Media Advisory

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Regional Ministerial Conference on
“Promoting the Rule of Law and Human Security in Eastern Africa,
Regional Programme 2009-12”

23 - 24 November 2009, Safari Park Hotel & Casino, Nairobi, Kenya

Nairobi, Kenya.

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), Regional Office for Eastern Africa, jointly with the Government of Kenya, is organizing a Regional Ministerial Conference on “Promoting the Rule of Law and Human Security in Eastern Africa” for thirteen countries in the region to discuss and politically endorse the draft Regional Programme “Promoting the Rule of Law and Human Security in Eastern Africa: Regional Programme 2009-12”. The thirteen countries involved in the Regional Programme are; Burundi, Comoros, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Kenya, Madagascar, Mauritius, Rwanda, Seychelles, Somalia, United Republic of Tanzania and Uganda.

The first day of the Regional Ministerial Conference, Monday 23 November, will be opened by Hon. Mutula Kilonzo, Minister of Justice, National Cohesion and Constitutional Affairs, Government of Kenya. The second day of the Conference, Tuesday 24 November, will be opened by the Vice President of Kenya, Hon. Kalonzo Musyoka, together with the UNODC Executive Director, Mr. Antonio Maria Costa. The media is invited to attend the Conference, especially the Press Conference to take place on Tuesday 24 November 2009, 4 pm at the Safari Park Hotel & Casino, after the Conference has been closed by the Prime Minister of Kenya, Rt. Hon. Raila A. Odinga.

The objective of the Regional Programme, elaborated through consultations with national counterparts and based on recommendations collected through a two days regional expert meeting, which took place in Nairobi, 02 – 04 February this year, is aimed at supporting the efforts of the Member States to respond to challenges faced by the Eastern Africa region in the areas of illicit trafficking, organized crime, terrorism, corruption, criminal justice, crime prevention, drug abuse and HIV and AIDS. Thus, the
Conference will have experts, three from each country on the above mentioned substantive areas to finalize the Regional Programme, which will be politically endorsed by the attending Ministers from the region by signing of a Political Declaration. The Conference will be paving the way for a truly concerted effort to enhance the rule of law and human security in the region. The Conference will further gather a wide range of regional stakeholders working in the area of rule of law and human security, including Ministers, technical experts, regional and international organizations, other UN agencies as well as development partners.

The Regional Programme is elaborated in line with the following principles;

- to promote partner countries’ ownership, be aligned with national policies and priorities, be effectively coordinated with other multilateral development agencies, and support mutual accountability for results;
- to focus on key priority areas addressing the main challenges of the concerned countries. The programme will be regularly reviewed and updated with concerned countries to ensure its ongoing relevance and alignment with national and regional priorities;
- It is focused on achieving sustainable reforms in line with international and national commitments on rule of law and public health matters related to UNODC’s mandate;
- In addition to promoting capacity-building at the national level, UNODC will make use of its comparative advantages to facilitate the establishment of legislative and policy norms, the promotion of coordinated cross-border responses, and the exchange of comparative data and information. This would ensure effective international coordination and cooperation through a cross-border, sub-regional and integrated dimension in the fight against transnational crime;
- Programme activities will be based on partnership arrangements that clearly articulate mutual responsibilities and accountability for results.

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) plays a leading role in the fight against illicit trafficking, organized crime and corruption. UNODC Regional Office for Eastern Africa is located in Nairobi, Kenya and covers a total of 13 countries in the region.

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