

- 1<sup>st</sup> conference on drug trafficking and substance abuse WIO countries - Mauritius

April 2023

# Objectives

- To assess the drug situation in the countries of the region;
- To take cognizance of the different drug related strategies & programmes available in the region for DSR, DDR, &HR.
- To reflect on existing mechanisms of co-ordination and collaboration between countries of the region
- To work out a Regional Strategy against drug trafficking and substance abuse
- To explore the feasibility of the setting up of Regional Drug Observatory (RDO).
- To establish a network of focal persons in countries of the WIO region

# Main drugs

Countries	Highlights
Union of Comoros	Cannabis , (few Heroin & NPS )
Djibouti	Cannabis & stimulants
France/ Reunion	Cannabis , Cocaine, MDMA, Ecstasy and new synthetic products.
Kenya	Cannabis , heroin
Madagascar	Cannabis & derivatives
Mauritius	Cannabis ,Heroin & NPS
Seychelles	Cannabis ,Heroin ,Cocaine, MDMA
South Africa	Cannabis , Heroin
Tanzania	Cannabis ,Khat & Heroin

# DSR

- All countries have legislations & LEA to deal with drug trafficking and drug use and related crimes
- Lengthy procedures allow disposal of assets by criminals.
- The surveillance of the vast maritime zone is a major challenge.
- Surveillance of inland and coastal borders is also very challenging
- Inadequate capacity across different sectors fighting drug trafficking and related crimes.
- Inadequate networking and sharing of information among countries

# DDR

- Prevention - IEC campaign
- Absence / Limited coverage of evidence-based Rx programmes in some countries due to scarce resources.
- Stigma and discrimination against PWUDs, still rampant in some countries.
- There is lack of professional skills and competencies in the field of drug addiction.
- Capacity building is a cross cutting issue for all key areas of DDR.
- Lack of resources is a major challenge to implement rehabilitation and social reintegration programmes in some countries.

# Regional Cooperation

- Existence of cooperation and sharing of information/experiences at some levels
- Agreements and regional plan with regard to maritime security including against drug trafficking have been finalised. (MASE)
- Ratification and implementation are still outstanding.
- Some countries have not yet signed the agreement.

# Acknowledgement

- ***Prevention***

Drug use prevention programmes should be evidence-based with special attention to vulnerable groups.

- ***Rx and rehab***

The health and psycho social impact of drug use to be addressed , through implementation of comprehensive RX ,Care & support evidence based models , exchanges of best practices and capacity building.

# Acknowledgement

- ***DSR***

Empowering law enforcement agencies with appropriate tools/harmonise legislations disrupt the supply chain and counter drug related financial crimes by tracking drug traffickers and their networks

- ***Regional and international cooperation***

Strengthening regional and international cooperation through collective and coordinated actions on issues and interests of common concern.



# Recommendations

- Need to set up or strengthen governance structure & institutional framework National level;
- To mobilise resources for sustainability of programmes;
- To develop partnership with international organisations;
- Swift sharing of information between relevant authorities both at national and regional level
- Harmonize laws as in the case of piracy for search and seizures of drugs;
- Common Vessel Tracking Monitoring Information System (VTMIS)
- Ratification of the MASE Agreement by countries concerned;
- Capacity building in the use of new mechanisms to analyse and identify patterns in financial transactions indicative of money laundering
- Strict control of Dangerous Drugs precursors

# Recommendations

- All policies, and programmes be in line with international guidelines
- Implementation of evidence-based programme including demand reduction, prevention, harm reduction, treatment and rehabilitation
- Strengthen data collection and documentation at national level
- Exchange of best practices and expertise;
- Capacity building in the field of treatment and rehabilitation

# Recommendations

- Need for Research and Training at all levels on the issue of drugs.
- Creation of a Regional Secretariat /Regional Agency for Drugs to coordinate, liaise, disseminate information to states .
- Setting up of a RDO
- A central, state of the art, Regional Toxicology laboratory
- Pooled procurement of Lab equipment, drug detection equipment and medicines to cut cost
- Nominate focal points in each of the countries of the region;
- Follow up meetings to be organised in order to sustain the regional collaboration in the fight against drug.
- Organise a Ministerial conference.

- Thank you