

Vienna, 1 December 2011

Media Advisory

The United Nations Information Service (UNIS) Vienna

invites you to a

Press Briefing

on

Tackling illicit drugs from Afghanistan: a shared responsibility

on

Wednesday 7 December at 16:00 hours

in

Room M7, M-Building

Vienna International Centre (VIC)

Each year, Afghan opium claims tens of thousands of lives worldwide, spreading pain and misery to thousands more. Opiate production also impacts heavily on the wider region with high addiction rates, cross-border criminality, corruption, the funding of insurgent groups and instability.

To meet these concerns, UNODC has helped create a series of interlocking initiatives. These include international partnerships, namely, the Paris Pact and the Triangular Initiative between Afghanistan, Pakistan and Iran; Operation Tarcet to control precursor chemicals needed to manufacture drugs; and the creation of the intelligence body, CARICC, embracing the five Central Asian countries, Russia and Azerbaijan.

As a means of further uniting these initiatives, developing shared responsibility and ensuring that counter-narcotics is a priority, UNODC is launching a new Regional Programme for Afghanistan and Neighbouring Countries. The launch will occur at a High-level meeting in Vienna on 7 December. Ministers and Deputy Ministers from Afghanistan and seven countries in the Central Asian region will be signing an agreement for the Regional Programme.

Speakers include:

Yury Fedotov

Executive Director, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)

and

Ministers, Deputy Ministers & High-level representatives from Afghanistan, Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan

Please register for the press briefing by 17:00 hours on Monday 5 December by writing to:
press@unvienna.org

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