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**Nineteenth Meeting of Heads of National Drug
Law Enforcement Agencies, Africa**

Windhoek, 12-16 October 2009

Provisional agenda and annotations

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda.
3. Current situation with respect to regional and subregional cooperation in countering drug trafficking.
4. Implementation of the recommendations adopted by the Seventeenth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Africa.
5. Consideration of topics by working groups:
 - (a) Developing effective drug law enforcement intelligence-led operational responses;
 - (b) National responses in support of regional efforts and initiatives in the fight against illicit drug trafficking;
 - (c) Impact of the Internet and other electronic media on drug trafficking;
 - (d) Forensic services in Africa.
6. Follow-up to the twentieth special session of the General Assembly and the outcome of the high-level segment of the fifty-second session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs.
7. Organization of the Twentieth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Africa.
8. Other business.
9. Adoption of the report.



Annotations

1. Election of officers

Elections are held in accordance with rule 15 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council (E/5975/Rev.1). The Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies (HONLEA), Africa, has in the past elected a Chairman, two Vice-Chairmen and a Rapporteur.

2. Adoption of the agenda

The provisional agenda for the Nineteenth Meeting of HONLEA, Africa, is contained in the present document and was approved by the Eighteenth Meeting of HONLEA, Africa, held in Yamoussoukro from 8 to 12 September 2008.

At its thirty-eighth session, the Commission on Narcotic Drugs recommended that general statements concerning national trends in illicit drug trafficking and statistics not be read out but rather circulated in written form. Participants are hereby reminded of that recommendation and are therefore invited to submit to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) by 10 August 2009 a two-page country report on trends in drug trafficking during the past year. Only reports received by that date will be translated into the other working languages of the Meeting.

Following the adoption of the agenda, the Meeting establishes a timetable for the session. A provisional timetable is contained in the annex to the present document for the consideration of the Meeting.

3. Current situation with respect to regional and subregional cooperation in countering drug trafficking

Participants are invited to inform the Meeting of the efforts of their Governments to strengthen regional and subregional cooperation in areas such as joint investigations, law enforcement training, sharing of information and experience in drug trafficking countermeasures.

The item will be introduced by UNODC, with an overview of current and evolving subregional law enforcement cooperation programmes involving Governments and UNODC and their impact on trends in drug trafficking.

Participants are requested to inform the Meeting of practical problems impeding subregional cooperation and of measures to overcome them.

This item will also provide the opportunity to present current trends, modus operandi and operational successes in response to cannabis, cocaine and heroin trafficking.

Documentation

Report of the Secretariat on statistics on drug trafficking trends in Africa and worldwide (UNODC/HONLAF/19/2)

Note by the Secretariat on the current situation with respect to regional and subregional cooperation (UNODC/HONLAF/19/CRP.1)

4. Implementation of the recommendations adopted by the Seventeenth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Africa

Participants are invited to inform the Meeting of action taken by their Governments in the implementation of the recommendations adopted at the Seventeenth Meeting of HONLEA, Africa, held in Nairobi from 17 to 20 September 2007.

The Meeting will have before it a note by the Secretariat based on replies to a questionnaire concerning action taken by Governments in implementing the recommendations.

Documentation

Note by the Secretariat on the review of the implementation by States of the region of the recommendations adopted by the Seventeenth Meeting of HONLEA, Africa (UNODC/HONLAF/19/3)

5. Consideration of topics by working groups

The reasons for establishing ad hoc working groups are to review issues of regional importance and to facilitate informal discussions and the frank exchange of ideas on such matters. Working groups are invited to present their findings, conclusions and recommendations to the Meeting for endorsement and inclusion in its report. The following topics will be considered by the working groups:

(a) Developing effective drug law enforcement intelligence-led operational responses

Authorities need knowledge about how drug trafficking supports other forms of serious organized crime in order to act effectively against it. Access to information about those engaged in drug trafficking and other forms of organized crime is essential to the successful investigation, prosecution and dismantling of crime syndicates. Many authorities strive to adopt an intelligence-led approach to drug enforcement.

The working group will examine approaches to information-gathering and analysis and the information sources available to law enforcement agencies. It will also examine data collection, how information is managed effectively and how it is analysed and disseminated to front-line operational officers. It will also examine what information sources are available to law enforcement agencies, both within their services and outside them and how such sources can best be utilized to support drug law enforcement operations. Finally, it will examine the specific information needs of national agencies, how those needs are being met and what changes are required for better information-gathering when investigating those suspected of trafficking drugs through African countries. Participants may wish to share details of how their different agencies coordinate their targeting of common suspects and the procedures that they have introduced to support one another.

(b) National responses in support of regional efforts and initiatives in the fight against illicit drug trafficking

The working group will consider illicit drug trafficking trends from the perspective of national experiences in order to gain an overall picture of the nature of the threat facing the region.

Participants are encouraged to share their assessment of current illicit drug trafficking trends as witnessed in carrying out their efforts to fight that trafficking, and be encouraged to make presentations on the proposed issues. Participants may wish to consider how the targeting of West African States by Latin American cocaine cartels has impacted on trafficking trends in their countries and region and whether cocaine is more readily available in their countries; whether changes have been noted in the structure and make-up of operations by trafficking syndicates at the national and regional levels; what changes or tactics are required to respond to new developments; the effect of the ongoing, high level of production of opiates in Afghanistan on the streets and communities of Africa; whether patterns of opiate abuse are changing; and whether specific individuals, nationalities or groups are more involved than others in heroin trafficking. The working group may also discuss issues concerning control of, and illicit trafficking in, pharmaceutical medicines and the impact on communities of amphetamine-type stimulant abuse.

(c) Impact of the Internet and other electronic media on drug trafficking

Groups engaged in drug trafficking and other criminal activities are increasingly using modern and sophisticated communication technologies that facilitate their engagement in illegal activities and the commission of crime. The widespread use of mobile telephones, advanced technologies such as encrypted e-mail, Voice-over-Internet-Protocol transmissions and public Internet sites presents new challenges to law enforcement agencies in carrying out investigations and searching for evidence to successfully dismantle illegal operations. The need to gather evidence from recovered electronic equipment (i.e. computers and mobile telephones), as well as from Internet providers located in foreign jurisdictions, highlights new areas in which law enforcement expertise and cooperation are required.

Participants should come to the workshop prepared to speak about their experiences in investigating trafficking offences committed through the use of modern communication technologies, the challenges that they have faced and the responses and strategies that they have adopted.

(d) Forensic services in Africa

The aim of the working group will be to discuss the further advancement of forensic services in the African region.

Every crime leaves traces; the role of forensic services is to detect and collect those traces (physical evidence) at the scene, analyse them in a forensic laboratory and present the findings to judges, prosecutors, lawyers and others who require that factual information. Through the presentation of casework, participants will gain insight into the forensic process, with a focus on the importance of crime scene investigations and the evidential value of the different types of physical evidence. By the end of the session, participants should be in a better position to advocate crime scene investigation services and the use of forensic services in their country and to contribute to ensuring adequate resources for crime scene investigation work.

As in other regions of the world, the advancement of forensic services in Africa benefits greatly from international cooperation and networking. Forensic laboratories in Southern Africa already meet regularly through the Southern African Regional Police Chiefs Cooperation Organization (SARPCCO) Forensic Science

Working Group. A presentation will be made on the recent evolution of the Working Group into a broader regional network of forensic institutes, the Southern African Regional Forensic Science (SARFS) Network. Successes and lessons learned in the Southern African experience will be shared and discussed with participants. Participants will be invited to make presentations on the activities of their respective subregional police organizations and the suitability of those structures for hosting meetings of forensic practitioners in order to exchange experiences and enhance regional cooperation in the forensic field, including other possible approaches to enhance regional cooperation.

6. Follow-up to the twentieth special session of the General Assembly and the outcome of the high-level segment of the fifty-second session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs

The Meeting will be informed of the follow-up to the action plans adopted at the twentieth special session of the General Assembly. The Meeting will also be apprised of the outcome of the high-level segment of the fifty-second session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, held on 11 and 12 March 2009, namely the adoption by Member States at the high-level segment of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem.

Participants will be invited to consider the challenges posed to the States of the region with regard to the implementation of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action, particularly part II of the Plan of Action, on supply reduction and related measures, as well as the implications with regard to follow-up, and the contribution that the Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Africa, could make to the Commission on Narcotic Drugs in that regard.

Documentation

Report of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs on the outcome of the high-level segment of the fifty-second session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs on progress achieved in meeting the goals and targets set out in the Political Declaration adopted by the General Assembly at its twentieth special session (A/64/92-E/2009/98)

7. Organization of the Twentieth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Africa

The Meeting is invited to review the draft provisional agenda for the Twentieth Meeting of HONLEA, Africa, including topics that it wishes working groups to discuss and possible venues for future meetings. For planning purposes, a decision at the Nineteenth Meeting of HONLEA, Africa, on the venue of the Twentieth Meeting, as well as a decision on the topics for the working groups, would greatly facilitate the preparation and organization of the Twentieth Meeting. Participants are requested to come ready to propose and discuss topics for the working groups of the Twentieth Meeting. The Secretariat will provide, upon request, a copy of the standard letter of agreement setting out the responsibilities of the United Nations and the host Government.

The Nineteenth Meeting is also invited to discuss any other matter related to the organization of its deliberations with a view to improving their substantive content and follow-up.

Documentation

Organization of the Twentieth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Africa (UNODC/HONLAF/19/4)

8. Other business

Under this item of its agenda, the Meeting may wish to address any other important issue, such as urgent matters arising from the country reports.

9. Adoption of the report

The Meeting will adopt its report, including the findings, conclusions and recommendations of the working groups, before concluding its session.

Annex

Provisional timetable

<i>Date</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Subject</i>
Monday, 12 October	8:30 a.m.	Registration
	10 a.m.	Opening of the session
		Item 1. Election of officers
		Item 2. Adoption of the agenda
		Item 3. Current situation with respect to regional and subregional cooperation in countering drug trafficking
	3 p.m.	Item 3. Current situation with respect to regional and subregional cooperation in countering drug trafficking (<i>continued</i>)
		Item 4. Implementation of the recommendations adopted by the Seventeenth Meeting of HONLEA, Africa
Tuesday, 13 October	9 a.m.	Item 5. Working groups
	2 p.m.	Item 5. Working groups (<i>continued</i>)
Wednesday, 14 October	9 a.m.	Item 5. Working groups (<i>continued</i>)
	2 p.m.	Item 5. Working groups (<i>continued</i>)
Thursday, 15 October	9 a.m.	Item 5. Working groups (<i>continued</i>)
	2 p.m.	Item 5. Working groups (<i>continued</i>)
Friday, 16 October	10 a.m.	Item 6. Follow-up to the twentieth special session of the General Assembly
		Item 7. Organization of the Twentieth Meeting of HONLEA, Africa
		Item 8. Other business
	3 p.m.	Item 9. Adoption of the report