

18 October 2019

Original: English\*

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## **Report of the Twenty-ninth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Lima from 7 to 11 October 2019**

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

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

1. The participants in the Twenty-ninth 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 section IV below.

##### **Issue 1. Intelligence-led policing based on criminal intelligence collection, collation, analysis and sharing at the national, regional and international levels**

2. The working group on issue 1, “Intelligence-led policing based on criminal intelligence collection, collation, analysis and sharing at the national, regional and international levels”, made the following recommendations:

(a) Governments are encouraged to develop or update training materials and tools on criminal intelligence analysis and practice regular training in this area, specifically by the specialized law enforcement training and education institutions. Training programmes might be focused on various levels, i.e. for managers, front-line officers and intelligence analysts;

(b) Governments should regularly undertake the necessary steps to support trust-building initiatives between law enforcement agencies at the national, regional and international levels, to facilitate exchanges of actionable criminal intelligence;

(c) Governments should support the efforts of law enforcement agencies in strengthening criminal intelligence analysis capacities and in promoting and practising intelligence-led policing.

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



**Issue 2. Understanding the modi operandi and activities of organized criminal groups involved in drug trafficking**

3. The working group on issue 2, “Understanding the modi operandi and activities of organized criminal groups involved in drug trafficking”, made the following recommendations:

(a) Governments should develop and further strengthen capacities of their competent authorities to intercept, investigate and prosecute significant multinational illicit drug trafficking cases to enable the disruption of illicit drug trafficking channels and the dismantling of criminal groups involved;

(b) Governments should encourage their law enforcement agencies to use special investigative techniques, including controlled deliveries, infiltration and other undercover operations to identify major illicit drug trafficking groups and drug supply chains, as well as related financial flows, and consequently to undertake needed countermeasures;

(c) Governments should ensure the regular exchange of information with counterparts on modi operandi, concealment methods, trafficking routes, criminal groups and their members, as well as best practices and effective countermeasures in tackling illicit drug trafficking.

**Issue 3. Improving the capacity of countries to detect emerging drug threats through early warning**

4. The working group on issue 3, “Improving the capacity of countries to detect emerging drug threats through early warning”, made the following recommendations:

(a) Governments should continue to encourage the development of their early warning systems on new emerging drugs and new psychoactive substances;

(b) Governments should continue to invest in training their forensic technical staff in the detection of synthetic drugs and new psychoactive substances;

(c) Governments must strengthen the capacities of national forensic laboratories for the detection of newly emerging drugs and new psychoactive substances, by modernizing their equipment and analytical capabilities;

(d) Governments should continue to stimulate inter-agency and information-sharing work on emerging drugs and new psychoactive substances, both nationally and internationally. They should also strengthen training in their law enforcement agencies on the recognition and detection of synthetic drugs and new psychoactive substances, and provide them with detection and protection equipment for the management of synthetic drugs.

**Issue 4. Expanding the scope of national illicit crop monitoring systems: experiences and opportunities**

5. The working group on issue 4, “Expanding the scope of national illicit crop monitoring systems: experiences and opportunities”, adopted the following recommendations:

(a) Governments should establish comprehensive national monitoring systems that are based on scientific evidence. This requires coordination and joint analysis of national agencies at the technical level, as well as coordination at the highest political level to ensure that the resulting analysis feeds into programming and policymaking;

(b) Governments should make the best use of existing structures and mechanisms for regional and international cooperation, including for the exchange of experiences and expertise on national monitoring tools, including illicit crop monitoring;

(c) The international community should provide support to address the issue of illicit cultivation, production and trafficking, as well as the establishment of

national monitoring mechanisms, through the provision of specialized technical support and financial resources.

## II. Major regional drug trafficking trends and countermeasures

6. At its first meeting, on 7 October 2019, 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 the report on the world situation with regard to drug trafficking (UNODC/HONLAC/29/2 and E/CN.7/2019/5) and the report of the Secretariat on the current situation with respect to regional and subregional cooperation (UNODC/HONLAC/29/3). In addition, country reports on the illicit drug trafficking situation were submitted by Argentina, Chile, Colombia, El Salvador, France, Honduras, Italy, Mexico and Portugal (UNODC/HONLAC/29/CRP.1–9) by 7 August 2019. After that date, a country report was submitted by Guatemala (UNODC/HONLAC/29/CRP.10).

7. A representative of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) introduced the item and made an audiovisual presentation on reported illicit drug trafficking and drug consumption trends in the Americas and worldwide. The presentation was based on information provided by Governments to UNODC. Representatives of Peru, Guatemala, Mexico, Colombia, the Plurinational State of Bolivia, Paraguay, the Dominican Republic, Chile, Spain, Honduras and Argentina made statements, some of which included audiovisual presentations.

8. Many participants informed the Meeting about recent developments relating to illicit drug trafficking trends and the drug control situation in their countries and in the region, also providing information and data on national advances and achievements made in combating illicit drug trafficking. Updated data and information on drug seizures, methods of concealment, air, river and maritime trafficking routes and arrests of traffickers were also shared.

9. Several participants emphasized the importance of the world drug problem being addressed by countries of supply, demand and transit, on the basis of the principle of common and shared responsibility.

10. Some delegates noted that their countries were situated between producer and consumer markets and were used as transit countries. Some speakers reported on their countries’ advances in monitoring all regions susceptible to drug production and trafficking.

11. A number of participants drew attention to the links between illicit drug trafficking and related crimes such as money-laundering, illegal gold mining and timber extraction, theft of gasoline, trafficking in arms and terrorism. The negative impact of drug production and trafficking on the environment was also mentioned.

12. Among current trends reported were the appearance in the region of new psychoactive substances, amphetamine-type stimulants, “ecstasy”, fentanyl and other opioids. The emergence of new routes of transnational illicit drug trafficking, including between South America, Africa and Australia, was also highlighted by some speakers. Some speakers drew attention to the fact that trafficking by sea was the predominant form of illicit drug trafficking.

13. Many speakers provided information on the detection and eradication of illicit drug crops, and on the seizure and dismantling of clandestine laboratories used in the illicit manufacture of drugs. It was also noted that the monitoring of illicit coca crops needed to take into account, in addition to the surface cultivated, other factors, such as productivity levels and the purity and prices of cocaine. According to some speakers, as illicit cultivation was the result of external demand, the burden of eradication needed to be shared by consumer countries. Reference was also made to the traditional consumption of coca leaf in some countries and its legal market.

14. Several speakers mentioned the importance of alternative development strategies, to complement efforts in the eradication of illicit crops and as a means of promoting the socioeconomic inclusion of the communities concerned.

15. A number of participants reported on the development of national drug control plans and strategies and the updating of legislation. Some speakers also reported on the levels of national consumption and on the implementation of prevention and treatment measures. Limited resources were identified by one speaker as an impediment to more effective drug demand reduction efforts.

16. Representatives also spoke of successful regional cooperation projects and joint operations, exchange of information and controlled delivery operations. Others reported on bilateral agreements concluded to respond to new trafficking routes and trends and in the establishment of mixed commissions and joint task forces. These measures contributed greatly to fostering trust among countries.

17. The need to strengthen domestic inter-institutional cooperation, as well as international cooperation, was stressed by all speakers. Regional cooperation for the real-time exchange of information was seen as a key to successfully reducing the illicit supply of drugs. Several speakers elaborated on the effective cooperation between armed and security forces in combating illicit drug trafficking.

18. Some speakers stressed the importance of strengthening international judicial cooperation to ensure prosecutions and extraditions, in accordance with the provisions of the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988, and noted that there were bureaucratic obstacles to such cooperation.

19. Reference was made to successful work in the area of control and inspection at container ports and airports of the region, in particular through the UNODC/World Customs Organization Container Control Programme and the Airport Communication Project (AIRCOP). Other successful examples of international cooperation were the project on strengthening criminal investigation and criminal justice cooperation along the cocaine route in Latin America, the Caribbean and West Africa and Operation Orion.

20. A number of delegates highlighted the support received for their drug supply and demand reduction programmes at the international level, including from UNODC.

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

21. At its third meeting, on 8 October 2019, the Meeting considered item 4 of its agenda, entitled “Implementation of the recommendations adopted by the Twenty-eighth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Latin America and the Caribbean”. The Meeting had before it a document prepared by the Secretariat ([UNODC/HONLAC/29/4](#)) on the basis of information provided by Governments in response to a questionnaire sent to all States members of Heads of National Law Enforcement Agencies, Latin America and the Caribbean. The document reflected the answers received by the Secretariat from Argentina, Chile, Colombia, El Salvador, France, Honduras, Italy, Mexico, Paraguay and Portugal by 9 August 2019.

22. The Secretary of the Meeting made an introductory statement. The representative of Guatemala referred to the implementation by his Government of the recommendations in the area of alternative development. Progress had been made with support from the Cooperation Programme between Latin America, the Caribbean and the European Union on Drugs Policies, the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission and the Peruvian National Commission for Development and Life without Drugs on comprehensive and sustainable alternative development, and a

forum on the subject had been held in the country in July 2019. In supplementing the information provided by means of the questionnaire, the representative of Paraguay referred to, among other things, training received from UNODC in the fight against illicit drug trafficking; the membership of Paraguay in the Egmont Group of Financial Intelligence Units, the Financial Action Task Force of Latin America, AIRCOP and the Container Control Programme; the exchange of information and good practices with countries such as Argentina, Brazil and the United States of America; and the adoption of a voluntary code of practice for precursor control. He also mentioned a lack of resources for alternative development and the need for international cooperation in this field.

23. The representative of Peru indicated that her Government had implemented all the recommendations. Measures taken included participation in training schemes at the regional level and the establishment of mixed commissions and bilateral agreements for the fight against illicit drug trafficking. Of particular relevance was alternative development for communities in rural areas, aimed at changing the socioeconomic matrix of coca-producing areas, reducing their dependence on illicit crops and promoting legal economies. The representative of Honduras supplemented the information provided through the questionnaire and noted the need of her country to receive technical assistance and equipment for the handling and destruction of seized substances and the dismantling of laboratories. The penal code of her country did not penalize information technology-related crime, and a review of legislation was needed in this respect. Seized assets were being used to support demand reduction and law enforcement operations. In supplementing the information provided by means of the questionnaire, the delegation of Mexico provided information, inter alia, on participation in forums for the exchange of experiences on new trafficking trends, on practical cooperation mechanisms to prevent the diversion of precursors, and on alternative development programmes, including in urban areas. The representative of the Dominican Republic also reported that his country had complied with the recommendations, including on the investigation of new *modi operandi* in the trafficking of drugs and the adoption of anti-corruption measures. He also reported on collaboration with security forces of Italy on the investigation of criminal activity in the darknet.

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

24. At the third to seventh meetings, from 8 to 10 October, participants considered agenda item 5, “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 section I above.

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

###### **Issue 1. Intelligence-led policing based on criminal intelligence collection, collation, analysis and sharing at the national, regional and international levels**

25. The working group on issue 1 met during the third and fourth meetings, held on 8 October, and made the following observations:

- (a) Intelligence-led policing is one of the key elements in countering all forms of organized crime, including illicit drug trafficking;
- (b) Even though there is progress in the exchange of criminal intelligence and sharing of law enforcement-related information, difficulties in this area remain, caused by lack of trust and, sometimes, by the absence of agreed procedures;
- (c) The “need to know” concept in sharing criminal intelligence in many cases appears to be outdated and requires reconsideration;

(d) Regional law enforcement coordination and cooperation centres, as well as law enforcement liaison officers and their networks, are playing an important role in facilitating exchanges of actionable intelligence.

26. The working group drew the following conclusions:

(a) Taking into consideration the regionalization and globalization of organized crime in general, and illicit drug trafficking in particular, the “need to know” concept in most cases needs to be replaced by the “need to share” approach so as to ensure that intelligence is shared in due time, allowing appropriate measures to be taken;

(b) The timely exchange of actionable intelligence through reliable and secure communication channels is important for taking proactive measures and conducting post-seizure investigations;

(c) The establishment of relevant national databases with law enforcement information provides a solid foundation for proper analysis of information at the strategic and operational levels and helps to avoid the targeting of the same objects by different law enforcement agencies and, thus, overlapping investigations and duplication of efforts.

## **Issue 2. Understanding the modi operandi and activities of organized criminal groups involved in drug trafficking**

27. The working group on issue 2 met during the fifth meeting, on 9 October, and made the following observations:

(a) Drug trafficking groups are actively exploiting various routes (sea, air, land, rivers), modi operandi and concealment methods for illicit drug trafficking. The “rip-on, rip-off” method and the transfer of drug shipments on the high seas are widespread in the region;

(b) Container shipments, including shipments by means of cargo vessels; speedboats, recreational vessels, submersible vessels and small aircraft; and parcels sent by post are used by illicit drug trafficking groups;

(c) Drugs are concealed in various legitimate and illegal forms of cargo, in the bottoms of boats, in the structures of containers, vessels and other vehicles, and in pieces of luggage; clothing may also be impregnated with them; and there are still more methods of concealment;

(d) There are cases of involvement of corrupt staff of port authorities in facilitating activities related to illicit drug trafficking;

(e) Cases of manipulation of information contained in automated container processing systems and databases to avoid examination of certain containers have been registered.

28. The working group drew the following conclusions:

(a) There are changes in relation to the organized criminal groups involved in illicit drug trafficking, which resulted in a shift from hierarchical, pyramidal structures to horizontal arrangements, with various groups acting more or less independently;

(b) Apart from well-known trafficking channels, criminal groups are actively using navigable rivers for the transportation of significant amounts of drugs, mainly towards the Atlantic coast for further shipment to North America, Africa (as transit point) and Europe;

(c) Multinational drug-producing and drug trafficking groups are becoming more active and more “professional”, benefiting from regional and international links. In many cases they are utilizing various technical means, including countersurveillance equipment and devices preventing wiretapping by law enforcement agencies;

(d) Countering illicit drug trafficking by sea, land, air and rivers requires strong cooperation and coordination not only between law enforcement agencies but also with navies, the private sector, authorities of seaports, dry ports and airports, and other actors.

**Issue 3. Improving the capacity of countries to detect emerging drug threats through early warning**

29. The working group on issue 3 met during the sixth meeting, on 9 October 2019. In its consideration of the topic in question, the working group made the following observations:

(a) Exchanges of experiences on the development of early warning systems are currently taking place between member countries;

(b) The exchange of training between member States, to improve capabilities in the detection of emerging drugs and new psychoactive substances, is also being implemented;

(c) Strategies to address the threat that emerging drugs pose to the region should be jointly developed;

(d) Several member States have begun to change their laws to deal with the problem of synthetic drugs; however, most still require such legislative changes to address that threat.

30. The working group drew the following conclusions:

(a) There is a need to strengthen cooperation between member States to address emerging drugs and new psychoactive substances;

(b) Regional and international cooperation in training, information exchange and detection should be promoted in order to successfully address the problems that synthetic drugs and new psychoactive substances represent.

**Issue 4. Expanding the scope of national illicit crop monitoring systems: experiences and opportunities**

31. The working group on issue 4 met during the seventh meeting, on 10 October 2019, and formulated the following observations:

(a) Several countries shared their experiences on comprehensive national drug monitoring systems, which included monitoring of illicit crops, eradication, seizures of drugs and precursors, etc.;

(b) Countries explained how the use of geographic information systems and other relevant sources of data resulted in an improved analytical capacity, including on drivers and consequences of illicit cultivation;

(c) Countries mentioned the importance of the monitoring of illicit crops and eradication to provide the necessary information for designing and monitoring alternative development programmes;

(d) Delegations mentioned the importance of measuring the per hectare productivity of illicit crops and not only the area under cultivation;

(e) Participants spoke about alternative development interventions. Market access should be secured in advance and the production of high-quality products, such as speciality coffee, was considered a key to the success of alternative development interventions;

(f) The importance of considering the entire illegal drug market was highlighted, including value estimates of the market, which would enable improved evaluation of drug policies and programmes and possibly a cost-benefit analysis;

(g) The presence of non-State armed groups, insecurity and violence hampered the efforts of governments to control illicit crop cultivation and production, as well as effective implementation of alternative development;

(h) The concept of social control to contain illicit crop cultivation was explained, including how monitoring tools and community involvement play a role;

(i) Some countries are faced with several challenges, such as weak border control, corruption, weak public institutions, expanding drug crop cultivation and increasing drug use in the country.

32. The working group drew the following conclusions:

(a) Coordination, information exchange and joint analysis between national agencies is essential for setting up an effective national monitoring system that feeds into programme development and policymaking;

(b) Sharing of experiences and expertise at the regional level is necessary and can be enhanced further by establishing a regional monitoring network;

(c) National monitoring systems should go beyond looking at illicit crop cultivation and production only and should consider other factors related to the illicit drug market;

(d) There is political will to discuss openly the challenges of addressing the issue of illicit cultivation and production and countries in the region are investing considerable resources; however, international cooperation is of the essence and the continued support of donor countries is needed.

## **V. Follow-up to the implementation at the national, regional and international levels of all commitments, as reflected in the Ministerial Declaration of 2019, to address and counter the world drug problem**

33. At its second and third meetings, on 7 and 8 October 2019, the Meeting discussed agenda item 6, entitled “Follow-up on the implementation at the national, regional and international levels of all commitments, as reflected in the Ministerial Declaration of 2019, to address and counter the world drug problem”. For its consideration of the item, the Meeting had before it the 2009 Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem, 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”, and the 2019 Ministerial Declaration on Strengthening Our Actions at the National, Regional and International Levels to Accelerate the Implementation of Our Joint Commitments to Address and Counter the World Drug Problem.

34. A representative of the Secretariat made a presentation introducing the agenda item, informing participants of the outcome of the sixty-second session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and its ministerial segment, held in Vienna on 14 and 15 March 2019, and on the content of the Ministerial Declaration, adopted at that ministerial segment. Information was also provided on further work planned by the Commission as a follow-up to the Ministerial Declaration, with a view to accelerating the implementation of all international drug policy commitments.

35. Statements were made by the representatives of Peru, Mexico, Paraguay, Colombia and Guatemala.

36. The representative of Peru emphasized that the Ministerial Declaration did not represent a new policy document but rather the reaffirmation of the commitments made by the international community over the preceding decade to address and counter the world drug problem. Peru was committed to actively promoting a society

free of drug abuse in which all people can live in security and prosperity. It also recognized that the 2009 Political Declaration and Plan of Action, the 2014 Joint Ministerial Statement and the outcome document of the thirtieth special session of the General Assembly were complementary and mutually reinforcing. It also reiterated the goals set in the 2009 Political Declaration and Plan of Action to work towards the elimination of illicit crop cultivation and the production and manufacture of, trafficking in and abuse of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, as well as to work towards the elimination of the diversion of and illicit trafficking in precursors, and money-laundering related to drug-related crimes. In the face of the increase in drug demand, and the resulting increase in coca production, alternative development remained an essential tool to change the socioeconomic fabric of areas affected by illicit coca cultivation and reduce their dependence on illicit crops. She also provided information on the plans of the Government of Peru in respect of the valley of the rivers Apurímac, Ene and Mantaro to fight illicit drug trafficking, reduce the expansion of coca cultivation and foster the legal markets of products such as cocoa and coffee.

37. The representative of Mexico gave a presentation on the statistical yearbook prepared by Mexico pursuant to a recommendation of the Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Latin America and the Caribbean, based on data provided by countries across the region on natural and synthetic drugs and new psychoactive substances, their seizures, numbers of individuals detained and cases shared by participating countries. He stressed the importance of the yearbook and requested continued support and input for the compilation of the data. He also proposed that the publication be reviewed to make it more reliable and dynamic.

38. The representative of Paraguay indicated that in accordance with the Constitution of the country, drug control was a matter of public health and also mentioned the importance of addressing and countering the world drug problem in the framework of the Sustainable Development Goals. He commended Mexico on the work on the yearbook, as the exchange of reliable data was essential for improving the implementation of policies and programmes.

39. The representative of Colombia stated that the drug problem continued to be among the main threats to social progress in the country, as it threatened legality and the exercise of freedom and represented an obstacle to achieving standards of equality, especially in rural areas. At the international level, he noted a lack of convergence, coordination and synergy between the efforts of different countries and reiterated the need to promote enhanced cooperation in all sectors of drug control, in the framework of a revitalization of the principle of common and shared responsibility. Colombia remained committed to the implementation of all international drug policy commitments.

40. The representative of Guatemala referred to the accomplishments of his Government in the implementation of the Ministerial Declaration of 2019, particularly as regards the strengthening of institutions such as the Executive Secretariat of the Commission against Addiction and Illicit Drug Trafficking.

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

41. At its eighth meeting, on 10 October 2019, the Meeting considered agenda item 7, entitled “Organization of the Thirtieth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Latin America and the Caribbean”.

42. The participants had before them for their consideration a draft provisional agenda for the Thirtieth Meeting ([UNODC/HONLAC/29/5](#), annex).

43. Participants were informed that the Thirtieth Meeting was scheduled to be held in October 2020. The representative of Guatemala stated his country’s intention and

wish to host the Meeting, noting that further consultations would be required in that regard. The representative of Paraguay also formally proposed Asunción as the venue for the Thirtieth Meeting. During the discussion, statements were made by the representatives of Spain, Mexico, the Dominican Republic, Colombia, Peru, Cuba, Paraguay and Chile.

44. A number of delegations proposed the following subjects for discussion in the working groups of the Thirtieth Meeting: (a) controlled deliveries and other special investigative techniques: possibility of developing informal standard operational procedures for conducting controlled deliveries; (b) maritime drug trafficking and related challenges: seizures on the high seas, cooperation with the law enforcement authorities of transit and destination countries and work with the private sector; (c) use of the darknet for the drug trade and use of cryptocurrencies for the trade and laundering of money; (d) management of seized assets and problems related to it; (e) new drug trafficking routes and exchange of information for dismantling these routes; (f) need for representatives of all law enforcement agencies and prosecutors to attend meetings of the Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies; (g) safety measures by law enforcement agencies to avoid leakage of information and risks of law enforcement communications being intercepted by criminals; (h) methodological aspects of collecting information; (i) witness protection, protection of informants and other sources of information, and related issues; (j) mechanisms for judicial and law enforcement cooperation; (k) effective measures to identify and seize chemicals used in the production of drugs; (l) indicators to measure compliance with the objectives of the strategies to combat illicit drug trafficking; and (m) methodological review of the collection of data for the statistical yearbook.

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 Thirtieth Meeting. On that basis, the following draft provisional agenda for the Thirtieth Meeting was approved:

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda.
3. Major regional illicit drug trafficking trends and countermeasures.
4. Implementation of the recommendations adopted by the Twenty-ninth 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 on the implementation at the national, regional and international levels of all commitments, as reflected in the Ministerial Declaration of 2019, to address and counter the world drug problem.
7. Organization of the Thirty-first Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Latin America and the Caribbean.
8. Other business.
9. Adoption of the report of the Thirtieth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Latin America and the Caribbean.

## VII. Other business

46. At the same meeting, the Meeting considered agenda item 8, “Other business”. Statements were made by the representatives of Peru, Chile, Paraguay and Spain. Speakers agreed on the importance of considering the liability and legal responsibility of shipping companies and shipowners in cases of drug trafficking and agreed that that subject could be considered by working groups at future meetings under the general topic of maritime illicit drug trafficking.

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

47. At its ninth meeting, on 11 October 2019, the Meeting adopted its draft report (UNODC/HONLAC/29/L.1 and Add.1–8), including the reports of the working groups and the recommendations contained therein, as orally revised.

## IX. Organization of the Meeting

### A. Opening and duration of the Meeting

48. The Twenty-ninth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Latin America and the Caribbean, was held in Lima from 7 to 11 October 2019. The opening meeting was addressed by the elected Chairperson of the Twenty-ninth Meeting, Rubén Vargas Céspedes (Peru) and the representative of the Executive Director of UNODC, representative of the UNODC Regional Office in Peru and Officer-in-Charge of the Liaison and Partnership Office in Brazil, Kristian Hoelge.

### 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, Dominican Republic, Germany, Guatemala, Honduras, Italy, Mexico, Paraguay, Peru, Spain and United States of America.

50. The Russian Federation and South Africa were represented by observers.

51. The European Union, the International Narcotics Control Board and the Organization of American States were also represented by observers.

52. UNODC served as the secretariat of the Meeting.

### C. Election of officers

53. At its first meeting, on 7 October 2019, the Meeting elected the following officers by acclamation:

<i>Chairperson:</i>	Rubén Vargas Céspedes (Peru)
<i>First Vice-Chairperson:</i>	Moisés Eduardo Bolaños Bonilla (Mexico)
<i>Second Vice-Chairperson:</i>	Miguel Candia Ibarra (Paraguay)
<i>Rapporteur:</i>	Soraya Carolina Cáliz Ponce (Honduras)

### 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-eighth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Latin America and the Caribbean.

5. Consideration of topics by working groups:
  - (a) Intelligence-led policing based on criminal intelligence collection, collation, analysis and sharing at the national, regional and international levels;
  - (b) Understanding the *modi operandi* and activities of organized criminal groups involved in drug trafficking;
  - (c) Improving the capacity of countries to detect emerging drug threats through early warning;
  - (d) Expanding the scope of national illicit crop monitoring systems: experiences and opportunities.
6. Follow-up to the implementation at the national, regional and international levels of all commitments, as reflected in the Ministerial Declaration of 2019, to address and counter the world drug problem.
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.

## **E. Documentation**

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

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

56. The First Vice-Chairperson of the Meeting made a closing statement.

## Annex

**List of documents before the Twenty-ninth 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>
<a href="#">E/CN.7/2019/5</a>	3	Report of the Secretariat on the world situation with regard to drug trafficking
<a href="#">UNODC/HONLAC/29/1</a>	2	Annotated provisional agenda
<a href="#">UNODC/HONLAC/29/2</a>	3	Note transmitting the report on the world situation with regard to drug trafficking
<a href="#">UNODC/HONLAC/29/3</a>	3	Report of the Secretariat on the current situation with respect to regional and subregional cooperation
<a href="#">UNODC/HONLAC/29/4</a>	4	Note by the Secretariat on the implementation of the recommendations adopted by the Twenty-eighth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Latin America and the Caribbean
<a href="#">UNODC/HONLAC/29/5</a>	7	Note by the Secretariat on the organization of the Thirtieth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Latin America and the Caribbean
<a href="#">UNODC/HONLAC/29/L.1 and Add.1–8</a>	9	Draft report
<a href="#">UNODC/HONLAC/29/CRP.1–10</a>	3	Country reports