

13 October 2015

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Report of the Twenty-fifth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Africa, held in Algiers from 14 to 18 September 2015

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

Recommendations adopted by the Twenty-fifth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Africa

1. Participants in the Twenty-fifth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Africa:

(a) Recalled the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem,¹ adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 64/182 of 18 December 2009, in which Member States decided, among other things, that the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, at its fifty-seventh session, in 2014, should conduct a high-level review of the implementation by Member States of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action, recommended that the Economic and Social Council should devote a high-level segment to a theme related to the world drug problem, and also recommended that the General Assembly should hold a special session to address the world drug problem;

(b) Also recalled General Assembly resolution 67/193 of 20 December 2012, in which the Assembly decided to convene, in early 2016, a special session on the world drug problem to review the progress in the implementation of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action, including an assessment of the achievements and challenges in countering the world drug problem, within the framework of the

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

¹ See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2009, Supplement No. 8 (E/2009/28)*, chap. I, sect. C.



three international drug control conventions and other relevant United Nations instruments;

(c) Took note with appreciation of the Joint Ministerial Statement of the 2014 high-level review by the Commission of the implementation by Member States of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action,² adopted by the Commission at its fifty-seventh session, in which achievements, challenges and priorities for further action were identified within the framework of the three international drug control conventions and other relevant United Nations instruments;

(d) Acknowledged, in accordance with the assessment contained in the Joint Ministerial Statement, that many challenges relating to the world drug problem had persisted and that new ones had emerged in some parts of the world, and that those new challenges needed to be taken into account in the implementation of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action;

(e) Emphasized the importance of a broad, transparent and inclusive discussion among Member States held in multilateral settings and based on scientific evidence. The discussion should take on board input from other relevant stakeholders as appropriate, focus on the most effective ways to counter the world drug problem in a manner consistent with the three international drug control conventions and other relevant international instruments, and further the implementation of the commitments and targets set out in the Political Declaration and Plan of Action;

(f) Welcomed the adoption by the Commission of its resolution 57/5 on the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem to be held in 2016. In the resolution the Commission underlined the importance of the special session as a milestone on the way to 2019, the target date set in the Political Declaration and Plan of Action for achieving targets and goals set out therein; recognized the leading role of the Commission as the central policymaking body within the United Nations system dealing with drug-related matters in the preparations for the special session; and decided to take all possible measures to ensure an adequate, inclusive and effective preparatory process with the active involvement of all relevant stakeholders;

(g) Resolved to continue to support and contribute to the preparatory process for a special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem in 2016 pursuant to resolution 56/10 of the Commission, in which it 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 the progress made and by submitting regional recommendations aimed at moving forward in the implementation of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action;

(h) Agreed to make the recommendations presented below.

² See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2014, Supplement No. 8 (E/2014/28)*, chap. I, sect. C.

1. Designing effective strategies to address cannabis trafficking

2. The following recommendations were made with regard to designing effective strategies to address cannabis trafficking:

(a) Where they have not already done so, Governments are urged to develop well-defined national strategies to address the domestic cultivation of illicit crops, in particular cannabis, and the factors driving their ongoing cultivation;

(b) Governments should be encouraged to undertake efforts to establish an open and direct dialogue with farmers on crop substitution and related community improvement programmes in order to persuade them of the benefits of cultivating licit crops as alternatives to cannabis;

(c) Governments of the region must do more to encourage and support their law enforcement authorities to develop and strengthen regional and subregional collaboration in information-sharing and investigation support, as well as coordination among agencies at the national level, in order to effectively counter trafficking and organized crime;

(d) Governments should establish comprehensive strategies for drug demand reduction that include public education, research, policy formulation, treatment and rehabilitation, in order to address the challenge posed by the illicit use of cannabis, especially among young people.

2. Border control measures and other methods to curtail drug trafficking

3. The following recommendations were made with regard to border control measures and other methods to curtail drug trafficking:

(a) Governments must support and strengthen regional cooperation among Africa's law enforcement agencies in the exchange of information, the responses given to requests for investigation and related assistance, and collaboration in coordinated operations against drug trafficking;

(b) In view of the exponential growth in trade and passenger volumes by air, land and sea, and in view of the need to ensure that borders are well protected, Governments are encouraged to review their national strategies related to border management, examine the degree of cooperation between border agencies and assess the application of current controls;

(c) Governments are encouraged to join international cooperation initiatives such as the Airport Communication Project (AIRCOP) and the Container Control Programme of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) in order to improve the potential of their border protection, benefit from the synergies those initiatives create and to build on the platforms they provide to develop their own bilateral or multilateral agreements to facilitate information-sharing and operational cooperation.

3. Judicial challenges, including differences in legislation, penalties and forensic capabilities

4. The following recommendations were made with regard to judicial challenges, including differences in legislation, penalties and forensic capabilities:

(a) Governments of the region should ensure that their law enforcement authorities are aware of the importance of forensic science in the context of drug investigations, and that they are trained in the gathering, preservation and presentation of forensic evidence and in maintaining the chain of custody of exhibits, in order to carry through prosecutions against offenders successfully;

(b) Governments must take steps to ensure that forensic science services, which support the front-line work of drug enforcement agencies, prosecution services and the judiciary in the investigation and prosecution of offenders, are adequately trained, funded and equipped to perform their tasks;

(c) Governments are encouraged to review *Minimum Requirements for Identification of Seized Drugs, a Document for Emerging Laboratories*, published by the International Forensic Strategic Alliance in collaboration with UNODC and the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL), with a view to guiding their progress towards meeting the global standards for forensic laboratory accreditation by 2025;

(d) Governments are encouraged to ensure that their regulations for the destruction of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances are carried out in a timely manner and in accordance with their legal provisions;

(e) Governments should formulate and/or harmonize legislation both in the region and within countries;

(f) Governments should adopt and improve legal texts that pertain to the repatriation of capital associated with the drug trade;

(g) In the absence of harmonized legislation, Governments should be encouraged to make effective use of existing subregional and regional cooperation protocols that address judicial challenges posed by drug trafficking and related offences.

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

5. At its 1st meeting, on 14 September 2015, 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 statistical analysis of drug trafficking trends in Africa and worldwide (UNODC/HONLAF/25/2) and a document entitled “Current situation with respect to regional and subregional cooperation in countering drug trafficking” (UNODC/HONLAF/25/3). In addition, national reports were submitted by Algeria, Angola, Botswana, Egypt, Kenya, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Spain, Swaziland and Zambia (UNODC/HONLAF/25/CRP.1-14).

6. A representative of UNODC introduced the item and made an audiovisual presentation on drug trafficking trends in the region in the context of global drug trafficking. The presentation was based on information provided to UNODC by Governments. Another representative of UNODC made a statement regarding the organization of the working groups.
7. The representatives of the Niger, Burkina Faso, Ghana, the United Republic of Tanzania, Egypt, Morocco, Tunisia, Angola, Namibia, Nigeria, Algeria, Mozambique, Zambia, Senegal, Kenya, Morocco and Sierra Leone made statements.
8. The observer for the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland made a statement. The observer for the African Centre for the Study and Research on Terrorism of the African Union Commission also made a statement.
9. Speakers expressed their appreciation to the Government of Algeria for hosting the meeting. The participants discussed current trends in drug trafficking in Africa and measures taken to counter it. Several speakers referred to particular cases and to seizures and arrests made by drug law enforcement authorities in their countries. Trafficking routes and *modi operandi* of traffickers, especially for cannabis, cocaine, tramadol and heroin, including in the context of regional and global markets, were discussed.
10. Several speakers emphasized that the cultivation of and trafficking in cannabis, the impact of cannabis on young people and, more recently, the availability of cannabis with a high tetrahydrocannabinol content, remained a major concern for countries in the African region. Reference was made to the production of cannabis resin in some countries, while some countries also referred to the need to develop and implement alternative development programmes in order to address cannabis cultivation.
11. A number of speakers highlighted the need to address the significant threat posed by the spread of tramadol, including, in particular, among young people, and noted that tramadol had been put under control in their countries. Reference was made to the adoption by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs of resolution 56/14 entitled “Strengthening international cooperation in addressing the non-medical use and abuse, the illicit manufacture and the illicit domestic and international distribution of tramadol”. States were called upon to continue collecting data on tramadol use and seizures, and make those data available to the Commission.
12. Several speakers noted that there was an urgent need to act upon and reinforce the current bilateral, subregional and regional cooperation arrangements, as well as cooperation arrangements with countries from other regions such as Latin America and the Caribbean, in countering drug trafficking. Speakers highlighted the need to exchange operational intelligence and good practices, and noted the utility of both the existing international programmes for the exchange of information and the deployment of liaison officers. The importance was stressed of the work undertaken by the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS).
13. Reference was also made to the importance of cooperation among countries that share borders with each other and to the need to strengthen border management both at land borders and at airports and sea ports. States were called upon to take action to implement the recommendations adopted by the meetings of heads of national drug law enforcement agencies.

14. A number of speakers highlighted the need to address the relationship between drug trafficking and terrorism, in particular in the Sahel region, and referred to the nexus between drug trafficking, terrorism and transnational organized crime.

15. Speakers expressed their appreciation to UNODC for organizing regional meetings and called on it to act as a catalyser by fostering cooperation among countries, and, in particular, to facilitate the development of a framework for cooperation among the regions of the African continent. Furthermore, Member States were called upon to develop, implement and harmonize legislation, including legislation that addresses the threat posed by newly emerging drugs.

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

16. At its 2nd meeting, on 14 September 2015, the Meeting considered agenda item 4 of its agenda, entitled “Implementation of the recommendations adopted by the Twenty-third Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Africa”. The Meeting had before it a note prepared by the Secretariat (UNODC/HONLAF/25/4) on the basis of information provided by Governments in response to a questionnaire sent to all States participating in the Meeting. As of 28 July 2015, replies had been received from the Governments of Algeria, Angola, Burkina Faso, Egypt, Kenya, Morocco, the Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Spain and Zambia. After that date, completed questionnaires had been submitted by Botswana, Namibia and Swaziland.

17. A representative of the Secretariat made an introductory statement summarizing the main issues to be reported on by Governments to implement the recommendations at the national level. During the discussion of the item, statements were made by the representatives of Botswana, Ghana, Namibia, Morocco, Nigeria, Algeria, Egypt, Kenya, Togo, Angola and the United Republic of Tanzania.

18. The observer for Spain also made a statement.

19. The Meeting discussed action taken by Governments of countries in the region to implement the recommendations adopted by the Twenty-third Meeting and highlighted action taken in relation to specific recommendations. The areas addressed were the development of effective law enforcement responses to drug trafficking; the maintenance of controls on the abuse of amphetamine-type stimulants and pharmaceutical preparations; and responses to the challenges of access to HIV prevention and treatment services for illicit drug users.

20. The representatives of Botswana, Ghana, Namibia and Morocco informed the Meeting about efforts made in their countries to implement the recommendations adopted by the Twenty-third Meeting.

21. Reference was made to national efforts to ensure the availability of internationally controlled narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances for medical and scientific purposes, while preventing their diversion and abuse. In that regard, the importance of inter-agency cooperation at the national level was highlighted.

22. Speakers referred to efforts undertaken by their Governments to dismantle clandestine laboratories, to prevent the diversion of precursor chemicals and to address challenges posed by synthetic drugs. Some speakers presented examples of relevant legislation and collaboration at the national level with the pharmaceutical and chemical industries.

23. Reference was made by some speakers to the abuse in their countries of methadone and of a mixture of cannabis and alcohol, sometimes in the form of illicit local brews.

24. A number of speakers referred to drug demand reduction programmes that included the establishment of treatment and rehabilitation facilities and, in some countries, the provision of methadone substitution treatment and needle exchange programmes. Reference was also made to the utility of awareness-raising programmes. The need to undertake efforts to reduce the risk posed by infectious diseases such as HIV/AIDS, Hepatitis B and C, and tuberculosis, also in the context of achieving Millennium Development Goal 6, was noted as well.

25. A number of speakers noted that the involvement of civil society organizations in drug demand reduction efforts was valuable and should be further enhanced. It was proposed that meetings between law enforcement agencies and civil society organizations be organized to share information and build confidence.

IV. Consideration of topics by working groups

26. At its 3rd to 6th meetings, held on 15, 16 and 17 September 2015, 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 in the working groups and the conclusions they reached are presented below. The recommendations made by the participants in the working groups and adopted at the Meeting are included in section I above.

1. Designing effective strategies to address cannabis trafficking

27. The working group held two meetings on 15 September 2015. In its consideration of the topic under review, the working group made the following observations:

(a) Cannabis cultivation and production affect a significant proportion of African countries, while the trafficking of cannabis, both as a herb and in the form of resin, affects the continent as a whole;

(b) The illicit cultivation of cannabis destroys hundreds of hectares of forests, degrades the quality of the soil and encourages erosion, while the cultivation of cannabis reduces agricultural skills and leads to a loss of important farming techniques;

(c) In order to have sustainable progressive cannabis eradication programmes in vulnerable rural communities, there is a need to consider a wide range of options that encourage farmers to change their mind-set and stop viewing cannabis as their livelihood by offering alternative development programmes and investments in rural community infrastructure;

(d) Cooperation among law enforcement authorities across the region is still fraught with challenges, particularly in the exchange of information, the coordination of operations and the provision of support by conducting enquiries related to current investigations.

28. The working group drew the following conclusions:

(a) The cost to marginalized rural communities of illicit cannabis cultivation is too high: destruction of natural resources, inefficient land use and lost farming skills;

(b) There is a need for more detailed and robust data on the cultivation, production and trafficking of cannabis in order to analyse and monitor trends appropriately and effectively with a view to enabling more informed planning policies;

(c) There should be well-articulated national strategies to address the illicit cultivation of cannabis based upon an accurate analysis of the economic and social situation of the rural communities engaged in it;

(d) Drug enforcement authorities should be encouraged and given support to establish official lines of communication with their foreign law enforcement counterparts so that they can conduct regular two-way exchanges of information related to combating drug trafficking.

2. Border control measures and other methods to curtail drug trafficking

29. The working group held two meetings on 16 September 2015. In its consideration of the topic under review, the working group made the following observations:

(a) Across Africa, drug traffickers are challenging the responses of authorities, and criminal networks on the continent are getting more sophisticated and are expanding across countries and regions. This calls for the use of more sophisticated methods to counter drug trafficking. There is a need to improve international cooperation and cross-border coordination in the region;

(b) Inter-agency teams composed of law enforcement agencies working along air, sea and land borders offer great potential to increase the effectiveness of managing international entry and exit points;

(c) Effective policing of the long, often porous borders African countries share can be greatly enhanced by making use of operational cooperation, the exchange of information, and the sharing of experiences and expertise among law enforcement counterparts across borders;

(d) AIRCOP, the Container Control Programme and the Programme for International Cooperation at Airports (Intercops) offer practical operational support to the region's law enforcement agencies, in particular for their communications and their border enforcement responsibilities.

30. The working group drew the following conclusions:

(a) Experiences with successful international and cross-border cooperation initiatives to address drug trafficking need to be shared among authorities in order

to draw from their strengths and learn from the solutions found to overcome the difficulties encountered in their implementation;

(b) Border agencies should be encouraged to develop coordinated strategies that build trust between them and support joint operations both domestically and across borders, and thus take advantage of the professional skills, legislative powers and technical resources that follow on from such inter-agency collaboration;

(c) If border agencies are to be effective in identifying the movement of persons of interest, trade consignments of concern and vehicles and vessels believed to be used for trafficking, they need to develop responses based on intelligence obtained from the early access to information that exchanges with other law enforcement counterparts can offer;

(d) Global and regional initiatives such as the collaboration between UNODC, INTERPOL and the World Customs Organization in support of AIRCOP and the Container Control Programme, the Intercops transatlantic network supported by Brazil, and bilateral agreements reached between States on cooperation in land border liaison initiatives, are all valuable examples of practical cooperation in counter-narcotics enforcement.

3. Judicial challenges, including differences in legislation, penalties and forensic capabilities

31. The working group held one meeting, on 17 September 2015. In its consideration of the topic under review, the working group made the following observations:

(a) As the *modi operandi* of criminal groups involved in drug trafficking and related offences continue to evolve and become more sophisticated, Africa's capacity in forensic response should keep pace with those changes;

(b) Forensic evidence is a key factor in building successful prosecution cases against drug traffickers;

(c) The advances in the field of synthetic drug manufacture will give rise to new challenges for drug law enforcement authorities investigating related offences;

(d) INTERPOL offers to police services worldwide a broad range of support related inter alia to forensic training, DNA analysis, crime scene management and related forensic sciences. In combating drug trafficking networks, Member States are advised to make use of the INTERPOL database;

(e) The working group noted a lack of national legislation and/or the existence of conflicting national legislation in some countries, which hampers effective law enforcement.

32. The working group drew the following conclusions:

(a) Africa's law enforcement services must ensure that their officers are aware of the importance of forensics, the need to preserve evidence and the importance of training personnel to oversee and guide its correct collection;

(b) Specialized training for law enforcement personnel emphasizing the importance of the preservation, correct handling and appropriate storage of forensic

evidence is essential to building professional capacity among the continent's drug law enforcement agencies.

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

33. At its 8th meeting, on 17 September 2015, the Meeting considered agenda 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".

34. For its consideration of the item, the Meeting had before it the Political Declaration and Plan of Action and the Joint Ministerial Statement.

35. The Meeting viewed a video statement by the Chair of the Board tasked by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs with the preparations for the special session of the General Assembly. A representative of the Secretariat made an introductory statement under the agenda item. During the discussion of the item, the representative of Kenya made a statement.

36. The observer for the Russian Federation made a statement.

37. In its resolution 64/182, the General Assembly, welcoming the outcome of the high-level segment of the fifty-second session of the Commission, adopted the Political Declaration and Plan of Action, which had in turn been adopted during the high-level segment of the Commission's session, and called upon States to take the measures necessary to fully implement the actions set out therein with a view to attaining in a timely manner the goals and targets set for 2019. Member States committed themselves to effectively implementing the Political Declaration and Plan of Action through resolute international cooperation, in collaboration with relevant regional and international organizations.

38. Reference was made by one speaker to the organization of regional meetings, including meetings with the participation of civil society organizations, for the purpose of increasing awareness of and providing inputs to the preparatory process for the special session. It was also proposed that regional partnerships should be involved in order to enhance the preparatory process.

39. Reference was also made to the Russia-African anti-drug dialogue, held in Banjul in July 2015, where the heads of the African bodies and organizations involved in fighting drug trafficking discussed, inter alia, the transit of drugs through the African continent.

40. Speakers appealed to the international community to support their countries' efforts to address the cultivation and trafficking of cannabis in the region and the production and trafficking of methamphetamines and other illicit drugs both within the continent and between Africa and other regions of the world. UNODC was

requested to provide, or continue to provide, the necessary support to raise awareness within the region of the relevant provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and to provide assistance to States in establishing forensic laboratories.

41. Pursuant to the request made by the Commission in its resolution 56/10, the Meeting agreed to include in chapter I of its final report a number of preambular paragraphs containing recommendations aimed at advancing the implementation of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action in the context of ongoing preparations led by the Commission for the special session of the General Assembly.

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

42. At its 8th meeting, on 17 September 2015, the Twenty-fifth Meeting considered agenda item 7, entitled “Organization of the Twenty-sixth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Africa”. For its consideration, the Meeting had before it document UNODC/HONLAF/25/5.

43. During the discussion of the item, statements were made by the representatives of Nigeria, Morocco, Algeria, Kenya, Zambia, the United Republic of Tanzania, Côte d’Ivoire, Togo, Tunisia, Burkina Faso, Ghana, Senegal and Angola.

44. Several speakers proposed the following topics for possible discussion by the working groups at the Twenty-sixth Meeting, to be held in 2016: the fight against the trafficking of cocaine through Africa; drug trafficking by sea; alternative development as a basis for the fight against illicit crop cultivation; the links between alcohol, drug abuse and addiction; effective partnerships and collaboration; countering money-laundering and investigating offences related to it; the emergence of clandestine laboratories manufacturing amphetamine-type stimulants in Africa; law enforcement and medical cannabis; addressing corruption as a key to stopping drug trafficking; the threat posed by the abuse of datura; treatment, rehabilitation and reintegration of drug addicts; linkages between drug trafficking, poverty, corruption and terrorism, and the link between drug trafficking and other forms of organized crime.

45. The representative of Nigeria noted that his Government was considering hosting the Twenty-sixth Meeting.

46. The Meeting agreed that regional and international operational platforms could be invited to future meetings as observers, in accordance with the rules of procedure.

47. Based on a proposal submitted by the representative of Algeria, the Meeting agreed to invite the African Centre for the Study and Research on Terrorism, established as part of the African Union Commission, to future meetings.

48. It was proposed that future meetings also examine demand reduction strategies. It was noted that countries were dealing with drug-related issues specific to them and that the focus should rather be placed on issues of common concern.

49. It was furthermore suggested that ways be examined to better engage entities such as the Southern African Development Community and ECOWAS in the fight

against drug trafficking, and that a clear framework for such partnerships be developed.

50. The Twenty-fifth Meeting approved the following draft provisional agenda for the Twenty-sixth Meeting, to be finalized by the Secretariat in collaboration with the interested African States:

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 Twenty-fourth 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, in preparation for the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem in 2016.
7. Organization of the Twenty-seventh Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Africa.
8. Other business.
9. Adoption of the report.

VII. Other business

51. At its 8th and 9th meetings, held on 17 and 18 September 2015, the Meeting considered agenda item 8, entitled “Other business”. The representative of Burkina Faso made an audiovisual presentation on datura, pursuant to a request for information made at the Twenty-fourth Meeting. A representative of the Regional Office for West and Central Africa in Senegal also made an audiovisual presentation. During the discussion of the item, statements were made by the representatives of Ghana, Tunisia, Togo, the Niger, Burkina Faso, Nigeria, Algeria and Namibia.

52. Several speakers expressed appreciation to the representative of Burkina Faso for the presentation on datura. Some speakers noted that datura had posed challenges in their countries, whereas other speakers indicated that, in their countries, domestic consumption had not become a problem. A few speakers also raised the issue of the distinction that may exist between users who consumed datura for health reasons and those who were engaged in its trafficking. It was noted that, in some countries, young people were particularly vulnerable to the abuse of datura. Reference was made by some speakers to the need to raise awareness among young people on datura’s psychoactive impact and associated risks.

53. One speaker referred to an effective national drug control measure, namely the visa clearance scheme, which had been put into place to counter drug trafficking, and had prevented aspiring drug traffickers from obtaining visas. Another speaker

stressed the link between crime and drug trafficking and their association with criminal activities such as terrorism and its financing, and the use and production of fake identity documents. The need to improve regional coordination was highlighted by several speakers.

VIII. Adoption of the report

54. At its 9th meeting, on 18 September 2015, the Twenty-fifth Meeting adopted its report. The reports of the working groups and the recommendations contained therein, as orally amended, were also adopted.

IX. Organization of the Meeting

A. Opening and duration of the Meeting

55. The Twenty-fifth Meeting, organized by UNODC and hosted by the Government of Algeria, was held in Algiers from 14 to 18 September 2015. A member of the Secretariat made an opening statement on behalf of the Executive Director of UNODC. The Director General for Political Affairs and International Security at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Algeria made a statement.

B. Attendance

56. The following States were represented at the Twenty-fifth Meeting: Algeria, Angola, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Egypt, Ghana, Kenya, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Togo, Tunisia, United Republic of Tanzania and Zambia.

57. The following States were represented by observers: Brazil, France, Italy, Russian Federation, Spain and United Kingdom.

58. The African Union Commission was represented by an observer for the African Centre for the Study and Research on Terrorism. INTERPOL was represented by an observer.

C. Election of officers

59. At its 1st meeting, on 14 September 2015, the Meeting elected the following officers by acclamation:

Chair: Mohamed Abdou Benhalla (Algeria)

Vice-Chairs: Giade Ahmadu (Nigeria)
Mark Tong Ewuntomah (Ghana)

Rapporteur: Alita Mbahwe (Zambia)

D. Adoption of the agenda

60. At the same meeting, the Twenty-fifth 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 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.
 7. Organization of the Twenty-sixth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Africa.
 8. Other business.
 9. Adoption of the report of the Twenty-fifth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Africa.

E. Documentation

61. The documents before the Twenty-fifth Meeting are listed in the annex.

X. Closure of the Meeting

62. Closing remarks were made by the Chair of the Twenty-fifth Meeting.

Annex

List of documents before the Twenty-fifth 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/25/1	2	Annotated provisional agenda
UNODC/HONLAF/25/2	3	Report of the Secretariat on statistical analysis of drug trafficking trends in Africa and worldwide
UNODC/HONLAF/25/3	3	Current situation with respect to subregional and regional cooperation in countering drug trafficking
UNODC/HONLAF/25/4	4	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/25/5	7	Note by the Secretariat on the Organization of the Twenty-sixth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Africa
UNODC/HONLAF/25/L.1 and Add.1-Add.7	8	Draft report
UNODC/HONLAF/25/CRP.1-14	3	Country reports