

17 October 2011

Original: English\*

## Report of the Twenty-first Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Santiago from 3 to 7 October 2011

### Contents

	<i>Page</i>
I. Matters calling for action by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs or brought to its attention. . . . .	3
Recommendations adopted by the Twenty-first Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Latin America and the Caribbean. . . . .	3
II. Major regional drug trafficking trends and countermeasures . . . . .	5
III. Implementation of the recommendations adopted by the Twentieth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Latin America and the Caribbean . . . . .	7
IV. Consideration of topics by working groups. . . . .	8
Observations and conclusions of the working groups . . . . .	8
V. Follow-up to the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem . . . . .	12
VI. Organization of the Twenty-second Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Latin America and the Caribbean. . . . .	13
VII. Other business . . . . .	15
VIII. Adoption of the report of the Twenty-first Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Latin America and the Caribbean. . . . .	16
IX. Organization of the Meeting. . . . .	16
A. Opening and duration of the Meeting . . . . .	16
B. Attendance. . . . .	16

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



C. Election of officers .....	17
D. Adoption of the agenda .....	17
E. Documentation .....	18
X. Closure of the Meeting .....	18
Annex	
List of documents before the Twenty-first Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Latin America and the Caribbean. ....	19

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

### **Recommendations adopted by the Twenty-first Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Latin America and the Caribbean**

1. The Twenty-first 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. The observations and conclusions that led to the recommendations are presented in section IV. The Meeting adopted the recommendations below, which had been drawn up by its working groups.

#### **Issue 1. Building partnerships with the chemical industry to strengthen precursor control**

2. With regard to issue 1, “Building partnerships with the chemical industry to strengthen precursor control”, the following recommendations were made:

(a) Governments should encourage their national authorities to develop for the chemical industry voluntary codes of conduct that support the effective implementation of national legislation and regulations and promote corporate responsibility and effective cooperation between the public and private sectors with regard to transactions involving precursor chemicals;

(b) Governments should consider the formation of inter-agency task forces comprising ministries that have the appropriate mandates to regulate and oversee the import and export, national manufacture, trade and distribution of precursor chemicals;

(c) Interested States of the region should explore with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the International Narcotics Control Board the development of a system to facilitate the exchange of information on cocaine seizures and their chemical composition, as well as on seized precursors and those recovered from clandestine laboratories, so as to support the periodic dissemination of analysis on new trends in emerging substances to the competent authorities of the region;

(d) In order to better target attempts at illicit diversion of precursor chemicals, Governments of the region should review the information they share on cocaine analysis and seized chemical precursors with the regional “Prevention of the diversion of drug precursors in the Latin American and Caribbean region” initiative so as to ensure that such information supports trend analysis, and should consider participating in the pilot of the International Narcotics Control Board’s precursor incident communication system when the opportunity arises in the near future;

(e) UNODC should explore, in consultation with the International Narcotics Control Board, the expansion of the Pre-Export Notification Online (PEN Online) system to provide a platform for exchange of information on the import-export of precursor chemicals controlled by some States of the region, but not under international control in accordance with Tables I and II of the United Nations

Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988.

### **Issue 2. Implementing effective border controls**

3. With regard to issue 2, “Implementing effective border controls”, the following recommendations were made:

(a) Where national strategies were not already established, Governments of States of the region should be encouraged to develop and implement a national strategy that encouraged close interaction between their drug law enforcement services in matters of cooperation and support in operations against illicit drug trafficking;

(b) Governments of the region should be encouraged to utilize their investment in training, technology and manpower to establish an inter-agency response for container control at national ports and container terminals through the establishment of specialist units dedicated to the review, selection and search of suspect containers of interest;

(c) Governments of the region should be encouraged to: (i) review their current strategies on border control and consider, among other options, the joint manning of land border stations and the undertaking, subject to their national legal frameworks, of joint mobile patrols, joint operations or combined or simultaneous operations so as to expand operational capacities; (ii) adopt measures to enhance communications and the exchange of information; and (iii) strengthen joint drug law enforcement controls at land, sea and air borders between neighbouring States through such confidence-building measures as joint training, officer exchanges and jointly planned operations. In the case of countries that faced internal obstacles of a normative nature in the implementation of the recommendation, Governments should consider the possibility of undertaking simultaneous operations as a step towards the development of joint controls.

### **Issue 3. Addressing the proceeds of drug trafficking**

4. With regard to issue 3, “Addressing the proceeds of drug trafficking”, the following recommendations were made:

(a) Governments should be encouraged to introduce comprehensive legislation in the matter of asset forfeiture in its various forms to support authorities in the recovery of the proceeds of crime;

(b) Governments should review their domestic legislation on asset forfeiture in order to identify legal mechanisms aimed at optimizing the application of forfeiture of property derived from illicit drug trafficking;

(c) Governments should consider the possibility of establishing specialized units in police and prosecution services for investigation of the crime of money-laundering;

(d) Governments should, in a flexible and timely manner, provide the broadest possible international cooperation to combat money-laundering and support the recovery of assets that were the proceeds of crime through information

exchange, the sharing of information on money-laundering typologies and the identification and location of assets and property.

## II. Major regional drug trafficking trends and countermeasures

5. At its 1st and 2nd meetings, on 3 and 4 October 2011, the Meeting considered item 3 of its agenda, entitled “Major regional drug trafficking trends and countermeasures”. For its consideration of the item, the Meeting had before it a note by the Secretariat on statistics on drug trafficking trends in the Americas and worldwide (UNODC/HONLAC/21/2) and a conference room paper on the current situation with respect to regional and subregional cooperation (UNODC/HONLAC/21/CRP.1). In addition, country reports on the drug trafficking situation were submitted by the Bahamas, Colombia, Cuba, Ecuador, El Salvador, Jamaica, Mexico, Portugal, Trinidad and Tobago and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) (UNODC/HONLAC/20/CRP.2-11).

6. A representative of UNODC introduced the item and made an audio-visual 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 Chile, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Mexico, Peru, Haiti, Colombia, Ecuador, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Panama, Brazil, France, the Dominican Republic, Trinidad and Tobago, Guatemala and Costa Rica made statements, supported in most cases by audio-visual presentations. The observer for the Russian Federation also made an audio-visual presentation.

7. The representative of Chile introduced a proposal intended to facilitate the sharing of information on and forensic analysis of cocaine and precursor chemicals seized by the authorities of countries of the region. The proposal was introduced early in the deliberations to facilitate its consideration and discussion, including by the working group on agenda item 5(a), “Building partnerships with the chemical industry to strengthen precursor control”. A number of representatives noted the timeliness of the proposal and looked forward to its discussion.

8. Participants informed the Meeting about recent developments relating to drug trafficking trends and the drug control situation in their countries and the region, also providing information and data on national advances and achievements made in combating drug trafficking. Updated data and information on drug seizures, methods of concealment, air, land and maritime trafficking routes, operations to dismantle organized criminal groups and measures to counteract the use of submersible vessels and other advanced technologies by drug traffickers, as well as on the arrest of significant individuals, was also shared. A number of participants drew attention to the links between drug trafficking and the trafficking of weapons and the related higher levels of violence that had characterized drug-related crime in a number of countries of the region over the past year, including an increased homicide rate.

9. A number of participants provided information on the eradication of illicit drug crops, the seizure and dismantling of clandestine laboratories used in the illicit manufacture of drugs, the destruction of clandestine landing strips and the

smuggling and seizure of precursor chemicals, particularly ephedrine and pseudoephedrine.

10. 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. In this regard, several representatives provided information on administrative and other measures that had been introduced in their countries to effect stricter controls over precursors and prevent their diversion, and specific seizures and achievements in this area.

11. 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 presented. Reference was made to successful work in the area of control and inspection at container ports and airports of the region.

12. All participants emphasized the importance of renewed bilateral and regional cooperation and joint operation efforts since the Twentieth Meeting of HONLEA, Latin America and the Caribbean, which had significantly contributed to the achievements reported at the current Meeting. In this regard, the need to continue enhancing cooperation, coordination and exchange of information among law enforcement authorities of the region was emphasized. The important role of and contribution made by drug liaison officers was also noted, and emphasis was placed on the need to consider placing such officers and benefiting from their presence in the countries of the region in order to promote and facilitate the sharing of information and the conduct of joint investigations.

13. A number of emerging issues were brought to the attention of the Meeting, including the emergence of the trafficking by air of liquid cocaine ingested by individuals. It was noted that this method of concealment was on the increase and airports of the region should take further measures to facilitate the identification of such cases, which could include improved X-ray and body-scanning equipment, profiling and interviewing techniques and other non-intrusive inspection methods. Similarly, the trafficking of ingested cannabis products was brought to the attention of the Meeting, a development that was reportedly the consequence of the high price of cannabis products in illicit markets.

14. A number of representatives noted that, while it was important to continue to identify the heads of drug trafficking and organized criminal organizations with a view to their dismantling, it was equally important to make every effort to identify and dismantle the logistical support chain that enabled such illicit activity. It was noted that the nature of drug trafficking organizations continued to change and that smaller, compartmentalized organizations, often family-based, where individuals had responsibility for specific parts of the drug trafficking chain, were being identified with greater frequency. It was noted that work should continue on identifying the structure of such organizations.

15. Reference was made to the Political Declaration, measures and plans of action adopted at the twentieth special session of the General Assembly, in 1998, and the high-level segment of the fifty-second session of the Commission on Narcotic

Drugs, in 2009, in particular the measures related to the elimination of the illicit cultivation of coca bush and opium poppy. The destabilizing effects of illicit drug trafficking and their impact on regional security were also mentioned, as well as the need for a consolidated response by the international community. Reference was also made to links between drug trafficking, increased levels of violence and terrorism.

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

16. At its 4th meeting, on 4 October 2011, the Meeting considered item 4 of its agenda, entitled “Implementation of the recommendations adopted by the Twentieth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Latin America and the Caribbean”. The Meeting had before it a document prepared by the Secretariat 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 (UNODC/HONLAC/21/3). That document reflected the responses received by the Secretariat as at 30 August 2011 from Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Jamaica, Nicaragua, Portugal, Trinidad and Tobago, Uruguay and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of). After that date — in some cases in the course of the Meeting — questionnaires were submitted by Argentina, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Guyana, Mexico and Peru.

17. The Secretary of the Meeting made an introductory statement. The representatives of Colombia, Ecuador and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) made audio-visual presentations providing complementary information on the actions their Governments had taken to implement the recommendations adopted at the Twentieth Meeting.

18. The representative of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela referred, *inter alia*, to the investments his Government had made to strengthen the control of its airspace through the acquisition of aircraft and radar equipment that enabled continuous coverage of the national territory, as well as on the establishment of a national air control centre that permitted the sharing of information with neighbouring countries. It was also reported that legislation was under consideration that would permit the interception of aircraft and, in cases of refusal to collaborate or respond to a request of the pertinent authorities, to interdict and bring down such aircraft. The representative expressed confidence that once the new legislation was approved and brought into force, it would have a positive deterrent impact on attempts to use the national airspace for illicit flights. In addition, he informed the Meeting that his country had established a central office to monitor and authorize the purchase and sale of aircraft. Other measures were reported in relation to preventing and combating corruption of public officials, including the requirement to submit annual declarations of assets and other measures to ensure the integrity and probity of such officials.

19. The representative of Colombia provided information on the measures introduced to establish a culture of respect for the rule of law and to combat corruption, including the provision of education at every level of society. A national

integrity commission had been established to promote and support that initiative. Complementary information was also provided on the comprehensive measures put into effect to ensure the control of precursor chemicals in response to the recommendations adopted at the Twentieth Meeting. In this connection, attention was drawn to the need for authorities of countries of the region to consider taking measures, where required, to ensure the effective control of the chemical and pharmaceutical industries, as well as to promote a degree of homogeneity in the relevant measures adopted by countries of the region in order to deter trafficking and smuggling organizations from relocating such activities to other countries of the region. In this regard, Colombia encouraged the full use of pre-export notifications by countries of the region.

20. The representative of Ecuador provided a briefing on the measures adopted to implement the recommendations of the Twentieth Meeting, highlighting investments in radar equipment and interceptor aircraft for the monitoring and control of national airspace, as well as the enhanced operational exchange of information in this area with other countries of the region. He also provided information on the coordination arrangements that had been established between the national aviation authorities and the armed forces to conduct inspections of hangars, airports and aircraft in collaboration with the anti-narcotics police. In this regard, the representative provided information on the increased level of activities in this field, which was a consequence of the improved capacities of the authorities, including the air force. He noted that the results of those activities were evidence of the limited use of the national airspace for the trafficking of illicit drugs.

#### **IV. Consideration of topics by working groups**

21. At its 4th to 8th meetings, from 4 to 6 October 2011, 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 section I above.

##### **Observations and conclusions of the working groups**

###### **Issue 1. Building partnerships with the chemical industry to strengthen precursor control**

22. The working group on issue 1, “Building partnerships with the chemical industry to strengthen precursor control”, held two meetings, on 4 and 5 October 2011. In its consideration of the topic, the working group made the following observations:

(a) There was still not enough awareness and knowledge among officials in national law enforcement agencies with competence and responsibilities over the control of essential chemical substances and precursor chemicals about the types of such substances with potential for diversion to the illegal manufacture of illicit drugs;

(b) The European Union-funded regional initiative entitled “Prevention of the diversion of drug precursors in the Latin American and Caribbean region”, which supported the strengthening of the national capacities of public administrative and control bodies, enforcement agencies and the private sector chemical industries, was making a valuable contribution to efforts to prevent the diversion of precursor chemicals from licit to illicit channels;

(c) The private sector chemical, petrochemical and mining industries in the region were key strategic partners whose cooperation and voluntary compliance with the application of national chemical regulations and implementation of procedures should be actively sought by authorities;

(d) The proposal by the delegation of Chile to facilitate the sharing of the results of chemical analyses of cocaine seizures of 50 kg or more, as well as of chemical precursors seized and recovered from clandestine laboratory sites among States of the region, with a view to pooling such information in order to identify trends in the provenance of those chemicals, trafficking routes and new trends in chemical use, was seen as a valuable and timely initiative to assist the Governments of the region in working together to combat the diversion of precursors;

(e) The adoption of voluntary codes of ethics and/or practices by the members of the chemical industry was an effective way to raise and extend awareness among key strategic partners involved in the legitimate trade, sale, distribution and use of precursors about the danger posed by the diversion of such substances;

(f) The precursor incident communication system, under development by the secretariat of the International Narcotics Control Board, would offer a valuable source of data for authorities wishing to analyse trends in and share information among States of the region on the diversion of essential substances and precursor chemicals;

(g) There was a need to count on a communication system to exchange information on substances and precursor chemicals that, while not included in Tables I and II of the 1988 Convention, were subject to national controls in a number of countries of the region.

23. The working group drew the following conclusions:

(a) National authorities should adopt a proactive approach to encouraging corporate responsibility among chemical companies to support compliance with the law and relevant regulations. This could include support and guidance to assist them in developing company awareness-raising and training material for employees;

(b) The PEN Online system, supported by the International Narcotics Control Board, had proved to be a very effective mechanism for confirming the legitimacy of commercial parties involved in international transactions in precursor chemicals;

(c) Guidelines for voluntary codes of conduct should spell out the roles and responsibilities of each party, including what was expected and what was required;

(d) A close working relationship must exist between competent national authorities, drug law enforcement agencies and the private sector if effective

controls were to be maintained over the diverse range of chemicals available as precursors;

(e) The proposal by Chile and the concerns raised by participants allowed a conclusion to be reached regarding the need to have a system for the exchange of information on seized precursors and reports on the forensic analyses of seized cocaine to support the analysis of trends and the focusing of control measures in order to develop more effective strategies and operations to combat the diversion of precursors.

## **Issue 2. Implementing effective border controls**

24. The working group on issue 2, “Implementing effective border controls”, held two meetings, on 5 October 2011. In its consideration of the topic, the working group made the following observations:

(a) Border agencies should develop strategies that support joint operations and thus leverage the advantages of pooling of legislative powers, human resources and technical support;

(b) Illicit trafficking by sea in commercial containers posed a significant challenge to law enforcement authorities concerned with combating illicit drug trafficking and the diversion of precursor chemicals;

(c) Good coordination among drug law enforcement authorities (including coordination with military and security services), distribution of tasks and responsibilities and appropriate deployment of resources were essential in order to achieve effective control by the States of the region of their extensive land and sea borders;

(d) The agreement between the police authorities of Peru and Ecuador to share responsibility for patrolling their common border by dividing it into separate areas of responsibility offered a good example of utilizing existing resources for mutual benefit. A similar example of operational good practice was the joint initiative in coastal patrolling undertaken by Spain and Morocco;

(e) The development and utilization of submersible craft to traffic cocaine and their increasing sophistication constituted a new and serious challenge to drug law enforcement authorities.

25. The working group drew the following conclusions:

(a) Responding to cross-border drug trafficking required a multi-agency response;

(b) Joint training for officers from different border control agencies (police, customs, immigration, border service, etc.) and other entities performing similar duties supported better understanding among the agencies and their staff of their functions and roles, facilitating the building of synergies and encouraging complementarity, closer operational cooperation and the conduct of joint operations;

(c) Owing to the significant volumes of international cargo transported in sea containers, it was incumbent upon authorities to develop an effective law enforcement response that maintained the security of their borders, but did not add an additional burden or delay to the transit of legitimate trade through their ports;

(d) Access to well-developed intelligence was a key factor for authorities if they were to be effective against traffickers who were able to have access to and utilize new and developing technologies and thus were able to adapt quickly to successful drug enforcement countermeasures;

(e) The region welcomed the development of model legislation by the Organization of American States for States, designed to provide a basis for States to formulate national legislation providing a legal framework for detecting and intercepting submersible craft used to traffic cocaine.

### **Issue 3. Addressing the proceeds of drug trafficking**

26. The working group on issue 3, “Addressing the proceeds of drug trafficking”, held two meetings, on 6 October 2011. In its consideration of the topic, the working group made the following observations:

(a) Addressing the crime of money-laundering from the proceeds of criminal activity was becoming increasingly complex in today’s financial systems;

(b) Traffickers’ imaginations had no limits when conceiving new *modi operandi* to smuggle illicit drugs or cash. In some countries of the region there were organizations dedicated to the transport of illicit cash from illicit activities;

(c) By targeting the proceeds of their illegal businesses and enacting ownership termination legislation, authorities could take effective action against drug trafficking syndicates by depriving them of the financial base that further fuels illicit drug manufacture and trafficking;

(d) Comprehensive legislation addressing money-laundering offences was essential, and most countries of the region had empowering legislation that enabled authorities to act to seize cash, property and assets of those convicted of illicit drug dealing;

(e) The model legislation developed by UNODC, and the associated capacity-building and training to address the proceeds of crime, offered valuable assistance to States and their authorities in strengthening their efforts against money-laundering;

(f) Seizing the accumulated assets of criminal groups and individuals who head them can close down their operations. Civil forfeiture procedure was a major asset for authorities in the recovery of the proceeds of crime.

27. The working group drew the following conclusions:

(a) In addressing the recovery, confiscation or forfeiture of assets obtained through the laundering of proceeds of crime, it was important that governments provide their authorities with a clear policy to guide them, formalized inter-agency agreements to support cooperation, the powers to investigate and a justice and court system that was suitably informed and trained to confidently adjudicate those matters;

(b) All sectors of the justice system — investigation, prosecution and judiciary — needed to be informed, trained and familiar with the application of legislation related to combating money-laundering and recovering the proceeds of crime;

(c) Authorities needed to proactively develop public-private partnerships with the formal banking and financial sector and the non-financial sector so as to encourage their active compliance with national provisions of anti-money-laundering regulations and prevent the laundering of proceeds through assets such as investments, property and shares;

(d) Legislation in the matter of civil asset forfeiture provided authorities with a powerful tool to act against the illicit proceeds of traffickers.

## **V. Follow-up to the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem**

28. At its 8th meeting, on 6 October 2011, the Meeting considered item 6 of its agenda, entitled “Follow-up to the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem”. For its consideration of the item, the Meeting had before it the report of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs on the outcome of the high-level segment of its fifty-second session, on progress achieved in meeting the goals and targets set out in the Political Declaration adopted by the General Assembly at its twentieth special session (A/64/92-E/2009/98).

29. The Secretary of the Meeting made an introductory statement. The representatives of Colombia and Peru made statements.

30. The Secretary provided information on the areas covered and the main actions envisaged in the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem, adopted at the high-level segment of the fifty-second session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and by the General Assembly in its resolution 64/182. Attention was drawn, in particular, to part II of the Plan of Action, on supply reduction and related measures, as well as to the fact that, in its resolutions 64/182 and 65/233, the Assembly had encouraged the meetings of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies and of the Subcommittee on Illicit Drug Traffic and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs to continue to contribute to the strengthening of regional and international cooperation. It was noted that the Commission would conduct a review of the implementation by Member States of the Plan of Action at its fifty-seventh session, in 2014, and that the Meetings of HONLEA, Latin America and the Caribbean could contribute to that review by transmitting their input on the implementation, in particular of part II of the Plan of Action and the relevant recommendations on further follow-up.

31. The representative of Colombia drew attention to Commission on Narcotic Drugs resolution 54/12, entitled “Revitalization of the principle of common and shared responsibility in countering the world drug problem”, in which the Commission had reaffirmed its commitment to ensuring that all aspects of demand reduction, supply reduction and international cooperation were addressed in full conformity with international law, especially the Charter of the United Nations and the three international drug control conventions; called on the international

community to engage in effective cooperation and practical action aimed at 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 under which the strategies of supply reduction and demand reduction were mutually reinforcing; and called on Member States to strengthen their mechanisms for cooperation and coordination in order to achieve results in countering the world drug problem more effectively. In that regard, UNODC was requested to continue facilitating the exchange of experiences and good practices among Member States with respect to strategies to reduce illicit drug supply and demand and drug trafficking and with respect to the necessary international cooperation to promote technical assistance projects aimed at addressing the world drug problem effectively, and Member States were invited to continue to provide the Office, preferably through the annual report questionnaire, with information on their cooperation activities to address the world drug problem, with a view to identifying priority areas in which such cooperation could be strengthened. The representative of Peru emphasized the concept of shared responsibility and the need to ensure that actions were implemented that promoted and were in line with that concept.

## **VI. Organization of the Twenty-second Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Latin America and the Caribbean**

32. At its 8th and 9th meetings, on 6 and 7 October 2011, the Meeting considered item 7 of its agenda, entitled “Organization of the Twenty-second Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Latin America and the Caribbean”. For its consideration of the item, the Meeting had before it a note by the Secretariat (UNODC/HONLAC/21/4) drawing attention to certain issues that needed to be addressed during the Twenty-second Meeting and containing a draft provisional agenda for that Meeting.

33. The Chair of the Meeting made a statement. Statements were also made by the representatives of Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Chile, Argentina, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, the Dominican Republic, Spain, France, Brazil and Trinidad and Tobago. The Secretary of the Meeting also made a statement.

34. The Secretary informed the Meeting that the period from 1 to 5 October 2012 had been reserved for the Twenty-second Meeting of HONLEA, Latin America and the Caribbean. The Chair invited delegations that were interested in hosting the Twenty-second Meeting to contact the Secretariat for information and support in order to determine the venue of the Meeting as early as possible and thus to facilitate preparations.

35. The Meeting held a comprehensive discussion on possible topics to be considered for discussion by the working groups at the Twenty-second Meeting, under item 5 of the draft provisional agenda. The following topics were proposed: (a) current trends in cannabis trafficking and the challenges posed by the trend towards the cultivation of cannabis with a higher tetrahydrocannabinol content; (b) effective border management at airports; (c) maintaining control over precursor chemicals and the new challenges posed by substitute precursor chemicals and

essential substances not under international control in accordance with Tables I and II of the 1988 Convention; (e) new forms of concealment and transportation of drugs; (f) the use of submersible and semisubmersible vessels for the trafficking of cocaine; (g) joint agency task forces: experiences and impact of and lessons learned from the formation of inter-agency task forces in response to illicit drug trafficking and cross-border crime; (h) implementing more effective controls at seaports: profiling, risk analysis, application of new technologies, cooperation between public and private sectors, and the importance of information exchange; (i) drug trafficking and insecurity: links between drug trafficking and arms trafficking; and (j) trafficking and abuse of pharmaceutical medicines: examination of regional trends and trafficking diversion modalities.

36. The Meeting took note of the proposals and requested the Secretariat to finalize the issues to be discussed by working groups prior to the Twenty-second Meeting. On that basis, the following draft provisional agenda for the Twenty-second 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 Twenty-first Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Latin America and the Caribbean.
5. Consideration of topics by working groups [*to be determined*].
6. Follow-up to the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem.
7. Organization of the Twenty-third Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Latin America and the Caribbean.
8. Other business.
9. Adoption of the report.

37. Attention was drawn to the need to promote and facilitate the wider participation at future meetings of HONLEA, Latin America and the Caribbean, of States from the Caribbean subregion. It was also proposed that, in preparing for future meetings, delegations should ensure that their presentations followed more closely the guidance provided in the annotations accompanying the agenda and contain case studies, information on lessons learned and enhancements introduced on the basis of their interventions. It was also suggested that presentations should be brief, not exceeding 15 minutes, and focus on information providing the essential details needed to highlight or illustrate elements of the topics under consideration in the working groups. Participants also encouraged relevant regional and international organizations, such as the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD), the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) and the Southern Common Market, to contribute more to the discussions on the topics considered at the Meetings of HONLEA, Latin America and the Caribbean, from their particular regional and international perspectives.

## VII. Other business

38. At its 8th meeting, on 6 October 2011, the Meeting considered item 8 of its agenda, entitled "Other business". The Meeting had before it a note by the Secretariat on a review of the functioning of the subsidiary bodies of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (UNODC/HONLAC/20/5), containing an analysis of responses by member States to a questionnaire sent to all members of the Commission's subsidiary bodies, with a view to making recommendations for consideration and action by the Commission at its fifty-fourth session, in 2011.

39. The Chair of the Meeting made an introductory statement. Statements were also made by the representatives of Argentina, Chile, Colombia and Mexico. The observer for INTERPOL also made a statement.

40. The representative of Argentina reiterated the offer made at the 6th meeting, following up the discussions under the working group on item 5 (a), "Building partnerships with the chemical industry to strengthen precursor control", for the Secretariat for Planning the Prevention of Drug Abuse and the Fight against Drug Trafficking (SEDRONAR) to provide access to its database on precursors. The database would enable interested competent national authorities of States of the region to obtain information about companies authorized to operate with chemical precursors in Argentina, such as: name of person or company, tax identification code, registration number with the National Registry of Precursor Chemicals, the substances that companies were authorized to operate with and the intended use and/or final destination of those substances. The representative stated that SEDRONAR offered the relevant software free of charge. In order to gain access to the system, interested competent national authorities of countries of the region were invited to transmit an official request to SEDRONAR.

41. The representative of Chile offered access to the database established by the Ministry of Interior and Public Security for the control and administration of precursor chemicals to the States members of HONLEA, Latin America and the Caribbean, in accordance with the government resolution to increase international cooperation in this area in order to help to reduce the diversion of precursor chemicals and essential substances. The representative urged the governments and organisms responsible for the control of substances that could be diverted to the manufacture of illicit drugs to make use of that tool by consulting its web page ([http://200.29.90.110/administracion/index\\_quimicos.php](http://200.29.90.110/administracion/index_quimicos.php); user name: honlea; password: h2011).

42. The representative of Colombia reiterated his Government's offer to provide access to the legal instrument that had been adopted and had led to positive judicial outcomes in combating money-laundering, and invited interested States to transmit a request for access.

43. The representative of Mexico, recalling a recommendation of the Fifth Meeting of HONLEA, Latin America and the Caribbean, reiterated the commitment of the Government of Mexico to continue serving as a centre for the collection, compilation and dissemination of data in an annual statistical publication on drug supply reduction covering countries of the region that was made available at the Meetings of HONLEA, Latin America and the Caribbean. The representative invited States members of HONLEA, Latin America and the Caribbean, to

communicate full and timely drug supply reduction data from their countries to the National Centre for Planning, Analysis and Information to Combat Crime, Office of the Attorney-General of Mexico, to enable the compilation of the statistical yearbook for distribution at future meetings of HONLEA, Latin America and the Caribbean.

44. The observer for INTERPOL made reference to its activities and cooperation in the region and invited members of HONLEA, Latin America and the Caribbean, to utilize the mechanisms provided by INTERPOL for real-time exchange of information among police forces around the world. He also invited member States of HONLEA, Latin America and the Caribbean to attend a meeting being organized by INTERPOL on the regional drug trafficking situation, and strategies and tactical models to confront it, to be held in Buenos Aires from 9 to 11 November 2011.

## **VIII. Adoption of the report of the Twenty-first Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Latin America and the Caribbean**

45. At its 9th meeting, on 7 October 2011, the Twenty-first Meeting adopted its report (UNODC/HONLAC/21/L.1 and Add.1-5), including the reports of the working groups and the recommendations contained therein, as orally revised.

## **IX. Organization of the Meeting**

### **A. Opening and duration of the Meeting**

46. The Twenty-first Meeting of HONLEA, Latin America and the Caribbean, was held in Santiago from 3 to 7 October 2011. The inaugural ceremony was held on 3 October, and participants were addressed by the Minister of Interior and Public Security of Chile, Rodrigo Hinzpeter Kirberg, the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, Alicia Bárcena, and the representative of the Executive Director and Regional Representative for Brazil and the Southern Cone of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, Bo Mathiasen. Also participating in the inaugural ceremony was the Under Secretary of State of the Ministry of the Interior and Public Security of Chile, Rodrigo Ubilla.

### **B. Attendance**

47. The following States members of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean were represented: Argentina, Bahamas, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, France, Germany, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Italy, Jamaica Mexico, Netherlands, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of).

48. The following States were represented by observers: Israel and Russian Federation.

49. The European Union, INTERPOL, CICAD, the International Narcotics Control Board and the United Nations Development Programme were represented by observers.

50. UNODC served as the secretariat of the Meeting.

### **C. Election of officers**

51. At its 1st meeting, on 3 October 2011, the Meeting elected the following officers by acclamation:

<i>Chair:</i>	Marko Magdic (Chile)
<i>First Vice-Chair:</i>	Dania Reyes Medina (Mexico)
<i>Second Vice-Chair:</i>	Mario Román Layera Panzardo (Uruguay)
<i>Rapporteur:</i>	Luis Gustavo Mata Vega (Costa Rica)

### **D. Adoption of the agenda**

52. Also at the 1st meeting, the Twenty-first Meeting of HONLEA, Latin America and the Caribbean, adopted the following agenda:

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.
3. Major regional drug trafficking trends and countermeasures.
4. Implementation of the recommendations adopted by the Twentieth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Latin America and the Caribbean.
5. Consideration of topics by working groups:
  - (a) Building partnerships with the chemical industry to strengthen precursor control;
  - (b) Implementing effective border controls;
  - (c) Addressing the proceeds of drug trafficking.
6. Follow-up to the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem.
7. Organization of the Twenty-second Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Latin America and the Caribbean.
8. Other business.
9. Adoption of the report.

## **E. Documentation**

53. The documents before the Twenty-first Meeting of HONLEA, Latin America and the Caribbean, are listed in the annex.

## **X. Closure of the Meeting**

54. The representative of Spain made a statement expressing, on behalf of all participants in the Twentieth Meeting of HONLEA, Latin America and the Caribbean, appreciation for the hospitality and welcome provided by the Government of Chile as host of the Meeting. The Chair of the Twenty-first Meeting made a closing statement.

## Annex

### List of documents before the Twenty-first Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Latin America and the Caribbean

<i>Symbol</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>	<i>Title or description</i>
UNODC/HONLAC/21/1	2	Provisional agenda and annotations
UNODC/HONLAC/21/2	3	Note by the Secretariat on statistics on drug trafficking trends in the Americas and worldwide
UNODC/HONLAC/21/3	4	Implementation of the recommendations adopted by the Twentieth Meeting
UNODC/HONLAC/21/4	7	Note by the Secretariat on the organization of the Twenty-second Meeting
UNODC/HONLAC/20/5	8	Note by the Secretariat on the review of the functioning of the subsidiary bodies of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs
UNODC/HONLAC/21/L.1 and Add.1-5	9	Draft report
UNODC/HONLAC/21/CRP.1	3	Current situation with respect to regional and subregional cooperation
UNODC/HONLAC/21/CRP.2-11	3	Country reports