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English, French and Spanish only*

**Twenty-fourth Meeting of Heads of
National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies,
Latin America and the Caribbean**

Asunción, 6-10 October 2014

Item 3 of the provisional agenda**

**Major regional drug trafficking trends and
countermeasures****Current situation with respect to regional and subregional
cooperation****Note by the Secretariat**

1. The present paper provides information on regional cooperation initiatives and assistance in countering drug trafficking and related crimes provided by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) to Governments in the Latin American and the Caribbean region, focusing on developments since the twenty-third Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Latin America and the Caribbean, held in October 2013.

I. Precursor control**Regional and subregional levels**

2. In October and November 2013, PRELAC (Prevention of the Diversion of Drug Precursors in the Latin American and Caribbean Region) donated to the governments of El Salvador and Costa Rica 20 precursor identification field kits to be used for operational control. Kits are produced by the Laboratory and Scientific Section (LSS) of UNODC in Vienna. In El Salvador and Costa Rica, 38 and 35 agents respectively were trained following the delivery of the kits. The agents were trained in the certified test procedures, in the basic knowledge of chemical substances, personal and eco-environmental precautions when handling, and other essential skills.

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

** UNODC/HONLAC/24/1.



3. In 2013 and the first quarter of 2014, PRELAC carried out the study in five countries of the region (Argentina, Chile, Guatemala, Panama and Colombia) to assess the awareness and preparedness of national authorities and institutions to cope with trafficking of precursors to produce synthetic drugs.
4. In December 2013 and during the first quarter of 2014 a team of experts in criminal matters from PRELAC conducted a study of judgements concerning the diversion of chemical precursors in some countries in Latin America. The study seeks to establish recommendations and raise awareness on good legal practices to reach more convictions in the region. Judgements in various countries were reviewed: Peru, Colombia, Chile and they are being analysed with the opinion of legal experts in the region. The study will be completed in mid-2014.
5. In April 2014, at the request of the Presidential Agency for the Cooperation of Colombia, PRELAC helped organize a workshop in Guatemala, the purpose of which was to improve knowledge about chemical precursors control for Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Mexico, Dominican Republic, Honduras, Guatemala and Colombia. The event included representatives from Canada, United States of America and England who were updated on the precursor control situation in Latin America and the Caribbean.
6. Rapid assessment of precursor control measures and mechanisms were carried out in Panama and the Plurinational State of Bolivia in 2014. These assessments pointed out a number of urgent issues that required immediate action. The resulting recommendations will help define a possible work plan to address needs.

Bolivia (Plurinational State of)

7. In November and December 2013, in coordination with the Anti-Narcotics Police (FELCN), the UNODC Bolivia Office organized three basic training courses on Chemist Anti-Narcotics Control in La Paz, Cochabamba and Santa Cruz, for some 137 police officers. The PRELAC project carried out a rapid assessment of the precursor control measures implemented in the Plurinational State of Bolivia. UNODC Bolivia and PRELAC are further supporting the National Council against illicit Drug Trafficking (CONALTID) with the chemical characterization, profiling and technical aspects of criminal proceedings on drugs and precursors. Two workshops are due to be carried out in June 2014.

Colombia

8. In 2013, in coordination with PRELAC and the SIMCI (Integrated Illicit Crops Monitoring System) projects, UNODC Colombia and the Ministry of Justice developed an integrated controlled chemical substances monitoring system. The system pursues seven lines of action: (i) risk profiling, (ii) use, storage and final stage disposal of controlled chemical substances and products, (iii) institutional strengthening for optimizing the control of chemical substances, (iv) institutional capacity to tackle synthetic drugs, (v) characterization of the licit use of controlled chemical substances, (vi) characterization of drug production, and (vii) the geo-spatial dynamics of chemical substances.

Peru

9. In November 2013, PRELAC supported the National Society of Industry of Peru to organize a workshop addressing national chemical operators. The workshop aimed at disseminating the new requirements established by the newly created Precursor and Chemical Substances Control Intendancy in order for chemical enterprises to be registered as operators and reviewing overall changes of control procedures in Peru.

10. During February and March 2014, PRELAC experts held meetings during 2 weeks with all new staff of the newly created Intendancy of Chemical Control of the National Tax Superintendence (SUNAT) in Peru. These technical support meetings aimed to review the processes and tools that are being used in Peru to implement the administrative control. SUNAT has recruited in the past 6 months about 160 people with knowledge on the subject. From the results of these meetings, the senior management of the Intendancy requested PRELAC to conduct a two-day workshop with the managers and key staff to determine a curriculum of topics for training all staff including managers in the next twelve months. PRELAC is limited financially to carry on such an extensive training programme, and will engage only in a part of the training.

II. Legal assistance and anti-money-laundering

Bolivia (Plurinational State of)

11. The UNODC Office in the Plurinational State of Bolivia and the Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU) are working together to develop a technical cooperation programme against money-laundering in the Plurinational State of Bolivia. In January 2014, UNODC organized a study tour trip for two members of the Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU) and the Prosecutor General's to Colombia. Knowledge and information was shared with Colombian counterparts on money-laundering. From January 2014, UNODC and the Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU) are working on the establishment of an inter-institutional coordination unit against laundering of illicit proceeds, and predicate offences.

Colombia

12. During 2013, the UNODC Colombia Office provided legislative drafting assistance to Congress and national authorities on a new Non-Conviction Based Confiscation (NCBC) bill which was finally approved on January 2014. Similarly, the UNODC Office provided legal assistance to Costa Rica in the drafting of their NCBC bill which is currently under review and to El Salvador which approved their NCBC bill in 2013.

13. UNODC carried out capacity-building exercises in seven Colombian cities, for a total of 670 persons, on money-laundering typologies and a risk management model. As a result, UNODC Colombia was able to hand over a number of conclusions and recommendations to the Ministry of Justice on improving public policy and the national coordination mechanism in the area of anti-money-laundering.

14. With collaboration from the Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU), UNODC Colombia developed an e-learning platform for preventing money-laundering and an additional twelve modules for specific sectors and professionals vulnerable to money-laundering (customs officials, accountants, finance, football teams, and the mining sector, among others).

15. UNODC Colombia published the model for money-laundering risk prevention in the infrastructure sector which is a guide for both the private and public sectors to help prevent the risk of corruption, terrorism financing and money-laundering. In October 2013, the model for preventing the risk of money-laundering in the transport sector was launched. It is designed to enable the implementation of different preventive measures in the business model of transport sector companies.

Mexico

16. UNODC in Mexico provided specialized advice on anti-money-laundering, particularly the detection and prevention of financial crime, to financial business associations. It also provided assistance to the states of Chiapas, Durango, Nuevo Leon and the District of Mexico in the areas of assets recovery, therapeutic justice, anti-corruption, drug abuse prevention, drug control policies and crime prevention.

Panama

17. UNODC in Panama is providing support to the Prosecutor General's Office on the transition to the new criminal justice (accusatorial) system. During the 2014-2016 period, this will be provided through SECOPA, a new UNODC multidisciplinary national project funded by the European Union. During the first half of 2014, UNODC in Panama has been providing Central America and Caribbean countries with tailor-made, technical assistance on money-laundering-related issues through SECOPA and the Regional Anti-Corruption Academy. On 29 October 2013, UNODC in Panama celebrated the International Day against Money-Laundering, with the participation of local authorities, the private sector and civil society.

Peru

18. The UNODC Office in Peru provided legal advisory assistance to strengthen the legal and operational framework for non-conviction-based confiscation, and to ensure that the entity charged with administering such forfeited assets does so effectively. In 2013, this advice facilitated the return to the State of well over US\$ two million dollars under a newly-modified civil asset forfeiture law.

19. UNODC Peru provided practical workshops that facilitated a change in investigations methodology by police, prosecutors and border officials in drug-related cases which has led to a greater number of seizures (both at the border between Peru and Ecuador) as well as at points of origin within Peru, prior to reaching the border. In 2013, 450 police, prosecutors and border officials were trained.

III. Strengthening of national police forces and cooperation initiatives

Bolivia (Plurinational State of)

20. In June 2013, the UNODC Office in the Plurinational State of Bolivia concluded the drafting of the “Inter-Institutional Strategic Development Plan to Support the Implementation of the Strategy against Drug Trafficking and Reduction of Coca Crops”. As a result, in September 2013, the National Council against illicit Drug Trafficking (CONALTID) developed the “Action Plan Strategy to Fight against Drug Trafficking and Reduction of Coca Crops”. In June 2013, UNODC Bolivia organized a visit of representatives of the international community at large to the International Training Centre of Anti-Narcotics (“Garras de Valor”) and the Canine Training Centre to garner support. In December 2013, UNODC Bolivia delivered a third incinerating oven for drugs which was installed in the department of Cochabamba.

Brazil

21. UNODC in Brazil and the government, in alliance with the Organization of American States (OAS), have agreed on a work plan for the implementation of the BIDAL project (a technical assistance programme to improve seized and forfeited asset management) in the country. The objective is to develop an asset management system for seized and forfeited proceeds of crime.

Panama

22. UNODC in Panama is providing support to Panamanian national institutions in the process of strengthening and/or restructuring their national intelligence systems. Upon request of the National Director of Police Information (DNIP), UNODC is supporting the DNIP in strengthening its institutional development plan, entitled Plan Orion. The main objective is to optimize the capabilities of DNIP in the production of intelligence on criminal targets that threaten public safety; to generate knowledge that guides decision-making strategies, strengthens democratic governance and national development; and to deepen institutional cooperation with other centres of intelligence throughout the world.

23. The Santo Domingo Pact/SICA-UNODC Mechanism (SDP/SUM) project is also supporting the National Civil Police (PNC) of El Salvador and the Judiciary Investigation Organism (OIJ) of Costa Rica on the strengthening of their capacities to fight organized crime. In El Salvador, UNODC is working closely with the Police Intelligence Centre and the Sub-Direction of Investigations on cybercrime, gangs, institutional strengthening and training workshops on criminal analysis.

IV. Border control

Colombia

24. UNODC Colombia carried out workshops on cooperation for preventing and fighting organized crime and smuggling. Eight workshops were held in 7 different cities of whereby a total of 200 public servant were trained.

Panama

25. During 2014, the UNODC in Panama and WCO/Global Container Control Programme Team for Latin America and the Caribbean have been focusing on the following areas: (i) strengthening the effectiveness in Ecuador, Panama, Costa Rica, Guatemala and Paraguay, using advanced training and operational monitoring; (ii) building capacities in Caribbean countries that have recently joined the programme (Guyana, Suriname, Jamaica and the Dominican Republic) by providing basic training to government officers; (iii) promoting results with a view to expand its operations in the region (target countries for 2014 include Argentina, Brazil and Chile).

26. UNODC in Panama and the authorities in the Dominican Republic have signed a MoU for the implementation of the Aircop Programme. Initial training was provided to selected officials and the national Joint Task Force is expected to be fully operational by the beginning of the third quarter of 2014. A similar MoU has been signed with Panama in early 2014, and the Joint Task Force is expected to be established and fully operational during the second half of 2014. Simultaneously, UNODC is negotiating the implementation of Aircop in Colombia and Jamaica.

V. Regional networks and exchange of information**Colombia**

27. During 2013, UNODC Colombia and GAFISUD organized the 7th and 8th meeting of the Regional Network on Asset recovery (RRAG) with the focal points of Argentina, Brazil, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Chile, Costa Rica, Colombia, Cuba, Ecuador, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Peru and Uruguay, as well as the representatives from CARIN, CICAD, INTERPOL and CICO/Spain. A total of 78 persons attended the meetings which were held in Colombia and in Panama.

28. In Costa Rica, legislators and judicial operators of five different countries (El Salvador, Costa Rica, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Chile and Dominican Republic) attended a training event on non-conviction based confiscation organized by the UNODC Office in Colombia. UNODC Colombia also organized the 1st "Dialogue and Experience Exchange on Non-Conviction Based Confiscation" in Bogotá. Delegates from 5 countries (Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Peru and Colombia) assisted.

Panama

29. UNODC in Panama and the Network of Organized Crime Prosecutors (REFCO) is working on (i) common strategies that strengthen the role of prosecutors in the fight against organized crime; (ii) obstacles to investigation and prosecution; (iii) exchange programme for prosecutors; (iv) technical coordination and information-sharing.

VI. Trends analysis and studies on drug trafficking and related issues

Bolivia (Plurinational State of)

30. In May 2014, the UNODC Office in the Plurinational State of Bolivia and the Prosecutor General's Office signed a new agreement in order to strengthen the fight against drug trafficking, particularly on the incineration and destruction of seized drugs. UNODC Bolivia will also provide training on money-laundering, drug trafficking and other crimes, as well as institutional strengthening (internal policy development).

31. In January 2014, UNODC Bolivia produced the first semi-annual report on the destruction of illicit drugs and controlled chemicals substances that were seized in the Plurinational State of Bolivia (July-December 2013).

Colombia

32. UNODC Colombia carried out analysis of the information collected by the "Second National Survey of Substance Abuse" among the general population in Colombia. Technical assistance was given to 22 regions relative to the implementation of the patient registration system in the drug addiction attention centre known as SUICAD.

Mexico

33. In 2012, UNODC Mexico initiated an illicit crop monitoring project, the objective of which is to strengthen the Mexican ability in quantifying the surface of poppy and cannabis crops. The project focuses on transferring UNODC's crop estimation methodologies and technical know-how.

34. At its 44th session, the United Nations Statistical Commission (UNSC) endorsed a road map for the development of an international crime classification for statistical purposes. UNSC mandated, UNODC to drive the process in the Latin American and Caribbean Region. A similar coordinating and leading role was assigned to the UNODC-INEGI CoE by the Statistical Commission of the Economic Commission of Latin America with respect to the development and testing of the International Crime Statistic Survey (ICSS).

Panama

35. In December 2013, UNODC in Panama and the Judicial Investigation Organization of Costa Rica launched the *Costa Rica Situation Report 2013: Drug Trafficking and the Threat of Organized Crime*.

36. UNODC in Panama is in the process of establishing a national Centre of Excellence on Drugs and Crime Trends in Panama which will aim at enhancing the quality of statistics and trend analysis on crime and drugs-related matters. It is expected to be up and running during the second half of 2014.

VII. Cooperation between UNODC and regional organizations

Colombia

37. In September 2013, the UNODC Office in Colombia cooperated with OAS/CICADEX by participating in the expert meeting on money-laundering, held in Brazil. UNODC Colombia presented the “Guide of International Cooperation for Asset Recovery”.

Panama

38. In April 2014, the UNODC Regional Office for Central America and the Caribbean in Panama and CARICOM IMPACS launched the UNODC Regional Programme in Support of the CARICOM Crime and Security Strategy 2014-2016 which sets the basis for the development of UNODC’s operations and programmes in the Caribbean.

39. The UNODC Regional Office in Panama continues to provide direct support to the Central American Security Strategy, through the implementation of priority initiatives in areas such as investigation and prosecution of organized crime.

40. In September 2013, UNODC and the Rotating Presidency of the Central American and Caribbean Council of Public Prosecutors signed an exchange of letters which sets the basis for full national and regional ownership relative to ongoing and new UNODC initiatives against transnational organized crime.

VIII. Awareness-raising and shared responsibility

Brazil

41. In April 2014, UNODC in Brazil provided support to the organization of a regional meeting on smoked cocaine in Sao Paulo, Brazil. The meeting was held at the initiative of the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission of the Organization of American States (CICAD/OAS) in partnership with the Brazilian Secretariat on Drug Policies. It was attended by the delegations from Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Paraguay and Uruguay that presented a country status report with regard to: (a) substance analysis; (b) the impact of cocaine use to health; (c) studies carried out about smoked cocaine users; (d) associated diseases such as AIDS, hepatitis and TB; (e) prison population and the use of smoked cocaine; (f) evidence in the field of smoked cocaine use prevention and treatment.

Colombia

42. In August 2013, the Colombian football player Radamel Falcao García was designated as a Goodwill Ambassador for UNODC in order to raise awareness globally on drug demand reduction, especially among youth. Additionally, Falcao has assisted UNODC’s efforts to promote the commercialization of alternative development products in Colombia.

43. On 29 October 2013, the UNODC Office in Colombia organized the “National Day Against Money Laundering” for the second time with the Ministry of Justice, the Chamber of Commerce and the Banking Association in Colombia. The initiative

was published on 500 websites. Throughout the region, other countries also celebrated the National Day Against Money Laundering (Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Panama, Paraguay, Peru and Dominican Republic). Furthermore public and private sectors joined forces in these countries by organizing events to raise awareness against this crime.

Mexico

44. In Mexico, UNODC continued providing technical assistance to the Televisa Foundation's campaign against addictions *Mejor en Familia*. The UNODC Liaison and Partnership Office in Mexico coordinated specialized, technical inputs provided by a group of experts from major institutional and civic society organizations in the country. Inputs focused in particular on the role of family as a protective factor against addictions. In addition, UNODC in Mexico facilitated the publication of a substance abuse prevention training manual for media operators.

Peru

45. On 9 September 2013, for the first time ever in Peru, a campaign to prevent money-laundering was launched, as part the UNODC worldwide campaign. It was held with the participation of the Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU), Prosecutor General's Office, as well as the association of banks, financial cooperatives, and other institutions. In addition, 30 high-school students from Lima were trained by UNODC Peru on how to identify and prevent money-laundering.

Demand reduction

Bolivia

46. The Support Project on Reduction of Demand of Illegal Drugs in the Andean Community (PREDEM), a regional project coordinated by the UNODC Office in Peru, is now active in the Plurinational State of Bolivia, including the start of the Andean Youth Initiative on drugs prevention in social networks. It is also supporting the country with the opening of a rehabilitation treatment centre.

Colombia

47. UNODC Colombia collaborated with the government on the reduction of drug consumption, by contributing to the development of public policies and programmes, as well as strengthening of the response capacity at the decentralized level. In 2013, UNODC Colombia established 21 regional drug prevention committees and supported the strengthening of channels for enforceability of rights through the siamisderechos.org platform, aimed at raising awareness on the rights to drug addiction health care.

48. In 2013, 29 people participated in the training-of-trainers for the TREATNET programme. 79 trainings were replicated by the new trainers, training a total of 947 professionals as well as replicating 5 capacity-building workshops on the treatment of psychoactive substances consumption (TREATNET).

Mexico

49. The UNODC Liaison and Partnership Office in Mexico is implementing two projects in demand reduction in collaboration with state governments. In Nuevo Leon, the Office continued its activities in developing and monitoring municipal and state prevention programmes focused on strengthening the capacities of the family to prevent risky behaviours among youth, including drug consumption and HIV/AIDS. In the state of Chiapas, UNODC Mexico provided technical assistance in identifying and systemizing information on rehabilitation centres, as well as enhancing the quality of their services. Also and as part of a long-term initiative to evaluate and reinforce the State's unique therapeutic justice model, UNODC Mexico is developing materials for training state government officials on therapeutic justice.

Panama

50. The UNODC Regional Office in Panama keeps supporting drug demand reduction efforts in Central America through the "Strong Families Programmes" which is successfully implemented in Panama, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua. This programme is based on scientific evidence and works with families in selected at risk communities on the development of parental skills and the approach to drug abuse-related risk factors.

Peru

51. Sixteen institutions in the Plurinational State of Bolivia, Ecuador, Colombia and Peru were awarded grant funds for a total amount of 2,139,000 EUR by PREDEM after a rigorous selection process among 209 institutions. The proposals address selected aspects of secondary/specific drug prevention, treatment and social reintegration, and respond to emerging needs.

52. A universal prevention programme called "Andean Youth Initiative" is being implemented through social networks, mainly Facebook, by UNODC Peru. It is aimed at teenagers and young people and is guided by specialist activities on drug abuse. The page offers information, guidance, promotes the generation of values, dialogue, views and lifestyles against drug use.

53. In each country, PREDEM has held coordination meetings with the ministries of health to implement a total of six treatment centres in the public sector. In Peru, it is planned to implement one for adolescents in Tacna and Trujillo. In Colombia, an outpatient treatment programme will be implemented for adolescents in the Hospital of Santander. In Ecuador, a treatment centre for women is coordinated with the Pneumology Hospital of Guayaquil and Ministry of Health. In the Plurinational State of Bolivia, an outpatient treatment programme for women in La Paz is envisaged.

54. Between November 2013 and April 2014, 3 technical meetings to Strengthen the Drug Observatories have been conducted involving focal points of Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Colombia, Ecuador and Peru, officials of national drug observatories, EU, UNODC and OAS/CICAD-University of Chile. It was agreed to collect information on qualitative studies.

IX. South-South cooperation

55. The UNODC Colombia Office organized with the Ministry of Justice a Mesoamerica, an event on money laundering. The participants were from Guatemala, Belize, Panama, El Salvador, Honduras, Mexico, Dominican Republic, Costa Rica and Colombia with the participation of the National Police, Financial Intelligence Unit and the Colombian Cooperation Agency.

X. Alternative development

56. The UNODC Bolivia Office developed and introduced the Strategic Plan for the Development of Coffee Production Chain for the Municipality of La Asunta producer associations.

57. UNODC Colombia, through its Alternative Development Programme has contributed, as a strategic partner to the government, to the implementation of a national policy for reconstruction and consolidation of the territory. In the last decade, the programme has benefitted over 156,000 families in 7,734 municipalities nationwide.

58. The Integral Monitoring of Illicit Crops for Territorial Consolidation component of UNODC Colombia, as a neutral party, monitors the eradication process of the Manual Eradication Group (GME) and certifies that the areas are free of illicit crops, and reports this number back to the government. The eradication of coca crops is done by the government through the GME group, which is comprised of: the national police, the army and the navy. In 2013, 10,343 hectares were certified as free of illicit crops by the monitoring component.

59. Under the New National Strategy to Combat Drugs (2012-2016) being implemented by the Peruvian State, the eradication of coca crops have intensified in major coca-growing regions of Huanuco and Ucayali regions, as precondition to promote alternative development.

XI. Recommendations

60. There is a need to promote more effective international and regional cooperation.

61. Drug control policies and programmes should have scientific basis, and be properly monitored and evaluated.

62. A balanced approach among strategies of supply and demand reduction should be adopted.

63. The drug problem should be addressed in the context of development policies.

64. Issues related to insecurity in relation to drug trafficking should be addressed.

65. Efforts to fight drug trafficking and promote international cooperation should include combating money-laundering and corruption.

66. There is a need for a renewed commitment to produce and share information, analysis and knowledge.
 67. More awareness-raising activities to the business sector are needed, particularly for strengthening mechanisms for the prevention of money-laundering.
 68. National coordination mechanisms are necessary for implementing a more efficient public policy; mechanisms for facilitating dialogue between the public and private sectors should also be devised.
 69. The region needs to update legislations on anti-money-laundering in line with the recommendations from FAFT.
 70. Strengthening of cooperation mechanisms should be sought through bilateral agreements that allow for more efficient results.
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