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

Addis Ababa, 19-23 September 2016

Item 4 of the provisional agenda**

**Implementation of the recommendations adopted by the
Twenty-fourth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law
Enforcement Agencies, Africa****Implementation of the recommendations adopted by the
Twenty-fourth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law
Enforcement Agencies, Africa****Note by the Secretariat****I. Introduction**

1. The Twenty-fourth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Africa, held in Addis Ababa from 15 to 19 September 2014, adopted a set of recommendations following the consideration by working groups of the issues indicated below.
2. In accordance with established practice, the report on the Twenty-fourth Meeting was forwarded to the Governments represented at that session. A questionnaire on the implementation of the recommendations adopted at that Meeting was dispatched to Governments on 31 May 2016, with a deadline for replies set at 6 July 2016.
3. The present report was prepared on the basis of information provided to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) by Governments in response to that questionnaire. As of 22 July 2016, replies had been received from the Governments of Angola, Burkina Faso, Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, Egypt, Mali, Mozambique, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal and Sierra Leone. Member States that did not provide responses that were included in the present report may wish to

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

** UNODC/HONLAF/26/1.



brief the Meeting on the implementation of recommendations under the corresponding agenda item.

II. Responses from Member States to the questionnaire

Issue 1: Trends and developments regarding new psychoactive and other substances not currently under international control

Recommendation 1

4. It was recommended that in the face of a growing trend in the abuse of amphetamine-type stimulants and psychoactive substances, Governments must ensure that they provide adequate investment in and support for treatment facilities for stimulant abuse and initiatives to raise awareness of related public health issues to meet the needs of their communities.

5. Angola reported that the Government had allocated resources to prevention campaigns, while also improving the mental health system throughout the country in order to improve the access of persons who used psychoactive substances to those facilities that were available.

6. Burkina Faso indicated that, in the absence of a specialized drug abuse treatment centre, the University Hospital Centre Yalgado Ouédraogo was in charge of this matter. Furthermore, the National Committee for the Fight Against Drugs had an awareness-raising unit in place, dealing prevention activities.

7. Chad noted that, in the past few years, the abuse of tramadol had become a concern and that the Government intended to set up a treatment centre for drug users. Côte d'Ivoire indicated that it had taken no action under this recommendation.

8. Egypt reported that its Government provided the necessary financial support to hospitals for the treatment of stimulant abuse, and undertook the necessary initiatives to raise awareness of public health issues.

9. No awareness-raising campaigns with a specific focus on amphetamine-type stimulants and psychoactive substances had been carried out in Mali. At the same time, its Government was implementing awareness-raising initiatives directed at specific target groups with the view to preventing public health issues relating to drug use more generally.

10. Mozambique had been monitoring the emerging trends, in particular with regard to the importation of substances that could be used as precursors, and conducted regular inspections of import and manufacturing companies.

11. Sao Tome and Principe noted that, although there was no rehabilitation centre yet with the appropriate conditions in place, the Government, through the Ministry of Health, had carried out actions aimed at improving public health as regards the drug problem. Furthermore, a structure dealing with mental health issues, which was part of the central hospital, had also been assisting individuals who abused licit drugs.

12. The Ministry of Health and Social Action of Senegal had established a Centre for the Integrated Management of Addiction in Dakar (CEPIAD) in December 2014, with the view to monitoring drug users.

13. In Sierra Leone, there was inadequate investment in and support for treatment facilities for stimulants' abuse disorders. There was only one government hospital in that country, which provided treatment and care to patients with mental and substance abuse disorders.

Recommendation 2

14. Governments were encouraged to undertake a study of the illicit use of plant-based stimulants and hallucinogens, such as khat and *Datura*, taking into consideration the extent of their abuse in their communities and the effect on public health.

15. Angola noted that it had recently identified a new plant with stimulant properties, which required laboratory analysis in order to confirm the risks that it posed. Burkina Faso reported that a study of the illicit use of *Datura* had not been carried out due to lack of funding and that khat was not consumed in that country.

16. Chad carried out an awareness-raising campaign at the national level to inform the population about the dangers associated with *Datura stramonium* and to eradicate this plant on its territory.

17. Côte d'Ivoire indicated that it had taken no action under this recommendation. Egypt noted that the illicit abuse of such plant-based hallucinogens (khat and *Datura*) was rare, that the illicit consumption markets were closely monitored and that the emergence of dangerous stimulants was addressed.

18. Mali, Mozambique and Sao Tome and Principe noted that they had not taken any action to implement this recommendation.

19. In the UDSEN study carried out in Senegal, which was focused on the health of the population, a specific component on drug users was taken into account in the strategic plan on the fight against AIDS for the period 2011-2015.

20. Sierra Leone indicated that it had conducted no research on the aforementioned plants.

Recommendation 3

21. Governments were encouraged to focus on preventive measures to control precursor chemicals, essential chemicals and pharmaceutical preparations by strengthening the administrative procedures regulating their commercial use, sale and distribution.

22. Angola structured its national pharmaceutical policy in a way that only licensed companies could import narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances. In addition, the Government created a department to monitor or supervise the use of such products in the hospitals where they were used, set up a list of drugs that could be distributed on the national market and revitalized the services, registration and approval of controlled substances.

23. Burkina Faso reported that the pharmaceutical inspection service of its General Directorate of Pharmacy, Medicines and Laboratories was responsible for these activities in that country.

24. Chad reported that it had issued instructions to pharmacies to increase their monitoring efforts with regard to the import of essential chemicals. However, the lack of training for detection services had led to the occasional importation of precursor chemicals. Côte d'Ivoire indicated that it had taken no action under this recommendation.

25. Egypt indicated that its anti-narcotics authority performed this role through a tripartite committee of the Ministries of the Interior, Justice, and Health, and in close cooperation with the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB).

26. In Mali, the regulation of the use, sale and distribution of precursor chemicals, essential chemicals and pharmaceutical preparations was foreseen in article 50 and subsequent provisions of the law on the control of drugs and precursors. That law contained safeguards to ensure the licit use of precursor chemicals, essential chemicals and pharmaceutical preparations by describing the relevant administrative procedures and the end-users.

27. Mozambique reported that it had taken action to implement this recommendation. Senegal reported that, in line with the decree 2012-543 of 24 May 2012, a Directorate for Pharmacy and Medicines was part of the Ministry of Health. That Directorate was responsible for developing and overseeing the application of relevant regulations relating to pharmacies, medicines, medical equipment, narcotic drugs and other toxic substances. Senegal also noted that the Directorate was working closely with INCB in issuing import authorizations for narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and precursor chemicals.

28. Sao Tome and Principe noted that it had taken no action to implement this recommendation.

29. Sierra Leone reported that the Ministry of Health and Sanitation through the Pharmacy Board (the National Medicines Regulatory Agency), issued import authorizations/permits to pharmaceutical importers for the importation of precursor chemicals, essential chemicals and pharmaceutical preparations. The Regulatory Agency was mandated to perform that function by the Pharmacy and Drugs Act of 2001 and the importation of the above was allowed without import authorizations/permits or approval by the agency. Through its Pharmacy Board, Sierra Leone had registered with and used the Precursors Incident Communication System (PICS) and the Pre-Export Notification Online (PEN Online) to monitor the movement of precursors and other controlled drugs in and out of the country and at the international level so as to prevent their diversion and illicit use. Audit inspections targeting controlled drugs (i.e. narcotic drugs, precursors, psychotropic substances) in the drug distribution chain of the country were conducted as well.

Issue 2: Addressing challenges posed by the cultivation and abuse of cannabis

Recommendation 4

30. It was recommended that in combating cannabis trafficking, Governments should encourage their law enforcement officials, prosecutors and judiciaries to work closely with their neighbours and with countries throughout the region to

share information, conducting joint operations and improving communication channels.

31. Angola indicated that it had taken action to implement this recommendation. In Burkina Faso, the judicial and law enforcement authorities had been using as a basis the ECOWAS conventions A/P.1/7/92 and A/P.1/8/94 on international cooperation in criminal matters and extradition.

32. Chad noted that all the necessary measures in the area of cooperation had been taken in the framework of the Central African Police Chiefs Committee (CCPAC). Côte d'Ivoire indicated that it had taken no action under this recommendation.

33. The anti-narcotics authority of Egypt cooperated with its counterparts in neighbouring countries, and with other authorities at the regional level. Furthermore, joint seizures were carried out, taking into consideration all the necessary legal and security procedures and within the framework of human rights instruments.

34. In Mali, the Drugs Central Office had been established and given an international remit to improve cooperation with the law enforcement officials of the neighbouring countries through the exchange of information and the planning of joint operations, such as controlled deliveries.

35. Mozambique noted that its law enforcement officials and prosecutors had taken measures to share information and to establish and maintain real-time communication channels with their counterparts from neighbouring countries.

36. In Sao Tome and Principe, the Criminal Intervention Police had taken action in collaboration with neighbouring countries, regional platforms and relevant organizations to exchange information, conduct joint operations and improve communication. This included the Federal Police of Brazil (cooperation in criminal matters and staff training), Portugal, France, Ghana, Senegal, Angola and Mozambique, as well as INTERPOL, UNODC and Financial Intelligence Units. Recently, the National Assembly had passed the resolution No. 45/X/2016 on the convention on mutual administrative assistance between Portuguese-speaking countries in matters related to the fight against illicit traffic in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances.

37. Senegal referred to the constant, dynamic exchanges between law enforcement officials using the INTERPOL national central bureau, as well as personal contacts, in order to share information on criminal networks.

38. In Sierra Leone, the Transnational Organized Crime Unit (TOCU) was an inter-agency body comprising the Immigration Department (IMM), the Office of National Security (ONS), the Anti-corruption Commission (ACC), the Central Intelligence Security Unit (CISU), the Ports Authority (SLPA), the Airport Authority (SLAA), the Police (SLP), the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA), the National Revenue Authority (NRA), the Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU), the Armed Forces (RSLAF) and the Pharmacy Board of Sierra Leone (PBSL). The members of TOCU work together and share information to address illicit trafficking (including drugs, firearms, humans etc.) drug abuse and misuse, as well as national and transnational organized crime. TOCU also gathers and analyses information, and develops operational intelligence to support its lead investigative role in the most complex crime cases. Furthermore, TOCU Sierra

Leone, together with the Transnational Organized Crime Units (TCUs) in Guinea-Bissau and Liberia, developed and signed the Bissau protocol for collaboration on joint intelligence, investigation and interdiction operations in relation to drugs and psychotropic substances. In addition, reference was made to the Dakar Protocol to Combat Drug Trafficking, which was signed on 21 August 2015.

Recommendation 5

39. Governments were encouraged to review their legislation with a view to harmonizing offences and sanctions related to cannabis trafficking.

40. Angola reported that its justice system had been enforcing the national legislation, with the view to deterring cannabis trafficking. Burkina Faso had been reviewing Act No. 017-99/AN of 29 April 1999 on the Drug Code.

41. Chad indicated that this aspect had already been taken into account in its national legislation. Côte d'Ivoire indicated that it had taken no action under this recommendation.

42. In Egypt, the tripartite committee of the Ministries of the Interior, Justice, and Health had been reviewing the Narcotics Control Law in order to continuously harmonize offences and sanctions.

43. Mali indicated that no action had been taken under this recommendation. Mozambique noted that the process of reviewing the national anti-drug legislation had started with the adoption of a National Strategy Against Drugs in 2014 and that different parts of that legislation were under review. Sao Tome and Principe indicated that it had taken no action to implement this recommendation.

44. Senegal had foreseen court-ordered treatment in order to avoid the systematic imprisonment of drug users, with article 120 of the national anti-drug law stipulating that a judge may direct the user of cannabis to undergo medical treatment in order to avoid imprisonment. The right to health was therefore taken into account in the legislation against cannabis in Senegal.

45. Sierra Leone indicated that its Pharmacy and Drugs Act of 2001 was being reviewed and had not yet been enacted and that the National Drug Law Enforcement Act of 2008 of the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency was under review.

Recommendation 6

46. Governments were encouraged to promote sustainable alternative development initiatives as an effective means of addressing the dependence of rural communities on the illicit cultivation of cannabis for their livelihoods.

47. Angola indicated that its Ministry of Agriculture had been establishing facilities within communities to encourage them to cultivate legitimate crops, instead of cannabis. Burkina Faso noted it was not a cannabis producing country.

48. Chad reported that no dependence on the illicit cultivation of cannabis had yet been observed in that country. Côte d'Ivoire indicated that it had taken no action under this recommendation.

49. In Egypt, the Government had been making determined efforts to support sustainable and alternative development, and to establish economic projects in rural communities in order to improve their livelihoods.

50. Mali indicated that no action had been taken under this recommendation. In Mozambique, the National Strategy Against Drugs (2014-2023) and the Master Plan (2016-2020) advocated policies and action for sustainable alternative development initiatives. Sao Tome and Principe indicated that it had taken no action to implement this recommendation.

51. Senegal encouraged civil society organizations to carry out activities with the view to reorienting cannabis producers towards the cultivation of licit crops. One such activity was piloted in the area of Niayes with mixed results due to lack of sufficient funding. The alternative development approach was included in Senegal's national action plan, which was under finalization and civil society organizations were asked to enhance their actions in convincing producers to switch to commercial crops.

52. In Sierra Leone, the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food Security had started implementing alternative development initiatives by providing to farmers licit crops for cultivation.

Issue 3: Responding to the current threat posed by trafficking of heroin, including by sea

Recommendation 7

53. Given the threat to public health, the harm to the environment caused by illicit cultivation, the adverse economic effects and the negative impact on the rule of law, Governments were strongly encouraged to keep illicit drug trafficking and related organized criminal offences at the forefront of their political agendas.

54. Angola prioritized this issue on its agenda in order to address it through the criminal justice system. Burkina Faso reported that its National Committee for the Fight against Drugs had been providing training to law enforcement officials (Police, Gendarmerie, Customs) in order to better equip them in the fight against illicit drug trafficking and related offences.

55. In Chad, the fight against drugs was one of the priorities of the political programme of the Head of State. Côte d'Ivoire indicated that it had established a Transnational Organized Crime Unit in the framework of WACI (decree 2014-675 of 5 November 2015), and defined its composition, organizational modalities and functioning of its operational directorate (decree 017/MEMIS/DGPN/DPPN).

56. Egypt placed particular emphasis on the drug problem and provided all the required financial and human resources to the anti-narcotic authorities so that they could fulfil their functions effectively.

57. In Mali, the fight against drugs and related organized crime was one of the priorities of the Government, which, in order to better address the issues, had established specialized bodies, such as the Drugs Central Office, the Specialized Judicial Coordination Centre, the specialized Brigade and the special security anti-terrorism forces.

58. Mozambique reported that its Government had adopted the National Strategy Against Drugs (2014-2023) and the Master Plan (2016-2020), with the view to keeping illicit drug trafficking and related criminal offences at the forefront of the political agenda.

59. Sao Tome and Principe indicated that one of the priorities of its Government was to create regional integration mechanisms and implement dynamic diplomatic relations aimed at strengthening and consolidating the solidarity and cooperation with its traditional development partners and others in defence of peace, security and international harmony. Another priority identified by Sao Tome and Principe was the implementation of policy measures to combat maritime piracy, drug trafficking and terrorism and cooperation with bilateral and multilateral partners in collective action to transform the Gulf of Guinea into a zone of peace, cooperation and development.

60. The Central Office for the Suppression of Illicit Drug Trafficking (OCRTIS) of Senegal was established by decree 1997-1218 of 17 December 1997 to coordinate the fight against illicit drug trafficking and related crimes. An Airport Anti-Traffics Cells (CAAT) was established to track drug traffickers at Senegal's airports, with the technical support of UNODC and the financial support of the European Union. This was also the case of the Joint Unit for the Control of Containers (UMCC) at the port of Dakar, which had been established to monitor the containers that arrive in or depart Dakar.

61. Sierra Leone referred to the establishment of its Transnational Organized Crime Unit, to the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency and to the enactment of the National Drug Control Act of 2008, as well as to the Joint Cooperation Agreement and activities with other TCUs, as mentioned above.

Recommendation 8

62. Governments were encouraged to strengthen collaboration, professional networking, information-sharing mechanisms and communication between their drug law enforcement authorities in order to improve the regional response to heroin trafficking.

63. Angola indicated that the level of heroin trafficking in that country was low and that, although it was an issue of concern for the Government, it had not yet become a priority. Burkina Faso noted that the above-mentioned ECOWAS conventions on international cooperation in criminal matters and extradition provided for the appropriate communication channels.

64. In addition to the work undertaken in the framework of the Central African Police Chiefs Committee, Chad maintained a close cooperation with several countries in the fight against drugs. Côte d'Ivoire indicated that it had taken action to implement this recommendation.

65. Egypt's anti-narcotics authority shared information with its counterparts in other States with the view to curbing illicit trafficking in heroin, and ensured the strict control of seaports and airports.

66. Mali indicated that no action had been taken under this recommendation. Mozambique indicated that, in 2015, it had joined the Indian Ocean Forum on

Maritime Crime. Sao Tome and Principe indicated that it had taken no action to implement this recommendation.

67. In Senegal, OCRTIS and units such as CAAT and UMCC consisting of police and customs officers, worked closely together at the borders to detect and suppress criminal networks.

68. Sierra Leone referred to the Dakar Protocol to Combat Drug Trafficking signed in Dakar in August 2015 and to the Joint Cooperation Agreement and joint activities with other TCUs in the subregion.

Recommendation 9

69. To be effective against groups and individuals engaged in heroin trafficking and related criminal activities, it was recommended that Governments should review their existing bilateral agreements to ensure that they meet the needs of their law enforcement and judicial authorities tasked with investigating and prosecuting such cross-border offences.

70. Angola noted that it had reinforced the security of its borders. Chad reported that, currently, bilateral agreements did not hinder the efficiency of the detection services. Burkina Faso indicated that the ECOWAS conventions allowed its Government to respond to the needs of the national law enforcement services in relation to transnational crime.

71. Côte d'Ivoire indicated that, following the terrorist attacks in Mali, Burkina Faso and Côte d'Ivoire, the ministers in charge of security met from 23 to 24 March 2016 in Abidjan, where nine resolutions on preventing and combating terrorism had been adopted.

72. Egypt's anti-narcotic authorities had concluded bilateral agreements with many countries and those agreements were constantly reviewed to establish their suitability in terms of existing cooperation. In addition, meetings had been held with authority representatives in those States with the view to enhancing international cooperation frameworks.

73. Mali indicated that no action had been taken under this recommendation. Mozambique reported that its law enforcement officials and prosecutors regularly participated in regional meetings and collaborated with international partners in the investigation of international networks involved in heroin trafficking.

74. Sao Tome and Principe indicated that its Criminal Investigation Police had been active and there had been seizures of counterfeit medicines and of a small amount of heroin in 2012.

75. In Senegal, a national plan of action for the period 2016-2020 was being finalized under the auspices of the Interministerial Committee for the Fight Against Drugs. At the same time, Senegal was involved in finalizing the ECOWAS Action Plan to address illicit drug trafficking, organized crime and drug abuse in West Africa.

76. Sierra Leone indicated that although the aforementioned agreements or protocols had been signed, they had yet to be reviewed in light of the needs of the law enforcement and judicial authorities in that country, which were responsible for investigating and prosecuting cross-border offences.

Recommendation 10

77. It was recommended that Governments should consider making better use of the provisions on international cooperation contained in the three international drug control treaties.

78. Angola reported that its Government regulated its actions on the basis of the three international drug control conventions, with the support of UNODC.

79. Chad reported that it had ratified the three international drug control treaties and that it had not encountered any problems in the area of international cooperation. Côte d'Ivoire indicated that it had taken no action under this recommendation. Burkina Faso reported that it had trained its judicial authorities and those involved in the fight against drugs in the provisions of the three international drug control conventions.

80. Egypt indicated that it was closely monitoring the strict implementation of all the commitments under the three international drug control conventions. Mali indicated that a judicial cooperation platform for Sahel countries had been established on 8 November 2012 with the view to facilitating the exchange of information and judicial criminal records.

81. Mozambique noted that its National Strategy Against Drugs (2014-2023) and the Master Plan (2016-2020) had been developed with technical assistance provided by UNODC and the support of the European Union, the Mini-Dublin Group and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. Sao Tome and Principe referred to the recent adoption by its Government of resolution No. 45/X/2016 on the convention on mutual administrative assistance between Portuguese-speaking countries in matters related to the fight against illicit traffic in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances.

82. Senegal had posted two liaison officers in Nanterre, France, for the purpose of coordinating the fight against drugs at the Mediterranean area anti-drug enforcement coordination centre (CeCLAD-M). In addition, suspected vessels were investigated during their passage through Senegal's territorial waters or at the port of Dakar.

83. Sierra Leone was a signatory to the three international drug control treaties and, on that basis, it had been sending annual and quarterly data on narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and precursor chemicals to INCB. Sierra Leone had also been using the Precursors Incident Communication System (PICS) and it had submitted the completed annual reports questionnaires to UNODC.

III. Conclusions

84. The majority of responding Governments had either established or made efforts to support existing treatment facilities for stimulant abuse, some of which were part of mental health facilities. A number of Governments also undertook initiatives to raise awareness of drug-related public health issues.

85. Almost no responding Governments had undertaken studies of the illicit use of plant-based stimulants and hallucinogens, such as khat and Datura. At the same time, one Government carried out an information campaign to raise awareness of

Datura, while another Government had taken steps to inter alia monitor illicit consumption markets.

86. Most Governments took preventive measures to control precursor chemicals, essential chemicals and pharmaceutical preparations by strengthening the administrative procedures regulating their commercial use, sale and distribution.

87. With regard to combating cannabis trafficking, the law enforcement officials, prosecutors and judiciaries of most of the responding Governments had taken action to implement this recommendation and worked closely with their neighbours and with countries throughout the region to share information, conduct joint operations and improve communication channels.

88. The majority of Governments had been reviewing their legislation with a view to harmonizing offences and sanctions related to cannabis trafficking, in addition to taking other relevant measures in this regard.

89. Many of the responding Governments promoted sustainable alternative development initiatives as an effective means of addressing the dependence of rural communities on the illicit cultivation of cannabis for their livelihoods. This included inter alia initiatives to establish appropriate facilities and economic projects within communities, including alternative development in national action plans and involving civil society.

90. All the responding Governments had taken measures to place illicit drug trafficking and related organized criminal offences at the forefront of their political agendas, by taking a wide range of actions in this regard.

91. Several of the responding Governments continued to strengthen collaboration, professional networking, information-sharing mechanisms and communication between their drug law enforcement authorities in order to improve the regional response to heroin trafficking, although, in some countries, this issue had not yet become a concern.

92. A number of the responding Governments reviewed their existing bilateral agreements to ensure that they met the needs of their law enforcement and judicial authorities tasked with investigating and prosecuting cross-border offences. Reference was also made to collaboration with regional partners and the finalization of regional agreements.

93. Governments referred to their efforts to further enhance their efforts in the area of international cooperation and to comply with the three international drug control treaties.
