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Eighteenth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Africa

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Item 4 of the provisional agenda

Implementation of the recommendations adopted by the Sixteenth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Africa**Implementation of the recommendations adopted by the Sixteenth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Africa***

1. The Sixteenth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies (HONLEA), Africa, held in Nairobi, from 25 to 29 September 2006, adopted a set of recommendations following the consideration by working groups of the issues indicated below.
2. In accordance with established practice, the report of the Sixteenth Meeting was forwarded to the Governments represented at the session. A questionnaire on the implementation of the recommendations adopted at that Meeting was dispatched to Governments on 22 May 2008, with a deadline for replies set to 1 August 2008.
3. The present report was prepared on the basis of information provided to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) by Governments in reply to that questionnaire. As of 15 August 2008, replies had been received from the Governments of Algeria, Angola, Burkina Faso, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ghana, Guinea, the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, South Africa, Swaziland and Tunisia.

Issue 1: The growing importance of Africa in international trafficking in cocaine**Recommendation (1)**

4. The Sixteenth Meeting of HONLEA Africa recommended that Governments should encourage the efforts of their national law enforcement agencies to increase their national, regional and international communication and information-sharing,

* This document has not been edited.



through supporting the use of the online communication systems of the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) and the World Customs Organization.

5. Burkina Faso reported that INTERPOL's communication system was available to its law enforcement agencies on drug trafficking related issues and that its National Anti-Drug Committee promoted cooperation between the relevant law enforcement agencies.
6. Ghana reported that its Government had instructed INTERPOL Accra to share intelligence alerts with all drug law enforcement agencies and that it was currently establishing an analytic intelligence database with equipment procured by UNODC to be completed by August 2008.
7. Angola, Algeria, Guinea and South Africa reported that their police forces were connected to the INTERPOL I-24/7 system. Angola further reported that its Department of Investigation had experienced some difficulty in increasing information-sharing with the local INTERPOL and the National Directorate of Criminal Investigations, but that those difficulties were currently being addressed. Guinea reported that they also were linked to the communication system of the World Customs Organization. South Africa also reported that the Mind/Find system of INTERPOL had been made available to police officers at station level on the police network, either with a hand-held device/mobile digital computer (MDC) or on any South Africa Police Service network connected desktop/central processing unit (CPU) countrywide in real time via a secure link directly to INTERPOL information.
8. Swaziland and Tunisia reported that their anti-drug authorities and agencies regularly exchanged information at the national, regional and international level, including through channels such as INTERPOL.
9. Madagascar reported that it was a member of INTERPOL, while Libya reported that its Agency for the Control of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances had set up a central information system.

Recommendation (2)

10. It was recommended that Governments should ensure that judges and magistrates have adequate knowledge of sophisticated, modern investigation techniques by arranging workshops with the participation of law enforcement officers and by encouraging the participation of judges and magistrates in international law-enforcement-related meetings and conferences.
11. Algeria reported that its magistrates periodically attended training and refresher courses in techniques for combating illicit drug trafficking.
12. Angola, Ghana, Guinea, the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya and Tunisia reported that they had initiated measures to ensure that judges and magistrates had adequate knowledge of sophisticated, modern investigation techniques. Ghana highlighted that it had established a committee, which was currently planning workshops to be held in 2008 for their judges and magistrates, while the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya and Tunisia informed that its judges and magistrates had attended international seminars and meetings on the topic.

13. The Democratic Republic of the Congo reported that it had not been able to provide for such trainings due to limited resources.

14. South Africa reported that its drug law enforcement officers had lectured at training programmes at the Justice College and that workshops were regularly held within the criminal justice system. Furthermore, that training held under United Nations auspices had resulted in the establishment of a network between the judiciary and the police in the country.

15. Swaziland reported that, due to a backlog of criminal cases processed in its courts, it had yet to hold the recommended workshops, while Burkina Faso reported that training workshops for magistrates and police officers were to be held during 2008.

Recommendation (3)

16. It was recommended that Governments should, if they had not yet done so, take steps to ratify and implement the international drug control conventions as well as the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (General Assembly resolution 55/25, annex I) and the Protocols thereto (Assembly resolution 55/25, annexes II and III and resolution 55/255, annex) and have in place the necessary laws to facilitate international cooperation.

17. Algeria, Burkina Faso, Ghana, Guinea, the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, South Africa and Tunisia all reported that they had ratified a number of international instruments related to drug control.

18. Angola reported that it had several national regulations pertaining to drug control and drew attention to three resolutions passed in 1999, resolutions 17/99, 18/99 and 19/99.

19. The Democratic Republic of the Congo and Swaziland reported that it still needed to adopt legislation pertaining to international drug conventions and international cooperation.

Recommendation (4)

20. It was recommended that Governments should, if they have not already done so, take steps to ensure that national authorities responsible for drug law enforcement, together with security services, are coordinated and supported through inter-agency operational agreements.

21. Angola, Ghana, the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, South Africa and Tunisia reported that they had taken steps to ensure formalization of inter-agency cooperation. In Angola, inter-agency cooperation had been promoted with the aim of concluding Memorandums of Understanding (MOU) between the relevant agencies and steps had been taken to conduct joint operations in Africa and South America. In an effort to enhance inter-agency cooperation, Ghana reported that it had established two inter-agency committees, one on enforcement and drug control and a second one on demand reduction. In the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya joint programmes and agreements were in place between authorities responsible for drug law enforcement and security. In South Africa MOUs between police, customs and the Department of Trade and Industry had been signed and MOUs between the South African Police Service and

the Department of Health were about to be finalized. In Tunisia, coordination of efforts between the various agencies and security units responsible for drug law enforcement was ensured within the framework of a national strategy and plan on drug law enforcement.

22. Algeria reported that coordination between relevant authorities was ensured through regular meetings of the Evaluation and Monitoring Committee of the National Office for Combating Illicit Drug Trafficking and Drug Addiction, which was comprised of representatives from 14 ministries, the three enforcement services (the national Gendarmerie, the police and the national customs service) and four large Algerian non-governmental organizations.

23. Burkina Faso reported that the National Anti-Drug Committee organized and coordinated joint operations of the law enforcement services, while Swaziland reported that it yet had to undertake the necessary steps to implement this recommendation.

24. The Democratic Republic of the Congo reported that a meeting between its experts and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to address the problem of incorporation of the necessary measures into national legislation had initially been planned, but not conducted.

25. Guinea reported that National Anti-Drugs Committee (CNLD) had existed for several years and provided the framework for necessary coordination.

Issue 2: Illicit cultivation of cannabis plant in Africa, trafficking in cannabis and its impact

Recommendation (5)

26. The Sixteenth Meeting of HONLEA Africa recommended that Governments should be encouraged to formally assess the domestic threat of cannabis in order to support the development of effective national strategies to combat cannabis cultivation, trafficking and abuse.

27. Angola, Algeria, Burkina Faso, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Guinea and South Africa all reported on steps taken to ensure the implementation of this recommendation. Algeria highlighted that it was implementing a National Plan for Preventing and Combating Illicit Drug Trafficking and Drug Addiction (PDN) covering the period 2004-2008 and that the successor plan (covering the period 2009-2013) provided for a nationwide inquiry into the prevalence of drug abuse and trafficking in Algeria. Burkina Faso emphasized that as cannabis was the drug most widely consumed in the country, national strategies for combating illicit cannabis trafficking, transit and consumption were in place and were being implemented. The Democratic Republic of the Congo reported that measures were in place, but that assessment parameters had yet to be established. Guinea reported that the fight against drugs had been introduced into the country's poverty reduction strategy. South Africa reported that the crime intelligence sector of the police had recently completed a national survey on cannabis cultivation. Furthermore, that a project on hyperspectral analyses by means of satellite imagery of illicit cannabis cultivation areas, had been initiated with the assistance of the Agricultural Research Council.

28. Ghana reported that its Narcotics Control Board had developed a working document on the threat posed by cannabis in Ghana and that it had adopted measures and initiated steps to eradicate cannabis cultivation.

29. Swaziland reported that it had drug units to combat cultivation, trafficking and abuse of cannabis in place, in all the four regions of the country, while the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya and Tunisia reported that no cultivation of cannabis had been detected within their borders.

Recommendation (6)

30. It was also recommended that Governments should take steps to initiate national awareness-raising campaigns that engage rural communities in support of discouraging cannabis cultivation, together with similar initiatives directed at towns and cities, where demand for cannabis has encouraged its ongoing proliferation.

31. Algeria, Burkina Faso, Guinea, Madagascar and Swaziland all reported that awareness-raising initiatives had been undertaken. Algeria reported that a nationwide long-term awareness-raising programme was being implemented within the framework of the National Plan for Preventing and Combating Illicit Drug Trafficking and Drug Addiction, involving all sectors of society. Burkina Faso and Guinea reported that campaigns to raise public awareness of the harm caused by drugs had been conducted at the national level in rural and urban areas. Madagascar reported that the Inter-ministerial Commission for Coordinating the Fight against Drugs had in close collaboration with its members invested significant efforts in raising awareness among people in rural areas and to promote licit, viable, profitable and sustainable income-generating alternatives for farmers. Swaziland reported that the national crime unit regularly held lectures on this topic in community meetings.

32. Angola reported that its Government had offered special credit arrangements for cannabis farmers as an incentive to farm other products, while South Africa reported that the Departments of Agriculture and Social Development have appointed representatives to be responsible for alternative crop development in the provinces where the majority of illicit cannabis was cultivated.

33. Ghana reported that the Narcotics Control Board was currently making plans to engage various ministries, district assemblies as well as non-governmental organizations in an intensive awareness-raising campaign.

34. The Democratic Republic of the Congo reported that although the necessary structures were in place for awareness-raising efforts, the government had insufficient means to use these structures.

Recommendation (7)

35. It was recommended that Governments should be encouraged to develop cannabis eradication programmes to effectively discourage its ongoing cultivation and offer viable economic alternatives to rural communities whose incomes are derived from illicit cannabis production.

36. Algeria and Burkina Faso reported that due to the insignificant amount of cannabis cultivation within their respective borders they were not considered as

cannabis producing countries and therefore did not have in place eradication programmes.

37. Ghana, South Africa and Swaziland reported to have cannabis eradication programmes in place. In Ghana cannabis eradication was approached through collaboration between the various security agencies responsible and two inter-agency committees had recently revised the national alternative development programme to better address illicit cannabis cultivation in the country and to offer viable economic alternatives to cannabis cultivation. However, budgetary constraints were hampering the provision of alternative seed capital for former cannabis farmers. In South Africa a three-year strategy on cannabis eradication programme had been followed from 2005/2006 to 2007/2008 and it will be followed-up by a year-to-year eradication programme in the run-up to the 2010 Soccer World Cup.

38. Angola reported that it had provided seeds and fertilizer to cannabis farmers to produce food products instead of cannabis.

39. The Democratic Republic of the Congo reported that it would in the future need to adopt a substitution policy, where cannabis crops were to be substituted by other crops.

Issue 3: Identifying and maintaining effective control over the essential precursors scheduled in Tables I and II of the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988

Recommendation (8)

40. The Sixteenth Meeting of HONLEA, Africa, recommended that Governments should ensure that national legislation effectively regulates the control of precursor chemicals, including their sale, import and export, as listed in Tables I and II of the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988.

41. In Algeria, the import, export and sale of precursors were subject to control by the Ministry of Health and Population, while in Guinea precursor chemicals were controlled by the National Pharmacies Directorate working in conjunction with the Anti-Drugs Committee.

42. In Ghana, there were two institutions responsible for granting permits to import chemical precursors and psychotropic substances and the Narcotics Control Board monitored the issuance of these permits, the delivery of the shipments and the use of the substances.

43. In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Ministry of Health, the Office Congolais de Contrôle (OCC) and the Committee to Combat Drugs were responsible for regulating the control, sale, import and export of precursors.

44. In the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, a joint programme for the control of precursor chemicals had been developed in conjunction with the competent authorities, namely the Customs Organization and the General Environment Authority.

45. Angola, Burkina Faso, Madagascar, South Africa and Tunisia reported that they all had national legislation regulating the control of precursor chemicals in

their respective countries. Angola underlined that it had established contacts with other countries aimed at preventing trafficking of precursors in accordance with the obligations under the 1988 United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances. Burkina Faso reported that although the relevant laws were in place, the law enforcement officers had not received sufficient training to implement them efficiently. Under the legislation of Madagascar, all substances in Tables I and II of the 1988 Convention were subject to a control regime whereby they may be imported and exported only after authorization had been granted by the Directorate for Pharmacies, Laboratories and Traditional Medicine of the Ministry of Health and Family Planning. South Africa emphasized that it had upgraded the control of ephedrine and pseudoephedrine to schedule 6 of the Medicine Control Act in order to curb widespread diversion to illicit laboratories.

46. Swaziland reported that legislation on control of precursor chemicals was currently under consideration by the Parliament.

Recommendation (9)

47. It was recommended that Governments should ensure that a competent authority for monitoring the import and export of precursor chemicals is established and that its activities are coordinated with related law enforcement agencies through inter-agency working agreements.

48. Burkina Faso, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Guinea, South Africa and Tunisia all reported to have a competent entity to monitor the import and export of precursor chemicals. In Burkina Faso, the General Directorate for Pharmacies, Laboratories and Medication (DGPLM) was the responsible authority in this regard. However its efforts were hampered by the lack of coordination between this entity and the law enforcement services. The Ministry of Health and the Office Congolais de Contrôle were the competent authorities to monitor the import and export of precursor chemicals in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. In Guinea, the National Pharmacies Directorate was the responsible authority, while in Tunisia, the National Drugs Office and the Tunisian Ministry of Trade were responsible for monitoring the import and export of precursor chemicals as well as of ensuring coordination with law enforcement, when needed. In South Africa, the South African Police Service Chemical Monitoring Programme (CPM) was the competent authority and the Government underlined that the CPM participated fully in United Nations projects Prism and Cohesion.

49. In Angola and Swaziland, the respective customs departments were the competent authorities dealing with imports and exports of precursor chemicals. Angola reported further that the code regulating the customs authorities had specific provisions for procedures on how to deal with precursor chemicals and that special legal procedures had been adopted to reduce the expansion of abuse of psychotropic substances, especially among youths and to counter attempts to illegally import or export precursor chemicals.

50. In Ghana the Narcotics Control Board was the authority responsible for monitoring imports of chemical precursors, and it was reported that the board worked closely with the Food and Drugs Board as well as with the Environmental Protection Agency, which had the authority to grant import permits.

51. The Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya reported that a committee for monitoring the import and export of precursor chemicals had been established which collaborated with the Agency for the Control of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, the Directorate-General for the Control of Narcotic Drugs and Smuggling, and the General Environment Authority on this matter.

52. Algeria reported that there was close coordination between the relevant authorities on the control of precursor chemicals, which included the Ministry of Health, the enforcement services (police, Gendarmerie and customs) and the judiciary.

53. Madagascar reported that an inter-ministerial decree relating to the monitoring of import and export of precursor chemicals was currently being drafted.

Recommendation (10)

54. It was recommended that Governments should encourage the training of law enforcement officers in awareness of precursor chemicals and illicit trafficking methodologies and countermeasures.

55. Angola, Algeria, Ghana, Guinea, the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, South Africa and Tunisia all reported that their law enforcement officers had received awareness training on precursor chemicals and illicit trafficking methodologies and countermeasures. In Ghana, such training had been given by law enforcement officers from France, Germany and the United Kingdom and further training would be undertaken by staff from Drug Enforcement Administration of the United States in August 2008. In Algeria, training on precursor chemicals and illicit trafficking methodologies and countermeasures was planned for December 2008, which would be held in collaboration with the Pompidou Group of the Council of Europe. South Africa reported that its Chemical Monitoring Programme had trained 750 law enforcement officers, customs officials, prosecutors and health officials in Sub-Saharan countries in the period under review.

56. Burkina Faso reported that its law enforcement services had not yet received sufficient training on illicit trafficking in precursors, while Swaziland reported that plans for training of law enforcement officers on the issue were under consideration.

Recommendation (11)

57. It was recommended that Governments should take steps to develop national strategies to exercise effective control over precursor chemicals.

58. Angola, Madagascar, South Africa and Tunisia reported that steps had been taken under this recommendation. Angola reported that it established two institutions that dealt with precursor chemicals, the Directorate of Criminal Investigations and Inter-Ministerial Committee of Drug Control, while Tunisia reported that it had put in place a national strategy on control of import of precursor chemicals. In South Africa, two national conferences involving law enforcement, customs, trade and industry and health officials as well as representatives from the private chemical industry had been held where strategies on precursor chemicals were reviewed and streamlined. In Madagascar, a comprehensive strategy on control of precursor chemicals was currently under preparation.

59. Burkina Faso reported that this issue was a matter of high priority of the country's National Anti-Drug Committee, while Guinea reported that a national anti-drug plan had been formulated, but was not being implemented due the lack of financial resources.
