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

Balaclava, Mauritius

16–20 September 2019

Draft report*Rapporteur:* Michael Addo (Ghana)**Addendum****Current situation with respect to regional and subregional
cooperation in addressing and countering the world drug problem**

1. At its second and third meetings, held on 16 and 17 September 2019, the Meeting considered item 3 of the agenda entitled “Current situation with respect to regional and subregional cooperation in addressing and countering the world drug problem”. For its consideration of the item, the Meeting had before it the report on the world situation with regard to drug trafficking ([UNODC/HONLAF/29/2](#) and [E/CN.7/2019/5](#)) and the report of the Secretariat on the current situation with respect to regional and subregional cooperation in countering drug trafficking ([UNODC/HONLAF/29/3](#)). In addition, national reports were submitted by Morocco, Mali, Benin, Algeria, Burkina Faso, Nigeria, Zambia, Namibia, Seychelles, Senegal, Eswatini and Kenya (UNODC/HONLAF/29/CRP.1-12).
2. Representatives of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) introduced the item. They elaborated on drug trafficking trends in the region in the context of global drug trafficking. New and increasing challenges mentioned included the opioid crisis, mainly caused by Tramadol, affecting an increasing number of African countries, the heroin trafficking through Eastern African countries to Europe and the recent rise in seizures of cocaine in Latin America intended for Western Africa and also in Western Africa itself.
3. The representatives of Mauritius, Seychelles, Nigeria, the Gambia, Tanzania, Cote d’Ivoire, South Africa, Algeria, Senegal, Kenya, Madagascar, Egypt, Eswatini and Tunisia made statements. The observer for Spain made a statement.
4. Many speakers emphasized the need for bilateral, regional and subregional cooperation in addressing the world drug problem, as illicit trafficking does not stop at national borders. Several speakers shared examples of good cooperation, including information sharing and joint operations, leading to seizures of substantive amounts of illicit drugs. The usefulness of Memorandums of Understanding was highlighted

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



and illustrated with specific cases. With regard to the facilitation of cooperation, several speakers thanked UNODC for the support provided. One speaker pointed out that AfriPol would in the future play an important role in combating illicit trafficking in the region.

5. Cannabis was reported to be the most consumed drug in most countries, generally produced locally. Three speakers expressed their Governments' opposition to the legalization of cannabis.

6. Some speakers mentioned that synthetic cannabinoids were an increasing concern. Due to their structure that is easily and frequently changed by traffickers, they could often only be detected with the help of well-equipped laboratories.

7. Tramadol was mentioned as posing an increasing challenge to many countries. Some speakers also observed increased trafficking in cocaine in Western Africa due to the rise in production.

8. The long coastline and the extended maritime area of several countries was highlighted as a key challenge for effective border control. It was underlined that adequate training for law enforcement officers was crucial to intercept illicit trafficking. Many speakers informed the Meeting that their countries were transit areas, but that the national consumption was also on the rise.

9. Several speakers highlighted their National Drug Action Plan, which provided for a comprehensive approach addressing demand and supply reduction, taking into account public health and human rights. Some speakers thanked UNODC for its support in drafting the strategies.

10. Some speakers underlined the necessity to involve families, communities, and all relevant stakeholders in prevention strategies. Awareness-raising campaigns were mentioned as a tool to inform the public, in particular students, about the risks associated with drugs. Some speakers highlighted the harm reduction initiatives that had been introduced by their Governments, including the first methadone substitution programme in sub-Saharan Africa.

11. Several speakers reported on taking part in training sessions offered by INTERPOL and UNODC as well as in joint operations organized by INTERPOL, AIRCOP, WCO, ECOWAS and UNODC. It was suggested to establish an African Drug Observatory.
