

30 June 2015

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**Twenty-fifth Meeting of Heads of National
Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Africa**

Algiers, 14-18 September 2015

Annotated provisional agenda

Provisional 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 Twenty-third Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Africa.
5. Consideration of topics by working groups:
 - (a) Designing effective strategies to address cannabis trafficking;
 - (b) Border control measures and other methods to curtail drug trafficking;
 - (c) Judicial challenges, including differences in legislation, penalties and forensic capabilities.
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, in preparation for the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem to be held in 2016.
7. Organization of the Twenty-sixth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Africa.
8. Other business.
9. Adoption of the report.

* Available only in Arabic, English and French, which are the working languages of the subsidiary body.



Annotations

1. Election of officers

Elections are held in accordance with rule 15 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council. The Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Africa, has in the past elected a Chair, two Vice-Chairs and a Rapporteur.

2. Adoption of the agenda

The provisional agenda for the Twenty-fifth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Africa, contained in the present document, was approved by the Twenty-fourth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Africa, held in Addis Ababa, from 15 to 19 September 2014.

At its thirty-eighth session, the Commission on Narcotic Drugs recommended that general statements concerning national trends in drug trafficking and statistics not be read out but rather be circulated in written form. Participants were therefore invited to submit to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) by 13 July 2015 a three-page country report on trends in drug trafficking during the past year. Only reports received by that date will be translated into the other working languages of the Meeting.

Following the adoption of the agenda, the Twenty-fifth Meeting is to establish a programme of work. A proposed programme of work is contained in the annex to the present document for the consideration of the Meeting.

Documentation

Annotated provisional agenda (UNODC/HONLAF/25/1)

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

Participants are invited to inform the Twenty-fifth Meeting about the efforts of their Governments to strengthen regional and subregional cooperation in areas such as joint investigations, law enforcement training and the sharing of information and experience relating to measures taken to counter drug trafficking.

Participants are requested to inform the Meeting about practical challenges impeding subregional cooperation and of measures to overcome such problems.

The item on the current situation with respect to regional and subregional cooperation in countering drug trafficking will provide an opportunity to examine current trends and the *modi operandi* used in drug trafficking, as well as operational successes in efforts to counter trafficking in cannabis, cocaine and heroin.

Documentation

Report of the Secretariat on statistical analysis of drug trafficking trends in Africa and worldwide (UNODC/HONLAF/25/2)

Report of the Secretariat on the current situation with respect to regional and subregional cooperation (UNODC/HONLAF/25/3)

4. Implementation of the recommendations adopted by the Twenty-third Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Africa

Participants are invited to inform the Twenty-fifth Meeting about action taken by their Governments with regard to the implementation of the recommendations adopted by the Twenty-third Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Africa, held in Addis Ababa from 16 to 20 September 2013.

The Twenty-fifth Meeting will have before it a note by the Secretariat based on replies to a questionnaire concerning action taken by Governments to implement the recommendations of the Twenty-third Meeting.

To enable the Secretariat to prepare the report on the status of implementation of the recommendations of the Twenty-third Meeting, a note verbale was transmitted to the Governments of African States on 29 May 2015, urging them to return the completed questionnaire by 13 July 2015.

Documentation

Note by the Secretariat on the implementation of the recommendations adopted by the Twenty-third Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Africa (UNODC/HONLAF/25/4)

5. Consideration of topics by working groups

Ad hoc working groups are established to review issues of regional importance and to facilitate informal discussions and frank exchanges of views on such matters. Working groups are invited to present their findings, conclusions and recommendations to the plenary for endorsement and inclusion in the report on the Meeting.

(a) Designing effective strategies to address cannabis trafficking

The cultivation, production, trafficking and illicit use of cannabis occur in all parts of Africa, making it the primary illicit drug of concern for the authorities in the region. It is both trafficked extensively within Africa and transported outside the region. Governments have adopted different national deterrence strategies, some of which include direct eradication programmes. Experience has shown that these programmes must be combined with strategies for sustainable alternative development initiatives and community education programmes in areas where cannabis cultivation is a primary contributor to community livelihoods. This working group will examine the different challenges faced by authorities and their communities in addressing cannabis issues across Africa. Participants will be encouraged to present their national experiences in combating cannabis cultivation and trafficking with a view to identifying recommendations for a collective way forward.

(b) Border control measures and other methods to curtail drug trafficking

The *modi operandi* and trafficking routes used by criminal syndicates that traffic illicit drugs and precursor chemicals remain diversified and are subject to frequent changes. Remaining informed about current, changing trends while maintaining effectiveness in detection efforts is a continuing challenge for law enforcement authorities. Measures such as information-sharing between national agencies and counterparts in neighbouring countries, the introduction of innovative law enforcement strategies and regular training events contribute to the strengthening of responses, the identification and interception of illicit drug consignments and the dismantling of trafficking networks. This working group may wish to discuss new border management strategies that have been introduced, existing approaches that are delivering good results and future challenges. Participants will also be invited to share information about case studies and current national trends.

(c) Judicial challenges, including differences in legislation, penalties and forensic capabilities

The variance in legislation and penalties for illicit drug trafficking offences across the African region is often exploited by traffickers. Persons engaged in illicit trafficking know how to take advantage of these differences to avoid prosecution, which in turn compromises the effectiveness of the authorities in their efforts to reduce supply. In addition, challenges arise in the preparation of prosecution files, the gathering of forensic evidence and the admissibility of evidence before the courts. This working group may wish to examine the challenges that authorities are currently facing in pursuing successful trafficking prosecutions and gathering the correct level of evidence and proof required by the courts. Participants may wish to share examples of traffickers' exploitation of differences between the legislation and practices of neighbouring countries and share their ideas on how to best respond.

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, in preparation for the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem to be held in 2016

In its resolution 67/193, the General Assembly decided to convene, early in 2016, a special session on the world drug problem to review the progress in the implementation of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem, including an assessment of the achievements and challenges in countering the world drug problem, within the framework of the three international drug control conventions and other relevant United Nations instruments.

In its resolution 56/10, the Commission requested the meetings of its subsidiary bodies to contribute to the monitoring of the implementation by Member States of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action at the regional level by discussing regional views on progress made in that regard under the agenda item 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".

In the same resolution, the Commission encouraged Member States to consider the expertise and composition of their delegations to the meetings of the subsidiary bodies, with a view to covering the various aspects of the world drug problem (demand, supply and international cooperation) in order to hold substantive discussions on the issue and to actively participate in the discussions under the above-mentioned agenda item, and requested the meetings of the subsidiary bodies, on the basis of their deliberations, to submit regional recommendations aimed at moving forward in the implementation of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action.

In its resolution 68/197, the General Assembly welcomed Commission resolution 56/12 and requested the Commission, as the United Nations organ with prime responsibility for drug control matters, to engage in the preparatory process for the special session, including by presenting proposals from the fifty-seventh and fifty-eighth sessions of the Commission through the Economic and Social Council in support of the preparatory process, including progress made in the implementation of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action, to be considered by the Assembly starting at its sixty-ninth session.

Pursuant to paragraph 40 of the Political Declaration, at its fifty-seventh session the Commission conducted a high-level review of the implementation by Member States of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action, which led to the adoption of the Joint Ministerial Statement of the 2014 high-level review by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs of the implementation by Member States of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem. In the Joint Ministerial Statement, the ministers and government representatives participating in the high-level segment acknowledged the tangible progress made by Member States in countering the world drug problem, while underscoring that both the persistent and the new challenges related to drug demand and supply reduction and to countering money-laundering and promoting judicial cooperation remained a common and shared responsibility. The Joint Ministerial Statement provided a strong basis for the continued preparations for the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem to be held in 2016.

At its fifty-seventh session, the Commission adopted resolution 57/5, entitled “Special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem to be held in 2016”, and recognized its own leading role in the preparatory process. As the central policymaking body within the United Nations system dealing with drug-related matters, the Commission decided to take all possible measures to ensure an adequate, inclusive and effective preparatory process for the special session by using its existing meetings and reporting entitlements in the most efficient manner.

Pursuant to its resolution 57/5, the Commission initiated an intensive consultation process with all stakeholders (Member States, United Nations entities, international and regional organizations and civil society) to ensure an adequate, inclusive and effective preparatory process. As an initial step, a website was established for the special session (www.ungass2016.org) to enable global dialogue to take place in an inclusive and transparent manner and to function as a hub of knowledge, evidence and research on various aspects of the world drug problem. All relevant United Nations entities, international and regional organizations and non-governmental

organizations have been invited to send written contributions to the Secretariat. All the contributions received are posted on the website, along with the agendas of and presentations made during the intersessional meetings and information on informal interactive discussions and side events that have been organized.

At its reconvened fifty-seventh session, in December 2014, the Commission adopted decision 57/2, pursuant to which a Board tasked by the Commission with preparations for the special session was established, based on the regional distribution of officers of the Bureau of the Commission at its fifty-seventh session.

In its resolution 69/200, the General Assembly decided that the Commission, as the central policymaking body within the United Nations system dealing with drug-related matters, should lead the preparatory process of the special session of the Assembly by addressing all organizational and substantive matters in an open-ended manner, and invited the President of the Assembly to support, guide and stay involved in the process.

At its fifty-eighth session, in March 2015, the Commission adopted resolution 58/8, entitled “Special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem to be held in 2016”, and recommended to the Economic and Social Council the approval of a draft resolution for adoption by the General Assembly, in which the modalities of the special session on the world drug problem were defined.

In that draft resolution, the General Assembly would decide that the special session would consist of a general debate and interactive, multi-stakeholder round tables conducted in parallel to the plenary. The Commission, as the entity leading the preparations for the special session, would address in an open-ended manner, supported and guided by the President of the General Assembly, the organizational arrangements, including chairing arrangements, speakers and participation, for five round tables.

In addition, in the draft resolution, the Assembly would request the Commission to produce a short, substantive, concise and action-oriented document comprising a set of operational recommendations, based upon a review of the implementation of the 2009 Political Declaration and Plan of Action, including an assessment of the achievements and of ways to address long-standing and emerging challenges in countering the world drug problem, within the framework of the three international drug control conventions and other relevant United Nations instruments. That document, to be recommended for adoption at the plenary of the special session, would, *inter alia*, address measures to reach an effective balance between supply and demand reduction as well as address the key causes and consequences of the world drug problem, including those in the health, social, human rights, economic, justice and security fields, in line with the principle of common and shared responsibility.

Under this item, participants in the Twenty-fifth Meeting will be invited to consider the challenges posed to the States of the region with regard to the implementation of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action, particularly part II of the Plan of Action, on supply reduction and related measures, but also the parts on demand reduction and related measures and on countering money-laundering and promoting judicial cooperation to enhance international cooperation. Participants were requested, in a note verbale dated 29 May 2015, to include in their written reports information on the drug trafficking situation in their countries and on their Governments’ regional and subregional cooperation efforts, as well as information

on demand reduction and international cooperation in countering money-laundering and promoting judicial cooperation.

Participants may also wish to discuss how they could best contribute to the preparations for the special session to be held in 2016, drawing on their technical expertise and their regional experiences, with a view to ensuring the implementation of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action by 2019.

Documentation

Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem (E/2009/28, chap. I, sect. C)

Joint Ministerial Statement of the 2014 high-level review by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs of the Implementation by Member States of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem (E/2014/28, chap. I, sect. C)

7. Organization of the Twenty-sixth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Africa

The Twenty-fifth Meeting will review the draft provisional agenda for the Twenty-sixth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Africa, including topics that it wishes working groups to discuss and possible venues for future meetings. For planning purposes, a decision at the Twenty-fifth Meeting on the venue of the Twenty-sixth Meeting and on the topics for the working groups would greatly facilitate the preparation and organization of the Twenty-sixth Meeting. Participants are requested to be prepared to propose and discuss topics for the working groups of the Twenty-sixth Meeting. The Secretariat will provide, upon request, a copy of the standard letter of agreement setting out the responsibilities of the United Nations and the host Government.

The Twenty-fifth Meeting is also invited to discuss any other matter related to the organization of its deliberations, with a view to improving their substantive content and follow-up.

Documentation

Note by the Secretariat on the organization of the Twenty-sixth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Africa (UNODC/HONLAF/25/5)

8. Other business

Under the item on other business, the Twenty-fifth Meeting may wish to address other important issues, such as urgent matters arising from the country reports.

9. Adoption of the report

The Twenty-fifth Meeting will adopt its report, including the findings, conclusions and recommendations of the working groups, on the last day of the Meeting.

Annex

Proposed programme of work

<i>Date</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Subject</i>
Monday, 14 September 2015	8.30 a.m.	Registration
	10 a.m.	Opening of the Twenty-fifth Meeting
		Item 1. Election of officers
		Item 2. Adoption of the agenda
		Item 3. Current situation with respect to regional and subregional cooperation in countering drug trafficking
	3 p.m.	Item 3. Current situation with respect to regional and subregional cooperation in countering drug trafficking (<i>continued</i>)
		Item 4. Implementation of the recommendations adopted by the Twenty-third Meeting
Tuesday, 15 September 2015	9 a.m.	Item 5. Consideration of topics by working groups
	2 p.m.	Item 5. Working groups (<i>continued</i>)
Wednesday, 16 September 2015	9 a.m.	Item 5. Working groups (<i>continued</i>)
	2 p.m.	Item 5. Working groups (<i>continued</i>)
Thursday, 17 September 2015	9 a.m.	Item 5. Working groups (<i>continued</i>)
	2 p.m.	Item 5. Working groups (<i>continued</i>)
		Item 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, in preparation for the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem to be held in 2016
Friday, 18 September 2015	10 a.m.	Item 7. Organization of the Twenty-sixth Meeting
		Item 8. Other business
	3 p.m.	Item 9. Adoption of the report