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**Commission on Narcotic Drugs****Fifty-first session**

Vienna, 10-14 March 2008

Item 3 of the provisional agenda\*

**Thematic debate on the follow-up to the twentieth special session of the General Assembly: general overview and progress achieved by Governments in meeting the goals and targets for the years 2003 and 2008 set out in the Political Declaration adopted by the Assembly at its twentieth special session****Complementary drug-related data and expertise to support the global assessment by Member States of the implementation of the declarations and measures adopted by the General Assembly at its twentieth special session****Report by the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)\*\****Summary*

Pursuant to Commission of Narcotic Drugs resolutions 49/1 “Collection and use of complementary drug-related data and expertise to support the global assessment by Member States of the implementation of the declarations and measures adopted by the General Assembly at its twentieth special session” and 50/12 “Measures to meet the goal of establishing by 2009 the progress achieved in implementing the declarations and measures adopted by the General Assembly at its twentieth special session”, intergovernmental organizations active in the field of international drug control were invited to submit regionally consolidated comparative analyses of the current situation and trends in various areas of drug control in their fields of action with that prevailing in the period 1998-2000. Organizations were also invited to present the actions and changes that had taken

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\* E/CN.7/2008/1.

\*\* The text of the report is reproduced as it was received by the Secretariat.



place in their regions or fields of action in relation to the implementation of the goals and targets set in the Political Declaration and the measures to enhance international cooperation to counter the world drug problem, and related action plans, adopted at the twentieth special session of the General Assembly, 8 to 10 June 1998 (A/RES/S-20/2, A/RES/S-20/3 and A/RES/S-20/4).

Several organizations provided information in response to the above request. In addition, UNODC also received unprocessed data from a number of organizations.<sup>1</sup> Where relevant, this information was used to complement the data provided by Member States through the Biennial Reports Questionnaire (BRQ) and reflected in the fifth report of the Executive Director on the world drug problem (E/CN.7/2008/2 and Addenda 1 to 6).

The report by ECOWAS compares the situation of control in the West African subregion between 1997 and 2007. It shows the administrative and institutional measures taken by the organization in this field.

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<sup>1</sup> ASEAN and China Cooperative Operations in Response to Dangerous Drugs (ACCORD); Caribbean Financial Action Task Force (CFATF); South-American Financial Action Task Force (GAFISUD); South-Caucasus Anti-Drug Programme (SCAD) and the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS).

## **Report by the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)**

Since the adoption of the Praia Political Declaration by the conference of ministers responsible for coordination of drug control activities in the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) on 9 May 1997, a number of activities have been carried out at subregional level to combat drug trafficking in the area of our community. Every year we review the implementation of the requirements of the Praia Regional Plan of Action, and the measures taken on each occasion are along the same lines as those adopted in June 1998 by the United Nations General Assembly at its twentieth special session devoted to countering the world drug problem together.

A table showing the administrative and institutional measures taken by ECOWAS is attached as an annex to this report.

It should however be noted that despite the efforts made by Community institutions, the situation on the ground is still a cause for concern.

The quantities of drugs intercepted by the authorities of various countries in our Community are constantly increasing. In an article published in issue 2433 of the “Jeune Afrique” weekly journal, Marianne Meunier reports a perturbing sharp increase in seizures on the African continent over the past five years, particularly in West Africa.

She states, for example, that 559 kg of cocaine were seized in the region in 2002, 3.6 tons in 2005, 2.8 in 2006, but 5.7 tons between January and August 2007!

The most affected countries are Benin, Cape Verde, Côte d’Ivoire (very recently), Guinea-Bissau, Mauritania and Senegal. Ghana and Togo are also mentioned in INCB reports.

The most worrying case at the moment seems to be that of Guinea-Bissau, where traffickers take advantage of the lack of a fully functioning police force and judicial system to smuggle their “goods”. UNODC is, fortunately, aware of the situation and organized the International Conference on Drug Trafficking in Guinea-Bissau in Lisbon, Portugal in December 2007. The conclusions reached by this conference are clear. The rule of law and an effective administrative and judicial system must be promoted in Guinea-Bissau.

While a completely collapsed system needs to be rebuilt in Guinea-Bissau, in the other countries the existing system needs to be alerted to a serious threat looming on the horizon. Hard drugs are not in fact yet consumed on a large scale in our subregion because of their relatively high price for the pockets of ordinary citizens, but their ever more frequent transit and storage risks making them a commonplace and therefore accessible product if care is not taken.

To save the young people in our subregion, all possible action must be taken to avert such a situation by giving the police forces in our States the necessary prevention and law enforcement resources, by raising awareness among national police and judicial authorities to prevent them from succumbing to propositioning by drug traffickers, by increasing the capacities of the drug control bodies in each

State, and by giving all necessary assistance to the NGOs that are working hard to combat drugs in our various countries.

In our Organization, we will have to ensure that the ECODRUG unit created within the Commission by Decree 1/ES/12/96 is revived, and that the following Community Acts are strictly enforced:

- Resolution A/RES.2/8/97 of the Conference of Heads of State and Government on combating drugs;
- Regulation C/REG 14/10/98 of the Council of Ministers approving the Political Declaration and the Regional Plan of Action and adopting the Revised Regional Plan of Action and Priority Programme 1999-2002;
- Decision A/DEC.8/10/98 of the Conference of Heads of State and Government setting up the ECODRUG Fund.

We would recall that the Lisbon meeting of 19 December 2007 recommended that ECOWAS organize a donor's round table for the ECODRUG Fund to secure additional financing for the programme on Guinea-Bissau and other cross-cutting actions.

The next meeting of the coordinators of the Inter-Ministerial Drug Control Committees (IDCC) is planned for May 2008 in Bissau, in the Republic of Guinea-Bissau.

## Annex

## EVALUATION OF THE REGIONAL PLAN OF ACTION ON COMBATING DRUGS

*Prior to adoption of the Plan of Action  
(status before May 1997)*

*Since May 2007*

1. Lack of appropriate institutional coordination and adequate legislation	The following countries have adopted harmonized legislation: Burkina Faso (12 May 1998); Gambia (20 April 1994); Ghana (7 December 1992); Guinea (1 July 1993); Mali (27 March 1995); Nigeria (1 July 1994); Senegal (30 April 1999); Sierra Leone (2 November 2000); Togo (28 October 1998).
2. Disparities in the systems of the various Member States	An inter-ministerial committee now ensures institutional coordination in each Member State
3. Non-ratification of United Nations Conventions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The ECOWAS Conventions A/P/1/7/92 on extradition and mutual legal assistance have been ratified respectively, thanks to the efforts of the coordinators of IDCC;</li> <li>- The three United Nations conventions against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1961, 1971 and 1988 have been ratified by all Member States of the Community;</li> <li>- Almost all Member States of the Community have adopted a national plan of action on combating drugs. Liberia, Sierra Leone and Burkina Faso have not yet confirmed adoption of their national plan.</li> </ul>
4. Lack of a subregional drug control programme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Regional Plan of Action adopted at Praia on 9 May 1997</li> <li>- A regional priority programme was also approved on 28 October 1998 for the period 1999-2002</li> <li>- Also the UNDCP assistance programme for West Africa under project AD/RAF/94/893</li> </ul>
5. Lack of involvement of the most representative intergovernmental organization (ECOWAS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- ECOWAS is fully involved. Since the adoption of Resolution A/RES.2/8/97 approving the Political Declaration and the Regional Plan of Action, several decisions have been taken.</li> <li>- Nine decisions and resolutions adopted in four years</li> </ul>

*Prior to adoption of the Plan of Action  
(status before May 1997)*

*Since May 2007*

6. Lack of a funding mechanism for drug control activities

- During a 21st summit held in Abuja, Heads of State attended an awareness-raising event on 30 October 2008; in the Ceremony of the Common Flame 1700 kg of various drugs were destroyed in a ceremonial fire. The event was covered by the national and international press.

By Decision A/DEC.8/10/98, the Conference of Heads of State and Government established the ECODRUG Fund for financing drug control activities in West Africa. The first NGO to receive a grant from the ECODRUG Fund was the African Council on Narcotics of Jos, Nigeria in July 2000.

7. Lack of a mechanism for combating money-laundering

The Intergovernmental Action Group against Money Laundering in West Africa (GIABA) was established by Decision A/DEC.6/12/00 of 16 December 2000

8. Connection of the NCBs in all Member States to the Interpol I-24/7 network

All National Central Bureaux connected since 2005

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