



SUMMARY REPORT

THE COLOMBO PLAN DRUG ADVISORY PROGRAMME NATIONAL SECRETARIATS MEETING

6th – 8th AUGUST
THIMPHU, BHUTAN

INTRODUCTION

1. The National Secretariats Meeting was organized by the Colombo Plan Drug Advisory Programme (CPDAP) in collaboration with the Office of the Prime Minister and the PEMA Secretariat of the Kingdom of Bhutan during 6-8 August, Thimphu, Bhutan. This meeting aimed to reflect the shared commitment towards fostering regional collaboration and maintaining active relationships to combat the drug and its related issues among the Colombo Plan member countries. The two-day meeting was attended by representatives from 18 Member Countries of the Colombo Plan. The List of Participants appears on **ANNEX 1**.

2. The Inauguration Ceremony was convened on 6 August 2024, with Welcome Remarks by Mr. Sonam Tobgye, Director of the Office of the Prime Minister, the Kingdom of Bhutan. He welcomed the participating delegations to the National Secretariat's Meeting of the Colombo Plan and acknowledged key attendees including His Excellency Dr. Benjamin P. Reyes, the Secretary General of the Colombo Plan and Honorable Chief Guest, His Excellency Major General Chimi Dorji, Chief of the Royal Bhutan Police. Mr. Tobgye emphasized on the importance of collaboration in addressing drug-related issues in the region and showed gratitude to the CPDAP for entrusting Bhutan with the honor of hosting this significant meeting. The Welcome Remarks appear on **ANNEX 2**.

3. Preceding the welcome remarks, His Excellency Dr. Benjamin P. Reyes, Honorable Secretary General of the Colombo Plan addressed the gathering. Dr. Reyes initiated his remarks by conveying his honor and gratitude to the Government of Bhutan for graciously hosting the National Secretariats' Meeting 2024. He urged the delegates to recommit to the mission to create a future free from harmful effects of drug abuse and trafficking, and encouraged everyone to engage openly, share insights, and explore new opportunities for collaboration. His remarks appear on **ANNEX 3**.

4. The Keynote address was done by His Excellency Major General Chimi Dorji, Chief of the Royal Bhutan Police. In his speech, he emphasized the importance of this meeting in aligning national strategies, sharing best practices, and enhancing collective efforts in drug demand and supply reduction fields. He emphasized the responsibility of each member country to take further steps beyond this meeting to work on the proposed recommendations. The

Keynote speech appears on **ANNEX 4**.

5. Vote of thanks was delivered by Mr. Sonam Jamtsho from the PEMA Secretariat. He briefly thanked the Colombo Plan for considering Bhutan to host the National Secretariats' Meeting 2024 and thanked all the delegates for their presence. The vote of thanks appears on **ANNEX 5**.

AGENDA ITEM 1: ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE CHAIRPERSON AND CO-CHAIRPERSON

6. The Meeting collectively endorsed the appointment of Dasho Dechen Wangmo, Head of the PEMA Secretariat, Bhutan as the Chairperson, with His Excellency Dr. Benjamin P. Reyes, Secretary General of the Colombo Plan, as the Co-chairperson. The Head of Delegation of Indonesia, Police Inspector General Dr. Agus Irianto, Deputy for Legal Affairs and Cooperation National Narcotics Board of the Republic of Indonesia (BNN) was nominated as Deputy Chairperson by the Singapore delegation and was collectively seconded by the delegation of Malaysia, Sri Lanka, Thailand, and Iran. Upon convening the meeting, the Chairperson officially addressed the audience, calling for active participation from all member countries. The Meeting underscored the unwavering commitment of Colombo Plan Member States to combating drug-related challenges both within the region and globally. The Chairperson further urged Member States to strengthen joint efforts and cooperation against illicit drug trafficking through various national, regional, and international mechanisms. The Programme Agenda was subsequently introduced to the Meeting. The Agenda and the Programme appears on **ANNEX 6**.

AGENDA ITEM 2: INTRODUCTION OF DELEGATIONS

7. The Chair and Co-chair briefly introduced themselves. This was followed in turn by the delegates from the different participating Member Countries.

AGENDA ITEM 3: UPDATES FROM THE LAST NSM 2023

8. Ms. Oranooch Sungkhawanna, Director of the Colombo Plan Drug Advisory Programme (CPDAP), delivered a comprehensive update on the programme's progress since the last NSM in Manila, Philippines, in November 2023. She highlighted the diverse array of activities and trainings CPDAP has conducted at national level, regional level, and at the global level, emphasizing efforts in the Asia-Pacific region, and notable initiatives in Africa and Latin America. Since the previous NSM, CPDAP has successfully executed over 40 trainings worldwide and has plans for additional trainings moving forward. Ms. Sungkhawanna spoke about the courtesy visits she made since last NSM 2023 as efforts for enhancing network and collaborations with member countries. Ms. Sungkhawanna also detailed the voluntary contributions from member countries to the CPDAP and outlined proposed activities designed in response to the intention of the contributed countries, to ensure transparent and effective use of the funds. The proposed activities covered regional workshops and trainings including focal points meetings, expert group meetings, and trainings on specific issues to enhance regional collaboration and knowledge sharing, Asia-Pacific Youth Forum, Asia-Pacific Forensic

Network Forum, and also inclusive of support for trainers, experts to travel and support the implementation of Universal Curricula trainings or other needful activities organized by member countries. The proposed activities received an adoption to proceed from the Colombo Plan member countries. Her detailed presentation appears on **ANNEX 7**.

AGENDA ITEM 4: UPDATES FROM DRUG DEMAND AND REDUCTION (DDR) EFFORTS

9. Ms. Dichen Choden, Programme Officer, provided a brief overview of the NSM-2023 sub-working group discussions on Demand Reduction covering prevention, treatment and recovery efforts. She emphasized two main points identified by the working group e.g. lack of trained professionals and lack of services. CPDAP conducted several UTC, URC and UPC trainings as per countries' needs. CPDAP has also made in-person training available through the conversion of the UC courses to online platforms. Since the conversion, thousands of individuals from more than 80 countries have accessed the content. The ICAP-Prevention exams have been rolled out and some of the first prevention professionals have been credentialed during the last year. The launch of the Recovery Network, and the Women's network for treatment and recovery, will address the need for gender-based strategies and recovery-oriented care. The DAP youth programme is a leader-in-training programme. Her detailed presentation appears on **ANNEX 8**.

AGENDA ITEM 5: UPDATES FROM DRUG SUPPLY REDUCTION (DSR) EFFORTS

10. Mr. Erry Wijoyo, Programme Officer for Indonesia made the presentation on Drug Supply Reduction efforts since the last NSM 2023. The presentation began with an overview of the global drug situation from the World Drug Report 2024, highlighting future drug prevalence and common substances. It included a recap of the previous NSM meeting in the Philippines to reinforce follow-up plans. Key CPDAP supply reduction developments were showcased, such as the creation of the first Instant Adulterant Test Kit and portable GC/MS for detecting over 20 compounds as well as enhancing global network on forensic and laboratory directors. Alerts on Medetomidine in December 2023 and injectable liquid fentanyl in January 2024 were issued. The presentation noted International Toxic Adulterant Database (ITAD) initiative participation and reported seizures, with plans to expand ITAD for emerging synthetic drugs and complex mixtures. The detailed presentation on Drug Supply Reduction efforts appears on **ANNEX 9**.

AGENDA ITEM 6: COUNTRY REPORT PRESENTATIONS

11.1 Australia

The presentation by Australia summarized their national drug strategy, which is based demand reduction, supply reduction and on harm reduction. The presentation reported on the trends and threats of illicit drug use and supply in the country, especially cannabis, methamphetamine, cocaine, heroin, and synthetic opioids. It also describes the role and activities of the Australian Federal Police in combating transnational serious and organized crime groups that target

Australia with drug imports. The presentation highlighted some of the drug consumption in Australia, harm reduction efforts, such as safe injecting facilities and decriminalization measures, as well as some of the significant challenges and successes. The presentation concluded with a call for building partnerships and sharing information with international and local agencies to prevent and reduce drug-related harm. The detailed presentation of Australia appears on **ANNEX 10**.

11.2 Bhutan

The Kingdom of Bhutan's presentation highlighted the significant prevalence of drug use among Bhutanese youth. Bhutan is facing challenges with the rising trend of drug trafficking in the country. It emphasized the country's vigilant and comprehensive law enforcement strategies, which include acts and regulations, the establishment of specialized agencies, and the formation of a National Drug Task Force to combat the issue. In terms of demand reduction, Bhutan's efforts focus on prevention, treatment, recovery, reintegration, and aftercare. Prevention initiatives are primarily targeted at schools, while treatment services are provided in hospitals and prisons. Bhutan promotes more services on rehabilitation which is in progress. The recovery efforts feature the launch of a recovery network, and reintegration and aftercare are supported through different centers. The presentation concluded by addressing the challenges faced and exploring opportunities for improvement. The detailed presentation of Bhutan appears on **ANNEX 11**.

11.3 Brunei Darussalam

The presentation from Brunei Darussalam outlined their comprehensive approach to drug control. It highlighted the efforts of the Narcotics Control Bureau in reducing drug supply through strict law enforcement and severe penalties. The country faces challenges with evolving drug trafficking methods, concealment techniques, involvement of young people in drug abuse and the identification of New Psychoactive Substances (NPS) globally posing threats to Brunei Darussalam. It also detailed demand reduction strategies, including preventive drug education, treatment, rehabilitation, and aftercare services. The efforts highlighted community-based drug prevention education activities and school-based prevention activities. The presentation discussed challenges and emphasized the need for enhanced collaboration and community involvement in drug prevention and rehabilitation efforts. The detailed presentation by Brunei Darussalam appears on **ANNEX 12**.

11.4 India

The presentation by India highlighted that India is a major transit and destination country for illicit drugs, especially cannabis, cocaine, heroin, and synthetic drugs due to its geographical location. The country faces various challenges such as cross-border trafficking, maritime smuggling, parcel/courier deliveries, drone operations and dark net markets. India has a robust legal framework to regulate and control narcotic drugs and precursor chemicals. India also has a national action plan and a campaign to reduce drug demand and provide rehabilitation and treatment services to drug users. India cooperates with international and regional platforms and initiatives to combat drug issues and share best practices and digital innovations. The detailed presentation by India appears on **ANNEX 13**.

11.5 Indonesia

The presentation by Indonesia described the drug situation and the drug control strategies in the country. Indonesia, a vast archipelagic nation, faces significant drug smuggling challenges, with over 80% of drugs entering via maritime routes. As DDR and Supply Reduction strategies, the National Narcotics Board (BNN) focuses on strengthening key provinces and engaging community leaders to optimize supervision and cooperation at entry points. BNN operates numerous rehabilitation centers and facilities, and their 2024-2025 Drug Control Action Plan prioritizes the standardization of rehabilitation services, the development of an integrated rehabilitation information system, and the implementation of a Rehabilitation Capability Index. Additionally, the plan includes Community-Based Interventions (CBI) modelled on the ODIC CPDAP programme. BNN collaborates extensively with UNODC, CPDAP, educational institutions, and other organizations for both national and international drug control efforts. The detailed presentation by Indonesia appears on **ANNEX 14**.

11.6 Iran

Iran's presentation highlighted its national drug control strategy, emphasizing drug supply reduction, demand reduction, and countering money laundering. The Drug Control Headquarters (DCHQ) coordinates efforts across various agencies, focusing on policymaking, enforcement, and public awareness. Iran's supply reduction efforts include stringent border control and intelligence-based operations to curb drug trafficking, particularly from Afghanistan. On the demand reduction front, Iran implements extensive harm reduction programmes, providing medical and social support, and prioritizing prevention through public awareness and education. International cooperation and countering money laundering are also key components of Iran's strategy. The detailed narrative of Iran appears at **ANNEX 15**.

11.7 Malaysia

The presentation by the National Anti-Drugs Agency of Malaysia highlighted the current drug situation in Malaysia, emphasizing the high prevalence of drug abuse among youth and working populations. Methamphetamine, heroin, and cannabis are the most abused substances. Moreover, the National Drug Policy emphasized key strategies which included reducing high-risk areas, community empowerment, expanding treatment services, and enhancing collaborations with government and non-government bodies. The presentation highlighted the regional and international collaborations Malaysia has developed to combat the supply reduction efforts. The presentation highlighted the evidence-based Drug Preventive Education, Substance Use Treatment and Recovery efforts of the country at national level to address the drug demand reduction issues. In strengthening the efforts, Malaysia has revised the Drug Dependent Act to expand access to substance abuse treatment, encourage voluntary treatment of substance abusers as well as to enhance the professionalism of the anti-drugs profession. The detailed presentation of Malaysia appears on **ANNEX 16**.

11.8 Maldives

The Maldives' presentation outlined the country's drug situation, highlighting a significant prevalence of drug use, especially among youth and middle school dropouts. The introduction

of synthetic and non-synthetic drugs has posed severe challenges to Maldives in tackling the drug issue. The presentation identified that the geographically scattered islands of Maldives as a transshipment point for illicit drugs. The government focuses on preventing illicit drug entry and reducing demand through prevention programmes, community engagement, and comprehensive treatment and rehabilitation services. Future plans emphasized developing a National Policy on SUD, expanding treatment access, expanding trainings and awareness programmes, enhancing community reintegration, and strengthening prevention and rehabilitation initiatives. The detailed presentation of the Maldives appears on **ANNEX 17**.

11.9 Mongolia

The presentation by Mongolia gave an overview of the current drug situation and the drug control strategies in the country. Mongolia identified ages up to 35 years old as the highest consumers of drugs in the country. It reported that Mongolia is a consumer and transit country for illicit drugs, especially methamphetamine, cannabis, and use of new psychoactive substances are increasing. It also showed the increasing number of people diagnosed with mental and behavioral disorders due to drug use. The presentation highlighted the legal framework, the national programme, and the law enforcement efforts to combat drug trafficking and reduce drug demand. It also showcased the prevention, treatment, and rehabilitation services provided by the National Center for Mental Health in collaboration with the Colombo Plan. The presentation identifies the challenges and successes of the drug control efforts and outlined the future plans and calls to action, such as developing a national action plan, establishing a psychosocial rehabilitation center, and continuing the training on the universal prevention and treatment curricula (UPC and UTC). The detailed presentation by Mongolia appears on **ANNEX 18**.

11.11 Nepal

Nepal's drug control efforts are multifaceted, focusing on both supply and demand reduction. The country serves as a transit point for substances like Khat, prompting the implementation of the National Drug Control Strategy 2010 to curb illicit drug activities. Supply reduction is achieved through stringent inspections, international coordination, and trafficking control. Demand reduction involves community police drug awareness programmes, training initiatives on Universal Curricula, Prevention Programmes, media awareness, and educational programmes. Nepal also collaborates with global organizations such as UNODC, INCB, DEA, and INTERPOL to strengthen its drug control measures. The presentation identified the Community Police Partnership Programme as their current best practice strategy. The detailed presentation of Nepal appears on **ANNEX 19**.

11.12 Pakistan

Pakistan faces significant threats from both plant-based and synthetic drugs, with opium frequently crossing its borders from Afghanistan. The Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) is mandated by the parliament to implement counter-narcotic measures, resulting in increased precursor drug seizures in recent years. Pakistan promotes bilateral cooperation with international organizations and other drug agencies for information sharing. The country also emphasizes Drug Demand Reduction (DDR), including comprehensive awareness campaigns.

Actively involved in the Colombo Plan Drug Advisory Programme (CPDAP), Pakistan has proposed new initiatives for enhanced cooperation in drug supply reduction. The detailed presentation of Pakistan appears as **ANNEX 20**.

11.13 Philippines

The presentation by the Philippines showcased the country's evidence based, intersectoral, balanced and comprehensive approach to drug prevention and control, guided by the Philippine Anti-illegal Drugs Strategy (PADS). It reported the latest data on drug prevalence, treatment, rehabilitation, and supply reduction efforts. Interventions include community-based treatment services, community-based support services, aftercare interventions, and reintegration services. Supply reduction efforts include Intensification of the conduct of intelligence intelligence-driven and high impacted operations; Intensification of the arrest of top -level personalities and syndicates; Enhancement of inter-agency collaboration to strengthen border control controls; and Immobilization of drug syndicate assets/properties through strengthened financial investigation. The presentation also identified the challenges and successes of the anti-drug campaign, as well as the future plans and calls to action. The detailed presentation by the Philippines appears on **ANNEX 21**.

11.14 Singapore

Singapore's presentation detailed the country's drug situation and its harm prevention approach, which involves preventive drug education, strict anti-drug laws, rigorous enforcement, and evidence informed rehabilitation and aftercare. It also elaborates on the Central Narcotics Bureau's (CNB) community partnership and engagement strategy, which comprises three strategic thrusts: a whole government approach, community partnership, and building a core of volunteers. The presentation showcased various initiatives and campaigns that aim to raise awareness, enable persons-of-influence, mobilize youths and the community, and amplify the drug-free message. The presentation concludes with the future plans and challenges of the anti-drug campaign, such as enabling and mobilizing ground-up initiatives, establishing strategic communications, and creating safe spaces to speak up about drug issues. The detailed presentation by Singapore appears on **ANNEX 22**.

11.15 South Korea

Korea's presentation outlined mainly on its drug safety policy as well as regarding management and social rehabilitation system. The presentation highlighted the structure and the role of the Ministry of Food and Drug Safety to efficiently manage South Korea's drug threats. The Narcotic Drugs controlled in Korea are opioids, cannabis, and psychotropic substances, and recently, in order to manage them safely, the country has stipulated that it is the state's responsibility to promote rehabilitation project for the addicts and for the safe use, the government made it mandatory to record the medication history as well as to prohibit self-prescription. Also, the country has established new policies to liaise drug addiction prevention education and the school curriculum. In addition, the presentation showcased in detail the prevention education plan and social rehabilitation system. First off, prevention education was encouraged to be conducted by the doctors, pharmacists, the Ministry of Food and Drug Safety, and other government ministries. Also, to activate social rehabilitation, a 24-hour telephone

consultation center "1342 call center" was initiated to establish policies to help addicts' rehabilitation and treatment, and the nationwide 17 addiction rehabilitation centers are built to strengthen the establishment of rehabilitation infrastructure. Finally, big data from the manufacture to use of medical drugs using NIMS system is established and operated effectively. The detailed presentation of South Korea appears as **ANNEX 23**.

11.16 Sri Lanka

The presentation by Sri Lanka summarized the country's drug control efforts, led by the National Dangerous Drug Control Board. It provided data on the prevalence of illicit drug use, especially cannabis and heroin, as well as alcohol and tobacco use. It also outlined supply reduction strategies, such as precursor control, capacity building for law enforcement officials, collaboration with regional and international bodies, and scientific mapping. The presentation highlighted that the demand for substance is 'created' and is not natural, and acknowledged the need for Prevention Programmes, Treatment, Rehabilitation and Recovery Services, Capacity building trainings, and Scientific Research. The presentation acknowledged the challenges and successes and best practices. It also highlights the regional and international cooperation and partnerships with various organizations and concluded with the future plans and calls to action, such as reaching local communities, mobilizing volunteers, and developing resource centers. The detailed presentation by Sri Lanka appears on **ANNEX 24**.

11.17 Thailand

The Thai government actively engages in international cooperation to combat drug smuggling. Thailand serves as a transit country for drugs such as heroin, opium, Methamphetamine, ketamine, and is also a major market for YABA (methamphetamine tablets), with over 90% of YABA produced in the Golden Triangle being supplied to Thailand. In its DDR efforts, the Thai government is enhancing the availability and accessibility of drug treatment to reach out to more people with substance use disorders. Various face-to-face and virtual training sessions are conducted for academics and other related taskforces. They also utilize social media trends for drug education. Through numerous bilateral meetings with neighboring and regional countries, Thailand works to anticipate and address smuggling issues. Joint investigations focus on both Thai and international drug syndicates as part of the 2024 Investigation Project. The detailed presentation of Thailand appears on **ANNEX 25**.

11.18 United States of America

The U.S. government, through the Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement under the Department of State, launched the Global Coalition, led by Secretary of State Antony Blinken, with participation from nearly 100 countries and international organizations. The Coalition is divided into three working groups focusing on preventing synthetic drug production and trafficking, detecting emerging drug threats, and promoting interventions to prevent drug use and related harms. Monthly meetings involve framing issues, sharing best practices, identifying intervention points, and building action plans. So far, over 1,500 participants from 158 countries and 15 international organizations have contributed to 68 key recommendations and 120 initiatives. The Coalition's upcoming focus includes implementations, programmatic monitoring, sustainability, reviewing the first year's efforts,

and discussing reflections and final reports. The detailed presentation of U.S.A appears on **ANNEX 26**.

11.19 Vietnam

The video Presentation of Vietnam covered various aspects of drug control and treatment efforts in Vietnam. It details the situation of drug crimes along key routes, including the Northwest, Northeast, North Central, Central Highlands, Southwest, and Air-Postal routes. The presentation highlighted the effective control of drug trafficking through cooperation with neighboring countries. It also discusses demand reduction efforts, such as prevention programmes, treatment, rehabilitation, recovery services, and capacity building. Data on drug users, and people undergoing treatment are provided, along with the outcomes of drug rehabilitation efforts. The transcript of the video presentation of Vietnam appears on **ANNEX 27**.

11.20 The meeting took note of the key discussions and collective deliberations of the member countries' efforts on drug control. The key findings are as follows:

- A. The problem of Methamphetamine (Meth) in both crystal and tablets and meth induced psychosis. The meeting agreed to support having an expert group forum to discuss this specific issue in order to find practical ways to tackle the psychiatric problems associated with the abuse of methamphetamine in the region.
- B. Influx of Meth from adjacent countries and the need for more rigid regional cooperation and border control program.
- C. Increase usage of precursors to produce Meth and the lack of expertise in this area to tackle the problem. There is a need for expertise trainings in the areas of identifying precursors and identifying New Psychotropic Substances (NPS).
- D. In addition to the faith-based rehabilitation centers, mindfulness can be encouraged in the rehabilitation drug treatment centers (DTCs).
- E. Addiction among the younger generation is becoming increasingly concerned, particularly with the rising use of vaping devices. The issue is further intensified when these devices are used to consume other types of drugs, creating a more critical and complex problem.
- F. Called for more trainings on Prevention Education Programmes targeting the youth population.
- G. Acknowledging the involvement of close and extended families in the recovery process is seen as a highly effective approach and can be adapted by the countries within their cultural and religious frameworks.
- H. The need for family-based trainings for co-dependents such as spouses, children, and parents as well as gender based treatment were addressed for further actions.
- I. The challenges faced by law enforcement in decriminalizing minimal drug use have been identified as significant. Balancing public safety with the need for humane treatment of individuals using small amounts of drugs requires careful consideration. Decriminalization efforts can reduce the burden on the legal system and focus resources on more serious offenses, but they also necessitate clear guidelines and training for law enforcement to ensure fair and consistent application. Addressing these challenges is crucial for developing effective policies that support both community safety and public health.

AGENDA ITEM 7: WORKING GROUP DISCUSSIONS

12. The working groups session aimed to provide an opportunity for the delegates in each of Drug Demand Reduction and Drug Supply Reduction to review the situation and challenges, identify priority needs, propose recommendations, and explore future opportunities of collaboration. The list of participants in each working group appears on **ANNEX 28**.

AGENDA ITEM 8: SUMMARY PRESENTATIONS OF THE WORKING GROUP DISCUSSIONS

13. The working groups discussion arrangement was led by an elected chairperson in each working group to facilitate engaging discussions among participants who actively shared their insights and country concerns. Each group subsequently presented their summaries to the main plenary session. The highlights from each working group included the following:

13.1 Drug Demand Reduction

The Demand Reduction group had the participation of delegates from Bhutan, Brunei, India, Indonesia, Iran, Malaysia, Maldives, Mongolia, Nepal, Singapore, South Korea, Sri Lanka, Thailand, and USA. Mr. Mohamed Rashid, Acting CEO/Deputy Minister of Homeland Security and Technology, National Drug Agency, Maldives was elected as the chairperson while Mr. Shakya Nanayakkara, Chairman, National Dangerous Drugs Control Board of Sri Lanka was appointed as the presenter of the working group. Ms. Therese Castillo, Programme Manager for Philippines and Ms. Dichen Choden, Programme Officer, CPDAP moderated the session from DAP's end.

The Demand Reduction sub-working group convened to discuss strategies for reducing substance demand. Key issues identified included the high prevalence of drug use among youths, social stigma, and the need for family support. Malaysia emphasized strengthening public awareness and accessibility to treatment centers. Singapore echoed concerns about youth drug abuse, while Nepal highlighted coordination issues between central and local governments. Sri Lanka and the Maldives pointed out the need for impactful and contextualized programs and professional capacity building. Bhutan stressed capacity development, revisiting policies on gateway substances, and parental involvement. Thailand focused on synthetic drug concerns and knowledge sharing among practitioners. Various countries proposed recommendations such as enhancing treatment accessibility, contextualizing programs to specific communities, early intervention, and collaboration across borders. A common theme was the need for tailored programs, improved public awareness, and international cooperation to address substance use challenges effectively. The detailed presentation of the working group discussion on Drug Demand Reduction appears on **ANNEX 29**.

13.2 Drug Supply Reduction

The Supply Reduction group had the participation of delegates from Australia, Bhutan, Brunei, India, Indonesia, Iran, Maldives, Mongolia, Nepal, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, USA and Vietnam. Police Inspector General Dr. Agus Irianto, Deputy for Legal Affairs and Cooperation National Narcotics Board of the Republic of Indonesia (BNN) was elected as the chairperson

while Mr. Leong Li An from Singapore was appointed as the presenter of the working group. Ms. Oranooch Sungkhawanna, CPDAP Director and Mr. Erry Wijoyo, Programme Officer for Indonesia moderated the session from DAP's end.

At the start, delegates from the different countries openly discussed specific issues and challenges, gaps/priority needs, explore recommendations for future activities and the way forward being developed to address these issues. This collaborative exchange of insights contributed to a comprehensive understanding of successful approaches and innovative solutions in the realm of supply reduction across diverse national contexts.

The group collectively identified that challenges on the certain types of drugs in each country e.g. Methamphetamine, Marihuana as well as diversion of legal precursors, emergence of NPS etc. The group shared grave concerns on the emerging trends of international drug syndicates or organized crime groups utilizing various mode of transportation e.g. seaport, airport, land route as well as utilizing technology to facilitate drug trade e.g. dark web, cryptocurrencies etc.

Collective recommendations made by the group included the establishment of the Colombo Plan Drug Advisory Programme Supply Reduction contact points among member countries to enhance networking and expedite the coordination process of intelligence and information sharing. Capacity building for supply reduction personnels in the area of precursor and chemical control, drug profiling, crime scene investigations, laboratory analysis, eradication of drugs and narcotic plants are also identified by the working group. International conversation and information sharing are deemed critical to identifying and addressing gaps in each country's approach. The identified lack of modern technology and user training in detecting precursor chemicals and different drugs underscores the need for additional training to enhance capabilities in this area.

As ways of moving forward in collaboration, the group acknowledged that ensuring effective information-sharing necessitates the maintenance of regular meetings among countries. The destruction of organized crime groups/syndicates relies on networking and communication among affected countries. To enhance capabilities in drug detection and sharing of detection records, it is deemed crucial to have proper technology and equipment in forensic laboratories. The detailed presentation of the working group discussion on Drug Supply Reduction appears on **ANNEX 30**.

AGENDA ITEM 9: MEETING SUMMARY REPORT ADOPTION

14. The meeting mutually adopted the Summary Report of the Colombo Plan Drug Advisory Programme National Secretariats Meeting 2024.

HOST AND VENUE OF THE NEXT NATIONAL SECRETARIATS MEETING

15. The meeting enormously appreciated the offer from the Indonesian delegation to be the host for the next NSM. Date and Venue will be informed in due course.

AGENDA ITEM 10: MEETING CLOSURE

16. Police Inspector General Dr. Agus Irianto, Deputy for Legal Affairs and Cooperation National Narcotics Board of the Republic of Indonesia (BNN) shared his gratitude to all country delegates for trusting in his capacity as a Deputy Chairperson. He appreciated the meeting atmosphere and the active participation and discussion during the meeting which led to a fruitful discussion during the working group session and the plenary session.

17. His Excellency Dr. Benjamin P Reyes delivered the Remarks on behalf of the Colombo Plan, expressing sincere gratitude to the Office of the Prime Minister and the PEMA Secretariat of the Kingdom of Bhutan for graciously hosting the NSM 2024. He thanked all participating governments for sending their delegations to the meeting, acknowledging that their presence significantly enhanced cooperation and collective efforts in combating drug-related issues in the region. In closing, he extended his appreciation to all delegates for their active participation and discussions, which contributed to the fruitful outcomes of the meeting. His Remarks appear on **ANNEX 31**.

18. DASHO Dechen Wangmo delivered the Concluding Remarks, expressing sincere gratitude to the Colombo Plan for organizing this meeting in Bhutan and allow the Bhutanese concerned agencies to be part of this remarkable event. She thanked all participating governments for their presence and their commitment to reaffirm our regional networking. She expressed her believe that the threat of narcotic drugs in the region and drug related crimes will be removed successfully with the close cooperation of all member countries with the spirit of mutual trust, friendship, networking and tireless efforts. Her Closing Remarks appear on **ANNEX 32**.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

19. The Meeting expressed gratitude and appreciation to the Kingdom of Bhutan for the effective chairmanship and excellent hospitality rendered to all country delegations throughout the entire stay in Bhutan that contributed to the huge success of the meeting deliberation.