

1 October 2012

English, French and Spanish only*

**Twenty-second Meeting of Heads of
National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies,
Latin America and the Caribbean**
Antigua, Guatemala, 1-5 October 2012

Draft report

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Addendum

**Major regional drug-trafficking trends and
countermeasures**

1. At its first and second meetings, on 1 October 2012, the Meeting considered item 3 of its agenda, entitled “Major regional drug-trafficking trends and countermeasures”. For the consideration of the item, the Meeting had before it two documents prepared by the Secretariat, entitled “Statistics and drug trafficking trends in the Americas” (UNODC/HONLAC/22/2) and “Current situation with respect to regional and subregional cooperation” (UNODC/HONLAC/22/CRP.1). In addition, country reports on the illicit drug trafficking situation were submitted by Bahamas, Colombia, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, France, Italy, Jamaica, Mexico, Paraguay, Peru, Portugal, Spain, Trinidad and Tobago and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) (UNODC/HONLAC/22/CRP.2-17).
2. A representative of UNODC introduced the item and made an audiovisual presentation on reported drug trafficking trends in the region in the context of global drug trafficking. The presentation was based on information provided by governments to UNODC. The representatives of Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Colombia, Cuba, Paraguay, Trinidad and Tobago, Ecuador, Guatemala, Chile, Colombia and Mexico made statements, supported in most cases by audiovisual presentations.

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



3. Many participants informed the Meeting about drug trafficking trends and the drug control situation in their countries, in the region and worldwide, and provided information and data on advances and achievements made domestically in combating drug trafficking. Participants also shared updated data and information on drug seizures, methods of concealment, air and maritime trafficking routes and on the arrest of significant individuals. Reference was also made to the seizure of aircrafts from drug traffickers, which were then used for social purposes.
4. A number of participants drew attention to the links between drug trafficking and related crimes, in particular the trafficking of weapons and human trafficking. Mention was also made of the adaptability of transnational organized crime groups in response to actions by authorities in combating the world drug problem and the need for authorities to respond in a timely and equally adaptable manner. In this regard, the need to strengthen domestic inter-institutional cooperation as well as international cooperation was stressed.
5. Particular attention was drawn to the high levels of violence that had characterized drug-related crime in a number of countries of the region over the past year and to the threat illicit drug trafficking posed to security, stability and democracy in the region. One speaker mentioned the increasing threat of micro-trafficking, that is, trafficking of drugs destined for domestic consumption, which was committed on a large scale and thus amounted to increasing quantities of illicitly trafficked drugs.
6. Many speakers provided information on the detection and eradication of illicit drug crops, the seizure and dismantling of clandestine laboratories used in the illicit manufacture of drugs and the smuggling and seizure of precursor chemicals. Some speakers mentioned the importance of alternative development strategies which would complement efforts in the eradication of illicit crops and of pursuing these measures through dialogue and the respect for human rights.
7. A number of participants also reported on the development and updating of national drug control plans and strategies, the updating of legislation and regulatory frameworks, particularly in connection with corruption prevention measures, money-laundering and the control of precursors. Some speakers pointed to the importance of cooperation with the private sector and civil society in this regard.
8. Several participants emphasized the importance of addressing the world drug problem on the basis of the principle of common and shared responsibility, noting that the world drug problem required an integrated, multidisciplinary and balanced approach. Most speakers mentioned the need to achieve a balance between supply reduction and demand reduction strategies, which were mutually reinforcing.
9. Representatives also spoke of successful bilateral and subregional cooperation projects and joint operations, the sharing of information, the provision of training to other countries of the region and bilateral training received from countries within and outside the region. Information on new training and capacity-building programmes for law enforcement personnel and investment in equipment to support operational work was also discussed. Reference was made to successful work in the area of control and inspection at container ports and airports of the region and in particular through the WCO/UNODC Container Control Programme.

10. Most speakers stressed the importance of strengthening the judicial sector and international cooperation to ensure prosecutions and extraditions, including through the reform of criminal procedures and the specialization of prosecutors. Mention was also made of efforts to ensure appropriate drafting and implementation of legislation regarding asset forfeiture.
