

18 September 2019

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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)**Consideration of topics by working groups****Issue (b): New modi operandi in trafficking and trends in concealment methods
and transport, and effective investigative techniques in response thereto**

1. The working group held one meeting on 18 September 2019. In its consideration of the topic under review, the working group made the following observations:

(a) Drug trafficking organizations are using various modi operandi for trafficking of illicit drugs, including the “rip-on rip-off” method, hiding products in container structures, misdeclaration of commodities shipped in containers, drop-off drugs in international waters for further collection by small boats, using dhows and fishing vessels. In doing so they use almost the entire coastline for landing the illicit drugs;

(b) There are indications that uninhabited islands might be used as dropping locations and stockpiles for various illicit commodities including drugs;

(c) Alongside with “traditional” trafficking in cocaine and heroin many countries of the continent are facing increasing trafficking in synthetic drugs including methamphetamine and others. In addition, in a number of countries methamphetamine producing laboratories were detected;

(d) Use of special investigative techniques including controlled deliveries in countering international drug trafficking remains at a low level and requires more attention by the member States;

(e) There are still gaps in effective use of the platforms of international and regional cooperation organizations such as INTERPOL, AFRIPOL and others.

2. The working group adopted the following recommendations:

(a) Governments are encouraged to strengthen capacities of the relevant law enforcement bodies in identifying new trends in drug trafficking and consequently profiling and detecting high-risk consignments under various modi operandi;

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(b) Governments should increase their efforts in making best use of the existing platforms of the international and regional law enforcement cooperation organizations such as INTERPOL, AFRIPOL and others to ensure the exchange of information and coordination of operations. Additional efforts should be made to operationalize AFRIPOL;

(c) Countries are encouraged to further strengthen interagency cooperation at the national level between police, customs, drug control agencies, border control authorities, coast guards and other competent law enforcement agencies, including the establishment of the joint port control units and joint airport interdiction task forces, supported by the Container Control and Aircop programmes of UNODC.
