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

Hurghada, Egypt, 18-22 September 2017

Draft report*Rapporteur:* Wasilat Audu (Nigeria)**Addendum****Consideration of topics by working groups****Issue (b): Enhancing coordination of the regional communication platforms that support drug law enforcement across Africa**

1. The working group held two meetings on 19 and 20 September 2017. In its consideration of the topic under review, the working group made the following observations:

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

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

(c) The potential of existing regional and international cooperation platforms and structures, such as Afripol, INTERPOL, WCO, SARPCCO, as well as the network of the border liaison offices are not fully utilised;

(d) Cooperation with/from private sector remains limited;

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

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

(g) Differences between countries' legal frameworks can jeopardize complex trans-border criminal investigations (e.g. controlled deliveries, telephone interceptions, etc.) due to specific legal requirements and create challenges in identifying and communicating to the appropriate point of contact/institution;

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



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

2. The working group drew up the following conclusions:

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

(b) There is a need for backtracking investigations on seizures, including joint investigations aimed at disruption of transnational organized groups, including drug supply chains, in line with the UNTOC and other relevant international legal instruments, with relevant agencies from countries involved;

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

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

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

(f) The existing network of the liaison officers prove to be effective to facilitate the exchange of information and intelligence, as well as to coordinate law enforcement actions to detect drug trafficking operations;

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

3. The working group adopted the following recommendations:

(a) Governments are encouraged to develop policies to promote and further strengthen interagency cooperation and to establish a single national focal point to effectively deal with information exchange and direct requests to the relevant authorities;

(b) Governments should encourage their law enforcement agencies to make better use of existing communication platforms, regional mechanism and initiatives developed by INTERPOL, WCO and UNODC as well as regional cooperation organizations;

(c) Governments are encouraged to further develop capacities of their relevant agencies to enable backtracking investigations on significant seizures and participating in joint investigations to dismantle drug trafficking networks;

(d) Governments are encouraged to continue their engagement in AIRCOP, Container Control Programme (CCP), Crimjust, "Networking-the-networks" and other UNODC/WCO/INTERPOL programmes and projects with focus on intelligence led approach, cross-border cooperation to address international drug trafficking and transnational organized crime;

(e) Synergies should be created among the public and private sector (e.g. banking systems, mobile communication providers, immigration services, non-banking financial sector, logistical companies);

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

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