

5 October 2017

Original: English*

**Twenty-seventh Meeting of Heads of
National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies,
Latin America and the Caribbean**
Guatemala City, 2-6 October 2017

Draft report

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Addendum

**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**

1. At its eighth meeting, held on 5 October 2017, the Meeting discussed item 6 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”. For its consideration of the item, the participants had before them the “Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem”; 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”; and the outcome document of the thirtieth special session of the General Assembly (UNGASS) entitled “Our Joint Commitment To Effectively Addressing and Countering the World Drug Problem”.
2. A representative of the Secretariat made an introductory statement. A representative of UNODC made an audiovisual presentation on a course that the Office had conducted in Bolivia on the implementation of the UNGASS outcome document at the request of the Government of that country. Statements were made by the representatives of Colombia, Cuba, Guatemala, Mexico, Paraguay and Peru.
3. UNGASS 2016 was seen by some delegations as a watershed that had redefined the terms of reference of international drug control, putting people at the centre and enriching the three pillars of the 2009 Plan of Action. As such, it was the new benchmark to which all had to aspire. It was also noted that each country should adapt the provisions of the various drug control instruments to its own reality and needs.

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



4. Some speakers indicated that their countries were striving to reach the goals set in the 2009 Political Declaration and Plan of Action, the 2014 Joint Ministerial Statement and the outcome document of UNGASS 2016, in view of the review that the Commission on Narcotic Drugs had decided to undertake in 2019 of the implementation of the commitments made in those instruments.
5. Several delegations recognized that steps had been taken to implement the recommendations of the UNGASS outcome document at the national and regional level, and that there was a growing trend to apply a multidimensional, multidisciplinary, balanced approach to the world drug problem. Aspects of this approach included public health, demand reduction, human rights and gender, the prevention of crime and drug-related violence and attention to new psychoactive substances. Drug policies had become more balanced and effective, to respond to new challenges and realities.
6. Reference was made to the sustainable development goals and to the need to improve standards of living, social inclusion, justice and equality, beyond demand reduction.
7. Some called for better coordination among national and regional stakeholders and United Nations specialized agencies. Reference was also made to the three international drug control conventions and the leadership role of UNODC, INCB and the Commission on Narcotic Drugs. The ongoing thematic discussions on the follow up to UNGASS at intersessional meetings of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs were also referred to by some speakers.
8. In the view of some delegations there was a need for better statistics to assess the results achieved, through new indicators in line with the seven thematic areas of UNGASS and in order to improve the implementation of comprehensive, integrated and balanced drug control strategies, policies and programmes.
9. Some delegations noted that the provisions and criteria of the UNGASS outcome document had informed their new national drug control policies, strategies and plans, including elements such as human rights, development, alternatives to conviction and punishment for drug-related crime, prevention of violence associated with drug abuse, access to controlled substances for medical and scientific purposes, gender mainstreaming and multiculturalism.
10. Several delegations reported on their efforts to implement the operational recommendations contained in the UNGASS outcome document. Among the examples provided were roadmaps to improve drug-related statistics, the drafting of charts on progress in implementing the UNGASS operational recommendations, alternative development projects in opium-producing areas of the region, the use of seized assets for prevention and treatment of drug abuse, the regulation of the medicinal use of cannabis.
