



# Africa's Best Practices in Drug Use Prevention, Treatment and Recovery

**XX MEETING OF THE DEMAND REDUCTION CONTROL COMMISSION**

**Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission**

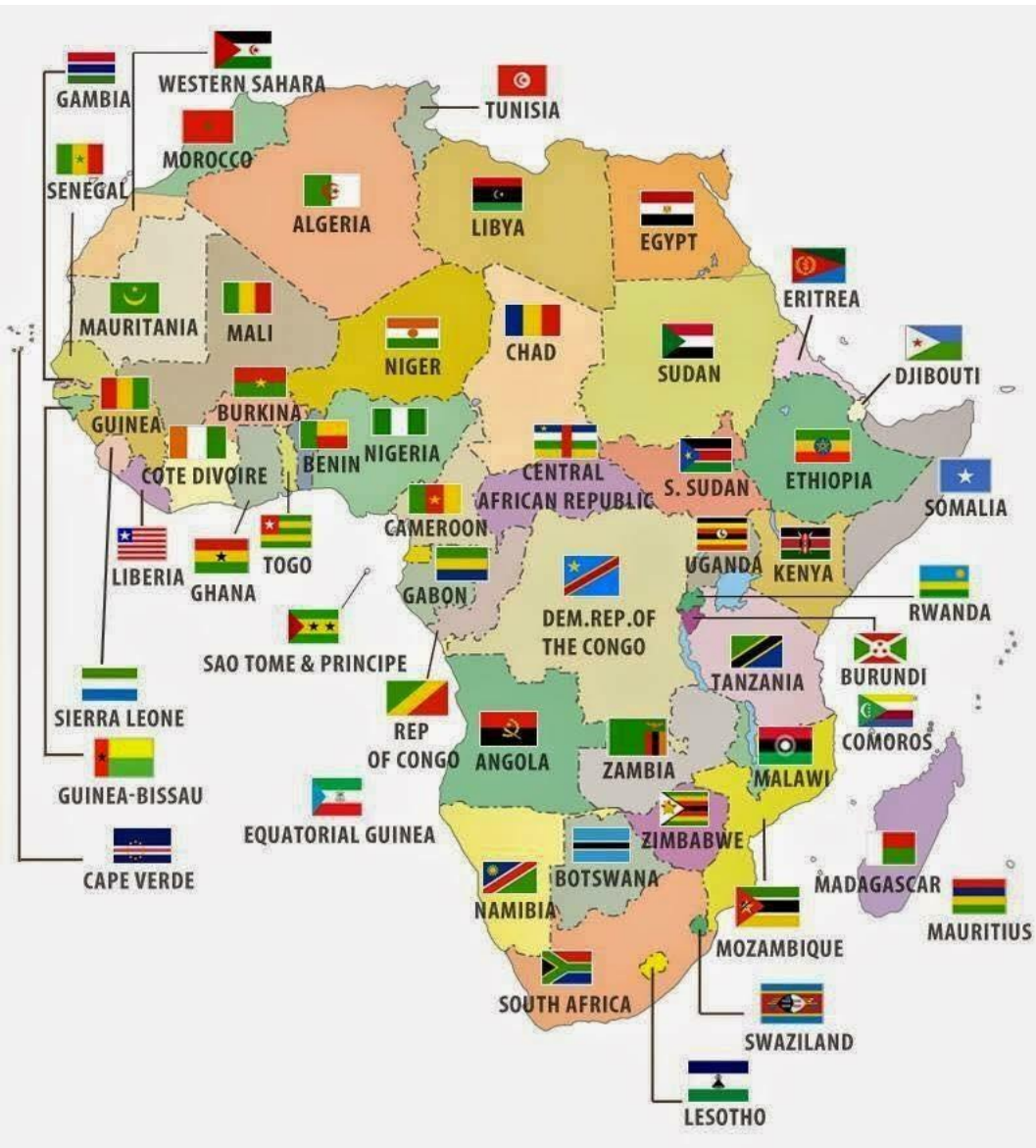
**August 28, 2019 Cartagena de Indias Colombia**

**Mawouena Bohm,**

Togo National Interministerial Anti Drug Committee,

AU Member State Representative

# African Union: Members States – Missions...



55 Member states

**Mission** : Promoting Africa's growth and economic development by championing citizen inclusion and increased cooperation and integration of African states.

**Official languages** : English;  
French, Portuguese, Arabic, Kishawihili



## AU Departments

Peace and Security

Political Affairs

Infrastructure and Energy

Social Affairs

Trade and Industry

Rural Economy and Agriculture

Human Resources, Science and  
Technology

Economic Affairs

Women, Gender and Development

Civil Society and Diaspora

Legal Affairs

<https://au.int/en/commission>

An Integrated, Prosperous  
and Peaceful Africa



Addis Ababa, Ethiopia <sup>3</sup>





# Several Key Programs Areas

- Conflict Resolution, Peace & Security;
- Agricultural Development;
- Trade and Industrial Development;
- Education Science & Technology;
- Youth Development ;
- Democracy; Laws and Human Rights etc...

# Brief Overview : Drug Situation in Africa (1)

- Increase of threats of drug trafficking (cocaïn, heroïn, NPS...);
- Countries producing marijuana and manufacturing synthetic drugs (Metamphetamine, Tramadol, synthetic cannabis (Amnesia));
- Increase in problems associated with drug use in African countries
- : All types of drugs being used;
- Polyconsumption +++
- Underage drinking, (lack of regulations on alcohol),
- Cannabis, mostly common illicit drug used by the young people;
- Drugs in schools;

# Brief Overview : Drug Situation in Africa (2)

- Tramadol, silent epidemic that hides Africa's "opioid crisis" :
  - Illicitly substance manufactured in South Asia and trafficked to the region, as well as to parts of the Middle East (UNODC, 2019);
  - Being abused for non-medical purposes in Africa;

# Brief Overview : Drug Situation in Africa (3)

## **Several associated factors :**

- Poverty;
- Psychosocial problems;
- Weakness in the health systems (non affordable treatment services , health disparities, limited insurance coverage...);
- Drug policies mostly focused on the repression;
- Lack of specialized treatment and rehabilitation facilities;
- Lack of trained professionals;
- Lack of research and effective system of information on drugs etc...

# AU Measures to Address Drug Situation in Africa(1)

- In 2011 : Re establishment of the AUC Drug Unit : dedicated Drug Control Unit to coordinate the implementation of the AUPA;
- In December 2018 (Kenya's ISSUP meeting) : Validation of the AU Action on Drug Control and Crime Prevention (2019-2023) **A Strategic Framework to Guide Drug Policy Development in Africa;**
- STC-HPDC-3 Cairo, Egypt, (July August 2019) : Adoption of Revised AU Plan of Action on Drug Control and Crime Prevention (2019-2023)

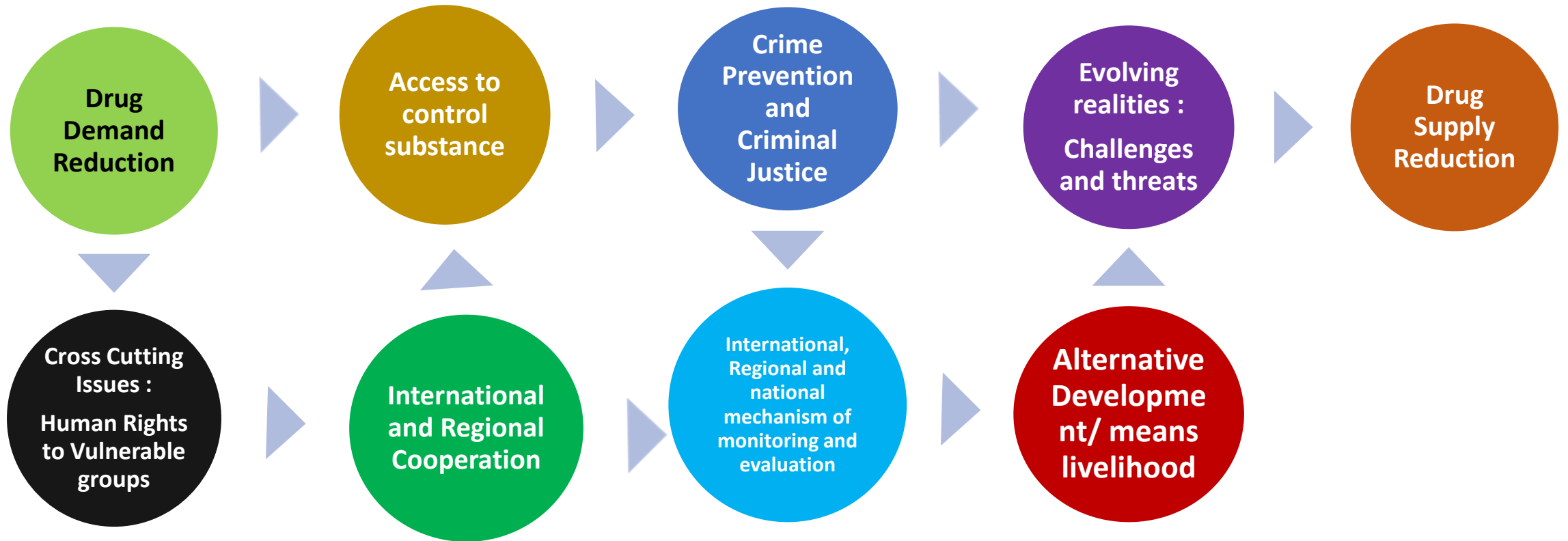


# AU Plan of Action on Drug Control And Crime Prevention (2019 – 2023)

## **Main Goal**

Improve the health, security and socio-economic well-being of the people of Africa by addressing drug trafficking and problematic drug use in all its forms and manifestations and preventing the onset of drug use.

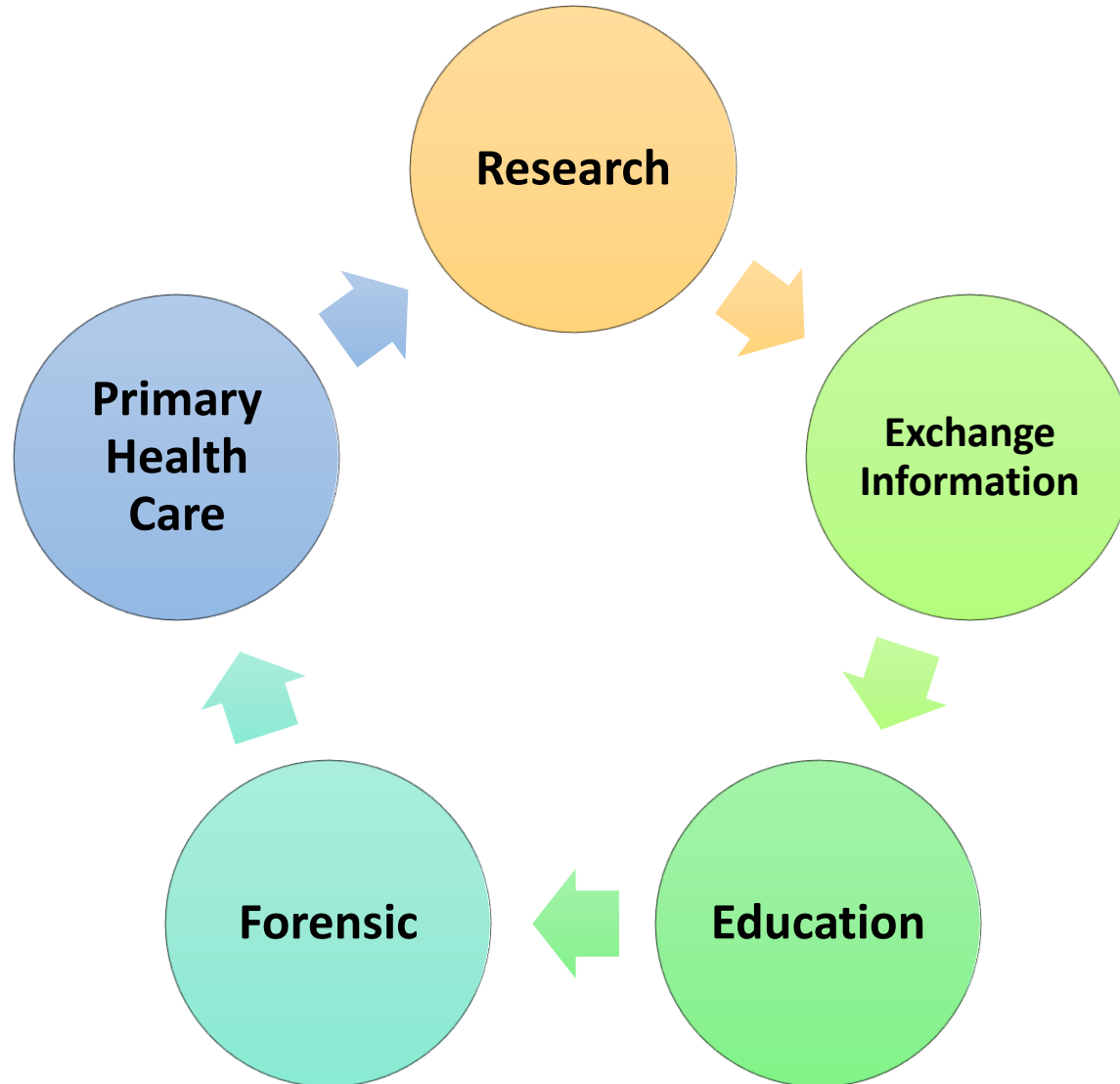
# AU Plan of Action on Drug Control And Crime Prevention (2019 – 2023): Key Priority areas



# AU Measures to Address Drug Situation in Africa(2)

- AU focused on reviving national drug control bodies in Member States; Encouraged MS to update drug control strategies;
- Since 2011 AU meetings with MS in DD/SR, epidemiology;
- AU is in the forefront of International Cooperation – ISSUP/UNODC/CICAD etc...
- AU strongly believes in the African/Latin America/Caribbean Dialogue for experience sharing and transfer of knowledge through the five (5) pillars of the Nairobi's first dialogue...

# Five (5) Pillars of Nairobi's First Dialogue (ALACD – CICAD – OAS Dec.2019)



# National Innovative Drug Demand Reduction Initiatives in Africa (1)

Domain	Best practices implemented	Countries
Policy/Strategy	<input type="checkbox"/> Balanced, coherent and operational Drug Demand Reduction Framework within national's Drug Control Master - Plan	Nigeria, Kenya, Togo, Benin...
	<input type="checkbox"/> New laws offering treatment and rehabilitation as alternatives to punishment;	Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana,
	<input type="checkbox"/> National strategies on harm reduction;	Mauritius , senegal, Kenya etc.
	<input type="checkbox"/> National standards/guidelines on substance use prevention and treatment;	
	<input type="checkbox"/> CSOs networks/Taskforce on Prevention, treatment and recovery	West Africa networks of CSOs on Drug Abuse

# National Innovative Drug Demand Reduction Initiatives in Africa (2)

Domain	Best practices implemented	Countries
Education & Prevention	<input type="checkbox"/> Implementation of school, family and community based prevention programs « Unplugged program » Strengthening Fam 10-14 by government agencies and CSOs;	Nigeria, Liberia, Côte d'Ivoire, Burkina Faso, Togo etc...;
	<input type="checkbox"/> Campaign messaging on alcohol, cannabis and other illicit drugs and psychotropics targeting youth, students, their parents and community	Ghana, Botswana
	<input type="checkbox"/> Use of social media to engage with youth	Liberia, Burkina Faso,
	<input type="checkbox"/> Implementation of prevention training	Uganda, South Africa, Kenya, Cabo Verde, Ghana,



## National Innovative Drug Demand Reduction Initiatives in Africa (3)

Domain	Best practices implemented	Countries
Treatment and recovery	<input type="checkbox"/> SBIRT and Motivational interviewing as alternative to the punishment for drug offenders ( pilot initiative in Togo); UTC;	Togo
	<input type="checkbox"/> Medication assisted therapy & psychosocial support;	Kenya, Senegal, Mauritius,
	<input type="checkbox"/> Outreach with HIV testing, evaluation and referral for treatment;	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Treatment facilities mapping and Integration of SUD treatment in the primary health care	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Credit to support the recovery (pilot initiative and Gender Responsive Services for Women with Substance Use Disorders)	Egypt

# National Innovative Drug Demand Reduction Initiatives in Africa (4)

Domain	Best practices implemented	Countries
Drug system of information	Regional epidemiological networks (AU Epi Network, PAENDU, WENDU);	MS, WEST AFRICA Nigeria, Kenya, Togo, Benin...
	National epidemiological networks (NENDU, SACENDU and the other local epi taskforce; national observatory;	Côte d'Ivoire, South Africa, Mauritius
	Regular meeting with different stakeholders involved, including CSOs	Senegal, Kenya, Uga

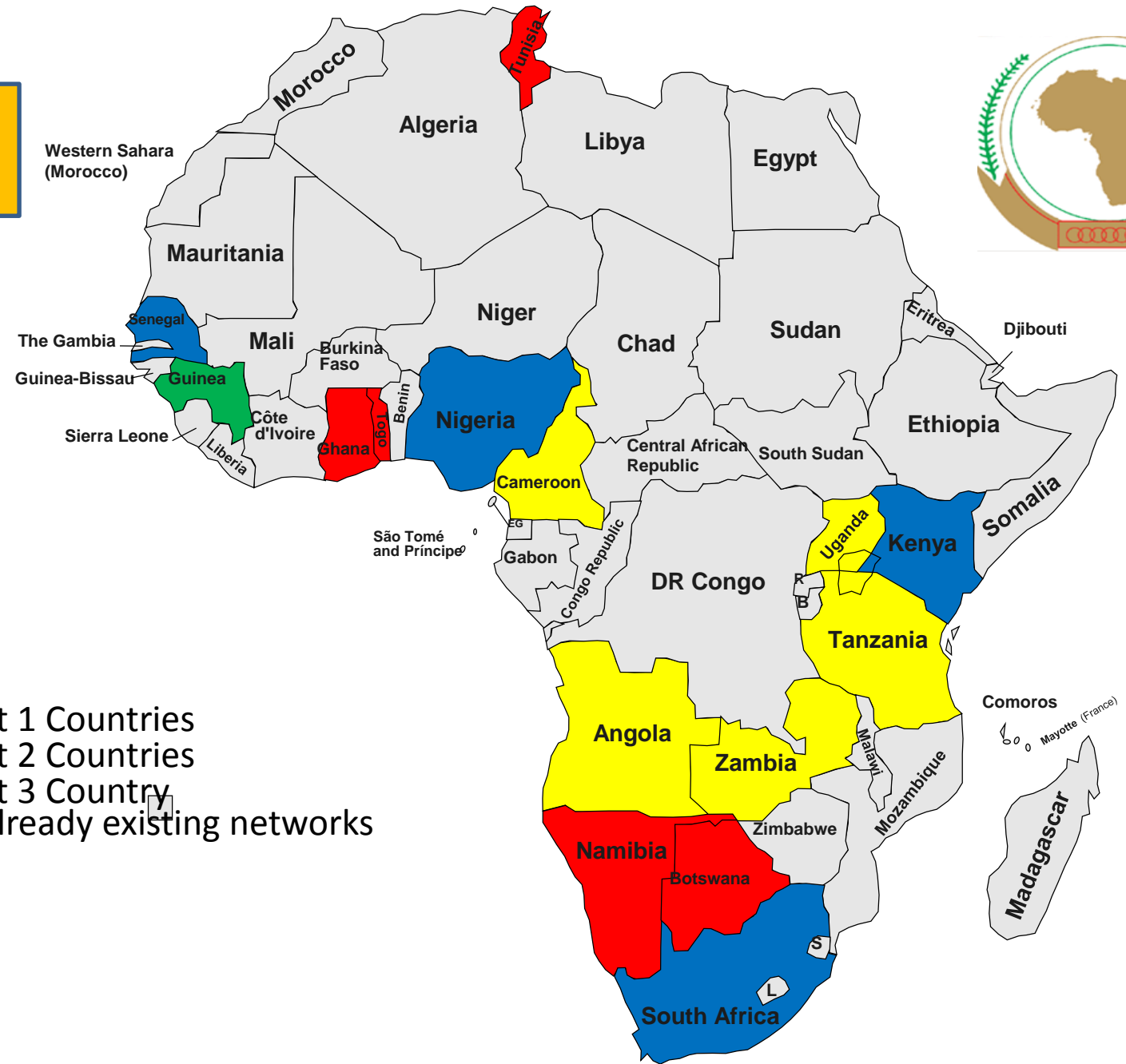
# Pan African Epidemiology Network on Drug Use (PAENDU)

- The African Union has facilitated the establishment of 21 National Drug Epidemiology Networks/Observatories.
- Four (4) more National Networks are set to be established before the end of 2019,
- In addition, it is expected that the Continent will have 30 operational drug Epidemiology networks.

Participating  
countries



- Lot 1 Countries
- Lot 2 Countries
- Lot 3 Country
- Already existing networks



Pan-African Epidemiology Network on Drug Use (PAENDU)

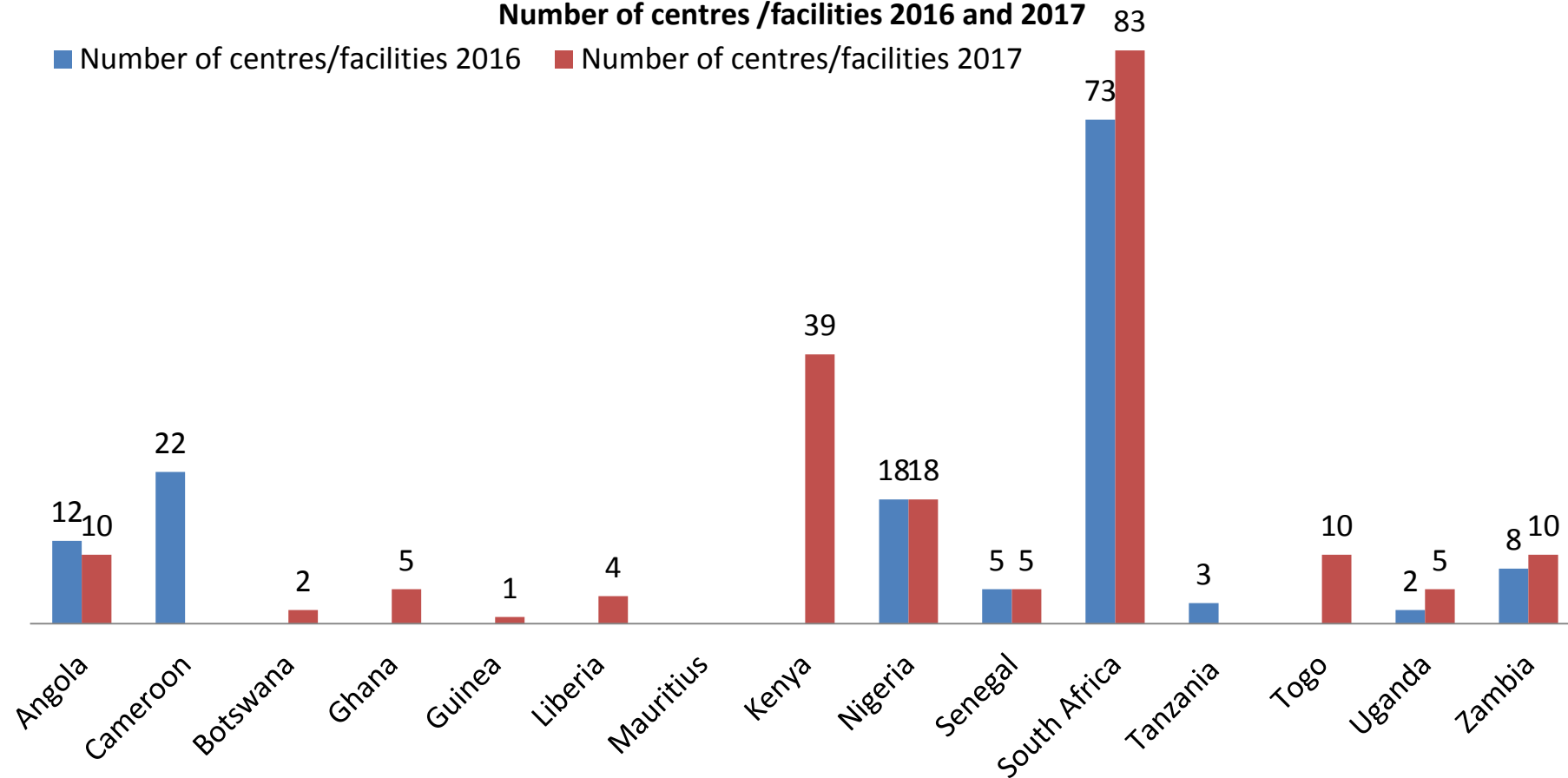


AFRICAN UNION

### Number of centres /facilities 2016 and 2017

■ Number of centres/facilities 2016

■ Number of centres/facilities 2017

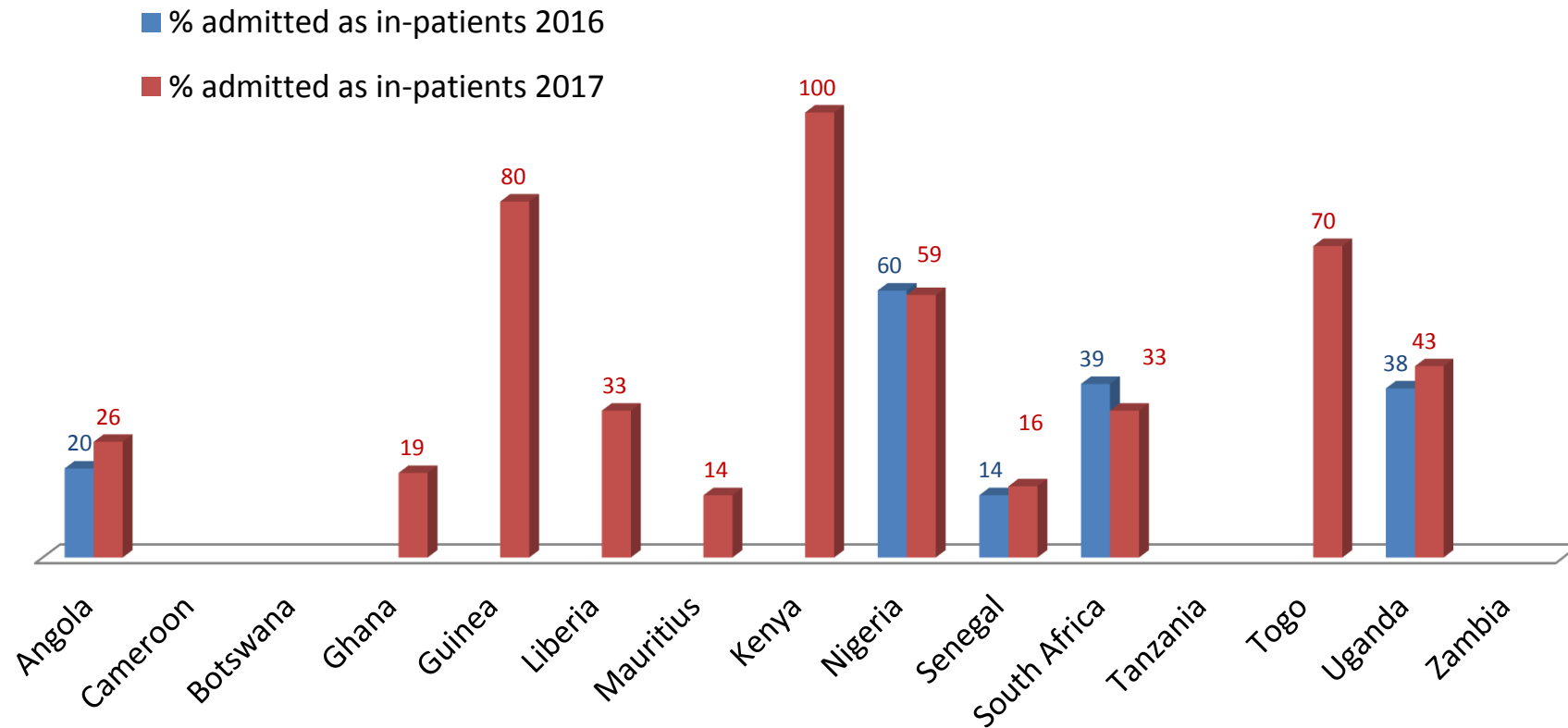


Pan-African Epidemiology Network on Drug Use (PAENDU)



AFRICAN UNION

### % admitted as in-patients



Pan-African Epidemiology Network on Drug Use (PAENDU)



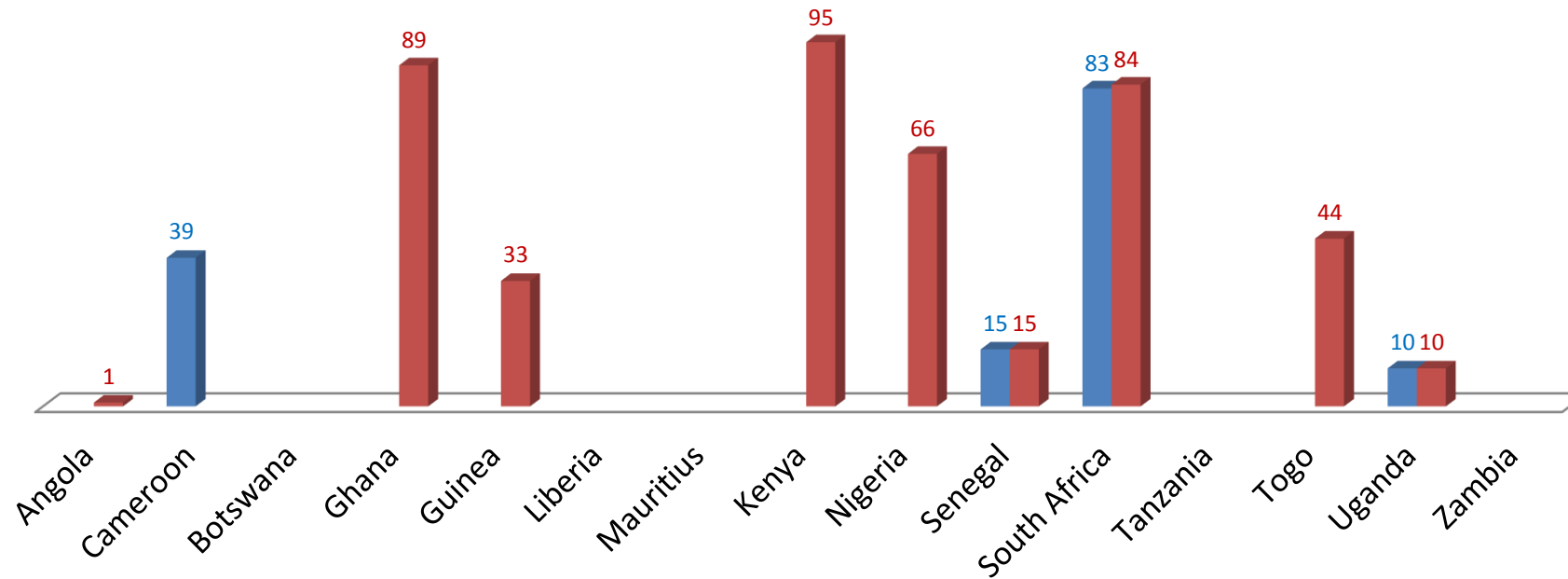


AFRICAN UNION

### % of new cases

■ % of new cases 2016

■ % new cases 2017



Pan-African Epidemiology Network on Drug Use (PAENDU)

# Successful Prevention & Treatment Initiatives in West Africa

## ❑ Effective Prevention interventions in Nigeria :

- Unplugged program : school based program & Strengthening Family program

## ❑ Effective Harm Reduction Program in Senegal

- Senegal Methadone Treatment and Rehabilitation Center



EUROPEAN U



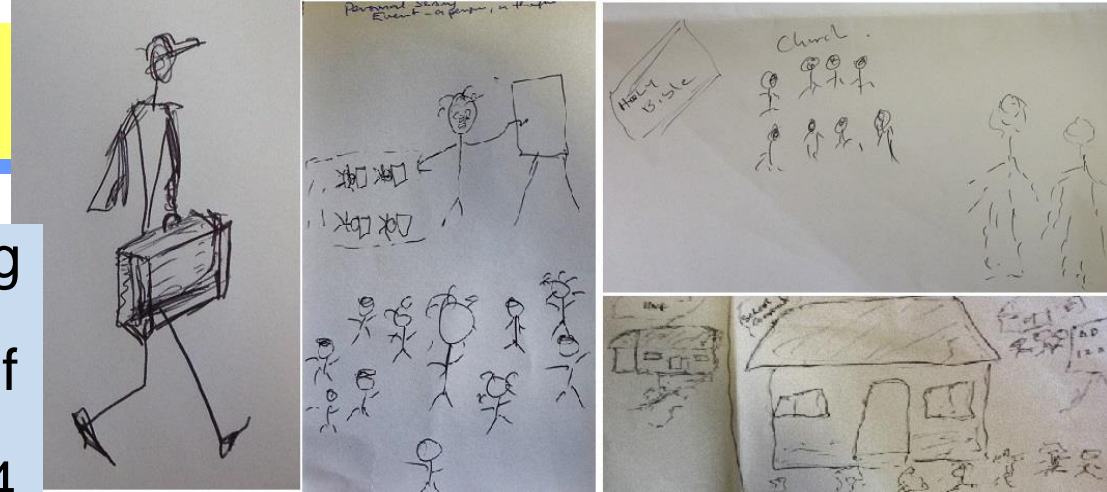
UNODC

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime



# What is Unplugged?

- ✓ Evidence based school drug prevention program
- ✓ 12 lessons to prevent use of tobacco, alcohol and other drugs among children 10-14 year old.



Using drawings is an ingredient of the group work methods in Unplugged

- ✓ Delivered by trained teachers at the schools.
- ✓ A Teachers Handbook and Students Workbook is part to the *Unplugged* package.

The Unplugged intervention resulted in (Faggiano, 2008):

- 23% reduced risk of using cannabis
- 28% reduction of risk to get alcohol intoxicated weekly
- 30% reduction of risk to smoke daily

# Unplugged Randomized Control Trial in Nigeria

## Phase I in 2015

- Finalise questionnaire
- Adapt Unplugged materials for Nigeria

## Phase II - 2016

- A two-arms **cluster randomized controlled trial** designed for Nigeria
  - Intervention arm: Unplugged
  - Control arm: usual school curriculum
  - Target age group: 14 years
  - Schools are Federally Administered Government Colleges
- 32 schools, 96 classes participated
- **16 intervention schools and 16 control schools**, to overcome possible drop-outs from the study

## **Nigeria adaptation**

Replace *"He was walking his dog"*  
with *"See a dog: run away!"*

# Summary of program effects

- **Improvement of class climate**
  - result consistent with previous studies
  - observed in all subgroups of pupils
  - could be a mediator of the overall effect of the program
- **Prevention of cigarettes use**
  - result achieved for advanced use (regularly in last 30 days; daily in last 30 days) (strong effect)
  - possibly mediated by increase of negative beliefs on tobacco
  - possibly mediated by correction of misperception of use among peers
  - affected by low prevalence of use

# Summary of program effects

- **Prevention of alcohol use**
  - result achieved in all population subgroups
  - result achieved for all indicators (sporadic and advanced use)
  - stronger effects on advanced use
  - possibly mediated by increase of negative beliefs on alcohol
  - possibly mediated by correction of misperception of peers' use
  - stronger effects on younger pupils
- **Prevention of cannabis use**
  - result not statistically significant in the overall sample
  - result significant on younger pupils
  - possibly mediated by increase of negative beliefs and knowledge



# In addition to the school based prevention Program « Unplugged »...

- Nigeria is piloting the strengthening family program 10 -14 years old

Two or more Prevention interventions are more effective than a single intervention...

Nigeria's Prevention experience are good to be scaled up...

- Senegal Methadone Treatment Program one of the best West African initiative in harm reduction



# Challenges

- Increase of tramadol and new psychoactive substances : need to develop research and appropriate prevention and treatment interventions;
- Increase of female clients seeking treatment with often insufficient services to respond to their needs.
- Resources to implement evidence based prevention and treatment interventions;

# Challenges (2)

- Lack of specialized treatment facilities;
- Need of specialist trained staff for the implementation of the prevention and treatment programmes or interventions,
- Inadequate evidence-based treatment planning and underfunded national drug coordination bodie

# Aknowledgements

- Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL), US State Department;
- Inter- American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD);
- Colombo Plan
- UNODC



**Vive la coopération Sud - Sud**

**Thank you**

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