

29 June 2012

Arabic, English and French only*

**Twenty-second Meeting of Heads of National
Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Africa**

Accra, 25-29 June 2012

Agenda item 9

Adoption of the report**Draft report***Rapporteur:* Solomon Caulker (Sierra Leone)**Addendum****Consideration of topics by working groups****Issue (c): Awareness-raising, training, building and enhancing the region's law enforcement capacity to successfully counter drug trafficking**

1. The working group 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 combat illicit drug trafficking through the international airports of the Africa region requires more cooperation between all the agencies working at these air borders;

(b) Inter-agency cooperation between law enforcement agencies (Customs, immigration and police) in the sharing of information or in coordination in undertaking operations at airports is still yet to be achieved at many of the international airports in Africa;

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

(d) The region of Africa has had its fair share of challenges in drug control. Heroin trafficking from South-East Asia, transatlantic cocaine trafficking, the instability following the influx of Latin American drug cartels into the

* Arabic, English and French are the working languages of the subsidiary body.



Gulf of Guinea, all the while States are 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 are of concern to African authorities;

(f) African States face a number of common challenges when confronting ATS manufacture, 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 on the dangerous and toxic effects associated with ATS manufacture.

2. The working group drew up the following conclusions:

(a) The UNODC programme AIRCOP, that supports the establishment of inter-agency Joint Airport Interdiction Task Forces (JAITF) in Africa's international airports and then links them together and to the international law enforcement databases and communication networks of INTERPOL and the World Customs Organization, is a valuable initiative that will strengthen the drug-interdiction capacities at these international borders;

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

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

(d) Law enforcement authorities are confronted with critical safety issues when handling clandestine laboratory operations. These include a lack of general understanding of the explosive nature of the chemical process, the dangerous build-up of poisonous gas and the lack of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) such as gas masks or respirators, protective suits, dangerous gas detectors.

3. The following recommendations were made with regard to the topic entitled Good practices and strategies in the treatment and rehabilitation of drug abusers:

(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 UNODC Aircop initiative and establish Joint Airport Interdiction Task Forces (JAITF) 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 register, support and actively participate in the Pre-Export Notification Online (PEN Online) system offered by the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB) so as to be able to confirm the legitimacy of commercial parties and their transactions of precursor chemicals.

**Presentation by the Police Division of the Office of Rule of Law and Security,
Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO)**

4. Following the working group discussion of Item 5 (c), a presentation was made by a representative from the United Nations Department of Peacekeeping Operations, Office of Rule of Law and Security Institutions, Police Division, outlining the Division's police capacity-building programme for police services within both the 12 DPKO-led peacekeeping operations and the 7 DPA-led special political missions. The speaker informed the meeting about the areas of police training, operational support and related areas of technical assistance DPKO delivered under its mandate including its role of assisting host-States to establish and operationalize Transnational Organized Crime Units within the multi-agency West African Coast Initiative.
