

25 July 2017

Original: English*

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

Hurghada, Egypt, 18-22 September 2017

Item 4 of the provisional agenda**

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

1. The Twenty-fifth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies (HONLEA), Africa, held in Algiers from 14 to 18 September 2015, adopted a set of recommendations following the consideration by working groups of the issues indicated below.
2. In accordance with established practice, the report on the Twenty-fifth 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 18 May 2017, with a deadline for replies set at 23 June 2017.
3. The present report was prepared on the basis of information provided to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) by Governments in response to that questionnaire. As of 3 August 2017, replies had been received from the Governments of Algeria, Burundi, Egypt, Ghana, Kenya, Madagascar, Nigeria, Senegal and Sierra Leone. Member States whose responses are not included because they were received after that date 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/27/1](#).



II. Responses from Member States to the questionnaire

Issue 1: Designing effective strategies to address cannabis trafficking

Recommendation 1

4. It was recommended that, where they have not already done so, Governments be urged to develop well-defined national strategies to address the domestic cultivation of illicit crops, in particular cannabis, and the factors driving their ongoing cultivation.
5. Algeria reported that, since it was not a drug-producing country, this aspect had not been included in the national strategy for the control of drugs and drug addiction.
6. Burundi indicated that it had a national strategy in place and that it had established an anti-drugs unit that was responsible for activities at the national level.
7. Egypt indicated that its drug control strategy included action to combat illicit crop cultivation. Egypt held four campaigns each year aimed at eliminating and destroying drug crops in coordination with the armed forces.
8. Ghana indicated that it had taken no action to implement this recommendation.
9. In Kenya, the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (Control) Act of 1994 provided for the control of cannabis cultivation, sale and consumption. The Government had set up agencies to address the drug problem, including the National Authority for the Campaign against Alcohol and Drug Abuse, the Anti-Narcotics Police Unit and the Pharmacy and Poisons Board.
10. Subject to the availability of adequate resources, Madagascar envisaged to proceed with a survey of areas under illicit crop cultivation and with the identification of substitution crops, taking into account the particular features of each area.
11. Nigeria referred to its national drug control master plan for 2015-2019 (sections 3.3.1-5) and to the implementation workplan to fight cannabis cultivation. Nigeria noted that factors driving the cultivation of cannabis included poverty, unemployment, user demand for cannabis, profits derived from selling cannabis and the lack of profit from alternative crop substitution.
12. The national strategic plan of Senegal provided for strengthened measures to fight against illicit crop cultivation. Those measures included alternative development programmes aimed at encouraging cannabis growers to cultivate licit commercial crops.
13. Sierra Leone had a strategy in draft form to combat cannabis cultivation, parts of which were being implemented. The Government hoped to draft a national drug control policy soon, incorporating specific strategies for cannabis control (including strategic, operational and tactical measures and alternative development) and for preventing precursor diversion.

Recommendation 2

14. It was recommended that Governments be encouraged to undertake efforts to establish an open and direct dialogue with farmers on crop substitution and related community improvement programmes in order to persuade them of the benefits of cultivating licit crops as alternatives to cannabis.
15. Algeria reiterated that, since it was not a drug-producing country, this aspect was not included in the national strategy for the control of drugs and drug addiction.
16. Burundi reported that the majority of the drugs in the country originated from neighbouring States and that it had no official programme to substitute the cultivation of cannabis with licit crops.

17. Egypt reported that its Government had undertaken significant efforts to support alternative and sustainable development and to undertake the economic projects necessary to ensure the livelihood of rural communities.
18. Ghana indicated that it had taken no action to implement this recommendation.
19. In Kenya, the Government had undertaken activities to raise awareness among farmers of the adverse effects of cannabis.
20. Madagascar reported that it did not yet have the resources to conduct a survey of areas under illicit crop cultivation, given their remote location.
21. In Nigeria, an open and direct dialogue with farmers on crop substitution had been taking place through the Farmers Interactive Forum and a cannabis cultivation survey was ongoing.
22. Senegal reported that, since the early 2000s, it had been taking action directed at cannabis growers in the area of Niayes. Because of a lack of financial resources, the crop substitution programme had ceased. As part of its national strategic plan Senegal was planning projects for the region of Casamance, where cannabis growers operated.
23. Sierra Leone indicated that the approach mentioned in this recommendation was part of the draft strategy, referred to in paragraph 13, to combat cannabis cultivation. The strategy had yet to be implemented, the focus currently being placed on operational and tactical measures.

Recommendation 3

24. It was recommended that Governments of the region do more to encourage and support their law enforcement authorities to develop and strengthen regional and subregional collaboration in information-sharing and investigation support, as well as coordination among agencies at the national level, in order to effectively counter trafficking and organized crime.
25. Algeria noted that, at the regional level, such cooperation had resulted in a framework for concerted action in the Maghreb that enhanced cooperation and the exchange of information between law enforcement agencies in the Maghreb countries, as well as in a regional cooperation strategy to combat narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, in accordance with the recommendations of the meeting of the Council of Ministers for Internal Affairs of the Arab Maghreb Union, held in Nouakchott from 28 to 30 April 2015.
26. Furthermore, Algeria indicated that, at the bilateral level, a framework for concerted action and ongoing cooperation had been established in partnership with Tunisia and Libya under the bilateral customs cooperation committees, incorporating tighter controls on various forms of trafficking between the countries concerned. That international cooperation had resulted in the signing of international mutual assistance agreements between the Directorate General for Customs of Algeria and the customs authorities of 20 partner countries. The agreements provided for assistance and cooperation in the investigation and penalization of customs offences.
27. In addition, Algeria reported that it had made use of tools supplied by the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) to take effective action against this type of crime (the circulation of INTERPOL alerts and advice on trends in the *modi operandi* of criminal groups). The Algeria national central bureau for INTERPOL, which came under the National Security Directorate, had as its main task the exchange of information on the *modi operandi* used by criminal groups engaged in drug trafficking. Algeria made every effort to work together and coordinate with all stakeholders in combating drug trafficking.

28. Burundi indicated that it had been engaging in bilateral and regional cooperation as well as joint operation with members of the Eastern Africa Police Chiefs Cooperation Organization (EAPCCO).

29. The Anti-Narcotics General Administration of Egypt was exchanging information with its counterparts in other countries in order to curb drug trafficking and tighten controls at seaports and airports.

30. Ghana reported that its Narcotics Control Board was in the process of signing memorandums of understanding with some countries in West Africa with a view to encouraging training support and the exchange of information on operations and experiences.

31. The Government of Kenya had been supporting the fight against drug trafficking by extraditing suspected drug dealers and destroying their vessels. To enhance the coordination of its drug control strategy, the Government had, on 10 March 2017, established a multi-agency task force on the eradication of drug trafficking and substance abuse. The main objective of the task force was to identify and profile drug trafficking networks in the country. Kenya had been active in the implementation of the Protocol on Combating Drug Trafficking in the East African Region, in the meetings of HONLEA and with UNODC, in enhancing regional and subregional ties.

32. Madagascar indicated that it was cooperating with all countries and that it had signed a cooperation agreement with Mauritius.

33. Nigeria reported that it had established relationships with Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Mali, the Niger and Togo. In addition, training events for officers from selected airports and land border checkpoints were held in Dakar in April 2016 and in Cotonou in June 2016.

34. Senegal noted that the Regional Action Plan to Address the Growing Problem of Illicit Drug Trafficking, Organized Crime and Drug Abuse in West Africa of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) was the preferred framework for cooperation among law enforcement services at the regional and subregional levels. There were frequent exchanges among national services through the INTERPOL national central bureaux with the help of the I-24/7 communication system. The CENcomm communication network of the World Customs Organization (WCO) was being used by several joint airport interdiction task forces in the framework of the Airport Communication Project (AIRCOP).

35. Sierra Leone reported that it had a well-developed structure in place in the form of its Transnational Organized Crime Unit, which had been set up in 2010 under the West Africa Coast Initiative. Since then, the Unit had benefited from strong collaboration at the national level with 14 agencies and had cooperated with the transnational crime units established in Guinea-Bissau and Liberia. Furthermore, within the last two years, under the auspices of UNODC, Sierra Leone had signed three operational protocols on transnational organized crime, drug trafficking and trafficking in persons, covering areas such as the sharing of information and intelligence, joint operations and mutual legal assistance.

Recommendation 4

36. It was recommended that Governments establish comprehensive strategies for drug demand reduction that include public education, research, policy formulation, treatment and rehabilitation, in order to address the challenge posed by the illicit use of cannabis, in particular among young people.

37. Algeria reported that it had developed and implemented a national drug control strategy for the period 2011-2015. Under the strategy various activities to raise awareness of the dangers of psychotropic substances had been conducted, such as seminars, prevention efforts by various associations and police services, awareness-raising courses in schools, advertising campaigns in broadcast media, a

prevention guide and media campaigns. Given the importance Algeria attached to health care for drug users, the country was implementing an ambitious nationwide programme to set up intermediate addiction care centres, 40 of which were already in operation, and detoxification centres, whose existence and services were being publicized. Algeria had provided training to doctors by introducing a specialization in addiction medicine at the faculty of medicine in Algiers. Finally, Algeria had introduced opiate substitution therapy in its national health-care system.

38. Burundi noted that it regularly held seminars to raise awareness of the dangers posed by drugs.

39. Egypt's drug control strategy included a demand reduction component and the establishment of an awareness-raising and communication department for the exchange of information with supply reduction bodies. The department participated in meetings and lectures held in cooperation with the National Fund for Drug Control and Treatment of Addiction and the National Council for Drug Control and Treatment, with a view to raising awareness of the danger posed by drugs among young people.

40. Ghana indicated that it had taken no action to implement this recommendation.

41. Kenya, through its National Authority for the Campaign Against Alcohol and Drug Abuse, was applying prevention science to enhance the capacity of professionals and was rolling out community-based programmes targeting children, young people, parents and communities. The Government had set aside funds for the development of 13 county-based treatment centres in order to improve the population's access to treatment services. In June 2017, the Government launched national treatment protocols for persons with substance use disorders.

42. Certain activities under the national drug control master plan of Madagascar focused on issues relevant to this recommendation. Coordinated by the Interministerial Commission for the Coordination of the Fight against Drugs, actors in the area of prevention continue to enhance their activities targeting young people.

43. Nigeria referred to its national drug control master plan for 2015-2019 and programmes assisted by the European Union and UNODC.

44. Senegal was devoting one full week every year to mobilizing efforts and raising awareness of the drug problem throughout the country. The event was led by law enforcement agencies, public health authorities, civil society and other stakeholders.

45. In Sierra Leone, demand reduction, public education and treatment, and rehabilitation were at a minimal level. Sierra Leone indicated that, although it had no strategy in place in those areas, it was expected that the national drug control policy would incorporate them. In addition, the drug control legislation of Sierra Leone provided for penalties for the possession of cannabis, although they were minimal compared to penalties for the possession of other drugs. Therefore, cannabis users were being arrested rather treated. This matter was currently under review in Sierra Leone.

Issue 2: Border control measures and other methods to curtail drug trafficking

Recommendation 5

46. It was recommended that Governments support and strengthen regional cooperation among law enforcement agencies in Africa in the exchange of information, the responses given to requests for investigation and related assistance, and collaboration in coordinated operations against drug trafficking.

47. Algeria had initiated and actively participated in the establishment of the regional African Union Mechanism for Police Cooperation (AFRIPOL), whose first general assembly was held in Algiers from 14 to 16 May 2017. The assembly marked the effective launch of AFRIPOL following the adoption of its statutes at the

twenty-eighth ordinary session of the Heads of State and Government of the African Union, held in Addis Ababa on 30 and 31 January 2017. During the session, the draft rules of procedure for the general assembly and steering committee were discussed, the AFRIPOL steering committee members took up their posts and general frameworks were defined for cooperation among police institutions at the national, regional, continental and international levels.

48. In addition, Algeria reported that, for a number of years, its scientific and technical police departments had provided training in forensic science (explosives, drug identification and crime scene techniques) for police officers, including senior ranks, from other countries.

49. Burundi referred to exchanges of information conducted through INTERPOL and EAPPCO, as well as directly with other countries in Africa.

50. Egypt referred to the exchange of information and the receipt of investigation requests through INTERPOL and regional agencies on matters relating to drug trafficking.

51. Ghana reported that its Narcotics Control Board was in the process of signing memorandums of understanding with certain countries in West Africa, with a view to encouraging the sharing of information and intelligence.

52. Kenya worked closely with UNODC and the East African Community to enhance drug control across borders.

53. Madagascar indicated that it had cooperated with all countries, that it had signed a cooperation agreement with Mauritius and that it collaborated with the anti-drug services of Kenya.

54. Nigeria referred to information-sharing, meetings and investigative actions conducted through Aircop, INTERPOL and the UNODC programme entitled “CRIMJUST: strengthening criminal investigation and criminal justice cooperation along the cocaine route in Latin America, the Caribbean and West Africa (2016-2020)”. Nigeria also referred to the activities undertaken under Operation Lionfish and the Interflow Initiative, which included the sharing of intelligence.

55. In Senegal, anti-drug units were redeployed at the borders and a project, under the auspices of UNODC, to promote joint operations between Senegal, the Gambia and Guinea-Bissau was being finalized. Senegal had established strong cooperation with Mali with arrests of drug traffickers taking place on both sides.

56. Sierra Leone noted that the cooperation mechanisms under the West Africa Coast Initiative provided a good platform for regional cooperation and that they could be utilized more fully. Sierra Leone also noted that the transnational crime units of countries that were not covered by the operational protocols referred to in paragraph 35, such as Côte d’Ivoire and Guinea-Bissau, were in their formative stages and that the operational protocols would include those units once fully developed. Sierra Leone also indicated that interaction at fora such as the meetings of HONLEA were helpful in creating the links necessary for information-sharing and responding to information requests.

Recommendation 6

57. In view of the exponential growth in trade and passenger volumes by air, land and sea, and in view of the need to ensure that borders are well protected, it was recommended that Governments review their national strategies related to border management, examine the degree of cooperation between border agencies and assess the application of current controls.

58. Algeria reported that it had strengthened the security measures at its borders, and that it evaluated those measures regularly. In particular, Algeria noted that there was an exchange of intelligence in real time among specialized law enforcement agencies, that its National Gendarmerie had tightened security measures. A strong

security network had been established along the western borders of the country by strengthening surveillance and adapting law enforcement measures to the modus operandi of traffickers, which the gendarmerie had uncovered thanks to thorough investigations and the deployment of various units.

59. Algeria also reported that its drug law enforcement agencies had been expanded and modernized, enabling them to better combat cross-border crime, in particular narcotic drugs trafficking. Databases had been expanded to assist front-line officers and detection agents and personnel had been trained in techniques to combat narcotic drug trafficking. Moreover, at the national level, inter-agency collaboration and the exchange of information had been institutionalized and enshrined in protocols of agreement concluded with other institutions, including the National Security Directorate, the National Gendarmerie, the Directorate General for Revenue and the Bank of Algeria. Algeria was strengthening its efforts by posting dog teams at ports and airports in addition to the sniffer dogs already available at checkpoints, and provided training to the dog handlers.

60. Burundi reported that it had established a monitoring and detection system at its international borders and referred to exchanges of information and experiences between chiefs of border guard forces.

61. Egypt indicated that this recommendation was being implemented in cooperation with the Ports Security Authority of the Ministry of Interior and the Customs Authority of the Ministry of Finance.

62. Ghana reported that it had established a security check desk at the port of Tema in 2015 in order to tighten controls and prevent trafficking in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances through that port. The desk kept a record of the importers and exporters for future reference, in case arrests were made.

63. The Government of Kenya was reviewing its Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (Control) Act of 1994. An amendment bill had been prepared in April 2017 and the review process was ongoing. Kenya indicated that section 5A of its citizenship and immigration act provided for the establishment of the Border Control and Operations Coordination Committee, comprised of key agencies such as ministries responsible for national security, customs and immigration, as well as the National Police Service and National Intelligence.

64. Madagascar reported that it involved its navy in the fight against drugs. It had held a meeting with customs officers to bring them up to date and held periodic meetings with all law enforcement agencies to improve their working methods and consolidate their efforts. Madagascar had asked international bodies to provide drug identification kits and had reinforced the collaboration among law enforcement agencies, such as the gendarmerie, police, navy and customs authority at ports of entry (seaports and airports).

65. Nigeria referred to the implementation of AIRCOP at Lagos Murtala Muhammed International Airport, the “Harmonized standard operating procedures on arrest, detention and prosecution of vessels and persons in Nigeria’s maritime environment”, issued in 2016, the border information centre at Seme, and joint commissions between countries that share borders.

66. Senegal reported that an important project on border management was being implemented with the support of the European Union. A computerized management system to track migration flows at border checkpoints was being developed and inter-agency units had been established and were working at the airport and the port of Dakar.

67. Sierra Leone reported that it had a border management strategy in place and that its authorities conducted regular visits to the main land border crossing checkpoints in order to ensure strong cooperation and collaboration among border agencies. Moreover, security at the main international airport had been improved using a mix of services of national and privately contracted international companies.

At the same time, the control of sea borders continued to be a challenge. Sierra Leone indicated that it had undertaken a comprehensive border vulnerability assessment that had covered land, sea and air borders. The assessment had become a reference document in the context of various border security initiatives under consideration in the country.

Recommendation 7

68. It was recommended that Governments join international cooperation initiatives such as Aircop and the UNODC/WCO Container Control Programme to improve the potential of their border protection, benefit from the synergies those initiatives create and build on the platforms they provide so as to develop their own bilateral or multilateral agreements to facilitate information-sharing and operational cooperation.

69. Algeria indicated that it had been requested by the UNODC Regional Office for the Middle East and North Africa to participate in Aircop in order to combat drug trafficking by air.

70. Burundi referred to the establishment of its civil aviation authority, while noting that it was not yet participating in the Container Control Programme.

71. Egypt indicated that it had taken no action to implement this recommendation.

72. Ghana reported that it had participated in Aircop since 2010 and that its national officers had benefited from training support and intelligence through it.

73. Kenya had established a joint port control unit at the port of Mombasa under the Container Control Programme. Madagascar indicated that it had taken no action to implement this recommendation.

74. Nigeria again referred to the implementation of Aircop at Lagos Murtala Muhammed International Airport, the “Harmonized standard operating procedures on arrest, detention and prosecution of vessels and persons in Nigeria’s maritime environment”, issued in 2016, and the border information centre at Seme. Nigeria also referred to activities undertaken under CRIMJUST, the Interflow Initiative and Operation Lionfish.

75. Senegal indicated that a joint airport interdiction task force had been established as part of Aircop and that inter-agency control units established as part of the Container Control Programme had been set up at the port of Dakar with the support of UNODC.

76. Sierra Leone indicated that it had not yet joined Aircop or the Container Control Programme, that the matter had been discussed at various levels and that its Transnational Organized Crime Unit would endeavour to ensure that it is included in the high-level agenda for consideration and implementation.

Issue 3: Judicial challenges, including differences in legislation, penalties and forensic capabilities

Recommendation 8

77. It was recommended that Governments of the region ensure that their law enforcement authorities are aware of the importance of forensic science in the context of drug investigations and that they are trained in the gathering, preservation and presentation of forensic evidence and in maintaining the chain of custody of exhibits, in order to carry through prosecutions against offenders successfully.

78. In Algeria, technical police units throughout the country provided support and assistance to investigators by preserving evidence from crime scenes and samples of substances seized. Those samples were sent to the National Institute of Forensics and Criminology for analysis to provide forensic support for investigative procedures.

79. Burundi noted that it had already set up a forensic department within the investigations department of the Public Prosecutor's Office.

80. Egypt noted that it attached great importance to the drug problem. It provided all the material and human resources necessary to drug control bodies, including for trainings conducted at the national and international levels. In Egypt, the executing authorities of the Ministries of Interior, Health and Agriculture, and Customs were responsible for maintaining exhibits under judicial supervision until a decision was taken by judicial authorities to destroy them.

81. In Ghana, law enforcement officers periodically received training on the gathering, preserving and collecting of evidence, and on maintaining the chain of custody of exhibits.

82. Kenya had established a forensic laboratory at the headquarters of the Directorate of Criminal Investigations, whose main purpose was to conduct forensic analysis in criminal cases and whose staff UNODC had trained in drug identification and evidence processing.

83. Madagascar noted that it did not have the detection tools needed to provide forensic evidence. Evidence was collected by visual observation and subsequent investigation. The national drug laboratory was no longer functioning due to a lack of resources and qualified personnel.

84. Nigeria reported that it had a forensic and chemical monitoring unit in place for testing and confirming seized substances. It also had an intelligence data centre that was responsible for the extraction and analysis of data from telephones that aided in the detection of middle- and high-level drug traffickers.

85. In Senegal, the drug analysis laboratory had been provided with additional personnel and equipment and a targeted recruitment process had taken place to employ technicians to analyse the seized products.

86. Forensic capability had been a key requirement for Sierra Leone, which had been able to build its capacity in that regard in the past few years mainly with UNODC support. Sierra Leone now had a forensic laboratory that had been providing support to investigations. It also had trained analysts who delivered forensic analyses in relation to cases considered by courts. The laboratory had been useful in the successful prosecution of cases.

Recommendation 9

87. It was recommended that Governments take steps to ensure that forensic science services, which support the front-line work of drug enforcement agencies, prosecution services and the judiciary in the investigation and prosecution of offenders, are adequately trained, funded and equipped to perform their tasks.

88. Algeria indicated that its National Gendarmerie administered the National Institute of Forensics and Criminology. The Institute was staffed with specialists and experts in the field of criminology who provided scientific and technical support to investigators on the ground and carried out analyses and assessments in various laboratories in response to requests from the judiciary.

89. Burundi noted that it had a forensic department in place, but that that department was not yet fully operational and its personnel required capacity-building in that it needed to be provided with appropriate equipment.

90. In Egypt, this recommendation was being implemented through specialized training courses for law enforcement officials.

91. The Government of Ghana provided funding for forensic science services.

92. In Kenya, the Government Chemist Department acted as the forensic drug testing laboratory. All seizures suspected to contain narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances or precursors were analysed by the Department in order to identify their

quality and quantity. The Department's officers were called to crime scenes to collect samples in the presence of the accused, a requirement under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (Control) Act of 1994, and gave evidence in court as expert witnesses. The Department had been procuring equipment for the analysis of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, and its officers had continuously attended local and international training events to improve their skills. The Department had been participating in the UNODC international collaborative exercise programme.

93. Because of a lack of resources, Madagascar was seeking the support of international bodies to implement this recommendation.

94. Nigeria reported that, although the personnel of relevant agencies had been trained, adequate funding and equipment for the performance of their tasks were lacking.

95. Senegal reported that the Division of the Technical and Scientific Police of its National Police had been reinforced with personnel and equipment with the support of partners such as France and the United States of America.

96. Sierra Leone reported that, although it had made efforts to train and equip its forensic personnel, its forensic analysts required training and the field drug testing kits were inadequate for front-line interdictions. For example, an itemizer used in detecting contact/traces of drugs and explosives was not being used owing to the absence of the consumables necessary for its operation. Therefore, the authorities relied on physical searches and operatives could not identify specific types of drugs, such as amphetamines.

Recommendation 10

97. It was recommended that Governments review "Minimum requirements for identification of seized drugs: A document for emerging laboratories", published by the International Forensic Strategic Alliance in collaboration with UNODC and INTERPOL, with a view to guiding their progress towards meeting the global standards for forensic laboratory accreditation by 2025.

98. Algeria reported that its National Institute of Forensics and Criminology had received the International Organization for Standardization/International Electrotechnical Commission 17025 and 17020 accreditations.

99. Burundi noted that the aforementioned document was not known to its judicial authorities.

100. In Egypt, a laboratory specialized in drug analysis had the latest equipment at its disposal, such as a gas chromatography flame ionization detector and instruments for gas chromatography-mass spectrometry, gas chromatography-tandem mass spectrometry, and immunoassay testing.

101. Ghana indicated that it had taken no action to implement this recommendation. Kenya indicated that the implementation of the recommendation was an ongoing programme. Madagascar indicated that it had taken no action to implement the recommendation. Nigeria also indicated that it had taken no action to implement the recommendation.

102. Senegal indicated that a study was in process with a view to certifying the drug analysis laboratory in accordance with international standards.

103. Sierra Leone indicated that it had yet to consider the document for implementation.

Recommendation 11

104. It was recommended that Governments ensure that their regulations for the destruction of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances are carried out in a timely manner and in accordance with their legal provisions.

105. Algeria reported that its procedures for dealing with plants and substances seized or confiscated through efforts to prevent and penalize the use of and trafficking in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances had been established by executive decree No. 230-07 of 30 July 2007. Algeria noted that drugs seized by the joint security services were burned and destroyed by security units in the presence of a public prosecutor in secret operations conducted in accordance with a well-organized security plan to prevent diversion.

106. Burundi indicated that it destroyed seized drugs on an annual basis.

107. In Egypt, the destruction of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances was carried out in cooperation with the judiciary and other authorities.

108. Ghana indicated that it carried out the destruction of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances in a timely manner and in accordance with court orders.

109. Kenya reported that it had gazetted the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (Control) (Seizure, Analysis and Disposal) Regulations of 2006, which dealt with the destruction of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances.

110. Madagascar referred to its plan to establish a committee comprised of representatives of the police, the judiciary authorities, the Ministry of Health and the Interministerial Commission for the Coordination of the Fight against Drugs, in order to follow up on the destruction of seized drugs.

111. Nigeria indicated that drug exhibits from cases that had been concluded on the order of the Federal High Court were destroyed publicly in the presence of stakeholders and the public.

112. Senegal reported that the recommendations contained in the guidelines developed by INTERPOL on the seizure, presentation and destruction of drugs by officers of the law were being applied strictly and that ceremonies to destroy drug seizures were often attended by administrative and judiciary authorities.

113. In Sierra Leone, seized drugs were routinely destroyed following the successful prosecution of cases in accordance with requirements contained in national legislation.

Recommendation 12

114. It was recommended that Governments formulate and/or harmonize legislation both in the region and within countries.

115. The legislation of Algeria on combating narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances was in line with existing legislation at both the regional and national levels.

116. Burundi indicated that the relevant regulations were being reviewed by Parliament.

117. Egypt referred to its Anti-Narcotics Law No. 182 of 1960, which was being reviewed by a tripartite committee comprised of the Ministry of Interior, the Ministry of Justice and the Ministry Health, in order to ensure that the legislation was harmonized.

118. Ghana indicated that it had the following legislation in place: Narcotic Drugs (Control, Enforcement and Sanctions) Law of 1990, the Economic and Organized Crime Act of 2010, and the Anti-Money-Laundering Act of 2008.

119. Kenya noted that it was reviewing its national legislation to incorporate the operational recommendations contained in the outcome document of the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem held in 2016.

120. In Madagascar, a revision of the law on controlling narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and precursors was under way.

121. Nigeria indicated that it had legislation on drug trafficking and drug abuse in place.

122. Senegal reported that its national strategic plan provided for legal reforms to harmonize national legislation and to comply with the ECOWAS Regional Action Plan.

123. In Sierra Leone, gaps in relevant legislation had been identified but not yet reviewed; they were under consideration at the policy level. In the meantime, although the protocols concluded among West Africa Coast Initiative countries provided for the eventual harmonization of laws, there was a need for political support from the respective Governments under the guidance of relevant international bodies.

Recommendation 13

124. It was recommended that Governments adopt and improve legal texts that pertain to the repatriation of capital associated with the drug trade.

125. Algeria reported that, in the context of combating money-laundering, legal measures for the freezing, seizure and confiscation of the proceeds of crime were provided for by article 30 of Law No. 05-01 of 6 February 2005, as amended and supplemented (ordinance No. 12-02 of 13 February 2012 and Law No. 15-06 of 15 February 2015 on preventing and combating money-laundering and the financing of terrorism).

126. Burundi reported that its relevant strategies had not yet been finalized.

127. Egypt reported that it already had in place a money-laundering act (Law No. 80 of 2002) to trace illicit assets derived from drug trafficking.

128. Ghana indicated that its Economic and Organized Crime Act of 2010 covered the repatriation of capital associated with the drug trade.

129. Kenya reported that it had enacted the Proceeds of Crime and Anti-Money-Laundering (Amendment) Act of 2017 and had set up the Assets Recovery Agency and the Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission.

130. In Madagascar, the improvement of legal texts was planned as part of the revision of the law on controlling narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and precursors, which was under way.

131. Nigeria reported that it had a legal framework in place for the repatriation of capital associated with the drug trade. The legal framework was undergoing review.

132. Senegal reported that its law 2004-09 of 6 February 2006 on fighting money-laundering had been passed and that a financial intelligence unit had been established. A national office for the fight against fraud and corruption had been established as well.

133. In Sierra Leone, the existing anti-money-laundering legislation (the country's anti-money-laundering and combating of financing of terrorism act of 2005) covered all the aspects of money-laundering and provided for asset tracking and confiscation. However, for assets located in other jurisdictions, mutual legal assistance would be required. This was one of the cooperation initiatives under consideration by West Africa Coast initiative.

Recommendation 14

134. In the absence of harmonized legislation, it was recommended that Governments be encouraged to make effective use of existing subregional and regional cooperation protocols that address judicial challenges posed by drug trafficking and related offences.

135. In Algeria, the judicial authorities responsible for cases and procedures related to illicit drug trafficking often applied the relevant provisions set out in the various

treaties and regional and subregional conventions, such as the Convention on Legal and Judicial Cooperation between the States of the Arab Maghreb Union, the Riyadh Arab Agreement on Judicial Cooperation, and the Organization of African Unity Convention on the Prevention and Combating of Terrorism. The latter convention was also used in terrorism cases in connection with the financing of terrorism, money-laundering and drug trafficking. In addition, Algeria recalled that international cooperation among African countries could gain new impetus from the new AFRIPOL tools, which would make a significant contribution to resolving the cases handled by African investigators and judiciary authorities in connection with drug trafficking and related offences. Algeria noted that its judiciary, in dealing with cases involving drug trafficking and organized crime in all its forms, had recourse to international multilateral treaties under which it could issue requests for international legal assistance in criminal matters. Those treaties included the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations and, in particular, the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime.

136. Burundi noted that subregional approaches were ongoing. The Anti-Narcotics General Administration of Egypt has concluded bilateral agreements with several countries. Those agreements were being regularly reviewed and meetings were held with the authorities of those countries in order to activate the frameworks for international cooperation.

137. Ghana indicated that its Mutual Legal Assistance Act of 2010 and its Extradition Act of 1960 were relevant to the implementation of this recommendation.

138. Kenya indicated that the implementation of this recommendation was provided for in national legislation such as the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (Control) Act and the National Authority for the Campaign Against Alcohol and Drug Abuse Act.

139. Since 1997, Madagascar had had in place Law No. 97-039 on the control of narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and precursors as a harmonization law.

140. Nigeria referred to making use of the Inter-Governmental Action Group against Money Laundering in West Africa, AIRCOP, CRIMJUST and the joint commission with bordering countries.

141. Senegal reported that its national strategic plan had been approved and was being implemented, and that the plan took into account all the judicial aspects posed by drug trafficking and related offences.

142. Sierra Leone relied on its national legislation while being cognizant of regional and subregional protocols. Sierra Leone noted that the eventual harmonization of laws was expected to eliminate challenges inherent to them.

III. Conclusions

143. Most responding Governments had developed national strategies that also addressed the domestic cultivation of illicit crops, in particular cannabis, and some Governments provided information on factors driving the ongoing illicit cultivation of crops that they had identified.

144. A number of the Governments had undertaken efforts to establish a dialogue with farmers on crop substitution and related community improvement programmes in order to convince them of the benefits of cultivating licit crops as alternatives to cannabis. Other Governments referred to a lack of financial resources for such activities.

145. All Governments of the region had enhanced their activities to encourage and support their law enforcement authorities to develop and strengthen regional and subregional collaboration in information-sharing and investigation support, as well as coordination among agencies at the national level.

146. Almost all the responding Governments had undertaken steps to establish comprehensive strategies for drug demand reduction that included public education, research, policy formulation, treatment and rehabilitation, in order to address the challenge posed by the illicit use of cannabis, in particular among young people.

147. All the responding Governments had endeavoured to support and strengthen regional cooperation among law enforcement agencies in the region in the exchange of information, the responses given to requests for investigation and related assistance, and collaboration in coordinated operations against drug trafficking.

148. Furthermore, all the Governments had reviewed their national strategies related to border management aimed at improving the degree of cooperation between border agencies and assessed the application of current controls by various means.

149. Most Governments of the region had joined AIRCOP and the UNODC Container Control Programme. In addition, most Governments and their law enforcement authorities were aware of the importance of forensic science in the context of drug investigations, with a number of Governments ensuring that the necessary financial resources were allocated to drug analysis laboratories and that training was provided to personnel. In that regard, a number of Governments referred to the need for financial and other resources.

150. Some Governments had taken action to meet the global standards for forensic laboratory accreditation. Most Governments reported on their regulations and procedures for the destruction of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances.

151. The majority of responding Governments had either formulated or harmonized legislation at the national and regional level, with reviews of national legislation ongoing in some countries.

152. Most Governments either had already adopted or were in the process of improving their legal texts that pertained to the repatriation of capital associated with the drug trade.

153. Most Governments had made effective use of existing subregional and regional cooperation protocols that addressed judicial challenges posed by drug trafficking and related offences.
