operational levels in the Arab countries with particular focus on controlled delivery operations, including the inclusion of this issue in national laws;
2. Designate a drug control liaison officer at the bilateral or subregional level in the source countries in which illegal drug trafficking poses a significant threat to the countries affected, in accordance with means available to each country, with the aim of facilitating the collection of evidence and related information on groups engaged in drug trafficking and prosecuting them;
3. The establishment of a criminal information system at the regional level (criminal databank) with a view to compiling, keeping and documenting criminal information on drug issues, to be linked to various law enforcement agencies in the Arab countries, including information related to organized crime, terrorism and money laundering activities;
4. Establishment of databases at the national level with the aim of compiling statistics on drug abuse and addiction, analyzing them as well as using them in decision-making and policy formulation and implementation;
5. Pursue a unified approach to gathering information provided by law enforcement agencies and the timely exchange thereof, to preparing and exchange of periodicals on security matters, and to disseminating of information, studies and the results of research especially on field cooperation aimed at combating drug trafficking and cross-border organized crimes;

6. Timely exchange of information particularly with regard to the following:-
 - Drug transportation, smuggling and trafficking;
 - Routes, patterns and modern methods to smuggle drugs;
 - diversion of precursor chemicals and the laundering of criminal proceeds;
 - Statistics on the types of wide spread drugs and drug crimes committed; and
 - Exchange of information on drug production laboratories.
7. Secure communication channels such as fax, phone, e-mail and telex for the exchange of information on drugs and related criminal activities;
8. Take advantage of the Drug Security Situation Assessment Programme prepared by the Dubai Police and Knowledge Horizons and the strategic planning and management programmes of the E-Total Quality Management College, through online training courses in the Arab countries that wish to use this programme;
9. Standardize forms used in investigating drug cases to ensure that they contain information required, maintain them, and document them to be used as the main reference for information gathering and benefit from them, as required;
10. Support the Gulf Center for Criminal Information, hosted by the State of Qatar, as a coordination agency for liaising, analysis and exchange of field information and organization of joint operations, and develop the Centre to contribute within its mandate to enhancing cooperation between the drug control agencies.

III. Strengthening cross-border cooperation to control drugs

Actions:

1. Cooperate in the investigation of drug trafficking and related crimes, including the collection of evidence and the use of advanced investigative techniques;
2. Assist each other in the conduct of joint controlled delivery operations and establish common procedures related thereto;
3. Exchange information on a timely basis on the arrest of the citizens of one party, in the territory of the other and provide files containing full information on those arrested;
4. Facilitate the movement of the drug control officers between neighbouring countries;
5. Conduct regional and subregional meetings as follows:
 - For senior managers to identify joint activities with regard to training and controlled deliveries;
 - For commanders in charge of cross-border cooperation and developing specialized procedures and communication guidelines between border drug units;
 - For border crossing, border and customs staff on profiling and search techniques;
 - For operational teams for conducting controlled delivery operations;

- For heads of laboratory services to exchange information and experience on testing of drugs.
6. Develop a monitoring system on the import, export and sale of precursor chemicals at the national and regional levels and trace and prosecution of persons involved in the diversion and manufacture of such precursors.

IV. Human resource development and training

Actions:

1. Operationalization of Arab cooperation in the field of training and human resource development to improve the efficiency and performance of drug control agencies through the development of a standardized training curriculum, upgrading of anti drug personnel, pursue of a specialized training curriculum, and benefit from technical assistance skills in this field as provided by the Dubai Police, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, and Naif University for Security Sciences as well as specialized training centers in some Arab countries, with a special focus on countries suffering from scarcity of resources;
2. Request the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and donor community to give particular importance to the Arab region, through the intensification of activities related to technical cooperation, increased support, and technical assistance in the field of drugs and crime;
3. Encourage various security colleges to benefit from the academic expertise and practical experiences of highly experienced and knowledgeable anti-drug officers to enrich workshops and training seminars in this area;
4. encourage Arab countries to take legislative and operational measures that would allow anti drug agencies to plant security agents among drug networks with the aim of investigating their activities and collect as much information on their activities as possible.

V. Awareness raising and prevention of drugs and the role of the Arab media

Actions:

1. Enhance the role of Arab media and standardize the media message in the fight against drugs and drug demand reduction, through targeted information campaigns and the optimum use of the role of satellite channels, as well as provision of training sessions for media practitioners;
2. Intensify public awareness campaigns targeting all segments of society, including schools and universities as well as the private sector, encourage volunteerism, develop religious restraint and instill moral values through the streamlining of information material and address targeted groups in creative and innovative ways, including the use of Internet and benefit from Future Protectors International Programme implemented by Dubai Police in cooperation with the United Nations and other international agencies such as the World Health Organization which is available to all Arab countries;

3. Seek to establish an Arab security magazine specialized in drug and drug addiction issues to be distributed to all drug control officers.

VI. Follow up on the implementation of recommendations

Actions:

1. Establish a monitoring committee consisting of the Anti-Drug General Directorate in Saudi Arabia, the Anti Drug General Administration in the Arab Republic of Egypt, the Anti-Narcotics Bureau of the Republic of Lebanon, the Anti Drug Administration in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, and a representative of Dubai Police with the purpose of following up on the implementation of the Dubai Statement, including coordination with the Secretariat of the Council of Arab Ministers of Interior and other stakeholders on issues of common interest;
2. Request the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, Regional Office for the Middle East and North Africa and Dubai Police, in the framework of the implementation of the training and awareness raising program for Arab anti-drug agencies, to organize training courses and workshops as a contribution to the operationalization of Dubai Statement in coordination and cooperation with Arab countries wishing to benefit from these courses;
3. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, Regional Office for the Middle East and North Africa develops a programme on ways to promote Arab cooperation on the ground between drug control agencies in consultation with the Arab countries concerned to respond to the needs and priorities of these countries;
4. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, Regional Office for the Middle East and North Africa submits a report to the second Arab symposium on strategic planning and cooperation on drug control on the implementation of Dubai Statement in cooperation and coordination with the Secretariat of the Council of Arab Ministers of Interior.