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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

Item 4 of the provisional agenda**

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

1. 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, adopted a set of recommendations following the consideration by working groups of the issues set out below.
2. In accordance with established practice, a questionnaire on the implementation of those recommendations was dispatched to Governments on 3 June 2019, together with information relating to the Twenty-ninth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Latin America and the Caribbean, with a deadline for replies of 26 July 2019.
3. The present document contains a brief summary of the information provided to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) by Governments in reply to that questionnaire.
4. As at 9 August 2019, replies had been received from the Governments of Argentina, Chile, Colombia, El Salvador, France, Honduras, Italy, Mexico, Paraguay and Portugal. Those replies have been included in the present document.

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

** [UNODC/HONLAC/29/1](#).



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

Recommendation 1

Governments of the region should further invest in confidence-building measures through regional and interregional training, study visits and meetings of case officers.

5. Argentina reported organizing training courses and meetings to discuss new trafficking modi operandi, concealment methods, transportation and research techniques. International meetings are conducted on the fight against drug trafficking, smuggling, money-laundering and the diversion of chemical precursors. The Education for Justice initiative is part of the Global Programme for the Implementation of the Doha Declaration: Towards the Promotion of a Culture of Lawfulness, and the project on strengthening criminal investigation and criminal justice cooperation along the cocaine route in Latin America, the Caribbean and West Africa (CRIMJUST). Training was carried out and study material was produced for the formal education system. Intercontinental operational tasks were also developed and cooperation channels were established. In addition, Argentina leads the Group of Experts on Chemical Substances and Pharmaceutical Products of the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD) of the Organization of American States (OAS). Argentina also participates in activities such as the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) Fortaleza Project.

6. Chile is designing a new action plan against organized crime that incorporates the fight against drug trafficking. The Safe Border Plan is aimed at strengthening inter-institutional coordination to protect land, sea and air borders and covers the investment of resources in both technology and human capital. In addition, it is aimed at deepening specialization in the field of detection and control of illicit drugs through inter-institutional training and joint work.

7. In Colombia, the defence sector carried out training of police and military personnel, both its own and from Argentina, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, Honduras and Peru, to strengthen actions against drug trafficking. Similarly, within the joint drug commissions involving police and military authorities, academic programmes are offered that are focused on the fight against drugs.

8. Since 2018, El Salvador has been participating in the project on strengthening institutional capacity to improve control of drug trafficking and chemical precursors in Latin America (Colombia, Costa Rica and El Salvador), which is carried by the UNODC Regional Office in Colombia. Among the activities was training on controlling trafficking in drugs and chemical precursors, the use of portable electronic devices for drug analyses, precursors, new developments regarding synthetic drugs and new psychoactive substances (NPS) and early warning mechanisms. In addition, police personnel from the Anti-Narcotics Division participated in training at the regional level provided by organizations such as the Drug Enforcement Administration of the United States of America, the Idaho National Laboratory, UNODC and Russian Cooperation.

9. In France, the General Directorate of Customs and Excise participates in training in the framework of the European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Training and the Interministerial Centre for Anti-Drug Training (CIFAD). Based in Fort-de-France, Martinique, CIFAD is mandated to strengthen international cooperation in the fight against drugs and to exchange know-how with States in the Caribbean and in Latin America along the cocaine route to Europe. Its actions relate to the fight against trafficking and the prevention of addiction.

10. Honduras reported holding periodic meetings with member countries of the Latin American prosecutor network (CEFAC). The Navy uses an intelligence-monitoring system to exchange information with countries such as Belize, Colombia, El Salvador, Guatemala and Mexico. Ongoing training is provided through

INTERPOL and the system of purple notices is used to detect new drug trafficking *modi operandi*.

11. Italy reported that its Central Directorate for Anti-Drug Services (DCSA) identified cooperation areas in the fields of prevention of and fight against drug use and implemented projects aimed at achieving coordination among bodies and organizations, sharing policies and promoting the results of scientific initiatives and operations. DCSA has organized training projects involving police officers at the national and international levels, such as a course on clandestine laboratories and NPS.

12. Mexico participates in information-exchange mechanisms through, for example, the Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Latin America and the Caribbean and technical meetings of high-level security groups (GANSEG), which allow for the establishment of guidelines on the exchange of detailed information.

13. Agents from the National Anti-Drug Secretariat (SENAD) of Paraguay are trained in Brazil and hold meetings with the Brazilian federal police and the Federal Intelligence Agency of Argentina. Similarly, officials benefit from courses offered by the Cooperation Programme between Latin America, the Caribbean and the European Union on Drug Policies (COPOLAD), CICAD and the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB) in the region. Paraguay also participates in the Egmont Group, the Group of Experts for the Control of Money-Laundering (GELAVEX) and the Financial Action Task Force of Latin America (GAFILAT), as well as in the Airport Communication (AIRCOP) Programme and the Seaport Cooperation Project (SEACOP).

14. Portugal reported participating in several training courses concerning drug trafficking in Europe and South America. In 2018, Portugal initiated a bilateral “on-the-job” training project with Brazil that involved exchanges among officers and focused on intelligence, trafficking by sea and trafficking by air. During 2018, it welcomed delegations from Australia, Canada, Colombia, Norway, Serbia and the United Arab Emirates.

Recommendation 2

Governments should 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.

15. The federal police force of Argentina has developed standard operating procedures and has signed commitments regarding the confidentiality and impartiality of all personnel who may be in contact with sensitive data. Customs has an Institutional Integrity Directorate, whose functions consist of preserving, promoting and strengthening the culture of integrity.

16. Chile reported that it had created a Strategic Coordination Unit under the Under-Secretary of the Interior to process data on organized crime prevention and control measures. Measures have been adopted, with the participation of representatives of various institutions, that allow for suitable police procedures to deal with staff who break the law. There are also different background check methods for officials in the different institutions.

17. Colombia reported that, within the framework of its defence and security policy for legality, entrepreneurship and equity, the creation of a civic participation network was planned as a tool to fight corruption and monitor the activity of members of the military forces and the national police. Additionally, general inspections and counter-intelligence actions seek to preserve institutional integrity and avoid corruption by personnel linked to the fight against drugs.

18. The Anti-Narcotics Division of the national civil police of El Salvador rigorously monitors the income of its staff through a certification and accreditation

plan. Staff are also subject to polygraph tests and asset monitoring. There is a protocol of joint action between the national civil police and the armed forces of El Salvador for the prevention of and fight against crime and corruption, with strict adherence to the law and respect for human rights, which was prepared with the technical support of UNODC.

19. France is committed to ensuring that the fight against drug trafficking, organized crime, money-laundering and corruption is a political priority for all countries and to strengthening bilateral and multilateral cooperation. The Anti-Corruption Agency of France (AFA) has issued recommendations aimed at preventing and detecting corruption. The Directorate General of Customs and Excise (DGDDI) carries out the necessary checks as well as administrative investigations, which are provided for by the internal security code.

20. Honduras reported that law enforcement officials were subject to periodic tests of trust and were obliged to make an annual asset declaration to the Superior Court of Accounts. Each institution implemented its own internal protocols.

21. Mexico has promulgated and amended several laws under its national anti-corruption system, such as the General Law of the National Anti-Corruption System, the General Law of Administrative Responsibilities, the Organic Law of the Federal Court of Administrative Justice, the Organic Law of the Attorney General's Office and the Organic Law of the Federal Public Administration.

22. In Paraguay, the Public Ministry is working to improve its analysis when recruiting future agents to minimize cases of irregularities. Inter-institutional work with the Secretariat of Administration of Seized and Commissioned Goods (SENABICO) and the General Directorate of Customs have resulted in successful operations to reduce the supply of drugs. The creation of a national anti-corruption secretariat was also reported.

23. Several measures were implemented in Portugal regarding the prevention and combating of corruption in all public entities, including the police.

Recommendation 3

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.

24. Argentina reported having established the Joint Operational Group to Combat Drug Trafficking in the north-east and north-west of the country, composed of officers of the federal and provincial security forces. Argentina participates in AIRCOP, the Joint Airport Interdiction Task Force and SEACOP. Activities are carried out by the Joint Operational Group to Combat Drug Trafficking and work has begun with the Financial Investigation Unit and the Office of the Public Prosecutor for Drug Crimes (PROCUNAR). Officials of the Ministry of Security participate in the meetings of the early warning technical committee under the National Drug Observatory with respect to seizures of illegal substances. Among the effective measures adopted is controlled delivery, which involves the police, the Public Prosecutor's Office, the judiciary and customs.

25. In Colombia, the Ministry of Defence created an intersectoral communication platform entitled "Unified command post against drug trafficking" for inter-institutional cooperation among the State entities involved in the fight against drug trafficking.

26. Chile reported creating the Advisory Council for Coordination in the Prevention and Control of Organized Crime, whose mission is to propose intersectoral coordination measures among the different competent institutions, including on the fight against drug trafficking. The Council is chaired by the Undersecretary of the Interior and is composed of representatives of the Ministry of Defence, the Carabineros of Chile, the Criminal Investigation Police, the Armed Forces Joint Staff,

the Marines, the National Civil Aeronautics Authority and customs. The North Macro Zone Coordination Unit has a special focus on transnational crimes and on establishing links with neighbouring countries in terms of the origin, transit and destination of drugs.

27. In El Salvador there is an ongoing exchange of information between the national civil police, the Attorney General's Office, the Armed Forces, the Navy and customs, and also through different bodies such as the Committee of Chiefs of Police of Central America and Mexico. A joint airport interdiction task force, composed of representatives of the police, customs and migration authorities has also been established. El Salvador also participates in the UNODC/World Customs Organization (SENABICO) Container Control Programme and CRIMJUST. Operations have been coordinated through the Trident Naval Task Force and the Cuscatlán Task Force to carry out surveillance of land, air and maritime areas, coordinated by the Anti-Narcotics Division of the police with the participation of the Attorney General's Office and the Ministry of Defence.

28. The French Central Office for Combating the Illicit Traffic in Narcotics of the Judicial Police, based in Fort-de-France (Martinique), centralizes all the operational intelligence and coordinates services in relation to the fight against drug trafficking. The National Directorate of Intelligence and Customs Investigations cooperates with the specialized central services of other State services working to combat drug trafficking.

29. Honduras reported creating the National Inter-Agency Security Force (FUSINA), the Inter-Agency Technical Group for the Reduction of Drug Supply and the Permanent Technical Commission for the Control of Chemical Precursors and Synthetic Drugs.

30. In Italy, DCSA and the Anti-Mafia and Anti-Terrorism National Judicial Authority exchange data on drug trafficking and related financial operations and money-laundering. A cooperation agreement has been signed between DCSA and the Department for Anti-Drug Policies to strengthen prevention policies. This agreement will also further enhance the results of the laboratory analyses carried out by law enforcement agencies in the framework of the national early warning system in order to reconstruct NPS flows and routes and initiate the relevant scheduling procedures.

31. The Office of the Attorney General of Mexico has signed various legal instruments with State law enforcement entities in order to standardize and improve the quality of the information collected, including the greatest possible disaggregation thereof, to identify *modi operandi* and design strategies focused on microdata, which in turn provide a comprehensive picture of the drug problem.

32. In Paraguay, cooperation agreements were made between police officers, SENAD agents and the Public Prosecutor's Office for joint interventions against microtrafficking in urban areas.

33. In Portugal, there is a centralized coordination system for combating drug trafficking; all entities with responsibilities in this area are involved.

Recommendation 4

Governments should use mechanisms for exchanging information on new trends in drug trafficking, new concealment methods and *modi operandi*.

34. Argentina reported creating an early warning system on drugs, as well as participating in the Pre-Export Notification Online (PEN Online) system, the Precursors Incident Communication System (PICS), Project Prism, Project Ion, the UNODC early warning advisory on NPS, the Sharing Electronic Resources and Laws on Crime (SHERLOC) knowledge management portal and the Project Ion Incident Communication System (IONICS). Meetings of joint commissions on drugs were held with Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Mexico, Paraguay, Peru, the Russian Federation and Spain to exchange information. International

cooperation was also pursued through participation in bilateral and multilateral meetings. Argentina has liaison officers in some countries of the region and the INTERPOL Department of the Police of Argentina coordinates the I-24/7 secure global police communications system, allowing the exchange of information with counterparts around the world. Argentina is also part of the Container Control Programme.

35. Chile created the Strategic Coordination Unit for data processing and information processing on crime prevention and control measures. The Unit is responsible for the coordinated management of information held by the different institutions involved in the fight against organized crime in order to conduct complex criminal analyses.

36. Colombia carries out information exchange on crimes related to drug trafficking through communication platforms managed by the Police Community of the Americas (AMERIPOL), INTERPOL and the European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Cooperation (Europol) and through bilateral meetings between the police forces of the region. This also allows for the realization of coordinated actions for the disarticulation of networks and the identification of new trends or *modi operandi* in drug trafficking. Additionally, cooperation activities are carried out with the countries of the region through mechanisms such as joint commissions to tackle drug trafficking and the Binational Border Commission.

37. The Anti-Narcotics Division of the national civil police of El Salvador uses several mechanisms for exchanging information: INTERPOL; the Drug Information Centre; the Joint Anti-Narcotics Intelligence Center; and the Joint Information Coordination Centre.

38. In Honduras, the INTERPOL purple notice system is used to provide alerts on concealment methods and new *modi operandi*. The Naval Center of Control and Monitoring Alerts also provides alerts on new trends in drug trafficking.

39. France reported on Programme Iguana, which is aimed at boosting cooperation with Dominica and Saint Lucia to fight inter-island drug trafficking. A network of internal security attachés and liaison officers present in the Caribbean and Latin America helps to develop the exchange of operational information, cross-check intelligence and share analyses of trafficking trends and *modi operandi*. DGDDI actively participates in the work of INTERPOL, Europol, WCO and the Cooperation Group to Combat Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking in Drugs of the Council of Europe at the strategic and operational levels.

40. Italy reported exchanging information with other countries on a regular basis through liaison officers and the law enforcement attachés network. Bilateral negotiations are ongoing on the signature of agreements with several countries along the drug routes transiting or ending in Italy.

41. Mexico reported having signed agreements on the exchange of information on drug trafficking and related crimes with the Public Ministry of Chile, the Attorney General of El Salvador, the Attorney General of Ecuador, the Prosecutor General of Saudi Arabia and the Office of the Supreme Prosecutor of the Republic of Korea.

42. In Paraguay, SENAD has established informal information-exchange mechanisms with regional and international airport officials. It also works closely with its counterparts in Argentina and Brazil to share information regarding new regional *modi operandi*.

43. In addition to the existing warning systems for detecting NPS at the European level, the procedure adopted in Portugal is to immediately share information regarding new *modi operandi*, drug concealment methods and new routes, nationally and internationally.

Recommendation 5

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

44. The Ministry of Security of Argentina develops courses on narcotic drugs and chemical precursors for officers of the federal and provincial state agencies. Training was carried out in the country, the exchange of specialists from various parts of the world was promoted and study material was produced for the formal education system. Intercontinental operational tasks were developed and cooperation channels were established to reduce the illicit supply of drugs. Training on chemical precursors was also provided. The Ministry of Security, the Gendarmerie, the Naval Prefecture, the federal police, customs and WCO organize training programmes to address new trends in drug trafficking.

45. The Safe Border Plan of Chile covers the specialization of officials who carry out detection and control of illicit activities related to drug trafficking. It includes inter-institutional training and joint work to improve security in the country.

46. Colombia reported that its defence sector entities carried out ongoing training and retraining of police personnel to strengthen control and actions on drug trafficking, working closely with the Attorney General's Office and the Ministry of Justice and Law.

47. Since 2018, El Salvador has been participating in the UNODC project on strengthening institutional capacity to improve control of drug trafficking and chemical precursors in Latin America (Colombia, Costa Rica and El Salvador). The Central Technical Unit of the Supreme Court of Justice carries out a training programme on combating drug trafficking, aimed at officials of the Specialized Court of Extinction of Domain and of the Specialized Judgment Courts on Money and Asset-Laundering. During 2018, the Judicial Training School of the National Council of the Judiciary developed a specialized training programme on extortion, corruption, drug trafficking and money- and asset-laundering.

48. While there is no established programme in Honduras, efforts are made to provide training on combating drug trafficking to law enforcement officials.

49. In France, the authorities organize courses on illicit substances (natural drugs, synthetic drugs and precursor chemicals), the geostrategy of narcotics and police investigation techniques. The National School of the Judiciary organizes ongoing training for magistrates, including on the evolution of drug trafficking and means to fight against this crime. France also regularly provides training to customs officers on the identification of chemical precursors and on regulatory issues.

50. In Italy, DCSA is responsible for training on combating drug trafficking for officials of domestic and foreign law enforcement agencies on an ongoing basis. The only course on combating drug trafficking for the Caribbean Community (Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Montserrat, Saint Lucia, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname and Trinidad and Tobago) was organized in 2014. With regard to Latin American countries, in 2018 and in the first half of 2019, officers from Argentina, Brazil, Chile, the Dominican Republic and Mexico attended courses on the fight against online drug trafficking, clandestine laboratories and NPS and the fight against international drug trafficking.

51. In Mexico, the training programmes are updated according to the evolution of criminal behaviours related to drugs (traffic, production and diversion). The courses are also aligned with the relevant legal systems in order to meet the necessary requirements for the prosecution of cases.

52. The National Drug Plan for Paraguay for the period 2017–2022 establishes training programmes for police agents, judges and prosecutors. The plan also includes

a demand-reduction component that covers the most-consumed types of drugs and related trends.

53. Portugal ensures ongoing contact between the police and prosecutors regarding ongoing investigations and information-sharing regarding new routes, modi operandi and NPS.

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

Recommendation 6

Governments should establish practical national cooperation mechanisms for investigating and countering the diversion of and trafficking in chemical substances.

54. Argentina reported that training on chemical precursors was provided to officers of the federal and provincial security forces. A voluntary code of responsible conduct regarding the use of chemical precursors has been prepared. The Federal Council of Chemical Precursors was created as an advisory body to the National Chemical Precursors Registry. Within the framework of COPOLAD II, a working group on chemical precursors has been created to prepare a document on good practices and lessons learned for the control of the illicit traffic of chemical precursors. The group is composed of representatives of 10 countries: Argentina, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Guatemala, Honduras, Peru, Uruguay and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of). Ongoing collaboration with INCB is ensured; Argentina is also taking part in the UNODC AIRCOP programme. A practical mechanism of national cooperation to investigate and combat the diversion of and trafficking in chemical substances is the National Registry of Chemical Precursors, which any agency can consult. If a suspicious operation is carried out within the border security zone, the competent federal court must be notified.

55. Chile has implemented a task force for the administrative and operational control of chemical precursors. The task force includes the Ministry of the Interior and Public Security, the Ministries of Health and Finance and the police forces. To fulfil its objective, the task force exchanges timely, relevant and necessary information to achieve effective control and increase the capacities of each of the institutions in their respective roles. In addition, joint field activities and reciprocal training are carried out to ensure that knowledge about chemical precursors is kept updated.

56. The Ministry of Justice and Law and the national police of Colombia use the Information System for the Control of Substances and Chemicals (SICOQ), which is designed as an electronic record of the transactions involved in the management and control of controlled chemical substances and products.

57. El Salvador reported that the National Anti-Drug Commission coordinated the Substance Control Group, in which representatives of the National Directorate of Medicines, the General Directorate of Customs and the Technical Department of the Chemical Control Section of the Anti-Narcotics Division of the police force participated. The Group coordinated training sessions on the application of the regulatory framework relating to the control of substances under special control and on customs regimes.

58. In France, the National Office for Control of Chemical Precursors is responsible for collecting reports of suspicious transactions on any chemical product, allowing companies to ensure the security of their transactions. The National Directorate of Intelligence and Customs Investigations (DNRED) and the Central Office for the Suppression of Drug Trafficking (OCRTIS) conduct investigations relating to precursor chemicals. An interministerial service ensures cooperation between all departments involved in precursor chemicals, in partnership with industry.

59. Honduras reported that it did not have any information-sharing and had no unified database on the profiles of companies importing chemicals.
60. Italy reported that controlled chemicals were monitored under a specific Act that established that commercial operators were obliged to promptly communicate transactions involving precursors to DCSA. Companies are required to provide cooperation to the police on the substances contained in the special surveillance list and to report suspect transactions.
61. In 2018, Mexico implemented, for intelligence purposes, a drug-profiling programme focused on cocaine, methamphetamine, heroin and fentanyl. Among the objectives are identifying new precursors, drugs and modi operandi and the generation of preventive measures and focused courses of action. In 2018, *alpha*-phenylacetonitrile (APAAN) was included in the national regulatory framework.
62. In Paraguay, agents from SENAD and the police participate in the UNODC/WCO Container Control Programme, led by the General Directorate of Customs, to control imports and exports of precursors and chemical products. There is also a code of ethics implemented by SENAD for chemical companies on reporting suspicious attempts to purchase chemicals, using the INCB *Guidelines for the Voluntary Code of Practice for the Chemical Industry*.
63. The cooperation mechanisms in Portugal are valid for all situations involving drugs, NPS, precursors and controlled chemical products.

Recommendation 7

Governments should 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 INTERPOL notification system, in particular its purple notices.

64. Argentina reported having joined PEN Online, PICS, Project Prism, Project Ion, the UNODC early warning advisory on NPS, the SHERLOC knowledge management portal and IONICS, among other systems. In addition, Argentina circulates INTERPOL purple notices among the different security forces. The federal police uses the INTERPOL I-24/7 secure global police communications system for the exchange of information with all INTERPOL member countries. The Customs Department against Drug Trafficking updates the databases of import and export of chemical products, as a result of international cooperation and exchange of scientific and technical information.
65. Chile reported participating in all regional and international cooperation platforms seeking to contribute to their better functioning and, consequently, to achieve better strategies to prevent the diversion of chemical precursors to illicit activities. An example of the above is the active use of PEN Online and bilateral meetings with neighbouring countries in South America, through which information is exchanged regarding the operation of the controlling entities and their working methodologies. Work is currently being conducted with INTERPOL to improve the use of available tools for the notification of diversion of precursors.
66. The Colombian national police exchanges information on crimes related to trafficking in and diversion of precursors through the communication platforms managed by AMERIPOL, INTERPOL and Europol and through various bilateral and multilateral meetings with the police forces of the region (Ecuador, El Salvador and Peru).
67. El Salvador provided information that, within the framework of the Northern Triangle Prosperity Alliance Plan (El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras), close coordination was maintained between the Trinational Task Force (FTT), formed of

the armed forces of the three countries and through which information on threats and risks was exchanged at the borders of each country. Coordination is carried out through the FTT to prevent, combat and reduce the criminal activities of national and transnational criminal organizations.

68. France reported participating in the work of INCB through Project Prism, Project Cohesion and Project Ion to strengthen the exchange of good practices and to share information on new routes, new substances and new procedures. The National Office for Control of Chemical Precursors, customs, the police and the Gendarmerie take an active part in the exchange of information with Europol-type authorities, the European Anti-Fraud Office and INTERPOL in order to make an effective contribution to the fight against the diversion of precursor chemicals.

69. Honduras reported that information and the coordination of operations against the diversion of and trafficking in precursors was currently shared among the Police Investigation Directorate, the Anti-Drug Police Directorate, the Office of the Special Prosecutor against Organized Crime and the Anti-Drug Trafficking Directorate.

70. In Italy, DCSA is registered with PICS, Project Prism and Project Cohesion, through which incidents are reported. Transactions involving precursors are monitored through the DCSA database. The purple notices issued by INTERPOL and transmitted by the International Police Cooperation Service (SCIP) are analysed and submitted to the relevant bodies (law enforcement and customs agencies, Ministry of Health).

71. Mexico reported utilizing the INTERPOL purple alerts to learn about the new trends used by transnational organized criminal groups for trafficking in drugs.

72. Paraguay reported that it did not use a mechanism for monitoring drugs, precursors or chemical products.

73. Portugal reported using cooperation mechanisms at the regional and international levels, including through INTERPOL and Europol.

Recommendation 8

Governments should strengthen the implementation or make better use of existing tools, such as the 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 PICS.

74. Argentina reported on its participation in multiple early warning systems: PEN Online, PICS, Project Prism, Project Ion, the UNODC early warning advisory on NPS, the SHERLOC knowledge management portal and IONICS, among others. PICS has been used as a source of information for both the preparation of chemical precursor listings at the national level and proposals made at the United Nations level for the incorporation of new substances into the international listings.

75. Chile works daily with pre-notifications received in PEN Online and, when necessary, through direct contact with the authorities of the exporting country. All exports of substances listed in Tables I and II of the 1988 Convention intended to be carried out from Chile are reported, as appropriate and in accordance with the information that registered users provide to the Unit of Controlled Chemical Substances. Information available in PICS is kept up to date.

76. Colombia reported using PEN Online, as well as a series of meetings among several entities in charge of interdisciplinary monitoring of foreign trade operations.

77. El Salvador reported participating in PEN Online. Similarly, the country uses PICS to monitor precursors and to prevent their diversion for illicit use. No such incidents have been reported in El Salvador.

78. France reported participating in PEN Online and PICS to combat the diversion of precursor chemicals in international trade.

79. The Health Regulation Agency of Honduras, together with the Anti-Drug Trafficking Directorate, conducts inspections of companies that have not requested import permits, on the basis of alerts through PEN Online.

80. In Italy, PEN Online is managed by the Central Drug Office of the Ministry of Health. The Office examines import and export requests submitted through the system. When a verification of the lawfulness of the transaction is needed, DCSA is requested by the Ministry to carry it out. DCSA uses PICS to report incidents occurring within the domestic territory.

81. In compliance with the provisions of the 1988 Convention, El Salvador participates in PEN Online. Similarly, the country utilizes PICS for monitoring precursors and preventing their diversion for illicit use. It should be noted that no such incidents have been reported in El Salvador.

82. Mexico reported making full use of PEN Online through the Federal Commission for Protection against Health Risks (COFEPRIS), the body responsible for issuing import and export permits for controlled substances under the three international drug conventions. Similarly, Mexico uses monitoring to identify and avoid possible cases of diversion. In order to strengthen its use of PICS, Mexico has updated its data.

83. Paraguay reported being a user of all INCB tools: PEN Online, PICS, IONICS, Project Ion, Project Cohesion and Project Prism. In addition, it conducts exchanges on precursor control with countries in the region by other means.

84. PEN Online is used by the Tax and Customs Authority of Portugal for recording the entry, exit and transit of goods as part of an integrated management of borders at the European Union level. It is also possible to share, in a parallel and structured way, information with other European Union countries on these matters using the common risk management system.

Recommendation 9

Governments should, individually or through existing regional mechanisms, 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.

85. Within the framework of COPOLAD II, a working group on chemical precursors has been created in Argentina to prepare a document on good practices and lessons learned for the control of the illicit traffic of chemical precursors. In addition, Argentina leads the Group of Experts on Chemical Substances and Pharmaceutical Products of CICAD. Officials of the Ministry of Security participate in different courses abroad and information is exchanged in an ongoing manner with liaison officers from other States and those working abroad. The Undersecretariat for the Fight against Drug Trafficking of the Ministry of Security, the security forces (National Gendarmerie, Naval Prefecture and federal police), WCO and customs authorities organize working groups, information exchange and training courses.

86. Chile actively participates in different initiatives for obtaining intelligence both regionally and internationally (e.g., INCB Project Cohesion), as essential tools for the development of new strategies in the field of chemical precursor control.

87. In Colombia, the defence and security sector participates, together with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in bilateral meetings with foreign government agencies responsible for the fight against drugs to discuss judicial cooperation and the exchange of intelligence. In these meetings, coordinated and inter-institutional actions to combat new trends in trafficking and the modi operandi used by traffickers are defined.

88. Since 2018, El Salvador has participated in the UNODC project on strengthening institutional capacity to improve control of drug trafficking and chemical precursors in Latin America (Colombia, Costa Rica and El Salvador). The project is aimed at improving the capacity of public institutions responsible for combating trafficking in drugs and chemical precursors.

89. France, as a State member of the European Union, takes action in the field of drug precursors in consultation with the authorities of other States members of the European Union, as well as with the European Anti-Fraud Office.

90. Honduras reported that it had not established a follow-up mechanism for tracking purchases made by chemical importing companies to their final destination as finished products.

91. Italy reported that courses on clandestine laboratories, synthetic drugs, special operations and illegal drug trafficking over the Internet were organized every year. Precursors and their possible diversion are also covered in those courses.

92. Mexico reported that the Technical Group for the Control of Synthetic Drugs, inter-institutional coordination and the exchange of timely information on criminal behaviour with international counterparts were used to fill knowledge gaps on the subject.

93. Paraguay reported conducting an update of the national list of controlled substances.

94. Portugal reported that strategies for combating drug trafficking were adopted and adapted according to the reality of and knowledge on the phenomenon.

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

Recommendation 10

Governments should address the risks posed by the illicit use of cryptocurrencies through strengthening inter-agency and international cooperation.

95. Argentina reported having organized, jointly with UNODC, a course on cryptocurrencies in 2018 for members of the security forces, judicial authorities, other State agencies and participants from other countries. The Ministry of Security surveys computer networks, including the darknet. Personnel of the customs authorities are also being trained on cryptocurrencies and detecting suspicious activities.

96. Chile reported that cryptocurrencies were not currently regulated in the country. However, the Ministry of Finance has analysed the scope of cryptocurrencies and issued a warning to the public about the risks associated with their acquisition and possession. It should also be noted that the use of cryptocurrencies is not prohibited in Chile, but brokers, issuers and buyers are subject to regulations regarding the prevention of money-laundering, in addition to those related to the tax system and the international banking system. Representatives of the Criminal Investigation Police attended a meeting of a working group on the darknet and cryptocurrencies in Nuremberg, Germany, during which the investigation of crimes promoted on the darknet and for which cryptocurrencies are used to prevent funds from being tracked were discussed.

97. Colombia undertakes risk analysis of money-laundering for cryptoactive use and consumer risk analysis through a working group led by the central bank, the Financial Information and Analysis Unit and the Directorate of National Taxes and Customs.

98. In El Salvador, inter-institutional meetings are held for the periodic review of cybercrime cases. The meetings are attended by delegates from the national civil police, the Attorney General's Office, UNODC and the Computer Crime Investigation Group (GIDI). In 2016, the Special Law against Computer and Related Crimes was

enacted, under which crimes committed using information and communications technology may be prosecuted.

99. In France, the customs service has set up a specialized service on cybercrime (CYBERDOUANE) that, in addition to detecting prohibited goods for sale on the Internet, has become an essential service in the fight against the illegal uses of cryptocurrencies and virtual money-laundering. CYBERDOUANE representatives participate in international training sessions, including those organized by Europol and the Financial Action Task Force.

100. Honduras reported that its legislation did not cover cybercrime and that no training on the subject existed.

101. Italy noted that the creation of a team of experts and specialists in the sector could be very useful. The main countries involved in the fight against drug trafficking could participate in it, in order to develop, through regular meetings, a mechanism for exchanging information on operational activities.

102. Mexico reported that measures were taken against cybercrimes using intelligence techniques that allowed cybercriminals to be identified; those techniques included cooperation at the national and international levels.

103. Paraguay reported its need for training on combating the illegal use of cryptocurrencies. The national secretariat for the prevention of the laundering of money and assets (SEPRELAD) includes action on cryptocurrencies.

Recommendation 11

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.

104. Argentina reported on the ongoing training of personnel through both national and international courses, with the aim of developing new knowledge of cybersecurity and thus detecting the emergence of new criminal modalities over the Internet. Training is also provided on combating the smuggling of narcotic substances and money-laundering.

105. In Chile, the training of prosecutors and police is conducted through the Global Action on Cybercrime Extended programme of the Council of Europe and the European Union. The programme is focused on computer crimes and the treatment of digital evidence and is based in the Prosecutor's Office.

106. In Colombia, the Office of the Prosecutor for Criminal Finances has developed training on the operation and the types of transactions that take place on the darknet.

107. A document containing a legal analysis of the Special Law against Computer and Related Crimes was drafted in El Salvador under the Global Programme on Cybercrime, by a team composed of representatives of the UNODC Regional Office for Central America and the Caribbean, in coordination with the Attorney General's Office. In addition, regional courses on cybercrimes are taught, and the Computer Crime Investigation Unit of the national civil police and the Office of Analysis, Investigation and Information Technologies of the Office of the Attorney General have been strengthened. The Judicial Training School of the National Judicial Council develops courses aimed at judges on the topics of cybercrime and digital evidence.

108. France reported on the establishment of a network dedicated to the fight against cybercrime to increase the capacity of customs authorities in that area.

109. In Italy, DCSA has been involved with several training projects involving numerous police officers, at both the national and international levels. In particular, training activities were organized on specialized anti-drug units; online drug trafficking, undercover agents, clandestine laboratories and NPS.

110. In 2017, Mexico established the Cyber Investigations and Technological Operations Unit (UICOT), as the intelligence agency responsible for the execution and supervision of police actions that support investigations related to electronic and technological means.

111. Paraguay reported that it did not have people who were trained to disseminate knowledge or to train officials on the matter.

112. Portugal reported that the increasing use of cryptocurrencies in the criminal world was a well-known reality and that inter-agency and international cooperation on the matter existed.

Recommendation 12

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.

113. In Argentina, a law on investigating, preventing and combating complex crimes provides tools, such as the concepts of informant and disclosing agent, which allow for the optimization of the investigation of complex crimes committed through the darknet or involving transactions with cryptocurrencies.

114. In 2018, the Government of Chile promulgated an update to the law on cybercrimes, which includes modifications to existing criminal types and incorporates substantive and procedural improvements to deal with new forms of computer crimes.

115. Colombian legislation has strengthened the investigation and prosecution of criminal organizations. However, regulatory developments are needed to prevent such organizations making transactions with cryptocurrencies and using the darknet.

116. El Salvador reported that the Special Law against Computer and Related Crimes had been enacted. It is in force and allows for the prosecution of crimes committed using information and communications technology.

117. In France, the law was updated to allow CYBERDOUANE to carry out investigations with greater efficiency, with the authorization of the public prosecutor, through the use of specific investigation procedures for operations conducted over the Internet. Subject to the agreement of the public prosecutor, the law allows for investigations into and observations of offences and provides for the opportunity to make contact through and infiltrate discussion groups on the darknet. These different means of investigation have led to the dismantling of several sales platforms and discussion forums operating on the darknet in France.

118. Italy reported that its legislation contained very wide-ranging provisions on investigative activities to combat drug trafficking launched at the initiative of the police forces or authorized by the judicial authority.

119. While the public ministry and the judiciary were in the process of reviewing national legislation, Paraguay reported that, to date, it had not had the technical capacity to implement such measures. International cooperation in the matter would be of great relevance.

120. Portugal reported having conducted investigations into drug trafficking through the darknet. As a result of undercover operations, bitcoins had been seized. As part of its criminal police, Portugal has the National Unit for Fighting Cybercrime and Technological Crime.

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

Recommendation 13

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. Such programmes should be aimed at alleviating poverty as well as at preventing and reducing the illicit cultivation of crops.

121. Chile is not a country in which plant-based drugs are produced. Consequently, it has not designed or implemented national policies or programmes to prevent and reduce illicit cultivation and illicit drug production. No coca or opium poppy crops have been identified in the country, and the size of the cannabis crops that have been detected does not merit the implementation of alternative development programmes.

122. In Colombia, the relevance of and need for the implementation of comprehensive replacement plans for crops for illicit use and alternative development as a tool for solving the problem of illicit drugs was recognized in the Final Agreement for Ending the Conflict and Building a Stable and Lasting Peace, signed in 2016. The Government created the National Comprehensive Programme for the Substitution of Crops for Illicit Use, which was aimed at the voluntary substitution of crops for illicit use through the development of programmes and projects in support of the farming families concerned.

123. France reported that French overseas communities were affected by the cannabis herb production in neighbouring islands such as Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.

124. Mexico has not implemented alternative development programmes; however, it is in the process of designing and planning an alternative development pilot project as part of its control and reduction strategies for illicit crops. Similarly, it has promoted sustainable urban development initiatives among urban populations affected by illicit activities related to drug trafficking and related crimes through programmes such as the Social Development Sector Programme for the period 2013–2018 and the Development Programme for the Social Economy for the period 2015–2018. There are several initiatives such as crime prevention, community cohesion, protection and safety of residents, stimulation of innovation and entrepreneurship, and promotion of employment.

125. Currently, Paraguay does not have alternative development projects, owing to a lack of State budget for such projects. However, the Directorate of Alternative Development of SENAD is working on an alternative development project, together with COPOLAD and the National Commission for Development and Life without Drugs (DEVIDA) of Peru, for implementation in the near future.

Recommendation 14

Governments should report on efforts made to understand the drivers of the illicit cultivation, production and manufacture of drugs and to address underlying socioeconomic factors.

126. Chile noted that, notwithstanding the fact that it was not a country in which illicit crops were cultivated, it has always welcomed the exchange of useful information associated with the world drug problem and, therefore, will report on any effort made to understand the drivers of the illicit cultivation, production and manufacture of drugs and to address the underlying socioeconomic factors.

127. Colombia reported creating the National Comprehensive Programme of Substitution of Illicit Crops, which is aimed at promoting the voluntary substitution of illicit crops through development programmes and projects. The Comprehensive Policy to Tackle the Drug Problem, entitled “Future Route”, is designed to develop effective strategies to reduce drug use and drug availability, dismantle criminal organizations and create conditions for the transition to licit economies. The Territory

Renewal Agency (ART) promotes economic development alternatives in areas with illicit crops.

128. Honduras reported having joined the Group of Alternative Development Experts of CICAD with the objective of planning and implementing a strategy in that field.

129. Mexico reported having mechanisms to collect and analyse information related to the illicit supply of drugs and to disseminate the results of joint efforts, such as the National Technical Group on Land, Air and Maritime Interception of Drugs, the Synthetic Drug Control Technical Group and Project System (for monitoring illicit crops in Mexican territory).

130. In Paraguay, SENAD has made several in situ socioeconomic assessments and has identified and georeferenced vulnerable communities that undertake illicit activities. It has also identified increases and/or displacements in the production of marijuana crops to understand the underlying factors.

Recommendation 15

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.

131. In Colombia, communities, community organizations and leaders participate in the execution, coordination and management of the National Comprehensive Programme for the Substitution of Crops for Illicit Use.

132. Mexico has established a dialogue among different key actors in order to propose strategies and design policies to address the problem of crops destined for illicit drug production through the promotion of alternative, comprehensive and sustainable development. Mexico considers that, to prevent and reduce illicit cultivation and other illicit activities related to drugs in a considerable, lasting and quantifiable way, it is necessary to empower, involve and share responsibility with the communities affected.

133. In Paraguay, the institution in charge of carrying out alternative development programmes does not have the logistical or monetary resources to reach the most vulnerable communities or those affected by illicit cultivation.

Recommendation 16

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.

134. Chile participated in the fourth Intraregional Dialogue Forum on Alternative Development, held in Guatemala on 17 and 18 July 2019 and organized by COPOLAD. The purpose of the Forum was to share and exchange experiences on best practices and new developments in the field of alternative development. The Forum provided participating countries with an overview of the implementation of and progress made in alternative development programmes in countries in the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States, also taking into account how such programmes are of growing interest in the region.

135. Colombia participates in international forums to exchange experiences, identify lessons learned and work together on new approaches in the field of alternative development, such as the COPOLAD Intraregional Dialogue Forum on Alternative Development.

136. France noted that Governments should intensify their cooperation and coordination in the field of alternative development through the exchange of

information and should create a directory of best practices and lessons learned, to make the best use of the resources allocated to alternative development.

137. During the period 2014–2018 and within COPOLAD, the German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ) and the Group of Experts on Alternative Development of CICAD, Mexico exchanged experiences and good practices with countries of the region on the formulation and implementation of alternative, comprehensive and sustainable development programmes.

138. Paraguay reported that it had started cooperation activities for the training of alternative development technicians through South-South cooperation and COPOLAD.

Recommendation 17

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

139. Since it is not a country that produces illicit crops, Chile is not considering the use of legal instruments as a tool to implement or promote alternative development.

140. Colombia uses the regulations that govern extinction of domain to establish the distribution of resources to the Comprehensive Policy to Tackle the Drug Problem.

141. In El Salvador, the Special Law on Extinction of Domain and the Administration of Goods of Illicit Origin or Destination accords to the National Council of Property Administration the power to allocate funds to beneficiary entities for the execution of prevention and research programmes. There is no alternative development programme in the country to date, as El Salvador is not a drug-producing country.

142. In the National Public Security Strategy of Mexico it is indicated that, in the framework of alternative development, assets confiscated from crime are to be reused or reinvested in prevention and welfare projects that benefit communities. Similarly, it is indicated in the strategy that extinction of domain resources seized from organized criminal groups will be used to finance social programmes.

143. Paraguay enacted a law that created SENABICO, which can finance programmes for alternative development and for demand and supply reduction.