



**ORGANIZATION OF  
AFRICAN UNITY**

Secretariat  
P. O. Box 3243

الجامعة الإفريقية  
السكرتارية  
ص. ب. ٣٢٤٣

**ORGANISATION DE L'UNITE  
AFRICAIN**

Secretariat  
B. P. 3243

Addis Ababa .دبيس ابابا .\*

ORIGINAL: French

DISTRIBUTION: General

COUNCIL OF MINISTERS

THIRTY-FIFTH ORDINARY SESSION

18 - 28 June 1980

Freetown, Sierra Leone

CM/1058(XXXV)

REPORT ON THE CONTROL OF ABUSE

OF NARCOTIC DRUGS AND THEIR ILLICIT TRAFFIC IN AFRICA



REPORT ON THE CONTROL OF ABUSE  
OF NARCOTIC DRUGS AND THEIR ILLICIT TRAFFIC IN AFRICA

The African continent's accession to independence in the early '60's coincided with an international social situation which was translated into a decline of traditional moral and spiritual values for a new way of living characterised by increasing licentiousness of principles and the use of products aimed at relieving individuals from the realities of a sometimes unbearable daily life.

The strengthening of an essentially consumption society, the effect of the return of colonial troops from the Far East with newly acquired vices, the organisation of an extremely profitable drug traffic on an international scale which revealed that there was an immediately available and vast market among the youth, the confusion of this same youth which could not find an outlet for the search of ideals often jeered by a basically materialistic society, all these have profoundly changed the cultural and moral structures of a western world at the doors of Africa.

In its search for a new order based on justice and equality through a consistent socio-economic development, Africa should devote itself to fight illiteracy, poverty and hunger. In this venture, the relatively recent introduction of the use of narcotic drugs on our continent, constitutes, as affirmed recently by H.E. ABDOU DIOUF, Prime Minister of Senegal, a threat that "weighs on the morality, health and economy of African countries".

The use and traffic of narcotic drugs must be considered, at one and the same time, in its direct implications on the health of individuals and in its inevitable corollary namely the increase in criminality and particularly in juvenile delinquency.

1. The abuse of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances is an international phenomenon which seriously affects the life of individuals as well as that of nations.

This scourge degrades the human being, undermines his health, destroys the family unit, questions the moral and spiritual values and consequently becomes the great cause of unbearable physical and moral sufferings.

To the extent and as far as this scourge assumes gigantic dimensions it becomes a serious threat to the political, social and economic stability of nations.

During this last decade, the situation deteriorated considerably because of various factors. The excessive use of narcotic drugs spread to regions and groups which until then were not affected. The growth of air traffic, the improvement of means of communications, the excessive use and sale of new drugs on illicit markets, the stress and tension of modern life, the feelings of insecurity and frustration, the financial or health problems are often if not in most cases factors which contribute to this deterioration.

In their permanent search for new circuits to avoid the vigilance of international brigades for narcotic drugs traffic control, the drug traffickers found in some African countries both supply centres and relatively safe transit stations for narcotic drugs from the Middle and Far East towards their final destination, Europe and America.

Although the abuse of narcotic drugs is prevalent among all age groups and strata of society, it is undeniable that the youth tends to be its favourite area. For African youth, this is widely due to this type of "disco" culture imported from outside which explains that the understanding of a certain form of modern music is closely linked with the intake of narcotic drugs as being a means to be in the propulsive state for a complete assimilation of this type of "culture". It is not a fact that a "disco" star who boasts of not being able to excite the crowd without taking, before the show, his "pipe" or "piquouse", constitute for a number of youngsters a model of behaviour which his "fans" must imitate if they want to be in communion with their idol?

The propagation schemes and the trends of narcotic drugs use in Africa can thus be summarised:

- a) There is a rising curve of narcotic drugs intake;
- b) The opiates, barbiturates and non-barbiturate sedatives, the hypnotics are used increasingly while some countries report the ever-spreading use of various drugs;
- c) The cannabis and its by-products are the major illicit drugs while the psychotropic substances manufactured in Europe flood the clandestine market, especially in West Africa, causing serious concern to the governments.

2. The problem of nefarious effects of narcotic drugs on African society is singularly worsened by the simultaneous use of drugs and alcoholic drinks. It is an open secret that the consumption of alcohol in Africa is gradually assuming alarming proportions and that we are witnessing an increasingly marked transfer from consumption of weak alcoholic drinks such as beer to strong alcoholic drinks such as whisky, cognac etc...

The mixture of narcotic drugs and alcohol, apart from these effects which are already dangerous by themselves, assume catastrophic proportions in tropical climate regions.

And where governments have a relative control over dangerous narcotic drugs, Europe taught our youth to replace classical narcotic drugs by dangerous but inadequately controlled medicines which, when mixed with alcohol, produce the same effects.

3. The control of narcotic drugs must be considered from two different angles:

- a) Firstly, the developed countries exercise a rigid control over some products deemed dangerous because of their direct effects as well as their use by drug addicts as substitution products: It is the case of valium, librium and of products apparently as inoffensive as coridrane.

Unfortunately, African countries that impose the same control with so much rigidity are few. Besides, the foreign laboratories, suffering from the effect of restrictions imposed by WHO or their governments, see in Africa a vast market where their intervention is not carried out under constraints of deontology codes but most often on a purely mercantile basis.

- b) The international traffic of narcotic drugs is a super-profit generating trade and the traffickers unite with the strength and efficiency of their planetary organisation, equipped with enormous financial resources and fast imagination.

Thus under the rigid actions of international bodies charged with repressing narcotic drugs traffic, the centre of actions of traffickers moved from the Far East to the Middle East and then to Europe (particularly Genes and Marseille); and from Europe to Latin and North America.

Africa constituted, besides cannabis and in one case opium, a fertile ground, safe from narcotic drugs, therefore less likely to be the object of vigilance of the bodies specialized in repression of drugs. It should not be surprising that from then on the crime society saw in Africa not only new and relatively safe transit stations but also specially an important potential market.

4. Africa, therefore, with its present day innumerable difficulties in the economic construction is faced with otherwise dangerous problems which are insidious and difficult to control, created by the introduction of the use of narcotic drugs on our continent and its negative effects on ~~once~~ political, economic and social life.

The increasingly sharp awareness of these problems was at the basis of the two meetings organized in Africa:

- a) The African Seminar on the problems created by narcotic drugs - Lagos, 26 - 30 November 1979;
- b) The international symposium on drug problems in Francophone African countries - Dakar, 7 - 11 January 1980.

At the international level, the United Nations Commission on Narcotic Drugs held its Sixth Special Session in Vienna from 11 to 20 February 1980.

The OAU General Secretariat participated actively in the Dakar and Vienna meetings.

Following the contacts we had established, the discussions which took place and specially the formal request made by the African group of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs it was concluded that the problem should be raised at the level of the political bodies of our Organisation.

Meanwhile, it should also be reported that not only was Africa's position made known particularly at the Vienna meeting, but also that in a resolution 2065(LXII) ECOSOC recommended that a special attention be given Africa in this specific area.

5. In the light of the above, the concerns of the OAU General Secretariat and African members of the UN Commission on Narcotic Drugs appear very legitimate.

Africa with all her well-known difficulties cannot afford the luxuries of seeing the - scourge caused by narcotic. Drugs destroy her youth and consequently her future.

OAU should therefore reflect on the following:

- a) A strict control over the distribution of psychotropic substances, narcotic and sedatives of all kind in hospitals and in pharmacies;
- b) Establishment of restrictive list of these uncontrolled imported substances and administered without prescription and without medical control;
- c) Strengthen national and continental bodies of drug control (health, police, customs and competent services);

- d) Ban on the cultivation of products such as 'cannibis', poppy, kif or its strict control if that drug is cultivated exclusively for use by laboratories or pharmaceutical industries;
- e) The establishment of programmes on drugs and narcotic control in the sociological and epidemiologic fields;
- f) Increased training of specialised staff and strengthening of co-operation at the regional and continental levels;
- g) Programmes of information and education by mass-media on the dangers of drug taking;
- h) Programmes, when necessary, for social rehabilitation and integration of individual after disintoxication.

6. Concretely, ECOSOC Resolution 2065(LXII) as well as the recommendations of the Lagos and Dakar meetings may be used as basis for the drawing up of a practical programme of action at the continental level and at the level of co-operation with appropriate United Nations institutions.

Besides, in our mind the proposal made by the African group at the United Nations Commission on Narcotic Drugs, constitutes a vital move towards the control of this scourge. This proposal includes:

- The convening, as early as possible and under the auspices of the OAU, of a continental meeting of heads of narcotic services, who will include in their delegations representatives of appropriate services i.e. health, security, customs, etc...
- The establishment of a standing Committee.

7. Furthermore, the OAU General Secretariat hoped that Member States would:

- a) provide the General Secretariat with any available information relating to drug taking and drug-traffic in their respective countries. A questionnaire for that purpose will be sent to all Member States;

ECOSOC Res.2065 (LXII) - Special attention to be devoted to African countries in preventing and combating abuse of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling resolution II adopted by the United Nations Conference to consider amendments to the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, 1961, in which the Conference states that the fulfilment by the developing countries of their obligations under the Convention will be facilitated by adequate technical and financial assistance from the international community,

Recognizing that many African countries, particularly those south of the Sahara, lack the resources to enable them to fulfil their obligations under the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, 1961, and that Convention as amended by the 1972 Protocol, and under the 1971 Convention on Psychotropic Substances,

Taking note of the efforts so far made by certain specialized bodies of the United Nations to prevent and combat drug abuse in some African countries,

Noting that despite these efforts the actual situation in the field with regard to drug abuse is beginning to show undeniable signs of gravity,

1. Invites the Secretary-General to ensure that the various specialized bodies of the United Nations and the specialized agencies shall devote special attention to the African countries, particularly those south of the Sahara, and assign to them some measure of priority in their programmes designed to combat narcotic drug abuse, particularly in such fields as epidemiological and sociological surveys, technical assistance, personnel training, regional seminars, regional co-operation, treatment, social rehabilitation and reintegration, information and education and crop replacement;

2. Requests the Secretary-General to report to the Commission on Narcotic Drugs at its next session on the measures taken or planned.

In pursuance of Economic and Social Council Resolution 2065 (LXII), two regional seminars on problems of drug abuse were held in Lagos and Dakar.

(i) A seminar was held in Lagos, Nigeria in November 1979 for English speaking African countries;

(ii) A seminar was held in Dakar, Senegal in January 1980 for French speaking African countries.



- b) send delegates to the scheduled conference which, if approved by the Council of Ministers, will be held in October 1980;
- c) sign the international Convention on narcotic drugs:
  - i) 1961 Special Convention on narcotic Drugs as amended by the 1972 Protocol,
  - ii) 1972 Convention on Psychotropic substances.

8. It will be dangerous to under rate the problems created by narcotic drugs. This demands that our states take concrete decisions against drugs and all other factors which encourage them, namely, complaisance and corruption. We should especially show proof of realism, political and determined will to make the necessary financial sacrifices so that Africa, adequately armed, can effectively contribute to the international effort for the eradication of this scourge which poses a danger to the physical and normal health of our continent.

- (6) The illicit traffic across borders has been a constant concern of the participants; measures should be enforced to stop such traffic, transit or exportation of drugs. In this context the particular situation of African countries should be taken into consideration.
- (7) International and regional cooperation and resources should be sought to strengthen the combat against illicit traffic. The multidimensional nature of drug abuse and dependence requires closer coordination and active cooperation of the appropriate governmental and non-governmental agencies. It may be desirable for countries to establish formal, multidisciplinary bodies or agencies to address themselves to problems of drug dependence.
- (8) All African countries who are not parties to the International Conventions are urged to ratify these conventions as soon as possible and ensure appropriate implementation in their respective countries. To this end, assistance where needed should be provided by the United Nations Division on Narcotic Drugs.
- (9) Treatment and rehabilitation programs for drug dependent patients which are operating in other countries should be examined as they may be adapted to fit the special needs of African countries; utilizing the existing resources such as family ties, religious and cultural organizations and others, within existing community health services.
- (10) Appreciating the activities carried out by the various international agencies, in particular the United Nations Division of Narcotic Drugs, the World Health Organization and the International Council on Alcohol and Addictions in the field of drug abuse it is recommended that these organizations continue their activities and initiate programs on the African continent with the possible financial assistance of the UNFEDAC.
- (11) It is recommended that similar multi-disciplinary meetings are organized if possible on a continuous basis by the International Council on Alcohol and Addictions and the United Nations Division of Narcotic Drugs, with the possible support of UNFEDAC.

AFRICAN SEMINAR ON PROBLEMS  
OF DRUG DEPENDENCE  
LAGOS, NIGERIA

26 - 30 November 1979

R E C O M M E N D A T I O N S

Preamble

Drug abuse and the problems related to the abuse of dependence producing substances are widely prevalent in African countries and continue to increase.

These problems affect the individual, the family and society in general. The problems related to the abuse of dependence producing substances may have serious physical, mental and societal consequences. Absenteeism or poor work performance may lead to socio-economic crisis and loss of productivity.

The Seminar expressed its concern with the increasing abuse of amphetamines, cannabis and its preparations and with increased availability of psychotropic substances and recommends that efforts should be directed to:

- (1) The setting up of studies on the extent and patterns of drugs abuse.
- (2) The investigation of the T.C content of the cannabis grown in Africa which is reported to be more potent than cannabis grown elsewhere. The assistance of the UN Narcotics Laboratory is requested for this purpose.
- (3) The determination of the types of training necessary and the implementation of appropriate manpower training programs for individual African countries. Such training should include not only health personnel, but also law enforcement officers, educators and others concerned with and involved in the management of drug dependence.
- (4) The early detection of drug dependent persons and the detection of origins of supply and illicit traffic should be increased and evaluated periodically.
- (5) The existing health care services should be used for treatment and rehabilitation of drug dependent persons; provision must be made for their re-integration in the community.

- (12) It is recommended, that fact finding surveys should be initiated with the aim of establishing factual knowledge of the extent of the problem of drug abuse in African countries and also to provide policy makers with appropriate information to facilitate their task. Such surveys should, whenever possible, benefit from the assistance and expertise of international organizations and through the use of the Resource Book on Measures to Reduce Illicit Demands for Drugs published by the United Nations Division on Narcotic Drugs.

CM/1058 (XXXV)

Annex 111

INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR ON THE PROBLEMS OF NARCOTIC DRUGS  
IN FRENCH SPEAKING COUNTRIES

7 - 11 JANUARY, 1980

R E C O M M E N D A T I O N S

PREAMBULE

The following recommendations were sent to African Governments, continental, regional and sub-regional organizations in Africa and international organizations.

The seminar charged its Chairman to present these recommendations to the United Nations Commission on Narcotic Drugs and to initiate actions to ensure that these recommendations were sent to Governments and organizations concerned and that the programmes and projects recommended by the seminar were implemented.

The Seminar

Concerned with the extensive abuse of cannabis and the propagation of psychotropic substances in most of the African countries ,

Considering that because of the permeability of the borders, the measures of protection taken by certain countries can be effective only if similar measures are taken by neighbouring countries ,

1. Strongly recommends that African countries strengthen their regional cooperation within the framework of existing institutions and, particularly those of the Organization of African Unity and the Economic Commission for Africa.
2. Calls on African countries to intensify their bilateral and multilateral cooperation in all fields and, particularly direct exchange of information with a view to benefiting from the experience acquired by those countries of the continent which have succeeded in establishing systems of effective control

INCREASED PRIORITIES

The Seminar,

Conscious of the physical and moral health of the African peoples

Concerned with the threats that narcotic drugs constitute for the youth and the future of the society,

while recognising the need to strengthen the control of illicit traffic,

Noting that that so far in most african countries emphasis has been placed especially on repressive measures in combatting narcotic drugs,

Aware of the necessity of introducing preventive and curative measures, calls on international organizations connected with combatting narcotic drugs to increase their assistance to African countries

calls on the Chairman of the Seminar to communicate this recommendation to the following organizations :

RATIFICATION AND ACCESSION

The Seminar

Concerned about the massive importation into Africa of psychotropic substances; at times unknown to the authorities concerned,

Aware of the possibilities offered to the parties by treaties on narcotic drugs, with a view, especially to protecting their territory against any undesirable importation,

Noting the small number of African countries that have ratified the treaties particularly, the 1954 convention,

recommends that African countries which have not yet done so, should ratify these treaties or accede to them as early as possible,

SPECIAL ADMINISTRATION

The Seminar,

recalling the possibilities offered by the establishment of a special administration (national commission) pursuant to article 1 of the 1961 Convention and article 6 of the 1954 Convention so as to facilitate especially:

- the collaboration and coordination of the different appropriate national services, the use

- and transmission of information, both nationally and internationally,

- the assessment of the national situation and preparation of decisions,

1. Recommends that African countries which have not yet done so, should establish a national commission and

2. Calls on those which already have such national commissions, to increase their effectiveness, by particularly appointing, at the level of execution, an official responsible for ensuring technical link between the national commission and all national or international organizations connected with combatting narcotic drugs.



- 4 -

NARCOTICS LABORATORY

The Seminar,

Convinced that the absence of specialised laboratories for the analysis of drugs and control of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances,

recommends that the countries concerned should set up laboratories by utilising if necessary, the services of the laboratory of the United Nations Division on Narcotic Drugs.

NOMENCLATURE OF PSYCHOACTIVE MEDICINES

The Seminar,

Noting that in majority of African countries, the profusion of medicines in the markets make the control of psychotropic substances extremely difficult and the detection of cases of drug abuses practically impossible,

Recommends that African countries which have not yet done so, should :

1. Establish a national medicine nomenclature limiting the number of pharmaceutical preparations containing active psychotropic principles,
2. introduce a national system for control of medicines.

17 January 1980

UNITED NATIONS  
ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

E/CN.7/L.484

COMMISSION ON NARCOTIC DRUGS

Sixth special session

Agenda items 3 and 4

Draft resolutionINCREASED PRIORITY FOR THE CONTROL OF DRUG ABUSE AND  
ILLCIT TRAFFIC IN AFRICAN COUNTRIESAlgeria, Egypt, Kenya, Madagascar, Morocco,  
Senegal, Togo and Tunisia

The Commission on Narcotic Drugs recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following resolution:

The Economic and Social Council,

(a) Recalling its resolution 2065 (LXII) on special attention to be devoted to African countries in preventing and combating abuse of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances,

(b) Concerned at the growth of the abuse of cannabis and psychotropic substances in African countries,

(c) Conscious that problems connected with drug addiction affect African individuals, families and societies,

(d) Considering that African countries do not at present have the human, material and financial resources for effective control of drug abuse and illicit traffic,

(e) Welcoming the conclusions of the seminars organized at Lagos, Nigeria, and Dakar, Senegal, in November 1979 and January 1980 respectively,

1. Stresses the need to hold meetings on drugs regularly at the level of the African region;

2. Invites African countries which have not yet done so to accede to the international drug conventions, and in particular to the 1971 Convention on Psychotropic Substances;

3. Strongly recommends the African countries to strengthen their regional co-operation through existing institutions, particularly those of OAU, by, among other things, establishing a special commission;

4. Requests the Division of Narcotic Drugs, the United Nations specialized agencies and governmental and non-governmental organizations to increase their assistance to African countries, particularly in research, prevention and the treatment of drug addicts and in the training of law-enforcement and control officers;

5. Requests the Secretary-General, among other measures, to provide financial support for the implementation of this resolution and to submit it to the General Assembly.

Annex V

To His Excellency, Secretary General of the

OAU

ADDIS ABABA

ETHIOPIA

Your Excellency,

The members of the African group of the United Nations Commission on Narcotic Drugs met on the occasion of the Sixth Extraordinary Session of this commission, which was held in Vienna from 11 to 20 February 1980.

They hailed with satisfaction the two recent important seminars on the problems of drugs in African countries held in Lagos in November 1979 and in Dakar in January 1980. These two seminars helped to identify the importance and seriousness of problems linked with the excessive use and illicit traffic of drugs in African countries and the inadequacy of the means to find solutions to them as well as the fact that there is presently no cooperation between African countries in this field.

These two seminars further made vital recommendations which should be brought to the attention of all governments concerned. The African Group deplored the fact that at this last session of the United Nations Commission on Narcotic Drugs, as at those that preceded it, Africa continued to occupy an insignificant place in the programmes implemented within the framework of the international control of drug addiction at the illicit traffic of drugs. All the efforts and means were directed towards the countries of the Near, Middle and Far East.

However, at the initiative of the African delegations, a resolution, requesting that an increase priority be given to African countries in this field, was adopted by the commission at this session.

- 2 -

The African group hopes that these problems will be raised at the level of the political bodies of the Organization of African Unity so that appropriate measures could be taken and particularly the holding, as soon as possible, of a continental meeting and the establishment of a specialised commission.

Please accept, Your Excellency, the expression of our highest consideration.

(s) Ismail BOUZAR

Sous-Directeur de Pharmacie  
Ministère de la Santé Publique  
Alger -Algérie

(s) Mongi FOURATI

Directeur au Ministère de la Santé  
Publique  
TUNIS -Tunisie

(s) Amouzou KUEVI-BEKU

Pharmacien Inspecteur  
Directeur de la Division des Pharmacies  
Ministère de la Santé  
LOME -Togo

(s) Alfred ALOYS OUMA

Senior Inspector of Drugs  
United Nations Commission on  
Narcotic Drugs  
P.O Box 30016  
NAIROBI - Kenya

(s) Dr. Hilimy Abdel Nessim Ghali

Director of Khauka Mental Hospital  
Khauka,  
EGYPT

(s) Taieb Chkili

chef Hospital Asrazil Tale  
MOROCCO

(s) Dr. Mustafa Abduahmajid Kora

Ministry of Justice  
P.O Box 2224  
TRIPOLI  
Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya

(s) Monsieur le Professeur Agrégé

Issa LO  
153, rue Blanchot  
DAKAR -Senegal

(s) Philip Owagwele EMAFO

27, Turabull Road  
IKOYI LAGOS  
Nigeria

(s) Maurice RANDRIANAME

Commissaire de Police  
chef du Bureau central des Stupéfiants  
Ministère de l'Intérieur  
ANTANANARIVE  
Madagascar



AFRICAN UNION UNION AFRICAINE

African Union Common Repository

<http://archives.au.int>

---

Organs

Council of Ministers & Executive Council Collection

---

1980-06-18

# Report on the Control of Abuse of Narcotic Drugs and their Illicit Traffic in Africa

Organization of African Unity

Organization of African Unity

---

<https://archives.au.int/handle/123456789/10150>

*Downloaded from African Union Common Repository*