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**Fourteenth Meeting of Heads of National
Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Latin America
and the Caribbean**

Mexico City, 11-15 October 2004

**Report of the Fourteenth Meeting of Heads of National
Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Latin America and the
Caribbean, held in Mexico City from 11 to 15 October 2004**

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



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

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

1. The Fourteenth 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 chapter IV below. The Fourteenth Meeting of HONLEA, Latin America and the Caribbean, adopted the recommendations below, which had been drawn up by its working groups on the issues considered.

Issue 1. Effective measures against cocaine manufacture and trafficking

2. With regard to issue 1, “Effective measures against cocaine manufacture and trafficking”, the following recommendations were made:

(a) In the development of their national response to the control of precursor chemicals, Governments should be encouraged to undertake a thorough assessment of their national chemical industry, so as to devise effective strategies that are readily supported by both control authorities and the private sector;

(b) Governments should be encouraged to identify or detect the use of chemicals that are common substitutes for those under international control and to share that information promptly with the Governments of other countries in the region and also with the competent international bodies;

(c) Governments of countries in the region currently engaged in alternative development programmes in illicit crop-growing areas should continue to develop those initiatives and actively seek international support to sustain and expand alternative development and illicit crop eradication programmes.

Issue 2. Procedures to identify, seize and confiscate goods and assets derived from crime

3. With regard to issue 2, “Procedures to identify, seize and confiscate goods and assets derived from crime”, the following recommendations were made:

(a) To dismantle criminal organizations and further deprive those involved of the benefit of their illegally acquired wealth, Governments should consider the proposal by Colombia to examine the possibility of sharing the proceeds from the forfeiture of illegally acquired assets upon the conclusion of investigations in multiple jurisdictions;

(b) In response to illicit drug trafficking and other serious forms of organized crime involving more than one jurisdiction, Governments should consider posting judicial liaison officers at their diplomatic missions to ensure proper adherence to required legal procedures and the speedy gathering of prosecution evidence;

(c) States that have not already done so should, as a matter of urgency, take steps to ratify the United Nations Convention against Corruption (General Assembly resolution 58/4, annex), thereby strengthening the integrity and effectiveness of their public service.

Issue 3. Drug trafficking by sea: a review of controls over the sea container traffic in Latin America and the Caribbean

4. With regard to issue 3, “Drug trafficking by sea: a review of controls over the sea container traffic in Latin America and the Caribbean”, the following recommendations were made:

(a) Those Governments of countries in the region which have not already done so should be encouraged to take steps to strengthen security at ports and container facilities as a first step towards deterring the use of ports and container facilities by traffickers in transporting illicit drugs;

(b) In response to the growing volume of trade, and the extensive use made of sea containers as a means of transport, Governments should ensure that their border protection authorities are well prepared and equipped to meet the control and inspection responsibilities placed upon them;

(c) Governments should encourage their drug law enforcement authorities to take a more proactive approach to the exchange of information between competent authorities on the movement through the region of persons and vessels suspected of being involved in illicit drug trafficking by sea.

II. Major regional drug trafficking trends and countermeasures

5. At its 1st and 2nd meetings, on 15 October 2004, 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 document prepared by the Secretariat on major regional drug trafficking trends and countermeasures (UNODC/HONLAC/2004/2) and a conference room paper on statistics and drug trends in the Americas and worldwide (UNODC/HONLAC/2004/CRP.1). In addition, country reports on the illicit drug trafficking situation were submitted by Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominica, El Salvador, Honduras, Italy, Mexico, Peru, Portugal, Spain, Trinidad and Tobago and Venezuela (UNODC/HONLAC/2004/CRP.2-19).

6. A representative of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime introduced the item and made an audio-visual presentation on reported trafficking trends in the region in the context of global drug trafficking. The presentation was based on information provided by Governments to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. The Chairman made an audio-visual presentation on behalf of Mexico. The representative of Cuba also made an audio-visual presentation. Statements were made by the representatives of Argentina, Chile, Colombia, Peru and Venezuela.

7. Several representatives expressed appreciation for the document prepared by the Secretariat and the audio-visual presentation made by the representative of the

United Nations Office and Drugs and Crime. A number of participants provided information that augmented the information given to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in the annual reports questionnaire.

8. The representative of Argentina noted that, while there had been an increase in the total amount of heroin seized, 175 kg having been seized in 2003, there had been no increase in heroin consumption. The representative of Chile referred to his Government's efforts to improve the capacity of national drug law enforcement agencies through new training initiatives involving trainers from Chile and elsewhere. The representative of Chile also referred to the regional operation Andes II, an effort to strengthen cooperation in precursor control that was being carried out in conjunction with the Customs Cooperation Council (also called the World Customs Organization) and the International Criminal Police Organization (Interpol).

9. The representative of Colombia noted that criminal gangs engaged in illicit drug trafficking were becoming increasingly international. Nationals of other countries were playing increasingly important roles in the operations of Colombian drug trafficking syndicates. The resulting illegal activity undertaken in multiple jurisdictions were proving to be a challenge to law enforcement authorities in their efforts to successfully complete investigations and effectively prosecute the individuals involved, both in Colombia and in other countries. The representative of Colombia also noted that measures to counter the activities of drug traffickers in the region, in particular those profiting most from the illicit drug trade, would be greatly enhanced if there was more focus on depriving those involved of the financial gains or assets derived from that illegal activity. The development of specific bilateral agreements between Member States to promote that approach, for example, agreements providing for the sharing of proceeds from the forfeiture of illegally acquired assets, was proposed. In addition, the idea of posting law enforcement officers in diplomatic missions was strongly endorsed as an effective way to support the investigation of drug trafficking syndicates operating in multiple jurisdictions.

10. The representative of Cuba reported on the drug control efforts, related activities and achievements in her country in the period from January 2003 to June 2004. The Government of Cuba had adopted a coordinated, multi-agency approach to combating illicit drug trafficking, increasing the range and effectiveness of its drug law enforcement authorities. In addition, the Government of Cuba was increasingly working closely with regional and international entities, such as the World Customs Organization and Interpol, to ensure that its authorities were well informed of emerging trends and contributing to regional efforts to counter illicit drug trafficking.

11. The representative of Mexico summarized his Government's principal activities and regional cooperation mechanisms aimed at combating drug trafficking and related forms of organized crime. He referred to the Special Conference on Security, held in Mexico City on 27 and 28 October 2003, and emphasized the progress being made in the implementation of the United Nations conventions on drug control and organized crime. He noted that States had recognized the fact that efforts to combat organized crime and, in particular, its links to illicit drug trafficking required coordinated action by their national institutions and therefore had agreed to establish working methods that would allow the various international

agencies to coordinate their activities in order to benefit from the efforts of regional organizations in that area and to use their experiences and achievements in the work of the United Nations, which, in turn, would draw upon the advances made in all regions as the basis for a global network against transnational organized crime. In that regard, the hemispheric plan of action against transnational organized crime, to be drawn up pursuant to resolution AG/RES.2026 (XXXIV-0/04) of the General Assembly of the Organization of American States, entitled “Fighting transnational organized crime in the hemisphere”, would constitute a significant contribution from the region to the efforts of the United Nations to combat drug trafficking and related offences.

12. The representative of Peru indicated that, while the total area under coca bush cultivation in the region had been reduced, it was necessary to include data on drug crop yields in order to obtain a more accurate assessment of the potential manufacture of cocaine hydrochloride. The representative of Venezuela expressed his Government’s increasing concern about possible displacement of illicit crop cultivation to Venezuelan territory, following more effective or intensified eradication or law enforcement efforts in neighbouring countries. He noted that his Government appreciated the forthcoming expert mission by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to consider the possibility of undertaking a survey to ascertain the extent of any illicit crop cultivation and its environmental impact.

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

13. At its 2nd meeting, on 15 October 2004, the Meeting considered item 4 of its agenda, entitled “Implementation of the recommendations adopted by the Thirteenth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Latin America and the Caribbean, by States of the region”. The Meeting had before it a document prepared by the Secretariat (UNODC/HONLAC/2004/3) on the basis of information provided by Governments in response to a questionnaire sent to all States represented at the Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Latin America and the Caribbean. The document reflected the replies received by the Secretariat from the Governments of Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominica, El Salvador, Honduras, Paraguay, Portugal, Spain, Trinidad and Tobago and Venezuela by 24 September 2004. Replies were submitted by the Governments of Canada, Chile, Italy, Mexico and Peru either after that date or in the course of the Meeting.

14. During the discussion of the item, statements were made by the representatives of Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Cuba, Ecuador, Guatemala, Mexico, Panama, Peru and Venezuela. The Meeting was informed of action taken to implement specific recommendations adopted at the Thirteenth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Latin America and the Caribbean.

15. A number of participants reported on measures taken in their countries to implement the recommendations adopted by the Thirteenth Meeting under issue 1, on controlled delivery operations. The representative of Brazil reported that in his country, national legislation provided for the use of controlled delivery and that

controlled delivery operations had increased in number and included cooperation with countries in other regions, including Europe. The representative of Chile reported that in his country a draft bill under discussion in parliament would enhance provisions on operations involving controlled delivery and undercover agents; moreover, a drug trafficking intelligence group had been established to coordinate and facilitate the drug control activities of its law enforcement agencies. The representative of Guatemala indicated that a draft law covering operations involving controlled delivery and undercover agents was under consideration in his country.

16. The representative of Mexico informed the Meeting that a legislative initiative to modify legislation against organized crime and provide for the use of controlled delivery was under consideration. It was noted that Mexico nevertheless had other legal mechanisms that made possible the use of controlled deliveries in Mexico and in cooperation with other countries, and Mexico also maintained information exchanges, particularly with its neighbouring countries, to facilitate such operations. The representative of Panama noted that legislation providing for the use of controlled delivery had existed in his country since 1994 and that Panama had cooperated in such operations with other countries, in particular with Germany, Guatemala, Portugal and the United States of America. The representative of Venezuela informed the Meeting that legislation in his country provided for the use of controlled delivery and that revised legislation, in the final stages of parliamentary review, would expand and facilitate its application.

17. Regarding the recommendations adopted by the Thirteenth Meeting of HONLEA, Latin America and the Caribbean, under issue 2, on strengthening information exchange and operational cooperation, at the regional level, The representative of Chile referred to a joint simulation exercise being planned by the authorities of his country with their counterparts in Argentina to identify difficulties in the implementation of joint operations and ways to resolve them. The representative of Chile indicated that law enforcement officers from other countries in the region had participated in training programmes offered in his country and that cooperation and exchanges had taken place between law enforcement authorities of Chile and those of Bolivia and Paraguay.

18. The representative of Colombia was interested in exchanging information to obtain a better understanding of the price movements of illicit drugs, given that, despite increased drug seizures, prices of illicit drugs appeared to have remained stable in European countries and the United States. The representative of Ecuador noted that drug traffickers had begun to use his country to store illicit drugs; he emphasized the need to continue international cooperation aimed at strengthening national drug control commissions.

19. The representative of Mexico indicated that there was extensive information exchange between his country and other countries, in particular its neighbouring countries, and that judicial cooperation continued between his country and Cuba and Panama had continued. The representative of Mexico also noted that in his country cooperation in the form of training had been provided by Governments of Canada and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and by the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD) of the Organization of American States (OAS). The representative of Panama reported that an intelligence

network involving all the law enforcement agencies in his country had been set up to avoid duplication.

20. In connection with the recommendations adopted by the Thirteenth Meeting under issue 3, on new global threats, challenges to law enforcement from globalization, the representative of Brazil referred to a recent seminar to develop measures and mechanisms to combat cyber crime. It was noted that the Government of Brazil was concerned about the increase in the use of parcels to ship illicit drugs, noting that the volume of drugs smuggled using such parcels had also increased. The representative of Chile reported that legislation adopted in 1993 had provided for the establishment of a special police unit for the investigation of cyber crime and that draft legislation under consideration would enhance the tools available to the authorities in that area. It was noted that police and customs authorities in Chile had also received training from France, the United Kingdom and the United States to update their knowledge of synthetic drugs. The representative of Chile also reported that the regional intelligence liaison office in Valparaiso played an important role in the exchange of information. He noted that Chile, in cooperation with Argentina, was implementing an initiative to integrate customs operations at its border with Argentina, and that one such integrated border control point had already been established.

21. The representative of Cuba noted that, while there were a number of difficulties in implementing the recommendation adopted by the Thirteenth Meeting concerning cyber crime (UNODC/HONLAC/2003/5, para. 4 (a)), in his country the Office on Information Networks Security had been created to propose measures to ensure the security of information networks and to combat cyber crime. With reference to the recommendation adopted by the Thirteenth Meeting on cooperation with port authorities and commercial cargo operators (UNODC/HONLAC/2003/5, para. 4 (e)), the representative of Guatemala reported that a joint drug control inspection unit had been established in his country, with the support of the private sector, to enhance the control and inspection of containers. The representative of Guatemala also reported that training had been provided to enhance the inspection of containers in his country.

22. The representative of Mexico referred to a legislative forum on cyber crime organized jointly with OAS in Mexico in January 2004 for countries in the region; in addition, Mexico had participated in an OAS expert meeting held in Washington, D.C., in April 2004 on the same subject.

23. The representative of Peru informed the Meeting that training courses on specialized investigations were being provided through the Regional School of the Andean Community for Anti-Drug Intelligence (ERCAIAD) and at the illicit drug trafficking school of the Dirección Antidrogas of the national police of Peru. The representative of Peru also reported that a pilot drug control unit established at Callao, the main seaport of Peru, had improved control over containers. Given the success of the initiative, such units would be established at other ports as well.

IV. Consideration of topics by working groups

24. At its 3rd, 4th and 5th meetings, on 12 and 13 October 2004, the Meeting considered agenda item 5, entitled "Consideration of topics by working groups".

The observations made by the working groups and the conclusions reached are presented below. For the recommendations formulated by the working groups and approved by the plenary, see chapter I above.

Observations and conclusions of the working groups

Issue 1. Effective measures against cocaine manufacture and trafficking

25. The working group on issue 1, “Effective measures against cocaine manufacture and trafficking”, met on 12 October 2004. In its consideration of the topic, the working group made the following observations:

(a) Control over precursors was a challenge to Governments. Nevertheless, as had been observed since the commencement of Operation Purple targeting the movement of potassium permanganate, such control had proved to be very effective against diversion attempts. In Latin America and the Caribbean, national and regional operations targeting precursors and their substitutes had yielded significant results;

(b) A methodical approach to gathering information about precursors, companies and suspect individuals was essential to the development of effective intelligence that could be used to counter attempts to divert precursors into illicit channels. Administrative control authorities and investigative and law enforcement agencies responsible for precursor control should work closely together in order to benefit from the expertise and information available;

(c) Trafficking patterns continued to change in the region as traffickers demonstrated flexibility in responding quickly to the successes of law enforcement agencies. As soon as a precursor was added to the list of chemicals under international control, traffickers took steps to replace it with a substitute chemical;

(d) Persons engaged in the illicit cultivation of coca bush had been applying new technologies. Consequently, in some areas the number of coca bush plants per hectare had recently increased from 30,000 to 100,000;

(e) An effective response to combating cocaine manufacture at its source were well-managed eradication programmes balanced with well-supported alternative development strategies that raised living standards and were sensitive to the needs of the affected communities. Direct participation, whereby farmers managed development funds and made decisions about crop options, had resulted in successful alternative development initiatives.

26. The working group drew the following conclusions:

(a) National chemical control strategies should be designed to maximize control while minimizing additional costs or administrative burdens on legitimate activities. An effective strategy to prevent the diversion of precursors required a thorough understanding of the domestic chemical industry. Applying cumbersome or inappropriate controls could threaten economic development;

(b) Governments needed to make the international control agencies aware of the export from their countries of substances commonly used as substitutes for controlled precursors in the illicit manufacture of narcotic drugs, so as to ensure

adequate monitoring of such exports. More use should be made of the pre-export notifications to cover the movement of controlled chemicals within the region;

(c) In Latin America and the Caribbean, there was still a need for better cooperation and coordination between agencies and countries in the area of drug law enforcement. Common or coordinated central law enforcement databases and standardized reporting should be encouraged in order to expand the intelligence available to drug law enforcement agencies and enhance their operations aimed at countering cocaine trafficking;

(d) The international community, as well as the Governments of countries in the region affected by illicit coca bush cultivation, had a responsibility to support alternative livelihood initiatives to ensure their ongoing sustainability in the face of the financial challenge offered by those engaged in illicit cocaine manufacture and trafficking, and to support initiatives aimed at the eradication of illicit crops used for the production of drugs.

Issue 2. Procedures to identify, seize and confiscate goods and assets derived from crime

27. The working group on issue 2, "Procedures to identify, seize and confiscate goods and assets derived from crime", met during the 4th meeting, held on 12 October 2004. In its consideration of the topic, the working group made the following observations:

(a) Intimidation, corruption and uncoordinated legal procedures were some of the factors inhibiting the collection and probity of evidence required for sustain successful prosecutions;

(b) Gathering evidence to successfully prosecute the main persons involved in organized crime or drug trafficking syndicates was very difficult. Such individuals took care to cover up their illegal activities with lawful enterprises while using complex money-laundering operations to hide the proceeds of their illegal activities. They rarely kept illicit substances in their homes;

(c) A growing challenge to law enforcement agencies was the use of modern, sophisticated cyber technologies to perpetrate criminal activity, such as the storage of encrypted files on personal computers and the use of the Internet for voice or electronic mail (e-mail) transmissions between parties;

(d) The adoption of legislation to allow courts to pursue the confiscation of the property and assets of those engaged in criminal activity such as illicit drug trafficking had proved to be successful in depriving criminals of the proceeds of their illegal activities, and in offering a strong disincentive to others who might consider carrying out similar illegal activities;

(e) In an effort to protect the proceeds of their illegal activities, criminals were investing in other countries, where they believed the proceeds would be protected from the decisions of the courts in their own country;

(f) Sharing between States the money obtained from the disposal of forfeited assets at the conclusion of investigations in more than one jurisdiction not only reimbursed each State for the resources it had committed to the investigations, but

also was a clear signal to criminals that investing their assets abroad offered no protection from the law.

28. The working group drew the following conclusions:

(a) Law enforcement agencies must have the legal and technical capability to successfully intercept and gather evidence contained on files recovered from the drives of computers and other electronic communications media;

(b) An effective method of dismantling drug trafficking syndicates and those engaged in organized crime was to deprive them of the financial rewards, assets and property acquired from their illegal activities;

(c) International cooperation continued to be the core of all successful cross-border law enforcement initiatives. Such cooperation included not only the exchange of information and the provision of operational support, but also judicial cooperation in the gathering and presentation of evidence for trial.

Issue 3. Drug trafficking by sea: a review of controls over the sea container traffic in Latin America and the Caribbean

29. The working group on issue 3, "Drug trafficking by sea: a review of controls over the sea container traffic in Latin America and the Caribbean", met during the 5th meeting, on 13 October 2004. In its consideration of the issue, the working group made the following observations:

(a) It was estimated that 90 per cent of the cocaine smuggled out of the producing regions in Latin America was transported by sea;

(b) Governments of countries in Latin America and the Caribbean recognized the need for sound port security and were responding by upgrading capacity in that area. Greater progress was currently being made at the larger international container ports in the region than at the smaller, more conventional, loose cargo ports;

(c) A number of States in the region had already established law enforcement units specialized in container control. Others had established non-intrusive container profiling programmes utilizing electronic scanners and mobile inspection teams;

(d) An effective law enforcement response to the threat of maritime drug trafficking required the commitment of States in the region to share sensitive information on the basis of which operations targeting drug traffickers could be developed. Supporting this should be the regular promulgation of accurate and current details relating to maritime operational contact points within the appropriate agencies;

(e) National law enforcement agencies must adopt newer and more innovative procedures in order to be more successful in fulfilling their control and inspection responsibilities in view of the growing volume of trade using sea containers. There were a number of good examples of innovative approaches in Colombia, Guatemala and Venezuela, where partnerships with the private sector had led to successful new methods of funding capacity-building in port and container security;

(f) The law enforcement authorities of countries in Latin America and the Caribbean had noted that there were distinct routes and departure points in maritime drug trafficking. The authorities had plotted the changes in patterns and frequency of the trafficking routes used, as drug traffickers modified their tactics in response to successful law enforcement operations. Increased attention to maritime drug trafficking routes had resulted in an increase in drug trafficking by land and an increase in the use of couriers (“mules”) to transport illicit drug consignments in smaller quantities;

(g) The smuggling of cocaine by sea to Europe via countries in West Africa was increasingly becoming a cause for concern, in particular to Spanish authorities. Partnerships between Colombian drug traffickers and North African syndicates smuggling cannabis resin had resulted in the emergence of new routes for smuggling cocaine based on older and well-established smuggling routes.

30. The working group drew the following conclusions:

(a) Strong port security and effective control procedures were important to deterring the use of ports for loading (and unloading) illicit drug consignments;

(b) The cooperation of the private sector was a factor contributing to the success of container control strategies. Commercial operators of container and conventional ports, maritime carrier companies and freight clearance agencies should cooperate with authorities in developing strategies for risk assessment and for the control of shipping areas and containers;

(c) There was a need for authorities to develop specialized expertise concerning the nature of sea containers, their place in international trade, methods of construction and capacities, as well as the means of monitoring the movement of such containers. The conducting of specialized training courses in that area should be encouraged;

(d) The recently concluded OAS survey of the ports and security in the region and the initiatives arising from the meeting of the expert working group on that issue and maritime drug trafficking had provided a valuable assessment of the current situation in the region.

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

31. At its 7th meeting, on 15 October 2004, the Meeting considered item 6 of its agenda, entitled “Organization of the Fifteenth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Latin America and the Caribbean”. The Meeting had before it a note by the Secretariat (UNODC/HONLAC/2004/4) drawing attention to certain issues that needed to be addressed during the Fifteenth Meeting of HONLEA, Latin America and the Caribbean, and containing a draft provisional agenda for that Meeting. Statements were made by the representatives of Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Cuba, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Mexico, Peru, Spain and Venezuela.

32. The representative of Colombia informed the Meeting of his Government's offer to host the Fifteenth Meeting of HONLEA, Latin America and the Caribbean, in 2005. The Meeting welcomed the offer of the Government of Colombia. The representative of Colombia indicated that his Government would communicate with the Secretariat in order to make the necessary arrangements for the hosting of the Fifteenth Meeting.

33. With regard to the topics for discussion in working groups (item 5 of the provisional agenda) at the Fifteenth Meeting of HONLEA, Latin America and the Caribbean, the following were proposed as possible themes: (a) Efforts to identify at the macro level drug trafficking chains and the composition of drug trafficking syndicates; (b) Mechanisms for combating the distribution and sale of illicit drugs; (c) Links between drug trafficking and transnational organized crime; (d) Measures to investigate, deal with and secure evidence on the utilization of advanced communications technology by drug trafficking syndicates and organized criminal groups; and (e) Measures to halt the increasing availability of synthetic drugs in the region. Some participants stated that there was a need to address related demand reduction issues, and one participant noted that the environmental impact of illicit crop cultivation and production and the related use of precursors should also be considered.

34. The Meeting endorsed a proposal to group the suggested themes into three broad topics covering (a) distribution of illicit drugs and countermeasures; (b) links between drug trafficking and other forms of organized crime; and (c) use of technology by drug trafficking organizations and measures taken by authorities to deal with that development. Bearing in mind the foregoing, the Meeting requested the Secretariat to formulate the topics for discussion in working groups prior to the Fifteenth Meeting of HONLEA, Latin America and the Caribbean. On that basis, the following draft provisional agenda for the Fifteenth Meeting of HONLEA, Latin America and the Caribbean, 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 Fourteenth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Latin America and the Caribbean.
5. Consideration of topics by working groups.
6. Organization of the Sixteenth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Latin America and the Caribbean.
7. Other business.
8. Adoption of the report of the Fifteenth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Latin America and the Caribbean.

VI. Other business

35. At its 7th meeting, on 15 October 2004, the Meeting considered item 7, entitled "Other business". Statements were made by the representatives of Chile, Colombia and Italy. The observer for Interpol also made a statement.

36. The attention of the Meeting was drawn to the significance of the Caribbean subregion in international drug trafficking and the resources available in the subregion to combat the phenomenon. The Meeting called on the Governments of countries in the Caribbean to attend the Fifteenth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Latin America and the Caribbean. Reference was made to the roles of Interpol and the network of regional intelligence liaison offices of the World Customs Organization in facilitating cooperation and information exchange among pertinent national authorities; Governments were invited to make use of the services provided by those organizations.

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

37. At its 7th meeting, on 15 October 2004, the Meeting adopted the report of the Fourteenth Meeting of HONLEA, Latin America and the Caribbean (UNODC/HONLAC/2004/L.1 and Add.1-5), including the reports of the working groups and the recommendations contained therein, as orally amended.

VIII. Organization of the Meeting

A. Opening and duration of the Meeting

38. The Fourteenth Meeting of HONLEA, Latin America and the Caribbean, was held in Mexico City from 11 to 15 October 2004. The Secretary of Foreign Affairs of Mexico, the Prosecutor-General of Mexico and the representative of the Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime addressed participants at the opening meeting.

B. Attendance

39. The following States members of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean were represented: Argentina, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Cuba, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Italy, Mexico, Netherlands, Panama, Peru, Spain, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America and Venezuela.

40. Germany and the Russian Federation were represented by observers.

41. The International Criminal Police Organization and the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission of the Organization of American States were represented by observers.

42. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime served as the secretariat of the Meeting.

C. Election of officers

43. At its 1st meeting, on 11 October 2004, the Meeting elected the following officers by acclamation:

<i>Chairman:</i>	Alejandro Ramos Flores (Mexico)
<i>First Vice-Chairman:</i>	Luis Alfonso Plazas Vega (Colombia)
<i>Second Vice-Chairman:</i>	Gabriel Abboud (Argentina)
<i>Rapporteur:</i>	Godofredo Adalberto Miranda (El Salvador)

D. Adoption of the agenda

44. At its 1st meeting, on 11 October 2004, the Meeting adopted the following agenda:

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda.
3. Major regional drug trafficking trends and countermeasures.
4. Implementation of the recommendations adopted by the Thirteenth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Latin America and the Caribbean, by States of the region.
5. Consideration of topics by working groups:
 - (a) Effective countermeasures against cocaine production and trafficking;
 - (b) Procedures to identify, seize and confiscate goods and assets derived from crime;
 - (c) Drug trafficking by sea: a review of controls over sea container traffic in Latin America and the Caribbean.
6. Organization of the Fifteenth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Latin America and the Caribbean.
7. Other business.
8. Adoption of the report of the Fourteenth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Latin America and the Caribbean.

E. Documentation

45. The documents before the Fourteenth Meeting of HONLEA, Latin America and the Caribbean, are listed in the annex to the present report.

IX. Closure of the Meeting

46. Closing statements were made by the representative of the Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the Chairman.

Annex

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

<i>Document number</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>	<i>Title or description</i>
UNODC/HONLAC/2004/1	2	Provisional agenda, including annotations and provisional timetable
UNODC/HONLAC/2004/2	3	Major regional drug trafficking trends and countermeasures
UNODC/HONLAC/2004/3	4	Implementation of the recommendations adopted by the Thirteenth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Latin America and the Caribbean
UNODC/HONLAC/2004/4	6	Organization of the Fifteenth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Latin America and the Caribbean
UNODC/HONLAC/2004/ L.1 and Add.1-5	8	Draft report
UNODC/HONLAC/2004/ CRP.1	3	Statistics on drug trafficking trends in the Americas and worldwide
UNODC/HONLAC/2004/ CRP.2-19	3	Country reports