REPORT OF THE TENTH MEETING OF HEADS OF NATIONAL DRUG LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES, AFRICA, HELD AT ABUJA FROM 20 TO 24 APRIL 1998

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*This report is issued in Arabic, English and French, the working languages of the subsidiary body.*

V.98-53620 (E)
I. MATTERS CALLING FOR ACTION BY THE COMMISSION ON NARCOTIC DRUGS OR BROUGHT TO ITS ATTENTION

Recommendations adopted by the Tenth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Africa

1. The Tenth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies (HONLEA), Africa, made the following recommendations, which had been drawn up by its working groups. For the observations and conclusions of the working groups which led to the recommendations, see chapter III below.

   **Issue 1: Trends and countermeasures in combating criminal drug-trafficking networks in Africa, including those engaged in the trafficking in ephedrine and methaqualone**

   1. States should establish comprehensive database and information systems on drug-related issues.
   
   2. National law enforcement agencies and activities should be strengthened at exit and entry points.
   
   3. States with common borders should enter into bilateral agreements and memoranda of understanding on extradition, cooperation and other drug-related issues.
   
   4. All States that have not yet done so should ratify the relevant United Nations international drug control conventions.
   
   5. States should harmonize drug legislation at subregional levels.
   
   6. States should utilize all available facilities and resources to train law enforcement personnel in identification and detection of drugs and new trafficking trends and modes of concealment.
   
   7. Governments should establish specialized units within their law enforcement structures to deal with the control and licensing of chemicals that are listed by the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1998 as substances used for the illicit manufacture of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances.
8. States that are members of the Customs Co-operation Council (also called the World Customs Organization (WCO)) should ratify the International Convention on mutual administrative assistance for the prevention, investigation and repression of customs offences, adopted at Nairobi on 9 June 1977, known as the Nairobi Convention.

**Issue 2: Controlling and reducing the street-hawking of pharmaceutical preparations containing substances under international control**

9. African Governments should increase their political commitment to fighting street-hawking of drugs and controlled substances and give stronger priority to that phenomenon in the development and implementation of their relevant public health, control and monitoring policies.

10. Public education campaigns and awareness-raising programmes should be undertaken by Governments in order to increase the knowledge within the population of the dangerous and potentially fatal effects of the uncontrolled distribution and use of medicines, including pharmaceutical preparations containing substances under international drug control. Such education campaigns should also provide accurate information on the real effects of active ingredients.

11. Governments that have not yet done so should undertake all necessary steps to become parties to the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971. In particular, African Governments should utilize the reporting and monitoring provisions contained in that Convention.

12. Governments should report their estimated requirements of controlled substances to the International Narcotics Control Board and should seek, as required, assistance from its secretariat at Vienna, or from field offices of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP), in order to improve their reporting capacities.

13. African States should conduct, with the assistance of UNDCP and the World Health Organization (WHO), specific national surveys and studies that identify the detailed patterns and trends of street-hawking of drugs in their countries, so as to be able to develop specific and concrete targeted actions that are in line with the findings of such studies.

14. Law enforcement, regulatory and health authorities need to improve their cooperation in tackling the street-hawking of drugs, as no single authority can end or reduce the scale of the phenomenon. Governments should, therefore, in cooperation with UNDCP, the Board and WHO, increase related training and education programmes for professionals from those sectors, in order to improve their professional knowledge, commitment and results.

15. In countries where laws on controlled substances and appropriate regulatory, monitoring and enforcement provisions are already in place, memoranda of understanding should be concluded with transport and trading companies in order to prevent the transport or distribution of controlled substances by pedlars.

16. Governments should develop comprehensive primary health-care programmes and make them available to every citizen at affordable cost, in order to increase the credibility of health-care programmes and thereby reduce the practice of resorting to charlatans.
**Issue 3: Countering the illicit cultivation of cannabis**

17. States in the African continent should not allow any move in favour of decriminalization or legalization of cultivation and consumption of cannabis.

18. States should engage more vigorously in the eradication of cannabis cultivation.

19. States should provide political support to law enforcement agencies in their fight against cannabis cultivation and abuse.

20. States should consider the following measures to counter cultivation of cannabis and its abuse:
   
   (a) Creation of a drug (including cannabis) awareness programme for their population;
   (b) Implementation of cultivation of alternative crops which would bring to farmers substantially the same level of financial remuneration that cannabis currently offers;
   (c) Promotion of alternative development;
   (d) Establishment of law enforcement units in the cultivation areas with adequate equipment and logistical support.

21. States should introduce or, where necessary, amend their national legislation to enable the confiscation of proceeds of crime relating to cultivation and trafficking in cannabis and other illicit drugs.

22. States should try to harmonize legislations and sentencing practices.

23. States should implement information networks which would be used to communicate and gather information regarding cannabis cultivation and trafficking.

24. States should promote national and international exchange of information, including intelligence.

25. African States should seek the active cooperation of other States in fighting the illicit cultivation, trafficking and abuse of cannabis.

26. The working group decided to set up a committee to draw up a plan of action for the eradication of cultivation of cannabis in Africa. The committee made the following recommendations:
   
   (a) An effective strategy for reducing illicit cultivation of cannabis includes identification and reduction of the area of land devoted to such activity;
   (b) The years 1998 to 2002 should be devoted to the eradication of cannabis in all its forms in Africa;
   (c) Each State should implement the four known techniques of eradication, namely mechanical destruction, burning and chemical and biological techniques;
   (d) Eradication should be on a continuous basis, since one-time eradication does not necessarily reduce the amount of drug extracted in direct proportion to the crops eradicated;
   (e) Crop substitution should involve giving farmers incentives to stop illicit crop cultivation. Mechanisms to achieve this should involve the development of integrated development strategies, including improving road and communication infrastructures to facilitate eradication.
In addition, opportunities should be given to promote the abandonment of illicit cultivation or the migration of labour and farmers away from areas of illicit cultivation; each State should strengthen its anti-narcotics agencies, which are primarily responsible for:

(i) Effective identification of cannabis plantations and destruction thereof;
(ii) Action to increase the number of arrests and prosecutions of cannabis offenders and the forfeiture of their properties;
(iii) Effective promotion of public awareness campaigns from the grass-roots level against the dangers of cannabis production. This should include the establishment of appropriate programmes in all prisons in Africa that mobilize support for the eradication of cannabis and other drugs. Special efforts must be made to enlighten and mobilize African women in the propagation of ideals that make African people desist from cannabis cultivation and abuse;

(g) African States should make adequate budgetary provisions to support the work of their respective anti-narcotics agencies for the eradication of cannabis;

(h) Annual progress reports on cannabis eradication should be made by States of the region and submitted to the secretariat of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) with copies to UNDCP and the secretariat of the International Criminal Police Organization (Interpol).

II. CURRENT SITUATION WITH RESPECT TO REGIONAL AND SUBREGIONAL COOPERATION

2. At the 2nd and 3rd meetings, on 20 and 21 April 1998, the Meeting considered agenda item 3, entitled “Current situation with respect to regional and subregional cooperation”. The Meeting had before it a background paper prepared by the Secretariat (UNDCP/HONLAF/1998/2), which contained an update on the current situation regarding such cooperation.

3. Statements were made by the representatives of Burkina Faso, Djibouti, Ghana, Guinea, Kenya, Lesotho, Namibia, Nigeria, South Africa, Sudan, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe. The observers for the World Customs Organization and Interpol and the representative of the UNDCP Regional Office for West and Central Africa also made statements.

4. UNDCP activities in Africa were commended by many speakers and, in particular, the opening of a new regional office in South Africa was considered an important step towards more effective cooperation in the region. Many speakers praised Interpol for continuing to decentralize its operations by planning to establish a subregional bureau for eastern Africa.

5. There was general agreement that subregional, regional and international cooperation should be improved to combat effectively the increasing drug abuse and illicit trafficking. The geographical location of some countries and their unguarded borders made them particularly vulnerable to illicit drug trafficking. Cooperation and coordination had therefore become essential means of combating illicit drug trafficking.

6. Several representatives mentioned the initiatives undertaken by their Governments to improve cooperation and coordination of activities with other States of the region. Governments had initiated or concluded memoranda of understanding or bilateral or other types of agreements that would serve as general frameworks for greater coordination and cooperation in drug control. Other forms of cooperation were also widely used, such as regular meetings of law enforcement agencies; such means of cooperation had led in many cases to joint
operations. One representative announced the appointment of several drug liaison officers to other African States as a way of increasing cooperation. It was also reported that one European State will shortly open a subregional liaison office in eastern Africa.

7. It was noted that drug abuse and illicit trafficking within the eastern and southern subregions had continued to escalate in recent years. The phenomenon was reflected in the increase in production, trafficking and seizure trends within those subregions. Several cities were increasingly becoming consumption centres, in addition to being used as transit zones.

8. It was pointed out that many seizures of drugs were made as a result of regional and international cooperation involving the exchange of intelligence information, controlled delivery operations and cross-border collaboration between drug law enforcement agencies. Many cases of successful controlled delivery operations involving subregional cooperation in the region of eastern Africa were mentioned. Intelligence and information were exchanged directly with the States concerned, or through the networks of Interpol and WCO. Subregional meetings on security were also often organized in order to identify ways to stop drug traffickers.

9. It was reported that seizures of cocaine, as well as its consumption and trafficking, had increased markedly throughout the continent in recent years. Much of the cocaine seized came from South America, in transit to European or North American markets. Seizures of mandrax and amphetamines, as well as the abuse of those drugs, had also increased, whereas heroin seizures had continued to decrease in recent years in many countries. Furthermore, the confiscation of important equipment for the illicit manufacture of drugs was also reported. Cannabis abuse and trafficking were the main objects of concern of many Governments. Many representatives expressed their apprehension about the African continent becoming the most important producer of cannabis for export to Europe and pleaded for a UNDCP plan for the eradication of illicit cultivation of cannabis throughout the continent. One representative pointed out that production and trafficking of cannabis had escalated in his country as a result of civil conflicts in neighbouring States. One representative reported on the increased efforts made by his Government to counter the illicit cultivation of “Indian cannabis”.

10. Some representatives indicated that national legislation should be adopted to increase penalties for drug trafficking. One speaker proposed the creation of special courts and training of special prosecutors and judiciary to deal more effectively with illicit drug-trafficking cases.

11. Several representatives referred to the modus operandi of traffickers and to measures taken by Governments to counter them. Lately, traffickers had used mail and courier services for an increasing number of drug consignments. Further, large quantities of drugs were smuggled in freight containers to the African continent from both South America and Asia. Those practices were steadily increasing throughout the continent. Some speakers mentioned the involvement of their own nationals for the first time in drug trafficking.

12. The training of law enforcement personnel continued, in the view of many representatives, to play a vital role in improving performances and cooperation among law enforcement agencies. Drug training centres had been established in many States and training at such establishments was also being provided to law enforcement personnel from other States. Some representatives expressed their appreciation for the valuable assistance received from the Drug Enforcement Administration of the United States of America and from the customs services of Germany, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States in sponsoring initiatives in their countries as a means of increasing international cooperation.

13. Interpol continued to cooperate with Governments, in particular in the areas of collection, analysis and dissemination of drug-related information and intelligence. The observer for Interpol reported that, through its computerized system, Interpol was able to rapidly and securely send information to all interested countries. He made reference to regional meetings organized by Interpol in cooperation with African States and to its ever-increasing cooperation with UNDCP and WCO. Interpol participated in the drafting of the programme of action
of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) and expressed its interest in participating in the implementation of that programme. The observer for Interpol also stated that many States should improve cooperation at the national level among their various law enforcement agencies to facilitate cooperation and coordination with international organizations such as Interpol and WCO.

14. WCO had extended its policy of decentralization, concentrating particularly on drug law enforcement, money-laundering and container control. The organization had further strengthened its regional intelligence liaison offices in southern, western and northern Africa. WCO intended to develop the exchange and analysis of information relating to individual seizures of illicit drugs in collaboration with UNDCP and Interpol.

III. IMPLEMENTATION BY STATES OF THE REGION OF RECOMMENDATIONS ADOPTED BY THE EIGHTH MEETING OF HEADS OF NATIONAL DRUG LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES, AFRICA

15. At the 3rd and 4th meetings, on 21 April 1998, the Meeting considered agenda item 4, entitled “Implementation by States of the region of recommendations adopted by the Eighth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Africa”. The Meeting had before it a document prepared by the Secretariat (UNDCP/HONLAF/1998/3), which contained replies to the questionnaire sent to UNDCP by 8 April 1998 on action taken by the Governments of Botswana, Côte d’Ivoire, Ghana, Kenya, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Malawi, Rwanda, Uganda and United Republic of Tanzania to implement those recommendations. Since that date, further replies had been received from Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Egypt, Gabon, Lesotho, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, South Africa, Sudan and Togo.

16. The representatives of Botswana, Burkina Faso, Côte d’Ivoire, Kenya, Madagascar, Namibia, Nigeria, South Africa, Sudan, Togo, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe made statements. The observers for Interpol, the Organization of African Unity and the World Customs Organization also made statements.

17. Several representatives announced the formulation and/or the adoption and implementation of national drug-control master plans to serve as frameworks for national and international cooperation. In some cases, assistance was provided by UNDCP, by the European Union and by non-governmental organizations in the formulation and/or implementation of those national master plans. Further, many representatives reported the establishment of coordination mechanisms and bodies in order to improve coordination and cooperation among national drug law enforcement agencies.

18. Some representatives reported on the establishment of national criminal intelligence services to share information on all aspects of criminality, including drug-related crimes. However, some Governments reported having difficulties in establishing or centralizing those services because of a lack of resources. Meetings between drug law enforcement agencies were held on a regular basis to discuss seizure data and to exchange intelligence or information. Drug training courses were held in many countries as a means of improving performances and results in the fight against drug abuse and illicit trafficking. Several drug training courses had been organized by international organizations and by the Governments of Australia, Germany, United Kingdom and United States. In some cases, officials had been trained in the identification of drugs and in the handling of sniffer dogs.

19. Some Governments reported the conclusion of bilateral agreements to facilitate cross-border cooperation and to identify joint strategies to combat illicit trafficking. Some of those agreements covered issues such as judicial cooperation and extradition. The conclusion of agreements between member States of SADC was also reported. Many States reported using Interpol channels to facilitate communication at the regional and the subregional level. Some States had amended their national legislation to bring it into line with the
1988 Convention. Many delegates appealed for more technical assistance from UNDCP and donor countries in the field of institutional capacity-building and in drafting new, or amending existing, legislation. Some representatives reported the adoption, or the expected adoption, of money-laundering legislation.

20. Many representatives reported that recommendations with regard to the abuse of khat and possible subregional control measures, including eradication, had not yet been implemented in their countries, indicating that khat was not considered an illicit drug and, in addition, that its consumption and cultivation were very limited. However, some representatives announced the adoption or expected adoption in their countries of legislation concerning the abuse and cultivation of khat.

21. Several representatives reported that drug control officers were being trained in container profiling. Training courses were held in various countries and, in some cases, were conducted by the United Kingdom and the United States customs services. Many representatives expressed the need for more training of officials in dealing with the problem of smuggling in containers. In some cases, container depots and storage areas, particularly in ports, had been computerized. However, many representatives pointed out that computerization had not been possible because of a lack of resources. Many Governments reported the use of the controlled delivery technique in their countries, even in the absence of specific provisions in their national legislations. In some countries, national legislation was expected to be adopted to provide the legal framework to allow the use of that technique.

22. Some speakers reported the establishment of special drug intelligence units and of databases for the collection and exchange of information. Many representatives reported on the efforts made in their countries to harmonize the collection of information at both the national and the subregional level.

23. Interpol had provided assistance to many countries in the region by installing computerized communication networks and continued to organize training courses and seminars for drug law enforcement officials. WCO had also provided equipment for data collection as a means of harmonizing the collection of information and strengthening cooperation between intelligence agencies at the national, subregional and international levels. The information was being made available to UNDCP and Interpol. WCO had also organized training seminars on information analysis profiling and trained officials to draw up national models of training for their own countries.

24. Some representatives expressed their concern that African States were relying too heavily on external drug-control assistance rather than increasing their own commitment and resources in the fight against drugs. In that connection, the wish was also expressed that OAU should be more involved in drug programmes in the region. One representative informed the Meeting of the recent OAU ministerial-level meeting held at Pretoria, which reviewed a common African position paper on drugs. That paper was to be submitted to the twentieth special session of the General Assembly devoted to the fight against the illicit production, sale, demand, traffic and distribution of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances and related activities, held from 8 to 10 June 1998. It contained a clause on the categoric rejection of legalization or decriminalization of cannabis in African States and a request to UNDCP to elaborate a special plan for the eradication of cannabis in Africa.

25. One representative proposed the establishment of a drug desk within the secretariat of OAU to assist in coordinating drug programmes with regional UNDCP offices in Africa. The observer for OAU stated that the proposal could not yet be taken into consideration because of its financial implications, but pointed out that a new project involving OAU and UNDCP, started at the end of 1997, would strengthen the OAU capacity for drug control in the region. One representative drew the attention of the Meeting to the need for drug law enforcement agencies in the region to strengthen their commitment in the fight against illicit drug trafficking and to be more results-oriented.
IV. CONSIDERATION OF TOPICS BY WORKING GROUPS

26. At the 5th, 6th, 7th and 8th meetings, on 22 and 23 April 1998, the Meeting established working groups to examine three topics which had been identified at the Ninth Meeting of HONLEA, Africa. The observations made by the working groups and the conclusions reached after consideration of the issues are presented below. For the recommendations formulated by the working groups and approved by the plenary, see chapter I above.

A. Trends and countermeasures in combating criminal drug-trafficking networks in Africa, including those engaged in the trafficking in ephedrine and methaqualone

27. The working group met once, on 23 April 1998, on the topic of trends and countermeasures in combating criminal drug-trafficking networks in Africa. In its consideration of the topic under review, the working group made the following observations:

   (a) There is a slow response on the part of States to requests for data made by international drug control bodies, for example, UNDCP, the Board, Interpol and WCO, because of the lack of comprehensive national database and information systems;

   (b) African States were transit points for the trafficking of drugs from Latin America and central and south-east Asia to Europe, North America and the States members of the Commonwealth of Independent States, because of the smaller market within the African continent;

   (c) Trafficking networks involved citizens from different States within a particular subregion or geographical area. That facilitated cross-border escapes and forgery of travel and import and export documents;

   (d) Trafficking networks exploited weaknesses in legislative and enforcement capacities of countries in order to further their activities;

   (e) New trends in trafficking modus operandi were emerging, including the use of disabled persons, of old and sick people, and of parcel post and express courier services;

   (f) There was a correlation between drug-trafficking networks and other organized criminal groups;

   (g) Illicit synthetic drug-manufacturing facilities were emerging within the continent;

   (h) Along with ephedrine and methaqualone, other potentially harmful substances were becoming increasingly prominent in the illicit market;

   (i) Chemicals that were often used in the illicit manufacture of drugs also had genuine medical and industrial uses;

   (j) There was a lack of adequate training in drug law enforcement matters;

   (k) A number of States had not yet acceded to the relevant international drug control treaties;

   (l) Not all States that were members of WCO had ratified the Nairobi Convention relating to mutual assistance between customs administrations.

28. The working group drew the following conclusions:

   (a) States lacked comprehensive database and information systems;
(b) States within the subregions lacked adequate harmonized legislation and regulatory systems;

(c) Because of inadequate information systems and exchange, States were not always aware of new trends and modus operandi;

(d) There existed a real threat to society as a result of the correlation between drug-trafficking networks and other organized criminal groups;

(e) A new phenomenon was emerging in the form of the establishment within the continent of clandestine drug laboratories;

(f) The diversion of licit medicinal substances for medical use to the illicit market posed serious threats to States;

(g) Inadequate inter-agency collaboration, both at national and subregional levels, resulted in weak law enforcement efforts and duplication;

(h) There was a need for training in all aspects of drug law administration and enforcement.

B. Controlling and reducing the street-hawking of pharmaceutical preparations containing substances under international control

29. The working group met twice, on 22 and 23 April 1998, on the topic of street-hawking. In its consideration of the topic under review, the working group made the following observations:

(a) Street-hawking in African States was undertaken in respect of a huge variety of products, including the increasing distribution of:

(i) Pharmaceutical preparations, including those containing narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances under international control;
(ii) Psychotropic substances under international control;
(iii) Traditional medicines, including herbal preparations;
(iv) Chemicals that could be used for the illicit manufacture of narcotic drugs or psychotropic substances;
(v) Illicit narcotic drugs;

The phenomenon was therefore of growing importance for national health, monitoring and control authorities, including law enforcement officers;

(b) The main reasons for street-hawking of the above-mentioned substances included:

(i) Shortage of pharmacies and, in some cases, lack of professional commitment and professional ethics of pharmacists and medical personnel;
(ii) Health-care facilities that were not available in sufficient number, not always trusted by local communities, not accessible for rural populations, and often not affordable;
(iii) Cultural practices and traditional behaviour of various sections of the population;
(iv) Poverty and lack of education and knowledge on the part of clients of street hawkers;
(c) Fake and counterfeit drugs were also distributed through street hawkers and provided big financial incentives for producers and traffickers of counterfeit drugs;

(d) Street-hawking of drugs had very harmful and dangerous consequences for the population, including drug addiction and abuse, overdosing of drugs and the spread of acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS). It also led, because of its non-controlled nature, to overprescription and polydrug abuse, since doctors did not know which and how many substances their patients received from street hawkers. The population was not sufficiently aware of those dangers;

(e) Smuggling, criminal activities on the part of manufacturers and theft of stored drugs, including stocks of undestroyed fake drugs and expired medicines, were the main sources of hawked substances. The lack of security in hospitals and in storage, wholesale and retail areas, as well as the lack of professional awareness and integrity of personnel in charge of such areas, increased the availability of controlled substances for street hawkers;

(f) Street-hawking was often closely linked to traditional healers and their traditional medicines, including herbal preparations. The contents and active substances of those traditional medicines, which large parts of the population preferred or had to use rather than commercial medicinal products, were often unknown.

30. The working group drew the following conclusions:

(a) African States experienced different patterns and problems with street-hawking. Therefore, greater efforts needed to be made at the national level to identify the detailed aspects of the problem in individual countries or subregions;

(b) States with ties to Europe that were not based on an anglophone historical heritage appeared to be less affected by street-hawking in drugs, and might therefore require different intervention approaches;

(c) Some States lacked legislation to control pharmaceuticals, whereas other States had problems in implementing existing laws. Licensing systems for import, export and national distribution of drugs, including sale, did not exist in some States, only covered parts of the chain of distribution, or were not being fully applied because of insufficient monitoring procedures;

(d) Political awareness of the need to restrict street-hawking and a commitment to that goal appeared insufficient in several African States. The knowledge, commitment and resources of professionals in charge of licit control, application and enforcement of laws also needed to be improved to strengthen action against street hawkers. A stronger professional commitment and dedication to increased action against street-hawking would also contribute to raising political awareness and action;

(e) Any action against street-hawking needed to take into account the strong dependence of parts of the population on traditional healing methods and healers, owing to preference or absence of choice. Professionals in charge of public health, licit control and law enforcement, nevertheless, needed to improve their knowledge in respect of the active ingredients of traditional medicines. That was essential for ensuring that the curative, social and cultural context of the practice could be preserved, while control and monitoring approaches were developed.

C. Countering the illicit cultivation of cannabis

31. The working group met twice on 22 April 1998. In its consideration of the topic under review, the working group made the following observations:
(a) Cultivation of cannabis was widespread in Africa;

(b) Cannabis was the most widely abused illicit drug in Africa, although a large portion of the cultivated cannabis was intended for Europe and North America;

(c) Cannabis was cultivated mostly in remote areas. It therefore became difficult for law enforcement agencies to carry out an accurate survey of the areas under cultivation and to locate and destroy the crops;

(d) Criminal organizations were promoting the illicit cultivation of cannabis for international distribution, and their activities could lead to an increase in cultivation and in the profits derived therefrom. Attractive measures must therefore be put in place and/or strengthened to dissuade those engaged in cultivation from continuing to do so;

(e) Cultivation and abuse of cannabis was affecting African States in the areas of public health, the economy and social stability;

(f) There was an increase in the intercontinental trafficking of cannabis and other illicit drugs.

V. ORGANIZATION OF THE ELEVENTH MEETING OF HEADS OF NATIONAL DRUG LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES, AFRICA

32. At the 9th meeting, on 24 April 1998, the Meeting considered agenda item 6, on the organization of the Eleventh Meeting of HONLEA, Africa. The Meeting had before it a note by the Secretariat (UNDCP/HONLAF/1998/4) drawing attention to certain questions that needed to be addressed concerning the Eleventh Meeting, and containing a draft provisional agenda for that Meeting.

33. The Meeting was reminded of a decision, taken by the Eighth Meeting of HONLEA, Africa, that the status of implementation of recommendations adopted at a meeting of HONLEA, Africa, would be examined two years after their adoption. The implementation of the recommendations adopted at the Tenth Meeting would therefore be examined at the Twelfth Meeting.

34. The Meeting was invited to await the outcome of the twentieth special session of the General Assembly, held in June 1998, and then to identify issues that may have bearing on the agenda of the Eleventh Meeting of HONLEA, Africa. It was therefore decided that the Secretariat would, before the Eleventh Meeting, informally consult States of the region with a view to identifying topics for consideration by working groups.

35. After discussion, the Meeting approved the following draft provisional agenda for submission to the Eleventh Meeting:

1. Election of officers.

2. Adoption of the agenda.

3. Current situation with respect to regional and subregional cooperation.

5. Consideration of topics by ad hoc working groups:
   (a) ...
   (b) ...
   (c) ...


7. Other business.

8. Adoption of the report.

VI. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE MEETING

36. At the 9th meeting, on 24 April 1998, the report of the Tenth Meeting of HONLEA, Africa (UNDCP/HONLAF/1998/L.1 and Add.1-5), including the reports of the working groups and the recommendations contained therein, was adopted.

VII. ORGANIZATION OF THE MEETING

A. Opening and duration of the Meeting

37. The Tenth Meeting of HONLEA, Africa, was held at Abuja, from 20 to 24 April 1998. The Meeting, hosted by the Government of Nigeria, was opened by the Minister of State of the Federal Capital Territory of Abuja. The representative of the Executive Director of UNDCP addressed the opening meeting. The representative of the head of State and Minister of the Federal Capital Territory of Abuja also addressed the opening meeting. A statement was made by the Director General of the National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control.

B. Attendance

38. The following States members of the Economic Commission for Africa were represented: Algeria, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Chad, Côte d’Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Ghana, Guinea, Kenya, Lesotho, Madagascar, Mali, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, Rwanda, South Africa, Sudan, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

39. Canada, France, Germany, United States of America and United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland were represented by observers.

40. The Economic Community of West African States, the International Criminal Police Organization, the Organization of African Unity and the Customs Co-operation Council (also called the World Customs Organization) were represented.

41. UNDCP acted as the secretariat of the Meeting.

C. Election of officers

42. At the first and second meetings, on 20 April 1998, the Tenth Meeting of HONLEA, Africa, elected the following officers by acclamation:
D. Adoption of the agenda

43. At the second meeting, on 20 April 1998, the following agenda was adopted by the Tenth Meeting of HONLEA, Africa:

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda.
3. Current situation with respect to regional and subregional cooperation.
5. Consideration of topics by ad hoc working groups:
   (a) Trends and countermeasures in combating criminal drug-trafficking networks in Africa, including those engaged in the trafficking in ephedrine and methaqualone;
   (b) Controlling and reducing the street-hawking of pharmaceutical preparations containing substances under international control;
   (c) Countering the illicit cultivation of cannabis.
7. Other business.
8. Adoption of the report.

E. Documentation

44. The documents before the Tenth Meeting of HONLEA, Africa, are listed in the annex.

F. Closure of the Meeting

45. Closing statements were made by the representative of UNDCP and by the Chairman.

Notes


### Annex

**LIST OF DOCUMENTS**

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