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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 (c): Countering money-laundering, illicit financial flows and the use of the darknet and cryptocurrencies in relation to the drug trade**

1. The working group held two meetings on 18 and 19 September 2019. The director of the Financial Intelligence Unit of Mauritius made an audiovisual presentation. In its consideration of the topic under review, the working group made the following observations:

(a) In spite of increasing drug trafficking through the African continent the number of investigations on drug-related money-laundering remains very limited;

(b) Law enforcement agencies register rather few cases involving the use of darknet for drug trade and the use of cryptocurrencies, but the tendency shows an increase of the number of this type of cases. At the same time, there are problems in legislation on regulating of cryptocurrencies, their freezing, confiscation and other related actions;

(c) Drug law enforcement agencies as well as other law enforcement bodies are facing problems in investigating financial flows and money-laundering related to drug trafficking, including the use of cryptocurrencies, and are in need of specialized training and studying best practices of countries which had successful investigations in this area;

(d) Cooperation at national and international level between law enforcement (police, customs, financial intelligence unit etc), prosecutorial, tax authorities, banking and private sector are key factors for successful investigation of drug-related money-laundering. FATF rules should be implemented in all countries, starting from institutional provisions as well as the review of legislation;

(e) There are cases of intensive use of cash couriers, carrying cash in amounts below the thresholds of “risk indicators” and of use of debit cards for cross-border

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



relocation of significant amounts of monies generated by organized crime in general and drug trafficking in particular;

(f) Effective countering of illicit drug trafficking requires professional and thorough investigations of these cases and related money-laundering to ensure that related assets are identified, frozen and eventually confiscated and thus, serious damage is inflicted to the drug trafficking groups.

2. The working group adopted the following recommendations:

(a) Governments are encouraged to further strengthen cooperation at national and international level between law enforcement (police, customs, financial intelligence unit etc.) agencies, prosecutorial, tax authorities and banking and private sector to ensure successful investigation of drug-related money laundering;

(b) Governments should undertake necessary steps to study best practices of other countries in investigating drug-related money-laundering and the use of darknet and cryptocurrencies for drug trade and money-laundering, and best practices in assets forfeiture and their management;

(c) Governments should undertake necessary steps to provide training to the front-line officers on basics of money-laundering, use of darknet and cryptocurrencies for these purposes to achieve critical mass of knowledge ensuring that adequate actions are taken, relevant evidence is collected and duly secured. For these purposes training tools developed by UNODC Global Program on Money Laundering could be considered.
