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

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Provisional agenda item 3

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

1. Since the Eighteenth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Africa, held in Yamoussoukro from 8 to 12 September 2009, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) has formulated and implemented programmes to address problems related to drugs and organized crime in Africa.

I. Africa-wide initiatives

2. In a number of African countries, drugs, crime and corruption are undermining development efforts. High levels of income inequality, a high proportion of youth in the population, many of whom are orphaned and marginalized, high rates of urbanization, low levels of criminal justice resources, firearms proliferation, wars and civil conflicts, as well as weak controls over criminal activities, leave Africa vulnerable to organized crime, drug trafficking, trafficking in human beings, money-laundering and corruption. In particular, Africa is increasingly being used to trans-ship and stockpile illicit drugs. This is evidenced by the large seizures of cocaine in West Africa, the continued trafficking and stockpiling of other narcotic drugs such as heroin through East Africa, and the production in and trafficking of amphetamine-type stimulants and other types of narcotics through Southern Africa. Drug trafficking organizations are showing high levels of flexibility by changing modus operandi, routes and stockpile areas. Africa as a whole is also increasingly being used to re-route precursor chemicals, which are often destined for Mexico and Latin America. Recent events in West Africa could indicate ongoing drug production in the region.

* This document has not been edited.



African Union Plan of Action on Drug Control and Crime Prevention

3. An “African Union Plan of action on drug control and crime prevention (2007-10)” and “Follow-up mechanism for the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the revised African Union Plan of Action on drug control and crime prevention” were adopted at the African Union Heads of State Summit in Addis Ababa in January 2008. Both documents have been prepared with the substantive support of UNODC. In addition, the African Union Commission (AUC) and UNODC have signed a Memorandum of Understanding providing a strategic framework for their collaboration.

4. UNODC is committed to supporting the implementation of the above-mentioned Plan of Action, by strengthening policymaking, norm-setting and capacity-building at the continental, regional and national levels. In order to complement the strategic partnership between the AUC and UNODC with effective mechanisms for implementation at the operational level, the AUC/UNODC project “Support to the implementation of the African Union Plan of Action on drug control and crime prevention, 2007-12” has been developed.

5. The project’s main objective is to strengthen the capacity of the AUC, regional economic commissions (RECs) and Member States in integrating the Plan of Action into their respective plans, strategies and activities. To this end, programme managers would be posted respectively in the AUC headquarters in Addis Ababa, and in the RECs to work in close partnership for the implementation of the Plan and provide advisory services to the Member States to mainstream crime and drug control measures in regional and national development strategies. Furthermore, the project is expected to improve the alignment and harmonization of the donor community’s assistance in preventing and combating crime and drugs in Africa. The goal of this project is to make the AU Plan a practical and output driven tool.

6. UNODC, through its Laboratory and Scientific Section, are conducting with INTERPOL joint forensic training courses under the INTERPOL regional initiative named Operational Assistance Services and Infrastructure Support to African Police Forces (OASIS). This initiative, supported by Germany, aims to enhance African Police operational capacities to effectively combat and tackle national and international crimes. In West Africa, one regional course was organized in Nigeria in September 2009 and another is planned in October in Côte d’Ivoire. The course objective is to raise awareness about good practices in crime scene investigations and the nature and relevance of physical evidence. UNODC 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 and Tanzania for total amount of 191 kits.

II. West Africa

7. Since the Eighteenth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, UNODC has issued two important reports; “Drug Trafficking as a Security Threat in West Africa”,¹ October 2008, and “Transnational Trafficking and

¹ <http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/frontpage/drug-trafficking-as-a-security-threat-in-west-africa.html>.

the rule of Law in West Africa”,² July 2009. Cocaine trafficking to West Africa is showing a declining trend or temporary disruption of the established trafficking routes. It is unclear what is causing the decline and if it will persist. However, the potential disrupting effect of cocaine trafficking through West Africa remains high, giving its extreme value relative to local economies, as well as the region’s under-resourced criminal agencies.

Economic Community of West African States Action Plan to Address the Growing Problem of Illicit Drug Trafficking, Organized Crime and Drug Abuse in West Africa

8. Following the ECOWAS Ministerial Conference on Drug Trafficking as a security threat to West Africa, held in Praia in October 2008, ECOWAS Heads of State and Government at their 35th Ordinary Summit in Abuja on 19 December 2008 endorsed a Political Declaration and a Regional Action Plan aimed at addressing the Growing Problem of Illicit Drug Trafficking, Organized Crime and Drug Abuse in West Africa. The Political Declaration established the basis for a strong political commitment and a detailed cooperation framework to combat drug trafficking and organized crime in West Africa. Since the adoption of the Regional Action Plan, an interdisciplinary Committee has been set up at the Commission to ensure a coordinated approach to address the growing threat of drug trafficking and abuse, organized crime, and related challenges to social and economic development, as well as to the security of the region. In addition an Implementation Plan has been developed, including regional and national level activities. A Monitoring and Evaluation Mechanism, has also been developed, which will also report progress made to the UN Security Council. All documents were adopted by the Heads of State and Government Summit in June 2009. This year, the Commission is also planning training on intelligence-gathering methods and intelligence analysis, as well as the establishment and management of intelligence databases for Member States experts.

9. As a direct response to the implementation of the ECOWAS Action Plan in combating illicit drug trafficking and related organized crime in West Africa, three UN agencies; United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), Department of Political Affairs (UN DPA) and Department of Peace Keeping Operations (UN DPKO) as well as ICPO INTERPOL have entered into unique partnership. The partnership has developed the ambitious Africa West Coast Initiative (WACI) targeting four post-conflict countries; Côte d’Ivoire, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia and Sierra Leone. A core activity in WACI is the establishment of Transnational Crime Units (TCU) in each of the four target countries. TCU should be an inter-agency elite unit responsible for investigation of high level transnational organized crime. WACI also includes integrated programmes for each of the four countries aiming to build national capacities in the areas of law enforcement, forensic, intelligence, border management and money-laundering, as well as strengthening criminal justice systems.

10. UNODC Regional Office for West and Central Africa has launched a Law Enforcement Capacity-building project, funded by Italy, in the Fight against Illicit Drug Trafficking in Selected Countries in West Africa: Guinea-Bissau, Mali, Senegal and Sierra Leone. Based on preliminary assessment missions in July 2009

² <http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/frontpage/2009/July/organized-crime-plundering-west-africa-says-unodc-report-.html>.

and requests formulated by national beneficiaries, a team of specialized trainers will develop and run tailored training programmes for each of the four countries assisted by the project. Training sessions will take place by the end of 2009 and early 2010.

11. The Government of Germany has funded a 400,000 USD project to strengthen national capacities and cross-border cooperation to tackle organized crime and drug trafficking undermining peace and development in the Mano River Union. The project is implemented by UNODC Regional Office for West and Central Africa. This project will serve as a preparatory phase for the joint West Africa Coast Initiative (WACI).

12. UNODC has taken the initiative to develop the Airport Communication Project (AIRCOP), in cooperation with INTERPOL and the World Customs Organization. The objective of the AIRCOP project is to create joint anti-trafficking units in 10 airports on drug trafficking routes in Africa and Brazil and link them with the INTERPOL I-24/7 database and communication system and the World Customs Organization Customs Enforcement Network communication system. It may also be possible to link airports in Africa to airports in source and destination countries. The European Commission has pledged 3 million US dollars to the AIRCOP project, which is expected to start in late 2009, with 36-month duration. The European Commission has also requested UNODC to replicate the AIRCOP project for Latin America and to build synergy between AIRCOP Africa and AIRCOP Latin America.

13. In an attempt to curb the smuggling of cocaine from Latin America to West Africa, UNODC launched a transatlantic intelligence exchange project in 2007. Seven Latin American countries and six West African countries have been selected to participate in the project, as well as European liaison officers that are based in target countries. The project will also cooperate and exchange information with MAOC-N in Lisbon, Portugal and cooperates with INTERPOL and EUROPOL. The three-year project is aimed at establishing a multiregional intelligence exchange mechanism and promoting intelligence-led investigation for drug interdiction in Latin America, West Africa, and Europe. In this context, UNODC developed a web-based Secure Information Exchange System (SIES), linking up officials from the three continents, is organizing a high-level meeting on joint investigations to take place in Bogotá, Colombia in late 2009, and organized several multiregional training courses on intelligence and maritime interdiction in Colombia. Further, West African countries have been provided with and trained on the use of the Real-time Analytical Intelligence Database (RAID), specialized intelligence software that supports investigations.

14. The Global Container Control Programme, which is implemented jointly by UNODC and the World Customs Organization, currently has project sites in South America, Central America, Africa, and Central Asia. At the heart of the initiative lies the setting up of inter-agency Joint Port Control Units (JPCUs), consisting of police, customs, gendarmerie, drug law enforcement, etc. The teams are trained in risk analysis, profiling and container inspection by leading international experts. Primarily set up to tackle the smuggling of drugs, the JPCU's profiling and search activities can also be directed towards preventing the trafficking of arms, counterfeit medicines, toxic waste, stolen vehicles, or cigarettes, in line with local priorities and threat assessments. In Africa, project implementation has been completed in Senegal. The JPCU in the port of Dakar has been trained, equipped and is operational. In Ghana, a JPCU has been established and equipped in the port of Tema in October 2008 and received theoretical and practical training. The team is

fully operational and has already seized more than 200 kg of cocaine as well as stolen cars. In Cape Verde, JPCUs will be set up in three ports. The teams have received theoretical and practical training in September 2009 and are soon to become operational. In Mali, activities are to start in 2010 at Bamako's container terminal (dry port). With funds provided by France, UNODC is planning to conduct assessment missions to ports in Benin, Côte d'Ivoire and Togo in early 2010 and start implementation of activities shortly thereafter.

15. In collaboration with the inter-ministerial drug control committee and the Ministry of Justice of Cape Verde, UNODC is implementing an integrated drug control and crime prevention programme for Cape Verde. A large part of that programme is the Cape Verde anti-trafficking programme, which is aimed at enhancing the capacity of law enforcement agencies in Cape Verde to prevent and combat more effectively the scourge of drugs and organized crime. As part of the programme joint anti-trafficking teams have been established in international airports, intelligence software has been provided to judicial police and other agencies, a state-of-the-art forensic laboratory has been established, a computer based training classroom has been equipped, and UNODC's CBT software developed in Portuguese. An Automated Fingerprint Identification System (AFIS) will be operational in Cape Verde in near future. In mid-2008, UNODC launched a comprehensive law enforcement capacity-building programme for Guinea-Bissau to prevent and combat drug trafficking to and from the country through the establishment of a specialized anti-narcotics unit. The project is in its second phase, which is estimated to last 12 months, and aims to build the capacity of the judicial police in Guinea-Bissau and enhance inter-agency and judiciary cooperation for effective law enforcement. Moreover, a specialized pool of judges and prosecutors will be set up aimed at strengthening the work of the judiciary police judicial cooperation through promoting the use of appropriate legal tools. A third phase, with a 24-month duration, will follow and will aim to enhance the fundamentals for good policing by building a police academy, introducing large training components and providing equipment, and refurbishing four prisons in the country. UNODC has established a project office in Bissau with an international project coordinator (law enforcement advisor) and an international legal adviser.

16. UNODC, Regional Office for West and Central Africa, is launching integrated programmes and strategies on drug control and crime prevention in Mali, where an office is opening, and in Sierra Leone. Additional programmes in Mauritania and the Niger have been prepared but are waiting for funding. Preliminary assessment missions have been conducted in Guinea, while further assessment missions are to be held in Ghana, Burkina Faso, and Benin in the second half of 2009 and early 2010, in order to extend integrated programmes to these countries as well.

17. Following the adoption of the draft uniform law on countering the financing of terrorism by the West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU) in Togo in March 2008, member States were invited to adopt the draft law into national legislation. Senegal finalized this process of adoption in March 2009 and its Financial Intelligence Unit has been accepted as member of Egmont Group since May 2009. The other WAEMU countries are in process of adoption of the law. With a view to developing and coordinating national and regional strategies against money-laundering and the financing of terrorism, UNODC provided expertise during the National Workshop in Togo from 30 to 31 March 2009 on the elaboration of an AML/CFT National Strategy in this country. This activity contributed to strengthen national capacities of experts (reporting entities, law enforcement

officers, etc.) on the development of an AML/CFT. In addition, technical assistance was provided to the Sierra Leone Central Bank on the new AML legislation drafting following a joint WB-UNODC mission which took place in Freetown from 23 to 27 March at the initiative of World Bank and a training workshop on AML for parliamentarians is planned to be held on 1 October 2009 in Sierra Leone to encourage the adoption of the new draft AML legislation; UNODC also participated in the Workshop held in Lomé, Togo from 6-10 April 2009, organized by GIABA for its evaluators. Selected GIABA members States anti-money-laundering experts attended to this activity, which aimed at improving mutual evaluation process in the West African Region. Moreover, in order to provide relevant information on the current and planned initiatives in the issue of money-laundering and terrorism financing in the West African region, UNODC launched the first UNODC GPML's Newsletter on the fight against Money Laundering in West Africa on June 2009.

18. UNODC has continued to provide a computer-based training programme for countering money-laundering in selected West African countries. Following the training offered to law enforcement and other relevant national authorities in Côte d'Ivoire, Niger, Benin and Guinea in 2007, full-fledged CBT centres with complete curricula in money-laundering, law enforcement and anti-trafficking have been established in Jos, Nigeria and Praia, Cape Verde. CBT centres will be established in Accra, Ghana and Freetown, Sierra Leone by the end of 2009.

III. Central Africa

19. Under the framework of the implementation of the AU Action Plan and the assistance to be provided to the regional economic communities, UNODC is planning to field a joint mission with the AU to assess the needs of the Economic Commission for Central African States and develop an operational framework. UNODC is also planning field assessment missions to each of Sao Tome and Principe, Gabon and Cameroon. All these missions are planned to take place in late 2009 and beginning 2010.

IV. Southern Africa

20. There is growing awareness of the need for well-coordinated joint initiatives at the regional and subregional levels to respond to the problems of smuggling of migrants and human trafficking. In this context, UNODC in partnership with Government of South Africa Border Control Operational Coordinating Committee (BCOCC), launched in 2009 a new initiative entitled "Strengthening Law Enforcement Capacity (Border Control Operations) and Criminal Justice System Response to Smuggling of Migrant and Trafficking in Persons". The initiative provides support the South African Border Control Operations Coordinating Committee in the implementation of the National Integrated Border Management Strategy 2008-2010 response to smuggling of migrants and human trafficking in and through South Africa. This entails technical assistance to promote integrated border management by enhancing cooperation between all national border management agencies with the aim of achieving cooperation, coordination, mutual support, information sharing, and joint operations.

21. In the Southern African region, violence against women is rife. The lack of services for survivors, and with that the lack of effective response by law

enforcement officials, make this issue a specific human security problem. UNODC has developed a Handbook for Effective Police Responses to Violence against Women, which aims to furnish law enforcement officials with information that will enable them to recognize and identify key elements in defining violence against women, essential both in the prevention of violence and in their role in cases of violence reported by women. The UNODC Regional Office for Southern Africa in cooperation with Southern African Development Community (SADC) and the Southern African Police Chief's Cooperation Organization (SARPCCO) have embarked on a process to adapt the Handbook to local needs with a view to provide training to law enforcement officials in the SADC region with a view to more effectively respond to women who became victim of violent crime.

22. At the request of the Forensic Working Group of the Southern African Regional Police Chief Cooperation Organization (SARPCCO), UNODC co-organized with INTERPOL Sub-Regional Bureau and the Southern African Police Service (SAPS) a workshop during the last quarter of 2008 in Pretoria, South Africa, to assist the Group to set the basis for a Southern African Regional Forensic Science Network. The countries participating were: Angola, Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland, the United Republic of Tanzania and Zimbabwe. Strengthened international cooperation is a key component to advance forensic sciences to a higher level and to ensure a sustainable Southern Africa support infrastructure for the delivery of forensic services. In addition, it will help to strengthen the presence of the Africa region in the international forensic community. Recognizing that imbalanced equipment levels and capacities in the region hinder efficient international cooperation, UNODC, in consultation with the Forensic Science Laboratory of the SAPS, formulated a subregional cooperation programme.

V. East Africa

23. The Government of Ethiopia and UNODC are implementing a project to curb drug-trafficking activities in Bole International Airport and to improve investigative capacities of Ethiopian drug law enforcement in general. A formalized cooperation agreement has been signed between Ethiopian Federal Police Commission, Ethiopian Revenue and Customs Authority and the Addis Ababa Bole International Airport Administration and a joint anti-trafficking team consisting of staff from police and customs has been created. Sixty-six officers drawn from the three main counterparts of the project have been trained. A training manual, first of its kind in the country, has been developed, printed and used for training the above. Technical equipment has been provided. By the end of 2009 mentorship will be provided by the project.

24. UNODC is working with the Government of Kenya and the other 12 beneficiary countries covered by the UNODC Regional Office in Nairobi on the development and adoption of a regional programme framework for drugs and crime covering the period 2010-2012. The draft regional programme was discussed at a regional expert group meeting in February 2009 in Nairobi and will be reviewed at the Ministerial level in November 2009. The Programme focuses on three programmatic objectives: countering illicit trafficking and organized crime; fighting corruption and promoting justice and integrity; and improving health and human development.

VI. North Africa

25. UNODC and the Libyan Government are working closely on the establishment of a subregional programme office in Tripoli, Libya, that will cover the Maghreb region. With funding from the Libyan Government, the office will focus on addressing Libya's national priorities in the field of drugs and crime and promote subregional border cooperation among Libya and its neighbouring countries.
