

4 October 2016

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Report of the Twenty-sixth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Africa, held in Addis Ababa from 19 to 23 September 2016

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

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

1. The Twenty-sixth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Africa, adopted the recommendations set forth below, which had been drawn up by its working groups. For the observations and conclusions of the working groups that led to the recommendations, see chapter IV below.

1. Effective national and regional strategies in addressing drug trafficking by sea

2. The following recommendations were made with regard to effective national and regional strategies in addressing drug trafficking by sea:

(a) Countries of the region with extensive, remote and difficult to patrol coastlines should be encouraged to develop specific maritime protection strategies that support inter-agency collaboration to maximize the effectiveness of limited resources;

(b) Governments should support the development of maritime intelligence capacity within their drug enforcement authorities to monitor the movement of vessels and share this information with counterparts in order to facilitate the identification of traffickers and the vessels they are using;

(c) Governments are encouraged to support the Indian Ocean Forum on Maritime Crime initiative and the maritime interdiction role of the Combined Maritime Forces aimed at disrupting heroin trafficking on the east coast of Africa;

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



(d) Governments are encouraged to ensure the accuracy of contact information and focal point details that they provide to the United Nations directory of competent national authorities and to regularly update this information with any changes.

2. Challenges in addressing new psychoactive substances, amphetamine-type stimulants and the diversion of precursors and pre-precursors and the non-medical use and misuse of pharmaceuticals containing narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances

3. The following recommendations were made with regard to challenges in addressing new psychoactive substances, amphetamine-type stimulants and the diversion of precursors and pre-precursors and the non-medical use and misuse of pharmaceuticals containing narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances:

(a) Governments are encouraged to review their chemical control legislation, monitoring practices and staff training on chemical awareness so as to ensure that they provide the necessary control and compliance standards required for precursor chemicals used in the illicit manufacture of drugs;

(b) Governments should encourage their drug enforcement and chemical control authorities to improve inter-agency cooperation in the monitoring of domestic sales of precursor chemicals;

(c) Governments are encouraged to take measures to ensure that effective controls are in place to detect and prevent the illegal importation of medications and pharmaceutical products.

3. Best practices in promoting measures to ensure the availability and accessibility of internationally controlled drugs for medical and scientific purposes

4. The following recommendations were made with regard to best practices in promoting measures to ensure the availability and accessibility of internationally controlled drugs for medical and scientific purposes:

(a) If they have not already done so, Governments are urged to develop national strategies to address increasing access to controlled drugs for medical and scientific purposes;

(b) Governments should be encouraged to undertake efforts to review legislative policies and regulatory procedures to improve the import and export process for substances under international control and to address issues related to their affordability;

(c) Governments of the region should take measures to support the capacity-building and training of health-care professionals and competent national authorities on adequate access to controlled substances for medical purposes and to engage law enforcement in strengthening the systematic procedures that will prevent diversion while increasing access to medical care.

4. Practical measures tailored to the specific needs of children and youth to prevent and treat drug abuse among them and to address their involvement in drug-related crime, including cultivation and trafficking

5. The following recommendations were made with regard to practical measures tailored to the specific needs of children and youth to prevent and treat drug abuse

among them and to address their involvement in drug-related crime, including cultivation and trafficking:

(a) If they have not already done so, Governments are urged to develop well-defined national strategies to address drug use prevention, treatment for drug use disorders, care, rehabilitation and reintegration into the community, tailored for children and youth and guided by international standards and norms;

(b) Governments should be encouraged to promote effective coordination between the education, justice and law enforcement sectors to ensure that the needs of underage drug offenders are appropriately considered and treatment services are provided as required;

(c) Governments should be encouraged to undertake efforts to review measures that have been taken to ensure that all actors within the child protection, health and juvenile justice systems have the capacity to protect the rights and respond to the needs of children, including by providing those in need with drug treatment and related support services, throughout the justice system and upon reintegration into families and the community;

(d) Governments must do more to encourage and support training of relevant stakeholders at the national and community level, including law enforcement, the justice sector, the health sector and the education sector, to ensure evidence-based interventions are universally implemented within a coordinated, culturally and socially relevant system in order to promote healthy lifestyles for youth as productive members of the community.

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

6. At its 1st meeting, on 19 September 2016, 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/26/2) and the report of the Secretariat on the current situation with respect to regional and subregional cooperation in countering drug trafficking (UNODC/HONLAF/26/3). In addition, national reports were submitted by Algeria, Botswana, Chad, Egypt, the Gambia, Madagascar, Mali, Mozambique, Sao Tome and Principe and Sierra Leone (UNODC/HONLAF/26/CRP.3-12).

7. A representative of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (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 by Governments to UNODC. Representatives of UNODC made statements regarding the organization of the working groups. Another representative of UNODC also made an audiovisual presentation.

8. The representatives of Angola, Morocco, Egypt, the Sudan, Burkina Faso, Nigeria, Côte d’Ivoire and the Gambia made statements.

9. The Meeting discussed current drug trafficking trends in Africa, along with measures taken to counter drug trafficking, while some participants referred to particular cases and seizures. Reference was made to two international conferences on drugs, organized by Angola, which had been widely attended by Member States, as well as representatives of academia, religious organizations and civil society, and at which a number of important recommendations on enhancing regional and global cooperation had been formulated.

10. Several speakers emphasized the major efforts undertaken by their countries to address cultivation of and trafficking in cannabis and the need to mobilize resources to address that issue. The need to continue detecting areas under cannabis cultivation, while allocating sufficient human resources for that purpose, was stressed. 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 illicit drug cultivation.

11. Several speakers referred to the particular geostrategic position of the African region and to the complex situation that it faced in view of the illicit production, transit and consumption of drugs that were taking place on the continent. In that regard, it was noted that regional cooperation was imperative and that it should be continually improved, including by strengthening bilateral cooperation, exchanging experiences and information in real time, and giving impetus to new cooperation platforms in Africa.

12. Reference was made to the recent increases in the availability of different types of drugs, including tramadol, and to the opening of new markets. Several speakers referred to their national efforts to address the production and consumption of tramadol and to place tramadol under national control. Reference was also made to Commission on Narcotic Drugs resolution 56/14, on strengthening international cooperation in addressing the non-medical use and abuse, the illicit manufacture and the illicit domestic and international distribution of tramadol, adopted in 2013, and the actions of Member States and the International Narcotics Control Board that were contained therein. It was proposed by a number of speakers that tramadol be placed under international control.

13. Trafficking routes and the *modi operandi* used by traffickers with regard to tramadol, cannabis, heroin and cocaine were discussed. It was proposed that cooperation with countries in Southern Europe be enhanced and that a specialized centre be established for the purpose of combating illicit drug trafficking in the Mediterranean region for countries in North Africa.

14. Some speakers referred to the ongoing need to continue studying the psychoactive impact of datura and the threat that it posed, in particular to youth, and noted that datura should be placed under international control.

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

15. At its 1st and 2nd meetings, on 19 September 2016, the Meeting considered item 4 of its agenda, entitled “Implementation of the recommendations adopted by

the Twenty-fourth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Africa”. The Meeting had before it a paper prepared by the Secretariat (UNODC/HONLAF/26/4) on the basis of information provided by Governments in response to a questionnaire sent to all States participating in the Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Africa. 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. Since that date, completed questionnaires and country reports had been submitted by Algeria, Botswana, Egypt,¹ Madagascar, Morocco,² Namibia, Nigeria and South Africa.

16. 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 Algeria, Morocco, Nigeria, Egypt, Côte d’Ivoire, the Gambia, the Sudan, Ghana, Madagascar, the United Republic of Tanzania and Angola.

17. The Meeting discussed action taken by Governments of countries in the region to implement the recommendations adopted by the Twenty-fourth Meeting and highlighted action taken in relation to specific recommendations. The areas addressed were trends and developments regarding new psychoactive substances not currently under international control, addressing challenges posed by the cultivation and abuse of cannabis, and responding to the current threat posed by trafficking of heroin, including by sea.

18. The representatives of those countries which had submitted their responses to the questionnaire after the report for consideration under this item had been issued informed the Meeting about specific efforts undertaken by their countries to implement the recommendations adopted by the Twenty-fourth Meeting.

19. Furthermore, reference was made to increases in the illicit consumption of pharmaceutical products, in particular tramadol, a synthetic opioid analgesic, as well as efforts made by States to place it under national control and to ensure appropriate sanctions for its trafficking. Reference was also made to the high levels of production of tramadol and to the trafficking routes used. The action taken by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs in relation to tramadol at its fifty-sixth session, in 2013, and the need for the Commission to take action at its next session to place it under international control, were stressed.

20. Some speakers referred to the fact that higher demand had led to an increase in consumption markets in transit countries as well. Increases in the production of captagon tablets were noted. One speaker referred to a report on datura, which was being compiled by his Government for submission to UNODC. Reference was made to the trafficking of cannabis, as well as of khat, in the region.

21. The importance of effectively using the Pre-Export Notification Online (PEN Online) system and of inter-agency coordination in that regard was noted.

¹ Received on 28 September 2016.

² Received on 29 September 2016.

IV. Consideration of topics by working groups

22. At its 3rd to 7th meetings, held on 20, 21 and 22 September 2016, the Meeting established working groups to examine four 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. Effective national and regional strategies in addressing drug trafficking by sea

23. The working group held one meeting on 20 September 2016. In its consideration of the topic under review, the working group made the following observations:

(a) Trafficking by sea remains an important *modus operandi* used by criminal groups to transport large quantities of illicit drugs onto and around the coasts of Africa;

(b) Effective law enforcement against trafficking at sea involves sharing information about traffickers and their vessels, both with domestic national drug enforcement agencies and with overseas counterparts;

(c) Geopolitical tensions disrupting the Balkan and northern heroin trafficking routes from Afghanistan are placing more stress on the southern route to the coast of East Africa;

(d) The establishment of regional maritime coordination centres in Africa would greatly assist in the identification and interdiction of vessels involved in trafficking by sea;

(e) The United Nations directory of competent national authorities offers a valuable list of national focal points to contact when requesting legal permission to board vessels at sea.

24. The working group drew the following conclusions:

(a) Large consignments of illicit drugs concealed among legal container trade or conveyed on vessels dedicated solely to that purpose offer large financial returns to trafficking syndicates, but equally generate significant losses when successfully intercepted by authorities;

(b) Regional cooperation that involves the sharing of information between competent authorities is important to achieving successful interdiction results with regard to maritime trafficking;

(c) The coordination work of the Indian Ocean Forum on Maritime Crime and the tasking of the Combined Maritime Forces with maritime interdiction is proving an effective disruptor to heroin trafficking on the east coast of Africa;

(d) Adopting common guidelines on practices and procedures to be used when interdicting vessels at sea would improve the effectiveness of this deterrent;

(e) State authorities must maintain the accuracy of their contact information in the United Nations directory of competent national authorities and regularly

update the information with any changes in order for it to be an effective tool against trafficking by sea.

2. Challenges in addressing new psychoactive substances, amphetamine-type stimulants and the diversion of precursors and pre-precursors and the non-medical use and misuse of pharmaceuticals containing narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances

25. The working group held one meeting on 20 September 2016. In its consideration of the topic under review, the working group made the following observations:

(a) There is a growing number of clandestine laboratories in Africa that are supplied by the diversion of precursor chemicals and are engaged in the production of amphetamine-type stimulants;

(b) Illicit pharmaceutical markets pose a serious threat to public health;

(c) Legislation on the control of chemicals used in the manufacture of illicit drugs needs to be critically reviewed in order to assess its effectiveness in preventing the diversion of precursor chemicals;

(d) The African region continues to experience high levels of illicit trafficking in tramadol.

26. The working group drew the following conclusions:

(a) More stringent monitoring of the chemical industry in Africa is needed;

(b) Preventing the importation of illicit pharmaceuticals will strengthen public health;

(c) Drug control and health authorities must do more to educate themselves about the threat posed by amphetamine-type stimulants, as well as provide training to and raise the awareness of their staff so that they may act more effectively against it;

(d) Trafficking in tramadol is generating lucrative profits for drug syndicates.

3. Best practices in promoting measures to ensure the availability and accessibility of internationally controlled drugs for medical and scientific purposes

27. The working group held one meeting on 21 September 2016. In its consideration of the topic under review, the working group made the following observations:

(a) Increasing the availability of and access to controlled substances for medical and scientific purposes, while preventing their diversion, misuse and abuse, is an essential objective of the three international drug control conventions. One of the sets of operational recommendations contained in the outcome document of the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem held in April 2016 is devoted to this topic;

(b) The continued need for support from UNODC, the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB) and the World Health Organization (WHO) to

Member States in their efforts to increase access to controlled drugs for medical and scientific purposes, to improve reporting on and monitoring of importation, exportation, cultivation and manufacturing of controlled drugs and to address the ongoing health implications in providing pain management and palliative care interventions was noted;

(c) Although data provided by INCB show that raw material is available at sufficient levels globally to satisfy the estimated needs of States in terms of controlled substances for medical purposes, barriers negatively affect access to such substances;

(d) According to data reported by States to INCB, it appears that in the African region levels of consumption of pain medication remain low;

(e) A number of barriers have a negative impact on efforts to increase access to pain medication, including national legislation and regulatory mechanisms, lack of training for health-care professionals, concerns regarding addiction as well as diversion, issues of affordability and weak control systems.

28. The working group drew the following conclusions:

(a) Ensuring availability while preventing diversion, misuse and abuse of controlled drugs is in line with the three international drug control conventions;

(b) A multilevel approach involving all stakeholders is required, with a focus on inter-agency coordination and cooperation, to successfully ensure adequate access to essential medicines;

(c) Sufficient flexibility is needed to account for the unique cultural and regional aspects that contribute to either mitigating or enhancing the barriers to increasing access within the African region;

(d) Law enforcement officers should be involved in discussions and working groups to ensure that relevant experiences related to preventing diversion can be integrated into policies on increasing access to controlled drugs for medical and scientific purposes.

4. Practical measures tailored to the specific needs of children and youth to prevent and treat drug abuse among them and to address their involvement in drug-related crime, including cultivation and trafficking

29. The working group held two meetings, on 21 and 22 September 2016. In its consideration of the topic under review, the working group made the following observations:

(a) In the outcome document³ of the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem held in April 2016, Member States highlighted the need to take into account the special needs of children and youth with regard to the world drug problem;

(b) Children and youth who engage in drug abuse and trafficking are particularly vulnerable and exposed to a variety of negative risk factors, which stands in the way of achieving a number of Sustainable Development Goals, in

³ General Assembly resolution S-30/1, annex.

particular Goal 3, on ensuring healthy lives and well-being for all at all ages, and Goal 16, on promoting peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, providing access to justice for all and building effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels;

(c) In the Convention on the Rights of the Child, States parties agreed that they would undertake all appropriate measures, including legislative, administrative, social and educational measures, to protect children from illicit drug use and prevent the use of children in the illicit production and trafficking of such substances. The Convention serves as a point of reference for the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Administration of Juvenile Justice (the Beijing Rules),⁴ the United Nations Guidelines for the Prevention of Juvenile Delinquency (the Riyadh Guidelines),⁵ the International Standards on Drug Use Prevention⁶ and the UNODC-WHO International Standards for the Treatment of Drug Use Disorders;⁷

(d) Prevention, treatment, care, rehabilitation and social reintegration services that are based on scientific evidence and respect the rights and dignity of individuals can protect the health and well-being of children and youth, prevent overdoses and address other health conditions such as HIV;

(e) Multiple sectors, including law enforcement and justice, child protection, education, health and civil society, are involved in developing sustainable infrastructure, quality services and evidence-based approaches that protect the health and well-being, as well as the rights, of children and youth.

30. The working group drew up the following conclusions:

(a) At the national level, legislation and policies should be aligned with international standards and norms, while reflecting the cultural and social realities of the country;

(b) Approaches to the prevention of drug abuse among young people should be based on science and evidence and include the active participation of all stakeholders, with a focus on inter-agency coordination and cooperation to address the full spectrum of needs exhibited by vulnerable children and youth;

(c) Existing drug use prevention activities would be further enhanced when implemented continually in various settings, focused on consistent messages and evaluated to demonstrate success;

(d) Increasing alternatives to conviction or punishment as a result of personal consumption-related offences and other drug-related offences of a minor nature, specifically related to children and youth, allows for a more health-focused approach and reduces stigma, isolation and other negative social consequences.

⁴ General Assembly resolution 40/33, annex.

⁵ General Assembly resolution 45/112, annex.

⁶ www.unodc.org/unodc/en/prevention/prevention-standards.html.

⁷ www.unodc.org/docs/treatment/UNODC-WHO_2016_treatment_standards_E.pdf.

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, and to the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem held in 2016

31. At its 2nd and 7th meetings, on 19 and 22 September 2016, the Meeting considered agenda item 6, 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, and to the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem held in 2016”.

32. For its consideration of the item, the Meeting had before it General Assembly resolution S-30/1, entitled “Our joint commitment to effectively addressing and countering the world drug problem”, the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem,⁸ and 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.⁹

33. A representative of the Secretariat made an introductory statement under this agenda item. During the discussion of the item, statements were made by the representatives of Nigeria, Côte d’Ivoire, Morocco, Ghana and the United Republic of Tanzania.

34. In its resolution 64/182, the General Assembly, welcoming the outcome of the high-level segment of the fifty-second session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, adopted the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem, adopted during the high-level segment of the fifty-second session of the Commission, 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. Pursuant to General Assembly resolutions 67/193, 69/200 and 70/181, the Assembly convened a special session on the world drug problem from 19 to 21 April 2016 and, in its resolution S-30/1, adopted the outcome document entitled “Our joint commitment to effectively addressing and countering the world drug problem”, containing operational recommendations on a broad range of the thematic areas.

35. Some speakers noted their continued commitment to the implementation of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action and to the fight against drugs, and referred to national and multilateral efforts to fight the cultivation of and trafficking in

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

⁹ See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2014, Supplement No. 8 (E/2014/28)*, chap. I, sect. C.

cannabis in the region. The need for alternative development programmes to address that issue was noted, as were the constraints faced by Governments in that regard. Reference was also made to the drug situation in some of the Maghreb and Sahel countries and to the need to improve cooperation, especially at the operational levels, in order to disrupt international drug trafficking networks. The importance of closely monitoring land, sea and air borders was mentioned as well.

36. The increasing threat posed by criminal organizations that were trafficking cocaine to the region, in particular with the advent of new commercial air routes, was noted. Furthermore, it was noted that there had been an increase in the trafficking of “ecstasy” from Western Europe into some of the countries in the region.

37. The importance of the principle of shared responsibility in the fight against drugs was mentioned and, in that regard, the need to facilitate the exchange of experiences and information among countries in the region, to strengthen bilateral cooperation and to revitalize regional operational platforms was emphasized. At the same time, reference was made to, inter alia, geostrategic, financial and human resources constraints.

38. Reference was made to challenges posed by new psychoactive substances, including the increasing levels of local production of methamphetamine in clandestine laboratories, the diversion of precursors by licensed pharmaceutical companies and the abuse of local psychoactive substances not under control. The need for training for law enforcement and other officials and for enhancing cooperation in addressing new psychoactive substances was noted.

39. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime was invited to assist Governments in assessing the drug situation in the region and identifying weak and strong points and in developing a medium- to long-term strategy to counter drug trafficking. The need for facilitated access to the PEN Online system was noted. Reference was also made to efforts undertaken to update national anti-drug legislation.

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

40. At its 7th meeting, on 22 September 2016, the Twenty-sixth Meeting considered item 7, entitled “Organization of the Twenty-seventh Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Africa”. For its consideration, the Meeting had before it a note by the Secretariat on the organization of the Twenty-seventh Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Africa (UNODC/HONLAF/26/5).

41. During the discussion of the item, statements were made by the representatives of Burkina Faso, Côte d’Ivoire, Morocco, Nigeria, Egypt, the United Republic of Tanzania, the Sudan, Ghana, Algeria, Djibouti, Senegal and Angola. Statements were also made by the observers for Spain and Italy.

42. Several speakers proposed the following topics for possible discussion by the working groups at the Twenty-seventh Meeting, to be held in 2017: preventive alternative development; countering money-laundering; drug trafficking by air using small aircraft; transatlantic trafficking of cocaine; operational platforms in Africa;

adoption of a unified approach to criminalizing narcotic drugs; regional and subregional cooperation; trafficking of new psychoactive substances; typologies of financing drug trafficking; financing of terrorism through drug trafficking; health consequences of injecting drug use; addressing dependence on psychoactive substances among youth; addressing poly-drug consumption; addressing drug trafficking by sea; drug trafficking through desert borders; and trafficking of psychoactive substances, such as khat, and its harmful consequences for the region.

43. Several speakers informed the Meeting that, at the Twenty-seventh Meeting, their countries intended to make presentations on relevant issues, including the serious threat posed by cannabis, including to security; the abuse of tramadol and its placement on the list of controlled substances; and operational cooperation among detection and law enforcement agencies.

44. Furthermore, the importance of regional and subregional cooperation and synergies among law enforcement authorities in the region was emphasized. It was noted that the discussions during the Meeting had been a useful forum for participating law enforcement officials. Reference was made to the usefulness of two UNODC initiatives: the West African Coast Initiative and the Airport Communication Programme. Reference was also made to initiatives to cooperate and exchange information with relevant authorities in countries in Southern Europe, including through specialized centres, including the Maritime Analysis and Operations Centre-Narcotics in Lisbon. The need for improved cooperation, including legal cooperation, was stressed. Moreover, reference was made to the relevant provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 1982 and the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988.

45. The representative of Egypt noted that his country would consider hosting the next Meeting, provided that the right conditions were met.

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

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-fifth 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 and to the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem held in 2016.
7. Organization of the Twenty-eighth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Africa.
8. Other business.
9. Adoption of the report.

VII. Other business

47. At its 7th meeting, held on 22 September 2016, the Meeting considered agenda item 8, entitled “Other business”. A representative of the Secretariat informed the Meeting that the Secretariat could no longer process requests for tickets received after the deadline indicated in the invitation to the Meeting and that the option of reimbursement of pre-purchased tickets was no longer available due to a United Nations-wide administrative reform.

VIII. Adoption of the report

48. At its 8th meeting, on 23 September 2016, the Twenty-sixth 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

49. The Twenty-sixth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Africa, organized by UNODC, was held in Addis Ababa from 19 to 23 September 2016. The representative of the Executive Director of UNODC made an opening statement.

B. Attendance

50. The following States were represented at the Twenty-sixth Meeting: Algeria, Angola, Burkina Faso, Côte d’Ivoire, Djibouti, Egypt, Gambia, Ghana, Madagascar, Mali, Morocco, Mozambique, Nigeria, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Sudan and United Republic of Tanzania.

51. The following States were represented by observers: Canada, France, Italy, Russian Federation and Spain.

52. The African Union Commission and the International Criminal Police Organization were represented by observers.

C. Election of officers

53. At its 1st meeting, on 19 September 2016, the Meeting elected the following officers by acclamation:

<i>Chair:</i>	Bakary Gassama (Gambia)
<i>Vice-Chairs:</i>	Mariam Diallo Zorome (Burkina Faso) André Sucami (Angola)
<i>Rapporteur:</i>	Juma Abdul-Rahman Juma Zidikheiry (United Republic of Tanzania)

D. Adoption of the agenda

54. At the same meeting, the Meeting adopted the following agenda:
1. Election of officers.
 2. Adoption of the agenda.
 3. Current situation with respect to regional and subregional cooperation in countering drug trafficking.
 4. Implementation of the recommendations adopted by the Twenty-fourth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Africa.
 5. Consideration of topics by working groups:
 - (a) Effective national and regional strategies in addressing drug trafficking by sea;
 - (b) Challenges in addressing new psychoactive substances, amphetamine-type stimulants and the diversion of precursors and pre-precursors and the non-medical use and misuse of pharmaceuticals containing narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances;
 - (c) Best practices in promoting measures to ensure the availability and accessibility of internationally controlled drugs for medical and scientific purposes;
 - (d) Practical measures tailored to the specific needs of children and youth to prevent and treat drug abuse among them and to address their involvement in drug-related crime, including cultivation and trafficking.
 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, and to the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem held 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.

E. Documentation

55. The documents before the Twenty-sixth Meeting are listed in the annex.

X. Closure of the Meeting

56. Closing remarks were made by the Chair of the Twenty-sixth Meeting.

Annex

List of documents before the Twenty-sixth 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/26/1	2	Annotated provisional agenda
UNODC/HONLAF/26/2	3	Report of the Secretariat on statistical analysis of drug trafficking trends in Africa and worldwide
UNODC/HONLAF/26/3	3	Report of the Secretariat on the current situation with respect to subregional and regional cooperation in countering drug trafficking
UNODC/HONLAF/26/4	4	Note by the Secretariat on the implementation of the recommendations adopted by the Twenty-fourth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Africa
UNODC/HONLAF/26/5	7	Note by the Secretariat on the organization of the Twenty-seventh Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Africa
UNODC/HONLAF/26/L.1 and Add.1-8	9	Draft report
UNODC/HONLAF/26/CRP.1	5	Background note by the Secretariat on the working group on best practices in promoting measures to ensure the availability and accessibility of internationally controlled drugs for medical and scientific purposes
UNODC/HONLAF/26/CRP.2	5	Background note by the Secretariat on the working group on practical measures tailored to the specific needs of children and youth to prevent and treat drug abuse among them and to address their involvement in drug-related crime, including cultivation and trafficking
UNODC/HONLAF/26/CRP.3-12	3	Country reports