



Kingdom of the Netherlands



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ACCRA CALL TO ACTION ON DRUG MARKETS IN WEST AFRICA

AN OUTCOME OF THE HIGH-LEVEL DIALOGUE: MAPPING THE FUTURE OF DRUG MARKETS IN WEST AFRICA: SYNTHETICS, COCAINE, CRIMINAL MONEY AND STRATEGIC RESPONSES

**28 NOVEMBER 2025,
ACCRA, GHANA**

We, the present Ministers and Representatives participating in the high-level dialogue on Mapping the Future of Drug Markets in West Africa: Synthetics, Cocaine, Criminal Money and Strategic Responses, 28 November 2025, in Accra, Republic of Ghana.

Underscoring the concern that we share about the alarming and escalating situation regarding illicit drug markets in West Africa, which presents significant health and social harms, and poses complex peace, security and human rights challenges; as criminal networks involved in the drugs trade pose severe security threats leading to loss of integrity in public institutions, undermining economy through illicit financial flows, and entrenching criminality deeper into societies.

Recognizing the serious threats to health and human security posed by synthetic drug markets, including through the proliferation of potent new psychoactive substances across West Africa, and how dangerous substances negatively affect youth across the region.

Also recognizing the increase in cocaine trafficking into and through West Africa, and the severe security challenges this poses, including through the illicit financial flows generated by organized criminal groups controlling the cocaine trade.

Emphasizing that the persistent and emerging challenges that we face are not isolated to any one country in the region, and that they affect not only this region, but others across the African continent, the European continent and beyond.

Acknowledging the previous and existing international efforts undertaken to address drug market challenges in West Africa, and initiatives that have been undertaken in partnership with governments and civil society.

Highlighting the vital importance of generating a diverse and science-based range of evidence to inform policy responses tailored to the rapidly emerging and evolving drug market challenges in the region.

Appreciating the need for transnational expertise and capacity from across all sectors of government, supplemented by expertise and capacity from civil society and other



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stakeholders, to form a more effective international response with the full involvement of a broad and diverse array of international and regional organizations in pursuit of coherent evidence-based policy.

Acknowledging the fundamental importance of international criminal cooperation in ensuring that transnational organised crime is effectively addressed and offenders cannot evade accountability by crossing borders.

We undertake and endeavour to:

1. Work together, across borders and sectors, to put in place a more effective range of policies and operational programmes, based on evidence, to reduce harms, increase public safety and protect communities, particularly youth and those most marginalized.
2. Consider effective evidence-based responses to reducing drug demand, including looking at effective prevention-based approaches, treatment, and reintegration grounded in public health and human rights.
3. Strengthen efforts to generate a broad range of evidence and allow it to be debated through an open environment for researchers and analysts.
4. Support the development and implementation of strategic and tailored policy and operational responses to disrupt transnational organized illicit drug markets, based on health, human rights and the rule of law.
5. Support the participation of diverse stakeholders, including people who use drugs, service providers, civil society and academia, in the design and implementation of relevant policies and programmes.
6. Bolster support for policies and programmes to be rolled out through regional and international mechanisms.
7. Share information within and beyond West Africa to strengthen early warning systems, and empower pro-active, evidence-based responses to emerging drug challenges.
8. Exchange best practices across and beyond West Africa to promote the most effective and evidence-based policies within our region.
9. Endeavour to combat transnational organised crime by enhancing cooperation in criminal matters between States inter alia by promoting more efficient communication between central authorities for mutual legal assistance.

We commit to meeting again in various formats and forums to maintain momentum in developing a more effective and strategic set of responses to drug markets in West Africa that puts health, human rights and the rule of law at its core.

Agreed at Accra
November 2025