

19 August 2013

English, French and Spanish only*

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

Quito, 30 September-4 October 2013

Item 4 of the provisional agenda**

**Implementation of the recommendations adopted by the
Twenty-second Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law
Enforcement Agencies, Latin America and the Caribbean**

1. The Twenty-second Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Antigua, Guatemala, from 1 to 5 October 2012, adopted a set of recommendations following the consideration by working groups of the issues defined below.
2. In accordance with established practice, the report of the Twenty-second Meeting was forwarded to the Governments represented at the session. A questionnaire on the implementation of the recommendations adopted at that Meeting was dispatched to Governments on 30 May 2013 together with information relating to the Twenty-third Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Latin America and the Caribbean.
3. The present report was prepared on the basis of information provided to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) by Governments in reply to that questionnaire.
4. As of 21 August 2013, replies had been received from the Governments of Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, El Salvador, France, Guatemala, Honduras, Italy, Peru, Paraguay, Portugal, Spain, Uruguay and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of). Responses contained in the present document are those where Governments provided additional information on the implementation of each recommendation.

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

** UNODC/HONLAC/23/1.



Issue 1: Responding to the challenges posed to the region by the production of and trafficking in cocaine, cannabis and heroin

Recommendation 1

5. It was recommended that to assist the investigation of illicit trafficking and successful prosecution of those individuals responsible, Governments should ensure that their drug enforcement response is capable of undertaking the necessary level of forensic analysis of seized drugs and precursor chemicals.
6. Chile reported conducting field tests followed by an analysis of the substances by the Institute of Public Health.
7. The Laboratory of the Office of the Prosecutor of Colombia had received gas chromatographs for forensic analysis from the Anti-Drug Programme of the Andean Community (PRADICAN), and that Programme had also supported the training of staff. A study had been conducted on the characterization of the various types of cocaine trafficked in 13 cities of the country. Colombia also reported participating in the UNODC-sponsored International Quality Assurance Programme (IQAP) to assess, improve and standardize the work performed by national drug testing laboratories worldwide.
8. Ecuador reported that in order to be included in the legal proceedings, the results of field tests (Approved Preliminary Identification Test "PIHP") were validated by forensic analysis by police laboratories. Dedicated forensic structures existed within the Attorney General Office, the Nacional Police and the National Council of Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (CONSEP).
9. El Salvador used the Hazmart Id 360 infrared spectroscopy equipment in the identification of substances and precursor chemicals.
10. All narcotic drug seizures by French law enforcement agencies were subject to a judicial investigation with the aim of identifying the members of criminal groups involved in trafficking. Certain investigations were the subject of information exchange via the Europol Secure Information Exchange Network Application (SIENA). France was also planning to establish analysis units in the field offices on the main trafficking routes.
11. Guatemala reported that, through inter-institutional coordination, the Government has started carrying out forensic analysis of places of seized drugs and chemical precursors, and had strengthened cooperation with precursor-exporting countries in order to assist investigations and prosecutions. Changes to the Law against Drug Activity also supported these actions.
12. Paraguay reported that its anti-drug entity, SENAD, conducted the forensic analysis of each seized drug, to assist judicial prosecution.
13. Portugal reported that the Forensic Science Laboratory of the Judicial Police (LPC) did expertise on substances seized in order to monitor the purity level of drugs in different market stages.
14. Spain reported having within its security forces adequately equipped laboratories and well-trained staff.
15. Venezuela had recently reinforced its institutions responsible for forensic analysis.

Recommendation 2

16. It was recommended that Governments must take steps to develop effective strategies that address the growing problem of microtrafficking that is threatening to expand domestic consumption and increase the demand for illicit drugs.

17. Brazil reported having launched a Comprehensive Plan to fight crack and other drugs, aimed at preventing use, conducting treatment and social reintegration of drug users and at combating the trafficking of cocaine and other drugs. The Plan envisaged police action integrated with health and welfare interventions.

18. Chile had adopted in 2013 a Framework Agreement between the office of the Public Prosecutor, the Ministry of Interior, Police and Carabineros de Chile, with a view to increase the national capacities to fight microtrafficking.

19. Colombia reported having adopted a Strategy against Microtrafficking, that had obtained satisfactory results in dismantling organizations at drug trafficking and consumption points. At the same time drug prevention programmes continued in the various cities of the country. The Attorney General Office had also adopted administrative acts against microtrafficking.

20. Ecuador had increased its attention against microtrafficking, without neglecting international drug trafficking, coupled with prevention strategies and activities in schools and with the involvement of civil society. Drug cases could be reported by the population to a call centre of the National Anti-narcotics Directorate.

21. The Anti-narcotics Division of the Police of El Salvador (DAN) was in charge of combating microtrafficking in the country as well as controlling seaports in cooperation with Customs.

22. France reported that each year, the Ministry of Justice established general guidelines for criminal policy, which were then implemented by the Prosecutor-General's Office and the local prosecutors' offices. Combating drug trafficking, in all its forms was a priority. Microtrafficking was handled by teams of criminal investigation officers, public security personnel or national gendarmes at the local level in order to identify the individuals involved in supplying local markets and the consumers who buy the products. Priority security zones were specifically targeted with the aim of dismantling small local trafficking networks.

23. Guatemala indicated that, through the Executive Secretariat of the Commission against Addictions and Illicit Drug Trafficking (SECCATID), State policies and institutions on prevention of illicit trafficking had been created. The National Civil Police was also involved in combating microtrafficking and the Law on Forfeiture used when dealing with those involved in this illegal activity.

24. Honduras reported an increasing consumption of crack in marginal areas and major cities. The National Council against Drug Trafficking and the Police were combating drug trafficking, including microtrafficking.

25. The local law enforcement services of Italy were engaged in a daily fight against the growing problem of microtrafficking.

26. Paraguay had adopted an inter-institutional agreement between the ministries of interior, health and education, the Prosecutor's office and SENAD for a comprehensive fight against microtrafficking of drugs.

27. The Division of Special Operations and Youth at Risk of the National Police (Green Squad) of Peru was active against microtrafficking in the Lima region and planned to extend this experience to the various regions of the country. Enforcement actions went together with activities for drug abuse prevention.

28. Portugal reported that in order to control trafficking of illicit drugs, a well-structured system of powers had been developed, interconnecting several police and law enforcement agencies for the coordination of preventive and repressive measures. The Judicial Police was granted the power to centralize information, to coordinate actions and to take preventive measures against the introduction into and transit through the national territory of drugs, along with the power to prevent organized networks aimed at domestic trafficking of these substances from getting established.

29. Spain counted on a National Drug Strategy 2009-2016 and Action Plan 2013-2016. In addition, it had approved a Comprehensive Plan for Prevention and response to microtrafficking in schools and surrounding areas, as well as a Strategic Plan of the Police against microtrafficking in leisure areas and facilities.

30. Uruguay had increased the punishment for trafficking of cocaine basic paste in its legislation.

31. Venezuela reported having trained its law enforcement institutions on combating microtrafficking. It had also established a call centre for the reporting of drug cases and developed prevention programmes in local communities.

Recommendation 3

32. It was recommended that Governments should support closer operational cooperation between the region's law enforcement authorities in response to the ongoing operational challenge that maritime trafficking poses to effective enforcement.

33. The Federal Police of Brazil was responsible for countering drug trafficking in all its forms, and the Navy was also entitled to cooperate with federal agencies in curbing crime at sea and in seaports by providing logistical support, intelligence and communication. Agreements also existed between Customs and the Federal Police for joint surveillance operations in ports and airports. In addition, intelligence was exchanged between Brazil and neighbouring countries, as well as with major consuming countries in Europe and the United States with a view to suppress the maritime trafficking of drugs.

34. Chile had a Northern Border Plan for the inter-institutional cooperation in the fight against drug trafficking across maritime and land borders. The Directorate-General for maritime territory and merchant navy (DIRECTEMAR) was also involved in surveillance and control.

35. Colombia reported that in order to tackle maritime trafficking it had enhanced cooperation with other countries, as regards control of ports and airports and maritime interdiction. The national Police had also increased international

cooperation on the same matter as regards drug trafficking. Similarly, the Army had signed international agreements for joint operations and intelligence exchange on maritime trafficking with Venezuela, Ecuador, Panama, Peru, Jamaica, Mexico, Honduras, Dominican Republic and Costa Rica. Agreements had also been signed with the United States, the United Kingdom and France. As a result of this international cooperation, between 1997 and 2013, 646 tons of cocaine hydrochloride had been seized. Finally, the Coast Guards school of Colombia provided training to several countries.

36. The anti-narcotics police of Ecuador had systems in place for the exchange of information with other countries. Among them was CONTAINER COM, which had a secure mail alert allowing authorities on the presence of possible drug shipments using containers. Other inter-institutional control mechanisms existed, also in cooperation with UNODC.

37. El Salvador was participating in the Commission of Heads of Police of Central America and the Caribbean (CJPCAMC), that is tackling crime regionally and promotes integration among the police forces of the region. In addition, through the Commission of Maritime Transport of Central America and the Caribbean (COCATRAM) was a forum for the exchange of good practices and training on port surveillance with regards to smuggling, drug trafficking and trafficking in arms. A relation also existed with the United States Coast Guard in the framework of the International Programme for Port Protection.

38. France reported on operational exchanges which took place in 2012 and 2013 between the Public Prosecutor of Martinique, and the authorities of several States in the region (Saint Lucia, Brazil, United States of America and Saint Martin) with the aim of strengthening their cooperation, in particular with regard to maritime drug trafficking. Moreover, France had liaison officers in several coordination centres and maritime intelligence centres (Joint Interagency Task Force South, Maritime Analysis and Operations Centre — Narcotics; and Anti-Drug Coordination Centre for the Mediterranean). The liaison officers exchange intelligence on maritime drug trafficking for the purposes of performing tests, or having tests performed, and intercepting suspicious vessels. Finally, France had naval forces in the Caribbean maritime zone that could intervene to block any maritime traffic in narcotic products and remained willing to cooperate with any international service or agency involved in combating maritime trafficking.

39. The Government of Guatemala reported the creation, through the Ministry of National Defense, of the Special Naval Force, which is in charge of combating illicit drug trafficking at sea and which coordinates support for intercepting illicit trafficking with international organizations. The Container Control Programme had been strengthened and the Government of Guatemala along with Costa Rica and El Salvador were considering the possibility of implementing the Prevention of the diversion of drugs precursors in the Latin American and Caribbean Region (PRELAC) project in the region.

40. In Honduras the navy was responsible for maritime interdiction of drug trafficking, jointly with the Anti-narcotics Directorate. Cooperation had been established with the Mexican navy and the anti-narcotics police of Nicaragua.

41. Italy indicated that it participated in operational collaboration between international police agencies in accordance with Article 17 of the 1988 United Nations Convention.
42. The navy of Paraguay was closely cooperating with Argentina in the fight against maritime trafficking.
43. Peru reported that its Coast Guard was permanently exchanging intelligence and plan operations against maritime drug trafficking with its counterparts in the region. A meeting of experts on maritime drug trafficking of CICAD had taken place in Lima in June 2013.
44. A well-structured system of powers was developed in Portugal, interconnecting several police and law enforcement agencies for the coordination of preventive and repressive measures. Close cooperation between the agencies involved was promoted for the prevention and repression of drug trafficking. Portugal had also established international cooperation in the fight against maritime trafficking.
45. Spain participated in the Maritime Analysis and Operations Centre (MAOC-N) and in the Anti-narcotics Coordination Centre for the Mediterranean (CECLAD-M).
46. Uruguay was in favour of strengthening international cooperation among maritime authorities and creating a regional cooperation network.

Issue 2: Joint agency task forces in response to drug trafficking

Recommendation 4

47. It was recommended that in view of the increasingly sophisticated methods employed by trafficking networks, Governments should support their law enforcement authorities in formalizing agreements that enable cross-border task force cooperation in response to specific needs and operational requirements.
48. In Brazil, the Comprehensive Plan to fight against crack and other drugs and the Strategic Plan for Borders had reinforced human resources of the Federal Police, Road Police, Customs and the Army, and established Joint action at the borders. Cross-border cooperation agreements had also been signed for exchange of information and joint operations with Paraguay for the eradication of marijuana, and with Peru to combat cocaine trafficking.
49. Colombia had established with neighbouring countries Binational Border Commissions (COMBIFRON) and Commissions on Drug Matters (COMIXTAS de Drogas) establishing cooperation mechanisms for the exchange of information and joint operations. The Army had signed operational and intelligence agreements with the armies of Peru, Brazil, Ecuador, Venezuela, Jamaica, Panama, Dominican Republic and Costa Rica for border, maritime and river control. During a meeting of GAFISUD in 2013 Intelligence Financial Units of Chile, Colombia, Mexico and Peru had subscribed a memorandum of understanding for joint intelligence against money-laundering.
50. Ecuador was a signatory to all drug conventions and maintained cooperation against drug trafficking with all countries of the world. In fulfilment of the commitments undertaken by the country as a party to the international treaties it provided a steady supply of (i) statistics on drug seizures, sent quarterly to the

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), (ii) the information on seizures and specific chemical control transferred to the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB). It was also participating in the Project AMERIPOL-European Union for technical and operational cooperation and training.

51. El Salvador reported counting on coordination mechanisms for the exchange of information on illicit trafficking such as the Grupo Conjunto Cuscatlán (GCC), integrating the Police, the Prosecutor-general, the armed forces the port and airport authorities that also supported anti-drug regional and international efforts.

52. The Government of Guatemala, in cooperation with the international community, was creating the Border Inter-institutional Taskforce Tecún Uman, in order to support police and judicial authorities and to carry out joint operations in the country. Governments of the region had also agreed on the creation of a Ministry of Democratic Security, and Guatemala was creating a Binational Police force with El Salvador, as well as cooperating closely with Mexico through the Guatemala-Mexico High-Level Group.

53. The National Police of Honduras participated in International events and meetings, also in the context of INTERPOL. Relations existed with D.E.A., the National Police of Colombia Nicaragua and El Salvador, Mexico, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic and Honduras.

54. Italy carried out operational cross-border activities every day in accordance with the current international agreements.

55. Paraguay reported having signed an agreement with Brazil on the prevention, control and repression of illicit trafficking in narcotic and psychotropic drugs that envisaged joint operations for the eradication of illicit marijuana crop, exchange of information and intelligence, training and exchange of liaison officers.

56. Peru attended the meetings of Mixed Commissions on Drugs with counterparts in Colombia, Brazil, Ecuador and Bolivia, in order to undertake cross-border simultaneous operations against drug trafficking.

57. Portugal participated in operational projects, both domestic and international, having direct impact on the prevention and repression of drug trafficking. An example was the agreement for the establishment of the first Joint Investigation Team (JIT) between the authorities of Portugal and Northern Ireland.

58. Spain had created joint investigation and controlled delivery teams in the context of the European Union. Agreements for cross-border customs and police cooperation had been signed with Portugal and France.

59. Uruguay reported participating in Operation “Sin Fronteras” aimed at coordinating at regional level operations against trafficking in chemical precursors with Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, United States, Panama, Paraguay, Peru and Venezuela.

60. Venezuela had reinforced its cooperation with neighbouring countries in the fight against illicit drug trafficking through the signing of formal agreements.

Recommendation 5

61. It was recommended that Governments should carry out a review of current practices and procedures related to undertaking the investigation of illicit drug trafficking and related organized crime offences in foreign jurisdictions, together with a similar review of procedures related to the formal gathering of evidence from these jurisdictions, to determine if existing practices meet the operational needs of their criminal justice system.

62. Brazil cooperated, through governmental channels, with the investigative police of several countries in order to investigate, arrest, gather evidence, identify persons and assets that may have a connection with cases in Brazil.

63. The Prosecutor-general of Chile was in charge of practices and procedures related to undertaking the investigation of illicit drug trafficking and related organized crime offences in foreign jurisdictions, including on the gathering of evidence, through international agreements.

64. Colombia regularly undertook information exchanges with the United States Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), the United Kingdom Serious and Organised Crime Agency (SOCA) to evaluate the efficacy of practices and procedures related to undertaking the investigation of illicit drug trafficking and related organized crime. Colombia counted with the judicial mechanisms to work jointly with other countries for exchanging information, gathering evidence, extradite criminals in foreign jurisdictions. It also undertook Judicial Cooperation with the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Honduras and Peru.

65. On the basis of multilateral treaties and bilateral agreements with other countries, the specialized agencies of the National Police of Ecuador in coordination with the Attorney General and other State actors performed procedures that had achieved positive results. It was also in the process of considering the introduction in its new Penal Code of special investigative procedures.

66. El Salvador undertook the investigation of illicit drug trafficking and related organized crime offences in foreign jurisdictions through requests for assistance and judicial cooperation.

67. To facilitate the investigatory proceedings of offences with a transnational dimension, France had signed or begun negotiations with a view to concluding bilateral agreements on judicial cooperation in criminal matters with several States in Latin America and the Caribbean. Such bilateral instruments, which complemented the relevant multilateral instruments, aimed to establish a coherent legal framework adapted to evidence exchange between the judicial authorities of the States concerned. As to facilitating operational exchange between those involved in judicial cooperation in criminal matters, France had designated a liaison judge in Brasilia and signed a memorandum of understanding with the Organization of American States to enable it to participate in the continental Information Exchange Network for Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters and Extradition.

68. Guatemala indicated that central authorities for the implementation of agreements carried out by Guatemala had been established, and current practices and procedures related to investigations in drug trafficking offences and related crimes, such as the PRELAC in Colombia and Maritime Trafficking in Dominican Republic, had been studied.

69. Paraguay was engaged in international cooperation through the exchange of liaison officers with neighbouring countries, Chile and the United States, which facilitated the gathering of evidence, and had participated in cases in foreign jurisdictions.

70. Peru had strengthened its mechanisms for judicial cooperation with the countries in the region, Europe and Asia.

71. Spain reported having legislation related to undertaking the investigation of illicit drug trafficking and related organized crime offences in foreign jurisdictions.

72. Venezuela counted on efficient operational and intelligence practices and procedures regarding criminal acts committed by organized groups in other jurisdictions.

Recommendation 6

73. It was recommended that Governments should aim to strengthen national drug observatories by means of institutional capacity-building and inter-institutional coordination at the domestic, regional and international levels in order to close gaps in data collection and exchange, thus enhancing their contribution to national and international decision-making and policy development.

74. The Federal Police of Brazil counted on a single database on persons involved in drug trafficking called “PALAS”. In addition, an integrated intelligence centre would permit the regular preparation of strategic reports on drug trafficking routes and modus operandi.

75. The Ministry of the Interior of Chile was responsible for consolidating the data provided by the various control bodies. Quarterly and annual reports were prepared on the basis of this data.

76. Colombia counted with a national drug observatory (ODC), coordinated by the Ministry of Justice, on all aspects of the drug problem, that contributed through data gathering and analysis to the formulation of evidence-based policies, programmes and projects.

77. Ecuador had a national drug observatory and was promoting at regional and subregional levels the consolidation of the Andean drug observatory and a South American drug observatory, to achieve the standardization of procedures and establish effective public policies.

78. El Salvador reported that OAS/CICAD had implemented since 2000 a project for strengthening the National Anti-drug Commissions of Central America, including their capacity to gather and analyse data. In this context, the country had established a permanent national drug observatory (OSD) which was also part of the Inter-American drug observatory (OID), and collected information regularly. Partnerships had been established with universities to increase the resources available for data collection and analysis. The main challenges remained the coordination of the members of the national network of drug to promote regular and ongoing interaction between institutions, as well as budgetary constraints. Measures had been taken to fill gaps in the collection and exchange of data and contribute to decision-making and the development of policies to address consumption and to combat illicit drug trafficking and related crimes. El Salvador had received support

from the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD) and the programme of cooperation between Latin America and the European Union Drug Policy — (COPOLAD).

79. France had Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction that produced scientifically validated information from a variety of sources on legal and illegal substances. And played a vital role in gathering, analysing and synthesizing information to facilitate decision-making. The French Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction was one of the intermediaries of the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA).

80. The Government of Guatemala, through the Executive Secretariat of the Commission against Addictions and Illicit Drug Trafficking (SECCATID), collected information at the national level and periodically produced statistics of patients with addiction, including by using data collected through the Centres for Comprehensive Care for People with Addictions (CAIPA). SECCATID had also created a web-based platform for the collection of relevant data for use by national and international partner institutions.

81. Honduras reported that its National Council Against Drug Trafficking had recently created a National Drug Observatory, which was in the early stages of organization.

82. Paraguay received UNODC support for an integrated programme for the strengthening of institutions dealing with organized crime, justice, corruption and demand reduction. Under the drug reduction component, the national drug observatory was being developed with the involvement of national and local institutions.

83. The national drug observatory of Peru had been strengthened by projects COPOLAD and PRADICAN and exchanged information with drug observatories of Latin America and Europe.

84. In Portugal, information on drug trafficking at the domestic level was centralized under the Polícia Judiciária's National Unit for Fighting Drug Trafficking which, in its turn, provided the information/intelligence to the Service for Intervention on Addictive Behaviours and Dependencies (SICAD). SICAD reported it to the United Nations. For international cooperation, the Polícia Judiciária favoured the formal channels offered by INTERPOL, Europol, MAOC-N and CeCLAD-M, while maintaining contacts with the liaison officers of countries accredited in Portugal.

85. The National Plan on Drugs (PNSD) of Spain, responsible for policy development at national and international levels, had a National Observatory with institutional coordination capacity for data collection. The Observatory was the national focal point and is an active part of the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction.

86. Uruguay coordinated actions with other observatories, was leading some project components of COPOLAD and was actively involved with international bodies.

87. The drug observatory of Venezuela coordinated the information inter-institutionally at regional and national level in order to facilitate the taking of decisions and the formulation of public policies.

Recommendation 7

88. It was recommended that Governments should consider coordinating their drug law enforcement and related agencies' data systems to contribute analysis to national drug policy and strategy decision-making and further developing them to provide real-time information in support of operational responses.

89. Brazil reported that despite numerous negotiations and intention to improve the interaction and coordination between the various databases available to agencies involved in combating drug trafficking, they had not yet achieved success in this effort.

90. In Colombia, the national drug observatory included among its priorities studies on illicit crop cultivation, drug production and trafficking, in coordination with the Ministries of Justice and Defense, UNODC and academic institutions. In addition, the navy counted on a centre for the international analysis of maritime trafficking (CIMCON).

91. Through institutional strengthening Ecuador had progressed in the gathering of accurate and timely information to support investigation and drug interdiction by the various organs concerned.

92. El Salvador had integrated the various sources of information in order to provide data on supply and demand for drugs that allowed for the adoption of policies and strategies to fight drugs nationwide, and providing real-time information to support operational responses demand. It had also started implementing a national drug network, to collect, share and analyse information on public health issues, social security, and crime control, to identify new trends, developing more appropriate policies and assess progress. The Narcotics Joint Information Center (CICA) centralized all databases to serve all investigations by the national police.

93. In Honduras information was still managed by different sources but the government was planning to increase the role of the National Council against drug trafficking to overcome difficulties in the gathering of data.

94. France centralized drug trafficking intelligence within the Central Office for the Suppression of Illicit Drug Traffic using a special statistical tool to analyse drug trafficking and use. The Office's analytical studies were useful in enabling the public authorities to take informed positions.

95. The Guatemalan Government reported the structuring of a large project with the Universidad del Valle de Guatemala, with the purpose of evaluating the Anti Drug Policy as well as the need to reform anti-drug legislation, in specific considering the five pillars on which the Anti Drug Policy rests: socioeconomic; demand reduction, which is divided into prevention and treatment; supply reduction; strengthening of the legal system; and strengthening of inter-institutional cooperation.

96. Italy had been using a coordinated law enforcement data collection system providing real-time information to the Police services for a long time.

97. Paraguay was in the process of establishing a statistical system within its national drug observatory, integrating the Minister of Interior, the Prosecutor's Office, SENAD and the Police, on drug seizures and their origin and arrested persons.

98. Peru was in the process of integrating its systems for the gathering of data on drug trafficking.

99. Portugal had a cooperation protocol between the different national agencies responsible for fighting drug trafficking. The Polícia Judiciária was responsible for operational coordination and for centralizing information regarding drug trafficking. A Criminal Investigation Interoperability Platform was launched to enable the electronic exchange of criminal intelligence between the several criminal police agencies so as to guarantee an effective exchange of information between these entities.

100. Spain reported having a system for online operational coordination among the various law enforcement agencies.

101. In Uruguay statistics were prepared by the National Council on Drugs on the basis of data sent by various entities concerned.

102. Venezuela reported using real-time information for analysis and to design strategies to combat illicit trafficking of drugs.

Recommendation 8

103. It was recommended that Governments should complement the information provided in the annual report questionnaire with relevant data compiled by the national drug observatories so that a more accurate assessment can be made regarding the follow-up on the implementation by Member States of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem.

104. Chile reported complementing the annual report questionnaire with relevant data compiled by the national drug observatories.

105. Colombia completed the annual report questionnaire using data provided by the national drug observatory which in turn were based on the inputs from entities such as the Ministry of Health, the Police and the Armed forces. As regards the implementation of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action Colombia had organized an international meeting of drug observatories that had dealt with new trends in drug production, trafficking and abuse and the need to develop evidence-based policies to face them.

106. Ecuador was reconsidering its anti-drug policy with greater focus on public health and promoting a comprehensive prevention plan, also using the qualitative and quantitative information provided by the national drug observatory.

107. El Salvador compiled the annual report questionnaire on the basis of information provided by the various drug demand and supply reduction entities.

Complementary data and statistics were placed in a web page of the national drug observatory.

108. Guatemala indicated that the annual report questionnaire would be completed by the members of the Commission against Addictions and Illicit Drug Trafficking with data collected by the national drug observatory, for a more precise evaluation.

109. The national drug observatory of Peru completed the annual report questionnaire.

110. In Spain, CICO was responsible for data collection on drugs and for filling the annual report questionnaire, in coordination with the National Plan on Drugs.

111. In Uruguay the national drug observatory was responsible for filling the annual report questionnaire.

112. Venezuela reported that the national drug observatory was responsible for filling the annual report questionnaire, and for following up on the implementation of the national anti-narcotic plans.

Issue 3: Maintaining control over precursor chemicals and pharmaceutical preparations

Recommendation 9

113. It was recommended that Governments should be encouraged to undertake a comprehensive evaluation of their domestic legal needs and requirements of controlled chemicals so as to arrive at a baseline figure that will assist in the identification of any attempts at illicit diversion.

114. Chile was in the process of adopting new legislation that would require natural and legal persons to inform of their annual production, import and export of controlled substances.

115. In Colombia the control over precursor chemicals and pharmaceutical preparations was shared between the National Fund on Narcotic Drugs and the Ministry of Justice, with a view to establish an evaluation of domestic legal needs and requirements of controlled substances and precursors. UNODC was also cooperating with Colombia on preventing the illicit diversion of precursors.

116. In Ecuador CONSEP was responsible for the control of substances, while the police was active in the research field to determine illicit channels of chemicals, precursors and pharmaceutical substances.

117. El Salvador had defined with the private industry the domestic legal needs and requirements of controlled chemicals. In order to arrive at a baseline figure that will assist in the identification of any attempts at illicit diversion a computerized system was being implemented.

118. France had an interministerial precursor chemical control mechanism in place with the aim of identifying any diversion of precursor chemicals and raising awareness among manufacturers and pharmaceutical companies. It brought together officials from the Ministry of the Interior, the Customs authorities and the Ministry of Industry. The legitimate domestic requirements of chemicals were communicated annually to the European Commission and subsequently to the International

Narcotics Control Board (INCB). France also provided INCB with an annual estimate of licit requirements of narcotic drugs.

119. Guatemala indicated that this recommendation was being implemented through a Technical Working Group on Precursors, closer cooperation with the chemical industry and the establishment of a voluntary code of conduct.

120. Honduras had not yet undertaken a statistical assessment of the import of controlled substances and precursors.

121. Paraguay's SENAD conducted a regular evaluation of their domestic legal needs and requirements of precursors and substances used for controlled pharmaceutical products. Some gaps however existed, due to lack of financial and technical resources.

122. Peru was planning to conduct a comprehensive evaluation of their domestic legal needs and requirements of controlled chemicals in the course of 2013.

123. Portugal had already established regimes for the licensing of activities and for the registry of operators, as well as for the monitoring of the trade with third countries, submitting the import and export of classified chemicals used for producing drugs as defined in the 1988 Convention.

124. Spain conducted an annual revision of its domestic legal needs and requirements of controlled chemicals in order to prevent illicit diversion of precursors.

125. In Venezuela the evaluation of the estimated required amounts of controlled chemicals was conducted through verification visits at the premises of concerned entities, but there was insufficient specialized technical staff to perform this activity.

Recommendation 10

126. It was recommended that Governments must take steps to ensure that the staff employed in their national authorities responsible for precursor control are sufficiently trained with the specialized knowledge and professional skills required to effectively apply and enforce the legislation and procedures controlling their use, and that they remain in their post so as to maintain continuity.

127. Brazil conducted an annual training of the authorities responsible for precursor control.

128. Chile conducted an international and national training of the authorities responsible for precursor control.

129. The Government of Colombia reported conducting awareness campaigns for precursor control authorities and for the business sector in order to provide more technical knowledge about the legal employment of these products. The National Police-Narcotics Division had been conducting training for officers of the Judicial Police.

130. Ecuador regularly trained staff in charge of oversight and control and had a satellite tracking system regarding the transportation of chemicals nationwide. It also existed a scientific research centre for analysis of substances and drugs.

131. El Salvador reported regularly developing training of staff involved in both administrative control and prevention and the fight against diversion of controlled substances and precursor chemicals under international control in order to keep them updated on new trends or methods. The country also benefited from training through the Regional Programme for Cooperation with Central America, and the project “Prevention of the Diversion of Drug Precursors American Countries America and the Caribbean”, PRELAC, among others.

132. France reported that law enforcement officers and judges received regular training sessions on drug precursors. Ensuring high retention of law enforcement personnel was key to the process.

133. Guatemala indicated that, through the Ministry of Public Health and Social Assistance, the Government regulated and controlled illicit substances and precursors. The International Narcotics Control Board and other international organizations had contributed with specialist trainings and in the development of necessary professional abilities to apply and effectively implement established controls. Guatemala is also strengthening the relevant section within the Ministry of Public Health for this purpose.

134. Italy already took steps ensuring that the staff employed for precursor control are sufficiently trained and employed in their post so as to maintain continuity.

135. The Peruvian Government has ensured through the National Strategy on Drugs 2012-2016 that the officials responsible for the control of chemical and precursors be properly trained.

136. The Judicial Police of Portugal cooperated both on the domestic and international levels in numerous training courses on the issue of precursor drugs and clandestine laboratories, receiving and distributing a best-practices approach.

137. Spain reported on precursors specific courses targeting police units, aimed at ensuring the compliance with legislation and the investigation of diversion.

138. In Venezuela, training activities on legal, technical and procedural aspects related to the prevention of the diversion of chemical substances were carried out periodically to improve the performance of functions in this area. Rotation of officials at the control points still occurred.

Recommendation 11

139. It was recommended that Governments are encouraged to strengthen their efforts and ensure that their law enforcement agencies are aware of the important role played by forensic analysis of seized precursor chemicals, the shared results of which lead to increased regional knowledge of sources of manufacture and patterns in trafficking.

140. The recommendation was being implemented by Brazil under the Pequi project that seeks to identify the chemical profile of drug with the identification of the chemicals used for preparation. The samples were analysed and the results shared with the teams to combat the trafficking of chemicals.

141. Chile held the analysis of seized drugs in order to determine the precursors used.

142. In Colombia State agencies applied standardized protocols and procedures for the purpose of preserving physical evidence. The Narcotics Division exchanged information on drug trafficking and diversion of chemical substances with the countries of Central and South America. The National Police had held in 2013, the “First Meeting on Chemical Control,” attended by 150 precursor control staff of Argentina, Chile, Bolivia, Brazil, Ecuador, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) and Uruguay, to develop regional policies and strategies.

143. Ecuador reported having created a scientific research centre for analysis of specific chemicals, precursors and drugs.

144. In El Salvador, the agencies responsible for enforcement were aware of the importance of applying forensic analysis to seizures of precursor chemicals, and to share this information to those countries that had requested it and/or did not have the proper equipment to perform the analyses.

145. Analysis was carried out in France by the Customs authorities and the laboratory services.

146. In Guatemala, the implementation of this recommendation had been carried out through strengthened inter-institutional coordination and international cooperation.

147. Honduras was managing to obtain electronic field trials from cooperating countries, for immediate results and to reduce the reaction time.

148. Italy already made all possible efforts in this sense.

149. Paraguay had adopted duly certified processes for the forensic analysis of seized precursors, in support of judicial proceedings.

150. Portugal had a specialized forensic science unit — the Forensic Science Laboratory (LPC) — which was part of the Police structure. Hence, the access to laboratory services for forensic analysis of drugs and psychotropic substances as well as precursor chemicals seized was guaranteed.

151. Spain conducted courses for laboratory specialists to raise awareness, on proper sampling and the importance of a correct identification.

152. Uruguay indicated that it was not a producer of drugs and had had a single seizure of a laboratory in 2009. The PRELAC Project — EU-UNODC. The country was in a process of institutional strengthening in the control of the diversion of chemical substances. The UNODC PRELAC project provided resources and support in the normative and institutional aspects.

153. Venezuela indicated it still required to strengthen the forensic analysis of seized precursor chemicals.

Recommendation 12

154. It was recommended that Governments should encourage their national authorities to develop pharmaceutical industry voluntary codes of conduct that support the effective implementation of national legislation and regulations, and that promote good cooperation and corporate responsibility between the public and private sectors concerned with transactions involving pharmaceutical preparations.

155. Although the Voluntary Code of Conduct had not yet been adopted in Brazil, the Chemical Control Division of the Federal Police carried out an annual seminar with representatives of the pharmaceutical industry to create awareness. Also, the pharmaceutical industry had frequently collaborated with the Brazilian Federal Police to identify those responsible for trafficking of chemicals.

156. All companies included in the Special Register of Controlled Chemical Substance Users of Chile had the ability to make a voluntary statement on the adoption of measures to regulate controlled substances. The government had also encouraged the participation of private enterprise in a meeting held in Lima, Peru in 2012 on “Cooperation with the Private Sector in Preventing the diversion of Chemical Precursors”.

157. In Colombia, State agencies exercising precursor control had developed ties with private industry, big department stores and cement producers through workshops aimed at preventing the diversion of substances used in the production of cocaine base and cocaine hydrochloride, as well as raising awareness among users of these raw materials. Additionally, the National Narcotics Fund conducted training in pharmaceutical laboratories, chats and virtual forums.

158. Pursuant to the recommendations of the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB) Ecuador had proceeded to maintain direct contact with companies that import, market and use substances, to comply with the rules established under the principle of shared responsibility.

159. In El Salvador the National Drug Directorate had initiated a series of controls that allow the best use and control of medicinal products subject to special monitoring and control, had enacted a regulation that allows proper prescription and use of medications, as well as the management and use of precursors and chemical substances. Additionally it had improved import controls and management of precursor chemicals used for licit industrial purposes.

160. In France any company that manufactured drugs was required to immediately declare any case of serious drug dependence or abuse of which it became aware making it possible to conduct investigations into drug dependence (restriction of prescription/dispensing conditions, informing of health-care professionals etc.). Moreover, measures may be taken in collaboration with manufacturers, such as adapting packaging sizes, modifying means of administration or adding colouring to drugs that can be used to facilitate sexual assault. In the specific case of pharmaceutical preparations, the public and private sectors did not sufficiently cooperate to effectively monitor commercial trade in such pharmaceutical preparations and legitimate drugs. A code of conduct aimed at establishing a chemical precursor monitoring system in companies had been distributed among operators by the Ministry of Industry, via the National Task Force for the Control of the Precursor Chemicals of Narcotic Drugs. The latter is notified of any suspected trafficking in precursor chemicals declared by the pharmaceutical or chemical industry. The processing of such intelligence may lead to proceedings involving the courts or customs authorities.

161. The Government of Guatemala indicated that this recommendation was being implemented through a Technical Working Group on Precursors, closer cooperation with the chemical industry and the establishment of a voluntary code of conduct.

162. Training and awareness-raising programmes were also provided for professionals in the pharmaceutical and chemical industry in order to make them more alert to the possibility of suspicious packages and better able to identify them.

163. Honduras reported that during the reporting period it had not adopted specific actions on the development of Codes of Conduct for the pharmaceutical industry, but the Revenue Office applied in ports and airports the internationally set requirements. It was necessary to train customs and anti-narcotics police (DLCN) operating in the various entry points.

164. Peru had adopted a Best Practices Dispensing Manual, as a set of rules established to ensure appropriate use of pharmaceuticals, prepared by the General Directorate of Medicines and Drugs of the Ministry of Health in coordination with the pharmaceutical sector.

165. Spain reported that besides having signed a voluntary partnership agreement, it had implemented various measures, such as the dissemination of interactive learning module to companies and police links; periodic updates on new trends in precursors diversion; training sessions by the Business Federation of Chemical and Pharmaceutical Industry.

166. Uruguay informed that there had been activities with the industry to promote and inform about the importance of public-private cooperation. It was also planning to continue working and to reach an agreement with industry on what should be the mechanism or instrument to establish cooperation and institutional responsibility between the public and private sectors.

167. The National Anti-drug Plan of Venezuela included a cooperation programme between control agencies and the business sector to improve the prevention of the diversion of chemical substances. The country however does not have a code of conduct aimed exclusively at the pharmaceutical industry.

Conclusions

168. Several Governments that returned the questionnaire had taken measures to implement the recommendations on responding to the challenges posed to the region by the production of and trafficking in cocaine, cannabis and heroin. All of them were undertaking forensic analysis of seized drugs and precursor chemicals, had developed strategies to address microtrafficking and cooperated with each other to combat maritime trafficking.

169. Most responding Governments had also taken measures to create joint agency task forces in response to drug trafficking, by entering agreements that had enabled cross-border cooperation, investigating illicit drug trafficking and related organized crime offences in foreign jurisdictions, strengthening national drug observatories and other data gathering systems to provide real-time information in support of operational responses. Some challenges remained in some countries regarding the regular interaction between institutions, as well as budgetary constraints.

170. As regards maintaining control over precursor chemicals and pharmaceutical preparations, most respondents had control mechanisms in place with the aim of identifying any diversion of precursor chemicals and raising awareness among

manufacturers and pharmaceutical companies. Pharmaceutical industry voluntary codes were not yet existing in all responding countries.

171. The overview of implementation presented in the present report only reflects the situation in a third of the 44 members of the Meeting. In order to provide the Meeting with more complete information to evaluate the implementation of its recommendations, Governments should be encouraged to complete and return the questionnaires in a timely manner.
