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Report of the Nineteenth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Africa, held in Windhoek from 12 to 16 October 2009

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* The present report is being issued in Arabic, English and French, the working languages of the subsidiary body.



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

Recommendations adopted by the Nineteenth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Africa

1. The Nineteenth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies (HONLEA), Africa, adopted the recommendations set forth below, which had been drawn up by its working groups. For the observations and conclusions of the working groups that led to the recommendations, see section IV below.

Issue 1. Developing effective drug law enforcement intelligence-led operational responses

2. The following recommendations were made with regard to developing effective drug law enforcement intelligence-led operational responses:

(a) Governments of the region must ensure that their law enforcement agencies have the capacity, procedures and skills to collect, collate and analyse information on those involved in illicit drug trafficking and other forms of organized crime;

(b) To support the effectiveness of their law enforcement response, Governments must ensure that a policy of inter-agency cooperation is supported as an integral part of the national strategy to combat illicit drug trafficking and organized crime;

(c) Where they have not already done so, Governments of the region should take steps to conclude bilateral cooperation agreements with neighbouring States and key trading partners specifically to speed up exchange of information and requests for assistance between their respective law enforcement agencies and judiciaries.

Issue 2. National responses in support of regional efforts and initiatives in the fight against illicit drug trafficking

3. The following recommendations were made with regard to national responses in support of regional efforts and initiatives in the fight against illicit drug trafficking:

(a) To maintain public confidence in the legal process, Governments must ensure that authorities responsible for the seizure, storage, sampling and analysis of drug exhibits have a formal and recognized procedure to follow, governing their destruction;

(b) Governments should take steps to provide greater assistance, both financial and technical, in the provision of drug treatment and rehabilitation services to those who abuse or are dependent on drugs;

(c) Law enforcement authorities should be encouraged and supported by their Governments to undertake operations for the controlled delivery of illicit drugs, precursor chemicals and the cash proceeds of crime to identify those persons responsible for trafficking in order to dismantle the organization that supports it;

(d) Where they have not already done so, Governments should prepare a national drug strategy that provides guidance and clear direction to all agencies with a role to play in the implementation of Government policies on supply and demand reduction.

Issue 3. Impact of the Internet and other electronic media on drug trafficking

4. The following recommendations were made with regard to the impact of the Internet and other electronic media on drug trafficking:

(a) To meet the growing challenge of the criminal use of the Internet, and to deal with new kinds of evidence gathered in electronic form, Governments should take steps now to introduce awareness-raising initiatives among their law enforcement personnel, prosecutors and judges about the Internet and electronic evidence, as a first step in the evolution of a national digital evidence strategy;

(b) To combat offences that are facilitated by cybertechnologies, Governments must take steps to ensure that their national legislation is adequate to sustain the successful investigation and prosecution of such offences within their jurisdiction;

(c) To strengthen their effectiveness against illicit trafficking and other forms of organized crime, Governments should take steps to develop trained staff within their law enforcement agencies, capable of supporting the investigation and prosecution of these offences through their knowledge of and expertise in the handling, gathering and preparation of electronic evidence;

(d) If they have not already done so, Governments should encourage their law enforcement authorities to take guidance from the International Narcotics Control Board guidelines on online pharmacies and the use of the Internet for pharmaceutical sales.

Issue 4. Forensic services in Africa

5. The following recommendations were made with regard to forensic services in Africa:

(a) Governments should advocate the implementation of standard operating procedures designed around best practices for crime-scene investigation services, including actions of first responders;

(b) Governments should take steps to ensure that their forensic laboratories are adequately funded and suitably equipped to retain qualified professional staff;

(c) Governments should encourage their forensic service providers to initiate regional cooperation networks so as to strengthen their forensic capacity.

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

6. At its 1st and 2nd meetings, on 12 October 2009, the Meeting considered agenda item 3, entitled “Current situation with respect to regional and subregional cooperation in countering drug trafficking”. For its consideration of the item, the

Meeting had before it the report of the Secretariat on statistics on drug trafficking trends in Africa and worldwide (UNODC/HONLAF/19/2) and a conference room paper entitled “Current situation with respect to regional and subregional cooperation in countering drug trafficking” (UNODC/HONLAF/19/CRP.1). In addition, national reports were submitted by Algeria, Angola, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Côte d’Ivoire, Egypt, Kenya, Liberia, Malawi, Mauritius, Namibia, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, South Africa, Swaziland, Togo, the United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe (UNODC/HONLAF/19/CRP.2-23).

7. A representative of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) introduced the item and made an audio-visual presentation on drug trafficking trends in the region in the context of global drug trafficking. The presentation was based on information provided by governments to UNODC. The representatives of South Africa, Namibia, Ghana, Burkina Faso, Mauritius, the Gambia, Senegal, Nigeria, Algeria, Sierra Leone, Egypt, Benin, Kenya, Botswana, Angola, Zimbabwe, the United Republic of Tanzania and Malawi made statements. The observer for the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) also made a statement.

8. The representative of South Africa informed the meeting that, while the number of seizures of clandestine laboratories manufacturing amphetamine-type stimulants had fallen, there had been a shift away from large numbers of small “kitchen labs” capable of producing small quantities of synthetic drugs, towards “super labs”, fewer in number but capable of large-volume production. He also noted that the consumption of methamphetamines had stabilized. The representative stated that the decline in the reported level of cannabis seized was due to a change in strategy, whereby herbicides were sprayed early in the cultivation cycle, with a consequent decline in the amount of cannabis being seized. He reported that some of the cannabis being seized had a higher tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) content (as high as 10 per cent) than in the past, and that its abuse was having a serious impact on health, even, according to experts, resulting in cannabis-induced schizophrenia.

9. Most delegations noted that cannabis was the number-one drug problem in Africa. Great concern was expressed about the emergence in the region of cannabis with a higher THC content, a development that required close attention and on which information had been provided to participants from West African States at the Nineteenth Meeting of HONLEA, Latin America and the Caribbean, held in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela from 28 September to 2 October 2009. In this context, a number of delegates noted that their forensic laboratories did not have the capacity to conduct analyses to establish the THC content of seized cannabis, and technical assistance was required in this area. Similar forensic assistance was needed to differentiate substances in the amphetamine-type stimulant and methamphetamine groups, which was not easily done without sophisticated forensic laboratory capacity.

10. Several representatives appealed to development partners to devote attention to the problem of cannabis in Africa. They indicated some frustration with what appeared to be, in their view, lip service to this problematic issue, referring to resolutions of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs¹ and the Economic and Social

¹ Resolution 51/6, “Combating the illicit cultivation of and trafficking in cannabis”.

Council² that had not resulted in action and support, particularly for the establishment of alternative development cooperation programmes targeting illicit cannabis cultivation in Africa.

11. Several representatives emphasized that alternative development programmes targeting cannabis were not to be understood merely as crop substitution programmes. Rather, alternative development was a comprehensive package of development interventions that led to poverty alleviation and improvements in living conditions, including access to health, education and provision of infrastructure, as well as access to licit income-generating opportunities to enable farmers to abandon illicit crop production. Such measures needed to be accompanied by programmes to raise awareness among farmers about the negative consequences that cannabis cultivation and abuse had on the community. Several other representatives also noted that alternative development was not applicable in all circumstances, as some illicit cannabis cultivation occurred in remote and mountainous areas where such programmes were not feasible.

12. Several representatives referred to the quality of law enforcement-related information and the need for real-time information exchange to support drug law enforcement efforts. In this context, attention was drawn to the INTERPOL operation White Flow and its I-24/7 system for the exchange of information.

13. Several representatives drew attention to the trafficking of cocaine through their countries and recent seizure successes, as well as the diversifying routes being used by couriers, particularly through West Africa, and methods of concealment. Attention was drawn in particular to the timely provision of intelligence, the role of informants and profiling in successfully identifying and arresting couriers. Several representatives noted that the trafficking of cocaine was not restricted to West Africa, with seizures being reported in other subregions. In this context, a number of representatives noted the emergence of cocaine abuse in the continent, which posed new challenges to the authorities.

14. Discussion also focused on the trafficking of heroin from Asia along the East African coastline. While the levels of heroin seizures had not increased, the number of people using heroin in some countries of the subregion had increased, providing circumstantial evidence that trafficking was on the rise. It was noted that air travel from Asia to Africa, both direct and via the Gulf, had resulted in a number of seizures of heroin taking place in Accra and Addis Ababa airports, with the latter reported to serve as a hub for the redistribution of heroin across the continent. Other representatives also reported increases in heroin seizures. It was also noted that there was a re-emergence of heroin trafficking through the African continent, a return to the pattern of the 1980s.

15. One representative noted the limited means and know-how available in his country for the successful identification of couriers who had ingested illicit drugs. In this context, he called on neighbouring countries and international bodies to provide support and know-how to assist in the detection of couriers. Another representative provided information on the three methodologies used in his country to ascertain if a courier was carrying ingested drugs: X-rays, urine tests and

² Resolution 2006/31, "Using alternative development programmes to reduce the cultivation of cannabis plants".

trace-atomizers. It was recommended that all countries procure tools, directly or through development cooperation partners, to enable the identification of drug couriers through the application of appropriately tested scientific methodology.

16. One representative emphasized that drug trafficking was a transnational criminal activity, a problem without borders, involving nationals of many countries, and noted that the stigmatization of nationals of one country should be avoided; what was needed was cooperation, not polarization.

17. One delegation encouraged members of HONLEA to use the instrumentalities provided by the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime to combat money-laundering. In this regard, States should move rapidly from accession to implementation and the establishment of financial intelligence units, which played a critical role in the identification of assets from drug trafficking, facilitating prosecution and the exchange of information. Member States of the African region were urged to be proactive in the implementation of the Convention.

18. Several representatives drew attention to the emerging trafficking and diversion of precursor chemicals through African countries and urged members of HONLEA, Africa, to be vigilant and to begin developing capacity in this area. A number of representatives noted the need for technical cooperation in this field. In this connection, reference was made to the International Narcotics Control Board Pre-Export Notification Online (PEN Online) system, which enabled countries to identify, prevent the diversion of and seize suspicious shipments of precursors. Governments not yet using the PEN Online system were encouraged to do so.

19. One representative raised the issue of international control over khat, expressing concern that its control was only fragmentarily rather than universally enforced.

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

20. At its 2nd and 3rd meetings, on 12 and 13 October 2009, the Meeting considered item 4 of its agenda, entitled “Implementation of the recommendations adopted by the Seventeenth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Africa”. The Meeting had before it a document prepared by the secretariat (UNODC/HONLAF/19/3) on the basis of information provided by Governments in response to a questionnaire sent to all States members of HONLEA, Africa. The document reflected the replies that the secretariat had received by 7 September 2009 from the Governments of Algeria, Angola, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Egypt, Ghana, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland, Togo and Zambia. Since that date, replies had been submitted by the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Kenya, Nigeria, Rwanda, the Sudan and Zimbabwe.

21. The secretariat made an introductory statement summarizing the main actions reported by governments to implement the recommendations at the national level, the results achieved and the difficulties encountered. Statements were made by the representatives of Kenya, Zimbabwe, Nigeria, the Gambia, Malawi, Algeria and the

Democratic Republic of the Congo. The observer for INTERPOL also made a statement.

22. A number of delegations noted that, in their cases, the official diplomatic channels used for transmitting the questionnaire had not allowed them to receive and respond to it in a timely manner. The secretariat undertook to investigate the possibility of the parallel dispatching of the questionnaire by electronic mail to the head of delegation attending the preceding meeting of HONLEA, Africa.

23. The representatives of Kenya, Nigeria and Zimbabwe provided an overview of their Governments' actions to implement the recommendations adopted at the Seventeenth Meeting of HONLEA, Africa.

24. The representative of Nigeria reported that, with regard to issue 1, on the value and effectiveness of control deliveries (recommendations 1 to 3), Nigeria had the legal framework for controlled delivery, that officers of the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency received regular training and that standard operating procedures were in place. It also reported active participation in regional meetings and the Meeting of HONLEA, Latin America and the Caribbean, in 2009. With reference to issue 2, on mobilizing community support for drug law enforcement strategies (recommendations 4 to 7), the Meeting was informed that Nigeria recognized and attached great importance to ensuring public and community support for policing. A national awareness campaign on prevention of illicit drug crop cultivation, abuse and trafficking was carried out with the involvement of the public and the support of the private sector and local and regional authorities. Nigeria had also reviewed its national drug control master plan for 2008-2011, which had been expanded to cover illicit drug supply, the efficacy of the legal framework, control over the licit supply of drugs and drug demand reduction. With reference to issue 3, on inter-agency cooperation for a unified response to combating illicit drug trafficking (recommendations 7 to 10), Nigeria reported that an inter-agency collaboration mechanism was in place at all entry and exit points, that memorandums of understanding had been signed with South Africa, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America, among others, that further such agreements were being negotiated and that Nigeria was promoting the reactivation of the West Africa Joint Operations initiative to provide a platform for sustaining joint operations and cooperation at the regional level. With regard to issue 4, on the role of forensic laboratories and specific scientific support for Africa (recommendations 11 to 14), the Meeting was informed that qualified staff were available, that laboratory facilities were being upgraded, that training and capacity-building were ongoing, that forensic experts were available to give evidence in court proceedings and that standard operating procedures and custody practices for evidence were in place.

25. The representative of Kenya informed the Meeting that, in relation to recommendations 1 and 2, legislation had been put in place to enable controlled delivery operations and action had been taken to ensure the integrity of and provide standard operating procedures for such operations. She also reported that Kenya had taken action to implement recommendations 3 to 7, including steps to promote cooperation and the exchange of information with other States members of HONLEA, that the National Agency for the Campaign against Drug Abuse, the national coordinating body on drug control matters, had established partnerships and undertook demand reduction campaigns with the private and government sectors

and community organizations, and that community policing had been a strategy implemented by the national authorities. It was also noted that the National Agency was strategically located in the Office of the President and enjoyed the required support. With regard to recommendation number 8, it was noted that cooperation among government agencies was ongoing and did not require specific memorandums of understanding. The National Agency and the Police Service had national strategic plans, which were adequately funded. Regarding recommendation 10, it was noted that the review of anti-narcotics legislation was ongoing. Referring to the recommendations under issue 4, the Meeting was apprised of the ongoing establishment of forensic laboratory capacity and of plans to undertake relevant training on an ongoing basis for forensic staff to give evidence in court, though this was an area requiring enhancement, and that the development of procedures to ensure the appropriate handling of seized materials and evidence was in progress.

26. The representative of Zimbabwe noted that his country had the legal framework for undertaking controlled delivery operations and that standard operating procedures were available. He noted that resources were required to improve the effectiveness of such operations. With regard to the recommendations under issue 2, Zimbabwe had put in place strategies to mobilize the community and members of the public at the local, regional and provincial levels. With regard to issue 4, he reported that the forensic laboratories were fortunate to have fully qualified personnel, though not in sufficient numbers, and that there was a shortfall in supplies. It was noted that, at times, forensic personnel had difficulty covering the entire country to take samples and conduct analyses. He added that the authorities were making their best effort to ensure the availability of supplies and drug field-testing kits, which they considered should be available at all locations.

27. The representative of the Gambia reported that his Government had played a crucial role in meeting recommendations 1 to 14, noting that there was room for improvement with regard to recommendations 2, 3, 11 and 13.

28. The representative of Algeria, referring to recommendation 11, noted that his country possessed advanced forensic laboratory facilities that were at the disposal of the courts. These facilities played a significant role in the identification of synthetic and other drugs.

29. A number of delegates reported on their approach to the treatment of addicts and on the non-criminalization of addicts as an important first step in the process of rehabilitation.

IV. Consideration of topics by working groups

30. At its 2nd to 8th meetings, held from 12 to 15 October 2009, the Meeting established working groups to examine the four issues under agenda item 5, entitled "Consideration of topics by working groups". The observations made by the participants in the working groups and the conclusions reached are presented below. The recommendations made by the working groups and adopted at the Meeting are presented in section I above.

Issue 1. Developing effective drug law enforcement intelligence-led operational responses

31. The working group on issue 1 met on 13 October 2009. In the working group's consideration of the issue, participants made the following observations:

(a) States on the west coast of Africa have become the target of Latin American drug groups using the region to traffic cocaine to Europe and other destinations;

(b) Many of the States in the region have emerged from recent civil war and conflict, and as a result their public services are weak and susceptible to the influence of corruption;

(c) In adopting a coordinated approach to address illicit drug trafficking, national law enforcement agencies increased the effectiveness of their efforts through access to broader legislation, technical resources and agency manpower;

(d) Lack of cooperation and coordination between domestic and international law enforcement agencies often means that information on drug trafficking suspects, vessels, vehicles and aircraft is spread in an uncoordinated manner among authorities, leading to delays in accessing information of operational importance;

(e) Trust is a key issue for the gathering and sharing of information between law enforcement agencies.

32. The working group drew the following conclusions:

(a) It is imperative that the law enforcement agencies of the region have the capacity and procedures to collect, collate and analyse information on those involved in illicit drug trafficking and other forms of organized crime;

(b) The proactive use of information obtained from all sources available to law enforcement agencies makes them much more effective against the groups involved in illicit drug trafficking;

(c) The pilot initiative of the United Nations, the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and INTERPOL to establish multi-agency transnational organized crime units in Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia and Sierra Leone offers participating States the opportunity to develop an effective law enforcement response to illicit drug trafficking and cross-border organized crime;

(d) A fast response by drug law enforcement agencies to requests for information or assistance from counterparts within their own country or in a neighbouring country is essential to the effective investigation and prosecution of those involved in illicit trafficking.

Issue 2. National responses in support of regional efforts and initiatives in the fight against illicit drug trafficking

33. The working group on issue 2 met on 14 October 2009. In the working group's consideration of the issue, participants made the following observations:

(a) Illicit drugs are being seized in substantial volumes by States across the African region;

(b) Controlled deliveries to identify persons behind trafficking networks were not common operational responses among African law enforcement agencies;

(c) Public ceremonies for the destruction of seized drugs were important for the credibility of drug law enforcement and public confidence in the agencies charged with this responsibility;

(d) Many law enforcement agencies in Africa have inadequate resources with which to train and equip staff for effective drug law enforcement;

(e) Treatment and rehabilitation programmes are largely still in their infancy in Africa;

(f) Pursuing a strategy of engagement with neighbouring law enforcement counterparts and regional partners encourages closer cooperation and a more effective national response.

34. The working group drew the following conclusions:

(a) The disposal of large volumes of seized drugs and precursor chemicals can be both a logistical and an environmental challenge to authorities;

(b) The destruction of seized drugs is often best carried out in public ceremonies, under the supervision of senior law enforcement officials and the scrutiny of independent observers;

(c) Undertaking a controlled delivery should be an option receiving serious consideration upon the detection of a quantity of drugs that is deemed significant in the law enforcement context;

(d) There is an urgent need to increase the provision of treatment and rehabilitation services for those who abuse or are dependent on drugs in order to curtail the market for illicit drugs;

(e) National drug strategies provide important guidance in planning and direction for all agencies with a role to play in the implementation of government policies on supply and demand reduction.

Issue 3. Impact of the Internet and other electronic media on drug trafficking

35. The working group on issue 3 met on 12 and 13 October 2009. In the working group's consideration of the issue, participants made the following observations:

(a) The speed and connectivity of Africa's access to the Internet has taken a major step forward with the installation of fibre-optic cable around the continent;

(b) Internet cafes are popular sites across Africa for criminals to access computers and evade surveillance of their communications by authorities;

(c) Many law enforcement agencies do not have the knowledge, training or technology to recover evidence or data from transmission or storage devices such as mobile phones and personal computers;

(d) Through the mobility and anonymity they provide, cybertechnologies are offering new assistance to criminals and creating new offences that challenge existing legislation;

(e) The Internet is a marketing tool for legitimate pharmaceutical suppliers, and it supplements the more traditional outlets for sales of medicaments.

36. The working group drew the following conclusions:

(a) Better connections and higher-speed access will both benefit Africa's legitimate Internet users and increase the opportunities for criminality;

(b) Law enforcement agencies investigating drug and organized crime offences need to be better informed and trained to deal with handling modern cybertechnologies to examine and extract the data contained within them for evidential purposes;

(c) National legislation is not keeping up with the necessary changes and amendments needed to support the investigation, prosecution and conviction of offenders where evidence of criminal activity is captured in cybertechnology;

(d) Internet pharmacies offering controlled or prescription drugs to buyers who are not properly authorized to purchase them pose a problem to authorities enforcing public health and safety legislation.

Issue 4. Forensic services in Africa

37. The working group on issue 4 met on 15 October 2009. In the working group's consideration of the issue, participants made the following observations:

(a) Every contact leaves a trace;

(b) All crime scenes must be well managed by a dedicated crime-scene investigator so as to prevent contamination of the scene and the destruction or disturbance of physical evidence;

(c) There is generally a lack of awareness among many first responders as to what to do on arrival at a crime scene;

(d) Retaining and sustaining the expert component of forensic capacity can be challenging, as specially trained staff who have gained expertise are often recruited by the private sector;

(e) Fingerprints are invaluable in the identification of suspects;

(f) Criminal practices evolve rapidly; therefore the forensic response should be equally adaptive;

(g) Networking of forensic service providers is recognized as an excellent initiative to strengthen forensic capacity in the region;

(h) Networking of forensic service providers is included in the ECOWAS operational plan of action, to be carried out in partnership with UNODC, the West African Police Chiefs Committee and INTERPOL, and includes the development of basic protocols for the handling of evidence, regional workshops and quality assurance support.

38. The working group drew the following conclusions:

(a) It is essential that first responders take appropriate initial actions at crime scenes, with a consistent, well-defined procedure followed to collect, record and securely store physical evidence;

(b) To get the best results from fingerprint evidence, basic enhancement techniques and the ability to compare prints against those of a suspect or database are essential;

(c) Support from UNODC will greatly assist many States in Africa in developing their forensic analysis capacity;

(d) Forensic practitioners in the rest of Africa would benefit from participating as observers in meetings of the Southern Africa Regional Forensic Science Network (meeting under the umbrella of the Southern African Regional Police Chiefs Cooperation Organization forensic science subcommittee).

V. Follow-up to the twentieth special session of the General Assembly and the outcome of the high-level segment of the fifty-second session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs

39. At its 9th meeting, on 16 October 2009, the Meeting considered item 6 of its agenda, entitled “Follow-up to the twentieth special session of the General Assembly and the outcome of the high-level segment of the fifty-second session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs”. For its consideration of the item, the Meeting had before it the report of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs on the follow-up to the twentieth special session of the General Assembly and the outcome of the high-level segment of the fifty-second session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (A/64/92–E/2009/98).

40. The Secretary of the Meeting made an introductory statement. Statements were made by the representatives of Egypt and Kenya.

41. In his introductory statement, the Secretary provided an overview of the work undertaken by the Commission from 1998 to 2009, through the review, *inter alia*, of biennial reports to monitor the implementation by Member States of the goals and targets set in the Political Declaration³ and the measures to enhance international cooperation to counter the world drug problem⁴ adopted at the twentieth special session of the General Assembly. The areas covered and main actions envisaged in the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem, adopted at high-level segment of the fifty-second session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, were described, as well as the new commitments made by Member States therein. Attention was drawn in particular to the sections of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action relating to supply reduction and related measures, including those on combating money-laundering and promoting judicial cooperation. It was noted that the draft provisional agenda for the twentieth Meeting of HONLEA, Africa, included an item on the follow-up to the Political Declaration and Plan of Action adopted by the Commission.

42. The representative of Egypt provided an overview of his country’s main actions to implement the Political Declaration and the measures to enhance international cooperation to counter the world drug problem adopted at the

³ General Assembly resolution S/20-2, annex.

⁴ General Assembly resolution S/20-4.

twentieth special session of the General Assembly. He outlined the historical development of the drug control machinery in Egypt, amendments to the legislative framework since 1989 for the control of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, and the penalization of money-laundering. He also provided information on areas of cultivation of illicit crops and on the action taken by the Government to ensure their destruction. The representative of Egypt referred to assistance provided by the United Nations in the late 1990s, noting that the Government of Egypt had been able to invest resources in drug law enforcement. Nevertheless, assistance for the destruction of illicit crops and drugs, as well as for the provision of support to farmers, would be beneficial. He also referred to the participation of his Government in the round tables held during the high-level segment of the fifty-second session of the Commission. He emphasized the need for increased cooperation among Member States to strengthen the control of amphetamine-type stimulants, and the need to provide financial and other support to Governments in order to implement measures in this field. The representative of Egypt made reference to the targets set for 2019 in the Political Declaration, adopted by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs namely, to eliminate or reduce significantly and measurably the illicit cultivation of opium poppy, coca bush and cannabis plant; the illicit demand for narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, and drug-related health and social risks; the illicit production, manufacture, marketing and distribution of, and trafficking in, psychotropic substances, including synthetic drugs; the diversion of and illicit trafficking in precursors; and money-laundering related to illicit drugs, emphasizing the need to ensure the provision of technical assistance to States to ensure the implementation of these targets under the principle of shared responsibility.

43. The representative of Kenya made reference to the updating of the national legislative framework for drug control, including recent anti-money-laundering and witness protection measures. It was noted that weak economies in Africa have responded strongly to demand from developed countries, and that demand for illicit drugs generated supply. In this light, he urged development partners to control their demand for illicit drugs, thereby facilitating supply reduction in Africa, and called for measures to enable the effective substitution of economic activity.

VI. Organization of the Twentieth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Africa

44. At its 9th meeting, on 16 October 2009, the Meeting considered agenda item 7, entitled “Organization of the Twentieth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Africa”. For its consideration of the item, the Meeting had before it a note by the secretariat (UNODC/HONLAF/19/4) drawing attention to certain issues that needed to be addressed at the Nineteenth Meeting of HONLEA, Africa, in order to prepare for the Twentieth Meeting and containing a draft provisional agenda for the latter Meeting. The Chairman made a statement. The Secretary made an introductory statement. Statements were also made by the representatives of Nigeria, Rwanda and Egypt.

45. The Secretary outlined the matters to be addressed by the Twentieth Meeting in its consideration of the item and the provisional agenda for that Meeting and informed participants that the period from 13 to 17 September 2010 had been

tentatively reserved for the Twentieth Meeting. The Chairman explained the importance of determining the arrangements for the Twentieth Meeting and defining the topics to be considered by working groups in 2010 under agenda item 5.

46. The representative of Nigeria informed the Meeting of the intention of the Government of Nigeria to host the Twentieth Meeting of HONLEA, Africa, in Abuja in the third quarter of 2010. The representative of Rwanda also informed the Meeting of his Government's readiness to host the Twentieth Meeting. The Chairman thanked the representatives of Nigeria and Rwanda, on behalf of the members of HONLEA, Africa, for their Governments' generous offers and called on the Secretariat to provide them with the relevant background information and to consult with the two delegations with a view to arriving at an appropriate arrangement, including the possibility of one country hosting the meeting in 2010 and the other in 2011.

47. With regard to topics for discussion in the working groups at the Twentieth Meeting of HONLEA, Africa, in the absence of specific proposals, the Chairman instructed the Secretariat to formulate topics for consideration by working groups on the basis of the priorities in the region and in consultation with members of HONLEA, Africa, as required.

48. The Meeting approved the following draft provisional agenda for the Twentieth Meeting of HONLEA, Africa, to be finalized by the secretariat in collaboration with interested States of the region:

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda.
3. Current situation with respect to regional and subregional cooperation in countering drug trafficking.
4. Implementation of the recommendations adopted by the Eighteenth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Africa.
5. Consideration of topics by working groups: [*to be determined*].
6. Follow-up to the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem, adopted at the high-level segment of the fifty-second session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs.
7. Organization of the Twenty-first Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Africa.
8. Other business.
9. Adoption of the report.

VII. Other business

49. At its 9th meeting, on 16 October 2009, the Meeting considered agenda item 8, entitled "Other business". An audio-visual presentation was made by the UNODC Asset Forfeiture Adviser for Southern Africa. Statements were made by the

representatives of Mauritius, Nigeria, Mauritania and Ghana. The observer for the United States also made a statement.

50. The UNODC Asset Forfeiture Adviser for Southern Africa described the establishment and operation of the Asset Recovery Inter-Agency Network for Southern Africa (ARINSA). ARINSA had been launched under the auspices of UNODC to create an informal gateway to share best practices and coordinate the work of law enforcement and judicial authorities in the field of asset seizure in Botswana, Lesotho, Mauritius, Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland, the United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe. ARINSA was modelled on the Camden Asset Recovery Inter-Agency Network (CARIN), a network for countries in the European region. ARINSA was an informal network of contacts, including one prosecutor and one asset investigator per jurisdiction, dedicated to improving cooperation in all aspects of tackling the proceeds of crime. Specifically, ARINSA aimed to increase the effectiveness of members' efforts to deprive criminals of their illicit profits through inter-agency cooperation and information-sharing.

51. Several representatives expressed interest in the Network, its operations, possible participation and establishment or existence of similar networks in other regions. Some delegations also provided information on the workings of investigation, asset forfeiture and judicial procedures in their jurisdictions.

52. Participants were informed about the different roles and functions of financial investigation units associated under the Egmont Group and regional asset recovery networks, such as ARINSA. The first were administrative units that collected and processed data and information on financial transactions and transmitted those meriting investigation to the relevant authorities for investigation and prosecution. Regional networks such as ARINSA were operational networks for the exchange of information among investigators and prosecutors; they were real-time mechanisms to facilitate and expedite investigations. It was noted that ARINSA members were also able to exchange information with CARIN members. It was hoped that ARINSA would expand, and interested States could obtain further information through the UNODC Asset Forfeiture Adviser, based at the Office of the Prosecutor General of Namibia, or through the ARINSA secretariat, based at the Asset Forfeiture Unit of the National Prosecution Authority of South Africa.

VIII. Adoption of the report

53. At its 9th meeting, on 16 October 2009, the report of the Nineteenth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Africa (UNODC/HONLAF/19/L.1 and Add.1-6), was adopted, as were the reports of the working groups and the recommendations contained therein, as orally revised.

IX. Organization of the Meeting

A. Opening and duration of the Meeting

54. The Nineteenth Meeting of HONLEA, Africa, hosted by the Government of Namibia and organized by UNODC, was held in Windhoek from

12 to 16 October 2009. The Prime Minister of Namibia, Nahas Angula, made an opening statement. Opening statements were also made by the Deputy Minister of Health, Petrina Haingura, and the Secretary of the Meeting, on behalf of UNODC.

B. Special high-level event

55. At its 5th meeting, on 14 October 2009, the Nineteenth Meeting of HONLEA, Africa, held a special high-level event with the participation of the Deputy Prime Minister of Namibia, Libertina Amathila, the Deputy Minister of Health, Petrina Haingura, the Chairperson of the fifty-second session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, Selma Ashipala-Musavyi, and the Executive Director of UNODC. The Executive Director of UNODC delivered a keynote address to the Meeting. The Chairperson of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs also delivered a keynote speech.

C. Attendance

56. The following States were represented at the Nineteenth Meeting of HONLEA, Africa: Algeria, Angola, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Egypt, Gambia, Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Mauritania, Mauritius, Namibia, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, South Africa, United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

57. The following States were represented by observers: Canada, France, Germany, Indonesia, Malaysia, Spain, Russian Federation and United States of America.

58. The ECOWAS Commission, INTERPOL and the United Nations Children's Fund were represented by observers.

D. Election of officers

59. At its 1st meeting, on 12 October, the Meeting elected the following officers by acclamation:

<i>Chairman:</i>	Paul Ludik (Namibia)
<i>Vice-Chairmen:</i>	Mark Tong Ewuntomah (Ghana) Mostafa Abdel Rahman Amer (Egypt)
<i>Rapporteur:</i>	Pacharo Kayira (Malawi)

E. Adoption of the agenda

60. Also at the last meeting, the Nineteenth Meeting of HONLEA, Africa, adopted the following agenda:

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda.

3. Current situation with respect to regional and subregional cooperation in countering drug trafficking.
4. Implementation of the recommendations adopted by the Seventeenth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Africa.
5. Consideration of topics by working groups:
 - (a) Developing effective drug law enforcement intelligence-led operational responses;
 - (b) National responses in support of regional efforts and initiatives in the fight against illicit drug trafficking;
 - (c) Impact of the Internet and other electronic media on drug trafficking;
 - (d) Forensic services in Africa.
6. Follow-up to the twentieth special session of the General Assembly and the outcome of the high-level segment of the fifty-second session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs.
7. Organization of the Twentieth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Africa.
8. Other business.
9. Adoption of the report.

F. Documentation

61. The documents before the Nineteenth Meeting of HONLEA, Africa, are listed in the annex.

X. Closure of the Meeting

62. A closing statement was made by the Chairman. The Chairman expressed his appreciation to the participants for their excellent cooperation and the constructive spirit in which the deliberations were conducted and, on behalf of all participants, to the secretariat of UNODC for the substantive preparations and contributions, as well as the smooth running of the Meeting, and to the Government of Namibia and its officials for their outstanding organizational and logistical arrangements and the hospitality extended to all participants.

Annex

List of documents before the Nineteenth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Africa

<i>Document symbol</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>	<i>Title or description</i>
UNODC/HONLAF/19/1	2	Provisional agenda, annotations and programme of work
UNODC/HONLAF/19/2	3	Statistics on drug trafficking trends in Africa and worldwide
UNODC/HONLAF/19/3	4	Implementation of the recommendations adopted by the Seventeenth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Africa
UNODC/HONLAF/19/4	7	Organization of the Twentieth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Africa
UNODC/HONLAF/19/L.1 and Add.1-6	9	Draft report
UNODC/HONLAF/19/CRP.1	3	Current situation with respect to subregional and regional cooperation in countering drug trafficking
UNODC/HONLAF/19/CRP.2-23	3	Country reports
A/64/92-E/2009/98	6	Outcome of the high-level segment of the fifty-second session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs on progress achieved in meeting the goals and targets set out in the Political Declaration adopted by the General Assembly at its twentieth special session: Report of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs