



*Georgia*

Tbilisi, 17 February 2004

### **Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia Against Illicit Drug Trafficking**

Drug trafficking from Asia to Europe is being funneled through the Southern Caucasus corridor. As small countries on the crossroads of trade routes linking Europe and Asia, Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia face an ever-present threat of illicit drug trafficking.

Southern Caucasus Anti-Drug Programme was launched by United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in collaboration with European Commission in 2001.

A regional anti-drug programme for the South Caucasus – which includes activities in Azerbaijan, Armenia and Georgia – aims to increase the capacity of the Governments of the above mentioned Southern Caucasus countries to fight against drug-trafficking and drug abuse as well as to foster regional cooperation through joint training, adoption of common technical standards, database and control procedures.

“Geographic location of the Caucasus is very profitable but creates many problems, particularly, the illegal use and trafficking of drugs. In order to solve this problem we need joint efforts of the government, donors and civil society,” said Lance Clark, UNDP Resident Representative in Georgia at the Steering Committee meeting dedicated to the implementation of the Regional Southern Caucasus Anti-Drug Programme that was held on 18 February 2004 in Tbilisi. He emphasized that the fight against corruption will remain a cornerstone of the South Caucasus Anti-Drug Program. He noted that the recent increase in activity in combating corruption demonstrates that the political will exists to make this program succeed.

Participants from Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia summarized the activities within the program. It was noted that the program has contributed to the increase of governments’ institutional capacity, fostering regional cooperation and establishment of institutional facilities for the treatment and prevention of drug addiction.

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