

22 July 2019

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**Twenty-ninth Meeting of Heads of
National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies,
Latin America and the Caribbean**
Lima, 7–11 October 2019

Annotated provisional agenda

Provisional 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 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.

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



Annotations

1. Election of officers

Elections are held in accordance with rule 15 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council. In the past, the Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Latin America and the Caribbean, has elected a Chair, two Vice-Chairs and a Rapporteur.

2. Adoption of the agenda

The provisional agenda for the Twenty-ninth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Latin America and the Caribbean, was approved at the Twenty-eighth Meeting, held in Santiago from 22 to 26 October 2018.

At its thirty-eighth session, the Commission on Narcotic Drugs recommended that general statements concerning national trends in drug trafficking and statistics not be read out but rather circulated in written form. Participants were therefore invited to submit to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), by 26 July 2019, a three-page country report on trends in drug trafficking during the previous year. Only reports received by that date will be translated into the other working languages of the Meeting.

Following the adoption of the agenda, the Twenty-ninth Meeting may wish to establish a programme of work. A proposed programme of work is contained in the annex to the present document for the consideration of the Meeting.

Documentation

Annotated provisional agenda (UNODC/HONLAC/29/1)

3. Major regional drug trafficking trends and countermeasures

Participants are invited to inform the Twenty-ninth Meeting about the efforts of their Governments to strengthen regional and subregional cooperation in areas such as joint investigations, law enforcement training and the sharing of information and experiences relating to measures taken to address and counter the world drug problem.

Participants are also invited to inform the Meeting about any practical challenges impeding subregional cooperation and about measures taken to overcome them.

Discussions under the item will provide an opportunity to examine current trends and the *modi operandi* used in drug trafficking, operational successes in efforts to counter trafficking in cannabis, cocaine and heroin, and other issues of relevance.

Documentation

Note by the Secretariat transmitting the report of the Secretariat on the world situation with regard to drug trafficking (UNODC/HONLAC/29/2)

Report of the Secretariat on the current situation with respect to regional and subregional cooperation (UNODC/HONLAC/29/3)

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

Participants are invited to inform the Twenty-ninth Meeting of action taken by their Governments to implement the recommendations adopted by the Twenty-eighth Meeting, held in Santiago from 22 to 26 October 2018.

The Twenty-ninth Meeting will have before it a note by the Secretariat based on replies received to a questionnaire concerning action taken by Governments to implement those recommendations.

To enable the Secretariat to prepare that note, a note verbale was transmitted to the Governments of the States members of the Economic and Social Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean on 3 June 2019, urging them to return the completed questionnaire by 26 July 2019.

Documentation

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 (UNODC/HONLAC/29/4)

5. Consideration of topics by working groups

Ad hoc working groups are established to review issues of regional importance and to facilitate informal discussions and frank exchanges of views on such issues. Working groups are invited to present their findings, conclusions and recommendations to the plenary for endorsement and inclusion in the report of the Meeting.

(a) Intelligence-led policing based on criminal intelligence collection, collation, analysis and sharing at the national, regional and international levels

The working group covering this topic will consider the importance of intelligence-led policing in addressing challenges posed by the organized criminal activities related to drug trafficking. The participants will discuss difficulties in collecting, collating, analysing and sharing criminal intelligence at various levels. They will also discuss the need to move from a “need-to-know” to a “need-to-share” approach when dealing with actionable information. Issues related to building trust to ensure regular and effective exchange of criminal intelligence will also be addressed. The participants will share views on the importance of criminal intelligence for strategic, operational and tactical analysis, for taking informed decisions, including on the allocation of resources, and for focusing law enforcement efforts. They will explore effective and secure ways of sharing sensitive information at the national, regional and international levels. The role of specialized law enforcement coordination bodies, at both the regional and the international levels, will be examined. The participants will discuss how intelligence-led policing might help law enforcement agencies to become more proactive in tackling drug trafficking and related crimes.

(b) Understanding the *modi operandi* and activities of organized criminal groups involved in drug trafficking

The working group will discuss trends that national drug law enforcement agencies are observing in the *modi operandi*, concealment methods and transportation of drugs at the regional and interregional levels. Participants will also discuss problems related to drug trafficking in terms of the use of the “rip-on, rip-off” technique. Participants will be invited to share information on changes being observed in relation to the organized criminal groups involved in drug trafficking in terms of their composition, hierarchical structures and ways of interacting with their “partners” in other countries and on other continents. Participants will share information on whether criminal groups are involved in multi-commodity trafficking and the additional challenges for law enforcement agencies that that would pose. They will also discuss the relationship between drug trafficking and other forms of organized crime such as arms trafficking and prostitution. Participants are encouraged to highlight, in particular, actions and strategies that have proved to be effective and areas in which greater efforts should be made.

(c) Improving the capacity of countries to detect emerging drug threats through early warning

In the 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, Member States noted with concern that the adverse health consequences of and risks associated with new psychoactive substances had reached alarming levels and that synthetic opioids posed increasing risks to public health and safety, as well as scientific, legal and regulatory challenges. In 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”, Member States underscored the importance of enhancing information-sharing and early warning networks. The UNODC opioid strategy also reflects the importance of early warning for an integrated response to emerging threats such as those posed by new psychoactive substances and opioids. In the working group, participants will share information on emerging drug threats and discuss the role of national early warning mechanisms in detecting drug threats related to synthetic drugs and new psychoactive substances and their precursors. A further aim of the working group is the sharing of good practices and lessons learned from early warning systems that are already operational in the region. Participants are encouraged to explore opportunities and develop recommendations on how early warning could be strengthened in the region and how national, regional and global early warning efforts could be utilized more efficiently.

(d) Expanding the scope of national illicit crop monitoring systems: experiences and opportunities

In 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”, Member States recommended promoting the use and analysis of relevant, reliable and objective data generated by national and regional monitoring and evaluation to improve the implementation of comprehensive, integrated and balanced national drug control strategies, policies and programmes. Illicit crop cultivation and drug production remain central to the drug supply chain; the extent of cultivation, yield estimates and potential drug production require regular monitoring with a view to informing law enforcement officials and policymakers about potential volumes of illicit drugs to be trafficked and made available for consumption in drug markets. The main coca bush and opium poppy cultivating countries have established reliable illicit crop monitoring systems in cooperation with UNODC. Those systems serve not only to estimate illicit crop cultivation and production, but also to monitor the extent and effectiveness of eradication and the location of laboratories, landing strips and other trafficking routes. In addition, the monitoring systems can be used to better understand factors contributing to illicit crop cultivation and to improve impact assessments of long-term, comprehensive and sustainable alternative development programmes, including preventive alternative development, as appropriate, with a view to increasing their effectiveness. Moreover, countries are using monitoring systems involving the use of satellite imagery to identify and measure the extent of other illicit activities. The objective of the working group is to encourage the sharing of best practices and lessons learned in the area of illicit crop monitoring, including through South-South cooperation. The group will also discuss the importance of having independent and transparent national monitoring systems to maximize their credibility and policy relevance.

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

At the opening of the ministerial segment of the sixty-second session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, held in March 2019, ministers and government representatives adopted by consensus the 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. In that Declaration, Member States made a commitment to accelerating, based on the principle of common and shared responsibility, the full implementation of the 2009 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, aimed at achieving all commitments, operational recommendations and aspirational goals set out therein.

In the Political Declaration and Plan of Action, adopted at the high-level segment of the fifty-second session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, Member States placed focus on measures to enhance international cooperation, identified problems and areas requiring further action and set out goals and targets for countering the world drug problem.

In its resolution 56/10, the Commission on Narcotic Drugs requested the meetings of its subsidiary bodies to contribute to the monitoring of the implementation by Member States of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action at the regional level by discussing regional views on progress made in that regard. In the same resolution, the Commission encouraged Member States to consider the expertise and composition of their delegations to the meetings of the subsidiary bodies, with a view to covering the various aspects of the world drug problem (demand, supply and international cooperation) in order to hold substantive discussions on the issue and to actively participate in the agenda item 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”. Also in the same resolution, the Commission requested the meetings of the subsidiary bodies, on the basis of their deliberations, to submit regional recommendations aimed at moving forward in the implementation of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action.

In 2014, Member States undertook a high-level, mid-term review of the implementation by Member States of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action to determine the progress achieved and challenges faced in its implementation and adopted the Joint Ministerial Statement, in which they identified achievements, challenges and priorities for further action in the implementation of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action.

In 2016, the General Assembly held a special session on the world drug problem and, in its resolution S-30/1, adopted an outcome document entitled “Our joint commitment to effectively addressing and countering the world drug problem”. The outcome document contains operational recommendations covering the following seven thematic areas: (a) demand reduction and related measures, including prevention and treatment, as well as other health-related issues; (b) ensuring the availability of and access to controlled substances exclusively for medical and scientific purposes, while preventing their diversion; (c) supply reduction and related measures, effective law enforcement, responses to drug-related crime, and countering money-laundering and promoting judicial cooperation; (d) cross-cutting issues: drugs and human rights, youth, children, women and communities; (e) cross-cutting issues in addressing and countering the world drug problem: evolving reality, trends and existing circumstances, emerging and persistent challenges and threats, including new psychoactive substances, in conformity with the three international drug control conventions and other relevant international instruments; (f) strengthening international cooperation based on the principle of common and shared responsibility; and (g) alternative development, regional, interregional and international cooperation on development-oriented balanced drug control policy and addressing socioeconomic issues.

Member States resolved to take the steps necessary to implement the operational recommendations, in close partnership with the United Nations and other intergovernmental organizations and civil society, and to share with the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, as the policymaking body of the United Nations with prime responsibility for drug control matters, timely information on progress made in the implementation of those recommendations. The Commission on Narcotic Drugs initiated the follow-up process to the special session, with a focus on implementing the operational recommendations. With a view to sharing good practices and lessons learned in the practical implementation of the joint commitments, thematic discussions have been held by the Commission on the operational recommendations contained in the seven thematic chapters of the outcome document. More information on the follow-up process can be found at www.ungass2016.org.

Under the present agenda item, participants in the Meeting will be invited to consider the challenges posed to the States of the region with regard to the full implementation of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action, the Joint Ministerial Statement and the outcome document of the thirtieth special session of the General Assembly, aimed at achieving all commitments, operational recommendations and aspirational goals set out therein. Participants will also be invited to discuss how they could best contribute, through the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, to accelerating the implementation of all commitments made in the past decade, drawing on their technical expertise and their regional experiences.

Documentation

Outcome document of the thirtieth special session of the General Assembly, entitled “Our joint commitment to effectively addressing and countering the world drug problem” (General Assembly resolution S-30/1, annex)

Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem (E/2009/28, chap. I, sect. C)

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 (E/2014/80, annex I)

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 (E/2019/28, chap. I, sect. B)

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

The Twenty-ninth Meeting will be invited to review a draft provisional agenda for the Thirtieth Meeting, including topics for discussion in working groups and possible venues for future meetings. A decision taken by the Twenty-ninth Meeting on the venue for the Thirtieth Meeting and the topics for the working groups would greatly facilitate the preparation and organization of the Thirtieth Meeting. Participants are requested to propose and discuss topics for the working groups of the Thirtieth Meeting. The Secretariat will provide, upon request, a copy of the standard letter of agreement setting out the responsibilities of the United Nations and the host Government.

Participants will also be invited to discuss any other matters related to the organization of the deliberations, with a view to improving their substantive content and follow-up.

Documentation

Note by the Secretariat on the organization of the Thirtieth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Latin America and the Caribbean (UNODC/HONLAC/29/5)

8. Other business

Under the item entitled “Other business”, the Twenty-ninth Meeting may wish to address any other important issues, such as urgent matters arising from the country reports.

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

The Twenty-ninth Meeting will adopt its report, including the findings, conclusions and recommendations of the working groups, on the last day of the Meeting.

Annex

Proposed programme of work

<i>Date</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>	<i>Title or description</i>
Monday, 7 October 2019	8.30 a.m.		Registration
	10 a.m.		Opening of the Twenty-ninth Meeting
		1	Election of officers
		2	Adoption of the agenda
		3	Major regional drug trafficking trends and countermeasures
	2.30 p.m.	3	Major regional drug trafficking trends and countermeasures (<i>continued</i>)
Tuesday, 8 October 2019	10 a.m.	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
		4	Implementation of the recommendations adopted by the Twenty-eighth Meeting
	2.30 p.m.	5	Consideration of topics by working groups
Wednesday, 9 October 2019	10 a.m.	5	Consideration of topics by working groups (<i>continued</i>)
	2.30 p.m.	5	Consideration of topics by working groups (<i>continued</i>)
Thursday, 10 October 2019	10 a.m.	5	Consideration of topics by working groups (<i>continued</i>)
	2.30 p.m.	5	Consideration of topics by working groups (<i>continued</i>)
Friday, 11 October 2019	10 a.m.	7	Organization of the Thirtieth Meeting
		8	Other business
	2.30 p.m.	9	Adoption of the report