

20 September 2017

Original: English\*

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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 (c): Trafficking in new psychoactive substances, including khat,  
benzodiazepines and tramadol, and law enforcement responses**

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

(a) Countries in the African region acknowledge emerging threats posed by new psychoactive substances as well as the challenges posed by the widespread use of psychoactive substances, such as benzodiazepines and tramadol;

(b) The high volume of tramadol and, to a lesser extent, captagon being trafficked to and within the region is a major concern for law enforcement authorities in the region and beyond;

(c) The cultivation, use and trafficking of cannabis and khat continue to cause concern in the region;

(d) The increase in methamphetamine production and trafficking in West Africa and the role of organized crime groups in this regard, has become a threat to the region;

(e) There is a need to prevent the diversion of precursor chemicals that are used to manufacture methamphetamine at national and regional levels;

(f) Organized crime groups use the same modus operandi and infrastructure for smuggling of different types of contraband and illicit drugs, as well as prescription drugs that are being abused in the region.

2. The working group drew up the following conclusions:

(a) The increased trafficking and use of plant-based drugs, such as cannabis and khat, as well as of psychoactive substances, such as benzodiazepines and tramadol, are burdening law enforcement and public health agencies in Africa;

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



- (b) It was noted that tramadol should be placed under international control;
- (c) Methamphetamine manufacture is spreading beyond West Africa to other regions of Africa in view of the increases in the levels of local and global demand;
- (d) Preventing the diversion of precursor chemicals plays a major role in stopping the production of methamphetamine;
- (e) The activities of the organized crime groups can be more effectively countered through increased international cooperation and coordination.

3. The working group adopted the following recommendations:

- (a) Governments are encouraged to review and revise relevant national legislation as new substances of abuse continue to emerge and exert a negative impact on public health;
  - (b) Governments, in particular, law enforcement and health agencies, are encouraged to strengthen coordination of national authorities at the regional level, including in order to enhance information-sharing;
  - (c) Governments are encouraged to improve the capacity of their front-line officers and forensic laboratories in order to better identify new psychoactive substances;
  - (d) Governments are encouraged to make use of existing regional and international instruments, tools, mechanisms and available information in order to address the challenges posed by synthetic drugs and plant-based drugs as well as the diversion of precursors.
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