

2 November 2012

English only*

**Thirty-sixth Meeting of Heads of National Drug
Law Enforcement Agencies, Asia and the Pacific**

Bangkok, 30 October-2 November 2012

Agenda item 9

Adoption of the report

Draft report

Rapporteur: Mr. Mark Day (New Zealand)

Addendum

Consideration of topics by working groups

(c) Undertaking cross-border investigations: the challenges of multi-jurisdictional investigations, case studies of significant operations and lessons learned

1. The working group on the above topic met during the 5th meeting, held on 1 November 2012. In its consideration of the topic in question, the working group formulated the following observations:

(a) A significant number of illicit drug and precursor offences are transnational in nature and require enquiries to be initiated by law enforcement authorities in foreign jurisdictions;

(b) Investigating the actions of African organized crime groups operating illicit drug trafficking networks into and through the region is a challenge to law enforcement authorities who are confronted with gathering information and evidence of their illegal activities from different countries and jurisdictions;

(c) Not all African States have diplomatic representation in the Asia-Pacific region, making contact with national authorities following the arrest of African nationals attempting to traffic illicit drugs a problem;

(d) Trust in professional counterparts is the cornerstone of successful collaboration and working partnerships between agencies and when assistance is

* English is the working language of the subsidiary body.



requested from foreign interlocutors in undertaking investigations of drug trafficking syndicates;

(e) As the countries of ASEAN move toward closer regional economic integration, so must their law enforcement authorities take steps to develop integrated practices and procedures that will support an effective regional response to combating drug trafficking.

2. The working group drew the following conclusions:

(a) Border agencies must effectively use the time needed for the travel of passengers and freight to their advantage, and start the risk assessment and profiling checks in advance of the arrival of suspects and/or suspicious consignments;

(b) Authorities must develop collaborative working practices, to be effective against illicit drug trafficking syndicates. Border initiatives such as the Joint Planning Cell (JPC) hosted by Iran (Islamic Republic of), the Border Liaison Office (BLO) initiatives of the law enforcement agencies of the South East Asia region and the Thailand-based Foreign Anti Narcotics Cooperative (FANC) directly support operational coordination;

(c) To act effectively against the illegal activities of African organized crime groups operating in the region, law enforcement and judicial authorities must develop closer cooperation in the timely sharing of intelligence gathered on the members of these groups and their operations; identify and share details of national contact points specialized in the investigation of Africa crime group operations; and engage with the media to raise public awareness about the dangers of acting as a courier for these syndicates;

(d) The ASEAN Secretariat regional initiative Airport Interdiction Task Force (AITF) established to support operational cooperation between the region's airport based law enforcement authorities and to target illicit drug trafficking and other cross-border organized crime, offers a practical step toward closer regional integration;

3. The working group adopted the following recommendations:

(a) Where they have not already done so, Governments of the region should take steps to encourage their law enforcement authorities based at their international airports to work collaboratively, including in the creation of inter-agency task forces to pool professional experience and knowledge available to address illicit drug trafficking and related organized crime by air;

(b) In response to the increasingly complex methods employed by trafficking networks operating into and through the region, Governments need to support their law enforcement authorities and prosecutors to launch domestic and cross-border intelligence-led investigations against high-profile syndicate targets in order to collaboratively investigate, arrest and prosecute them;

(c) In anticipation of requests for assistance in the investigation of cross-border drug trafficking offences from foreign law enforcement agencies, Governments should act proactively to establish practice, procedure and Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) that will facilitate a response when overseas investigations require their operational support.