

28 June 2019

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**Twenty-ninth Meeting of Heads of  
National Drug Law Enforcement  
Agencies, Africa**Balaclava, Mauritius  
16–20 September 2019**Annotated provisional agenda****Provisional agenda**

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda.
3. Current situation with respect to regional and subregional cooperation in addressing and countering the world drug problem.
4. Implementation of the recommendations adopted by the Twenty-seventh Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Africa.
5. Consideration of topics by working groups:
  - (a) Effective national and regional strategies in addressing drug trafficking by sea, including transatlantic cocaine trafficking and heroin trafficking in the Indian ocean;
  - (b) New modi operandi in trafficking and trends in concealment methods and transport, and effective investigative techniques in response thereto;
  - (c) Countering money-laundering, illicit financial flows and the use of the darknet and cryptocurrencies in relation to the drug trade;
  - (d) Specific needs of children and youth in contact with the justice system for drug-related offences.
6. Follow-up on the implementation at the national, regional and international levels of all commitments, as reflected in the ministerial declaration of 2019, to address and counter the world drug problem.
7. Organization of the Thirtieth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Africa.
8. Other business.
9. Adoption of the report.

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\* Available only in Arabic, English and French, which 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-ninth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Africa, contained in the present document, was approved by the Twenty-eighth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Africa, held in Dar es Salaam, United Republic of Tanzania, from 17 to 21 September 2018.

Following the adoption of the agenda, the Twenty-ninth 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**

Annotated provisional agenda (UNODC/HONLAF/29/1)

### **3. Current situation with respect to regional and subregional cooperation in addressing and countering the world drug problem**

Participants are invited to inform the Twenty-ninth Meeting about 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 measures taken to address and counter the world drug problem.

Participants are requested to inform the Meeting about practical challenges impeding subregional cooperation and about measures taken to overcome them.

Participants are requested to submit to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, prior to the holding of the Twenty-ninth Meeting, a three-page country report informing the Meeting about trends in drug trafficking and, in line with Commission on Narcotic Drugs resolution 56/10, providing information on supply and demand reduction efforts undertaken and on international cooperation to counter money-laundering and promote judicial cooperation. Only those country reports received by the date indicated in the invitation will be translated into the working languages of the Meeting.

### **Documentation**

Note by the Secretariat transmitting the report of the Secretariat on the world situation with regard to drug trafficking (UNODC/HONLAF/29/2)

Report of the Secretariat on the current situation with respect to regional and subregional cooperation in countering drug trafficking (UNODC/HONLAF/29/3)

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

Participants are invited to inform the Twenty-ninth Meeting about action taken by their Governments with regard to the implementation of the recommendations adopted by the Twenty-seventh Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Africa, held in Hurgada from 18 to 22 September 2017.

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

## **Documentation**

Note by the Secretariat on the implementation of the recommendations adopted by the Twenty-seventh Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Africa (UNODC/HONLAF/29/4)

### **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) Effective national and regional strategies in addressing drug trafficking by sea, including transatlantic cocaine trafficking and heroin trafficking in the Indian ocean**

Drug trafficking by sea remains a serious concern for countries in the African region, which are under threat from criminal syndicates attempting to use their territories as transit points to other illicit drug consumer markets.

Thus, high volumes of cocaine from South America and heroin from South-West Asia are trafficked by sea through Africa, and the number of reported seizures of both cocaine and heroin across the continent has increased significantly.

The working group will examine current trends in drug trafficking by sea, including routes used, as well as shared operational experiences and best practices in the investigation of seizures, in collaboration between authorities and in countering the exploitation of freight containers. The working group may wish to discuss the challenges encountered by their countries in addressing drug trafficking by sea, the ways in which those challenges have been addressed and the lessons that can be drawn for the future.

#### **(b) New modi operandi in trafficking and trends in concealment methods and transport, and effective investigative techniques in response thereto**

The working group will discuss trends that national drug law enforcement agencies have observed in relation to concealment methods and the transportation of drugs at the regional and interregional levels, including the role of customs authorities in facilitating the cross-border flow and security of goods, means of transport and, to a certain extent, people. Customs officers, working jointly with the police and other law enforcement agencies, prevent, detect and investigate criminal activities, including all kinds of trafficking. Moreover, customs authorities play a significant role in the collection and exchange of intelligence and cooperate in risk analysis, interdiction and investigative activities.

Participants will be invited to share information on practices in investigating complex drug trafficking cases and the use of effective investigative techniques, including controlled deliveries. They will also be invited to share their experiences of challenges faced in conducting such operations and investigating such cases, as well as to share their views on how these challenges and problems are currently being or could be addressed.

Participants may also wish to discuss the effectiveness of existing regional and international law enforcement cooperation mechanisms and organizations in supporting such operations and investigations and make suggestions on how to improve this support. Participants are encouraged to highlight, in particular, actions and strategies that have proved to be effective and areas in which greater efforts should be made.

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

The working group under this topic will discuss the challenges arising from drug-related money-laundering, including the laundering of proceeds using cryptocurrencies and the growing problem of the trade in drugs on black markets hosted on the darknet.

Because the darknet offers criminals relative anonymity, law enforcement agencies and financial intelligence units need to develop their capacity to trace cryptocurrency transactions to the owner and to conduct undercover operations on the darknet. The capacities of law enforcement agencies and financial intelligence units to trace illicit financial flows and transactions will be addressed.

Participants will be invited to share information on the latest trends observed by their agencies in the extent and nature of money-laundering related to drug trafficking, as well as best investigative practices in that regard. Participants will also be invited to discuss issues related to effective international cooperation in those matters, as well as to address challenges arising from the seizure of proceeds in the form of cryptocurrencies and ways to ensure efficient international cooperation in drug trafficking cases involving the darknet. The working group will conclude by proposing recommendations.

**(d) Specific needs of children and youth in contact with the justice system for drug-related offences**

In many countries in Africa, more than 50 per cent of the population is under 18 years of age. Given such significant child and youth populations, it is important to invest in preventing and responding appropriately to the exploitation of children by drug traffickers and to treat children in accordance with the Convention on the Rights of the Child and other relevant United Nations standards and norms. In particular, children who use drugs should not be criminalized and children who are exploited by criminal groups should be considered primarily as victims.

The primary goals of juvenile justice are to reintegrate child offenders into society and to prevent them from entering, or to divert them from, the justice system. When the detention of children is undertaken, it should be a measure of last resort and for the shortest duration possible, and the children should be held in specialized institutions separate from adults. Children in detention should have access to prevention and treatment services for any drug use disorders or other mental health conditions, as relevant.

In the context of children and youth in contact with the justice system for drug-related offences who also use drugs, addressing the health and social consequences for children of such contact is of great importance. In that connection, diverting children from entering the justice system is key, and focusing on the treatment of drug dependence, facilitating their reintegration into and contribution to the larger community and investing in prevention remain at the core of the response.

The working group will examine the needs of children and youth in contact with the justice system and discuss prevention measures, alternatives to conviction or punishment and other measures to mitigate the harms experienced by children and young people, including those who use drugs, as well as the role of law enforcement and the health sector in this context.

**6. Follow-up on the implementation at the national, regional and international levels of all commitments, as reflected in the ministerial declaration of 2019, to address and counter the world drug problem**

At the opening of the ministerial segment of the sixty-second session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, held in March 2019, ministers and government representatives adopted by consensus the Ministerial Declaration on Strengthening Our Actions at the National, Regional and International Levels to Accelerate the Implementation of Our Joint Commitments to Address and Counter the World Drug Problem. In the Declaration, Member States made a commitment to accelerating, based on the principle of common and shared responsibility, the full implementation of the 2009 Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem, the Joint Ministerial Statement of the 2014 high-level review by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs of the implementation by Member States of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action and the outcome document of the thirtieth special session of the General Assembly, aimed at achieving all commitments, operational recommendations and aspirational goals set out therein.

The Political Declaration and Plan of Action, adopted at the high-level segment of the fifty-second session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs in 2009, focuses on measures to enhance international cooperation, identifies problems and areas requiring further action and sets out goals and targets for countering the world drug problem. In its resolution 56/10, the Commission on Narcotic Drugs requested the meetings of its subsidiary bodies to contribute to the monitoring of the implementation by Member States of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action at the regional level by discussing regional views on progress made in that regard. In the same resolution, the Commission encouraged Member States to consider the expertise and composition of their delegations to the meetings of the subsidiary bodies, with a view to covering the various aspects of the world drug problem (demand, supply and international cooperation) in order to hold substantive discussions on the issue and to actively participate in the agenda item entitled “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”. Furthermore, the Commission requested the meetings of the subsidiary bodies, on the basis of their deliberations, to submit regional recommendations aimed at moving forward in the implementation of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action.

In 2014, Member States undertook a high-level midterm review of the implementation by Member States of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action to determine the progress achieved and challenges faced in its implementation and adopted the 2014 Joint Ministerial Statement, identifying achievements, challenges and priorities for further action in the implementation of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action.

In 2016, the General Assembly held a special session on the world drug problem (thirtieth special session) and adopted an outcome document entitled “Our joint commitment to effectively addressing and countering the world drug problem” (General Assembly resolution S-30/1, annex). The outcome document contains a broad range of operational recommendations covering the following seven thematic areas: (a) demand reduction and related measures, including prevention and treatment, as well as other health-related issues; (b) ensuring the availability of and access to controlled substances exclusively for medical and scientific purposes, while preventing their diversion; (c) supply reduction and related measures, effective law enforcement, responses to drug-related crime, and countering money-laundering and promoting judicial cooperation; (d) cross-cutting issues: drugs and human rights, youth, children, women and communities; (e) cross-cutting issues in addressing and countering the world drug problem: evolving reality, trends and existing circumstances, emerging and persistent challenges and threats, including new psychoactive substances, in conformity with the three international drug control

conventions and other relevant international instruments; (f) strengthening international cooperation based on the principle of common and shared responsibility; and (g) alternative development; regional, interregional and international cooperation on development-oriented, balanced drug control policy and addressing socioeconomic issues.

Member States resolved to take the steps necessary to implement the operational recommendations, in close partnership with the United Nations and other intergovernmental organizations and civil society, and to share with the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, as the policymaking body of the United Nations with prime responsibility for drug control matters, timely information on progress made in the implementation of those recommendations. The Commission on Narcotic Drugs initiated the follow-up process to the special session, with a focus on implementing the operational recommendations. With a view to sharing good practices and lessons learned in the practical implementation of the joint commitments, thematic discussions were held by the Commission and focused, *inter alia*, on the operational recommendations contained in the seven thematic chapters of the outcome document. More information on the follow-up process can be found at [www.ungass2016.org](http://www.ungass2016.org).

Under agenda item 6, participants in the Meeting will be invited to consider the challenges posed to the States of the region with regard to the full implementation of the 2009 Political Declaration and Plan of Action, the Joint Ministerial Statement of the 2014 high-level review by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs of the implementation by Member States of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action and the outcome document of the thirtieth special session of the General Assembly, aimed at achieving all commitments, operational recommendations and aspirational goals set out therein. Participants will also be invited to discuss how they could best contribute through the Commission on Narcotic Drugs to accelerating the implementation of all commitments made in the past decade, drawing on their technical expertise and their regional experiences.

### **Documentation**

Outcome document of the thirtieth special session of the General Assembly, entitled “Our joint commitment to effectively addressing and countering the world drug problem” (General Assembly resolution S-30/1, annex)

Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem (see [E/2009/28](#), chap. I, sect. C)

Joint Ministerial Statement of the 2014 high-level review by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs 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 ([E/2014/80](#), annex I)

Ministerial Declaration on Strengthening Our Actions at the National, Regional and International Levels to Accelerate the Implementation of Our Joint Commitments to Address and Counter the World Drug Problem (see [E/2019/28](#), chap. I, sect. B)

## **7. Organization of the Thirtieth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Africa**

The Twenty-ninth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Africa, will be invited to review the draft provisional agenda for the Thirtieth Meeting, including topics for discussion in working groups and possible venues for future meetings. A decision taken by the Twenty-ninth Meeting on the venue of the Thirtieth Meeting and the topics for the working groups would greatly facilitate the preparation and organization of the Thirtieth Meeting. Participants are invited to be prepared to propose and discuss topics for the working groups of the Thirtieth 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.

Participants are also invited to discuss any other matters 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 Thirtieth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Africa (UNODC/HONLAF/29/5)

#### **8. Other business**

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

#### **9. Adoption of the report**

The Twenty-ninth 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 2019	8.30 a.m.	Registration
	10 a.m.	Opening of the Twenty-ninth Meeting
		Item 1. Election of officers
		Item 2. Adoption of the agenda
		Item 6. Follow-up on the implementation at the national, regional and international levels of all commitments, as reflected in the ministerial declaration of 2019, to address and counter the world drug problem
	3 p.m.	Item 3. Current situation with respect to regional and subregional cooperation
Tuesday, 17 September 2019	9 a.m.	Item 4. Implementation of the recommendations adopted by the Twenty-seventh Meeting
		Item 5. Consideration of topics by working groups
	2 p.m.	Item 5. Working groups ( <i>continued</i> )
Wednesday, 18 September 2019	9 a.m.	Item 5. Working groups ( <i>continued</i> )
	2 p.m.	Item 5. Working groups ( <i>continued</i> )
Thursday, 19 September 2019	9 a.m.	Item 5. Working groups ( <i>continued</i> )
	2 p.m.	Item 5. Working groups ( <i>continued</i> )
Friday, 20 September 2019	10 a.m.	Item 7. Organization of the Thirtieth Meeting
		Item 8. Other business
	3 p.m.	Item 9. Adoption of the report