

**G8 Justice and Interior Ministers Meeting
Munich, 23 - 25 May 2007**

**Afghanistan Counter Narcotics - G8 Justice and Interior
Ministers Declaration**

President Karzai of Afghanistan has said that the drugs trade is the "most corrosive element" in Afghan society. Afghanistan also remains the largest source of the world's opium supply. Successfully combating the opium poppy cultivation and the narcotics trade is therefore an essential component of efforts to stabilise the country, bring harmony to the region, and protect the health and welfare of the citizens of all countries affected by this trade.

We share the Afghan government's concern at last year's increases in drug cultivation and production in their country. But we are encouraged by signs this year of progress in the north and centre of the country. We need to build on this success. However, we note with concern the situation in the south of the country, where more than 60% of Afghanistan's opium was grown last year, and drug traffickers, insurgents and terrorists are making common cause against the government and international forces.

We remain fully committed to standing shoulder-to-shoulder with the government in its efforts to bring about a sustainable reduction in the cultivation and trafficking of narcotics through their National Drug Control Strategy and its four priorities: disrupting the drugs trade by targeting traffickers and their backers; strengthening and diversifying legal rural livelihoods; reducing the demand for illicit drugs; and, developing state institutions at the central and provincial level.

In the same spirit, we fully support the mainstreaming of counter narcotics across the Afghan National Development Strategy and note the government's clear opposition to the licit cultivation of opium. Tackling corruption needs to be at the centre of these efforts. It is also important



to further strengthen co-operation with Afghanistan's neighbouring countries in order to reduce the smuggling of drugs from, and the import of substances needed for drug production into Afghanistan. In this context we welcome the recommendations of the second Ministerial Conference on Drug Trafficking Routes from Afghanistan held in Moscow on 26 - 28 June 2006.

We commit to continuing G8 expert co-operation on Afghan counter-narcotics, and sharing information to co-ordinate G8 support for the counter narcotics effort in Afghanistan.