

8 September 2022

Original: English*

**Thirtieth Meeting of Heads of National
Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Africa**

Nairobi, 8–11 November 2022

Item 4 of the provisional agenda**

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

1. The Twenty-ninth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Africa, held in Balaclava, Mauritius, from 16 to 20 September 2019, adopted a set of recommendations following the consideration by working groups of the issues set out below.
2. In accordance with established practice, the report on the Twenty-ninth Meeting was forwarded to the Governments represented at that session. A questionnaire on the implementation of the recommendations adopted at that Meeting was dispatched to Governments on 22 June 2022.
3. The present report was prepared on the basis of information provided to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) by Governments in response to that questionnaire. As at 8 September 2022 replies had been received from the Governments of Angola, Benin, Kenya, Morocco, the Niger, Nigeria and Senegal. Member States may wish to brief the Meeting on the implementation of recommendations under the corresponding agenda item.

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

** [UNODC/HONLAF/30/1](#).



II. Responses from Member States to the questionnaire

Issue 1. Effective national and regional strategies in addressing drug trafficking by sea, including transatlantic cocaine trafficking and heroin trafficking in the Indian Ocean

Recommendation 1

4. Governments were encouraged to strengthen efforts in undertaking post-seizure investigations in relation to drug trafficking cases by strengthening cooperation among judicial and law enforcement authorities and making the best use of existing regional, bilateral and international mechanisms, including the network of foreign law enforcement liaison officers, with the aim of disrupting drug trafficking and other activities of organized criminal groups.

5. Angola has demonstrated its commitment to combating drug trafficking by sea by adopting a set of institutional and legislative measures based on its ratification of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and by working in cooperation with the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) at the regional and international levels.

6. Nigeria is an active partner in the project on strengthening criminal investigation and criminal justice cooperation along the cocaine route in Latin America, the Caribbean and West Africa in partnership with UNODC, INTERPOL and other partners involved in the monitoring of cocaine trafficking routes.

7. In Senegal, operations were conducted between 2019 and 2021, in cooperation with the various defence and security forces (the navy, the police, the gendarmerie and customs authorities), that led to the seizure of large quantities of cocaine at the port of Dakar and in Senegalese territorial waters. International cooperation and exchange of information have played key roles in the crackdown on international cocaine trafficking, including trafficking by sea. Cooperation with Spain through the Guardia Civil was an essential contribution to the security of the maritime area of Senegal and to efforts to combat international trafficking networks.

8. Benin reported that, following the establishment of the Court for the Prosecution of Economic and Terrorist Offences pursuant to Act 2018-13 of 2 July 2018, all cases relating to drug trafficking and money-laundering were handled by that court, and the relevant provisions of criminal law had been applied more rigorously in such cases.

9. In the Niger, in February 2021, the Central Office for the Suppression of Drug Trafficking collaborated with the authorities of Burkina Faso and Ghana in carrying out a controlled delivery of 20 cardboard boxes containing tramadol from India, at the request of the Ghanaian authorities.

10. The security services of Morocco, under the competent judicial authorities, benefit from a vast network of officers both in the country and abroad, ensuring the prompt exchange of information. The work of the security services related to drug trafficking has been consolidated at the regional level thanks to cooperation mechanisms such as the joint analysis team, comprising personnel from the technical unit of the judicial police of the Guardia Civil of Spain and soldiers from the central service of the judicial police of the Royal Gendarmerie; the Police Cooperation Centres established at the ports of Tanger-Med, Morocco, and Algeciras, Spain, which aim to develop cross-border cooperation for tackling drug trafficking at sea; joint patrols by members of the Royal Gendarmerie and the Guardia Civil that aim to combat drug trafficking; and the re-establishment of the role of liaison officers deployed in Spain.

11. In Kenya, the anti-narcotics police unit has collaborated with other agencies, including the Kenya Coast Guard Service, to enhance maritime law enforcement of countermeasures against drug trafficking. A memorandum of understanding with the Nairobi Office of the United States Drug Enforcement Administration provides for

information-sharing, joint operations and investigations that have been extended to narcotic maritime interdictions.

Recommendation 2

12. It was recommended that Governments consider intensifying the exchange of information and actionable intelligence and strengthening law enforcement cooperation between authorities in Latin American and West African countries, as well as between Asian countries on the southern heroin trafficking route and countries in East Africa, and also with destination countries in Europe.

13. Angola has worked closely with Brazil with regard to drug trafficking routes and has reported large quantities of drug seizures.

14. Nigeria has cooperated with partners such as the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland Border Force, the United States Drug Enforcement Agency and INTERPOL. The cooperation includes training programmes, donation of equipment and exchange of intelligence.

15. Informal direct and indirect contacts have been established between Senegal and a number of Latin American countries for the exchange of operational intelligence for the detection and suppression of international drug trafficking, in particular cocaine trafficking. The contacts have been forged mainly during international meetings and through common partner entities working on the same issue, for example, through liaison officers.

16. In Benin, the establishment of a joint container control unit at the port of Cotonou and a joint airport interdiction task force at Cotonou airport have facilitated the exchange of information and actionable intelligence between ports and airports in Latin America and West Africa, between Asian and East African countries, and with European countries. It is expected that continued capacity-building will increase the effectiveness of the work of the unit.

17. In the Niger, cooperation activities relating to the exchange of information and actionable intelligence and in the area of law enforcement have been carried out with countries in Asia, such as India, through the Directorate of Pharmacy and Traditional Medicine, as part of efforts to combat trafficking in tramadol; and with countries in Latin America, such as Brazil, through INTERPOL, as part of efforts to counter cocaine trafficking.

18. Morocco reported that heroin seizures have always been smaller than those of other hard drugs, as the local market is small and has normally been supplied with small quantities, mainly from Western European countries, using the land crossing points of Bab Sebta and Bab Melilla or border posts in northern Morocco. Moroccan security services attach great importance to the exchange of information through INTERPOL channels and liaison officers on criminal networks engaged in international heroin trafficking.

19. The Sensitive Investigative Unit of Kenya, in collaboration with the Nairobi Office of the United States Drug Enforcement Administration, has an extended information-sharing network that covers Latin America, Europe and Asia in counter-narcotics measures. In addition, the Transnational Organized Crimes Unit, in collaboration with the National Crime Agency of the United Kingdom, has an elaborate information-sharing network that covers Europe regarding counter-narcotic measures.

Recommendation 3

20. Governments were encouraged to consider the possibility of enhancing legislation to allow for investigations and prosecutions relating to drug seizures made in international waters.

21. In Angola, every relevant authority, including the border guard police, the border emigration services and the navy, is authorized to make arrests relating to drug cases in international waters.

22. Nigeria reported that it has legislation that covers drug seizures made in international waters.

23. In accordance with the laws and regulations of Senegal, the competent defence and security forces (the navy, the police, the gendarmerie and the customs authorities) may carry out operations in territorial waters, seize drugs and confiscate property, board and search ships and initiate legal proceedings against any person involved in an offence.

24. Morocco emphasized its determination to continue its fight against international drug trafficking networks. It fully adheres to international treaties and conventions on the fight against narcotics, in particular the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961. Morocco also adheres to several international cooperation mechanisms to combat drug trafficking by sea and air, in particular through the Mediterranean Area Anti-Drug Enforcement Coordination Centre and Maritime Analysis and Operations Centre – Narcotics.

25. Kenya reported that, under the international law of the sea, customary law and internationally mandatory rules, it has created two specialized courts with the support of UNODC that deal with transnational organized crimes and have jurisdiction to prosecute suspects of piracy, terrorism and other forms of organized crime, including drug trafficking suspects where interdictions and arrests have been made in international waters adjacent to Kenyan territory.

Issue 2. New modi operandi in trafficking and trends in concealment methods and transport, and effective investigative techniques in response thereto

Recommendation 4

26. Governments were encouraged to strengthen the capacities of the relevant law enforcement bodies in identifying new trends in drug trafficking and in profiling and detecting high-risk consignments under various modi operandi.

27. In Angola, law enforcement officers have been trained in relevant border interdiction and investigative techniques in line with best global practice. Through risk profiling and exchange of intelligence with partners, several drug seizures have been made.

28. In Senegal, actors involved in combating organized crime in general, and drug trafficking in particular, have benefited from a number of capacity-building programmes in recent years, either through training seminars organized by the Government in Senegal or training in partner countries as part of international cooperation. The material and logistical resources of the competent law enforcement agencies have also been significantly strengthened and modernized. Equipment provided for the units includes detection and identification kits for narcotic products and psychotropic substances; all-terrain vehicles; surveillance equipment (such as beacons and cameras); sniffer dogs; mobile scanners (for customs and gendarmerie units operating at the borders); and launches and zodiac assault boats (maritime surveillance).

29. In Benin, capacity-building activities for the staff of counter-narcotic units were provided by UNODC as part of the Airport Communication Project (AIRCOP) and Seaport Cooperation Project, including for countering the trafficking in, and the proliferation and use of, new psychoactive substances, as part of the Global Rapid Interdiction of Dangerous Substances Programme; the training of new officers and capacity-building for data collectors of the West African Epidemiology Network on Drug Use; and for providers of health care for drug-dependent persons.

30. The Niger reported the acquisition of a spectrometer in July 2022 by the joint airport interdiction task force of Diori Hamani International Airport, Niamey, the organization of training workshops for postal service staff on inter-agency collaboration, the targeting of suspicious packages and individuals, profiling and the

identification of places of origin and destination at risk, and the presence of the Central Office for the Suppression of Drug Trafficking in parcel shipping agencies.

31. Morocco reported that its security services had strengthened their law enforcement capacities to identify new trends in drug trafficking and profile high-risk consignments. High-technology control resources and equipment are deployed at the border posts and operated by the security services, and personnel are regularly updated on any drugs detected and new trends through the distribution of alert notes and during training seminars, which also cover current operating methods of criminal networks involved in drug trafficking. The country also reported the deployment of highway control patrols, canine teams, joint maritime surveillance by the Royal Gendarmerie and the Royal Navy, and aerial surveillance using helicopters and drones.

32. Kenya has continued to provide training to law enforcement officers to improve their capacities in addressing drug trafficking. For instance, enforcement officers have identified new trafficking routes, including the India–Kenya route for heroin trafficking.

Recommendation 5

33. It was recommended that Governments increase their efforts to make the best use of the existing platforms of international and regional law enforcement cooperation organizations such as INTERPOL and the African Police Cooperation Organization to ensure the exchange of information and coordination of operations. Additional efforts should be undertaken to make the African Police Cooperation Organization more operational.

34. Angola reported on efforts to improve international cooperation and on its existing good working relationship with INTERPOL.

35. Nigeria has maintained all existing bilateral and multilateral relationships with its partners and is making efforts to sign memorandums of understanding with additional countries.

36. Senegal has an INTERPOL National Central Bureau and uses the INTERPOL I-24/7 communications system and databases, in particular when investigating international drug trafficking networks. The tools contribute greatly to the effectiveness of such investigations. The law enforcement services also transmit all necessary information relating to international seizures made within Senegal to the National Central Bureau in Dakar.

37. Benin reported that its INTERPOL National Central Bureau is operating successfully, collaborating effectively with other national central bureaux and building capacity.

38. The Central Office for the Suppression of Drug Trafficking of the Niger works in close collaboration with INTERPOL, and in 2021 was provided with computer equipment that has enabled it to access the I-24/7 communications system in order to search various INTERPOL databases.

39. Aware that criminal groups were increasingly compartmentalized, with ramifications in terms of cross-border operations, the security services of Morocco attached great importance to the spontaneous exchange of information and the strengthening of bilateral, regional and international cooperation through the use of INTERPOL databases and through regional initiatives such as that involving Morocco, France, Portugal and Spain or the Mediterranean Area Anti-Drug Enforcement Coordination Centre, of which Morocco is a full member.

40. In Kenya, the anti-narcotics unit of the Directorate of Criminal Investigations has been using INTERPOL channels for communication and enhanced investigations of transnational organized crime for monitoring and profiling fugitives. The African Police Cooperation Organization has provided a platform for sharing information on

counter-narcotics measures within the region, in particular on ways of identifying criminal networks and organizations by their modus operandi.

Recommendation 6

41. Governments were encouraged to further strengthen inter-agency cooperation at the national level among police, customs and drug control agencies, border control authorities, coastguard authorities and other competent law enforcement agencies, including through the establishment of joint port control units and joint airport interdiction task forces, with the support of the Container Control Programme and Aircop.

42. Angola takes part in Aircop and the Container Control Programme of UNODC and the World Customs Organization (WCO).

43. Nigeria is strengthening inter-agency cooperation at the national level and Murtala Mohammed International Airport in Lagos is one of the airports participating in Aircop. Drug concealment methods and information on arrests are shared with partners to increase the understanding of drug trafficking methods.

44. In Senegal, several entities have been established for coordination and law enforcement purposes. For example, the Interministerial Committee on Drug Control formulates national policy on combating drug abuse and trafficking, and coordinates the activities of State agencies engaged in countering the problem of drugs or in treating drug-related disorders and the activities of civil society organizations involved in awareness-raising. The Central Office for the Suppression of Drug Trafficking is responsible for the coordination of counter-narcotics operations. The security agencies of the police, gendarmerie and customs are responsible for recording drug-related offences, either as part of general criminal investigation functions or as specialized units. In order to draw on the skills of the various agencies, two joint entities have been established that bring together police, gendarmerie and customs officers: the joint container and vessel control unit at the port of Dakar, created within the framework of the global Container Control Programme of UNODC and WCO, and the joint airport interdiction task force at Blaise Diagne International Airport, established within the framework of the Airport Communication Project (a partnership between UNODC, INTERPOL and WCO).

45. Benin reported having a joint airport interdiction task force at Cotonou Airport and a joint container control unit at the port of Cotonou.

46. In the Niger, the staff of the Central Office for the Suppression of Drug Trafficking comprises police, National Guard, gendarmerie and customs officers. The joint airport interdiction task force of Diori Hamani International Airport, Niamey, also has staff from a range of agencies and access to the WCO CENcomm platform and the INTERPOL I-24/7 network.

47. Moroccan security services closely coordinated their actions and work strategies, sharing operational information and organizing investigations and joint operations.

48. Kenya reported that the port control unit, established within the framework of the Container Control Programme and based at the port of Mombasa, had enhanced the cooperation between the Kenya Revenue Authority, the Kenya Ports Authority and the Kenya Maritime Authority. In addition, at various ports, including Jomo Kenyatta International Airport and Kenyan seaports, there are joint operation centres that bring together law enforcement agencies, namely, the Kenya Coast Guard Service, the Kenya Maritime Authority, the Kenya Ports Authority, the police and the Kenya Revenue Authority, to enhance cooperation in inspection and operations. The country has also established a border control and operations coordination committee, thereby enhancing border management.

Issue 3. Countering money-laundering, illicit financial flows and the use of the darknet and cryptocurrencies in relation to the drug trade

Recommendation 7

49. Governments were encouraged to further strengthen cooperation at the national and international levels among law enforcement agencies (e.g. police and customs authorities), financial intelligence units, prosecutorial bodies, tax authorities and the banking and private sectors to ensure successful investigations of drug-related money-laundering.

50. Angola has established a financial intelligence unit and passed a law to regulate it.

51. Nigeria has active cooperation agreements with other countries for countering money-laundering and has received mutual legal assistance treaty requests in the context of investigations of drug trafficking arrests.

52. The Board of the Central Office for the Suppression of Drug Trafficking of Senegal has ensured that asset investigations are an integral part of all drug-related cases. To that end, the assistance of the tax authorities (the tax and property departments) is regularly sought, as is that of the financial institutions (including banks, insurance companies, and mutual savings and loan associations). Efforts to counter drug trafficking can be effective only if traffickers' assets (including financial assets and movable and immovable property) are seized, frozen and confiscated. The competent law enforcement agencies work closely with the national financial information processing unit, which is part of the Ministry of Economy, Finance and Planning and coordinates intelligence work and the gathering of evidence relating to money-laundering that is linked to organized crime, including the laundering of drug trafficking proceeds.

53. Benin has a national financial information processing unit, a joint unit that includes finance specialists, police and customs officers, and judges.

54. The Niger reported that the Central Office for the Suppression of Drug Trafficking signed a cooperation agreement in 2020 with the National Financial Information Processing Unit as part of efforts to combat money-laundering. In addition, the Central Office for the Suppression of Drug Trafficking regularly sought information from the responsible entities (including banks and insurance companies) within the framework of its investigations, and organized joint operations with the customs authorities.

55. In Morocco, particular attention is paid to cases of money-laundering, financing of terrorism and predicate offences, with illicit trafficking in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances explicitly included in the definitions set out in article 574-2 of the Penal Code. The investigation and prosecution services and the control and supervision authorities in the fight against money-laundering are full members of the National Financial Intelligence Authority, and they closely coordinate their actions at the operational level when investigating money-laundering, whatever the underlying offence. Within the framework of international cooperation, the National Financial Intelligence Authority responds to requests for information and spontaneous communications received from foreign financial intelligence units in the same way as it would handle investigations of suspicious transaction reports, both in relation to its approach to information security and analysis, and its decision to transmit files to the Public Prosecutor's Office where necessary, after obtaining the agreement of the relevant foreign financial intelligence unit, in accordance with the principles of information exchange of the Egmont Group of Financial Intelligence Units.

56. Kenya has established a National Technical Committee on Drug Trafficking and Abuse that facilitates collaboration with key agencies, including the Financial Reporting Centre, the Office of the Attorney General and Department of Justice, which are responsible for illicit financial flow and money-laundering issues. The

process is facilitated by legislation, such as the Proceeds of Crime and Anti-Money-Laundering Act (2009).

Recommendation 8

57. It was recommended that Governments undertake the necessary steps to study the best practices of other countries in investigating drug-related money-laundering and the use of the darknet and cryptocurrencies in the drug trade and for money-laundering, and best practices in asset forfeiture and asset management.

58. Angola reported on effective cooperation between its judicial authorities and international banks, thanks to which diverted capital had been returned.

59. Nigeria reported having standard operating procedures in line with international best practices. Training programmes from UNODC, the United States Drug Enforcement Administration, France, Germany and other partners has helped build the capacity of officers in their related work.

60. Senegal complies with Financial Action Task Force recommendations and draws on the best practices followed in other countries through cooperation agreements and international conferences and meetings on money-laundering investigations, the sale of drugs on the Internet, seizure and confiscation of criminal assets and financial investigations. The Central Office for the Suppression of Drug Trafficking has recently established a digital investigation section. As well as ensuring that field units carry out investigations, law enforcement agencies need to be deployed to carry out the same activities (including digital patrolling and e-infiltration) on the Internet, including the darknet, and on social networks, which have all become powerful and widely used means of trafficking in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, including in Senegal.

61. In Benin, the Central Office to Combat Trafficking in Drugs and Precursors is the body responsible for law enforcement action to counter drug trafficking. It conducts joint investigations with the National Financial Information Processing Unit and the Economic and Financial Crime Unit relating to the laundering of money derived from drug trafficking. (art. 70, para. 3, of Act 2018-17 of 25 July 2018 on combating money-laundering and the financing of terrorism).

62. In the Niger, several training workshops have been organized by the Financial Information Processing Unit and its foreign partners for officers of the Central Office for the Suppression of Drug Trafficking, and experience relating to drug-related money-laundering has been shared extensively.

63. The Moroccan security services responsible for the fight against drug trafficking, cybercrime and money-laundering have focused, including through the exchange of experiences and good practices with police services of partner countries, on developing techniques for investigating cases of laundering drug money and the use of the darknet and cybercurrencies in drug trafficking and money-laundering, as well as introducing new practices for the confiscation and management of criminal assets.

64. Kenya has made significant progress in the fight against money-laundering and financing of terrorism, including through the enactment and enforcement of the Proceeds of Crime and Money-Laundering Act (2009) and the Prevention of Terrorism Act (2012). The Assets Recovery Agency has also been established to freeze and confiscate assets that had been acquired from proceeds of crime and money-laundering. In October 2020, Kenya introduced an e-register at the Companies Registration Office, where all firms are expected to report on their ultimate beneficial owners. In 2019, the Government of Kenya introduced demonetization measures leading to the introduction of new generation currency in a bid to reduce money-laundering and other illicit financial flows. There has been continued training for relevant officers and regular reviews of regulations to ensure best practices are being employed.

Recommendation 9

65. It was recommended that Governments undertake the necessary steps to provide training to front-line officers on the basics of money-laundering and on the use of the darknet and cryptocurrencies for that purpose to achieve a critical mass of knowledge, ensuring that adequate actions are taken and relevant evidence is collected and duly secured. For those purposes, training tools developed by the UNODC Global Programme against Money-Laundering, Proceeds of Crime and the Financing of Terrorism could be considered.

66. The authorities of Angola train their technical personnel on crime and terrorist financing matters.

67. Nigerian law enforcement officers have been trained on both basic and advanced money-laundering investigation techniques by UNODC.

68. In Senegal, officials have attended training courses on money-laundering and the use of the darknet and cryptocurrencies organized by the Financial Information Processing Unit and partners such as UNODC.

69. Several capacity-building seminars have been held by UNODC in Benin, which has also benefited from the training tools of the UNODC Global Programme against Money-Laundering, Proceeds of Crime and the Financing of Terrorism.

70. The Niger held several training workshops on money-laundering for officers of the Central Office for the Suppression of Drug Trafficking in collaboration with the Financial Information Processing Unit.

71. The topics of money-laundering and the use of the darknet and cryptocurrencies are included in the basic training programmes for new recruits of the Moroccan security services and in continuous training for officers and agents of the judicial police, using tools provided within the framework of partnerships established with relevant international organizations, including UNODC, INTERPOL and the European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Cooperation (Europol), and many other partners. In addition to benefiting from face-to-face training and workshops organized by UNODC, the National Authority for Financial Intelligence regularly benefits from the tools developed by the UNODC Global Programme, including the Counter-terrorism Learning Platform.

72. Kenya has taken advantage of the training tools developed by UNODC and has improved its training manuals for front-line officers, including those at entry points.

Issue 4. Specific needs of children and youth in contact with the justice system for drug-related offences

Recommendation 10

73. It was recommended that Governments integrate children's issues into health, rule of law and development agendas. Those strategies should be based on adequate data and scientific evidence and foster cooperation between the different agencies involved, as well as with non-governmental organizations.

74. Angola shares information internationally according to the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, makes use of the Southern African Development Community database and takes part in the Blue Heart Campaign against Human Trafficking.

75. Nigerian authorities such as the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency, police and correctional service and civil society organizations are working with UNODC on a programme for alternatives to imprisonment, which focuses on those who commit low-level crime. The desk review of the programme is near completion.

76. In Senegal, children's issues are integrated into health, rule of law and development agendas. For example, children and young people may be ordered to undergo therapy as an alternative to a criminal penalty.

77. In Benin, there is a centre for the welfare of children and adolescents that provides support for, and assists in the social reintegration of, children in conflict with the law. The centre operates under the supervision of the Ministry of Justice.

78. The Central Office for the Suppression of Drug Trafficking of the Niger has been advocating for the establishment of a specialized centre for the treatment of illnesses linked to drug dependence.

79. In Morocco, a multisectoral strategic plan for the promotion of mental health among children and young people has been established by the department responsible for the promotion of the health of children and adolescents within the Ministry of Health.

80. Kenya has developed a national alcohol and drug abuse policy that encompasses interventions addressing children's and youth issues. To ensure that the key messages reach children and young people, Kenya has developed *National Guidelines for Alcohol and Substance Use Prevention and Management in Basic Education Institutions* that guide teachers on effective drug use measures, and has developed and disseminated several training materials for children of various ages. The policies, guidelines and training materials are based on relevant UNODC materials, including the *International Standards on Drug Use Prevention*.

Recommendation 11

81. It was recommended that, in line with the UNODC *International Standards on Drug Use Prevention*, Governments adopt drug abuse prevention strategies, based on scientific evidence and working with families, schools, communities and media, that are tailored for children and youth, especially the most marginalized and those living in poverty.

82. Angola, through the Latin American Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, has specific programmes for families, children and young people, especially for the fight against poverty.

83. Nigeria launched the War Against Drug Abuse, a comprehensive evidenced-based programme for various target groups, including families, schools, communities and the media, which has produced impressive results.

84. Drug abuse prevention strategies have been adopted through the development of a module on drugs for secondary schools, the establishment of an Internet platform aimed at increasing young people's knowledge of addictive substances, and large-scale awareness-raising activities to combat drug use, organized annually as part of the national week of awareness and mobilization against drugs, with the involvement of the media.

85. One of the strategies to prevent drug abuse in Benin consists of a large-scale programme of awareness-raising among all professional groups and religious communities, implemented by the Interministerial Committee for Combating the Abuse of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances in partnership with a number of non-governmental organizations and centres for the care of drug-dependent persons.

86. The Central Office for the Suppression of Drug Trafficking of the Niger is advocating the development of a national policy for combating drugs.

87. Morocco has developed a National Strategic Plan for the Prevention and Management of Addictions (2018–2022), which aims to build on the progress that the country has already made, to model key experiences, to comply with international recommendations and to develop expertise. It also takes into account the need to mobilize resources and strengthen the coherence and complementarity of actions of decision makers, professionals and members of civil society.

88. In 2021 Kenya developed *National Guidelines on Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention*, which are in line with the UNODC *International Standards on Drug Use Prevention* and intended to be used by key partners, including civil society organizations implementing drug prevention initiatives.

Recommendation 12

89. It was recommended that Governments orient their juvenile justice systems towards the reintegration of child offenders into society and towards preventing children and youth from entering the criminal justice system and diverting them away from it. Governments are encouraged to develop, adopt and implement alternative or additional measures with regard to the conviction or punishment of children and youth, such as care, guidance and supervision orders, counselling, probation, foster care, education and vocational training programmes.

90. Angola directs young people to its detoxification and social rehabilitation programmes.

91. Nigeria has taken steps to protect children's rights in line with global best practices.

92. Alternatives to the conviction or punishment of children and youth have been implemented in Senegal, including exemption from criminal liability in the case of minors under 18 years of age who have not committed an offence previously and who solemnly declare before the court their intention to stop using drugs.

93. The objectives of the centre for the welfare of children and adolescents in Benin are the rehabilitation and social reintegration of children (from 0 to 13 years old) at risk and children in conflict with the law, the provision of care and support for children at risk, and the prevention of juvenile delinquency (among children from 13 to 15 years old). From the age of 16, minors in conflict with the law serve half the sentence for the offence committed, after which they are referred to the centre.

94. Act 2014-72 of 20 November 2014 sets out the jurisdiction, responsibilities and functioning of juvenile courts in the Niger and provides for alternatives to the conviction of young people. The Act is widely applied by the judicial authorities of the Niger.

95. The Royal Decree establishing Act 1-73-282 of 21 May 1974 on the suppression of drug abuse and the prevention of drug addiction and modifying the Royal Decrees of 2 December 1922 and 24 April 1954 was the first text in independent Morocco to criminalize the use of narcotics. Article 8 punishes the illicit use of substances or plants classified as narcotics with imprisonment for between two months to one year and/or a fine of 500–5,000 Moroccan dirhams. The user must agree, however, to submit to detoxification treatment carried out either in a therapeutic establishment or a private clinic approved by the Ministry of Health.

96. Kenya is implementing a comprehensive juvenile justice system that is based on the Children Act of 2022. The new law provides for the establishment of a Child Welfare Fund under the Public Finance Management Act to cover the reasonable expenses of all social security programmes designed by the Government to facilitate the realization of the welfare of the child. It has also increased the age of criminal responsibility from 8 to 12 years old and states that children accused of committing minor offences will not be taken through the court system but instead will be diverted to community-based systems. For cases that are not minor, the Act states that the Chief Justice may designate children's courts in counties or sub-counties and appoint a magistrate to preside over cases in which a child is a victim or complainant. According to the Act, the children's court shall have a child-friendly setting (art. 92) and any child coming into conflict with the law will be provided with free legal aid to enable them to navigate the justice system.