

Key Components of the TI

Operations

Since 2009, the JPC has coordinated several area-targeted operations by the counterpart Law Enforcement Agencies (LEAs) of Afghanistan, Iran and Pakistan which have led to significant seizures of drugs and arrests of drug traffickers.

Border Liaison Offices

Border Liaison Offices improve information exchange among counterpart LEAs, ensuring a concerted inter-agency and cross-border response against drugs and precursor trafficking, and other forms of transnational organized crime.

Cross-border communication

The three countries have agreed on a comprehensive cross-border communication plan including detailed modalities of information exchange and types of equipment.

New areas of cooperation

TI meetings are flexible in nature to include other areas of mutual cooperation with the support of the UNODC field offices in the three countries.

THE TRIANGULAR INITIATIVE

A STRATEGIC
REGIONAL
RESPONSE TO A
GLOBAL SECURITY
CHALLENGE

The Role of UNODC: Facilitating Regional Partnerships



Afghanistan supplies 90 percent of the world's opium, the main ingredient in heroin, and is a leader in hashish production. Most Afghan narcotics transit Pakistan and Iran en route to global markets.

The UNODC-sponsored Triangular Initiative (TI) which began in June 2007 engages Afghanistan, Iran and Pakistan in field-oriented solutions to the transnational threat posed by the trafficking of Afghan opiates and the diversion and smuggling of associated precursor chemicals. It consists of several counter-narcotics and border control operational plans which target agreed priority areas.



In a joint declaration in June 2008, the three countries agreed to convene policy-level coordination meetings every six months, and technical-level meetings every three months to enable more regular operational contacts.

These efforts require active support and a strategic response that is based on a growing understanding of the patterns and dynamics of the transnational Afghan opiate trade, and a targeted, sequenced and cost-effective mix of interventions.

UNODC's role as a respected and neutral broker has been key in facilitating the partnership between Afghanistan, Iran and Pakistan, effectively advocating for convergence and synergy in field-oriented counter-narcotics efforts with senior-level officials of the three countries.

UNODC plays an active facilitation and coordination role in providing secretariat services for TI meetings and periodical consultations at the senior experts and policy making levels in the three countries.



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Trust and confidence building

The TI has facilitated trust and confidence building between policy-level and technical-level officials from the three countries, through which state parties focus action-oriented cooperation mechanisms.

Sharing information through the Joint Planning Cell

The Joint Planning Cell (JPC), launched in 2008 in Tehran, serves as a platform for information exchange and joint/simultaneous operations against drug trafficking networks and organized crime.