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## Report of the Eighteenth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Africa, held in Yamoussoukro from 8 to 12 September 2008

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



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

### **Recommendations adopted by the Eighteenth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Africa**

1. The Eighteenth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies (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. Managing the investigation of major drug cases and the professional handling of exhibits**

2. The following recommendations were made with regard to managing the investigation of major drug cases and the professional handling of exhibits:

(a) Governments should adopt legislation allowing for the immediate destruction of significant amounts of seized drugs after the analysis of the drugs and before the conclusion of court proceedings;

(b) A written code of procedure for the handling and storage of exhibits should be introduced;

(c) In managing the investigation of major drug cases, States were urged to make use of the incidence response teams of the International Criminal Police Organization and to engage in international cooperation;

(d) Governments should strive towards proactive investigations of drug cases based on the analysis of intelligence.

#### **Issue 2. Developing successful strategies to address trafficking in cannabis**

3. The following recommendations were made with regard to developing successful strategies to address trafficking in cannabis:

(a) Governments should develop a multifaceted strategy and action plans to counter the illicit production of, trafficking in and abuse of cannabis, with particular emphasis on support for marginalized areas at risk of illicit cannabis cultivation;

(b) Governments should put in place sustainable alternative development and crop substitution programmes;

(c) Bilateral, subregional and regional cooperation should be enhanced among competent law enforcement authorities to counter the illicit cultivation of and trafficking in cannabis;

(d) Governments should support awareness-raising programmes among their populations, and should involve civil society, non-governmental organizations and the media;

(e) The international community should assist African countries in their fight against illicit cannabis cultivation, trafficking and abuse.

### **Issue 3. Trafficking in amphetamine-type stimulants and associated problems of precursor control**

4. The following recommendations were made with regard to trafficking in amphetamine-type stimulants and associated problems of precursor control:

(a) Law enforcement agencies should establish or maintain close cooperation with the private sector in order to monitor and prevent diversion of precursors and other essential chemicals;

(b) The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, in cooperation with Egypt, South Africa and any other country with similar competence, should work towards setting up an accredited training programme for the provision of certified training courses on the monitoring of precursor chemicals at the beginner and advanced levels;

(c) Governments should adopt adequate legislation governing the pharmaceutical sector to monitor the importation of precursor chemicals and to avoid the diversion of substances licitly manufactured for medical purposes;

(d) Governments should promote prevention campaigns to raise awareness about the effects of the abuse of amphetamine-type stimulants.

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

5. At its 1st and 2nd meetings, on 8 September 2008, 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 a paper prepared by the Secretariat, entitled "Current situation with respect to regional and subregional cooperation in countering drug trafficking" (UNODC/HONLAF/2008/2). It also had before it a conference room paper entitled "Statistics on drug trafficking trends in Africa and worldwide" (UNODC/HONLAF/2008/CRP.1). In addition, national reports were submitted by Algeria, Angola, Côte d'Ivoire, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Egypt, Ghana, Guinea, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Namibia, the Niger, Nigeria, South Africa, Swaziland, Togo, Uganda and Zimbabwe (UNODC/HONLAF/2008/CRP.2-19).

6. A representative of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) introduced the item and, through an audio-visual presentation, provided an overview of regional and global trends on drug crop cultivation and illicit drug production and trafficking. The presentation was based on information provided by Governments through the annual reports questionnaire for the years up to and including 2005, information such as country reports received by UNODC or information submitted to the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, as well as on information contained in *World Drug Report 2008*.<sup>1</sup> The representative also gave an overview of the law enforcement programmes currently being implemented in the region by UNODC, in cooperation with Governments and international organizations.

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<sup>1</sup> *World Drug Report 2008* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.08.XI.1).

7. Statements were made by the representatives of Botswana, Burkina Faso, Egypt, Guinea-Bissau, Namibia, the Niger, Nigeria and South Africa. The observers for Germany, the Russian Federation and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) also made statements, and the representative of Côte d'Ivoire and the observer for the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) made audio-visual presentations.

8. The representative of Côte d'Ivoire presented an overview of the relevant regional, subregional and national institutions that provided frameworks for cooperation and coordination among law enforcement authorities in countering drug trafficking in the region and reported on the difficulties encountered in ensuring such cooperation and coordination. The representative also gave an overview of the current situation with respect to drug trafficking and seizures made in Côte d'Ivoire and on the recent increase in cannabis cultivation in Côte d'Ivoire, which he stated was most likely due to the recent reduction in the price of cash crops. The representative also reported on the detection of new *modi operandi* used by traffickers to smuggle large quantities of cocaine and heroin into Côte d'Ivoire.

9. The observer for INTERPOL reported on recent trends in trafficking in cocaine, with particular emphasis on examples from West Africa, and gave a brief introduction on the technical assistance programmes provided by INTERPOL to countries in the region. During his presentation, the observer highlighted the increased use of commercial airports in West Africa as departure points for cocaine destined not only to countries in Europe and the United States of America but also to Australia, China, Thailand and Turkey. The observer noted that shipments of cocaine arrived in West Africa in bulk quantities and were repacked and smuggled on to other destinations using individual couriers rather than larger shipments and containers. He stated that overland trafficking within West African countries was also increasing and that land routes leading from west to east were increasingly being used for trafficking in cocaine. The observer noted that very few interceptions were made on departure from West African countries in comparison with interceptions at arrival destinations in Europe and suggested, in order to increase interceptions in Africa: improving operational links between the offices of INTERPOL in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, and Buenos Aires; organizing additional regional intelligence meetings; and planning a strategy and increasing cross-border investigations and operations among law enforcement agencies in Africa. Finally, the observer emphasized that exchange of information between African authorities and their South American counterparts could be improved in order to identify and detect South American traffickers operating in the region.

10. The representative of Burkina Faso reported on a recently convened meeting with one of its neighbouring countries during which, *inter alia*, the issues of countering drug trafficking and devising a strategy to strengthen cooperation, information-sharing and border control were addressed. He also highlighted efforts in his country to train law enforcement officers and expressed the need for further training in investigation techniques in order to ensure the success of investigations and follow-up of interceptions.

11. The observer for the Russian Federation gave an overview of the successful operations carried out with counterparts in the region and highlighted the importance of multilateral and bilateral memorandums of understanding and agreements in ensuring the successful investigation and prosecution of drug-related

cases. He further drew the attention of the Meeting to the issue of trafficking in cannabis, in particular to the fact that one third of the cannabis trafficked worldwide originated in Africa.

12. As a measure to strengthen cooperation between countries and the law enforcement agencies of the region, the observer for ECOWAS reported that a ministerial meeting was to be held in Cape Verde from 28 to 29 October 2008. A meeting of civil society organizations, to be held in Abuja on 16 October 2008, and an expert group meeting, to be held in Cape Verde from 26 to 27 October 2008, had also been organized.

13. Several representatives and observers made interventions on the mechanisms that they had in place and on their countries' efforts in countering trafficking in precursor chemicals, including participation in projects such as Project Prism, and on the usefulness of the Pre-Export Notification Online (PEN Online) system of the International Narcotics Control Board. One representative reported on the lack of information on the pre-notification system and on the insufficient training on precursor control among his country's customs officials. Several representatives urged other countries to share information and to cooperate in order to counter the illicit sale, export and import of precursor chemicals.

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

14. At its 2nd meeting, on 8 September 2008, the Meeting considered item 4 of its agenda, entitled "Implementation of the recommendations adopted by the Sixteenth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Africa". The Meeting had before it a paper prepared by the Secretariat (UNODC/HONLAF/2008/3) on the basis of information provided by Governments in response to a questionnaire sent to all States participating in the Meeting of HONLEA, Africa. The paper reflected the replies that the Secretariat had received by 15 August 2008 from the Governments of Algeria, Angola, Burkina Faso, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ghana, Guinea, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, South Africa, Swaziland and Tunisia. Since that date, completed questionnaires had been submitted by Burundi, Egypt, Lesotho, Mauritius, Nigeria and Zimbabwe.

15. A representative of the Secretariat made an introductory statement summarizing the main actions reported by Governments to implement the recommendations at the national level, the results achieved and the difficulties encountered. During the discussion of the item, statements were made by the representatives of Botswana, Côte d'Ivoire, Egypt, Ghana, Guinea-Bissau, Morocco, the Niger, Nigeria, South Africa and Uganda.

16. Several representatives reported on actions their Governments had taken to implement recommendations adopted by the Sixteenth Meeting of HONLEA, Africa, in 2006.

17. Several 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. Several representatives noted with concern the detrimental effect of cannabis abuse on youth and on the social fabric of their societies.

18. The representative of South Africa reported that cannabis continued to be used in his country for recreational purposes and that heroin was being mixed with cannabis when smoked. In his view, law enforcement authorities needed to devote more attention to that phenomenon.

19. Several representatives reported on their efforts to raise awareness among their populations with regard to the detrimental effects of cannabis abuse and its illicit cultivation. The representative of Côte d'Ivoire reported that a national day had been dedicated to the fight against the abuse of cannabis and that a survey on illicit cannabis cultivation and abuse had been recently carried out by drug law enforcement authorities in order to enhance the responses by national authorities to that threat.

20. Many representatives reported on their efforts in eradicating illicit cannabis cultivation within their national borders. The representative of Morocco reported that the efforts undertaken by his Government to eradicate cannabis cultivation had resulted in reducing by more than 46 per cent the cultivated areas and that the eradication of thousands of hectares in the period 2003-2008 had required the mobilization of substantial human, material and financial resources. He also highlighted that the increase in cannabis demand and the absence of a common policy on cannabis in Europe could weaken the efforts of Morocco. The representative also emphasized that Morocco had strengthened the mechanisms of surveillance and control of its maritime and land borders in order to better counter international drug trafficking.

21. A few representatives reported that they had in place alternative development programmes and were continuously monitoring farmers and cultivated areas as part of their efforts to reduce the illicit cultivation of cannabis.

22. Several representatives reported on the efforts of their Governments in ensuring effective control over the precursors listed in tables I and II of the United Nations Convention on Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988 and their sale, import and export, in accordance with the recommendations put forward by the Sixteenth Meeting of HONLEA, Africa, pertaining to issue 3. 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 in countering trafficking in precursor chemicals, was emphasized by many representatives. Several representatives reported on the measures their Governments had taken in order to ensure effective precursor control and provided examples of successful cooperation between law enforcement agencies of the countries in the region.

23. Many representatives reported that mechanisms to monitor the import and export of precursor chemicals were in place, but some expressed the need for support to provide the necessary training and equipment to their law enforcement and customs officials in order to ensure effective control of the trade in precursor chemicals as set forth in the recommendations on that issue. One representative encouraged Governments of countries in the region to make use of the PEN Online system through the Internet as a means to enhance information-sharing and to

identify suspicious transactions, and to contact the International Narcotics Control Board for assistance to enrol in the PEN Online system, if needed.

#### **IV. Consideration of topics by working groups**

24. At its 3rd-5th meetings, held on 9 and 10 September 2008, 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. Managing the investigation of major drug cases and the professional handling of exhibits**

25. The working group on issue 1 met on 9 September 2008. In its consideration of the issue, the participants of the working group made the following observations:

(a) It was noted that following important drug seizures, several countries were facing problems with regard to forensic analysis;

(b) Several representatives noted that law enforcement agencies were often incorrectly accused or suspected of substituting seized drugs with other materials and diverting the drugs to the illicit market;

(c) Several representatives noted that drug-related crimes had become more complex to solve and required national and international cooperation, specialized training and adequate financial and human resources for law enforcement agencies;

(d) According to their national legislation, many African countries were not able to destroy seized drugs until after final court proceedings, as the entire seizure was needed as evidence in court;

(e) It was emphasized by several representatives that there was a danger in storing large quantities of drugs without adequate security measures;

(f) Several representatives noted that the investigation of drug cases in Africa tended to be reactive rather than proactive;

(g) It was noted that forensic analysis and investigation of large drug consignments often did not go beyond the identification of the seized drug. Drug consignments were rarely examined for fingerprints or other traces;

(h) It was noted that different legal systems and loopholes in legislation sometimes enabled drug traffickers to continue their illegal activities and escape punishment where law enforcement and security were weak;

(i) Representatives emphasized that drug trafficking was in many cases linked with trafficking in firearms. It was stressed that the proceeds of drug trafficking had provided criminal groups with the financial means to undertake other criminal activities;

(j) Participants were informed about successful investigations in several African countries that involved cooperation with international, regional or national partners and with INTERPOL.

26. The participants of the working group drew the following conclusions:

(a) Training in the gathering, handling and presentation of evidence was crucial for the successful investigation of major drug trafficking cases;

(b) There was a need for law enforcement authorities to improve their capacity to undertake forensic investigations, including by field testing drugs and securing other types of forensic evidence;

(c) There was a need for increased national, regional and international cooperation in the exchange of information between law enforcement agencies in order to enhance knowledge and collection of information on the operating techniques employed by drug traffickers;

(d) Different legal systems and loopholes in legislation that led to unsuccessful prosecutions had led to increased opportunities for criminal groups to engage in drug trafficking;

(e) The capacity of law enforcement agencies to collect information and analyse intelligence should be enhanced to lead to proactive rather than reactive investigations;

(f) Law enforcement agencies should handle their evidence and exhibits in a professional and transparent manner and should ensure an unbroken chain of custody;

(g) Bilateral international partners and INTERPOL could assist African countries, inter alia, with forensic analysis in ongoing investigations of major drug trafficking cases.

## **Issue 2. Developing successful strategies to address trafficking in cannabis**

27. The working group on issue 2 met on 9 September 2008. In its consideration of the issue, the participants of the working group made the following observations:

(a) Cannabis continued to be the most abused, cultivated and trafficked drug in Africa and posed a major challenge to society and law enforcement agencies;

(b) Cannabis cultivation, trafficking and abuse in Africa had not received the regional and international attention it required;

(c) Governments of African countries were spending considerable resources on investigating trafficking in cocaine and heroin, while illicit cannabis cultivation, trafficking and abuse continued to pose the biggest drug problem for the African continent;

(d) It was noted that the pattern of trafficking in cannabis was changing and that the smuggling of cannabis was becoming more regional and national rather than international;

(e) Several representatives noted that the vast majority of incidents involving trafficking in cannabis involved trafficking within the African subregions;

(f) Illicit cannabis cultivation and trafficking were disruptive of local economies and impeded development;

(g) Some representatives noted that the illicit cultivation of cannabis competed with the cultivation of food crops;

(h) It was noted that trafficking in cannabis constituted a crime involving not only marginalized farmers but also large organized criminal groups, in particular because trafficking operations required large investments and a high level of organization.

28. The participants of the working group drew the following conclusions:

(a) Strong political commitment was required by Governments of African countries and the international community in order for effective action to be taken against illicit cannabis production, trafficking and abuse;

(b) There was a need for a thorough analysis of the situation regarding the illicit cultivation of cannabis and trafficking in cannabis in order to develop integrated strategies that encompassed demand and supply reduction, awareness-raising and rehabilitation; that analysis then needed to be translated into national action plans;

(c) Sustainable alternative development programmes had proved to be a suitable option to discourage farmers from engaging in illicit cannabis cultivation. However, with poverty widespread in many countries in Africa, one major challenge was to find alternative crops that provided a viable financial alternative to cannabis;

(d) Prevention was identified as a crucial element in the fight against cannabis abuse. Therefore, a need to raise awareness among consumers and the population in general on the negative effects of cannabis consumption was recognized.

### **Issue 3. Trafficking in amphetamine-type stimulants and associated problems of precursor control**

29. The working group on issue 3 met on 10 September 2008. In its consideration of the issue, the participants of the working group made the following observations:

(a) Increased cooperation between regional African and international organized criminal groups had been observed with regard to the smuggling of amphetamine-type stimulants and precursor chemicals;

(b) It was noted that very few amphetamine-type stimulants were smuggled into the African region, as the vast majority of such stimulants were illicitly manufactured and abused locally;

(c) Chemicals were diverted to the black market through disguising the true identities of companies and importers or through bribery, coercion or blackmail, or through theft or falsification of documents;

(d) The handling of precursor chemicals was perceived to be highly complex and hazardous and required specialized knowledge and training;

(e) Several representatives noted the need for training in detecting trafficking in precursor chemicals and the investigation of clandestine laboratories;

(f) The lack of regulatory frameworks for the effective control of precursor chemicals was recognized as a pressing challenge for most African countries;

(g) It was recognized that the cheap availability of amphetamine-type stimulants was leading to a high level of abuse among marginalized segments of the population and had a detrimental effect on society;

(h) The excellent knowledge base and experience of South Africa in the fight against trafficking in precursor chemicals and the dismantling of clandestine laboratories was acknowledged;

(i) Several representatives stressed the importance and necessity of law enforcement agencies cooperating with chemical companies in the private sector.

30. The participants of the working group drew the following conclusions:

(a) There was a strong need for the exchange of intelligence and for regional cooperation to address the diversion of and trafficking in precursor chemicals;

(b) Capacity-building of law enforcement was needed in all parts of Africa in order to succeed in the fight against trafficking in precursors and illicit manufacture of amphetamine-type stimulants;

(c) Cooperation between law enforcement agencies and the private sector, as well as with the authorities responsible for monitoring chemicals and pharmaceutical companies, was a necessity;

(d) There was a need to develop comprehensive national regulatory frameworks on precursor chemicals that involved all relevant stakeholders in order to prevent diversion of and trafficking in precursor chemicals.

## **V. Organization of the Nineteenth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Africa**

31. At its 7th meeting, on 11 September 2008, the Meeting considered agenda item 6, entitled "Organization of the Nineteenth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Africa". For its consideration of the item, the Meeting had before it a paper prepared by the Secretariat (UNODC/HONLAF/2008/4). The Secretary of the Meeting made an introductory statement outlining the provisional agenda for the Nineteenth Meeting. The Chairman briefed the participants on the informal consultations held on the issue of hosting the Nineteenth Meeting and invited delegations to put forward proposals for topics to be dealt with by the working groups at the subsequent Meeting. Statements were made by the representatives of Algeria, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea-Bissau, Nigeria and Uganda.

32. With regard to topics for discussion in the working groups at the Nineteenth Meeting of HONLEA, Africa, to be held in 2009, representatives proposed a number of topics, including the following:

(a) Data collection, management and analysis in the context of reporting obligations for States;

(b) Witness protection for investigations of cases involving drug trafficking;

- (c) Global overview of the fight against illicit drugs;
- (d) Cybercrime and its effect on drug trafficking;
- (e) The problem of the illicit market in unregulated pharmaceuticals and the illicit street sale of medicines.

33. The Secretariat was requested to work with States to choose among the topics suggested for the working groups to be held at the Nineteenth Meeting of HONLEA, Africa.

34. With regard to item 6 of the agenda for the Nineteenth Meeting, one representative suggested that the Secretariat could give the Meeting a presentation on the deliberations and outcome of the high-level segment to be held during the fifty-second session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs in 2009. The representative noted that the Commission could have requested input from all regional meetings of HONLEA prior to the fifty-second session, thereby allowing the meetings to contribute to the process and outcome of the high-level segment.

35. The Meeting approved the following draft provisional agenda for the Nineteenth 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.
4. Implementation of the recommendations adopted by the Seventeenth 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 twentieth special session of the General Assembly.
7. Organization of the Twentieth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Africa.
8. Other business.
9. Adoption of the report.

## VI. Other business

36. At its 7th meeting, on 11 September 2008, the Meeting considered agenda item 7, entitled "Other business".

37. The representative of the Executive Director of UNODC briefed the Meeting on the efforts of the Office to arrange for the participation of representatives of African countries in meetings of HONLEA, Latin America and the Caribbean, in order to establish and facilitate contacts between drug law enforcement agencies across the Atlantic and to enhance the exchange of information and intelligence on drug trafficking in the two regions. The representative highlighted the importance of establishing and maintaining those contacts in order to counter the increase in trafficking in cocaine from Latin America and the Caribbean to West Africa. He also

invited donors to support the efforts of UNODC in ensuring the participation of representatives from African countries in meetings of HONLEA, Latin America and the Caribbean.

38. One representative proposed that training sessions on technical issues be organized for participants in the meetings of HONLEA, Africa, in accordance with past practice. He emphasized the benefits that such expert training would have on the operational activities of drug law enforcement agencies in the region.

## **VII. Adoption of the report**

39. At its 7th meeting, on 11 September 2008, the report of the Eighteenth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Africa (UNODC/HONLAF/2008/L.1 and Add.1-5), was adopted, as were the reports of the working groups and the recommendations contained therein.

## **VIII. Organization of the Meeting**

### **A. Opening and duration of the Meeting**

40. The Eighteenth Meeting of HONLEA, Africa, hosted by the Government of Côte d'Ivoire and organized by UNODC, was held in Yamoussoukro from 8 to 11 September 2008. The Minister for Reconstruction and Reintegration of Côte d'Ivoire opened the Meeting. Opening statements were made by several representatives of the host Government, including the Deputy Mayor of Yamoussoukro, the Secretary-General of the Inter-ministerial Committee for Drug Abuse Control of Côte d'Ivoire and the representative of the Executive Director of UNODC.

### **B. Attendance**

41. The following States were represented at the Eighteenth Meeting of HONLEA, Africa: Algeria, Angola, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Egypt, Ghana, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Morocco, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Tunisia, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

42. The following States were represented by observers: Canada, Germany, Italy, Russian Federation and United States.

43. ECOWAS, INTERPOL, the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations Police (UNPOL) were also represented by observers.

### C. Election of officers

44. At its 1st meeting, on 8 September 2008, the Meeting elected the following officers by acclamation:

- Chairman:* Youssoufou Bamba (Côte d'Ivoire)  
*Vice-chairmen:* Zachary Omwega (Kenya)  
Bartholemeus Alfeus De Klerk (Namibia)  
*Rapporteur:* Michael Were (Uganda)

### D. Adoption of the agenda

45. At the 1st meeting, the Eighteenth Meeting of HONLEA, Africa, 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 Sixteenth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Africa.
5. Consideration of topics by working groups:
  - (a) Managing the investigation of major drug cases and the professional handling of exhibits;
  - (b) Developing successful strategies to address trafficking in cannabis;
  - (c) Trafficking in amphetamine-type stimulants and associated problems of precursor control.
6. Organization of the Nineteenth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Africa.
7. Other business.
8. Adoption of the report.

### E. Documentation

46. The documents before the Eighteenth Meeting of HONLEA, Africa, are listed in the annex.

## IX. Closure of the Meeting

47. Closing remarks were made by the Secretary-General of the Inter-ministerial Committee for Drug Abuse Control of Côte d'Ivoire, the Chairman, a representative of the Minister of the Interior of Côte d'Ivoire and the representative of the Executive Director of UNODC.

## Annex

### List of documents before the Eighteenth 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/2008/1               | 2                  | Provisional agenda, including annotations and provisional timetable   |
| UNODC/HONLAF/2008/2               | 3                  | Current situation with respect to regional and subregional cooperation in countering drug trafficking                             |
| UNODC/HONLAF/2008/3               | 4                  | Implementation of the recommendations adopted by the Sixteenth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Africa |
| UNODC/HONLAF/2008/4               | 6                  | Organization of the Nineteenth Meeting of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Africa  |
| UNODC/HONLAF/2008/L.1 and Add.1-5 | 8                  | Draft report  |
| UNODC/HONLAF/2008/CRP.1           | 3                  | Statistics on drug trafficking trends in Africa and worldwide   |
| UNODC/HONLAF/2008/CRP.2-19        | 3                  | Country reports   |