

27 June 2013

Arabic, English and French only*

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

Addis Ababa, 16-20 September 2013

Provisional agenda and annotations

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 Twenty-first Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Africa.
5. Consideration of topics by working groups:
 - (a) Developing effective law enforcement responses to illicit drug trafficking;
 - (b) Maintaining controls on the abuse of amphetamine-type stimulants and pharmaceutical preparations;
 - (c) Responding to the challenges of access to HIV prevention and treatment services by illicit drug users.
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.
7. Organization of the Twenty-fourth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Africa.
8. Other business.
9. Adoption of the report.

* Arabic, English and French are the working languages of the subsidiary body.



Annotations

1. Election of officers

Elections are held in accordance with rule 15 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council. The Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Africa, has in the past elected a Chair, two Vice-Chairs and a Rapporteur.

2. Adoption of the agenda

The provisional agenda for the Twenty-third Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Africa, is contained in the present document and was approved by the Twenty-second Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, held in Accra from 25 to 29 June 2012.

At its thirty-eighth session, the Commission on Narcotic Drugs recommended that general statements concerning national trends in drug trafficking and statistics not be read out but rather be circulated in written form. Participants are hereby reminded of that recommendation and are therefore invited to submit to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) by 15 July 2013 a three-page country report on trends in drug trafficking during the past year. Only reports received by that date will be translated into the other working languages of the Meeting.

Following the adoption of the agenda, the Twenty-third Meeting is to establish a programme of work. A proposed programme of work is contained in the annex to the present document for the consideration of the Meeting.

Documentation

Provisional agenda and annotations (UNODC/HONLAF/23/1)

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

Participants are invited to inform the Twenty-third Meeting of the efforts of their Governments to strengthen regional and subregional cooperation in areas such as joint investigations, law enforcement training and the sharing of information and experience relating to drug trafficking countermeasures.

Participants are requested to inform the Meeting of practical problems impeding subregional cooperation and of measures to overcome such problems.

The item on the current situation with respect to regional and subregional cooperation in countering drug trafficking will provide an opportunity to examine current trends and the *modi operandi* used in drug trafficking, as well as operational successes in efforts to counter cannabis, cocaine and heroin trafficking.

A conference room paper prepared by the Secretariat on the current situation with respect to regional and subregional cooperation (UNODC/HONLAF/23/CRP.1) will be made available to the Meeting.

Documentation

Report of the Secretariat on statistical analysis of drug trafficking trends in Africa and worldwide (UNODC/HONLAF/23/2)

4. Implementation of the recommendations adopted by the Twenty-first Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Africa

Participants are invited to inform the Twenty-third Meeting of action taken by their Governments with regard to the implementation of the recommendations adopted by the Twenty-first Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, held in Addis Ababa from 5 to 9 September 2011.

The Twenty-third Meeting will have before it a note by the Secretariat based on replies to a questionnaire concerning action taken by Governments to implement the recommendations.

To enable the Secretariat to prepare the report on the status of implementation of the recommendations of the Twenty-first Meeting, a note verbale was transmitted to the Governments of African States on 17 May 2013, urging them to return the completed questionnaire by 15 July 2013.

Documentation

Note by the Secretariat on the implementation of the recommendations adopted by the Twenty-first Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Africa (UNODC/HONLAF/23/3)

5. Consideration of topics by working groups

Ad hoc working groups are established to review issues of regional importance and to facilitate informal discussions and frank exchanges of views on such matters. Working groups are invited to present their findings, conclusions and recommendations to the plenary for endorsement and inclusion in the report on the Meeting.

(a) Developing effective law enforcement responses to illicit drug trafficking

Participants are encouraged to bring to this discussion information on the operational elements of their drug enforcement strategies that have proved effective, and to share the challenges with which they are confronted. A growing number of African States are participants in the following international initiatives: Airport Communication Project (AIRCOP) and Container Control Programme. Others are working together on specific initiatives with other partners such as the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL), the World Customs Organization and the Maritime Analysis and Operations Centre-Narcotics (MAOC-N), both regionally and internationally, to strengthen their law enforcement responses to trafficking and organized crime. Participants are asked to share specific examples of strategies and initiatives that are working and indicate what steps were needed to put them in place. Are they working effectively? What recommendations could be proposed to improve or further develop their effectiveness?

(b) Maintaining controls on the abuse of amphetamine-type stimulants and pharmaceutical preparations

This working group will discuss the challenges faced in addressing the production and trafficking of amphetamine-type stimulants through Africa. Participants will be asked how there can be a more structured, closer collaboration between Government agencies, stakeholders and civil society to meet the new threat to Africa's communities posed by amphetamine-type stimulants. In addition, participants may wish to use this working group to address the challenges faced as a result of the availability and sale of illicit pharmaceutical products, domestic and regional trends in the trafficking and abuse of pharmaceutical preparations and the modalities of the diversion of such preparations. Participants will consider the strategies that have been adopted by Member States in the region, how newly introduced countermeasures have worked and what challenges they are facing in preventing the diversion of precursor chemicals and pharmaceutical preparations to the illicit manufacture and abuse of drugs. In preparing for this working group, delegates should consider information about the location of production sites, which groups or individuals are behind the main trafficking operations and what countermeasures are in place to address trafficking in amphetamine-type stimulants. Delegates should come prepared with illustrative case studies and references to their precursor control measures, as well as information on investigations that have been completed or are under way and areas where assistance or cooperation with national or cross-border counterpart agencies would help to more effectively disrupt and prevent the manufacture of amphetamine-type stimulants.

(c) Responding to the challenges of access to HIV prevention and treatment services by illicit drug users

Risk-taking behaviours among people who inject drugs, such as sharing needles, syringes and other infected equipment, are a significant route for the transmission of HIV and other blood-borne diseases in countries throughout the world. In the performance of their duties, drug law enforcement officers who are frequently in contact with drug users may be at increased risk of exposure to infection such as hepatitis or HIV. At the same time, law enforcement officers can contribute to reducing HIV-related risks for people who inject drugs by supporting their access to HIV and harm reduction services, such as needle and syringe programmes or drug dependence treatment. It is therefore important that law enforcement officers be aware of the associated health issues, both for them and for people who inject drugs, and that they be trained in, among other measures, safe procedures and good practices when dealing with drug users who might be HIV-positive. This working group is aimed at sharing information on steps to be introduced to promote safe occupational practices for those dealing with such drug users. Participants are encouraged to contribute detailed information on the national strategies and initiatives in which their agencies are engaged in this area.

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

In its resolution 64/182, the General Assembly, welcoming the outcome of the high-level segment of the fifty-second session of the Commission on Narcotic

Drugs, adopted the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem (A/64/92-E/2009/98, sect. II.A), as adopted at that high-level segment, and called upon States to take the measures necessary to fully implement the actions set out therein, with a view to attaining in a timely manner their goals and targets. In paragraph 40 of the Political Declaration, Member States decided that the Commission, at its fifty-seventh session, in 2014, should conduct a high-level review of the implementation by Member States of the Political Declaration and its Plan of Action, recommended that the Economic and Social Council should devote a high-level segment to a theme related to the world drug problem and also recommended that the General Assembly should hold a special session to address the world drug problem.

In its resolution 67/193, entitled “International cooperation against the world drug problem”, the General Assembly encouraged the meetings of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies and of the Subcommission on Illicit Drug Traffic and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs to continue to contribute to the strengthening of regional and international cooperation. In that resolution, the Assembly also decided to convene, early in 2016, a special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem, following the high-level review of the progress made in the implementation by Member States of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action, which would be conducted by the Commission at its fifty-seventh session, in March 2014, and decided that the special session of the General Assembly would review the progress made in the implementation of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action, including an assessment of the achievements and challenges in countering the world drug problem, within the framework of the three international drug control conventions and other relevant United Nations instruments.

In its resolution 56/10, entitled “Tools to improve data collection to monitor and evaluate the implementation of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem”, the Commission on Narcotic Drugs encouraged Member States to provide to the meetings of the subsidiary bodies more detailed information on progress made in the implementation by Member States of the Plan of Action, based on the annual report questionnaire; encouraged Member States, in consultation with UNODC, to devote the topic of at least one of the working groups at the meetings of the subsidiary bodies of the Commission to the follow-up to the Political Declaration and Plan of Action, on the basis of the reports submitted by States to UNODC; and requested the meetings of the subsidiary bodies of the Commission, on the basis of their deliberations, to submit regional recommendations aimed at positively moving forward in the implementation of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action.

In its resolution 56/12, entitled “Preparations for the high-level review of the implementation by Member States of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem”, the Commission called upon the participants in the high-level review to take account of the work of the regional meetings of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, in particular initiatives that could further cooperation with regard to drug law enforcement.

At the Twenty-third Meeting, participants will be invited to consider the challenges posed to the States of the region with regard to the implementation of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action, as well as the implications relating to follow-up and the contribution that the meetings of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Africa, could make to the Commission in that regard.

7. Organization of the Twenty-fourth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Africa

The Twenty-third Meeting will review the draft provisional agenda for the Twenty-fourth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Africa, including topics that it wishes working groups to discuss and possible venues for future meetings. For planning purposes, a decision at the Twenty-third Meeting on the venue of the Twenty-fourth Meeting and on the topics for the working groups would greatly facilitate the preparation and organization of the Twenty-fourth Meeting. Participants are requested to be prepared to propose and discuss topics for the working groups of the Twenty-fourth Meeting. The Secretariat will provide, upon request, a copy of the standard letter of agreement setting out the responsibilities of the United Nations and the host Government.

The Twenty-third Meeting is also invited to discuss any other matter related to the organization of its deliberations, with a view to improving their substantive content and follow-up.

Documentation

Note by the Secretariat on the organization of the Twenty-fourth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Africa (UNODC/HONLAF/23/4)

8. Other business

Under the item on other business, the Twenty-third Meeting may wish to address other important issues, such as urgent matters arising from the country reports.

9. Adoption of the report

The Twenty-third Meeting will adopt its report, including the findings, conclusions and recommendations of the working groups, on the last day of the Meeting.

Annex

Proposed programme of work

<i>Date</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Subject</i>
Monday, 16 September 2013	8.30 a.m.	Registration
	10 a.m.	Opening of the Twenty-third Meeting
		Item 1. Election of officers
		Item 2. Adoption of the agenda
		Item 3. Current situation with respect to regional and subregional cooperation in countering drug trafficking
	3 p.m.	Item 3. Current situation with respect to regional and subregional cooperation in countering drug trafficking (<i>continued</i>)
		Item 4. Implementation of the recommendations adopted by the Twenty-first Meeting
Tuesday, 17 September 2013	9 a.m.	Item 5. Working groups
	2 p.m.	Item 5. Working groups (<i>continued</i>)
Wednesday, 18 September 2013	9 a.m.	Item 5. Working groups (<i>continued</i>)
	2 p.m.	Item 5. Working groups (<i>continued</i>)
Thursday, 19 September 2013	9 a.m.	Item 5. Working groups (<i>continued</i>)
	2 p.m.	Item 5. Working groups (<i>continued</i>)
		Item 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
Friday, 20 September 2013	10 a.m.	Item 7. Organization of the Twenty-fourth Meeting
		Item 8. Other business
	3 p.m.	Item 9. Adoption of the report