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**Sixteenth Meeting of Heads of National
Drug Law Enforcement Agencies,
Latin America and the Caribbean**
Buenos Aires, 23-27 October 2006

**Report of the Sixteenth Meeting of Heads of National Drug
Law Enforcement Agencies, Latin America and the
Caribbean, held in Buenos Aires from 23 to 27 October 2006**

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* The present report is issued in English, French and Spanish, the working languages of the subsidiary body.



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I. Matters calling for action by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs or brought to its attention

Recommendations adopted by the Sixteenth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Latin America and the Caribbean

1. The Sixteenth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies (HONLEA), Latin America and the Caribbean, set up working groups to consider three main issues and to draw up recommendations on those issues. A fourth working group was established as a training workshop to examine all aspects related to the effective control of precursor chemicals. The observations and conclusions that led to the recommendations are presented in chapter IV below. The Meeting adopted the recommendations below, which had been drawn up by its working groups on the issues considered.

Issue 1. The response of the region to cocaine manufacture and trafficking

2. With regard to issue 1, “The response of the region to cocaine manufacture and trafficking”, the following recommendations were made:

(a) Governments should take steps to introduce measures that actively support the development of inter-agency and cross-border cooperation in order to extend the effectiveness of controls and strengthen measures to counter trafficking in illicit drugs and their precursor chemicals;

(b) Governments should take steps to ensure that information concerning competent national authorities responsible for replying to pre-export notification requests is well disseminated and that those offices are adequately supported and managed in order to respond promptly to formal requests from foreign counterparts and to promote the exchange of operational intelligence to combat illicit drug trafficking;

(c) Governments undertaking eradication programmes targeting illicit coca bush cultivation should ensure that those actions are accompanied by programmes that offer a viable commercial alternative enabling rural communities to support themselves without resort to a return to illicit cultivation.

Issue 2. The rising threat of the abuse of amphetamine-type stimulants

3. With regard to issue 2, “The rising threat of the abuse of amphetamine-type stimulants”, the following recommendations were made:

(a) Governments that have not already done so should take steps to ensure that their domestic legislation ensures effective control over chemicals commonly used in the illicit manufacture of amphetamine-type stimulants and supports the investigation and prosecution of those persons engaged in the manufacture of such stimulants;

(b) Governments should ensure that their law enforcement agencies and chemical regulatory and control authorities are aware of the threat posed by the manufacture of amphetamine-type stimulants and oversee the development of close

cooperation and coordination among those authorities and agencies in implementing procedures and practices to prevent the diversion of precursor chemicals to be used in the manufacture of amphetamine-type stimulants;

(c) In order to address the new challenges posed by the use of the Internet to promote and acquire pharmaceuticals containing controlled substances and their precursors, Governments must develop the ability of law enforcement authorities to undertake the investigation of offences committed using the Internet.

Issue 3. Maritime trafficking in illicit drugs

4. With regard to issue 3, "Maritime trafficking in illicit drugs", the following recommendations were made:

(a) In order to strengthen measures to counter maritime trafficking in cocaine and other illicit drugs, Governments must support law enforcement authorities in establishing operational coordination at the regional and international levels for the exchange of information on the movement of small boats;

(b) In order to address the illegal use of leisure boats, fishing boats and other small vessels used to support maritime trafficking in cocaine, Governments should review the threat that the illicit use of those vessels poses to their territories and introduce strategies and methods such as national registries, related data-gathering and intelligence analysis in order to meet the challenge and ensure that their law enforcement authorities are empowered, resourced and coordinated to respond effectively;

(c) Governments should take steps to ensure that their front-line law enforcement authorities in ports are adequately prepared and equipped for screening, evaluating and examining sea freight containers and to support those authorities in their efforts to coordinate with their counterparts in other ports, both within and outside the region, the timely exchange of information on consignments and sea freight containers.

II. Major regional drug trafficking trends and countermeasures

5. At its 1st and 2nd meetings, on 23 October 2006, 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 a document prepared by the Secretariat on the current situation with respect to regional and subregional cooperation (UNODC/HONLAC/2006/2) and a conference room paper prepared by the Secretariat on statistics on drug trafficking trends in the Americas and worldwide (UNODC/HONLAC/2006/CRP.1). In addition, country reports on the illicit drug trafficking situation were submitted by Argentina, Canada, Colombia, Cuba, Grenada, Guatemala, Guyana, Honduras, Mexico, the Netherlands (for the Netherlands Antilles and Aruba), Paraguay, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) (UNODC/HONLAC/2006/CRP.3-18).

6. A representative of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) made an audio-visual presentation on reported drug trafficking trends in the region,

based on information provided by Governments. The representative of Colombia also made an audio-visual presentation. The representatives of Brazil, Chile, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Haiti, Jamaica, Mexico, Peru, Spain and the United States of America made statements. The observer for the Russian Federation also made a statement. The observer for Interpol made an audio-visual presentation.

7. A number of representatives expressed appreciation for the documents and related audio-visual presentation prepared by the Secretariat, noting that they provided the basis for the analysis of recent regional drug trafficking trends in the global context. Several representatives presented information on new national drug control plans, new or emerging regional and extraregional trafficking routes, new methods used for the concealment of illicit drug consignments, new methods used for the commercialization of illicit drugs and precursors, the use by drug trafficking organizations of transit countries for the storage of illicit drugs and recent successes and difficulties in combating illicit drug trafficking.

8. The representative of Peru outlined that country's new national drug control plan for the period 2007-2011, including critical requirements for its implementation. The principal objectives and targets of the plan were combating illicit drug trafficking, dismantling and prosecuting criminal organizations, enabling sustainable development in areas affected by illicit crop cultivation, the recovery of areas degraded by such cultivation, the protection of biodiversity and demand reduction and drug abuse prevention, with a special focus on youth.

9. The representative of the Dominican Republic referred to the key aspects of his country's new national drug control strategy and the importance of setting realistic objectives and targets. He emphasized awareness-raising and capacity-building, which were important areas of focus in the strategy and the readiness of national authorities to intensify cooperation with their counterparts in other countries, both within and outside the region.

10. The representative of Colombia underlined that illicit coca bush cultivation had declined by 47.5 per cent between 2000 and 2005 and that a further reduction was forecast for 2006. Similarly, illicit opium poppy cultivation had been cut from a peak of 7,350 hectares in 1998 to 1,950 hectares in 2005, and the target for 2006 was the complete elimination of opium poppy. In that context, it was noted that the greater productivity and yields of the reduced area still under coca bush cultivation might account to some extent for the increased levels of drug seizures and trafficking in other countries in the region; the representatives of other countries of the region singled out that phenomenon as a major concern.

11. Reference was made to individuals potentially involved in drug trafficking moving from one country in the region to another and resettling. A request was made to utilize existing communication channels, or establish bilateral contacts, for the exchange of information in that regard.

12. Several representatives referred to the development or the intensification of illicit drug trafficking along routes extending from Colombia through Ecuador, Peru and Argentina to countries in Europe. Specific reference was made of a new method of concealment involving the use of sealed thermal containers, which were apparently substituted while in transit with identical containers bearing the same markings and characteristics but which contained illicit drugs. The substitute

containers were prepared using images and information transmitted over the Internet.

13. The representative of the United States noted that trafficking in illicit drugs, pharmaceutical preparations and precursors using the Internet was an area of concern requiring specific attention and underlined in that regard the work being done within the framework of the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD) of the Organization of American States and the *Report of the International Narcotics Control Board for 2005*.¹

14. The representative of Spain, making reference to the Sixteenth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Africa, held in Nairobi from 25 to 29 September 2006, noted the re-emergence of the African route used for the smuggling of drugs from South America through Africa into Europe. He noted that efforts needed to be made to overcome old barriers to bilateral and international cooperation and to open new channels for the exchange of information, such as those being established for the exchange of intelligence by the Serious Organised Crime Agency of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. In that context, he referred to new methods for the analysis of information to anticipate developing trends of organized crime and to the need to view drug trafficking not simply as an illicit activity in itself but as one of many facets of organized crime. He noted the need to share information on the various organized criminal networks and the new alliances that those groups were establishing. He also noted that the European Police Office (Europol) should participate in the meetings of HONLEA.

15. The representatives of Haiti and Jamaica referred to the use of the territory of their countries for the transit traffic in illicit drugs and the efforts made by their Governments in that regard. The authorities of Haiti continued to be guided by the commitments made by Member States at the twentieth special session of the General Assembly, in 1998. His country had reported some significant drug seizures in the recent past, although it had limited resources at its disposal to effectively monitor its sea and air space. New efforts were being made to combat money-laundering, increase awareness of the judiciary and tackle drug abuse. The representative of Jamaica noted that his country was being used as a major transit area for cocaine consignments from the Americas destined for Europe. He referred to the success achieved by Operation Kingfish, which had resulted in significant drug seizures, the dismantling of trafficking networks and the seizure of assets. He explained that that success was reflected in the recent decline in seizures of cocaine in his country and that the illicit cultivation of and trafficking in cannabis had become major problems.

16. The observer for the Russian Federation noted that owing to the phenomenon of international drug trafficking, over the past 15 years his country had become an important market for illicit drugs coming from Latin America and Afghanistan. In response to that challenge, a special entity, the Federal Drug Control Service (FSKN) had been established. He referred to the important role of international and bilateral cooperation and to the participation of his country in over 60 international controlled delivery operations, which had resulted in the seizure of drugs and the dismantling of organized criminal groups, and noted that his country had successfully collaborated with countries in the region in that regard. He also noted that placing drug liaison officers in diplomatic missions was an effective way to

¹ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.06.XI.2.

facilitate operational drug control cooperation and that his country was finalizing the process for placing such liaison officers in other countries, including in Latin America. The representative of Brazil referred to the important role of drug liaison officers and the exchange of information, noting that the regional intelligence offices maintained by his country in São Paulo and Rio de Janeiro had received officers from other countries in the region and were ready to receive more.

III. Implementation of the recommendations adopted by the Fifteenth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Latin America and the Caribbean

17. At its 2nd meeting, on 23 October 2006, the Meeting considered item 4 of its agenda, entitled “Implementation of the recommendations adopted by the Fifteenth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Latin America and the Caribbean, by States of the region”. The Meeting had before it a document prepared by the Secretariat (UNODC/HONLAC/2006/3) on the basis of information provided by Governments in response to a questionnaire sent to all States members of HONLEA, Latin America and the Caribbean. The document reflected the replies received by the Secretariat from Argentina, Canada, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Ecuador, Grenada, Guatemala, Guyana, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Spain, Suriname and Trinidad and Tobago by 13 September 2006. After that date or in the course of the Meeting, replies to the questionnaire were received from the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, the Netherlands and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of).

18. A representative of UNODC made an introductory statement. The representative of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela made an audio-visual presentation.

19. The representative of UNODC referred to the set of recommendations adopted at the Fifteenth Meeting of HONLEA, Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Santa Marta, Colombia, from 17 to 21 October 2005, relating to the three issues considered by the working groups: (a) drug trafficking trends and illicit distribution networks: law enforcement countermeasures; (b) links between drug trafficking and other forms of organized crime; and (c) measures to counteract new trends in the use of technology by groups engaged in drug trafficking and organized crime.

20. In relation to the recommendations under issue 1, drug trafficking trends and illicit distribution networks: law enforcement countermeasures, the majority of countries that responded to the questionnaire had introduced measures to facilitate cooperation between the authorities and the chemical industry involved in the legitimate trade of precursors. Most of the responding countries stated that the substances listed in Tables I and II of the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988,² were under effective control. They also reported that they exchanged information with CICAD, the International Narcotics Control Board and Interpol. Some countries reported that they also exchanged information, where possible, on substitute substances, which, although not under international control, were used in the manufacture of illicit

² United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1582, No. 27627.

drugs. Some countries reported that they had adopted measures to prevent the diversion of “go-fast” boats and their parts and components for illicit drug trafficking and had established related national registers.

21. With respect to the recommendations under issue 2, links between drug trafficking and other forms of organized crime, countries reported that controlled delivery operations were regulated and permitted in their territories, while others referred to the formulation of new legislation in that area. Countries also reported participating in joint investigations and noted that they were parties to bilateral, regional and international cooperation agreements.

22. With reference to the recommendations under issue 3, measures to counteract new trends in the use of technology by groups engaged in drug trafficking and organized crime, most countries reported that the exchange of information was facilitated by various bilateral and multilateral agreements. With regard to the recommendation to increase awareness of the use by drug traffickers of the Internet and modern technology, a number of countries reported that they had implemented measures to raise awareness and improve their law enforcement capacity. Some countries had established specialized units, and some law enforcement agencies had received specialized training in that area. However, other countries lacked the technical and financial means to tackle the problem or conduct related investigations. Some countries had put in place legal frameworks to ensure cooperation on the safeguard and provision of data by Internet providers in order to facilitate investigations. Some respondents noted that they had entered into bilateral and/or multilateral agreements in that regard, and particular reference was made to article 20 of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (General Assembly resolution 55/25, annex 1), on special investigative techniques.

23. The representative of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela made an audio-visual presentation covering the range of measures that his Government had introduced since the Fifteenth Meeting of HONLEA, Latin America and the Caribbean, to implement the recommendations of that and previous meetings. The National Anti-Drug Office (ONA) had been established to coordinate and oversee overall implementation of national drug control policies. Its areas of action included the relevant legal framework, effective cooperation and coordination, illicit crops, drug trafficking and the control of precursors. Two new pieces of legislation provided the basis for action, a law against trafficking in and abuse of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances and a law against organized crime. A large number of reforms were being implemented to improve the gathering and analysis of information and intelligence and to promote cooperation. Operational capacities were being enhanced to combat trafficking at ports, eradicate illicit crops, control precursors and establish a secure Internet-based regional system for the control and exchange of information on precursors. Those measures had resulted in the number of seizures of illicit drugs increasing by 79 per cent from 2004 to 2005. Major traffickers had been arrested, and assets had been seized in various operations. Reference was also made to draft legislation that would authorize the downing of unidentified aircraft.

IV. Consideration of topics by working groups

24. At its 3rd-8th meetings, from 24 to 26 October, the Meeting considered item 5 of its agenda, entitled “Consideration of topics by working groups”. The observations and conclusions of the working groups are presented below. For the recommendations of the working groups approved by the plenary, see chapter I above.

Observations and conclusions of the working groups

Issue 1. The response of the region to cocaine manufacture and trafficking

25. The working group on issue 1, “The response of the region to cocaine manufacturer and trafficking”, held a meeting on 24 October. In its consideration of the topic, the working group made the following observations:

(a) Alternative development programmes had been shown to be effective in those countries where they were undertaken in conjunction with programmes for the manual and aerial eradication of illicit coca bush sites, as was the case in Colombia;

(b) In spite of increasing international law enforcement cooperation and notable success in interdiction efforts, the street price of cocaine had not increased;

(c) Cooperation among border control agencies was particularly important for the interception of illicit consignments of cocaine and its precursors. Secondary land border crossings in the region were attractive to drug traffickers, because facilities there were often ill equipped to thoroughly examine and correctly identify precursor chemicals subject to international or domestic control;

(d) An assessment of the legitimate chemical needs of domestic industry, together with the ongoing review of importers and the quantities and types of imported chemicals, gave authorities an opportunity to identify anomalies that might signal attempts at the diversion of precursor chemicals;

(e) A survey undertaken by UNODC and the Government of Colombia³ provided a clearer picture of the true scale of the illicit cultivation and production of coca in that country. The survey also found that traffickers are extracting greater yields of coca from less hectares of cultivation;

(f) In order to be successful, eradication programmes targeting illicit coca bush cultivation must be accompanied by programmes offering commercially viable alternative incomes that enabled rural communities to support themselves without resort to a return to illicit cultivation;

(g) Drug law enforcement authorities responsible for border control could be made more effective through the sharing of information among agencies and with cross-border counterparts in tandem with commitment to inter-agency cooperation in operational responses;

(h) The effectiveness of the pre-export notification system for the sale and shipment of precursor chemicals was diminished when the requested State or the

³ *Colombia: Coca Cultivation Survey* (United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, June 2006).

counterpart authority did not respond promptly or did not respond at all to a formal inquiry. There was a need to further develop fast, formal communication between authorities to support effective control over the cross-border movement of precursor chemicals.

Issue 2. The rising threat of the abuse of amphetamine-type stimulants

26. The working group on issue 2, “The rising threat of the abuse of amphetamine-type stimulants”, held a meeting on 24 October. In its consideration of the topic, the working group made the following observations:

(a) Abuse of amphetamine-type stimulants was slowly growing in the region. There was little public awareness of the threat posed by such abuse, and law enforcement authorities lacked the necessary skills to act effectively against it;

(b) In a number of countries in the region, the absence of relevant legislation prevented authorities from prosecuting persons engaged in the manufacture of amphetamine-type stimulants and the import of non-controlled chemicals to be used in that manufacture;

(c) Amphetamine-type stimulants manufactured in North America were largely destined for domestic markets, while interceptions to date suggested that the markets for amphetamine-type stimulants in Central America and the Caribbean and in South America were being supplied by illicit manufacture in Europe;

(d) The use of the Internet to sell prescription and controlled drugs was of growing concern, as were the door-to-door delivery services offered by such providers through mail and courier services.

27. The working group drew the following conclusions:

(a) The manufacture of amphetamine-type stimulants in Latin America had been identified as a threat by communities and Governments of countries in that subregion;

(b) There was a need to take action now to raise awareness among drug law enforcement authorities, prosecutors and judges of the threat posed by amphetamine-type stimulants and of the related issues of control of precursor chemicals and clandestine manufacture;

(c) The first step to preventing the manufacture of amphetamine-type stimulants was the effective countermeasure of exercising strict control over precursor chemicals;

(d) Because amphetamine-type stimulants were a new challenge to the region, drug law enforcement authorities needed assistance to develop the specialized skills needed to identify, investigate and intercept consignments of such substances;

(e) National drug strategies should address the sale on the Internet of pharmaceutical drugs and precursor chemicals.

Issue 3. Maritime trafficking in illicit drugs

28. The working group on issue 3, “Maritime trafficking in illicit drugs”, held meetings on 25 and 26 October. In its consideration of the topic, the working group made the following observations:

(a) The illegal use of all type of vessels, in particular fishing and leisure boats and “go-fast” boats operating out of the Americas and at the entry points of other regions, underpinned maritime trafficking in cocaine by organized criminal groups;

(b) Significant interceptions of cocaine concealed in commercial sea freight containers continued to be made within the region and beyond;

(c) National coordination bodies comprised of agencies responsible for drug law enforcement, such as police, customs and coast guard authorities, the navy, and the air force, were effective in enabling Governments to best utilize the resources at their disposal to counter maritime smuggling of illicit drugs;

(d) Increasing quantities of cocaine were entering Europe by sea. That trend was reflected in the increased number of maritime interceptions of cocaine made by authorities off the coast of Western Africa and the reports of increased seizures in container ports of Spain;

(e) There was a need for authorities to pay particular attention to fishing vessels operating out of national ports, because those craft played multiple roles in maritime drug trafficking throughout the region, including as transport vessels for point-to-point delivery of cocaine consignments, as transport from offloading mother ships to remote landing sites and commercial ports, and as the providers of offshore refuelling and provisioning for “go-fast” boats in transit;

(f) Commercial sea freight containers would continue to be a major transport used by traffickers, because the containers provided anonymity owing to the number of containers in circulation in international trade, because they provided a way to transport large quantities of cocaine and to conceal it within legitimate trade cargoes and because the structure of the containers could be easily modified to create hidden compartments in which to conceal cocaine;

(g) Authorities had to enhance regional and international coordination for exchanging information on the movements of small boats and vessels within the region and beyond in order to maintain the effectiveness of measures to counter maritime drug trafficking.

Issue 4. Examination of all aspects related to the effective control of precursors (training workshop)

29. At its 7th and 8th meetings, on 26 October 2006, the Meeting held a training workshop on the examination of all aspects related to the effective control of precursors.

30. Experts of the Secretariat of Planning for the Prevention of Drug Addiction and the Fight against Drug Trafficking (SEDRONAR) of Argentina, the Argentine Customs Bureau (DGA), the Argentine National Gendarmerie, and the Argentine Federal Police made audio-visual presentations on the various aspects of dealing

with the complete chain of control of precursors and essential chemicals used in the illicit manufacture of drugs.

31. The workshop covered all aspects of the administrative control of precursors and essential chemicals, the work of the authorities of Argentina and the coordination between SEDRONAR and the other relevant authorities of the Government of Argentina. An overview was given of the chemical methods involved in the manufacture of cocaine, heroine and synthetic drugs, highlighting the precursors and essential chemicals used in those processes. The workshop also covered the measures taken to prevent the diversion of precursors and essential chemicals and the results of those measures, factors that influence the diversion of precursors and essential chemicals and related trafficking, as well as procedures and modus operandi for the monitoring and inspection of legitimate users of controlled precursors and essential chemicals.

32. The adoption of best practices by the authorities of Argentina for the control of precursors was acknowledged. The following key elements of those best practices were highlighted: (a) the effective identification of companies using precursor chemicals; (b) the establishment of a national registry so that legitimate users could deal with precursor chemicals within an appropriate, fitting legal framework; and (c) the effective control and inspection of companies trading in precursor chemicals.

V. Organization of the Seventeenth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Latin America and the Caribbean

33. At its 9th meeting, on 27 October, the Sixteenth Meeting considered item 6 of its agenda, entitled "Organization of the Seventeenth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Latin America and the Caribbean". The Meeting had before it a note by the Secretariat (UNODC/HONLAC/2006/4) drawing attention to certain issues that needed to be addressed during the Seventeenth Meeting and containing a draft provisional agenda for that Meeting. The representative of the Secretariat made a statement informing the Sixteenth Meeting of the two responses received from participants in connection to the questionnaire contained in a conference room paper (UNODC/HONLAC/2006/CRP.2).

34. The representative of Ecuador informed the Meeting of the offer by his Government to host the Seventeenth Meeting, in 2007. The Meeting welcomed that offer. The Secretariat informed the Meeting that it would communicate with the Government of Ecuador to make the necessary arrangements for the hosting of the Seventeenth Meeting.

35. A number of themes were put forward for discussion by the working groups at the Seventeenth Meeting, under item 5 of its draft provisional agenda including the problem of cannabis cultivation and trafficking in the region and responses to it; the problem of transit countries and their use for the storage of illicit drugs, in the context of the demand for illicit drugs; illicit drug trafficking, money-laundering and other related activities of organized criminal groups and their relation to the movement of persons involved in those illicit activities; the entry and commercialization of amphetamine-type stimulants in the region; and trafficking in

psychotropic substances and other drugs using the Internet. It was agreed that the Secretariat would finalize the wording of the themes for consideration by the working groups at the Seventeenth Meeting in consultation with countries in the region, as appropriate.

36. The Meeting took note of the proposals and requested the Secretariat to formulate the topics for discussion in working groups prior to the Seventeenth Meeting. On that basis, the following draft provisional agenda for the Seventeenth Meeting was approved:

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda.
3. Major regional drug trafficking trends and countermeasures.
4. Implementation of the recommendations adopted by the Sixteenth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Latin America and the Caribbean.
5. Consideration of topics by working groups.
6. Follow-up to the twentieth special session of the General Assembly.
7. Organization of the Eighteenth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Latin America and the Caribbean.
8. Other business.
9. Adoption of the report of the Seventeenth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Latin America and the Caribbean.

VI. Adoption of the report of the Sixteenth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Latin America and the Caribbean

37. At its 9th meeting, on 27 October 2006, the Sixteenth Meeting adopted its report (UNODC/HONLAC/2006/L.1 and Add.1-5), including the reports of the working groups and the recommendations contained therein, as orally amended.

VII. Organization of the Meeting

A. Opening and duration of the Meeting

38. The Sixteenth Meeting of HONLEA, Latin America and the Caribbean, was held in Buenos Aires from 23 to 27 October 2006. The Secretary of State of SEDRONAR and the Minister of the Interior of Argentina, as well as the representative of the Executive Director of UNODC, addressed the inaugural meeting.

B. Attendance

39. The following States members of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean were represented: Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, France, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Italy, Jamaica, Mexico, Netherlands, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Portugal, Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, United Kingdom, United States, Uruguay and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of).

40. Australia, Israel and the Russian Federation were represented by observers.

41. CICAD and Interpol were represented by observers.

42. UNODC served as the secretariat of the Meeting.

C. Election of officers

43. At its 1st meeting, on 23 October 2006, the Meeting elected the following officers by acclamation:

<i>Chairman:</i>	José Ramón Granero (Argentina)
<i>First Vice-Chairman:</i>	Enrique Oswaldo Montalvo (Ecuador)
<i>Second Vice-Chairman:</i>	Mabel Feliz Baez (Dominican Republic)
<i>Rapporteur:</i>	Allan Crooks (Trinidad and Tobago)

D. Adoption of the agenda

44. At its 1st meeting, on 23 October 2006, the Sixteenth Meeting adopted the following agenda:

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda.
3. Major regional drug trafficking trends and countermeasures.
4. Implementation of the recommendations adopted by the Fifteenth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Latin America and the Caribbean.
5. Consideration of topics by working groups:
 - (a) The response of the region to cocaine manufacture and trafficking;
 - (b) The rising threat of the abuse of amphetamine-type stimulants;
 - (c) Maritime trafficking in illicit drugs;
 - (d) Examination of all aspects related to the effective control of precursors (training workshop).
6. Organization of the Seventeenth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Latin America and the Caribbean.

7. Other business.
8. Adoption of the report of the Sixteenth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Latin America and the Caribbean.

E. Documentation

45. The documents before the Meeting are listed in the annex to the present report.

VIII. Closure of the Meeting

46. A closing statement was made by the Chairman of the Sixteenth Meeting.

Annex

List of documents before the Sixteenth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Latin America and the Caribbean

<i>Document number</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>	<i>Title or description</i>
UNODC/HONLAC/2006/1	2	Provisional agenda, including annotations and provisional timetable
UNODC/HONLAC/2006/2	3	Current situation with respect to regional and subregional cooperation
UNODC/HONLAC/2006/3	4	Implementation of the recommendations adopted by the Fifteenth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Latin America and the Caribbean
UNODC/HONLAC/2006/4	6	Organization of the Seventeenth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Latin America and the Caribbean
UNODC/HONLAC/2006/L.1 and Add.1-5	8	Draft report
UNODC/HONLAC/2006/CRP.1	3	Statistics on drug trafficking trends in the Americas and worldwide
UNODC/HONLAC/2006/CRP.2	6	Questionnaire on the working methods of the subsidiary bodies of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs
UNODC/HONLAC/2006/CRP.3-18	3	Country reports