

1 November 2018

Original: English*

**Report of the Twenty-eighth Meeting of Heads of
National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies,
Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Santiago
from 22 to 26 October 2018**

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

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

1. The participants in the Twenty-eighth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Latin America and the Caribbean, adopted the following recommendations, which had been drawn up by its working groups. The observations and conclusions of the working groups that led to the recommendations are set out in chapter IV below.

**Issue 1. New modi operandi in trafficking and trends in concealment methods
and transport, and effective investigative techniques in response
thereto**

2. The working group on issue 1, “New modi operandi in trafficking and trends in concealment methods and transport, and effective investigative techniques in response thereto”, made the following recommendations:

(a) Governments of the region are encouraged to further invest in confidence-building measures through regional and interregional training, study visits and meetings of case officers;

(b) Governments are encouraged to strengthen anti-corruption and institutional-integrity measures, for example, through the development of standard operating procedures, the establishment of inter-agency task forces and the use of vetting procedures for staff involved in combating drug trafficking;

(c) Governments should ensure that effective measures are in place for inter-agency cooperation at the national level between relevant authorities involved in combating drug trafficking;

* Available only in English, French and Spanish, which are the working languages of the subsidiary body.



(d) Governments are encouraged to use mechanisms for exchanging information on new trends in drug trafficking, new concealment methods and modi operandi;

(e) Governments should consider developing and implementing training programmes for law enforcement officers and prosecutors, taking into account new trends in drug trafficking.

Issue 2. Trends in precursor control, diversion trends and trafficking routes for cocaine precursors into and through the region

3. The working group on issue 2, “Trends in precursor control, diversion trends and trafficking routes for cocaine precursors into and through the region”, made the following recommendations:

(a) Governments are encouraged to establish practical national cooperation mechanisms for investigating and countering the diversion of and trafficking in chemical substances;

(b) Governments are encouraged to make the best use of existing structures and mechanisms for regional and international cooperation, including for the exchange of information and for the coordination of multilateral operations targeting the diversion of and trafficking in precursor chemicals. Governments should also share operational information on the diversion of chemical precursors using the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) notification system, in particular its purple notices;

(c) Governments should strengthen the implementation or make better use of existing tools, such as the Pre-Export Notification Online (PEN Online) system, when invoking article 12, paragraph 10 (a), of the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988 to request pre-export notifications for imports of substances listed in Tables I and II of that Convention. Governments should also strengthen the application or make better use of existing tools for precursor control, such as the Precursors Incident Communication System (PICS);

(d) Governments are encouraged, individually or through existing regional mechanisms, to devise appropriate strategies to fill current knowledge gaps concerning trafficking trends and modi operandi used by traffickers to acquire substances for the illicit manufacture of drugs.

Issue 3. Use of the darknet in the illicit trade in drugs and use of cryptocurrencies for money-laundering

4. The working group on issue 3, “Use of the darknet in the illicit trade in drugs and use of cryptocurrencies for money-laundering”, made the following recommendations:

(a) Governments should address the risks posed by the illicit use of cryptocurrencies through strengthening inter-agency and international cooperation;

(b) Governments should consider the provision of basic training to law enforcement officers and prosecutors, along with the creation of specialized units comprising highly trained experts, to undertake operations and investigations relating to criminal activity on the darknet;

(c) Governments should consider updating their legal frameworks related to investigations into the darknet and transactions with cryptocurrencies, allowing, inter alia, undercover operations on the darknet and the securing of related digital evidence.

Issue 4. Developing and implementing comprehensive and sustainable alternative development programmes

5. The working group on issue 4, “Developing and implementing comprehensive and sustainable alternative development programmes”, adopted the following recommendations:

(a) Governments should develop and implement alternative development programmes, for communities in rural areas affected by or at risk of the illicit cultivation of drug crops, that are aimed at alleviating poverty as well as at preventing and reducing the illicit cultivation of crops;

(b) Governments are encouraged to report on efforts made to understand the drivers of the illicit cultivation, production and manufacture of drugs and to address underlying socioeconomic factors;

(c) In developing and implementing alternative development programmes, Governments should ensure the empowerment, ownership and responsibility of affected communities, taking into account their specific characteristics, vulnerabilities and needs;

(d) Governments should increase cooperation and coordination in the field of alternative development through the exchange of information, best practices and lessons learned, and create a repository for best practices and lessons learned in order to optimize the use of resources for alternative development;

(e) Governments should explore the possibility of using legal instruments such as extinction of domain to fund alternative development programmes.

II. Major regional drug trafficking trends and countermeasures

6. At its 1st meeting, on 22 October 2018, 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 report of the Secretariat on the world situation with regard to drug trafficking ([E/CN.7/2018/5](#)) and a note by the Secretariat on the current situation with respect to regional and subregional cooperation ([UNODC/HONLAC/28/3](#)). In addition, country reports on the drug trafficking situation had been submitted by Argentina, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Chile, Colombia, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Paraguay and Spain ([UNODC/HONLAC/28/CRP.1–9](#)) by 31 July 2018. After that date, country reports had been submitted by Ecuador, Italy, Mexico and Peru ([UNODC/HONLAC/28/CRP.10–13](#)).

7. A representative of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) introduced the item and made an audiovisual presentation on reported drug trafficking trends in the Americas and worldwide. The presentation was based on information provided by Governments to UNODC. Representatives of Chile, Cuba, Paraguay, Colombia, Peru, Mexico, Spain, Ecuador and Panama made statements, some of which included audiovisual presentations.

8. Many participants informed the Meeting about recent developments relating to drug trafficking trends and the drug control situation in their countries and in the region and provided information on advances made in combating drug trafficking. Updated data and information on drug seizures, arrests, land, air and maritime trafficking routes, the eradication of illicit crops and the dismantling of drug laboratories were also shared. Reference was made to measures taken to counter the diversion of chemical precursors for the manufacture of illicit drugs.

9. Among current trends were the use of semi-submersible vehicles, the use of light aircraft and clandestine landing strips to transport drugs across the region and the use by couriers of the Global Positioning System (GPS). Recent developments reported were a move from centralized drug cartels towards multiple actors with specialized

roles, the increase of routes across the Pacific Ocean as a result of increased interdiction efforts in the Caribbean and the use of small, mobile and underground clandestine laboratories that were difficult to detect.

10. Several participants reported on their countries' development and updating of national drug control plans and strategies and legislative instruments, as well as on multilateral cooperation initiatives and the signing of bilateral agreements with neighbouring countries. Information on joint operations, intelligence-sharing and cooperation for cross-border security was given, as was information on measures for strengthening international judicial cooperation. Both domestic inter-institutional cooperation and international cooperation were seen as key for achieving results in the fight against drug trafficking. One speaker underlined the need for clear and quantifiable indicators for an evidence-based analysis of both drug demand and supply reduction and made proposals on improving information-gathering in such a way as to allow the identification of new trends in drug trafficking.

11. The representative of Peru invited participants to attend the sixth regional meeting of the UNODC/World Customs Organization Container Control Programme, to be held in Lima from 19 to 23 November 2018.

12. Some participants mentioned their countries' participation in the Container Control Programme and the Airport Communication Project (AIRCOP), for the monitoring and inspection of the container ports and airports of the region, and in the project on strengthening criminal investigation and criminal justice cooperation along the cocaine route in Latin America, the Caribbean and West Africa (CRIMJUST).

13. A number of participants drew attention to the links between drug trafficking and crimes such as illegal mining, contraband, trafficking in arms, trafficking in persons and kidnapping. Microtrafficking, particularly in cocaine base paste, was reported as being a major issue in some countries. Special police units had been set up to address the phenomenon.

14. Increased national consumption rates were highlighted, and participants reported on their countries' programmes to reduce drug demand through prevention and treatment. Some speakers underlined that their countries were transit points, situated between producer and consumer markets.

15. Alternative development strategies, illicit crop monitoring and the manual eradication of illicit crops were also mentioned by some speakers.

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

16. At its 7th meeting, on 25 October 2018, the Meeting considered item 4 of its agenda, entitled "Implementation of the recommendations adopted by the Twenty-seventh 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/28/4](#)) prepared on the basis of information provided by Governments in response to a questionnaire sent to all States members of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean. The document reflected the answers received by the Secretariat from Argentina, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Paraguay and Spain by 31 July 2018.

17. The Secretary of the Meeting made an introductory statement. The representative of Peru reported on the implementation of the recommendations by his Government. Measures taken included coordination among the armed forces and the police, bilateral institutional meetings with Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Chile and Ecuador for the exchange of information and the planning of joint operations and the signing of memorandums of understanding with UNODC for participating in

AIRCOP, the Container Control Programme and the CRIMJUST project. Other measures covered promoting integrity in all public institutions, fighting corruption, implementing alternatives to imprisonment for people facing drug charges and approving legislation on extinction of domain. Reference was also made to pilot projects for demand reduction.

IV. Consideration of topics by working groups

18. At the 2nd to 6th meetings, from 22 to 24 October, participants considered agenda item 5, entitled “Consideration of topics by working groups”. The observations and conclusions of the working groups are set out below. The recommendations of the working groups approved in the plenary are set out in chapter I above.

Observations and conclusions of the working groups

Issue 1. New modi operandi in trafficking and trends in concealment methods and transport, and effective investigative techniques in response thereto

19. The working group on issue 1 met during the 3rd and 4th meetings, held on 23 October, and made the following observations:

(a) Drug trafficking groups are using various concealment methods such as impregnation of clothing with liquid drugs and hiding drugs in the lining of luggage being transported by air. Such groups are using different modi operandi, including microtrafficking by couriers, “rip-on and rip-off” and “drop-on and drop-off”. They use various types of vessels, including fast boats, fishing boats, yachts, sailing boats and tugboats, for drug trafficking locally, regionally and globally;

(b) There are changes in the structures of organized criminal groups in certain countries, meaning fewer “cartel”-type groups and more decentralized, business-type structures;

(c) The number of post-seizure and backtracking investigations is still very limited;

(d) In some countries, there are gaps in the legal framework to support inter-agency cooperation at various levels.

20. The working group drew the following conclusions:

(a) There is a need for more effective and wider use of special investigative techniques, including controlled deliveries, to enable the dismantling of drug supply chains;

(b) Mechanisms to ensure the timely exchange of information and criminal intelligence related to drug trafficking could be improved;

(c) Corruption seriously undermines the measures undertaken by the countries to fight drug trafficking.

Issue 2. Trends in precursor control, diversion trends and trafficking routes for cocaine precursors into and through the region

21. The working group on issue 2 met during the 2nd meeting, on 22 October, and made the following observations:

(a) There is a lack of effective backtracking investigations into the sources of seized chemicals that have been diverted from licit channels;

(b) Many countries are aware of the need to improve cooperation with the private sector in order to ensure the required level of support for effective precursor control;

(c) A number of countries in the region do not have practical arrangements for cooperation among the national agencies involved in precursor control;

(d) In some countries, available tools for the control of substances in Tables I and II of the 1988 Convention, such as PEN Online and PICS, could be used more effectively;

(e) It was observed by some delegations that, despite the numerous existing regional cooperation mechanisms, additional, real-time cooperation efforts were needed.

22. The working group drew the following conclusions:

(a) There is a need for stronger cooperation between relevant national agencies to ensure proper levels of precursor control;

(b) Regional cooperation is one of the key elements of effective precursor control regionally and internationally;

(c) Effective and sustainable training in the area of precursor control based on best practices can provide a solid basis for reliable precursor control;

(d) Where they have not already done so, Governments should be encouraged to establish a collaborative relationship with their domestic chemical industries and associated distributors in order to foster the ready communication of information needed by authorities to maintain control over precursor chemicals;

(e) Exchange of information and multilateral, intelligence-led operations are prerequisites for precursor chemical control and for countering the diversion of and trafficking in precursor chemicals.

Issue 3. Use of the darknet in the illicit trade in drugs and use of cryptocurrencies for money-laundering

23. The working group on issue 3 met during the 5th meeting, on 24 October 2018. In its consideration of the topic in question, the working group made the following observations:

(a) The darknet provides a platform for emerging markets used by organized criminal groups for trading illegally in drugs, weapons, counterfeit documents and money, and for trading in other criminal services, including hacking and terrorist financing;

(b) The darknet is mainly used for the illicit drug trade, as it allows for anonymous transactions with no live interaction, for customer feedback and for an escrow system for payments made using cryptocurrencies;

(c) There are tools for the detection of some cryptocurrency transactions. However, law enforcement agencies have the best chance of detecting criminal activity when cryptocurrencies are converted into property or money.

24. The working group drew the following conclusions:

(a) Online drug trafficking and the criminal use of cryptocurrencies are increasing significantly;

(b) A number of countries are taking steps to regulate the use of cryptocurrencies; however, there is a lack of international standards and harmonization. Criminals take advantage of these legal gaps;

(c) Undercover operations on the darknet are considered an important law enforcement tool for detecting and disrupting criminal activities related to the drug trade;

(d) In the absence of a strong response from Member States, cryptocurrencies could become the perfect money-laundering tool (cheap, fast, anonymous and not limited to within national borders).

Issue 4. Developing and implementing comprehensive and sustainable alternative development programmes

25. The working group on issue 4 met during the 5th and 6th meetings, on 24 October 2018, and formulated the following observations:

(a) Poverty, together with other factors, is a driver of illicit crop cultivation. The illicit production and manufacture of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances are often related to development problems;

(b) When designing sustainable crop control strategies, Governments should continue taking into account the United Nations Guiding Principles on Alternative Development and the broader framework of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

(c) Partnerships and cooperation with the private sector with a view to ensuring access to markets for products stemming from alternative development are key to successful alternative development interventions and crop control strategies;

(d) There is a need to address the consequences of illicit crop cultivation on the environment.

26. The working group drew the following conclusions:

(a) There is a need to identify and address the root causes of illicit cultivation and illicit drug-related activities by communities that often face a lack of alternative economic opportunities;

(b) The communities affected by or at risk of illicit cultivation of drug crops and other illicit drug-related activities should be integrated into the economic and social development of the country;

(c) Addressing socioeconomic issues related to the illicit cultivation of narcotic plants and the illicit manufacture and production of and trafficking in drugs, including in urban settings, requires the implementation of long-term, comprehensive and sustainable development-oriented and balanced drug control policies and programmes;

(d) There is a need to promote socioeconomic infrastructure projects aimed at minimizing the risk of illicit cultivation.

V. Follow-up to the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem, and to the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem held in 2016

27. At its 1st meeting, on 22 October 2018, the Meeting considered item 6 of its agenda, entitled “Follow-up to the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem, and to the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem held in 2016”.

28. For its consideration of the item, the Meeting had before it the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem¹ and the outcome document of the thirtieth special session of the General Assembly, entitled “Our joint commitment to effectively addressing and countering the world drug problem”.

¹ See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2009, Supplement No. 8 (E/2009/28)*, chap. I, sect. C.

29. A representative of the Secretariat made a presentation. During the discussions under the item, statements were made by the representatives of Mexico, Colombia and Guatemala.

30. In his presentation, the representative of the Secretariat recalled that, in 2009, the Commission had adopted the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem. Targets had been set in the Political Declaration, with the year 2019 given as the target date. In 2014, the Commission had conducted a mid-term review of the progress made towards those targets, the results of which were contained in the Joint Ministerial Statement of the 2014 high-level review by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs of 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.

31. Furthermore, he recalled that, in 2016, the General Assembly had adopted the outcome document of the special session on the world drug problem, which consisted of a comprehensive set of over 100 operational recommendations in seven thematic chapters. The Commission had started a comprehensive and inclusive follow-up to the special session, covering all seven chapters of the outcome document. Information was shared on the workplan of the Commission for the last quarter of 2018, during which a series of intersessional meetings were being held in preparation for the ministerial segment of the sixty-second session of the Commission, to be held in 2019.

32. The representative of Mexico mentioned that the outcome document, which had been built on the basis of all previous documents and sought to improve drug policies, with the well-being of communities and people as a primary objective, was the most comprehensive and complete consensus reached so far by the international community. As such, it reflected the evolutionary nature of the international drug regime. The participation of all stakeholders, including key actors such as the Secretary-General and representatives of UNODC, the World Health Organization, the International Narcotics Control Board and other specialized agencies and regional organizations that approached the subject in a transversal way, was key for the successful outcome of the ministerial segment to be held in 2019. Mexico welcomed the intersessional meetings that were currently taking place in Vienna and that maintained the visibility of the implementation of the seven thematic chapters of the outcome document, while taking stock of the achievements and pending issues in the Political Declaration and Plan of Action. The seven thematic chapters of the outcome document had gone beyond the three traditional pillars (supply reduction, demand reduction and combating money-laundering and promoting judicial cooperation to enhance international cooperation) and reinforced them in a transversal and multidimensional way. Mexico therefore welcomed the consideration of the seven thematic chapters of the outcome document by international forums, including the General Assembly, interregional meetings such as the Coordination and Cooperation Mechanism on Drugs of the European Union and the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States, the regional meetings of the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission of the Organization of American States and the Meetings of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Latin America and the Caribbean. That would allow Member States to identify the way forward beyond 2019.

33. The representative of Colombia indicated that, in accordance with Commission on Narcotic Drugs resolution 60/1, his country expected that, at the ministerial segment to be held in 2019, the Commission would take stock of the implementation of international commitments to address and counter the world drug problem, in particular in the light of the targets established in paragraph 36 of the Political Declaration. From the perspective of Colombia, the greatest obstacle faced by the States of the region, and in general by the international community, to the implementation of their international commitments on addressing the world drug problem was the focus on procedures instead of substance. His country proposed leaving aside the procedural debate, in order not to divert attention from the

fundamentals, and to initiate a dialogue that would allow States to effectively address the world drug problem, based on what united them and on what there was consensus. The questions States must ask themselves were: (a) how to reduce drug-related deaths; (b) how to counteract the effects of the global drug threat; (c) how to counter drug trafficking; (d) how to control the substances subject to international control and avoid the diversion thereof; (e) how to reduce illicit crop cultivation; (f) how to face evolving realities, trends and existing circumstances and emerging and persistent challenges and threats; and (g) how to deal with the gap that existed between the commitments of Governments and the tolerance that seemed to exist in society in terms of consumption. It was time for States to act, regardless of their differences, and to work together. Evolving realities, trends and existing circumstances and emerging and persistent challenges and threats must be addressed through the formulation and execution of more effective and more humane policies, allowing for a broader approach to respond to the complex reality of today than the principles accepted by the international community, namely shared and common responsibility, multilateralism, integrality, balance, international cooperation, respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity, as well as the principle of non-intervention in the internal affairs of States, respect for all human rights and fundamental freedoms, and avoiding unilateral accusations. Colombia considered that the best way of contributing to the follow-up work carried out by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs in relation to the application of the outcome document should consist in the strengthening and optimization of information systems. There was a need for complete and comparable information that would allow for the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the efficacy of drug policies at the national, regional and international levels. That information should serve as the basis of a robust analysis of and recommendations on the best way for States to effectively address the world drug problem. For example, a survey could be carried out on tolerance to consumption. Furthermore, in the view of Colombia, that information should also include data related to compliance with the Sustainable Development Goals, as they allowed for a more effective and humane approach to addressing the world drug problem. In that regard, it was necessary to include more appropriate indicators to cover the experiences, good practices and lessons learned from drug policies at different levels of development, implementation and monitoring, and to cover how such policies complied with the Goals.

34. The representative of Guatemala reported on his Government's efforts to implement the provisions of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on demand reduction. He also mentioned the creation of a technical body to deal with alternative development as a measure to complement supply reduction. A more comprehensive approach to the drug issue was needed that would go beyond interdiction and include the promotion of health and development. The implementation of the recommendations contained in the various international instruments sometimes suffered from a lack of inter-institutional coordination. Equally important was strengthening relations with neighbouring countries to monitor the dynamics of the drug issue in all its forms and manifestations, in order to adopt more effective measures.

VI. Implementation of Commission on Narcotic Drugs decision 60/1, on strengthening the subsidiary bodies of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs

35. At its 7th meeting, on 25 October 2018, the Meeting considered item 7 of the agenda entitled "Implementation of Commission on Narcotic Drugs decision 60/1, on strengthening the subsidiary bodies of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs".

36. The Secretary of the Meeting made an introductory statement, recalling that, in its decision 60/1, in response to the invitation contained in paragraph 97 of General Assembly resolution 71/211, and mindful of the requests contained in Commission on Narcotic Drugs resolution 56/10 and the operational recommendation contained in

paragraph 6 (c) of the outcome document of the thirtieth special session of the Assembly, the Commission had decided: (a) to examine how its subsidiary bodies could better contribute to the implementation of the outcome document; (b) to inform its subsidiary bodies of the invitation contained in General Assembly resolution 71/211; and (c) to invite the subsidiary bodies to consider that invitation at their upcoming meetings and report back to the Commission in due course.

37. One speaker indicated that the Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Latin America and the Caribbean, and the other subsidiary bodies of the Commission, could systematically contribute to the implementation of the operational recommendations contained in the outcome document and could discuss the achievement of the targets contained in the Political Declaration and Plan of Action in the light of the 2019 target date. While the meetings of heads of national drug law enforcement agencies had been mainly devoted to supply reduction issues, they should continue to have on their agenda, including for the working groups, issues contained in the seven chapters of the outcome document. The questionnaire on the implementation of the recommendations of the meetings of heads of national drug law enforcement agencies and the country reports could include a section on the implementation of the operational recommendations contained in the outcome document.

38. Other speakers stated that it was important for the Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Latin America and the Caribbean, to focus primarily on law enforcement issues; topics of a broader or political nature should be dealt with in other forums. They also underlined the need to keep and strengthen the role of the Meeting as a platform for technical discussions and a transparent exchange of information among law enforcement professionals, including on specific cases. Other suggestions included the possibility of reducing the duration of the meetings to four days and allowing time for delegations to conduct informal meetings, for the exchange of information, on the margins of the deliberations in the plenary.

VII. Organization of the Twenty-ninth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Latin America and the Caribbean

39. At its 7th meeting, on 25 October 2018, the Meeting considered agenda item 8, entitled “Twenty-ninth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Latin America and the Caribbean”.

40. The participants had before them for their consideration a draft provisional agenda for the Twenty-ninth Meeting ([UNODC/HONLAC/28/5](#), annex).

41. The participants were informed that the Twenty-ninth Meeting was scheduled to be held in October 2019. The representative of Peru stated his country’s intention and wish to host the Meeting, noting that further consultations would be required in that regard. During the discussion, statements were made by the representatives of Spain, Chile, Cuba, Mexico, Colombia, Germany, Ecuador and Panama. The observer for INTERPOL also took the floor.

42. The following were proposed as subjects for discussion in the working groups of the Twenty-ninth Meeting: (a) intelligence-led policing based on criminal intelligence collection, collation, analysis and sharing at the national and regional levels; (b) understanding the composition, *modi operandi* and activities of organized groups involved in drug trafficking; (c) identifying and dismantling laboratories producing new psychoactive substances, fentanyl and “traditional” drugs; (d) legal aspects of new psychoactive substances and regulations to address their dynamics; (e) relationships and links between drug trafficking and other forms of organized crime such as arms trafficking and prostitution; (f) establishing practical mechanisms for the real-time exchange of information in specific investigations and developing and updating the network of focal points in the relevant agencies in each country for

those purposes; (g) agreeing on channels of communication; (h) integrity of law enforcement personnel; (i) use of special investigative techniques, including controlled deliveries and undercover operations; (j) ways of financing the production of cocaine, regionally and globally; (k) storage and destruction of seized drugs; and (l) improving coordination and cooperation with and among prosecutors of drug cases.

43. The representatives of Guatemala and Peru requested that alternative development, which was an essential component of drug supply reduction, be added to the proposed subjects for discussion in the working groups of the Twenty-ninth Meeting.

44. The possibility of using meetings of heads of national drug law enforcement agencies for closed meetings of case officers involved in specific cases with links to other countries in order to exchange relevant intelligence on and plan coordinated actions for the cases was also suggested.

45. The Meeting took note of the proposals and requested the Secretariat to finalize the issues to be discussed by working groups prior to the Twenty-ninth Meeting. On that basis, the following draft provisional agenda for the Twenty-ninth Meeting was approved:

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda.
3. Major regional drug trafficking trends and countermeasures.
4. Implementation of the recommendations adopted by the Twenty-eighth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Latin America and the Caribbean.
5. Consideration of topics by working groups [*to be determined*].
6. Follow-up to the ministerial segment of the sixty-second session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs.
7. Organization of the Thirtieth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Latin America and the Caribbean.
8. Other business.
9. Adoption of the report of the Twenty-ninth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Latin America and the Caribbean.

VIII. Other business

46. At the same meeting, the Meeting considered agenda item 9, entitled “Other business”. No issues were raised under the item.

IX. Adoption of the report of the Twenty-eighth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Latin America and the Caribbean

47. At its 9th meeting, on 26 October 2018, the Meeting adopted its draft report (UNODC/HONLAC/28/L.1 and Add.1–9), including the reports of the working groups and the recommendations contained therein, as orally revised.

X. Organization of the Meeting

A. Opening and duration of the Meeting

48. The Twenty-eighth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Latin America and the Caribbean, was held in Santiago from 22 to 26 October 2018. The opening meeting was held on 22 October 2018 and was addressed by Luis Yáñez, Officer-in-Charge of the Office of the Secretary of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean.

B. Attendance

49. The following States members of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean were represented: Argentina, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Canada, Chile, Colombia, Cuba, Ecuador, Germany, Guatemala, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Portugal, Spain and United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

50. Australia and the Russian Federation were represented by observers.

51. The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, the International Narcotics Control Board and INTERPOL were also represented by observers.

52. UNODC served as the secretariat of the Meeting.

C. Election of officers

53. At the 1st meeting, on 22 October 2018, the following officers were elected by acclamation:

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|---------------------------|--|
| <i>Chair:</i> | Juan Andrés Troncoso (Chile) |
| <i>First Vice-Chair:</i> | Maria Cecilia Rozas Ponce de León (Peru) |
| <i>Second Vice-Chair:</i> | Antonio Israel Ybarra Suárez (Cuba) |
| <i>Rapporteur:</i> | César Arce Rivas (Paraguay) |

D. Adoption of the agenda

54. At the same meeting, the following agenda was adopted:

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda.
3. Major regional drug trafficking trends and countermeasures.
4. Implementation of the recommendations adopted by the Twenty-seventh Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Latin America and the Caribbean.
5. Consideration of topics by working groups:
 - (a) New modi operandi in trafficking and trends in concealment methods and transport, and effective investigative techniques in response thereto;
 - (b) Trends in precursor control, diversion trends and trafficking routes for cocaine precursors into and through the region;
 - (c) Use of the darknet in the illicit trade in drugs and use of cryptocurrencies for money-laundering;

- (d) Developing and implementing comprehensive and sustainable alternative development programmes.
- 6. Follow-up to the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem, and to the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem held in 2016.
- 7. Implementation of Commission on Narcotic Drugs decision 60/1, on strengthening the subsidiary bodies of the Commission.
- 8. Organization of the Twenty-ninth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Latin America and the Caribbean.
- 9. Other business.
- 10. Adoption of the report of the Twenty-eighth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Latin America and the Caribbean.

E. Documentation

- 55. The documents before the Twenty-eighth Meeting are listed in the annex.

XI. Closure of the Meeting

- 56. The Chair of the Meeting made a closing statement.

Annex

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

| <i>Symbol</i> | <i>Agenda item</i> | <i>Title or description</i> |
|---|--------------------|--|
| E/CN.7/2018/5 | 3 | Report of the Secretariat on the world situation with regard to drug trafficking |
| UNODC/HONLAC/28/1 | 2 | Annotated provisional agenda |
| UNODC/HONLAC/28/2 | 3 | Note by the Secretariat on the report on the world situation with regard to drug trafficking |
| UNODC/HONLAC/28/3 | 3 | Note by the Secretariat on the current situation with respect to regional and subregional cooperation |
| UNODC/HONLAC/28/4 | 4 | Note by the Secretariat on the implementation of the recommendations adopted by the Twenty-seventh Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Latin America and the Caribbean |
| UNODC/HONLAC/28/5 | 8 | Note by the Secretariat on the organization of the Twenty-ninth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Latin America and the Caribbean |
| UNODC/HONLAC/28/L.1 and Add.1–9 | 10 | Draft report |
| UNODC/HONLAC/28/CRP.1–13 | 3 | Country reports |