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Report of the Twenty-eighth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Africa, held in Dar es Salaam, United Republic of Tanzania, from 17 to 21 September 2018

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

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

1. The Twenty-eighth 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. Recent trends in drug trafficking in Africa and links to organized crime

2. The working group made the following recommendations with regard to recent trends in drug trafficking in Africa and links to organized crime:

(a) Governments are encouraged to strengthen efforts in undertaking comprehensive research and analysis to ensure that drug trafficking and its links to all forms of organized crime impacting the region are better understood;

(b) Governments are encouraged to develop the capacities of their relevant law enforcement agencies to investigate and disrupt drug trafficking groups linked to other forms of organized crime;

(c) Governments are urged to adapt their training programmes to counter drug trafficking and organized criminal groups by including, inter alia, specific programmes related to investigating and disrupting illicit financial flows; tracing, freezing and confiscating proceeds of crime; and enhancing the identification of other related forms of organized crime;

(d) It is recommended that Governments make best use of existing regional and international mechanisms to enhance law enforcement coordination and cooperation as well as knowledge of the criminal environment, and target the links between drug trafficking and other forms of organized crime.

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



2. Best practices in prison reform and alternatives to conviction or punishment

3. The working group made the following recommendations with regard to best practices in prison reform and alternatives to conviction or punishment:

(a) Countries of the region are encouraged to expand practical measures for alternatives to imprisonment, including for drug users and those found in possession of small quantities of drugs;

(b) Governments should consider multisectoral programmes for drug offenders, including specialized programmes for vulnerable groups such as female offenders, drug users, minors and the elderly. These programmes should address skills development; education; health services, with a particular focus on drug treatment and HIV services; legal aid; and post-release social reintegration measures;

(c) Governments are encouraged to develop or strengthen measures for the oversight and monitoring of prison settings and other detention facilities in order to ensure compliance with international standards and human rights instruments.

3. Practical measures to operationalize regional cooperation in drug law enforcement

4. The working group made the following recommendations with regard to practical measures to operationalize regional cooperation in drug law enforcement:

(a) Governments are encouraged to ensure enhanced awareness and to make best use of existing intelligence and cooperation platforms such as the African Police Cooperation Organization (AFRIPOL), the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL), the World Customs Organization (WCO), the Asset Recovery Interagency Networks (ARIN), judicial cooperation networks and others;

(b) Drug law enforcement and other relevant agencies should explore opportunities to undertake multilateral intelligence-led investigations targeting regional and interregional drug trafficking networks;

(c) Governments are urged to undertake regular training needs-assessments of their drug law enforcement agencies and to develop capacity-building programmes, with a view to addressing current gaps in their capability to tackle drug trafficking activities that are impacting the continent.

4. Awareness-raising on drug-related issues in educational settings

5. The working group made the following recommendations with regard to activities and programmes on awareness-raising on drug-related issues in educational settings:

(a) Understanding that programmes need to address all development stages and be conducted in multiple settings in order to have an impact on preventing drug use and drug use disorders, Governments are encouraged to develop and implement effective drug use prevention systems that include supportive legal and policy frameworks, scientific evidence and research, coordination mechanisms of multiple sectors and levels, the building of capacity among policymakers and practitioners and the allocation of adequate resources to sustain the system in the long term;

(b) Acknowledging that the objective of drug use prevention efforts is to help young people to avoid or delay initiation into the use of drugs and to also avoid developing drug use disorders, Governments are encouraged to scale up availability, coverage and quality of prevention activities and programmes based on scientific evidence in all relevant settings, including schools, in line with the outcome document of the thirtieth special session of the General Assembly, entitled “Our joint commitment to effectively addressing and countering the world drug problem” (General Assembly resolution S-30/1, annex);

(c) Governments are encouraged to enhance the gathering of gender- and age-disaggregated drug use data and evidence of the impact of drug use prevention

programmes, with a view to ensuring that the drug use prevention programmes implemented are effective and fit for purpose.

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

6. At its 3rd meeting, held on 18 September 2018, the Meeting considered item 3 of the agenda, 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 on the world situation with regard to drug trafficking ([E/CN.7/2018/5](#)) and the report of the Secretariat on the current situation with respect to regional and subregional cooperation in countering drug trafficking ([UNODC/HONLAF/28/3](#)). In addition, national reports were submitted by Algeria, Benin, Egypt, the Gambia, Ghana, Kenya, Madagascar, Mali, Mauritius, Morocco, Mozambique, Nigeria, Senegal, the Sudan, the United Republic of Tanzania and Zambia (UNODC/HONLAF/28/CRP.1–13 and 15–17).

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.

8. The representatives of Algeria, Angola, Egypt, the Gambia, Ghana, Kenya, Morocco, South Africa, the Sudan and Zambia made statements. The observers for the United States of America and INTERPOL made statements and gave a presentation.

9. The importance of effective international cooperation, including at the regional and subregional levels, was emphasized in addressing the world drug problem. Some speakers noted the need to move from bilateral to multilateral cooperation efforts as most trafficking activities involved more than two countries, and suggested strengthening cooperation in the region and beyond.

10. It was noted that the Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Africa, provided a forum for enhancing the frameworks for international cooperation, as well as for 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 to 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.

11. Many speakers reported on recent, unprecedented large seizures of cocaine and heroin, in line with the findings contained in the *World Drug Report 2018*, prepared by UNODC. Some speakers noted that their Governments had also made large seizures of cannabis, tramadol, amphetamine-type stimulants and new psychoactive substances.

12. Several speakers referred to the increased threat posed by the abuse of and trafficking in tramadol and noted changes to the *modi operandi* and routes used by traffickers. Some speakers highlighted the enhanced efforts made by their Governments to address that issue. Some speakers recommended that the Commission on Narcotic Drugs should consider scheduling tramadol under the international drug control conventions.

13. Several speakers highlighted the threat that cannabis, including cannabis of a higher potency, continued to pose in the African region and highlighted the efforts made by their Governments to address the cultivation of and trafficking in cannabis.

14. A presentation was made on the threats posed by fentanyl and its analogues. The Meeting was informed that fentanyl was 100 times more potent than morphine and as

such posed a high risk of overdose and other negative health effects to drug users. It was noted that contact with very small quantities could cause extreme reactions, meaning that first responders, such as police officers, prison guards or medical teams, would be at risk as well. It was noted that fentanyl was usually mixed with other substances, which meant that the analysis and detection of the drug was hampered and that consumers were often unaware of the exact substances taken. Naloxone was referred to as the substance of choice to counter fentanyl overdose. It was mentioned that UNODC and INTERPOL recently issued reports on fentanyl for further information.

15. Several speakers referred to the efforts undertaken by their Governments to counter the traffic in precursors and their diversion for the illicit manufacture of synthetic drugs. Some speakers reported good experiences using Pre-Export Notification Online, developed by INCB.

16. Several speakers reported on participation in training sessions offered by INTERPOL and UNODC and in joint operations organized by INTERPOL, the Airport Communication Project (AIRCOP), WCO and UNODC. It was noted that 80 countries were participating in the operations worldwide, 17 of which were countries in Africa.

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

18. It was also noted that effective measures to address drug trafficking would need to include following the financial flows, because financial interests were at the basis of all such activities. Some speakers reported on measures taken to counter money-laundering in that regard and the need for cooperation with both the financial sector, owing to the expertise required, and with money-transfer service providers.

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

19. At its 4th meeting, on 18 September 2018, the Meeting considered item 4 of its agenda, entitled “Implementation of the recommendations adopted by the Twenty-sixth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Africa”. The Meeting had before it a note by the Secretariat, prepared on the basis of information provided by Governments in response to a questionnaire sent to all States participating in the Meeting ([UNODC/HONLAF/28/4](#)). As at 19 July 2018, replies had been received from the Governments of Algeria, Eswatini, Mali, Morocco, Nigeria, Senegal, South Africa, the Sudan and the United Republic of Tanzania. Completed questionnaires were subsequently received from Egypt, Ghana, Kenya, Madagascar, Mauritius, Namibia and Zambia.

20. The Secretary of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs made an introductory statement. During the discussion, statements were made by the representatives of Algeria, Benin, Chad, Côte d’Ivoire, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Egypt, Kenya, Liberia, Mauritius, Morocco, Namibia, Nigeria, the Sudan and Zambia.

21. Participants discussed action taken by Governments to implement the recommendations adopted by the Twenty-sixth Meeting, highlighting those taken in relation to specific recommendations.

22. Regarding effective national and regional strategies to address drug trafficking at sea, many delegations reported on efforts aimed at close cooperation and information exchange between the security services involved in countering trafficking in drugs by sea. Some countries reported on having taken action on operational cooperation in the patrolling of coastlines.

23. Some delegations noted that enhanced surveillance of smaller boats was needed because they were used to offload drugs from larger boats and transport them to unmarked landing places.
24. One delegation highlighted the challenge presented by the lack of dedicated maritime police with a mandate to counter drug trafficking.
25. With regard to the recommendations regarding new psychoactive substances, amphetamine-type stimulants and the diversion of precursors, some delegations reported on new control measures and updated laws for new psychoactive substances.
26. One delegation noted that ephedrine was being imported by criminals and diverted to local methamphetamine labs. A rate of diversion from legally imported sources of over 50 per cent was noted in that regard. The adverse health consequences and environmental hazards associated with the production of methamphetamine was also highlighted.
27. Reference was made to the import by private companies of quantities of precursor chemicals that exceeded their requirements, with a view to diverting those substances. In that regard, a legal review was recommended in case there was a lack of sufficient grounds for law enforcement to be able to intervene. In that connection, the problem of transit shipments was mentioned.
28. Some delegations reported on strict import and export licensing in compliance with the provisions stipulated by the International Narcotics Control Board.
29. With a view to improving the control of substances that were often diverted, one delegation reported that its Government had started requiring prescriptions for medication containing codeine and tramadol, as well as requiring special permits for the import of such substances.

IV. Consideration of topics by working groups

30. At the 4th to 7th meetings of the Meeting, from 18 to 20 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. Recent trends in drug trafficking in Africa and links to organized crime

31. The working group held one meeting, on 18 September. In its consideration of the topic under review, the working group made the following observations:

- (a) There are clear links between drug trafficking and other forms of organized crime, including trafficking in firearms, wildlife and timber; human trafficking and migrant smuggling; and illegal mining. It was noted that drug trafficking was sometimes also a source of financing of terrorism;
- (b) It was noted that money-laundering was a significant enabling activity that went hand in hand with drug trafficking and other forms of organized crime;
- (c) It was also noted that there was a constant evolution and adaptation in the methodologies of drug trafficking networks, in an attempt to evade law enforcement responses;
- (d) Drug trafficking routes are also being used for other forms of trafficking.

32. The working group drew the following conclusions:

- (a) There is a lack of reliable research and analysis, making it difficult to form an in-depth understanding of the criminal environment and the linkages between drug trafficking and other types of organized crime;

(b) There is a limited awareness of linkages between drug trafficking and other related organized crime types, which is aggravated by a lack of capacity of law enforcement agencies to develop effective responses to this fluid criminal environment;

(c) More attention should be given to improve the identification of illicit financial flows generated by drug trafficking and other organized criminal groups;

(d) Sharing of knowledge between law enforcement and other relevant agencies on evolving links and *modi operandi* used by drug traffickers and organized crime groups is of utmost importance;

(e) There is a need to broaden the capacity of drug control agencies to develop an enhanced ability to identify other forms of organized crime activities and to optimize the use of financial intelligence.

2. Best practices in prison reform and alternatives to conviction or punishment

33. The working group held one meeting, on 19 September 2018. In its consideration of the topic under review, the working group made the following observations:

(a) Prison reform efforts are undertaken in several countries of the region, affecting pretrial, trial and post-trial stages. The reforms include special measures for children and minors, drug users and those found in possession of small quantities of drugs;

(b) Alternatives to imprisonment, including electronic surveillance, parole, fines, use of bail, suspended conviction and community service, are implemented or considered through legal and policy reforms, while custody is often considered as a last resort. Alternatives to imprisonment are a measure to reduce overcrowding in prison settings;

(c) Legal reform and drug sentencing guidelines are implemented or proposed across the African continent. These measures are undertaken to ensure proportionality of sentencing, matching the gravity of the offences, and are guided by international standards and instruments;

(d) Rehabilitation measures for offenders have received renewed attention in the region and include skills development, education and health services with a focus on drug treatment and HIV services, legal aid, post-release social reintegration and the rehabilitation of minors in conflict with the law.

34. The working group drew the following conclusions:

(a) While progress has been made on prison reform, including legal and policy changes, there is a need to approve and operationalize these measures and ensure monitoring of their implementation and effectiveness;

(b) Several measures on alternatives to imprisonment are under way, but capacity-building and infrastructure development are needed to operationalize them;

(c) Skills development programmes, health and legal aid services are increasingly being made available in prisons but need to be further developed in the region.

3. Practical measures to operationalize regional cooperation in drug law enforcement

35. The working group held one meeting, on 20 September 2018. In its consideration of the topic under review, the working group made the following observations:

(a) Concrete examples of bilateral cooperation between countries across the continent exist, but this cooperation has not yet been translated into multilateral cooperative arrangements;

(b) Knowledge and use of existing information exchange platforms and their functionalities are lacking;

(c) There are a number of ongoing programmes supported by various international organizations focused on regional cooperation between drug law enforcement agencies and other related authorities that are not coordinated;

(d) There is a lack of emphasis on illicit financial flows and proceeds of crimes in existing drug investigations;

(e) Differences in legal frameworks and languages are barriers to effective cooperation between countries.

36. The working group drew the following conclusions:

(a) The success of joint operations between countries demonstrates a real opportunity to counter drug criminal networks across the continent and beyond;

(b) There is a need to enhance awareness and utilization of existing information-sharing and cooperation platforms;

(c) Criminal investigation capacity with regard to post-seizure investigations, financial investigations and the use of special investigative techniques is lacking in some countries.

4. Awareness-raising on drug-related issues in educational settings

37. The working group held one meeting, on 19 September 2018. In its consideration of the topic under review, the working group made the following observations:

(a) Many countries mentioned the adoption and implementation of national drug master plans, policies and strategies that guide the balanced approach to drug control in their respective countries and that are inclusive of prevention and treatment, as well as other health-related issues;

(b) Several countries underlined the multisectoral implementation of sensitization and public awareness-raising campaigns, including through the use of the Internet, social media and other initiatives. Targeted information, education and communication materials were developed and disseminated through various channels, including youth clubs;

(c) The integration of drug use prevention interventions into school curricula was emphasized as a sustainable and integrated manner to scale up school-based drug use prevention programmes.

38. The working group drew the following conclusions:

(a) Programmatic research and prevalence surveys have been undertaken in the region; however, there is still insufficient data on programme effectiveness and epidemiological trends in the region;

(b) While progress was made in the implementation of prevention initiatives and programmes, there is a need to scale up evidence-based drug use prevention programmes in all settings and at all stages of development, from infancy to early adulthood, mindful of the needs of children and youth at risk or from marginalized communities;

(c) While the focus of the working group was awareness-raising on drug-related issues in educational settings, greater attention to family skills programmes was identified as a priority intervention requiring greater investment;

(d) An integrated partnership approach to the planning, delivery, monitoring and evaluation of programmes that are inclusive of all relevant sectors (e.g., education, health, social welfare, youth, labour and law enforcement) and at all levels (e.g., national, subnational and local), and that engage a range of implementers and stakeholders (e.g., government agencies, non-governmental organizations,

community and religious leaders, universities, research institutions and the private sector) is key to effective prevention programmes.

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, taking into consideration the ministerial segment to be held during the sixty-second session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs

39. At its 1st and 2nd meetings, on 17 September 2018, 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, taking into consideration the ministerial segment to be held during the sixty-second session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs”.

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

41. The Secretary of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs made an audiovisual presentation. During the discussion of the item, statements were made by the representatives of Algeria, Angola, Benin, the Central African Republic, Côte d’Ivoire, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Egypt, the Gambia, Ghana, Kenya, Liberia, Mauritius, Morocco, Namibia, Sao Tome and Principe, South Africa, the Sudan and the United Republic of Tanzania.

42. In her presentation, the Secretary provided the meeting with updated information on the status of preparations of the Commission for the ministerial segment of the sixty-second session, to be held in March 2019.

43. The Secretary explained that, in 2009, the Commission had adopted the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem, highlighting that five targets were set in the Political Declaration, with 2019 set as the target date. It was reiterated that the targets included the elimination or significant reduction of the following: the illicit cultivation of certain crops, the demand for illicit drugs and related risks, the illicit production of and trafficking in psychotropic substances, the diversion of and trafficking in precursors, and money-laundering related to the illicit drugs market. In 2014, the Commission conducted a midterm review of the progress made toward those targets, the results of which are contained in the Joint Ministerial Statement of the 2014 high-level review by the Commission of the implementation by Member States of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action, adopted by the Commission at its fifty-seventh session.

44. Furthermore, it was recalled that in 2016, the General Assembly adopted the outcome document of its special session on the world drug problem, which had been negotiated by the Commission. It was noted that, since 2016, the Commission had been conducting an intense follow-up process to that special session. An overview was provided of the four-part approach the Commission had taken, consisting of the thematic discussions within the Commission, the regional level contributions by the subsidiary bodies, the national implementation workshops provided by the Secretariat and the website created as a follow-up to the special session, which was being used as a repository of the information exchanged during the session.

45. Information was also shared on the workplan of the Commission for the fourth quarter of 2018, during which a series of intersessional meetings are to be held,

with thematic and organizational segments, as well as a normative segment, in preparation for the ministerial-level meeting in 2019. At the reconvened sixty-first session, in December 2018, it is expected that decisions on the modalities for the ministerial segment will be made. At the session, the Chair of the Commission is to present an outline for the way beyond 2019, pursuant to Commission resolution 61/10, in which the Commission decided that the ministerial segment would feature a general debate and two multi-stakeholder round tables.

46. 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 thirtieth special session of the General Assembly. 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. Reference was also made to the impact that those three documents had on State efforts to address the world drug problem at all levels.

47. Some speakers highlighted that 2019 was the target date of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action and that, as such, the mandate for the ministerial segment ought to be to take stock of and review those targets.

48. Several speakers also reaffirmed their Governments' continued commitment to the goals and objectives of the three international drug control conventions as the basis for ensuring the health, welfare and well-being of all people.

49. 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.

50. It was noted that considerable progress had been made since 2009 in many countries, and in Africa as a whole, in both drug supply and demand reduction, as well as in international cooperation. Some speakers highlighted that the role that health played in the drug strategies and implementation plans of African countries had grown since 2009, and that prevention and treatment measures were increasingly based on scientific evidence. Some speakers also reported on the introduction by their Governments of harm reduction measures.

51. Some speakers reported on measures being taken by their Governments to improve the access to and availability of controlled substances for medical and scientific purposes. Some speakers noted that that was an issue of importance to Africa, which had been highlighted in the outcome document of the thirtieth special session of the General Assembly and which had to be taken into consideration during the meeting in 2019.

52. A number of delegations reported on institutions that had been strengthened since 2009, such as financial intelligence units, as well as on mechanisms coordinating the work of the various government stakeholders involved in addressing the drug problem. Some delegations noted their Governments were in the process of revising drug-related laws, using the outcome document of the thirtieth special session as a reference point.

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

54. Several speakers provided information on supply reduction measures taken at the national level, including by making reference to particular 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 also noted. 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, as well as for the elaboration of specific cooperation initiatives for the African region. The importance of capacity-building and training was also highlighted in that regard.

55. Concern was expressed regarding the alarming dimensions of cocaine trafficking from Latin America through the African region. The increase in heroin trafficking was also highlighted by some delegations. Many countries reported on the challenges experienced by transit countries.

56. Several speakers emphasized that the cultivation of and trafficking 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. The need for efforts focused on income-generating activities for farmers and on integrating social development and alternative development was highlighted. Fighting poverty and reducing exclusion and stigma were considered key in addressing the world drug problem.

57. Many speakers highlighted the marked increase in the use of and trafficking in tramadol, which was a trend that had not existed in 2009. It was noted that the detection of the substance posed a challenge, because it was also sold in pharmacies, although at lower levels of potency.

58. Appreciation was expressed for the tools introduced by the International Narcotics Control Board to assist States in addressing the threats posed by precursor chemicals and new psychoactive substances. Reference was made by some speakers to joint activities undertaken within the framework of the Colombo Plan.

59. A number of speakers referred to the increase in the abuse of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances among children and youth and reaffirmed their commitment to address that issue. Several delegations reported on awareness-raising measures taken in that regard, such as training activities related to drug use prevention in schools. One delegation reported on improvements made in the juvenile justice system with possible referral to treatment programmes or training opportunities.

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

60. At its 3rd meeting, the Meeting considered item 7 of the agenda, entitled “Implementation of Commission on Narcotic Drugs decision 60/1, on strengthening the subsidiary bodies of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs”.

61. The Secretary of the Commission made a statement on the practical implementation of decision 60/1. She informed the Meeting 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 resolution 56/10 of 2013 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 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.

62. Commission decision 60/1 had been brought to the attention of the Twenty-seventh Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Africa, and the Secretary of the Commission noted that the views expressed at the meetings of all subsidiary bodies in 2017 had been reported back to the Commission.

63. The Secretary 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 action had already been taken to implement the recommendations contained in the outcome document of the thirtieth special session, for example, through the inclusion in the agendas of the subsidiary bodies of working groups on cross-cutting topics contained in the outcome document.

64. Statements were made by Côte d'Ivoire, Morocco, Namibia, the Sudan, the United Republic of Tanzania and Zambia.

65. Several speakers highlighted that addressing and countering the world drug problem could not be dealt with by one entity alone but required a comprehensive, multisectoral approach, because many issues related to drugs were complex and cross-cutting in nature.

66. Some speakers highlighted efforts made to combine resources to make the fight against drugs more effective, including by involving all relevant ministries as well as civil society actors.

67. Some speakers noted that the subsidiary bodies of the Commission had an important role to play in both supply and demand reduction and, as such, the bodies should involve all relevant stakeholders in their meetings.

68. Some delegations were of the view that the subsidiary bodies could be strengthened in terms of their coverage of demand reduction issues, with a view to addressing the world drug problem in a comprehensive manner.

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

69. At its 9th meeting, on 21 September, the Twenty-eighth Meeting considered agenda item 8, entitled "Organization of the Twenty-ninth 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-ninth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Africa ([UNODC/HONLAF/28/5](#)).

70. During the discussion of the item, statements were made by the representatives of Algeria, Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Egypt, the Gambia, Ghana, Liberia, Nigeria and the United Republic of Tanzania.

71. Speakers proposed the following topics for possible discussion by the working groups at the Twenty-ninth Meeting: cryptocurrencies and the darknet; transatlantic cocaine trafficking; alternative development; combating drug trafficking and addressing supply reduction; the scheduling of new psychoactive substances, fentanyl and tramadol; increased cooperation in the fight against money-laundering; the legal protection of minors involved in drug trafficking; emerging trends in precursor chemicals; challenges posed by trafficking through postal services; cooperation among law enforcement agencies; protection of children at risk and marginalized groups from drug abuse; strengthening control of underground laboratories that produce precursors; standard operating procedures for arrests and prosecutions related to drugs; creating focal points for regional cooperation on organized crime; terrorism and its links to the illicit drug trade; cannabis legalization; simplified procedures on seizures and extradition; and increased cooperation to better tackle cocaine production in the countries of origin.

72. One delegation proposed to cover both supply and demand reduction in the country reports for the Twenty-ninth Meeting.

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

1. Election of officers.

2. Adoption of the agenda.
3. Current situation with respect to regional and subregional cooperation in addressing and countering the world drug problem.
4. Implementation of the recommendations adopted by the Twenty-seventh 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 ministerial segment of the sixty-second session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs.
7. Organization of the Thirtieth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Africa.
8. Other business.
9. Adoption of the report.

VIII. Other business

74. Also at its 9th meeting, the Twenty-eighth Meeting considered item 9 of the agenda, entitled “Other business”.

75. During the discussion of the item, statements were made by the representatives of Benin, Chad, Côte d’Ivoire, Ghana, Nigeria, the United Republic of Tanzania and Zambia.

76. Reference was made to the excursion organized by the host country for the meeting to visit the methadone programme at the national hospital of the United Republic of Tanzania, as well as to the vessels that had been seized in the fight against drug trafficking and which were being held at the port of Dar es Salaam.

IX. Adoption of the report

77. At its 9th meeting, the Twenty-eighth Meeting adopted the present report as introduced by the Rapporteur under agenda item 10.

X. Organization of the Meeting

A. Opening and duration of the Meeting

78. The Twenty-eighth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Africa, organized by UNODC and hosted by the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania, was held in Dar es Salaam from 17 to 21 September 2018. Welcome remarks were made by the Chair of the meeting. Opening statements were made by the Prime Minister of the United Republic of Tanzania and the Minister of State of the United Republic of Tanzania. The Secretary of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs also made an opening statement. The Regional Representative of the UNODC Regional Office for East Africa made an opening statement on behalf of the Executive Director of UNODC.

B. Attendance

79. The following States were represented at the Twenty-eighth Meeting: Algeria, Angola, Benin, Central African Republic, Chad, Côte d’Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Egypt, Gambia, Ghana, Kenya, Liberia, Mali, Mauritius, Morocco, Namibia, Nigeria, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, South Africa, Sudan, United Republic of Tanzania and Zambia.

80. The following States were represented by observers: Canada, Germany and United States.

81. The United Nations Development Programme, the Colombo Plan, the Criminal Information Centre to Combat Drugs of the Gulf Cooperation Council, EU Action against Drugs and Organized Crime (EU-ACT), the European Union and INTERPOL were represented by observers.

C. Election of officers

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

Chair: Rogers William Siyanga (United Republic of Tanzania)

Vice-Chairs: Michael Addo (Ghana)
Symphorien Kazadi Kabwe (Democratic Republic of the Congo)

Rapporteur: Ebrahim Kadwa (South Africa)

D. Adoption of the agenda

83. At the same meeting, the Twenty-eighth 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-sixth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Africa.
5. Consideration of topics by working groups:
 - (a) Recent trends in drug trafficking in Africa and links to organized crime;
 - (b) Best practices in prison reform and alternatives to conviction or punishment;
 - (c) Practical measures to operationalize regional cooperation in drug law enforcement;
 - (d) Awareness-raising on drug-related issues in educational settings.
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, 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.

E. Documentation

84. The documents before the Twenty-eighth Meeting are listed in the annex to the present report.

XI. Closure of the Meeting

85. The Chair of the Twenty-eighth Meeting made a closing statement.

Annex

List of documents before the Twenty-eighth 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/28/1 | 2 | Annotated provisional agenda |
| UNODC/HONLAF/28/2 | 3 | Note by the Secretariat transmitting the report on the world situation with regard to drug trafficking |
| E/CN.7/2018/5 | 3 | Report of the Secretariat on the world situation with regard to drug trafficking |
| UNODC/HONLAF/28/3 | 3 | Report of the Secretariat on the current situation with respect to regional and subregional cooperation in countering drug trafficking |
| UNODC/HONLAF/28/4 | 4 | Note by the Secretariat on the implementation of the recommendations adopted by the Twenty-sixth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Africa |
| UNODC/HONLAF/28/5 | 8 | Note by the Secretariat on the organization of the Twenty-ninth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Africa |
| UNODC/HONLAF/28/L.1 and Add.1–8 | 10 | Draft report |
| UNODC/HONLAF/28/CRP.1–13 and CRP.15–17 | 3 | Country reports |
| UNODC/HONLAF/28/CRP.14 | 5 (d) | Background note by the Secretariat on the working group on awareness-raising on drug-related issues in educational settings |