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**Twenty-Ninth Meeting of Heads
of National Drug Law Enforcement
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Item 3 of the provisional agenda**

**Current situation with respect to regional and
subregional cooperation in addressing and
countering the world drug problem****Current situation with respect to regional and subregional
cooperation in addressing and countering drug trafficking****Note by the Secretariat****I. Introduction**

1. This report provides an overview of the drug trafficking situation in the areas covered by United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) field offices in Africa, namely the Regional Office for West and Central Africa, the Regional Office for Eastern Africa, the Regional Office for the Middle East and North Africa, the Regional Office for Southern Africa and the country office in Nigeria, and the related efforts to address and counter the world drug problem in the period since 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.

2. UNODC policies and efforts in addressing drug matters in Africa are in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in particular Sustainable Development Goal 16 (on promoting peace, providing access to justice for all and building effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels), as well as Goal 3 (good health and well-being), Goal 10 (reducing inequalities within and among countries) and Goal 17 (strengthening the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development). All activities are undertaken under regional programmes, which act as frameworks for the implementation of projects.

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

** UNODC/HONLAF/29/1.



II. Africa-wide initiatives

3. West Africa remains an important transit area for drug trafficking from Latin America to Europe. Under the West Africa Coast Initiative, transnational organized crime units were established and became operational in Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia and Sierra Leone to reduce the region's vulnerability to drug trafficking and organized crime; enhance national enforcement and justice institutions; and build capacity for better national, regional and international enforcement cooperation.

4. In recent months, the Initiative's transnational organized crime units have reported large seizures of cocaine shipments in the region. On 31 January 2019, the Judicial Police in Cabo Verde conducted a drug seizure on a vessel coming from Panama. In the vessel, the police found 9,570 kg of cocaine inside 260 bales, one of the biggest seizures in the history of the Judicial Police. Eleven people were detained and referred to the competent judicial authorities in the country. On 9 March 2019, the Government of Guinea-Bissau seized 789 kg of cocaine as a result of operation Carapau, led by the transnational organized crime unit and the Judicial Police of Guinea-Bissau. It was the largest ever drug seizure in Guinea-Bissau.

5. In December 2018 and January 2019, the Drug Enforcement Agency of Liberia and officers of the country's transnational organized crime unit conducted two effective joint operations, resulting in the seizure of 26 kg of heroin valued at \$910,000 and the arrest of eight individuals.

6. A large seizure of tramadol was reported by the port control unit of Cotonou, which is part of the UNODC-World Customs Organization (WCO) Container Control Programme. In February 2019, the port control unit seized four containers with 59.194 tons of tramadol.

7. In the period 2018–2019, UNODC continued to work to strengthen the capacity of the Government of Ghana, national law enforcement agencies and the civil society to respond adequately to the evolving threat posed by drug trafficking and organized crime and to strengthen the criminal justice system. Under the project "Technical assistance project to Ghanaian authorities to counter drug trafficking and organized crime", funded by the United States of America Department of State's Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs, UNODC provides comprehensive support to drug law enforcement units of the Criminal Investigations Department of the Ghana Police Service and sister law enforcement agencies to efficiently tackle illicit drug trafficking and related organized crime in the country. Between December 2018 and March 2019, those drug law enforcement units reported seizures of cannabis, cocaine, tramadol and heroin and made 49 arrests. National law enforcement agencies and prosecutors have enhanced cooperation to harmonize prosecution of drug trafficking offences.

8. The Airport Communication Project (AIRCOP), implemented by UNODC in partnership with the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) and WCO, continued to support 15 joint airport interdiction task forces across Africa. Capacity-building activities were delivered to the joint airport interdiction task forces of Benin, Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Cameroon (Douala and Yaoundé), Côte d'Ivoire, the Gambia, Ghana, Guinea-Bissau, Mali, the Niger, Nigeria (Abuja and Lagos), Senegal and Togo, through a mix of national and regional workshops and on-the-job mentoring. Support was also provided for the establishment of new joint airport interdiction task forces in Ethiopia, Kenya and Mozambique. Partnerships were maintained with Algeria, Morocco and South Africa (as associated countries). During this period, 639 people were trained (20 per cent of them women).

9. The African joint airport interdiction task forces also participated in six joint operations, including operation "Cocair" (focusing on cocaine trafficking); operation "Crimphar" (focusing on the interception of illicit pharmaceutical products), organized by WCO; and operation "Lionfish" (focusing on the trafficking of illicit drugs), organized by INTERPOL. In addition, all African countries that are part of the AIRCOP network took part in the sixth AIRCOP global meeting, which took place

in Lyon, France, in February 2019, together with law enforcement officers from joint airport interdiction task forces of countries of Latin America, the Caribbean and the Middle East, as well as representatives of a large number of regional and international organizations.

10. As a result, in the period 2018–2019, joint airport interdiction task forces of Africa seized 227 kg of cocaine, 241 kg of khat, 2.5 tons of cannabis, 147 kg of methamphetamine, 95 kg of heroin and 204 kg of precursors, as well as 6.2 tons of falsified medicines, \$2.6 million in undeclared cash, 267 kg of cigarettes and tobacco, 352 kg of ivory, 513 kg of pangolin scales, 4 kg of gold and false passports and fraudulent visas.

11. With the support of the European Union and other donors, the Global Maritime Crime Programme carries out long-term work in the fight against piracy and maritime crime, extending its action throughout the territory of the States members of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) as well as the Gulf of Guinea countries. From July 2018 to June 2019, activities focused on improving maritime governance with a focus on the rule of law reform that has prevailed, the evaluation of the legal frameworks, the prescription of new measures and the development of memorandums relating to forms of judicial prosecution. This legal initiative concerns Benin, Cabo Verde, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Liberia, Nigeria, Senegal and Togo.

12. The Global Maritime Crime Programme also provided technical assistance in building the capacity of coast guard services in each country by means of an embedded mentor to coordinate satellite exercises at sea, the development of standard operating procedures and various training courses. This day-to-day technical assistance enables coastal States to better understand and dismantle transnational criminal networks. Mentors have been embedded in Cabo Verde, where a satellite-led exercise was conducted at sea by the Coast Guard in September, with a specific narcotic interdiction scenario and under the mentoring of the UNODC expert; in Guinea-Bissau, where the mentor trained all maritime law enforcement agencies; in Sierra Leone and Liberia, where vessels improved their capacities to patrol the maritime environment through increased maritime engineering skills; and in Ghana and Togo, where narcotic interdiction mentoring has been provided to all maritime law enforcement agencies.

13. Under the activities carried out by the UNODC-WCO Container Control Programme, assessment missions for the creation of multi-agency units to counter illicit trafficking were conducted in Mozambique, at the port and airport of Maputo, and in Namibia, at the port of Walvis Bay, and assessments of border posts were carried out at Namanga, on the border between Kenya and the United Republic of Tanzania and at the border between Kenya and Uganda near the towns of Malaba, Kenya, and Busia, Uganda.

14. Theoretical and practical training sessions for establishing air cargo control units were carried out between July and November 2018 for establishing air cargo control units at the airports of Jomo Kenyatta International Airport in Nairobi and at Entebbe International Airport in Uganda, as well as the Maputo International Airport; and theoretical training sessions took place in April 2019 for units at the port of Maputo and Walvis Bay, while the operational port control units received ongoing mentorship.

III. Regional cooperation initiatives

15. In 2018, UNODC implemented a subregional project between the Gambia, Guinea-Bissau and Senegal, aimed at enhancing national and subregional capacities to detect and investigate cross-border crime. Under the project, UNODC developed and supported the innovative joint operation “Open roads”, in December 2018, to strengthen cross-border cooperation and coordination between Senegal, the Gambia and Guinea-Bissau to combat illicit drug trafficking. Over 300 officers from 15 law

enforcement agencies took part in the operation covering 10 land border posts in the Gambia, Guinea-Bissau and Senegal. Law enforcement agents carried out over 2,000 information exchanges and searched 980 people and 490 vehicles, resulting in arrests and seizures of stolen vehicles and assets, over 3 kg of cannabis, other drugs and illicit imported goods. Three children who were possible victims of human trafficking were also rescued, and two adults were detained as potential traffickers.

16. Building upon recommendations of operation “Open roads”, UNODC provided technical support and coordination in the drafting and signature of a memorandum of understanding to enhance police-to-police cooperation in intelligence-sharing, investigations and operations.

17. West Africa Coast Initiative transnational organized crime units in Sierra Leone, Liberia, Guinea-Bissau and Côte d’Ivoire are increasingly involved in joint operations and complex international investigations, increasing the regional capacity to fight against illicit drug trafficking and organized crime in an international framework. For example, in October 2018 the transnational organized crime unit of Côte d’Ivoire commenced cooperation with the European anti-drug liaison officers in Ghana, police services of Italy and authorities of Brazil on a complex drug case known as “Spaghetti connection”, which has already resulted in the seizure of 1,195 kg of cocaine in the port of Santos, Brazil, in September 2018 and the arrest of 10 individuals in Abidjan, Côte d’Ivoire, in June 2019. UNODC is also providing technical advisory services to the transnational organized crime unit of Côte d’Ivoire.

18. In Ghana, officials of drug law enforcement units participated in operation Eagle III, an intelligence-led joint operation involving Nigerian and Ghanaian law enforcement agencies with a mandate to counter drug trafficking. Implemented by UNODC and funded by the European Union, the operation aimed at sharing intelligence and undertaking operational activities targeting drug trafficking movements between the two countries. It was held in November 2019 at Kotoka International Airport in Accra and selected courier facilities and resulted in the interception and seizure of drugs and other illicit goods and several arrests.

19. An Inter-Ministerial Drug Coordinating Committee Meeting of the Commission of ECOWAS was convened in Abuja from 9 to 12 April 2019. One of the objectives of that statutory meeting was to take stock of progress made by ECOWAS member States in relation to the Political Declaration on the Prevention of Drug Abuse, Illicit Drug Trafficking and Organized Crime in West Africa adopted by ECOWAS Heads of State and Government in December 2008. A key outcome of their deliberations was the decision reached by all delegates to initiate the process of developing a regional instrument that was legally binding to a greater degree, in the form of a supplementary act, which would renew that initial commitment and offer a new road map to tackle the multidimensional menace posed by transnational organized crime in West Africa.

20. In 2018, the Regional Office for Southern Africa supported the South African Judicial Education Institute in establishing a network of judicial officers to promote mutual learning and sharing of good practices for adjudication of trafficking in persons cases. It is the first professional network of its kind in the region and has promoted robust discussions on quality and compliance with judgments on trafficking in persons that are emerging in the countries of the Southern African Development Community.

21. On 27 and 29 May 2019, the UNODC/ECOWAS programme entitled “CRIMJUST: strengthening criminal investigation and criminal justice cooperation along the cocaine route in Latin America, the Caribbean and West Africa (2016–2020)” and the project entitled “Response to drugs and related organized crime in Nigeria”, in cooperation with the International Narcotics Control Board, provided technical support for the organization of a high-level trilateral meeting between the anti-narcotics agencies of Ghana, India and Nigeria and the respective food and drug administration authorities of those countries to foster stronger cooperation, coordination and the exchange of intelligence to counter trafficking in tramadol. During the meeting, stakeholders discussed and analysed cases of ongoing

investigations of trafficked tramadol seized in Ghana and Nigeria that had originated in India, with the aim of gathering information on the syndicates responsible for that trafficking. A follow-up meeting is scheduled to be held in Lagos on 22 and 23 July to discuss the ongoing cases of trafficking in tramadol and cases of trafficking in ephedrine and pseudoephedrine.

22. The Nigerian Drug Project developed initiatives to enhance regional technical and operational capacity to counter drug trafficking throughout the West African coastal region, including the holding of three joint operations by Nigeria and Ghana in May, June and November 2018, which saw the deployment of 170 officers over the course of the three operations, resulting in the arrest of 25 suspects and the seizure of substantial quantities of drugs, as well as yielding a strong intelligence dividend.

23. In order to enhance regional knowledge and support better cooperation between States and national agencies, the Research and Awareness Section of the Regional Office for West and Central Africa was mandated in September 2018 to undertake research on trafficking in tramadol and other pharmaceutical opioids in West Africa. The overall objectives of the survey are to obtain a better picture of trafficking in tramadol and other pharmaceutical opioids in West Africa (e.g., the scale of trafficking, the actors involved, routes and modus operandi); to increase awareness of non-medical use of and trafficking in tramadol and other pharmaceutical opioids; and to formulate detailed operational, regulatory and policy recommendations on how to tackle this issue.

24. Under the UNODC-WCO Container Control Programme, a regional exchange visit by four customs officers from Malawi, Mozambique and Namibia took place in November 2018, when they visited the operational port control units at the port in Mombasa, Kenya and, in Uganda, the dry port in Kampala, resulting in the exchange of good practices, a better understanding of the work undertaken by the port control units and strengthened regional cooperation.

25. UNODC collaborated with the Office of the Resident Coordinator for Mauritius and the Seychelles to submit a joint proposal for both Seychelles and Mauritius, with UNODC as the lead agency, under the Sustainable Development Goals Fund. The activities set out in the proposal focus on developing resilient communities in the two countries by means of life skills training targeting youth and families.

26. UNODC has been supporting the INTERPOL Regional Bureau for East Africa through operation Usalama, a multi-year operation involving countries of Southern and East Africa to counter transnational organized crime, including drug trafficking. UNODC has also been providing training to individual Member States on various matters related to countering transnational organized crime, including drug trafficking. That training includes capacity-building for the enhanced collection, analysis and sharing of crime intelligence; countering cybercrime and cybertechnology-enabled crime; digital evidence collection; countering money-laundering; and promoting international cooperation in criminal matters.

27. In 2018, UNODC, through its Global Maritime Crime Programme, continued its support for the Southern Route Partnership. The Partnership, which is a network of drug enforcement officials from Asia and East Africa, was established to target the trafficking of Afghan heroin that is trafficked from Iran (Islamic Republic of) and Pakistan and to the Swahili coast in East Africa. During the past year, UNODC connected the Partnership members from drug enforcement agencies throughout the Indian Ocean region through the Regional Maritime Information Fusion Centre in Madagascar, which monitors maritime zones for suspicious activity and reports directly to national authorities.

28. Furthermore, UNODC has continued to deliver training to maritime law enforcement officers to enhance their capability to disrupt and respond effectively to maritime crime threats. To date, a core tenet of the capacity-building curriculum has been vessel board, search and seizure training sessions, which continue to be popular because of their practical nature, and throughout 2018 the Indian Ocean Programme

delivered vessel board, search and seizure training to maritime law enforcement authorities including navies, coast guards and police of Bangladesh, Kenya, Maldives, Mauritius, Seychelles, Sri Lanka and the United Republic of Tanzania. Support for prosecution services in the context of drug trafficking has also continued, carried out through the public prosecutors forum network which brings together senior prosecutors from across the Indian Ocean region twice a year to discuss current narcotics trafficking cases, share best practices and enhance mutual legal assistance.

29. The Mozambique Channel is an increasingly important trade and transit route within the western Indian Ocean. Following improvements in maritime law enforcement capability in Kenya and the United Republic of Tanzania, records of narcotics seizures suggest that the volume of narcotics being trafficked via the Mozambique Channel is increasing. The Global Maritime Crime Programme has been working closely with Mozambique, South Africa and the United Republic of Tanzania, resulting in the agreement of a trilateral strategy that focuses on two complementary areas of intervention: enhancing the capability of maritime law enforcement agencies to interdict drug consignments and developing national capability and mechanisms to stop narcotics trafficking at sea.

30. In the region of Middle East and North Africa, UNODC continued its support to the authorities of Algeria and Tunisia to establish a new coordinated management approach for customs and police controls between the two countries with the objective of facilitating their operational cooperation in combating cross-border criminal activities, including drug trafficking. In that endeavour, UNODC is supporting the establishment of a regional model of operational coordination between police and customs of the two countries.

31. On 3 October 2018, the Regional Office for the Middle East and North Africa signed a memorandum of understanding with the League of Arab States to strengthen collaboration in the area of health. The memorandum of understanding provides a policy framework for cooperation between the two entities in the areas of HIV/AIDS prevention and care, drug use prevention, care and treatment of drug disorders.

IV. Drug supply reduction

A. Prevention of drug-related crime

32. The West African Network of Central Authorities and Prosecutors against Organized Crime (WACAP), established in 2013, facilitates international cooperation in criminal matters for all transnational organized and serious crime, including terrorism. It is implemented in coordination with ECOWAS and all its 15 members are members of ECOWAS, as well as Chad and Mauritania.

33. Over the period 2018–2019, a training-of-trainers workshop on international judicial cooperation in trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants' cases was organized in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, for 18 prosecutors, judges and judicial police officers from Burkina Faso, Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, Mali, the Niger and Senegal. The activity was carried out in collaboration with the Global Action to Prevent and Address Trafficking in Persons and the Smuggling of Migrants. In the workshop, participants prepared and delivered short training sessions on international judicial cooperation for participants in a separate UNODC training session on cryptocurrencies, and participants established useful direct contacts with each other to facilitate daily cooperation on transnational human trafficking and migrant smuggling cases.

34. On 26–28 February, WACAP participated in the negotiations held in Rome on conventions on extradition, mutual legal assistance in criminal matters and the transfer of convicted persons between the Governments of the Niger and Italy. On 1 March, a meeting was held between the delegation from the Niger and the General

Prosecutor of the Anti-Mafia Investigation Directorate of Italy to discuss possible avenues of collaboration.

35. On 27 and 28 February, WACAP also participated in the regional workshop for sub-Saharan Africa on enhancing cooperation and strengthening capacity in obtaining digital evidence in cross-border cybercrime and terrorism investigations, which was jointly organized by UNODC, the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate, the Commonwealth Secretariat, the United States Department of Justice and the Home Office of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. A presentation was made on behalf of WACAP for 22 practitioners from Cameroon, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, Seychelles, Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania, and a session was taught on using the Mutual Legal Assistance Request Writer Tool.

36. Within the framework of the WACAP and the Global Programme for Strengthening Capacities to Prevent and Combat Organized and Serious Crime, and the PROMIS (Protection of migrants: justice, human rights and migrant smuggling) project, a Nigerian liaison magistrate was deployed to Spain and started his work on 12 March; the reason for sending liaison magistrates from Nigeria to Italy and Spain is to deal with the backlog of requests made by Italy and Spain to Nigeria relating to cases of human trafficking and migrant smuggling and give added support to Nigeria so that it can make successful requests to both countries.

37. The Nigerian Drug Project delivered 35 law enforcement training sessions on a range of subjects including criminal investigation; criminal intelligence; intelligence-led investigations; law enforcement organizational management; financial investigation; first aid; ethics and integrity and prosecution; implementation of the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency of Nigeria intelligence model and the National Drug Control Master Plan; and an enhanced focus on human rights and rule of law.

B. Trafficking in drugs

38. On 19 December 2018, the Security Council held a meeting containing a thematic briefing on drug trafficking in West Africa as a threat to stability, which confirmed the emergence of alarming trends in drug trafficking across the subregion.

39. With respect to drug trafficking by air, while the Balkan route (from the Islamic Republic of Iran and Turkey to Western and Central Europe) continues to be the main trafficking route, the southern route (from Pakistan and the Islamic Republic of Iran) is increasingly used, with several subroutes of trafficking, including one that goes through the Indian Ocean to East and Southern Africa. In recent years, Southern Africa has become an important transit hub, and the United Republic of Tanzania has become one of the main transit countries.

40. Under the West Africa Coast Initiative, transnational organized crime units in Sierra Leone, Liberia, Guinea-Bissau and Côte d'Ivoire have continued daily operations, especially criminal investigations of drug trafficking. UNODC is providing technical assistance to the transnational organized crime units by means of UNODC senior law enforcement experts embedded in those units of Côte d'Ivoire, Liberia and Sierra Leone, as well as through training, logistic and operational support. The transnational organized crime units have achieved promising results to date: 1,160 cases, 1,126 persons prosecuted, and the seizure of 5,875 kg of cannabis, 12 tons of hashish, 235 kg of cocaine, 66.3 kg of heroin, 2,777 kg of precursors, 349 kg of tramadol, 81 kg of khat, 79 tons of counterfeit medicine, 5 kg of phenacetine, 2.2 kg of methamphetamine, 602 kg of illicit ivory, 20 cubic metres of protected wood and 3.7 tons of pangolin scales.

41. In Ghana, UNODC is supporting the seven drug law enforcement units in different regions of Ghana to improve their drug trafficking investigation capacity through training, mentoring and provision of equipment, including drug testing kits.

From December 2018 to March 2019, the drug law enforcement units have effected seizures of cannabis, cocaine, tramadol and heroin and carried out 49 arrests. In June 2018, for example, 566 kg of herbal cannabis were seized at Kotoka International Airport in Accra.

42. Thanks to the capacity-building support provided by the UNODC/WCO/INTERPOL Aircop project, in the period 2018–2019, the joint airport interdiction task forces in Africa seized 3.4 tons of drugs, including 227 kg of cocaine, 241 kg of khat, 2.5 tons of cannabis, 147 kg of methamphetamine, 95 kg of heroin and 204 kg of precursors. For example, in February and March 2018, the joint airport interdiction task force of Douala, Cameroon, seized 5 kg of liquid ketamine concealed in holy water bottles sent in five DHL parcels, as well as 3.8 kg of heroin hidden in the double bottom of luggage. Those substances were detected with the help of a spectrometer, highlighting the high-level detection capacity of the agents of joint airport interdiction task forces. In June 2018, the joint airport interdiction task force of Niamey supported the Central Office for the Fight Against International Drug Trafficking (OCTRIS) in the seizure of almost 2.5 tons of cannabis, the largest single seizure through Aircop to date. In September 2018, the joint airport interdiction task force in Cotonou, Benin, intercepted 21 kg of cocaine that was being trafficked using a new modus operandi by a passenger who arrived a couple of days before his luggage, in order to receive it later. The same month, the joint airport interdiction task force of Bissau detained a passenger who had ingested 95 pellets of cocaine, a total amount of 1 kg.

43. A UNODC/ECOWAS project supported the creation of a multi-agency law enforcement training capacity with a mandate in the area of organized crime. The project's activities support the Senegalese national strategic plan to combat drugs for the period 2016–2020 and provide training for 24 customs, police and gendarmerie officers and at the National School of Judicial Training. The process of creating the training course included an assessment of training needs and the capacity-building required to combat organized crime in Senegal, a course for the development of instructors, a technical module on intelligence-gathering and analysis, and the creation of an ad hoc manual to support trainers in the planning, design and delivery of training workshops on intelligence-gathering and analysis.

44. Through the project entitled "Support to the ECOWAS regional action plan on illicit drug trafficking, related organized crime and drug abuse in West Africa", UNODC sought to strengthen forensic services in all States members of ECOWAS and Mauritania.

45. Cabo Verde, Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana were selected as forensic regional hubs based on their strategic geographical location, linguistic attributes and potential to reach the international standards. The ministries of internal affairs and justice of each country nominated local experts, prosecutors, magistrates and a focal point for both the crime scene management and drug analysis disciplines. The individuals chosen attended numerous training sessions and workshops on forensic expertise. The focal points also received an additional training session on adult learning skills, which preceded the efforts to expand knowledge in their countries and for forensic drug testing laboratories in the subregion. Thanks to the support of the European Union and the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), on 27 June 2019, 15 West African countries, members of ECOWAS, became statutory members of the West African forensic network.

46. The Nigerian Drug Project undertook several activities to build the capacity of law enforcement officials and other stakeholders during the reporting period, including a stakeholders meeting in May 2018 to discuss the establishment of a pilot joint intelligence control unit at Onne seaport, involving customs, the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency, the National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and the Nigerian Ports Authority, and a three-day drug prevention treatment and care-sensitization course delivered to 60 lawyers in September, followed by a one-day inaugural meeting of network and media conference.

47. UNODC strengthened the Indian Ocean prosecutors' network, which is a regular activity under the regional grouping known as the Indian Ocean Forum on Maritime Crime, training participants on the resources developed by the Global Maritime Crime Programme such as the online information-sharing platform, mutual legal assistance tools, legal options for heroin trafficking and plans for search and seizure operations.

C. Trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants

48. The increasing number of links between drug trafficking and other forms of organized crime, including trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants, were discussed at the Twenty-eighth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Africa, in 2018. The working group established in this regard observed that "there are clear links between drug trafficking and other forms of organized crime, including trafficking in firearms, wildlife and timber; human trafficking and migrant smuggling; and illegal mining" and noted that "money-laundering was a significant enabling activity that went hand in hand with drug trafficking and other forms of organized crime" and that "drug trafficking routes are also being used for other forms of trafficking" (UNODC/HONLAF/28/6, para. 31).

49. Trafficking in persons has become a growing cause for concern in West Africa. Every year, thousands of women and girls are subjected to sexual exploitation, forced labour and forced prostitution; they are trafficked within the region and/or to the Middle East or Europe. Further, thousands of men and women, adults and children are subjected to forced labour in agricultural fields, mining sites and construction sites, or forced to beg on the streets or work as domestic help in inhuman conditions. In many cases, the exploitation of victims is highly organized, and profits received by the criminal networks are considerable.

50. Under its trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants portfolio, UNODC provides technical assistance to the States of West Africa to strengthen the capacities of the criminal justice chain to detect, investigate and prosecute those crimes. Over the reporting period, UNODC organized extensive train-the-trainer activities, leading to the creation of pools of 75 trainers from law enforcement and justice institutions in each country.

51. Over the last 10 years nearly 80 per cent of international human trafficking journeys traverse official border points. And roughly 20 per cent of the victims who cross official border points use transport by air. As part of the continuous capacity-building provided, joint airport interdiction task forces agents are trained by AIRCOP to better identify and detect trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants through specialized training sessions and mentoring on the detection of fraudulent documents and on behavioural analysis. In 2018, two specialized training sessions on the detection of fraudulent documents and two specialized training sessions on behaviour analysis at airports were delivered in Niamey and Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire. A new regional training course on fraudulent documents, with a focus on trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants, will be given for several French-speaking joint airport interdiction task forces in Senegal in June 2019.

52. In the last quarter of 2018, UNODC also launched a research project on smuggling of migrants and its linkages with other forms of transnational organized crime in Côte d'Ivoire, the Gambia, Mali, the Niger and Senegal. Extensive field missions and data collection processes are ongoing, and an expert mentor has been recruited and deployed to perform assessments of the capacities and needs of law enforcement agencies in these five countries, which will serve as a basis to provide tailored training and mentoring on smuggling of migrants cases.

53. One of the main obstacles to relevant policies against transnational organized crime is data collection. To reinforce national capacities to collect data in critical countries, UNODC organized a specialized training in Niger to improve the system for data collection on human trafficking and smuggling of migrants of the country's National Agency for the Fight against Trafficking in Persons and the Illicit Transport

of Migrants, building on a collaborative approach and good practices used in other countries. This activity was part of the regional strategy for the period 2015–2020 developed by the UNODC Regional Office for West and Central Africa, the European Union and West and Central African countries in order to reduce human trafficking and migrant smuggling.

54. In June 2018, UNODC facilitated, jointly with the Government of France, the organization of a high-level regional conference of general directors, high commanders of internal security forces, magistrates and high-level justice officials from 16 countries of West Africa and Europe, held in Niamey, with a view to ensuring the practical implementation of the commitments contained in a joint declaration adopted by Ministers of Justice and Ministers of the Interior from those countries in March 2018. The Declaration of Niamey is aimed at improving the coordination and operational efficiency between origin, transit and destination countries in tackling these phenomena.

55. Within the framework of the PROMIS project, UNODC supported the deployment of liaison magistrates from Nigeria to both Italy and Spain, where they work with national authorities to strengthen judicial cooperation between European and West African States, including facilitating mutual legal assistance, transmitting rogatory requests and providing technical legal advice on international judicial cooperation issues.

56. Extensive technical support is also provided to West African States as they work to adopt specific laws on smuggling of migrants and align their national legal framework with international standards. In the last half of 2018, laws were drafted in an extensive consultative process involving all relevant actors at the national level (ministries related to that sector, civil society organizations and international partners), and national drafting committees were established in Ghana, Liberia and Mali.

57. In 2018, UNODC and the INTERPOL Regional Bureau for Southern Africa conducted the second training-of-trainers course for law enforcement officers on trafficking in persons.

58. In East Africa, UNODC has established a regional training centre in order to strengthen regional police and judicial cooperation and to create informal networks between countries including Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia and Uganda. As part of that structure, UNODC has developed a cloud-based, informal network platform for participants to share information related to the investigation and prosecution of trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants.

D. Illicit financial flows, money-laundering and asset recovery

59. The UNODC Global Programme against Money-Laundering, Proceeds of Crime and the Financing of Terrorism contributes to Sustainable Development Goal target 16.4 (By 2030, significantly reduce illicit financial and arms flows, strengthen the recovery and return of stolen assets and combat all forms of organized crime).

60. In 2018, the Global Programme organized a range of national and regional workshops in West Africa on financial disruption of terrorist groups, the investigation of cryptocurrencies, cash couriers, financial investigation and asset recovery.

61. As a result of the Global Programme's capacity-building efforts, approximately 400 officers from law enforcement, judiciary and other relevant authorities were trained and are now better prepared to examine illicit financial flows behind predicate crimes. Other positive outcomes of the training sessions were the convictions for money-laundering in some countries (Ghana, Mali, Nigeria and Senegal) and convictions for terrorism financing in the Niger.

62. The Global Programme continues to support the Asset Recovery Inter-Agency Network for West Africa, an informal regional network of practitioners and a

cooperative group in the field of identification, seizure, confiscation and management of proceeds of crime.

63. Large amounts of undeclared cash transit through international airports. For the period 2018–2019, in Africa, the joint airport interdiction task forces carried out 17 seizures of cash representing a total of \$2.6 million in undeclared cash. In 2018, according to AIRCOP data, most cash seizures were carried out in Abidjan, Côte d’Ivoire, seized from passengers travelling to Beirut, such as the seizure of \$250,000 carried out by the joint airport interdiction task force of Abidjan in November 2018. Also, in November 2018 the joint airport interdiction task force of Accra intercepted \$3.2 million in counterfeit cash in the luggage of a passenger travelling to Beirut. Most recently, in April 2019, the joint airport interdiction task force of Accra intercepted \$1,384,454 and 255,950 euros in undeclared cash concealed in the carry-on bag of a passenger travelling to Beirut.

64. In Southern Africa, through UNODC support, the following regional activities have been carried out during this reporting period: a cybercrime investigation train-the-trainer event held in February 2019 in Windhoek; a workshop on the management of illicitly obtained assets, held in Cape Town, South Africa, in March 2019; and the annual general meeting of Asset Recovery Inter-Agency Network For Southern Africa (ARINSA) held in June in Dar es Salam, United Republic of Tanzania, which commemorated 10 years of the ARINSA network, and during which all 16 countries exchanged information on recent challenges and lessons learned in recovering assets. Such information exchange has had a great impact, as reported by former participants. For example, as at April 2019 a total of 893 anti-money-laundering investigations were being carried out by ARINSA countries. Also, a total of 209 separate asset seizures had taken place in ARINSA countries. This represents an increase of 60 since 2017.

E. Corruption

65. Corruption is widespread throughout West Africa, undermining peace, security, development and the attainment of human rights in the region. In addition to undermining the effectiveness of national authorities, corruption facilitates the operations of terrorist and criminal groups, including drug trafficking, human trafficking and wildlife and forest crime. Countries in the region often lack adequate legislative and institutional frameworks that would enable them to effectively fight corruption, coupled with deficient capacities to prevent, investigate, and prosecute corruption cases.

66. Throughout the review process on the status of the implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption, the reviewing experts identified gaps and technical assistance needs related to various provisions of chapters III and IV of the Convention in all countries of the region.

67. In West Africa, UNODC has been developing various initiatives in cooperation with judicial and law enforcement authorities, including the national police, gendarmerie, and customs authorities, with a view to supporting the establishment and implementation of strategies and measures aimed at enhancing integrity mechanisms across these authorities.

68. In East Africa, UNODC has piloted an initiative for preventing corruption in wildlife authorities, which commenced working with the Kenya Wildlife Service and its Corruption Prevention Committee to identify, analyse and prioritize areas with high risks of corruption in order to develop risk mitigation strategies addressing corruption and corruption prevention in the Kenya Wildlife Service.

F. Terrorism and violent extremism

69. UNODC (in particular through the AIRCOP project and the Terrorism Prevention Branch) has recently joined an “all-of-UN” project on building Member State capacity to prevent, detect and investigate terrorist offences and related travel by using advance passenger information and passenger name record data, in compliance with Security Council resolutions 2178 (2014) and 2396 (2017). This project is coordinated by the Office of Counter-Terrorism and implemented in partnership with the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate, the International Civil Aviation Organization, the United Nations Office of Information and Communications Technology and UNODC. The project, launched in 2019, will be implemented globally, including African countries, and AIRCOP will support the operationalization of passenger information units, building on the existing joint airport interdiction task forces and international good practices.

V. Drug prevention and treatment

A. Prevention of drug abuse

70. UNODC and ECOWAS organized a workshop on building the capacity of civil society organizations for substance use prevention and care in ECOWAS member States and Mauritania, held in Abuja on 7–9 January 2018. The workshop provided skills and knowledge to develop and carry out effective evidence-based prevention intervention among vulnerable populations, such as children, adolescents and young adults. The meeting also provided an opportunity for 32 representatives of civil society in West Africa to share best practices on data collection for the implementation of prevention programmes. At the end of the three-day meeting, focal points of civil society organizations from the 16 countries of ECOWAS set up the West African Network of Civil Society on Substance Abuse to better coordinate their efforts for drug prevention and treatment in the region.

71. UNODC supported the establishment of university curricula to train addictology specialists and promoted a human rights-sensitive, public health approach. Those sustained efforts made possible the launch on 28 February 2018 of the first university degree in addictology in West Africa, offered by the Faculty of Medicine of the University Cheikh Anta Diop of Dakar.

72. In the framework of the UNODC-World Health Organization (WHO) Joint Programme on Drug Dependence Treatment and Care, UNODC continued to provide support for national consultations organized in Côte d’Ivoire on the revision of the legal and administrative framework regarding drug issues. The main objective of the reform was to promote a health-centred approach to drug control. The new version of the country’s 1988 drug law was finalized by national experts with the technical support of UNODC, and the draft has been submitted to the Ministry of the Interior and to the Parliament for validation.

73. UNODC conducted national surveys on drug use among students in secondary schools in Côte d’Ivoire, Liberia and Cabo Verde. Draft reports of the surveys have been shared with national stakeholders for validation and publication. Similar studies are currently being conducted in the Gambia and Ghana.

74. UNODC, in collaboration with the Ministries of Education of Liberia and Côte d’Ivoire have successfully launched the “Unplugged” programme. Two training sessions were organized to introduce this tool for the prevention of drug use in schools, in Abidjan in 2018 and in Monrovia in 2019. The objective of the workshops was to provide the Ministries of Education with a tool for preventing the use of psychoactive substances, in order to protect students from addictive behaviour and to increase school performance.

75. The “Unplugged” drug prevention programme continued to be implemented in Nigeria, leading to a successful undertaking of a randomized control trial. The project delivered training to teachers from 149 secondary schools in Nigeria and undertook a comprehensive monitoring and evaluation exercise to assess the programme’s delivery by teachers who were trained on this programme in 2017 and 2018. In February 2019, the Nigerian Ministry of Education approved a cost-sharing arrangement for the expansion of the “Unplugged” programme to more Nigerian schools in 2019.

76. In 2018, the Regional Office for Southern Africa conducted a needs assessment for women who use drugs in four cities in South Africa: Pretoria, Cape Town, Durban and Johannesburg. Consultations with women who use drugs were conducted with the aim of better understanding the lived experiences of women who use drugs, particularly the challenges they face and their needs as a community, and of giving individuals an opportunity to discuss and identify their own solutions. About 100 women who use and inject drugs participated in these consultations. Key findings include the fact that women who use drugs or inject drugs experience extremely high levels of sexual violence and sexual rights violations when they are in contact with health service providers, and that the high levels of stigma they experience lead to a denial of access to health services.

77. In Nigeria, strong progress was made regarding prevention of drug use. In 2018, the development of a school-based sensitization programme was supported, with several teachers being trained in the process. In October 2018, a master training course was implemented drawing on participants from several organizations that are stakeholders. The sensitization package called “Drug education for schools children: increasing knowledge and keeping safe” was finalized, and training using this module has since been ongoing.

78. UNODC worked with the National Authority for the Campaign against Alcohol and Drug Abuse of Kenya to implement a school-based drug use prevention programme in selected counties. The Botvin Life Skills Programme targeting school-age children, aged 10–14 years, has been implemented since 2017. To date, over 5,000 pupils in over 40 schools have been reached through the Botvin Life Skills Programme.

79. UNODC has also been working with the government of Zanzibar, United Republic of Tanzania, on implementing the “Strong Families” programme drug use prevention at family level. This programme was developed by UNODC in a way that States can quickly adapt and implement drug use prevention programmes in accordance with their own situation, at minimal cost.

80. UNODC also developed a low-resource family life skills-based drug use prevention programme promoting strong families that provides an evidence-based public health prevention to build strong families through an emphasis on the mental health of children of both genders. The programme is designed for low-income families with children aged 8–14 years with the aim of improving parenting skills, child well-being and family mental health.

81. UNODC trained 30 facilitators to become “Strong Families” trainers, translated the manual into Swahili and tailored the materials and pictures for the cultural context.

82. UNODC contributed to the implementation of a school-based life skills training programme in Mauritius and Rodrigues in partnership with the private sector in Mauritius. Following this initiative, the Government announced in the budget allocation for the period 2019–2020 to incorporate and roll out the UNODC school-based life training skills in all secondary schools of Mauritius and Rodrigues.

B. Treatment and recovery

83. In Senegal, under the UNODC-WHO Joint Programme on Drug Dependence Treatment and Care, the UNODC contribution helped to build a comprehensive addiction treatment centre in Dakar. After three years of operations, 1,112 case files were opened and 339 drug-injecting users have been enrolled in the opioid maintenance programme with methadone intake as substitution therapy (as reported in the medical report of December 2017). Pharmacological treatment services have been initiated, along with management of comorbidities related to drug abuse, HIV prevention and care and harm reduction activities. The comprehensive addiction treatment centre has a multidisciplinary team and is linked to a network of social workers and community volunteers developing outreach activities and referral interventions.

84. UNODC supported the establishment of the West African Epidemiology Network on Drug Use, for which each of the 15 ECOWAS member States and Mauritania has two national focal points (one for drug demand reduction and the other for drug supply suppression). The first ever West African drug report was prepared on the basis of data submitted by Member States covering the period 2014–2017. The report was approved by Member States at the ECOWAS Inter-Ministerial Drug Coordinating Committee Meeting held in April 2019 and will be launched in Abuja on 17 July 2019.

85. In Nigeria, in the reporting period, there was strong progress towards filling the gaps in accessibility of drug treatment services. The number of civil society organizations supported grew from five to eight. The three new civil society organizations specifically provide services for female drug users who had not accessed existing treatment facilities. Together, those three facilities from January to May have provided services to 433 female clients.

86. Three drug demand reduction coordination meetings were held in Nigeria, including two to develop the guidelines on aftercare in the country. In addition, a referral network, which was piloted in the States of Enugu and Kaduna, is now operational in six states.

87. The Ministry of Health of Kenya was given support for the introduction and scaling up of opioid substitution therapy (also known as “medically assisted therapy”) since 2014. Kenya now has over 3,900 people who use drugs enrolled in such medically assisted therapy in seven facilities for that purpose located in high drug burden areas across the country. Kenya benefited from technical assistance from the United Republic of Tanzania and Mauritius who had prior experience in similar programmes. Learning visits were organized for top policymakers, providing useful insights to the design of the medically assisted therapy programme of Kenya. The opioid substitution therapy programme in Kenya, together with other harm reduction interventions provided by civil society organizations, now serve as a benchmark for other African countries and are visited by representatives from other countries. Kenya has hosted visitors from Nigeria, Sierra Leone and Seychelles in the recent past, and supported training on medically assisted therapy for Afghanistan.

88. In December 2018, UNODC conducted a training session entitled “Treatment and care of people with drug use disorders in contact with the criminal justice system: alternatives to conviction or punishment” in Kenya.

89. In Seychelles, UNODC trained over 70 health professionals from the public and private sector, including civil society organizations, on the UNODC Treatnet drug dependence treatment training package, volumes A, C and D, and supported the development of the country’s national drug control master plan.

90. UNODC supported the visit of high-level delegations from Kenya and the United Republic of Tanzania to China to learn about best practices to increase accessibility to opioid substitution therapy and medically assisted therapy services through decentralized dispensing, including the mobile dispensing and machine

dispensing currently in use in China. UNODC also supported a high-level study tour for policymakers and a high-level health-care management team from Kenya and Seychelles that visited Europe in October 2018 to learn best practices for opioid substitution therapy in prisons and alternative dispensing modalities for methadone. Following this study tour, the Seychelles prison authorities started their first opioid substitution therapy programme in prisons in January 2019. Seychelles is the second country in Africa to start a programme for opioid substitution therapy in prisons. In 2017/18, UNODC supported a substance use assessment conducted within the Kenya National Police Service on the drivers of substance use, quantities and frequency of use, and consequences for the officers of the Service. The assessment findings were validated and launched by the Inspector General of the National Police Service, The National Police Service Commission and UNODC.

91. In Ethiopia, UNODC conducted a refugee and drug use vulnerability assessment in collaboration with the Ethiopian Public Health Institute and the Agency for Refugees and Returnees Affairs and in 2018 a review of existing national laws, legislation and the policy environment relating to people who use drugs and the health and social services in order to align the approach taken with government standards.

C. HIV/AIDS

92. Opioid substitution therapy is one of the core interventions in the comprehensive package of services for people who use drugs. The opioid substitution therapy programme in Kenya has been positioned as an entry point enabling people who use drugs to enter HIV prevention and treatment, ensuring that HIV treatment and care is at the core of this response. HIV prevalence among people who inject drugs in Kenya is estimated at 18.3 per cent. About 11.5 per cent of those people who use drugs or inject drugs who are on opioid substitution therapy in Kenya are HIV positive. Kenya initiated the “test and treat” strategy in 2017, which saw up to 94.5 per cent of all people who use drugs or inject drugs identified as HIV positive being enrolled in care and treatment programmes. The opioid substitution therapy programme has greatly enhanced adherence to anti-retroviral therapy, with 94 per cent of those enrolled in care remaining active in treatment to date.

93. UNODC collaborated with stakeholders including the National Agency for the Control of AIDS in Nigeria to conduct a situational and needs assessment concerning prevalence of HIV, tuberculosis and hepatitis B and C, drug use and risk factors in 12 prisons in Nigeria, for publication in a report.

94. In the reporting period, authorities undertook the initial survey for the conduct of a national situational and needs assessment of HIV, hepatitis B and C, tuberculosis and drug use in prisons in Liberia. Furthermore, ethical clearance has been obtained for the proposed prison survey in Ghana. Survey tools and a protocol have been submitted for ethical clearance in Liberia.

95. In Nigeria, a pilot study on HIV/AIDS and the health services situation in Nigerian prisons was conducted on 12–16 November 2018 and resulted in comprehensive analysis report on the results of the pilot survey. Training for data collection was conducted on 26–30 November 2018 in Abuja. The United Nations country office in Nigeria also carried out a training session on HIV prevention and care and on sensitization on drug prevention, treatment and care, for the benefit of civil society organizations.

96. In Southern Africa, UNODC worked in close partnership with the Southern African Development Community’s Parliamentary Forum, the African Correctional Services Association and the African HIV in Prisons Partnership Network to promote regional policies that adhere to United Nations minimum standards relating to HIV/AIDS and sexual and reproductive health and rights for prison populations.

97. The African HIV in Prisons Partnership Network held its 11th steering committee meeting. A review of the constitution was finalized, and the committee

unanimously endorsed the newly revised constitution, which was signed into effect on 18 July 2018.

98. UNODC supported the revision of policies and legislation at the national level. In Malawi, the Law Commission drafted new sentencing guidelines that have been submitted to the Ministry of Justice for a review by the Cabinet. In the United Republic of Tanzania, UNODC supported the development of a five-year prison health service strategic plan on HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis for the period 2019–2023, officially endorsed by the country's Prisons Service in December 2018. In Zambia, UNODC, in partnership with the Zambia Law Development Commission, supported a high-level sensitization meeting on the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (the Nelson Mandela Rules) for the leadership of the criminal justice sector, in April 2018. In Lesotho, UNODC supported the Lesotho Correctional Service in its review of the Correctional Act of 2016. The Correctional Act, although recent, was found to have gaps that made it non-compliant to the Nelson Mandela Rules. In Malawi, a baseline survey to assess compliance of the Malawi Prisons Service with the Nelson Mandela Rules was undertaken on 18–28 February 2018 using the checklist developed by UNODC.

99. In Zambia, through the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS, implementation of the comprehensive package of 15 key interventions for HIV prevention, treatment, care and support services in prisons was assessed in 10 high-volume correctional facilities. Findings of the report indicated that the Zambia Correctional Service complied well with interventions relating to HIV testing and counselling and the provision of anti-retroviral therapy. However, the regulatory environment continues to be a hindrance for the distribution of the prevention commodities and harm reduction elements of the comprehensive package.

100. In Lesotho, UNODC supported a sensitization meeting for senior management of the Lesotho Correctional Service on United Nations normative guidelines in relation to HIV, AIDS and sexual and reproductive health and rights, focusing on women and adolescent populations in prisons (in Leribe in 2018).

101. In Zimbabwe, 28 nurses of the Zimbabwe Prisons and Correctional Service were trained on rapid HIV testing (in Mutare in 2018). In Angola, training-of-trainers sessions on rapid HIV counselling and testing were organized for nurses working in prisons (in Lobito, Benguela, in 2018).

102. In July 2018, UNODC supported five delegates from Lesotho, Malawi, Namibia, Zambia and Zimbabwe to participate in an expert group meeting in Vienna for the development of a technical guide for prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV in prisons. The guide is intended to support countries in providing high-quality HIV and sexual and reproductive health services to women in prisons and ensure elimination of new HIV infections among women and their children in prisons.

103. In the United Republic of Tanzania, UNODC has conducted an assessment on the availability and accessibility of the comprehensive package of HIV/AIDS and sexual reproductive health services in prisons and supported the development of a prison health service strategic plan on HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis for the period 2019–2023.

D. Availability

104. In Nigeria, there are several significant advances with regard to the availability of required medicines for medical purposes. They include the public launch of a national health policy for controlled medicines, and the national guidelines for quantification of narcotics and estimation of psychotropic substances and precursors for medical and scientific purposes. The Nigerian Drug Project has also supported zonal dissemination meetings in each of the six geopolitical zones designated in these policies. In addition, the curricula of medical schools have been revised to incorporate

the topic of rational use of controlled medicines, and record-keeping instruments used for controlled medicines, psychotropic substances and precursors have been revised in preparation for a future national survey.
