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

Windhoek, 12-16 October 2009

Item 4 of the provisional agenda

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

1. The Seventeenth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies (HONLEA), Africa, held in Nairobi, from 17 to 20 September 2007, 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 Seventeenth 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 2 July 2009, with a deadline for replies set to 10 August 2009.
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 7 September 2009, replies had been received from the Governments of Algeria, Angola, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Egypt, Ghana, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland, Togo and Zambia.

* This document has not been edited.



Issue 1: The value and effectiveness of controlled delivery operation

Recommendation (1)

4. The Seventeenth Meeting of HONLEA Africa recommended that in recognition of the value of controlled delivery operations to law enforcement agencies investigating and dismantling organized criminal groups, Governments should ensure that legislation was put in place and to make appropriate resources available to enhance the effectiveness of controlled delivery operations.

5. In Algeria, Angola, South Africa, Sudan and Togo, legislation regulating controlled delivery operations was already in place.

6. Some Governments reported that they had not put in place legislation dealing with controlled delivery. Botswana, for example, reported that no attempts had been made in the country to enact legislation dealing with dismantling organized criminal groups. Suspects, in cases of controlled delivery operations, would be adequately dealt with in accordance with Section 16 of the Drugs and Related Substances Act which controlled the possession of and trafficking in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances.

7. Legislation on controlled delivery had not yet been enacted in Liberia.

8. In Egypt, controlled delivery operations were carried out in accordance with the relevant provisions of the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988. Legislation was currently being amended to incorporate provisions concerning controlled delivery.

9. Ghana reported that it was operating the UNODC/World Customs Organization Container Control Programme and the Real-time Analytical Intelligence Database (RAID) programme since 2008 in order to enhance the effectiveness of controlled delivery operations.

10. In Mauritius, the Dangerous Drugs Act provided for controlled delivery operations.

11. In Namibia, a new bill on drugs was currently being drafted to address the issue.

12. No new law had been enacted in Swaziland. However, some controlled delivery operations were carried out under old legislation dating back to 1929 and 1993.

13. In Zambia, controlled delivery operations were provided for under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act (Cap. 96).

Recommendation (2)

14. It was recommended that appropriate professional and integrity standards should be introduced together with standard operational procedures for controlled delivery operations.

15. Most countries reported that they had professional and integrity standards and operational procedures to carry out controlled delivery operations.

16. The Government of Algeria reported that all necessary measures had been introduced to improve the standards of training of law enforcement staff and of judges.
17. The Government of Angola reported that procedures had to be put in place to ensure closer cooperation between the customs services and the criminal police.
18. Botswana relied on international cooperation between police organizations for controlled delivery operations.
19. Egypt reported that drug control officers were selected according to the highest standards of competence and integrity.
20. Ghana and Mauritius reported that law enforcement personnel carrying out controlled delivery operations were well experienced and specially trained. In both countries, standard operational procedures had been developed to ensure the effectiveness of operations.
21. Liberia reported that a standard operational procedure for controlled delivery operations had been drafted and was awaiting approval by the Ministry of Justice.
22. In South Africa, standard operational procedures were already in place and regulated by section 252 A of the Criminal Procedure Act (Act 51 of 1977). Set guidelines were also in place and controlled regionally by the directorate of public prosecutors.
23. The Government of Sudan reported that it had put in place standard operational procedures for controlled delivery operations.
24. In Zambia, training in controlled delivery operations and standard operational procedures were being provided for at induction and other courses for law enforcement officers.

Recommendation (3)

25. It was recommended that the participation in the HONLEA, Africa, regional meetings of law enforcement agencies from primary source and destination countries should be promoted in order to facilitate and strengthen information exchange and direct operational cooperation.
26. Most Governments reported that they attached great importance to their participation in the meeting of HONLEA, Africa.
27. The Governments of Algeria, Egypt and Sudan reported on their regular participation in the meetings of HONLEA, Africa. Algeria, in particular, underlined the importance of the recommendations adopted by those meetings.
28. The Government of Botswana reported on its cooperation with other regional police services through the Southern Africa Police Chiefs Cooperation Organisation (SARPCCO). Botswana also reported on joint operations with sister organizations in the region and on the hosting of meetings aimed at sharing intelligence.
29. The Government of Burkina Faso also reported on its significant participation in the meetings of HONLEA, Africa.

30. Liberia reported on the “ECODRUG” regional forum, which called for meetings of law enforcement agencies to facilitate and strengthen information exchange.

31. Namibia had participated in regional meetings within the framework of SARPCCO and in bilateral exchanges with neighbouring countries on the issues of defence and security.

32. The South African Police Service (SAPS) had placed police liaison officers in Brazil, Peru and Argentina, in order to facilitate and strengthen information exchange and direct operational cooperation.

33. The Government of Swaziland reported that it exchanged information regularly with neighbouring countries.

34. Togo had participated on a regular basis in the meetings of HONLEA, Africa, the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and UNODC.

35. The Government of Zambia reported that information exchange and operational cooperation was pursued at the regional level through the Southern African Development Community (SADC) and the Eastern and South African Anti Money Laundering African Group (ESAAMLG).

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36. It was further recommended that the proposal for the Airport Communication Project (AIRCOP) of UNODC should be implemented at selected airports, subject to the availability of funds from donors.

37. UNODC has continued to work with implementation partners INTERPOL and the World Customs Organization (WCO) in the preparation of a concept paper and implementation activities. A concept paper had been finalized and had been circulated to the donor community to secure pledges of support. Strong interest had been indicated and it was anticipated that phase 1 of AIRCOP would be underway by the end of 2009.

Issue 2: Mobilizing community support for drug law enforcement strategies

Recommendation (4)

38. The Seventeenth Meeting of HONLEA Africa recommended that regional, provincial and local alliances involving law enforcement agencies, the private sector, the media and other sectors of civil society should be developed to tackle drug demand and supply.

39. The majority of the reporting countries had developed regional, provincial and local alliances involving law enforcement agencies, the private sector, the media and other sectors of civil society to tackle drug demand and supply.

40. In Algeria, there was very close cooperation between regional, provincial and local alliances and the civil society, through the numerous national and local

associations and the media which were involved in information, training and awareness-raising campaigns organized periodically throughout the country.

41. In Angola, in coordination with the Interministerial Committee on the Fight Against Drugs (CILAD), activities were being promoted with the partners from Government, civil society, and non-governmental organizations, with the purpose of informing the population on: the dangers of drug abuse and the psychological and physiological impacts to the health; on drug seizures; and on the arrest of criminal organized groups.

42. The Government of Botswana reported that communities were sensitized about the impact of drug abuse through public education/awareness programmes in various forums.

43. In Burkina Faso, there was a plan to establish a permanent body to enable joint action between the National Committee for the Fight against Drugs (CNLD) and the community of the city of Ouagadougou to tackle drug demand and supply.

44. In Cameroon, a national strategy which would be soon put in place, would contemplate the development of regional, provincial and local alliances involving law enforcement agencies, with the private sector, the media and other sectors of civil society to tackle drug demand and supply.

45. In Egypt, a liaison office, to communicate with supply reduction bodies, had recently been established. Its aim was to cooperate with civil society organizations, the private sector and the media, with a view to coordinate drug supply reduction efforts, in addition to the original mandate, which was the control of illicit drug supply.

46. In Ghana, the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) had put in place a strategic framework to engage the civil society, the private sector and the media to advocate and sensitize various communities to tackle drug demand and supply.

47. The Government of Mauritius reported that a National Drug Control Masterplan 2008-2012 has been finalized. The plan sought to tackle the problem of drug demand and supply with the assistance of all stakeholders, including law enforcement agencies, the private sector, the media and civil society.

48. The Government of Namibia reported on the existence of a good network of cooperation among law enforcement agencies, the media and civil society to sensitize the public on the issues of drug demand and supply reduction.

49. In South Africa, a national body, called Central Drug Authority (CDA) comprised of the Government, the private sector and non-governmental organizations had been established. The body meets quarterly to develop strategies to tackle drug demand and supply.

50. In Zambia, campaigns to sensitize on drug issues had been launched in schools, communities and workplaces. Liaison committees involving religious institutions had also been established.

Recommendation (5)

51. It was also recommended that the promotion of the concept of community policing should be considered as part of overall efforts to build public confidence and trust in the police.
52. Most Governments reported that they had taken steps to promote the concept of community policing that should be considered as part of overall efforts to build public confidence and trust in the police.
53. The Government of Algeria reported that community policing was a reality at the national level. Throughout the national territory, local communication cells with qualified personnel stimulated the dialogue between law enforcement agencies and local population, in particular the youth.
54. In Angola, the police, alongside civil society groups such as non-governmental organizations and the churches, were mainstreaming the concept of public policing and encouraging the population to build confidence and trust in the police. This was mainly being done through media broadcast and community theatres.
55. The Government of Botswana reported that, through partnership efforts coordinated through community policing forums, such as community policing clusters, the Botswana Police Service was trying to achieve its vision of “Providing a professional law enforcement service for a peaceful, safe and secure nation, in partnership with the community”. The whole concept behind was that of enhancing the partnership efforts in crime prevention.
56. The Government Burkina Faso was currently engaging in a reflection to ensure more effectiveness for community policing.
57. In Egypt, community policing was carried out through the General Department of Information and Public Relations, within the Ministry of Interior. This department was entrusted with the task of promoting the Ministry’s efforts in maintaining security, combating crime, ensuring safety, and building trust between police and society.
58. In Liberia, the Drug Enforcement Agency was collaborating with other law enforcement agencies in the area of community policing.
59. In Mauritius, the police organized regular meetings on community policing issues with various stakeholders at the community level.
60. In Madagascar and Namibia, community policing was carried out at the national and regional levels.
61. The Government of South Africa reported that, with respect to community policing, the South Africa police had developed sector policing and established community police forums in order to build public confidence and trust in the police.
62. In Togo, no community police had been established yet.

Recommendation (6)

63. It was recommended that Governments should lend their full political support to measures aimed at effectively implementing national drug control strategies and, where appropriate, at establishing national coordinating bodies.

64. Most of the countries reported to have lent their full political support to measures aimed at effectively implementing national drug control strategies and established national coordinating bodies.
65. In Algeria, the National Office for the Fight against Drugs and Addiction was the national coordinating body in charge of all activities relating to the fight against drugs.
66. Under Resolution No. 13/01, the Government of Angola had created CILAD, which was the State's policy coordinating organ in combating drugs, under tutelage of the Ministry of Justice. CILAD had various functions, including: to propose strategies to combat drugs; to propose measures to counter on the abuse of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances; to prepare the decisions of Government at national and international levels, with regard to the fight against trafficking and illicit use of drugs; to exchange information; to deal with the prevention, research, and the statistical and epidemiological study on trafficking and the illicit use of drugs.
67. In Botswana, the President had established a National Drug Control Coordinating Council comprising of various stakeholders from both governmental and non-governmental bodies. The Council met three times a year unless there was an urgent matter requiring additional meetings.
68. In Burkina Faso, a restructuring of the CNLD was being considered.
69. Liberia reported that there was inadequate support to fully implement national drug control strategies and to establish national coordinating bodies.
70. In Mauritius, the Government was fully committed to implement the national drug control strategy through the National Drug Control Masterplan, the main thrust of which was the reduction of drug supply and demand and to enhance the effectiveness of law enforcement.
71. In Namibia, the Government had reiterated its support to implement national drug control strategies through the creation of a national drug control master plan.
72. In South Africa, all Government departments had met under the auspices of the Central Drug Authority to develop measures aiming to effectively implement national drug control strategies.
73. Under the auspices of the Head of State of Togo, the Government had started formulating an integrated national programme against drugs and crime. The official adoption of the programme had taken place on 4-6 August 2009.
74. The Government of Zambia reported that national drug control strategies were currently being developed.

Issue 3: Inter-agency cooperation: a unified response to combating illicit drug trafficking

Recommendation (7)

75. The Seventeenth Meeting of HONLEA, Africa, recommended that inter-agency national law enforcement coordination units should be established and be operational 24 hours a day to facilitate information exchange and cooperation.

76. Some reporting countries gave information on the establishment of inter-agency national law enforcement coordination units and reported they were operational 24 hours a day to facilitate information exchange and cooperation.

77. The Government of Algeria reported that there was a permanent operational coordination among law enforcement agencies although there was no specific institutional structure for coordination purposes.

78. In Angola, customs services were looking into setting up a National Coordination Unit to operate 24 hours a day.

79. Botswana reported that a “Drug Section” had been established within the Police with the mandate to investigate drug-related cases, which was operating out of ten offices countrywide. This unit was cooperating with other national law enforcement agencies.

80. Burkina Faso reported that CNLD was the coordinating body at the national level.

81. In Egypt, inter-agency national law enforcement coordination units existed within the General Directorate for Drug Control.

82. In Liberia, the Government had yet to establish an inter-agency national law enforcement coordination unit, even though the national drug control agency was already coordinating and facilitating information exchange and cooperation with other law enforcement agencies.

83. Madagascar, Namibia and Swaziland reported exchange of information and coordination among the various law enforcement units in the respective countries.

84. In South Africa, the Organized Crime and Crime Intelligence structures were facilitating information exchange and cooperation.

85. In Togo, the Central Office for the Repression of Illicit Traffic and Money Laundering had liaison officers.

86. In Zambia, the Drug Enforcement Commission had been established under Cap. 96 of the Zambian legislation.

Recommendation (8)

87. It was recommended that the use of formal memorandums of understanding should be promoted to facilitate inter-agency and broader international cooperation.

88. Most countries reported that they had concluded/promoted formal memorandums of understanding to facilitate inter-agency and broader international cooperation.

89. Algeria reported that the National Office for the Fight against Drugs and Addiction was the national body established with the aim of enhancing institutional coordination and permanent dialogue within the committee of evaluation and follow-up composed of fourteen Ministries, three law enforcement agencies (police, gendarmerie and the customs) and four national non-governmental organizations. International cooperation had been reinforced in recent years within the framework of the Euro-Mediterranean network and through the 5+5 mechanism.

90. The Angola customs services were currently preparing memorandums of understanding with the Criminal Investigation Police (DNIC), with the Emigration Services, and with other law enforcement agencies, to establish inter-agency and broader international cooperation.

91. In Egypt, formal memorandums of understanding were initiated through inter-agency meetings held on a rotation basis and with States with whom memorandums of understanding were concluded on a permanent basis. The current aim was to seek ways and means to promote cooperation on a wider international scale.

92. Liberia reported that promotion of memorandums of understanding should also take place during the meetings of the HONLEA, Africa, where there was ample opportunity for law enforcement agencies from different countries to interact.

93. The Government of Madagascar reported that “platforms” for security and international cooperation had been established with the Commission of the Indian Ocean (COI). A memorandum of understanding on a “platform” in judicial cooperation had been signed within the COI.

94. Mauritius reported on the various bilateral and multilateral agreements it had signed to facilitate inter-agency and broader international cooperation. Also South Africa and Togo were parties to inter-agency and broader bilateral or multilateral international cooperation agreements.

95. Swaziland regularly promoted cooperation with neighbouring countries through bilateral and trilateral meetings.

96. Zambia reported it had signed memorandums of understanding with India and with ESAAMLG.

Recommendation (9)

97. It was recommended that national plans of action should be established and supported by adequate financial and other resources to ensure their effective implementation.

98. Most reporting countries had established national plans of action and they supported them by adequate financial and other resources to ensure their effective implementation.

99. Algeria had established a national Master Plan for the Prevention and the Fight against drugs (2004-2008). The Plan was supported by the necessary financial means. The second quinquennial plan (2009-2013) was currently being drafted and would keep into consideration the results of the evaluation of the first plan and the data of the epidemiological national survey on prevalence of drugs which would soon be launched.

100. Angola reported on the national drug control plan, which had established a programme of training activities, periodic reporting of the achievements and strategies in order to guarantee the continuation of its operations. Joint exercises between the customs services and DNIC had been planned, including attempts to combat infringements of customs tax and import of prohibited goods (such as drugs), tax evasion and money-laundering.

101. Botswana reported that it did not have adequate financial and other resources to ensure the effective implementation of the national plan.

102. In Burkina Faso, a budget was attributed to CNLD for carrying out its activities in the fight against drugs.

103. Egypt reported that resources were assigned within the National Strategy for Drug Control, which had been developed, updated and launched during 2008.

104. The Government of Ghana was in the process of reviewing and restructuring the Narcotics Control Board which was the leading drug law enforcement agency to the status of a Commission which would fall directly under the office of the Presidency and be adequately resourced.

105. Madagascar reported that the National Drug Control Masterplan 2008-2012 had made provisions for specific financial resources for each stakeholder in their respective budget so as to effectively implement the national plan which had its own indicators to verify whether the proposed targets had been met.

106. In South Africa, the National Plan of Action was coordinated through the Central Drug Authority within each National Department which budgeted and financed its own initiatives.

107. Sudan reported on the limited financing available for the national plan of action.

108. Swaziland reported that the anti-drug unit and its activities were fully supported by the Government.

109. In Togo, a National Integrated Plan for the Fight against Drugs and Crime had been adopted in August 2009 and submitted for the approval of the Government. The estimated cost of the plan amounted to US\$ 14.4 million.

110. In Zambia, the funds allocated to the drug enforcement commission were in line with the existing national plan as mandated under Cap. 96 of the national legislation.

Recommendation (10)

111. It was recommended that Governments should review existing legislation so as to allow for the effective investigation and punishment of offenders and, where necessary, Governments should take steps to strengthen such legislation.

112. Algeria had reviewed its existing legislation and promulgated Law 18-04 of 25 December 2004.

113. In Angola, the Government was currently working on the creation of various instruments to strengthen the effective investigation and punishment of offenders. Across the country, the Government was developing ad hoc strategies, including

capacity-building, to combat money-laundering, financing of terrorism, human trafficking and to improve the judicial systems

114. In Botswana, legislation had been amended in 1992. The amendments had made possible more effective investigation and punishment of offenders in drug-related cases.

115. Burkina Faso had adopted law 017/99/AN of 29 April 1999, which had been harmonized and updated.

116. In Egypt, Law No. 182 of 1960, amended by law No. 122 of 1989, contained legal provisions allowing questioning of offenders and their effective punishment.

117. In Ghana, the Narcotics Control Board had submitted in 2008 a proposal for amending the existing legislation to the Government for its consideration. Since then, the Government had promulgated the Money Laundering Law and established thirteen special courts for drug-related cases. If found guilty of possessing illicit drugs, offenders were now sentenced to no less than 10 years.

118. Liberia reported that the Drug Enforcement Agency had drafted an anti-drug trafficking law, which was awaiting legislative approval.

119. Madagascar reported that law No. 97-039 of 4 November 1997 relating to the control of narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and precursor chemicals was still applicable and its review was not yet envisaged.

120. Mauritius reported that the review of existing legislation was an ongoing process.

121. In Namibia, a new bill on drug control was currently being drafted.

122. In Sudan, legislation related to the punishment of offenders was being reviewed.

123. Swaziland reported that new legislation on drug control was drafted and was about to be submitted for the consideration of the Parliament.

124. In Togo, the National Integrated Plan for the Fight against Drugs and Crime envisaged the review of national legislation.

125. Also in Zambia legislation on drug control was in the process of being amended.

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126. It was further recommended that in delivering training assistance, UNODC should promote more widely the train-the-trainer approach.

127. UNODC strives to promote the most current and effective training methods through its programmes of technical assistance. The “train the trainer” approach is in use by the Office, as it is customary for experts for the training of small specialist groups. UNODC has also developed and successfully implemented a computer-based training programme that has proven extremely effective in delivering technical skills in the language and environment of the trainees.

Issue 4: the role of forensic laboratories: specific scientific support to Africa

Recommendation (11)

128. The Seventeenth Meeting of HONLEA, Africa, recommended that Member States in Africa should ensure that sustainable, well-equipped and resourced laboratories to assist law enforcement authorities are in place.

129. Some countries reported that they had sustainable, well-equipped and resourced laboratories to assist law enforcement authorities.

130. Algeria and Egypt, reported that they had sustainable, well-equipped and resourced forensic laboratories, with highly qualified personnel, to carry out analysis of drug samples in order to assist law enforcement authorities in their investigations.

131. In Angola, DNIC had a laboratory to examine products in order to detect different types of drugs and their qualities.

132. Botswana, South Africa and Swaziland reported that the countries' forensic science laboratories were well equipped with instruments used for drug analysis.

133. In Burkina Faso, there were two national forensic laboratories.

134. Cameroon reported that there were insufficient resources available to forensic laboratories in the country.

135. In Liberia, there were no forensic laboratories to assist law enforcement authorities. Sudan reported that the construction of a forensic laboratory in Khartoum had been proposed. A new forensic laboratory was going to be built in Zambia.

136. Madagascar reported that it had taken measures to implement the recommendation.

137. In Namibia, the National Forensic Science Institute was to undergo complete renovation.

138. In Togo, the operational capacities of the forensic laboratory was going to be strengthened under the new integrated national plan.

Recommendation (12)

139. It was recommended that professionally qualified experts already working in laboratories in Africa should be encouraged to deliver specialized training.

140. Several countries reported that they had professionally qualified experts already working in laboratories delivering specialized training.

141. In Algeria, Botswana and Madagascar specialized training was regularly delivered under the supervision of qualified personnel.

142. Angola reported that it needed more help and support of professionally qualified experts in order to deliver specialized training to staff of forensic laboratories and to deliver the services of forensic laboratories more efficiently.

143. In Egypt, specialized training was delivered through the submission of relevant recommendations during international and regional conferences and meetings.

144. The Government of Mauritius reported that training was ongoing with the assistance of UNODC and other international bodies.

145. In Namibia, training was provided through a number of national and international bodies.

146. South Africa reported that forensic experts in South Africa had been involved in several training initiatives through the United Nations, as well as in South African initiatives in the region.

Recommendation (13)

147. It was recommended that Governments should ensure that suitably qualified forensic staff was available to give expert evidence in court proceedings and that the legal framework allows such evidence to be admitted.

148. In most countries, Governments had ensured that suitably qualified forensic staff was available to give expert evidence in court proceedings and that the legal framework allowed for such evidence to be admitted.

149. In Algeria, Burkina Faso, Egypt, Ghana, Madagascar, Namibia, Swaziland, Togo and Zambia suitably qualified forensic staff were available to give expert evidence in court proceedings.

150. Angola reported that it would need UNODC's support in order to improve the national forensic capacity and capability to meet internationally accepted standards.

151. In Botswana, only qualified forensic analysts were allowed to give expert evidence in court proceedings in case their affidavits were challenged before court by defence or Presiding Officer.

152. In Mauritius, certificates of forensic officers were admitted as evidence in court.

Recommendation (14)

153. It was recommended that law enforcement agencies should adopt standard operational procedures to ensure that seized drugs and other evidence are not improperly handled and are securely stored.

154. Most Governments reported that they had standard operational procedures to ensure that seized drugs and other evidence were not improperly handled and were securely stored.

155. Algeria had established a computerized system to ensure that seized drugs and other evidence were not improperly handled.

156. In Angola, the National Directorate of Criminal Investigation Police (DNIC) was the organ that had the responsibility to manage and safely store all drugs seized. Even when seizures are made by other institutions such as customs, the drugs are deposited with the DNIC.

157. Botswana reported that, once drugs were seized, they were immediately packaged, labelled and sealed in the presence of the offender and witness. The seized drugs were analyzed at the forensic laboratory and then sealed before handing them back to the investigating office who would keep them until produced in court, in order to make sure that exhibits were not tampered with. At the end of the case in court, the exhibits were destroyed in the presence of the media, customs and health authorities.

158. Madagascar reported that adequate safeguards had been put in place for the effective handling and safekeeping of seized drugs both at the exhibits rooms of the police stations and in court.

159. Zambia reported existing legislation had to be amended to provide for standard operational procedures to ensure that seized drugs and other evidence were not improperly handled and that they were securely stored.

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Recommendation (a)

160. It was recommended that UNODC should prepare updated manuals and guidance materials for Member States regarding the minimum requirements for establishing basic laboratory services.

161. UNODC has continued supporting the analytical work of laboratories by providing technical assistance, including through the training of staff and the supply of field detection test kits for drugs and precursors, subject to availability of resources. UNODC will also continue to provide advice on best practices and encourage the use of advisory manuals.

162. During the reporting period 2007-2009, UNODC has prepared manuals and guides to assist Member States to strengthen and establish forensic laboratories as well as to raise awareness on the importance of crime scene investigation and the use of physical evidence. The following documents have been prepared: "Crime scene and physical evidence awareness for non forensic personnel", published 2009; "Implementation of a Quality Management System in Drug Testing Laboratories", published 2009; "Guidelines on representative drug sampling", published 2009; "Staff skill requirements and equipment recommendations for forensic science laboratories" (advanced draft); and a "Model Forensic Document Laboratory Guide".¹

Recommendation (b)

163. It was recommended that UNODC should continue to support the analytical work of laboratories by providing technical assistance, including through the training of staff and the supply of field detection test kits for drugs and precursors, subject to availability of resources. UNODC should also continue to provide advice on best practices and encourage the use of advisory manuals.

¹ See: <http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/scientists/laboratory-and-forensic-science-services.html>

164. Since 2007, UNODC has continued to support regional cooperation through the set up of a regional network of forensic laboratories in Southern Africa, together with local partners, SARPCCO and South Africa Police Service.

165. UNODC has also continued to support the forensic work of Member States, during the reporting period 2007-2009, by providing field detection test kits for drugs and precursors to Senegal, Burkina Faso, Cote d'Ivoire, Liberia, Congo, Madagascar, Mali, Ghana, Botswana, Lesotho, Ethiopia, Cape Verde, Cameroon, Tanzania for a total amount of 191 kits and by sending manuals to numerous countries throughout Africa. In the same period, Botswana, Egypt, Ghana, Mauritius, Swaziland and Tanzania took part in the International Collaborative Exercise organized by UNODC.
