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Report of the Twentieth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Africa, held in Nairobi from 13 to 17 September 2010

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



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I. Matters calling for action by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs or brought to its attention

A. Draft resolution recommended for adoption by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs

1. The Twentieth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Control Law Enforcement Agencies (HONLEA), Africa, recommends the adoption by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs of the following draft resolution:

Measures to support African States

The Commission on Narcotic Drugs,

Acknowledging that available funding for African States will progressively diminish as resource requirements for the implementation of the recommendations recently made by the regional meetings of heads of national drug law enforcement agencies increase,

Recommends that the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime:

(a) Mobilize resources and establish a support fund for drug demand and supply reduction and alternative development, and take concrete and urgent action to mobilize resources for logistical support for the implementation of the action plans of member States;

(b) Continue to work decisively to strengthen the human resource capacity of the various entities that make up the drug control chain (such as laboratories, the judiciary and law enforcement agencies);

(c) Contribute to the creation of infrastructure appropriate for addressing the fact that African countries are no longer only used by drug traffickers as transit countries but also as countries in which, to varying degrees, smuggled drugs, particularly cannabis, are used;

(d) Adjust proposed strategies and programmes according to the specific situation of the countries concerned.

B. Recommendations adopted by the Twentieth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Africa

2. The Twentieth Meeting of HONLEA, Africa, adopted the recommendations set forth below, which had been drawn up by the participants of its working groups. For the observations and conclusions of the participants of the working groups that led to the recommendations, see chapter IV below.

Issue 1. Current illicit drug trends in Africa

3. The following recommendations were made with regard to current illicit drug trends in Africa:

(a) The Governments of the region must take steps now to ensure that the appropriate national authorities have the legal power, knowledge, administrative

procedures, training and technical support to exercise effective control over the precursor chemicals used in the manufacture of illicit drugs;

(b) In the light of an increased availability of cocaine and heroin, Governments of the region should be encouraged to take proactive measures to raise public awareness about the dangers of abusing illicit drugs and support the development of rehabilitation and treatment facilities for those who have become dependent on such drugs;

(c) Governments of the region should provide their border control officials with clear instructions to deal with persons travelling with diplomatic passports or other official travel documentation affording the privileges and immunities accorded to legally accredited officials.

Issue 2. Developing effective responses to the investigation of drug trafficking and related crime offences

4. The following recommendations were made with regard to developing effective responses to the investigation of drug trafficking and related crime offences:

(a) Governments must be encouraged to invest in the training, professional development and operational capacity of their drug law enforcement agencies if they expect their policies to be successful in dismantling groups involved in drug trafficking and in effectively disrupting the damaging flow of illicit drugs into their communities;

(b) To attain consistency in the interpretation of national drug legislation and assist prosecutors and judges to become familiar with the application of such legislation, Governments should consider establishing special drug courts;

(c) To dismantle criminal organizations and further deprive those involved in such organizations of illegally acquired wealth, Governments should examine their national money-laundering and asset forfeiture legislation and consider investing the confiscated proceeds of illegally acquired assets into further building the capacity of their drug law enforcement agencies.

Issue 3. Drug trafficking and its corrupting influence on law enforcement

5. The following recommendations were made with regard to drug trafficking and its corrupting influence on law enforcement:

(a) Governments must ensure that their law enforcement officers are adequately paid, professionally trained and properly equipped to perform the duties required of them, and that their law enforcement agencies are sufficiently funded to implement national policies;

(b) Governments should take steps to review the support and funding they provide for the training and professional development of their drug law enforcement officers and to invest more in developing good management and decision-making skills, thereby strengthening integrity and resistance to corruption and improper influence;

(c) Governments are encouraged to ensure that their courts and the officials entrusted with serving the public through the courts are subject to the same critical

review of professional practice, performance and codes of conduct to which the operational arms of law enforcement, which also contribute to the proper implementation of the rule of law, are subject.

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

6. At its 1st and 2nd meetings, on 13 September 2010, the Meeting considered agenda item 3, entitled “Current situation with respect to regional and subregional cooperation in countering drug trafficking”. For its consideration of the item, the Meeting had before it the report of the Secretariat on statistics on drug trafficking trends in Africa and worldwide (UNODC/HONLAF/20/2) and a conference room paper entitled “Current situation with respect to regional and subregional cooperation in countering drug trafficking” (UNODC/HONLAF/20/CRP.1). In addition, the Meeting had before it the national reports submitted by Algeria, Benin, Botswana, Cameroon, Côte d’Ivoire, Egypt, Ghana, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Morocco, Namibia, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Swaziland, Togo, the United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe (UNODC/HONLAF/20/CRP.2-21).

7. A representative of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) introduced the item and made an audio-visual presentation on drug trafficking trends in the region in the context of global drug trafficking. The presentation was based on information provided by Governments to UNODC. Statements were made by the representatives of Senegal, the Sudan, Sierra Leone, Côte d’Ivoire, Malawi, Togo, Benin, Nigeria, Burkina Faso, Ghana, Zambia, Algeria, Botswana, Zimbabwe, Mauritius and the United Republic of Tanzania. The observer for the Russian Federation also made a statement.

8. Most representatives noted that cannabis was the most widely cultivated, trafficked and abused drug in the region. Some representatives reported on the cultivation of cannabis in their countries and emphasized that porous land borders made trafficking in cannabis easy, especially in Southern Africa and West Africa. Several representatives appealed to development partners to pay attention to the problem of cannabis in Africa.

9. Some representatives reported that their Governments had taken various measures, ranging from the eradication of cannabis plant cultivation to alternative development programmes aimed at substituting cannabis plant cultivation with the cultivation of other, licit, crops. However, more resources were needed in order to make crop substitution programmes more successful. It was emphasized that more financial resources and equipment were needed to carry out more effective crop eradication operations. It was noted that alternative development programmes were not applicable in all circumstances, as some illicit cannabis plants were being cultivated in remote and mountainous areas where such programmes were not feasible. Some representatives reported on the use of remote sensing techniques for detecting areas under cannabis plant cultivation.

10. Several representatives referred to the quality of law enforcement-related information and the need for real-time information exchange to support drug law enforcement efforts. In that context, several representatives stressed that more efforts were necessary at the regional and subregional levels, especially in

West Africa, to facilitate information exchange, monitoring of activities and joint investigations and operations, including controlled delivery operations.

11. Several representatives reported on the difficulties encountered by the law enforcement agencies of their Governments in monitoring coasts and land frontiers to prevent drug trafficking.

12. It was noted that the cocaine and heroin that was being smuggled into the region was coming from Latin America and South-West Asia. Several representatives noted that cocaine and heroin were being smuggled through their countries and that recently there had been seizures of those drugs; they also noted the different routes, particularly through West Africa, and the methods of concealment being used by couriers. The fact that cocaine was being trafficked by sea and with the use of charter aircraft was a challenge for West African States, while the use of sea routes for trafficking in heroin was of great concern to East African States. Many of the successful operations involving the seizure of cocaine and heroin had been carried out by authorities at airports, as most of the drugs destined for European markets were transported by air.

13. Several representatives provided information on the current situation with regard to drug trafficking in their countries and reported on the detection of new *modi operandi* used by traffickers to smuggle large quantities of cocaine and heroin into their territories, including the involvement of couriers misusing diplomatic passports and diplomatic pouches.

14. One representative said that traffickers were getting couriers invited to international conferences in South America in order to facilitate the transport of cocaine from South America to Africa. Several representatives noted that cocaine was not being smuggled only to West Africa, but that seizures were also being reported in other subregions.

15. Attention was drawn to the importance of drug law enforcement authorities of countries of the region exchanging intelligence and information on a timely basis, including through embassies, and the need for state-of-the-art equipment for the detection of concealed drugs. In that regard, a number of representatives noted the limited means and know-how available in their countries for the successful identification of couriers who had ingested illicit drugs and called on international entities to provide equipment, in particular scanners, to assist in the detection of such couriers.

16. Several representatives reported on the successful operations conducted within the framework of various subregional bodies such as the Southern African Regional Police Chiefs Cooperation Organization. Many delegates also reported on regional cooperation efforts made through the participation of their Governments in international meetings such as those of HONLEA and regional workshops organized by the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the Intergovernmental Action Group against Money Laundering in Africa. In the view of several representatives, those meetings provided an opportunity for law enforcement officers to exchange information more easily, monitor activities on the ground and carry out joint investigations.

17. A number of representatives mentioned their participation in the Airport Communication Project (AIRCOP) and in the first and second phases of operation "COCAIR", which had been jointly organized by UNODC, the World Customs Organization, the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) and the European Union. Some representatives informed the Meeting about the cooperation between their Governments and the Serious Organised Crime Agency of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the Drug Enforcement Administration of the United States of America and the International Narcotics Control Board, as well as several other Governments.
18. The observer for the Russian Federation informed the Meeting about the "Rainbow 2" plan for reducing the production of opium originating in Afghanistan.
19. One representative noted that cooperation at the international, regional and subregional levels was essential for successfully combating drug traffickers who appeared to be linked to groups trafficking in arms and to terrorist groups, and called for the organization of an international conference aimed at studying that emerging link.
20. In the view of some delegations, better coordination of efforts was also needed at the national level between drug law enforcement agencies such as the police, customs, coastguards and specialized anti-narcotic agencies, to ensure the success of operations against drug traffickers.
21. Several representatives drew attention to the emergence of trafficking in and diversion of precursor chemicals through African countries and urged members of HONLEA, Africa, to be vigilant and to continue to develop capacity in that area. Some representatives reported on the difficulties encountered by Governments in the identification of psychotropic substances due to the lack of testing equipment and adequately trained staff. A number of representatives noted the need for technical cooperation in that regard and some representatives requested UNODC to support them with drug test kits to be employed in the field for quick testing.
22. Forensic assistance was also needed to differentiate between substances in the amphetamine-type stimulant and methamphetamine groups, a difficult task requiring sophisticated forensic laboratory capacity.
23. Some delegates referred to the activities of the regional centre for drug control training in Grand Bassam, Côte d'Ivoire, which had organized several training courses throughout 2009 that had been attended by law enforcement officers from 19 countries in West Africa and Central Africa.
24. With regard to capacity-building, some representatives requested UNODC to assist with training to effectively counter cybercrime and other emerging challenges. One delegation appealed to UNODC to continue to provide assistance in accordance with the provisions of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime.
25. Some representatives informed the Meeting about their drug prevention, treatment and rehabilitation programmes and about the need to devote greater attention and resources to the establishment of rehabilitation centres for the treatment of substance abuse.

III. Implementation of the recommendations adopted by the Eighteenth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Africa

26. At its 2nd meeting, on 13 September 2010, the Meeting considered item 4 of its agenda, entitled “Implementation of the recommendations adopted by the Eighteenth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Africa”. The Meeting had before it a report on the implementation of the recommendations adopted in 2008 by the Eighteenth Meeting of HONLEA, Africa, which had been prepared by the Secretariat on the basis of information provided to UNODC by Governments in response to a questionnaire sent to all States participating in the Eighteenth Meeting of HONLEA, Africa (UNODC/HONLAF/2010/3). As of 16 August 2010, replies had been received from the Governments of Benin, Botswana, Côte d’Ivoire, Egypt, Madagascar, Mauritius, Nigeria, Senegal, Swaziland, Zambia and Zimbabwe. Since that date, completed questionnaires have been received from Angola, Burkina Faso, Comoros, Morocco, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Swaziland and Togo.

27. A representative of the Secretariat made an introductory statement summarizing the main issues to be reported on by Governments on the implementation, at the national level, of the recommendations adopted by the Eighteenth Meeting. During the discussion of the item, statements were made by the representatives of Algeria, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Côte d’Ivoire, Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Mauritius, Morocco, Senegal, Sierra Leone, the Sudan and Togo.

28. Several representatives reported on actions taken by their Governments to implement the recommendations adopted by the Eighteenth Meeting.

29. Several delegates informed the Meeting about the procedures in place in their countries to regulate, in the context of managing the investigation of major drug-related cases, the professional handling, storage and destruction of drugs used as evidence in court (exhibits). In many cases, written codes of procedure for the handling and storage of such drugs existed, demonstrating that there were common standards among countries in the way that such drugs were labelled, sealed, stored and safeguarded to prevent contamination, theft or diversion by other means. In addition, it was reported that such drugs were regularly submitted to laboratories for analysis.

30. In most cases, the decision of whether or not to destroy drugs used as evidence in court rested with the prosecutors, who could order their immediate destruction or preservation pending the conclusion of court proceedings. The ways in which such drugs were destroyed were also similar: for example, national authorities, the press and other organizations and institutions were usually present at the destruction. In some cases, the drugs were destroyed on a day dedicated to the fight against drugs.

31. Some representatives expressed concern at the difficulties faced by their Governments in destroying drugs used as evidence in court because the drugs had to be burned in open air due to the lack of chemical incinerators. Environmental authorities had often expressed concern for the potential danger to human health and air pollution. Another problem was the lack of warehouses for storing the drugs.

32. Some representatives noted that cannabis was the most widely cultivated, trafficked and abused drug in the region, and that countering its proliferation was a priority for many countries. Some representatives noted with concern the detrimental effect that cannabis abuse had on youth and on the social fabric of their societies.

33. The representative of Morocco reported that the efforts made by his Government to eradicate cannabis plant cultivation had resulted in a reduction in more than 67 per cent of the area under such cultivation, according to remote sensing technology, and that the eradication of thousands of hectares of cannabis plant had required the mobilization of substantial human, material and financial resources.

34. Some representatives reported on their Governments' efforts to reduce consumption and raise public awareness of the detrimental effects of cannabis abuse and the illicit cultivation of cannabis plant.

35. Concern was expressed for the leniency with which cannabis-related offences were treated in some European countries, which contributed to a perception in Africa that cannabis was a "soft" drug, which in turn weakened the law enforcement efforts being made to eradicate cannabis in the region.

36. Some representatives emphasized that their Governments had strengthened mechanisms for the surveillance and control of maritime and land borders in order to better counter trafficking in cannabis.

37. A few representatives reported that their Governments had established alternative development programmes and were regularly monitoring farmers and cultivated areas as part of their efforts to reduce the illicit cultivation of cannabis plant. More assistance was requested from international bodies to support alternative development programmes.

38. Several representatives reported on the efforts of their Governments to ensure effective control over precursor chemicals. The growing importance of the issue of precursor control, including the role of cooperation and sharing of information among the relevant national authorities and law enforcement agencies involved in countering trafficking in precursor chemicals, was emphasized by many representatives. Several representatives reported on the measures taken by their Governments to ensure effective precursor control.

39. Some representatives noted that mechanisms to monitor the import and export of precursor chemicals were in place but that support was needed to provide law enforcement and customs officials with the necessary training and equipment to effectively control the trade in precursor chemicals, as set forth in the recommendations on that issue (see para. 3 (a) above). Governments of the region also made use of the Pre-Export Notification Online (PEN Online) system of the International Narcotics Control Board to enhance information-sharing and identify suspicious transactions.

40. A few representatives reported on their Governments' efforts to establish or maintain close cooperation with the private sector in order to monitor and prevent the diversion of precursors and other essential chemicals. Some representatives noted that, in their countries, chemical monitoring programmes, in cooperation with other stakeholders, were already in place, and that good working relationships with

industries had been established. It was also reported that, although national legislation provided for the monitoring and control of such precursors and that the ministries of health usually issued import and export licenses, there was still room for improvement with regard to the coordination between the ministries of health and law enforcement agencies to ensure the effectiveness of the monitoring system.

41. Some representatives noted that adequate legislation and measures should be adopted by Governments in order to prevent the diversion of substances licitly manufactured for medical purposes to illicit markets in the region. In that regard, one representative called for support in order to fully implement Commission on Narcotic Drugs resolution 51/13, entitled “Responding to the threat posed by the distribution of internationally controlled drugs on the unregulated market”.

IV. Consideration of topics by working groups

42. At its 2nd to 6th meetings, held from 13 to 15 September 2010, the Meeting established working groups to examine three issues under agenda item 5, entitled “Consideration of topics by working groups”. The observations made by the participants of the working groups and the conclusions they reached are presented below. The recommendations made by the participants of the working groups and adopted at the Meeting are included in chapter I above.

Issue 1. Current illicit drug trends in Africa

43. The working group on issue 1 held two meetings, on 14 September 2010. During the working group’s consideration of the issue, participants made the following observations:

(a) The problem of illicit cannabis plant cultivation remains a serious challenge to the countries and communities of Africa;

(b) It is becoming increasingly imperative that African Governments develop effective procedures and strategies for controlling precursor chemicals used in the manufacture of illicit drugs, as an increasing number of shipments of those substances under international control are being identified by authorities and intercepted, seized or prevented from being diverted into illicit channels across the region;

(c) The payment with illicit drugs such as cocaine and heroin by non-African trafficking groups for the assistance and services of locally recruited Africans is fuelling the increasing access to and abuse of illicit drugs in Africa;

(d) Rehabilitation centres and programmes for drug users are costly to run but are needed in order to offer effective assistance aimed at preventing former drug-dependent people from returning to drug use;

(e) Attempts by traffickers to fraudulently use diplomatic passports and bags to smuggle illicit drugs across the region is of growing concern to authorities;

(f) The smuggling of illicit drugs by using fishing vessels, mother ships and commercial sea freight containers continues to challenge the drug law enforcement authorities of countries in the region.

44. The working group drew the following conclusions:

(a) Accurate surveys of the cultivation of cannabis plant in Africa are needed to enable Governments and the international community to properly assess the true size of the problem and devise the necessary strategies to address it;

(b) Warning bells should be sounded in the continent's capitals with regard to the increase in precursor chemical interceptions reported by the border control authorities of African countries;

(c) Drug law enforcement authorities have an important role and contribution to make to public education programmes on the danger and effects of illicit drug abuse;

(d) Ministries of foreign affairs should provide clear guidelines and instructions to border agencies to deal with persons travelling with diplomatic passports or other official travel documentations affording the privileges and immunities accorded to legally accredited officials;

(e) An effective response to illicit maritime trafficking requires close cooperation between civilian and military national law enforcement agencies.

Issue 2. Developing effective responses to the investigation of drug trafficking and related crime offences

45. The working group on issue 2 held two meetings, on 14 and 15 September 2010. In the working group's consideration of the issue, participants made the following observations:

(a) A good investigator must have a sound knowledge of the law, a high level of personal integrity and professional and other skills, including competent note-taking abilities and effective interview techniques;

(b) Planning, preparation and safety are key to successfully investigating cases of drug trafficking and related offences;

(c) Law enforcement agencies must ensure their investigators are well trained and familiar with crime scene management and evidence handling;

(d) Although operational cooperation between police, customs and other agencies responding to drug trafficking is increasing, more information needs to be exchanged between Africa's drug law enforcement agencies;

(e) Judges need training in national anti-narcotic legislation to overcome the problems that arise when courts unfamiliar with such serious offences are required to deal with them;

(f) Many courts are not consistent in the way they interpret and apply the law, which can result in the passing of inconsistent sentences or penalties to offenders;

(g) Drug trafficking syndicates are driven by the expectation of high financial gains.

46. The working group drew the following conclusions:

(a) Drug law enforcement investigators must be well trained, professional in their approach, knowledgeable in the law and familiar with their agency's procedures;

(b) Effective investigators require ongoing professional training in order to develop the knowledge and skills required in an ever-changing world where traffickers use increasingly sophisticated technology and adopt increasingly sophisticated *modi operandi*;

(c) A multiagency approach that includes, for example, police, customs, prosecutors and financial intelligence units is the most effective response to drug trafficking because it focuses the combined power of the legislative branch, human resources and technical support on trafficking syndicates;

(d) Legally removing the financial motive for drug trafficking from those who have been caught engaged in this activity has the twofold effect of communicating a strong deterrent message to other traffickers or potential traffickers and of disrupting any future operational effectiveness;

(e) The setting up of special drug courts to deal with cases involving illicit drugs would develop the ability of prosecutors and judges to interpret and apply national drug legislation.

Issue 3. Drug trafficking and its corrupting influence on law enforcement

47. The working group on issue 3 held two meetings, on 15 September 2010. In its consideration of the issue, the participants of the working group made the following observations:

(a) Corruption within law enforcement agencies is a form of misconduct designed to obtain financial benefit or other personal gain in exchange for not carrying out or selectively carrying out official duties;

(b) Corruption is a cross-cutting issue that affects individuals and performance in both the public and private sectors and that can take many forms, such as asking for or accepting bribes, breaking agency codes of conduct, acting in a criminal manner and improperly attempting to influence decision-making;

(c) Factors that facilitate corruption across Africa include: inadequate salaries, high living costs, poor training and insufficient funding or resources to perform official duties;

(d) Despite the difficulties sometimes encountered with the way in which representatives of the media report on the performance of law enforcement agencies, truly professional agencies should view balanced reporting on their performance as important for gaining public confidence.

48. The working group drew the following conclusions:

(a) Corruption that is actively or passively condoned can have a negative impact on the effectiveness and morale of law enforcement agencies; the perception of being corrupt or of supporting unprofessional practices harms the reputation of all law enforcement organizations and undermines their influence;

(b) The national media have an important role to play in promoting public confidence in the law enforcement services provided by the Government;

(c) Improving the conditions of service within the police and other law enforcement agencies responsible for combating drug trafficking and organized crime in Africa would constitute a significant step towards strengthening those agencies' resistance to corruption;

(d) Good management, the availability of training that adds value and worth to an officer's professionalism and recognition and reward for honest service and good performance are important factors contributing to the fight against corruption;

(e) Taking proactive measures to identify and investigate corruption, such as establishing special inspectorate teams or separate and independent public bodies to investigate allegations of misconduct, have proven effective in regaining public confidence.

V. Follow-up to the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem

49. At its 7th meeting, on 16 September 2010, the Meeting considered item 6 of its agenda, entitled "Follow-up to the Political declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem". For its consideration of the item, the Meeting had before it the report of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs on the outcome of the high-level segment of the fifty-second session of the Commission on progress achieved in meeting the goals and targets set out in the Political Declaration adopted by the General Assembly at its twentieth session.

50. The Secretary of the Meeting made an introductory statement. Statements were also made by the representatives of the Sudan, Togo, Benin, Sierra Leone, Kenya, Senegal, Malawi, Zambia, Cameroon, South Africa, the United Republic of Tanzania, Zimbabwe, Ghana and Botswana.

51. In her introductory statement, the Secretary provided an overview of the areas covered and the main actions envisaged in the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem, adopted during the high-level segment of the fifty-second session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, as well as of the new commitments made by Member States therein. Attention was drawn in particular to the sections of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action relating to drug supply reduction and related measures. The Secretariat drew attention to General Assembly resolution 64/182, in which the Assembly had encouraged the meetings of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies and of the Subcommission on Illicit Drug Traffic and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs to continue to contribute to the strengthening of regional and international cooperation.

52. Several representatives provided information on the main actions taken by their Government to implement the Political Declaration and Plan of Action,

especially with regard to demand reduction programmes, including measures against HIV/AIDS. It was noted that decisive measures had been adopted by Governments to reduce drug abuse, including through awareness-raising campaigns targeting youth and other vulnerable groups. Family-based initiatives had also been promoted with a view to prevent drug abuse. It was reported that, in some countries, rehabilitation centres for the treatment of drug abuse had not been established or were privately owned. In some cases, psychiatric hospitals were the only institutions available for the treatment and rehabilitation of drug users. In that regard, some representatives pointed out that more attention and resources needed to be devoted to the establishment of rehabilitation centres to facilitate the treatment of drug dependent persons without making them feel stigmatized. One representative informed the Meeting that his country was cooperating with a Government of the region to construct such rehabilitation centres.

53. Some representatives reported that although national plans were in place in their countries, no resources had been made available by donors for the evaluation or implementation of those plans. A few representatives noted that the recommendations contained in the ECOWAS Regional Action Plan to Address the Growing Problem of Illicit Drug Trafficking, Organized Crimes and Drug Abuse in West Africa (2008-2011) had not been implemented yet.

54. Some representatives appealed to development partners to devote more attention to the problem of cannabis in Africa. They indicated their frustration with what, in their view, was lack of support and action by donor countries and organizations in that regard and appealed for the establishment of alternative development cooperation programmes targeting illicit cannabis plant cultivation in Africa, as well as for assistance in the destruction of illicit drug crops and illicit drugs and in the provision of support to farmers. It was noted that, in Africa, weak economies had responded to the demand for illicit drugs from developed countries. In that light, some representatives urged development partners to reduce the demand for illicit drugs, especially cannabis, in their own countries, thereby facilitating supply reduction in Africa, and called for measures aimed at effectively substituting illicit drug crop cultivation with other economic activities.

55. The need for increased cooperation among Member States to strengthen the control of amphetamine-type stimulants and the need to provide financial and other support to Governments in order to implement related measures were emphasized. Reference was made to the decision made in the Political Declaration to establish 2019 as a target date for States to eliminate or reduce significantly and measurably the illicit cultivation of opium poppy, coca bush and cannabis plant; the illicit demand for narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, and drug-related health and social risks; the illicit production, manufacture, marketing and distribution of, and trafficking in, psychotropic substances, including synthetic drugs; the diversion of and illicit trafficking in precursors; and money-laundering related to illicit drugs. The need to ensure the provision to States of technical assistance, including capacity-building, to facilitate the implementation of those targets under the principle of shared responsibility was also emphasized.

VI. Organization of the Twenty-first Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Africa

56. At its 8th meeting, on 16 September 2010, the Meeting considered agenda item 7, entitled “Organization of the Twenty-first Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Africa”. For its consideration of the item, the Meeting had before it a note by the Secretariat (UNODC/HONLAF/20/4) drawing attention to certain issues that needed to be addressed by the Twentieth Meeting of HONLEA, Africa, in order to prepare for the Twenty-first Meeting and containing a draft provisional agenda for the latter Meeting. The Secretary made an introductory statement. Statements were also made by the representatives of Mauritius, Burkina Faso, Sierra Leone, Côte d’Ivoire, Benin, Algeria, Zambia, Ghana, Togo, Senegal and Zimbabwe.

57. The Secretary outlined the matters to be addressed by the Twenty-first Meeting in its consideration of the item and the provisional agenda for that Meeting, and informed participants that the period from 5 to 9 September 2011 had been tentatively reserved for the Twenty-first Meeting. The Chair explained the importance of determining the arrangements for the Twenty-first Meeting and defining the topics to be considered by working groups in 2011 under agenda item 5.

58. As there were no offers to host the Twenty-first Meeting, one representative appealed to Governments of the region to try to host subsequent meetings of HONLEA, Africa, to facilitate delegates’ participation. The Chair called on the Secretariat to provide interested delegations with the relevant background information and to consult with Governments with a view to arriving at an appropriate arrangement, including the possibility of one country hosting the meeting in 2011.

59. The following topics were proposed for discussion by the working groups of the Twenty-first Meeting of HONLEA, Africa: (a) controlled delivery operations and the importance of quick responses, contact points and familiarity with the procedures and methods used when conducting such operations; (b) countering the use of the Internet for drug trafficking; (c) using intelligence and surveillance in counter-narcotic operations and building trust and confidence between law enforcement agencies; (d) precursor control: effective action with regard to chemicals currently under international control and discussion of the growing number of substitute chemicals; (e) managing crime scenes, gathering forensic evidence and analysing drugs; and (f) establishing drug courts and methods of procedure and sentencing to improve legal mechanisms against drug trafficking. The Chair instructed the Secretariat to formulate those topics into themes for consideration by working groups on the basis of the priorities in the region and in consultation with members of HONLEA, Africa, as required.

60. The Meeting approved the following draft provisional agenda for the Twenty-first Meeting of HONLEA, Africa, to be finalized by the Secretariat in collaboration with interested States of the region:

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda.

3. Current situation with respect to regional and subregional cooperation in countering drug trafficking.
4. Implementation of the recommendations adopted by the Nineteenth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Africa.
5. Consideration of topics by working groups: [*to be determined*].
6. Follow-up to the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem, adopted at the high-level segment of the fifty-second session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs.
7. Organization of the Twenty-second Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Africa.
8. Other business.
9. Adoption of the report.

VII. Other business

61. At its 8th meeting, on 16 September 2010, the Meeting considered agenda item 8, entitled “Other business”. The Secretariat made an introductory statement on the survey on the functioning of the subsidiary bodies of the Commission. Statements were made by the representatives of Benin, Senegal, Côte d’Ivoire, Cameroon, Ghana, Nigeria and Burkina Faso.

62. In 2009 and early 2010, the Secretariat had conducted a review of responses by members of the subsidiary bodies of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs to a questionnaire on the functioning of the subsidiary bodies of the Commission. An analysis of those responses was presented to the Commission at its fifty-third session, held from 8 to 12 March 2010, in a conference room paper that was also submitted to the Twentieth Meeting of HONLEA, Africa, for its consideration, with a view to making recommendations for consideration and action by the Commission at its fifty-fourth session (UNODC/HONLAF/20/5).

63. The Secretariat informed the Meeting that it had received responses from 22 African countries, the highest number of responses received from any region. Having taken note of the recommendations contained in UNODC/HONLAF/20/5, the Meeting agreed that the Commission on Narcotic Drugs should pay more attention to the recommendations adopted by the Commission’s subsidiary bodies. The Meeting also agreed that the recommendations stemming from the Commission’s subsidiary bodies should be manageable within the existing resources available for the HONLEA meetings and that the recommendations adopted by the regional HONLEA meetings should be highlighted by delegates playing an active role (or delegating such active role), during the discussions taking place under item 5 of the agenda of the Commission.

64. The Meeting recommended the adoption of a draft resolution by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs at its fifty-fourth session, in 2011 (see para. 1 above). The Meeting also recommended that particular attention be given by the Commission to the problem of cannabis in Africa.

VIII. Adoption of the report

65. At its 8th meeting, on 16 September 2010, the Twentieth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Africa, adopted its report (UNODC/HONLAF/20/L.1 and Add.1-5). The reports of the working groups and the recommendations contained therein, as orally revised, were also adopted.

IX. Organization of the Meeting

A. Opening and duration of the Meeting

66. The Twentieth Meeting of HONLEA, Africa, was organized by UNODC and held in Nairobi from 13 to 17 September 2010. The representative of the Executive Director of UNODC made an opening statement.

B. Attendance

67. The following States were represented at the Twentieth Meeting of HONLEA, Africa: Algeria, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Egypt, Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Mauritius, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Sudan, Swaziland, Togo, United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

68. The following States were represented by observers: Germany, Russian Federation, Spain and the United States of America.

69. The Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS, the World Health Organization and INTERPOL were represented by observers.

C. Election of officers

70. At its 1st meeting, on 13 September 2010, the Meeting elected the following officers by acclamation:

Chairman: Kande Bangura (Sierra Leone)

Vice-chairmen: Mark Tong Ewuntomah (Ghana)

Gnoleba Lucien Solou (Côte d'Ivoire)

Rapporteur: Lilian Mundia (Namibia)

D. Adoption of the agenda

71. At the same meeting, the Meeting adopted the following agenda:

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda.

3. Current situation with respect to regional and subregional cooperation in countering drug trafficking.
4. Implementation of the recommendations adopted by the Eighteenth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Africa.
5. Consideration of topics by working groups:
 - (a) Current illicit drug trends in Africa;
 - (b) Developing effective responses to the investigation of drug trafficking and related crime offences;
 - (c) Drug trafficking and its corrupting influence on law enforcement.
6. Follow-up to the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem.
7. Organization of the Twenty-first Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Africa.
8. Other business.
9. Adoption of the report of the Twentieth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Africa.

E. Documentation

72. The documents before the Twentieth Meeting of HONLEA, Africa, are listed in the annex.

X. Closure of the Meeting

73. The Chair made a closing statement.

Annex

List of documents before the Twentieth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Africa

<i>Document number</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>	<i>Title or description</i>
UNODC/HONLAF/20/1	2	Provisional agenda, annotations and programme of work
UNODC/HONLAF/20/2	3	Report of the Secretariat on statistics on drug trafficking trends in Africa and worldwide
UNODC/HONLAF/20/3	4	Implementation of the recommendations adopted by the Eighteenth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Africa
UNODC/HONLAF/20/4	7	Organization of the Twenty-first Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Africa
UNODC/HONLAF/20/5	7	Note by the Secretariat on review of the functioning of the subsidiary bodies of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs
UNODC/HONLAF/20/L.1 and Add.1-5	8	Draft report
UNODC/HONLAF/20/CRP.1	3	Current situation with respect to subregional and regional cooperation in countering drug trafficking
UNODC/HONLAF/20/CRP.2-21	3	Country reports