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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

Draft report*Rapporteur:* Soraya Carolina Cálix Ponce (Honduras)**Addendum****Major regional drug trafficking trends and countermeasures**

1. 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](#)).
2. A representative of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) introduced the item and made an audiovisual presentation on reported 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, Plurinational State of Bolivia, Paraguay, Dominican Republic, Chile, Spain, Honduras and Argentina made statements, some of which included audiovisual presentations.
3. Many participants informed the Meeting about recent developments relating to drug trafficking trends and the drug control situation in their countries and in the region, also providing information and data on national advances and achievements made in combating 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.
4. Several participants emphasized the importance of addressing the world drug problem by countries of supply, demand and transit, on the basis of the principle of common and shared responsibility.

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



5. Some delegates noted that their countries were situated between producer and consumer markets and used as transit countries. Some speakers reported on their country's advances in monitoring all regions susceptible to drug production and trafficking.
6. A number of participants drew attention to the links between 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.
7. 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 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 drug trafficking.
8. 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 crop needed to take into account, in addition to the surface cultivated, other factors such as the productivity levels, the purity and the prices of cocaine. According to some speakers, as the illicit cultivation was the result of external demand, the burden of eradication needed to be shared by the consumer countries. Reference was also made to the traditional consumption of coca leaf in some countries and its legal market.
9. 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.
10. 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.
11. 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 on the establishment of mixed commissions and joint task forces. These measures greatly contributed to fostering trust among countries.
12. 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 key to successfully reduce the illicit supply of drugs. Several speakers elaborated on the effective cooperation between armed and security forces in combating drug trafficking.
13. Some speakers stressed the importance of strengthening international judicial cooperation to ensure prosecutions and extraditions, in accordance with the provisions of the 1988 Convention, and noted that there were bureaucratic obstacles to such cooperation.
14. 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 (WCO) 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 (CRIMJUST) and Operation Orion.
15. A number of delegates highlighted the support received for their drug supply and demand reduction programmes at the international level, including from UNODC.