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Report of the Twenty-seventh Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Africa, held in Hurghada from 18 to 22 September 2017

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

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

1. The Twenty-seventh 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. The observations and conclusions of the working groups that led to the recommendations are contained in section IV below.

1. Effective measures to counter money-laundering and illicit financial flows

2. The working group made the following recommendations with regard to effective measures to counter money-laundering and illicit financial flows:

(a) Governments are encouraged to make use of existing law enforcement mechanisms, both formal and informal, to enhance regional and international cooperation and of information exchange between law enforcement authorities and financial investigation units at the national and international levels;

(b) Governments are encouraged to streamline cooperation and coordination at the national level through, for example, the establishment of national multi-agency mechanisms or task forces;

(c) Governments are encouraged to consider establishing specialized units, if necessary, to address emerging threats, such as use of the darknet and virtual currencies for drug-related money-laundering, and to cooperate closely with the private sector in this regard;

(d) Governments are encouraged to streamline criminal investigations by using both the “from money to crime” and “from crime to money” approaches;

(e) Governments are encouraged to improve their strategic and criminal analysis capacities, including criminal typology research;

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



(f) Governments are encouraged to compile the financial profiles of the most significant threat actors to increase their financial disruption capacity.

2. Enhancing coordination of the regional communication platforms that support drug law enforcement across Africa

3. The working group made the following recommendations with regard to enhancing coordination of the regional communication platforms that support drug law enforcement across Africa:

(a) Governments are encouraged to develop policies to promote and further strengthen inter-agency cooperation and to establish a single national focal point to deal with information exchange and direct requests to the relevant authorities in an effective manner;

(b) Governments should encourage their law enforcement agencies to make better use of existing communication platforms, regional mechanism and initiatives developed by the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL), the World Customs Organization and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), as well as regional cooperation organizations;

(c) Governments are encouraged to further develop the capacity of their relevant agencies to enable backtracking investigations following significant seizures and participation in joint investigations to dismantle drug trafficking networks;

(d) Governments are encouraged to continue their engagement in the Airport Communication Project, the Global Container Control Programme, the CRIMJUST project, the “networking the networks” initiative and other programmes and projects of UNODC, the World Customs Organization and INTERPOL that focus on an intelligence-led approach and cross-border cooperation to address international drug trafficking and transnational organized crime;

(e) Synergies should be created between the public and private sectors (e.g. banking systems, mobile telecommunication providers, immigration services, non-banking financial sector, logistics companies);

(f) Legal frameworks established to deal with drug trafficking and transnational organized crime that contain provisions on information exchange, controlled deliveries and other law enforcement mechanisms should be harmonized among countries to enable further international cooperation in line with existing international legal frameworks;

(g) Governments should make maximum use of existing regional structures and mechanisms, informal networks and border liaison and foreign liaison officers.

3. Trafficking in new psychoactive substances, including khat, benzodiazepines and tramadol, and law enforcement responses

4. The working group made the following recommendations with regard to trafficking in new psychoactive substances, including khat, benzodiazepines and tramadol, and law enforcement responses:

(a) Governments are encouraged to review and revise relevant national legislation as new substances of abuse continue to emerge and exert a negative impact on public health;

(b) Governments, in particular their law enforcement and health agencies, are encouraged to strengthen the coordination of national authorities at the regional level, including to enhance information-sharing;

(c) Governments are encouraged to improve the capacity of their front-line officers and forensic laboratories to better identify new psychoactive substances;

(d) Governments are encouraged to make use of existing regional and international instruments, tools, mechanisms and available information to address the challenges posed by synthetic and plant-based drugs and the diversion of precursors.

4. Addressing the specific needs of women and girls in the context of the world drug problem

5. The working group made the following recommendations with regard to addressing the specific needs of women and girls in the context of the world drug problem:

(a) Governments are encouraged to gather sex- and age-disaggregated data in community and prison settings in order to better assess the specific needs of women and girls with regard to the drug problem, and to facilitate the development of balanced, evidence-based and cost-effective policies, programmes and interventions in the context of drug supply reduction, drug demand reduction and HIV/AIDS interventions;

(b) Governments should develop and implement policies on drug demand reduction and HIV/AIDS that are informed by strategic information, tailored to the specific needs of women who use drugs;

(c) Governments are encouraged to ensure proportional sentencing and to develop and implement gender-responsive alternatives to imprisonment, in particular for women who commit minor drug-related offences or women with parental or other caretaking responsibilities, in line with international instruments, such as the United Nations Rules for the Treatment of Women Prisoners and Non-custodial Measures for Women Offenders (the Bangkok Rules);

(d) Governments are encouraged to develop coordination mechanisms that foster collaboration among all relevant stakeholders, including government entities, civil society organizations and women who use drugs in order to ensure a balanced, integrated and multisectoral approach in terms of drug supply reduction, drug demand reduction and HIV/AIDS interventions;

(e) Governments are encouraged to afford adequate protection to women who engage in drug trafficking as a result of coercion, threat of the use of force or use of force, as required under the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, if those women are found to be victims of trafficking in persons;

(f) Governments, in their efforts to implement multisectoral policy approaches to the drug problem, should increase the presence of women in law enforcement institutions and provide gender-sensitive training to law enforcement officers and other relevant professionals;

(g) Governments and the international community are invited to establish specific alternative development programmes for women in areas under illicit cultivation.

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

6. At its 2nd meeting, on 18 September 2017, 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 reports of the Secretariat on statistical analysis of drug trafficking trends in Africa and worldwide ([UNODC/HONLAF/27/2](#)) and on the current situation with respect to regional and subregional cooperation in countering drug trafficking ([UNODC/HONLAF/27/3/Rev.1](#)). In addition, national reports had been submitted by Algeria, Angola, Burundi, Egypt, the Gambia, Ghana, Kenya,

Libya, Madagascar, Mozambique, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone and Zambia (UNODC/HONLAF/27/CRP.1-12, 14 and 15).

7. 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 by Governments to UNODC. Another representative of UNODC also made an audiovisual presentation.

8. The representatives of Algeria, Côte d'Ivoire, Egypt, the Gambia, Ghana, Libya, Morocco, Nigeria, the Sudan, the United Republic of Tanzania and Zambia made statements.

9. The representative of Egypt informed the participants of the planned establishment of two regional coordination centres for the purpose of enhancing cooperation, in particular in countries of East and North Africa, to be headquartered on the premises of the anti-narcotics and organized crime section of the Ministry of Interior Affairs of Egypt. The centres would coordinate activities to counter drug trafficking by sea, land and air and contribute to improving cooperation among agencies dealing with drug law enforcement and organized crime, including in the area of countering the laundering of proceeds of crime.

10. Speakers stressed the importance of effective international cooperation, including at the regional and subregional levels, in countering the world drug problem in conformity with the three international drug control conventions, the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem,¹ 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 Problem² and the outcome document of the thirtieth special session of the General Assembly, held in April 2016.³ It was emphasized that the special session had been a milestone in the combat against the world drug problem. It was also noted that armed and political conflicts, fragile contexts and poverty were factors that contributed to that problem.

11. It was noted that the Meetings of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Africa, provided a forum for enhancing the frameworks for international cooperation and developing proposals and recommendations for future action. The need for continued cooperation between States and UNODC in addressing and countering the world drug problem was emphasized. States in the African region were called upon to organize regional coordination meetings and establish cooperation networks. UNODC was encouraged to conduct an in-depth assessment of the drug situation in Africa and to strengthen and coordinate its technical assistance to countries in the region.

12. Several speakers referred to the growing threat posed by the abuse of and traffic in tramadol, to the *modi operandi* and routes used by traffickers and to the enhanced efforts made by their Governments to address those issues.

13. Some speakers highlighted the threat that cannabis, including, in some countries, cannabis of a higher potency, continued to pose in the African region, and they highlighted the efforts made by their Governments to address the cultivation of and traffic in cannabis. UNODC was requested to provide assistance to countries in conducting surveys and sociological studies on cannabis-related issues, with the view to developing effective strategies in that regard.

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

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

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

14. Reference was also made to increases in the abuse of and traffic in heroin, cocaine and “captagon” tablets and the threat posed by the abuse of prescription medicines, such as cough medicines, diazepam and others. It was noted that the abuse of and traffic in khat remained a source of concern.

15. Reference was made to the transatlantic route used for cocaine trafficking, and UNODC and the international community were invited to provide capacity-building assistance to countries in the African region to counter that threat.

16. Several speakers referred to the efforts made by their Governments to counter the traffic in precursors and their diversion for the illicit manufacture of synthetic drugs. UNODC was called upon to provide technical assistance to States and to encourage them, including those from West Africa, to avail themselves of the Pre-Export Notification Online system developed by the International Narcotics Control Board.

17. A number of speakers referred to the lack of human and financial resources to address drug-related issues and stressed the need to mobilize resources in order to address the challenges posed by the world drug problem more effectively. The need for training drug law enforcement officials was also highlighted.

18. A number of speakers referred to the importance of initiatives to raise awareness of the risks posed by drugs, as well as to the involvement of civil society organizations in drug use prevention activities. In that regard, the importance of empowering young people and of entrepreneurship programmes was stressed.

19. Reference was made to efforts made by Governments, sometimes in cooperation with the private sector, to promote and provide treatment, rehabilitation and reintegration services. The need for training programmes to build the knowledge of relevant personnel was noted.

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

20. At its 2nd meeting, the Meeting considered agenda item 4, entitled “Implementation of the recommendations adopted by the Twenty-fifth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Africa”. The Meeting had before it a note prepared by the Secretariat on the basis of information provided by Governments in response to a questionnaire sent to all States participating in the present Meeting ([UNODC/HONLAF/27/4](#)). As at 3 August 2017, replies had been received from the Governments of Algeria, Burundi, Egypt, Ghana, Kenya, Madagascar, Nigeria, Senegal and Sierra Leone. After that date, and prior to the meeting, completed questionnaires and country reports had also been submitted in written form by Côte d’Ivoire, the Sudan and Zambia.

21. The Secretary of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs made an introductory statement. During the discussion, statements were made by the representatives of Ghana, Kenya, Morocco, the Sudan and Zambia.

22. Participants discussed actions taken by Governments of countries in the region to implement the recommendations adopted by the Twenty-fifth Meeting, highlighting those taken in relation to specific recommendations.

23. The representatives of Morocco, the Sudan and Zambia described efforts made by their countries to implement those recommendations. The representative of Ghana provided information supplementing the responses provided by his Government for inclusion in the report for consideration by the Meeting under the present item. Challenges in enhancing the impact of awareness-raising campaigns were mentioned.

IV. Consideration of topics by working groups

24. At the 3rd to 7th meetings of the Meeting, from 19 to 21 September, working groups established by the Meeting examined four issues under agenda item 5, entitled “Consideration of topics by working groups”. The recommendations made by the working groups and adopted by the Meeting are included in section I above, and the observations that they made and conclusions that they reached are set out below.

1. Effective measures to counter money-laundering and illicit financial flows

25. The working group held one meeting, on 19 September, and made the following observations:

(a) Existing formal mechanisms for international cooperation, including mutual legal assistance, are often time-consuming, while there are insufficient informal cooperation and information exchange at the national, regional and international levels;

(b) There are gaps in national legal frameworks designed to tackle the issues of illicit financial flows, money-laundering and drug trafficking;

(c) Law enforcement authorities in the region have limited human and financial resources and insufficient subject matter expertise and operational capacity to tackle drug trafficking and associated illicit financial flows effectively;

(d) Law enforcement authorities face difficulties in adapting to emerging criminal trends, such as the use of virtual currencies for drug trade and money-laundering purposes;

(e) There is limited understanding of the financial profiles of drug trafficking syndicates, organized crime and terrorist groups operating at the national and interregional levels;

(f) Hawala-type remittance systems, which are used by both legitimate and criminal customers, are not subject to anti-money-laundering legislation and regulations.

26. The working group drew the following conclusions:

(a) Drug-related crimes continue to trigger substantial illicit financial flows, which, in turn, have cascading negative effects on States’ economies;

(b) Adequate capacity and expertise are key prerequisites for the ability of law enforcement authorities to counter drug-related crimes, money-laundering and associated illicit financial flows. As a result of the limited resources of law enforcement authorities in the region, the number of parallel financial investigations conducted by relevant national authorities is not commensurate with the extent of the problem;

(c) Financial investigations are key to conducting successful criminal investigations into all types of crime, including drug trafficking;

(d) The low level of awareness of the specifics of money-laundering cases results in a low number of successful prosecutions and convictions, as well as of seizures and confiscations of proceeds of crime.

2. Enhancing coordination of the regional communication platforms that support drug law enforcement across Africa

27. The working group held two meetings, on 19 and 20 September, and made the following observations:

(a) There is a continued lack of both intra-agency and inter-agency cooperation, while the cooperation between law enforcement agencies and other parts of the criminal justice system remains weak;

(b) The increase in the volume of transported goods and in the movement of persons poses additional challenges for law enforcement authorities. In this regard, profiling techniques and risk assessment tools are not used to their full capacity;

(c) The potential of existing regional and international cooperation platforms and structures, such as the African Police Cooperation Organization, INTERPOL, the World Customs Organization and the Southern African Regional Police Chiefs Cooperation Organization, and the network of border liaison offices are not fully utilized;

(d) Cooperation with the private sector remains limited;

(e) There is an emerging willingness of countries to improve cooperation among agencies at the national level;

(f) Heroin continues to be trafficked along the East African coast in transit to major consumption markets, creating additional security threats;

(g) Differences among national legal frameworks can jeopardize complex transborder criminal investigations (carried out, for instance, through controlled deliveries or telephone interceptions) owing to specific legal requirements and create challenges in identifying and communicating with the appropriate point of contact or institution;

(h) Drug trafficking is observed to be one of the significant sources of financing of terrorism and related activities.

28. The working group drew the following conclusions:

(a) Inter-agency cooperation at the national level needs to be strengthened and should be included in national legislation. National mechanisms for information sharing should be further improved to meet the growing challenges of increased regional, interregional and intercontinental drug trafficking;

(b) There is a need for backtracking investigations following seizures, including joint investigations aimed at disrupting transnational organized groups, including drug supply chains, in line with the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and other relevant international legal instruments, with the involvement of relevant national agencies;

(c) Information exchange among countries still presents a challenge, in particular with regard to the quality, amount and timeliness of the information provided;

(d) Differences in national legislation are hampering the effectiveness of practical cooperation between law enforcement agencies in carrying out investigations into transnational criminal networks of organized crime;

(e) The responses to operational requests from some of the partners in the course of international police cooperation are not sufficient for implementing effective investigative measures;

(f) The existing network of liaison officers has proved to be effective in facilitating the exchange of information and intelligence, as well as coordinating law enforcement actions to detect drug trafficking operations;

(g) Stronger commitment from all countries along drug trafficking routes is needed to help in investigating transnational cases in African countries.

3. Trafficking in new psychoactive substances, including khat, benzodiazepines and tramadol, and law enforcement responses

29. The working group held two meetings, on 20 September, and made the following observations:

- (a) Countries in the African region acknowledge the emerging threats posed by new psychoactive substances and the challenges posed by the widespread use of psychoactive substances, such as benzodiazepines and tramadol;
- (b) The high volume of tramadol and, to a lesser extent, “captagon”, trafficked to and within the region is a major concern for law enforcement authorities in the region and beyond;
- (c) The cultivation and use of and trafficking in cannabis and khat continue to cause concern in the region;
- (d) The increase in methamphetamine production and trafficking in West Africa and the role of organized crime groups in this regard have become a threat to the region;
- (e) There is a need to prevent the diversion of precursor chemicals used to manufacture methamphetamine at the national and regional levels;
- (f) Organized crime groups use the same modus operandi and infrastructure for smuggling different types of contraband and illicit drugs, as well as prescription drugs that are being abused in the region.

30. The working group drew the following conclusions:

- (a) The increased traffic in and use of plant-based drugs, such as cannabis and khat, and psychoactive substances, such as benzodiazepines and tramadol, are a burden for law enforcement and public health agencies in Africa;
- (b) It was noted that tramadol should be placed under international control;
- (c) Methamphetamine manufacture is spreading beyond West Africa to other regions of the continent in response to the increase in local and global demand;
- (d) Preventing the diversion of precursor chemicals plays a major role in stopping the production of methamphetamine;
- (e) The activities of organized crime groups can be countered more effectively through increased international cooperation and coordination.

4. Addressing the specific needs of women and girls in the context of the world drug problem

31. The working group held one meeting, on 21 September, and made the following observations:

- (a) The exploitation of women and girls in drug trafficking continues to rise, and the intersection between drug trafficking and trafficking in women and girls for the purpose of sexual exploitation magnifies the problem;
- (b) Women and girls who use drugs face greater stigma and discrimination than men, which limits their access to health and related social services;
- (c) Gender inequalities, lower socioeconomic status, lower educational levels and the marginalization of women continue to be contributing factors leading to the drug dependency of women and their involvement in drug-related crime;
- (d) While there is some valuable data available from law enforcement agencies on drug-related crimes, regular reporting and the use of data to inform policymaking remain a challenge;
- (e) Prevention programmes in family, school and work settings remain limited and require significant scale-up;

(f) While Governments have made efforts to implement gender-sensitive strategies to address the drug problem, such efforts vary across the region and remain largely insufficient.

32. The working group drew up the following conclusions:

(a) Comprehensive, gender-specific strategies are needed to increase access to treatment for women and girls who use drugs;

(b) In view of the increase in the population of women involved in drug trade and imprisoned for drug-related offences, criminal justice systems need to be better equipped to cater to the specific needs of women drug offenders;

(c) Since the majority of women involved in drug trafficking have committed minor offences, and in view of their role as sole or primary caretakers, it is important to consider alternatives to imprisonment;

(d) It is important that law enforcement officials and other professionals who work to counter the drug problem understand the specific needs of women and girls and the multisectoral nature of the world drug problem.

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

33. At its 1st meeting, on 18 September, 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”.

34. For its consideration of the item, the Meeting had before it the outcome document of the thirtieth special session of the General Assembly and the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem.

35. The Secretary of the Commission made an audiovisual presentation. During the discussion of the item, statements were made by the representatives of Angola, Côte d’Ivoire, Ghana, Kenya, Morocco, South Africa, the United Republic of Tanzania and Zambia.

36. In her statement, the Secretary recalled that, in its resolution [69/200](#), the General Assembly had decided that the special session on the world drug problem in 2016 would have an inclusive preparatory process and that the Commission, as the central policymaking body within the United Nations system dealing with drug-related matters, would lead that process by addressing all organizational and substantive matters in an open-ended manner. The Assembly convened the special session from 19 to 21 April 2016 and adopted the outcome document entitled “Our joint commitment to effectively addressing and countering the world drug problem”, as contained in the annex to resolution S-30/1. The Secretary described the structure and substantive focus of the outcome document and referred to the activities undertaken by the Commission in follow-up to the special session, including thematic discussions held by the Commission, regional level contributions, the creation of a post-special session website and awareness-raising workshops.

37. Several speakers reaffirmed the commitment of their Governments to the Political Declaration and Plan of Action, the Joint Ministerial Statement and the outcome document of the special session. It was noted that the three documents were complementary and mutually reinforcing, and support was expressed for the preparatory process for the sixty-second session of the Commission, to be held in

2019. Reference was also made to the impact that those three documents had on States' efforts to address the world drug problem at all levels.

38. Support was expressed for the Commission as the policymaking body of the United Nations with prime responsibility for drug control matters and for the work of UNODC as the leading entity within the United Nations system for addressing and countering the world drug problem.

39. It was noted that the Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Africa, provided a useful platform for exchanging information on the traffic in and abuse of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances.

40. Appreciation was expressed for the efforts of the International Narcotics Control Board and the World Health Organization for their work in assisting States with addressing the threats posed by precursor chemicals and new psychoactive substances. Some speakers made reference to joint activities undertaken in the framework of the Colombo Plan for Cooperative Economic and Social Development in Asia and the Pacific.

41. Several speakers reaffirmed the continued commitment of their Governments to the goals and objectives of the three international drug control conventions and emphasized the importance of ensuring the health, welfare and well-being of mankind. The need to advance efforts towards creating a society free of drug abuse was noted by a number of speakers.

42. It was noted that, despite the progress made to date, drug trafficking and related offences continued to pose a major threat to security, public health and the socioeconomic conditions in many countries. The importance of countering the cultivation, production and manufacturing of and traffic in drugs was noted and, in that regard, the principle of common and shared responsibility in the fight against drugs was highlighted.

43. Concern was expressed about the alarming dimensions of cocaine trafficking from Latin America through the African region. Concern was also expressed about the spread of new psychoactive substances.

44. Several speakers provided information on supply reduction measures taken at the national level, describing specific cases and seizures. The need to review and, if necessary, adapt national legislation to current challenges, as well as to strengthen border management measures, was highlighted. The importance of reinforcing cooperation efforts at the national, subregional, regional and international levels was emphasized by several speakers, as was the need for continued exchanges of operational information and intelligence and for specific cooperation initiatives for the African region.

45. Some speakers referred to the involvement of women in drug-related crimes, relevant social factors and the importance of addressing that phenomenon.

46. Several speakers emphasized that the cultivation of and traffic in cannabis continued to be a major concern for countries in the African region and mentioned efforts taken at the national level to reduce cannabis cultivation, in particular in rural areas. The need to focus efforts on income-generating activities for farmers as well as on integrated social development and on alternative development that preserved biodiversity was highlighted.

47. A number of speakers referred to the increasing abuse of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances among children and young people and reaffirmed their commitment to addressing that issue.

48. Several speakers mentioned demand reduction measures that their Governments had been taking, including surveys of injecting drug users, awareness-raising and education campaigns and the involvement of young people in a wide range of prevention activities. Reference was also made to the importance of providing a wide

array of treatment and rehabilitation services to people who use drugs and to national efforts in that regard.

VI. Implementation of Commission on Narcotic Drugs decision 60/1, on strengthening the subsidiary bodies of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs

49. At its 2nd meeting, the Meeting considered agenda item 7, entitled “Implementation of Commission on Narcotic Drugs decision 60/1, on strengthening the subsidiary bodies of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs”.

50. The Secretary of the Commission made an audiovisual presentation on the practical implementation of decision 60/1. She recalled that, in that decision, the Commission had decided, in response to the invitation contained in paragraph 97 of General Assembly resolution [71/211](#), and mindful of the requests contained in Commission on Narcotic Drugs resolution 56/10 and the operational recommendation contained in paragraph 6 (c) of the outcome document of the thirtieth special session of the General Assembly: (a) to examine how its subsidiary bodies could better contribute to the implementation of the outcome document; (b) to inform its subsidiary bodies of the invitation contained in General Assembly resolution [71/211](#); and (c) to invite the subsidiary bodies to consider that invitation at their upcoming meetings and report back to the Commission in due course.

51. The Secretary also recalled that, in its resolution 56/10, the Commission had encouraged Member States to consider the expertise and composition of their delegations to the meetings of the subsidiary bodies of the Commission. She noted that one of the initiatives already taken to implement the outcome of the special session was the inclusion of working groups on cross-cutting topics contained in the outcome document in the agendas of the meetings of the subsidiary bodies of the Commission held in 2016 and 2017.

52. The Secretary noted that an additional step that could be considered would be to re-order the sequence of items in order to complement the exchange of experiences among law enforcement practitioners and enhance information sharing among experts from the supply and demand reduction fields.

VII. Organization of the Twenty-eighth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Africa

53. At its 8th meeting, on 22 September, the Twenty-seventh Meeting considered agenda item 8, entitled “Organization of the Twenty-eighth 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-eighth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Africa ([UNODC/HONLAF/27/5](#)).

54. During the discussion of the item, statements were made by the representatives of Egypt, Ghana, Kenya, Morocco, Nigeria, the Sudan, Tunisia and the United Republic of Tanzania.

55. Several speakers proposed the following topics for possible discussion by the working groups at the Twenty-eighth meeting, to be held in 2018: transatlantic cocaine trafficking; role of civil society in the fight against drug trafficking and in the area of demand reduction in Africa; mainstreaming of best practices in prison settings; measures to eliminate the serious obstacles and threat posed by corruption in countering drug trafficking; awareness-raising measures, such as the inclusion of drug-related issues in school curricula and educational settings; the importance of asset recovery in combating drug trafficking; drug use and human rights; and alternative development, in view of the illicit cultivation of cannabis in the region.

56. The representative of Egypt made a statement regarding the proposed establishment of two centres specialized in transnational organized crime and drug trafficking, to be headquartered in the anti-narcotics and organized crime section of the Ministry of Interior, in Cairo. He noted that the centres would have, inter alia, the following purposes: (a) strengthening cooperation and coordination among countries in the region; (b) improving the exchange of information among States; (c) compiling and analysing data collected by law enforcement agencies, unifying the information systems and developing recommendations in this regard; (d) facilitating operations in the field of controlled deliveries; and (e) developing the capacity of States to facilitate drug seizures. He informed the Meeting that the first centre would focus on North African countries in order to combat trafficking through the Mediterranean and the desert, while the second would cover countries in East Africa.

57. Some speakers expressed support for the proposal by Egypt, while others noted that the establishment of such African-level cooperation platforms required political decision-making at a different level and asked about the value added compared to other existing platforms. In his response, the representative of Egypt noted that his Government's proposal was open for discussion and that no commitment was required at this stage.

58. The representative of the United Republic of Tanzania stated his country's intention and wish to host the Twenty-eighth Meeting, noting that further consultations would be required in that regard.

59. The Twenty-seventh Meeting approved the following draft provisional agenda for the Twenty-eighth 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-sixth 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, also taking into consideration the ministerial segment to be held during the sixty-second session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs.
7. Implementation of Commission on Narcotic Drugs decision 60/1, on strengthening the subsidiary bodies of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs.
8. Organization of the Twenty-ninth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Africa.
9. Other business.
10. Adoption of the report.

VIII. Other business

60. At its 8th meeting, the Meeting considered agenda item 9, entitled "Other business".

61. The Secretary of the Commission informed the participants that, during 2017, the Secretariat had received an unprecedented number of requests from Member States to cover the cost of plane tickets for their delegates to formal intergovernmental

meetings, including Meetings of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies. She noted that, while plane ticket prices had been rising, the budget allocated by the United Nations had remained unchanged and that this matter would require further consideration during the biennium 2018-2019.

62. During the discussion of the item, statements were made by the representatives of Côte d'Ivoire and Nigeria.

63. Reference was made to and support was expressed for a planned initiative to bring African countries together in January 2018, in Ghana, with the view to defining and harmonizing the positions of countries in the region on drug-related matters.

IX. Adoption of the report

64. At its 8th meeting, the Twenty-seventh Meeting adopted the present report, as orally amended.

X. Organization of the Meeting

A. Opening and duration of the Meeting

65. The Twenty-seventh Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Africa, organized by UNODC and hosted by the Government of Egypt, was held in Hurgada from 18 to 22 September 2017. The Assistant Minister for Combating Drugs and Organized Crime of the Ministry of Interior of Egypt and the Secretary of the Commission made opening statements. The Regional Representative designate of the UNODC regional office for the Middle East and North Africa also made an opening statement, on behalf of the Executive Director of UNODC.

B. Attendance

66. The following States were represented at the Twenty-seventh Meeting: Algeria, Angola, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of Congo, Egypt, Gambia, Ghana, Kenya, Libya, Mali, Morocco, Nigeria, South Africa, Sudan, Tunisia, United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

67. The following States were represented by observers: Italy, United States of America and Yemen.

68. INTERPOL and the World Customs Organization were represented by observers.

C. Election of officers

69. At its 1st meeting, the Meeting elected the following officers by acclamation:

Chair: Wael El Zahar (Egypt)

Vice-Chairs: Ashley Ruramisai Verenga (Zimbabwe)
Mamadou Krouma (Côte d'Ivoire)

Rapporteur: Wasilat Audu (Nigeria)

D. Adoption of the agenda

70. At the same meeting, the Twenty-seventh 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-fifth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Africa.
5. Consideration of topics by working groups:
 - (a) Effective measures to counter money-laundering and illicit financial flows;
 - (b) Enhancing coordination of the regional communication platforms that support drug law enforcement across Africa;
 - (c) Trafficking in new psychoactive substances, including khat, benzodiazepines and tramadol, and law enforcement responses;
 - (d) Addressing the specific needs of women and girls in the context of the world drug problem.
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. Implementation of Commission on Narcotic Drugs decision 60/1, on strengthening the subsidiary bodies of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs.
8. Organization of the Twenty-eighth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Africa.
9. Other business.
10. Adoption of the report.

E. Documentation

71. The documents before the Twenty-seventh Meeting are listed in the annex to the present report.

XI. Closure of the Meeting

72. The Chair of the Twenty-seventh Meeting made a closing statement. Closing remarks were made by the Assistant Minister for Combating Drugs and Organized Crime of the Ministry of Interior of Egypt.

Annex

List of documents before the Twenty-seventh 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/27/1	2	Annotated provisional agenda
UNODC/HONLAF/27/2	3	Report of the Secretariat on statistical analysis of drug trafficking trends in Africa and worldwide
UNODC/HONLAF/27/3/Rev.1	3	Report of the Secretariat on the current situation with respect to regional and subregional cooperation in countering drug trafficking
UNODC/HONLAF/27/4	4	Note by the Secretariat on the implementation of the recommendations adopted by the Twenty-fifth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Africa
UNODC/HONLAF/27/5	8	Note by the Secretariat on the organization of the Twenty-eighth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Africa
UNODC/HONLAF/27/L.1 and Add.1-8	10	Draft report
UNODC/HONLAF/27/CRP.1-12, 14 and 15)	3	Country reports
UNODC/HONLAF/27/CRP.13	5 (d)	Background note by the Secretariat on the working group on addressing the specific needs of women and girls in the context of the world drug problem