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Arabic, English and French only*

Report of the Twenty-second Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Africa, held in Accra from 25 to 29 June 2012

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I. Matters calling for action by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs or brought to its attention

A. Draft resolution recommended for adoption by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs

1. The Twenty-second Meeting of the Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies (HONLEA), Africa, recommends to the Commission on Narcotic Drugs the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Accra declaration

The Commission on Narcotic Drugs,

Recalling the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem,¹ in which it was recognized that the world drug problem remains a common and shared responsibility that requires effective and increased international cooperation and demands an integrated multidisciplinary mutually reinforcing and balanced approach to supply and demand reduction strategies,

Recalling also the provisions of the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961 as amended by the 1972 Protocol,² the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971³ and the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988,⁴

Welcoming the outcomes of the Twenty-second Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Africa, held in Accra from 25 to 29 June 2012,

Reaffirming the provisions of its resolution 54/14 of 25 March 2011, on measures to support African States in their efforts to combat the world drug problem, and its resolution 55/9 of 16 March 2012, on follow-up on measures to support African States in their efforts to combat the world drug problem,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 66/183 of 19 December 2011, on international cooperation against the world drug problem, in which the Assembly invited Member States, in close consultation with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, donors and other relevant international organizations, to continue assisting African States in addressing health problems and raising awareness of the dangers associated with the abuse of all drugs, in accordance with Commission on Narcotic Drugs resolution 54/14,

1. *Takes note* of the Accra declaration, which is annexed to the present resolution;

¹ See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2009, Supplement No. 8 (E/2009/28)*, chap. I, sect. C.

² United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 976, No. 14152.

³ *Ibid.*, vol. 1019, No. 14956.

⁴ *Ibid.*, vol. 1582, No. 27627.

2. *Urges* Member States to take appropriate measures to combat traffic in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances in accordance with the Accra declaration and other relevant resolutions of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly, consistent with their national legislation and the provisions of the international drug control treaties.

Annex

Accra declaration

We, the representatives of States assembled in a spirit of trust and cooperation at the Twenty-second Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Africa, held in Accra from 25 to 29 June 2012,

Gravely concerned about the growing threat posed by the drug problem in Africa,

Also very concerned about the emergence of problems related to the illicit manufacture of amphetamine-type stimulants and the proliferation of psychotropic substances, e.g. tramadol,

Recalling the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem,^a in which it is recognized that the world drug problem remains a common and shared responsibility that requires effective and increased international cooperation and demands an integrated, multidisciplinary, mutually reinforcing and balanced approach to supply and demand reduction strategies,

Noting that the African drug problem poses multifaceted challenges, including insufficient treatment and rehabilitation services to adequately respond to the magnitude of the need for interventions, as well as insufficient equipment, including state-of-the-art screening machines and closed-circuit television cameras at major airports and border points to address drug trafficking, and adequate measures to address corruption as a major driver of drug trafficking,

Noting that drug trafficking is a multifaceted issue that can be effectively tackled only by reducing both supply and demand, and that drug trafficking is on the increase in Africa,

Reaffirming our unwavering commitment to the principle of common and shared responsibility in addressing the world drug problem,

Convinced that concrete action and comprehensive, well-coordinated national plans are the most effective means to combat illicit drugs and related crime,

^a See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2009, Supplement No. 8 (E/2009/28)*, chap. I, sect. C.

1. Have agreed to make the following recommendations on effective responses to meeting the challenges of illicit cultivation of, and trafficking in, cannabis:

(a) Governments should be encouraged to undertake surveys and in-depth studies of the threat that cannabis cultivation, trafficking and abuse pose in order to support the development of national strategies that act effectively to combat their damaging impact;

(b) Governments must consider alternative development strategies that invest in the infrastructure and equipment needed to support the social and human development of rural populations whose livelihoods are dependent upon the illicit cultivation of cannabis;

(c) Governments should ensure that their law enforcement authorities are well trained, equipped and coordinated with other national actors in their response to regional trafficking in cannabis.

2. Have agreed to make the following recommendations on good practices and strategies in the treatment and rehabilitation of drug abusers:

(a) Governments should be encouraged to gather factual, reliable and comprehensive information concerning the situation in their countries with respect to both drug trafficking and illicit drug use, so as to develop and implement strategies that are effective to combat drug abuse and reduce its impact on their communities;

(b) Governments should review their current strategies to ensure that affordable treatment and prevention services that cover a broad range of addictions are available to their citizens affected by illicit drug use and drug dependence;

(c) Governments should be encouraged to introduce within their criminal justice systems appropriate procedures to enable drug abusers to be provided treatment and rehabilitation as a supplement to prison terms.

3. Have agreed to make the following recommendations on awareness-raising, training, and building and enhancing the region's law enforcement capacity to successfully counter drug trafficking:

(a) As a part of their national strategy to combat drug trafficking and cross-border crime, Governments should be encouraged to actively support the Airport Communication Project of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and establish joint airport interdiction task forces at their international airports;

(b) Governments should review the training, equipment and preparedness of their law enforcement authorities to be able to respond to the threat posed by amphetamine-type stimulants and their illicit manufacture;

(c) Governments should commit their chemical-control authorities to registering with, supporting and actively participating in the Pre-Export Notification Online system offered by the International Narcotics Control Board so as to be able to confirm the legitimacy of commercial parties and their transactions of precursor chemicals;

(d) States participating in meetings of heads of national drug law enforcement agencies, Africa, should review relevant domestic legislation with a view to aligning it with the international drug conventions and in order to strengthen harmonization at the subregional and regional levels;

(e) States participating in meetings of heads of national drug law enforcement agencies, Africa, should commit themselves to increasing resources for public education for demand reduction, including the use of resources resulting from seizures.

4. Have also agreed to make the following recommendations, after consideration by the working groups of the issues set out in the agenda of the Twenty-second Meeting:

(a) States participating in meetings of heads of national drug law enforcement agencies, Africa, should continue the implementation of the recommendations made by the Twentieth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Africa, held in Nairobi from 13 to 17 September 2010, to ensure the effectiveness of the fight against the threat posed by illicit drugs;

(b) States participating in meetings of heads of national drug law enforcement agencies, Africa, should strengthen their mechanisms for the monitoring of licit manufacture, import, distribution, export and use of narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and chemical precursors, in line with the provisions of the three international drug control conventions (the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961 as amended by the 1972 Protocol,^b the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971^c and the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988,^d as well as related resolutions of the Economic and Social Council and the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, to prevent the diversion of those substances into illicit channels while ensuring that they are available for legitimate purposes, and work with or request the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, in close collaboration and consultation with the International Narcotics Control Board, to provide training to national competent authorities in this regard;

(c) States participating in meetings of heads of national drug law enforcement agencies, Africa, should cooperate with the International Narcotics Control Board and submit all mandatory and voluntary reports in accordance with the above-mentioned conventions and related resolutions of the Economic and Social Council and the Commission on Narcotic Drugs;

(d) States participating in meetings of heads of national drug law enforcement agencies, Africa, are encouraged to continue to pursue the establishment of a common platform for the sharing of secure information and joint investigations of cross-border crimes, building upon experience gained through successful subregional joint operational initiatives;

^b United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 976, No. 14152.

^c Ibid., vol. 1019, No. 14956.

^d Ibid., vol. 1582, No. 27627.

(e) Bilateral agreements between competent national authorities should be promoted to facilitate the fight against the threat posed by illicit drugs;

(f) States participating in meetings of heads of national drug law enforcement agencies, Africa, should commit themselves to considering ways to further strengthen domestic action in respect of drug-related issues, including continued capacity-building and increased human and budgetary resources for law enforcement agencies;

(g) The competent national authorities of States participating in meetings of heads of national drug law enforcement agencies, Africa, should register with and/or continue to share real-time information on legitimate trade in precursor chemicals through the Pre-Export Notification Online system and should make active use of the new Precursor Incident Communication System to share real-time intelligence on precursor seizures, thefts, shipments stopped in transit, diversions and diversion attempts, and illicit laboratories;

(h) The competent national authorities of States participating in meetings of heads of national drug law enforcement agencies, Africa, should share information on the amphetamine-type stimulants phenomenon with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, through, inter alia, its global Synthetics Monitoring: Analysis, Reporting and Trends programme.

5. Call on the international community to continue to recognize the efforts undertaken by Africa in the global fight against illicit drugs and to seize the opportunity thus provided to enhance support for national drug law enforcement initiatives and capacity-building efforts in the continent.

B. Recommendations adopted by the Twenty-second Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Africa

2. The Twenty-second Meeting adopted the recommendations set forth below, which had been drawn up by its working groups. For the observations and conclusions of the working groups that led to the recommendations, see chapter IV below.

Issue 1. Effective responses to meet the challenges of illicit cultivation of, and trafficking in, cannabis

3. The following recommendations were made with regard to effective responses to meet the challenges of illicit cultivation of, and trafficking in, cannabis:

(a) Governments should be encouraged to undertake surveys and in-depth studies of the threat that cannabis cultivation, trafficking and abuse pose in order to support the development of national strategies that act effectively to combat their damaging impact;

(b) Governments must consider alternative development strategies that invest in the infrastructure and equipment needed to support the social and human development of rural populations whose livelihoods are dependent upon the illicit cultivation of cannabis;

(c) Governments should ensure that their law enforcement authorities are well trained, equipped and coordinated with other national actors in their response to regional trafficking in cannabis.

Issue 2. Good practices and strategies in the treatment and rehabilitation of drug abusers

4. The following recommendations were made with regard to good practices and strategies in the treatment and rehabilitation of drug abusers:

(a) Governments should be encouraged to gather factual, reliable and comprehensive information concerning the situation in their countries with respect to both drug trafficking and illicit drug use, so as to develop and implement effective strategies to combat drug abuse and reduce its impact on their communities;

(b) Governments should review their current strategies to ensure that affordable treatment and prevention services covering a broad range of addictions are available to their citizens affected by illicit drug use and drug dependence;

(c) Governments should be encouraged to introduce within their criminal justice systems appropriate procedures to enable drug abusers to be provided treatment and rehabilitation as a supplement to prison terms.

Issue 3. Awareness-raising, training, and building and enhancing the region's law enforcement capacity to successfully counter drug trafficking

5. The following recommendations were made with regard to awareness-raising, training, and building and enhancing the region's law enforcement capacity to successfully counter drug trafficking:

(a) As a part of their national strategy to combat illicit drug trafficking and cross-border crime, Governments should be encouraged to actively support the Airport Communication Project (AIRCOP) of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and establish joint airport interdiction task forces at their international airports;

(b) Governments should review the training, equipment and preparedness of their law enforcement authorities to be able to respond to the threat posed by amphetamine-type stimulants and their illicit manufacture;

(c) Governments should commit their chemical control authorities to registering, supporting and actively participating in the Pre-Export Notification Online (PEN Online) system offered by the International Narcotics Control Board so as to be able to confirm the legitimacy of commercial parties and their transactions of precursor chemicals.

II. Current situation with respect to regional and subregional cooperation in countering drug trafficking

6. At its 1st and 2nd meetings, on 25 June 2012, the Meeting considered agenda item 3, entitled "Current situation with respect to regional and subregional cooperation in countering drug trafficking". For its consideration of the item, the

Meeting had before it the report of the Secretariat on statistics on drug trafficking trends in Africa and worldwide (UNODC/HONLAF/22/2) and a conference room paper entitled “Current situation with respect to regional and subregional cooperation in countering drug trafficking” (UNODC/HONLAF/22/CRP.1). In addition, national reports were submitted by Djibouti, Uganda, Togo, Nigeria, Botswana, Egypt, Mozambique, Zambia, Ghana, Morocco, Benin, Côte d’Ivoire, Algeria, South Africa, Mauritius, Kenya and Zimbabwe (UNODC/HONLAF/22/CRP.2-18).

7. A representative of UNODC introduced the item and made an audiovisual presentation on drug trafficking trends in the region in the context of global drug trafficking. The presentation was based on information provided by Governments to UNODC. The representatives of Kenya, Nigeria, Ghana, Togo, Sierra Leone, Egypt, Morocco, Benin, Burkina Faso, Zimbabwe, Mauritius, Côte d’Ivoire, Algeria and Botswana made statements.

8. Representatives at the Meeting reported on the difficulties encountered by law enforcement agencies, including the shift from transit to consumer status and an increase in drug abusers. Some delegates attributed this change to factors such as porous border points, weaknesses in law enforcement capacity, insufficient quality-control measures and lack of analytical and in-depth studies on drugs and their impact. Cannabis remained the most widely cultivated, trafficked and abused drug across the region. Some delegates reported on emerging challenges for law enforcement in countering cannabis, including the presence of armed militias to intimidate police and deter them from taking measures against cannabis farms, which are taking over vegetable farms, particularly in border areas.

9. The Meeting discussed drug prevention strategies, including sensitization programmes in schools, military establishments and villages where cultivation takes place, in addition to the development of integrated preventive strategies and activities between various health institutions, rehabilitation centres and judicial authorities. Representatives also reported on associated challenges such as inadequate treatment and rehabilitation facilities.

10. Furthermore, representatives at the Meeting reported on regional cooperation and sought to further improve cooperation at the regional, subregional and international levels, including on priority issues such as investigation techniques and infiltration and interception of communications between drug traffickers, and to further provide pursuit units with adequate intelligence capabilities to counter drug trafficking.

III. Implementation of the recommendations adopted by the Twentieth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Africa

11. At its 2nd meeting, on 25 June 2012, the Twenty-second Meeting considered agenda item 4, entitled “Implementation of the recommendations adopted by the Twentieth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Africa”. The Twenty-second Meeting had before it a paper prepared by the Secretariat (UNODC/HONLAF/22/3) on the basis of information provided by Governments in

response to a questionnaire sent to all States participating in the Meeting. As of 18 May 2012, replies had been received from the Governments of Algeria, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Djibouti, Egypt, Ghana, Nigeria, Togo, Uganda and Zambia. Since that date, completed questionnaires had been submitted by Benin, Kenya, Madagascar, Mauritius, Morocco and South Africa.

12. A representative of the Secretariat made an introductory statement summarizing the main issues to be reported on by Governments regarding implementation of the recommendations at the national level.

13. During the discussion of the item, the representative of Kenya provided an update on progress in implementation at the national level, emphasizing actions taken by Governments to implement the recommendations adopted by the Twentieth Meeting.

14. It was noted that only a few countries had returned the questionnaires on the implementation of recommendations to UNODC and that in the future Governments should be encouraged to send reliable statistics to the Secretariat on the implementation of recommendations at the national level.

IV. Consideration of topics by working groups and presentation by the Police Division of the Office of Rule of Law and Security Institutions, Department of Peacekeeping Operations

15. At its 3rd to 6th meetings, held on 26 and 27 June 2012, the Meeting established working groups to examine three issues under agenda item 5, entitled "Consideration of topics by working groups". The observations made by the participants in the working groups and the conclusions they reached are presented below. The recommendations made by the participants in the working groups and adopted at the Meeting are included in chapter I above.

Issue 1. Effective responses to meet the challenges of illicit cultivation of, and trafficking in, cannabis

16. The working group on issue 1 held two meetings, on 26 June 2012. In its consideration of the topic under review, the working group made the following observations:

(a) Cannabis was the most widely produced, trafficked and consumed drug in Africa. The ease and diversity of its cultivation facilitated its production in steep mountainous areas, in forests and on highly productive arable land, contributing to its ready availability to African consumers;

(b) The extent of illicit cannabis production in individual States in Africa had not been accurately assessed;

(c) The financial importance of cannabis to both the rural communities that grow it and the trafficking networks that distribute it heightened the danger authorities faced when acting to eradicate illicit crops and dismantle trafficking networks;

(d) Crime groups engaged in the cross-border trafficking of cannabis were well equipped with modern vehicles, fast vessels and sophisticated communications and were sometimes better prepared than the national law enforcement authorities tasked with their arrest;

(e) Well-funded alternative development programmes targeting cannabis cultivation in rural communities encouraged conservation, good land management and sustainable future development;

(f) In some rural areas the illicit cultivation of cannabis was replacing the cultivation of staple crops such as rice, cassava and yams, thus creating a threat to food security and leading to conflicts among tribes and families over land use.

17. The working group drew the following conclusions:

(a) Cannabis abuse adversely affected the productivity and achievements of African communities and posed a direct and serious threat to the health of their citizens;

(b) The Governments of Africa needed accurate information on the volume of domestic cultivation of cannabis and its trafficking so as to be able to best respond to the threat they posed to health, security and future community development;

(c) For the success of alternative development programmes targeting illicit cannabis cultivation by rural communities, stakeholders such as civil society, elected officials, and community and religious leaders must be involved;

(d) Successful cannabis eradication policies required an accurate diagnosis of the situation through surveys and in-depth studies, investment in human and material resources to execute control plans and the implementation of accompanying measures and development programmes;

(e) Law enforcement authorities and persons engaged in tackling cannabis trafficking needed to be well trained and suitably equipped if they were to match the growing sophistication of the criminal groups operating in the region.

Issue 2. Good practices and strategies in the treatment and rehabilitation of drug abusers

18. The working group on issue 2 held two meetings, on 26 and 27 June 2012. In its consideration of the topic under review, the working group made the following observations:

(a) Drug addiction was a health disorder and should be recognized and addressed as such in the treatment and rehabilitation policies and programmes of States;

(b) At present comparable information concerning illicit drugs, their use and drug dependence was very difficult to obtain, as different agencies (law enforcement, health, treatment) held collections of data in isolation, and that information needed to be amalgamated;

(c) More public funding was needed for dedicated facilities that met the specialized but linked needs of treatment and rehabilitation. At present, many

African treatment facilities were part of psychiatric hospitals and could offer only limited assistance;

(d) Young drug offenders were at particular risk when custodial jail sentences for drug abuse were handed down. Treatment, social assistance and social reintegration programmes should be considered as alternatives to the usual penal measures;

(e) Competing priorities for national budgets added to the difficulty of providing affordable, diversified and effective prevention and treatment services for the poor, disadvantaged and socially isolated in the community.

19. The working group drew the following conclusions:

(a) Policymakers needed factual, objective, reliable and comparable information concerning illicit drugs, their use, numbers of people seeking or receiving treatment and supply reduction statistics to develop effective drug control strategies and policies;

(b) Political commitment and budgetary support were essential in promoting and implementing effective drug control strategies, and each country should have in place a national drug strategy that was comprehensive, balanced and tailored to its specific needs;

(c) New approaches for dealing with offenders who are drug abusers, such as outreach programmes for young people, alternative sentencing and specialized training for prison officers working with drug-dependent inmates, should be encouraged and implemented;

(d) Persons affected by illicit drug use and drug dependence, together with their family members, needed access to affordable prevention and treatment services.

Issue 3. Awareness-raising, training, and building and enhancing the region's law enforcement capacity to successfully counter drug trafficking

20. The working group on issue 3 held two meetings, on 27 June 2012. In its consideration of the topic under review, the working group made the following observations:

(a) Effective law enforcement responses to drug trafficking through the international airports of the African region required more cooperation between all the agencies working at those air borders;

(b) Cooperation between law enforcement agencies (customs, immigration and police) in the sharing of information or in undertaking operations at airports was yet to be achieved at many of the international airports in Africa;

(c) International assistance through programmes such as Aircop of UNODC, the European Union's Operation Westbridge and direct bilateral assistance between States added to the capacity of African law enforcement authorities' ability to counter drug trafficking;

(d) The African region had had its fair share of challenges in drug control, including heroin trafficking from South-East Asia, transatlantic cocaine trafficking and instability following the influx of Latin American drug cartels into the Gulf of

Guinea, all while States were still grappling with serious issues of poverty, their economies and conflicts;

(e) Amphetamine-type stimulants, their abuse and growing evidence of their manufacture in West Africa were of concern to African authorities;

(f) African States faced a number of common challenges when confronting the manufacture of amphetamine-type stimulants, including weak or non-existent legislation, the diversion of chemicals by companies granted official permits, the ability of private individuals to import chemicals, over-the-counter sales of precursor chemicals and lack of public knowledge about the dangerous and toxic effects associated with the manufacture of amphetamine-type stimulants.

21. The working group drew the following conclusions:

(a) The UNODC AIRCOP programme, which supported the establishment of inter-agency joint airport interdiction task forces in Africa's international airports and then linked them together and to the international law enforcement databases and communication networks of the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) and the World Customs Organization, could help to build capacity and strengthen the drug-interdiction capabilities at those international borders;

(b) Drug law enforcement would be more effective if more were done to promote information- and intelligence-sharing between services at the national and international levels and if a mutually supportive intelligence-led approach to countering drug trafficking were encouraged by their senior managers;

(c) There was an urgent need to raise the awareness of front-line border control officers such as customs services to the danger of misdescription of precursor chemicals and to encourage the sharing between authorities of information about the *modi operandi* of diversion attempts detected;

(d) Law enforcement authorities were confronted with critical safety issues when dealing with clandestine laboratory operations, including a lack of general understanding of the explosive nature of the chemical process and the dangerous build-up of poisonous gases; the lack of personal protective equipment, such as gas masks, respirators, protective suits and dangerous-gas detectors; and the lack of specialized training for personnel involved in the destruction process.

Presentation by the Police Division of the Office of Rule of Law and Security Institutions, Department of Peacekeeping Operations

22. Following the working group discussion on agenda item 5 (c), a representative of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations at the Secretariat, Office of Rule of Law and Security Institutions, Police Division made a presentation outlining the Division's capacity-building programme for police services within the 12 peacekeeping operations led by the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the 7 special political missions led by the Department of Political Affairs of the Secretariat. The speaker informed the meeting about police training, operational support and related areas of technical assistance delivered by the Department of Peacekeeping Operations under its mandate, including its role of assisting host States in establishing and operationalizing transnational organized crime units within the multi-agency West Africa Coast Initiative.

V. 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

23. At its 7th meeting, on 28 June 2012, the Meeting considered agenda item 6, 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”. For its consideration of the item, the Meeting had before it the Political Declaration adopted by the General Assembly at its twentieth special session (A/64/92-E/2009/98, sect. II.A).

24. The Secretary of the Meeting made an introductory statement, followed by a detailed presentation on the launch of a special UNODC report on West Africa that emphasized the regional and continent-wide dimensions of illicit manufacture of and trafficking in amphetamine-type stimulants, particularly methamphetamine. The report highlighted that the criminal organizations involved looked for ways to avoid effective law enforcement and precursor controls in order to traffic amphetamine-type stimulants to other parts of the world, primarily East and South-East Asia.

25. The report was produced by the UNODC global Synthetics Monitoring: Analyses, Reporting and Trends (SMART) programme, which aims to assist Governments in key regions of the world in generating, managing, analysing, reporting and using information on illicit synthetic drugs so that they can design effective policy and programme interventions.

26. The Meeting discussed the various challenges encountered by law enforcement agents in combating amphetamine-type stimulants and agreed, *inter alia*, that those substances posed a serious and constantly evolving challenge to their efforts, a challenge that threatened the security, health and welfare of local communities, particularly the young population.

27. Representatives from Benin, Ghana, Nigeria and Togo emphasized the importance of sharing and disseminating information through existing networks and strengthening the capacity of national investigative laboratories, and called on UNODC to lend support to such efforts. Furthermore, participants agreed that community-based units had a role to play in supporting awareness-raising and sensitization programmes targeting schools, churches, mosques and other places of worship.

28. The Meeting was informed about the upcoming high-level review of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action in 2014, and participants were requested to provide recommendations on ways to support that review.

VI. Organization of the Twenty-third Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Africa

29. At its 7th meeting, on 28 June 2012, the Twenty-second Meeting considered agenda item 7, entitled “Organization of the Twenty-third Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Africa”. For its consideration of the item, the Twenty-second Meeting had before it document UNODC/HONLAF/22/4.

30. The Secretary made an introductory statement outlining the background for the preparations leading up to the Twenty-third Meeting, to be held in 2013.

31. The Twenty-second Meeting discussed the timing of the Twenty-third Meeting and recommended that it should take place after the summer, preferably in September, October or November.

32. Various representatives, including those from Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire and Nigeria, suggested that UNODC establish a rotation system to encourage States members of the Economic Commission for Africa to host the meetings of HONLEA, Africa.

33. The following topics were proposed for discussion by working groups at the Twenty-third Meeting:

(a) How Governments across the continent are addressing access to services and treatment for illicit drug users;

(b) How collaboration between Government agencies, stakeholders and civil society can become closer and more structured to meet the challenges of illicit drugs facing Africa's communities;

(c) The problem of illicit sales of pharmaceutical products.

34. Additionally, the Meeting suggested the following methodology in order to improve the content and format of meetings:

(a) Participating States and partners should be invited to present their documented best practices to the meetings of HONLEA, Africa, for sharing, circulation and promotion of professional approaches;

(b) UNODC should be encouraged to prepare further specialist inputs and/or research topics and to prepare research papers on issues relevant to the agenda of meetings of HONLEA, Africa, including demand and supply reduction, in accordance with the report on amphetamine-type stimulants that was launched at the Meeting.

35. The Twenty-second Meeting approved the following draft provisional agenda for the Twenty-third Meeting, to be finalized by the secretariat in collaboration with interested African States:

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda.
3. Current situation with respect to regional and subregional cooperation in countering drug trafficking.
4. Implementation of the recommendations adopted by the Twenty-first Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Africa.
5. Consideration of topics by working groups: *[to be determined]*.
6. 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.
7. Organization of the Twenty-fourth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Africa.

8. Other business.
9. Adoption of the report.

VII. Other business

36. At its 8th meeting, on 29 June 2012, the Twenty-second Meeting considered agenda item 8, entitled “Other business”, focusing primarily on the deliberations and discussions on the Accra declaration.

37. The Meeting also heard a presentation organized by the host country for the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, 26 June, by members of youth organizations who were either current or recovered drug addicts. The presenters gave personal accounts of their experiences with drug abuse and provided insights into their encounters with law enforcement agencies and support groups such as churches and rehabilitation centres.

VIII. Adoption of the report

38. At its 8th meeting, on 29 June 2012, the Twenty-second Meeting adopted its report, including the draft resolution entitled “Accra declaration” (see chap. I.A). The reports of the working groups and the recommendations contained therein, as orally revised, were also adopted.

IX. Organization of the Meeting

A. Opening and duration of the Meeting

39. The Twenty-second Meeting of HONLEA, Africa, organized by UNODC and hosted by the Government of Ghana, was held in Accra from 25 to 29 June 2012. The host Government organized an opening ceremony at which statements were made by Government officials at the ministerial level. W. K. Aboah, Minister of Interior, delivered a welcome address on behalf of the Head of State. The representative of the Executive Director of UNODC also made an opening statement.

B. Attendance

40. The following States members of the Economic Commission for Africa were represented at the Twenty-second Meeting of HONLEA, Africa: Algeria, Angola, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Côte d’Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Egypt, Ghana, Kenya, Madagascar, Mauritius, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Sudan, Togo, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

41. The following States were represented by observers: Canada, France, Germany, Israel, Italy, Russian Federation, Spain, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and United States of America.

42. The Economic Community of West African States and the Department of Peacekeeping Operations of the Secretariat were represented by observers.

C. Election of officers

43. At its 1st meeting, on 25 June 2012, the Meeting elected the following officers by acclamation:

Chair: Kofi Bentum Quantson (Ghana)
Vice-Chairs: Arouna Ouedraogo (Burkina Faso)
 Mimoun el-Maghraoui (Morocco)
Rapporteur: Solomon Caulker (Sierra Leone)

D. Adoption of the agenda

44. Also at its 1st meeting, the Twenty-second Meeting of HONLEA, Africa, adopted the following agenda:

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda.
3. Current situation with respect to regional and subregional cooperation in countering drug trafficking.
4. Implementation of the recommendations adopted by the Twentieth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Africa.
5. Consideration of topics by working groups:
 - (a) Effective responses to meet the challenges of illicit cultivation of, and trafficking in, cannabis;
 - (b) Good practices and strategies in the treatment and rehabilitation of drug abusers;
 - (c) Awareness-raising, training, and building and enhancing the region's law enforcement capacity to successfully counter drug trafficking.
6. 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, adopted at the high-level segment of the fifty-second session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs.
7. Organization of the Twenty-third Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Africa.
8. Other business.
9. Adoption of the report of the Twenty-second Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Africa.

E. Documentation

45. The documents before the Twenty-second Meeting are listed in the annex.

X. Closure of the Meeting

46. Closing remarks were made by the Chair of the Meeting.

Annex

List of documents before the Twenty-second Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Africa

<i>Document symbol</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>	<i>Title or description</i>
UNODC/HONLAF/22/1	2	Provisional agenda, annotations and programme of work
UNODC/HONLAF/22/2	3	Statistics on drug trafficking trends in Africa and worldwide
UNODC/HONLAF/22/3	4	Implementation of the recommendations adopted by the Twentieth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Africa
UNODC/HONLAF/22/4	7	Organization of the Twenty-third Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Africa
UNODC/HONLAF/22/L.1 and Add.1-5	9	Draft report
UNODC/HONLAF/22/CRP.1	3	Current situation with respect to subregional and regional cooperation in countering drug trafficking
UNODC/HONLAF/22/CRP.2-18	3	Country reports
UNODC/HONLAF/22/L.2	8	Draft resolution