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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 3 of the provisional agenda\*\*

### **Major regional drug trafficking trends and countermeasures**

## **Current situation with respect to regional and subregional cooperation**

### **Report of the Secretariat**

#### **I. Introduction**

1. The present note provides information on regional cooperation initiatives and assistance in countering drug trafficking and related crimes provided by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) to Governments in Latin America and the Caribbean, focusing on developments since 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.

#### **II. Precursor control**

##### **Colombia**

2. UNODC, through the Integrated Illicit Crops Monitoring System, continued to provide technical advice to the Ministry of Justice and Law and the National Police of Colombia on several initiatives, including research and the drafting of studies on the control of precursors.
3. The Integrated Illicit Crops Monitoring System continued exercises to determine the efficiency in the opiate transformation process and worked on a methodology on the use of chemical substances through experimental exercises.
4. UNODC worked on the chemical description of new psychoactive substances and supported the Government of Colombia in the development of an early warning system.

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

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



**Ecuador**

5. In June 2019, as part of the International Narcotics Control Board Learning initiative, a regional training seminar was held in Quito for eight countries. It covered the provisions of the three drug control treaties and the control of the licit trade in drugs, psychotropic substances and precursors, including through tools such as the International Import and Export Authorization System (I2ES), the Pre-Export Notification Online (PEN Online) system, the Precursors Incident Communication System (PICS) and the Project Ion Incident Communication System (IONICS).

**Mexico**

6. The Government of Mexico, acting through the Federal Commission for the Protection against Sanitary Risks (COFEPRIS) and the Ministry of Health, together with the UNODC Liaison and Partnership Office in Mexico, continues to operate the country's national drug control system, of which there have been seven versions to date.

7. Together with Canada and the United States of America, Mexico has created the North American dialogue on drug policy, which enables the participating countries to discuss their achievements and setbacks relating to the production, trafficking and consumption of illicit substances. The most recent meeting was held in Florida, United States, in April 2019, the next meeting is expected to be held in Manzanillo, Mexico, later in 2019. The countries participating in this high-level dialogue discuss customs authorities and the protocols they use to detect the entry of substances and precursors of interest, which is particularly relevant in the light of the dramatic increase in the production and use of dangerous synthetic substances.

**Peru**

8. In Peru, UNODC continued to support national law enforcement authorities in their efforts to tackle drug trafficking and activities to divert chemical precursors. Technical assistance was provided to enhance the knowledge and skills of investigators of the anti-narcotics police unit (DIRANDRO) through a workshop and practical simulations.

### **III. Legal assistance and anti-money-laundering**

**Central America and the Caribbean**

9. In August 2018, the UNODC Regional Office for Central America and the Caribbean, based in Panama, in conjunction with the Financial Analysis Unit of Panama and Crime Stoppers for the Caribbean, Bermuda and Latin America, conducted a subregional meeting on trade-based money-laundering. The meeting was attended by law enforcement officials from Colombia, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, Panama and Peru.

10. In Panama, each year on 29 October, UNODC launches a campaign to mark the national day for the prevention of money-laundering. The campaign is conducted in partnership with the Financial Analysis Unit, the Banking Association of Panama, national regulators, and the Chamber of Commerce, Industries and Agriculture of Panama. UNODC implements similar initiatives in the Dominican Republic and El Salvador.

11. Furthermore, in October 2018, UNODC delivered workshops for private sector enterprises and banks entitled "Anti-corruption ethics and compliance programme for business".

12. UNODC also provided training to members of the judiciary in Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador and Honduras on judicial ethics based on the Bangalore Principles of Judicial Conduct.

## **Brazil**

13. In Brazil, in March 2019, UNODC and the National Council of Justice entered into a partnership agreement with the United Nations Development Programme as part of the country's "Justice present" programme with a view to strengthening detention hearings in all 27 federal states. The joint initiative is aimed at lowering the prison population by reducing the number of pretrial detentions. According to data for 2016 published by the Ministry of Justice, the prison system operates at a 197 per cent occupancy rate. UNODC will allocate 27 specialized advisors, one for each federal state, who will provide technical support based on international guidelines and good practices to professionals working in the criminal field. The advisors will assist prison guards in accessing the public social protection network to prevent drug abuse and involvement with crime among the prison population. The parties to the partnership agreement will develop actions involving alternatives to incarcerations and electronic monitoring policies. Among other cross-cutting issues is the continued training of professionals involved in detention hearings, such as those providing health services, drug treatment and social protection.

## **Bolivia (Plurinational State of)**

14. In the Plurinational State of Bolivia, in November 2018, UNODC facilitated the exchange of experiences between Argentina, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brazil and Peru. Participants discussed strengthening the work of the Regional Counter-Narcotics Intelligence Centre based in Santa Cruz, Plurinational State of Bolivia. The Centre facilitates the exchange of intelligence and information, and the sharing of good practices in the analysis of criminal intelligence. In addition, technical assistance was provided in the form of a training workshop on international cooperation against transnational organized crime.

15. In March 2018, UNODC facilitated training and mentoring for national officials working in the fields of prosecution and judicial investigation, as well as for judges, on asset forfeiture investigations and the payment of informants.

16. Between March and May 2019, UNODC delivered a cycle of workshops focusing on asset forfeiture. Around 200 participants benefited from the workshops. Among them were representatives of the prosecutor's office, judges and judicial investigators.

17. In July 2019, UNODC worked with authorities of Argentina and the Plurinational State of Bolivia on a guide for international cooperation procedures between those two countries.

## **Colombia**

18. In Colombia, with the support of the United States Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs, UNODC designed and conducted four mock criminal investigation cases involving money-laundering. One hundred of the country's civil servants benefited from this work and strengthened their knowledge about standards, the detection and investigation of specific typologies and their possible relationships with economic sectors and related crimes. The training also contributed to the consolidation of a network of trainers aimed at ensuring the sustainability of the activities.

19. UNODC supported the holding of a national day for the prevention of money-laundering in the cities of Bogotá and Medellín.

## **Ecuador**

20. In September 2017, UNODC concluded a memorandum of understanding with Ecuador on anti-corruption, anti-money-laundering and asset recovery. On the basis of that memorandum, capacity-building was provided under the joint UNODC/World Bank Stolen Asset Recovery (StAR) Initiative that related to, inter alia, open source investigations, legislative drafting and round tables on draft legislation. Further

activities of UNODC included supporting Ecuador in the development of its self-assessment checklist for the second cycle of the Mechanism for the Review of Implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption, which included asset recovery and the prevention of, among other things, money-laundering. In 2019, that work was reinforced in a UNODC surge effort to ensure the permanent presence of an anti-corruption specialist tasked with advising and supporting national counterparts in their anti-corruption work.

#### **Panama**

21. In Panama, UNODC facilitated various training events for national police, investigative and judicial officials to enhance their capacity in handling money-laundering related to drug trafficking, organized crime and corruption.

#### **Peru**

22. In Peru, under a project on criminal justice responses to forest crime, UNODC launched technical assistance for the public prosecutor's office, the customs service and the financial intelligence unit. The aim was to foster cooperation in cases related to forest and wildlife crime, and illicit financial flows in the country.

### **IV. Strengthening national police forces and cooperation initiatives**

#### **Bolivia (Plurinational State of)**

23. In the Plurinational State of Bolivia, between January and June 2019, UNODC held one theoretical and two practical workshops for the country's port control unit as part of the Container Control Programme.

24. In June 2018, as part of the Airport Communication Project (AIRCOP), the chief police officer of Madrid Barajas Airport delivered a training course to officials of the country's counter-narcotics police force, immigration service, customs service and airport police, as well as the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL), making up the joint airport interdiction task force at the Bolivian airport of Santa Cruz.

#### **Central America and the Caribbean**

25. In Panama, UNODC continued to support national authorities in the establishment of a shelter for victims of trafficking in persons.

26. In the Dominican Republic, UNODC continued to provide legislative and technical assistance relating to the review of the country's law on trafficking in persons. Efforts focused on the incorporation into the national legal framework of comprehensive principles and international standards derived from the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime.

#### **Colombia**

27. In Colombia, to strengthen the technical capacities of the institutions responsible for countering drug production subsystems, a training session was held on strategic operational centres. The aim was to address the recommendations contained in technical studies on the cocaine hydrochloride production complexes and the chemical aspects of the process to extract opium and its transformation into morphine and heroin.

28. Under Project Fortaleza, an annual conference was held in Bogotá that focused on identifying and targeting members of organized criminal groups, fighting drug trafficking, combating arms trafficking and conducting financial and patrimonial investigations drawing on best practices in the Americas and the rest of the world.

29. In partnership with the National Police of Colombia, UNODC held the international meeting of inspectors general and chiefs of internal affairs.

30. Under the UNODC project on trafficking in drugs in Latin America (Colombia, Costa Rica and El Salvador) of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat, the UNODC Country Office in Colombia provided training on drug trafficking and precursor control to armed forces personnel and police officials in Colombia, Costa Rica and El Salvador.

31. In partnership with the World Customs Organization, UNODC leads the implementation of the Container Control Programme in Colombia. As part of the first activities, a series of training events were held on risk management, profile analysis, container inspection techniques, concealment methods and other topics. Representatives of the National Tax and Customs Directorate (DIAN), the National Food and Drug Institute (INVIMA), the Colombian Agriculture and Livestock Institute (ICA), the Anti-Narcotics Directorate (DIRAN) and the navy participated in the event.

32. UNODC provided technical assistance to the municipality of Cajicá in the development of a draft comprehensive public policy on the problem of psychoactive substances. The draft policy was subsequently endorsed by the local government.

33. UNODC, in cooperation with the government of the Meta region and the city of Cali, conducted security audits in 29 municipalities to document the criminal value chain of microtrafficking at the local level and map the phenomenon in each territory. Public policy recommendations were drawn up as part of these exercises.

#### **Ecuador**

34. In July 2019, an evaluation mission to Ecuador was conducted under the UNODC global programme on strengthening criminal investigation and criminal justice cooperation along the cocaine route in Latin America, the Caribbean and West Africa (CRIMJUST) to identify the priorities of national institutions.

#### **Mexico**

35. The UNODC Liaison and Partnership Office in Mexico continued to operate a CRIMJUST programme to improve the security and well-being of vulnerable groups with the objective of strengthening the institutional capacity available to first responders to handle cases of gender violence. Specifically, the project is aimed at improving coordination between police, emergency telephone operators and justice centres for women. In 2018, close to 8,000 police officers from municipal, state and federal police corps were trained under the programme, which was financed by the Merida Initiative.

36. The UNODC Liaison and Partnership Office in Mexico also studied the specific needs of police forces in Mexico for training and equipment. The study was conducted using the results of the National Survey of Police Standards and Professional Training of Police published in 2018 by UNODC and the National Institute of Geography and Statistics of Mexico. The study provides an in-depth analysis of the capacities and shortcomings of 32 police forces operating in the country.

#### **Peru**

37. As part of a new national project to strengthen criminal justice responses to forest crime in Peru, the UNODC office for Peru and Ecuador, with the support of the UNODC Global Programme for Combating Wildlife and Forest Crime, has worked with the national public prosecutor's office, the judiciary authorities, the national police and the customs authority, among others, to establish an inter-agency working group, as well as to develop specialized investigative and prosecutorial tools on forest crime.

38. UNODC is currently engaging with the entire criminal justice system on the implementation of the project by providing technical assistance, strengthening cooperation and information sharing, and developing innovative tools to jointly investigate and prosecute forest crime.

## V. Border control

39. The UNODC-World Customs Organization Global Container Control Programme team for Latin America and the Caribbean consolidated and expanded its reach. At the time of reporting, the programme was being implemented in Argentina, Brazil, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Guyana, Honduras, Jamaica, Panama, Peru and Suriname. Activities being implemented under the initiative included but were not limited to: (a) the provision of basic and advanced training and mentoring; (b) operational monitoring and oversight of the established joint port control units; and (c) the acquisition of relevant equipment.

40. AIRCOP was very active in Latin America and the Caribbean with a view to expanding its operational coverage in the region. The Project was being implemented at international airports in Argentina, Barbados, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brazil, Colombia, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Jamaica, Panama and Peru.

41. As part of AIRCOP, UNODC and the Government of El Salvador organized the mentoring of staff involved in air cargo detection and interdiction. Sessions were held at San Salvador International Airport from 19 to 23 March 2018. The participants focused on air cargo, in particular strengthening the operational capabilities and technical knowledge of the joint airport interdiction task force working at the airport, as well as on inspection processes, the analysis of documentation, databases used for export purposes and coordination with export companies. The mentoring event was led by an expert from DIRAN, who provided the participants with all the necessary tools to respond to drug trafficking and other crimes related to air cargo.

42. In Jamaica, a specialized training event on the use of interview checklists in cases relating to trafficking in persons was held from 18 to 20 June 2018 to prepare frontline officers at Kingston airport for the task of interviewing victims as potential witnesses.

43. Officials of AIRCOP joint airport interdiction task forces from Argentina, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Colombia, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador and Peru met from 11 to 22 March 2019 in Sao Paulo, Brazil, for the twenty-second International Cooperation at Airports (Intercops) training course about the interdiction of international drug trafficking. Through conferences and other activities, the course enabled participants to exchange experiences and information about research into crime at international airports.

44. Also under AIRCOP, 18 officials of the joint airport interdiction task force at Viru International Airport, Santa Cruz, Plurinational State of Bolivia, and 24 officials from Ezeiza International Airport, Buenos Aires, were mentored in the detection of suspicious passenger profiles linked to drug trafficking.

45. AIRCOP and the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre organized a joint training event to build the capacities of frontline officers at international airports to address threats posed by foreign terrorist fighters. The event was held from 8 to 12 July 2019 in Santo Domingo with the participation of more than 300 officials from various countries, of whom 45 attended in situ and more than 255 participated online.

### Peru

46. In relation to timber trafficking in Peru, the UNODC Country Office is supporting the implementation of control measures and the delivery of technical assistance to national authorities as part of the Container Control Programme.

## VI. Regional networks and exchange of information

### Bolivia (Plurinational State of)

47. Argentina, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brazil and Paraguay announced their interest in collaborating to develop a regional counter-narcotics intelligence centre based in Santa Cruz, Plurinational State of Bolivia. The initiative was supported by the UNODC Country Office.

48. In December 2018, the country hosted the first technical and operational meeting aimed at strengthening the regional approach to the fight against drug trafficking and related crimes. The meeting fostered dialogue among the region's anti-narcotics authorities about new joint operative actions against drug trafficking. As a result, eight Latin American countries agreed to intensify their operational coordination against drug trafficking and to further strengthen regional coordination platforms such as the Regional Counter-Narcotics Intelligence Centre. The participants agreed to hold follow-up meetings at the technical and ministerial levels in 2019.

### Colombia

49. In Colombia, UNODC, in collaboration with the European Commission, the European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Cooperation (Europol), INTERPOL and Transparency International, fostered consultative and coordination meetings to strengthen post-seizure investigations and interregional cooperation.

### Ecuador

50. In Ecuador, UNODC serves as the secretariat of the International Anti-Corruption Expert Commission of Ecuador, whose objectives include strengthening partnerships and networks for law enforcement practitioners to exchange information and assist international cooperation. Related activities are envisioned to build capacities in contexts other than corruption.

### Mexico

51. The Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) launched important forums for the exchange of best practices with the European Union through the Cooperation Programme between Latin America, the Caribbean and the European Union on Drugs Policies. In July 2019, Mexico participated in the fourth intraregional dialogue forum on alternative development. In addition, Mexico contributed to the drafting of a joint plan of action between CELAC and China for the period 2019–2021 that includes extensive cooperation on trafficking in synthetic drugs.

## VII. Trend analysis and studies on drug trafficking and related issues

### Bolivia (Plurinational State of)

52. In January 2019, UNODC presented the annual report on the validation of information on the incineration and/or destruction of seized drugs in the Plurinational State of Bolivia. The coca cultivation survey was expected to be released by August 2019. UNODC is continuing two studies regarding coca-cocaine conversion factors and the potential yield of coca crops in the country.

### Central America and the Caribbean

53. The UNODC project on trafficking in drugs in Latin America (Colombia, Costa Rica and El Salvador), an initiative of the UNODC Country Office in Colombia, is implemented in coordination with the UNODC Regional Office for Central America and the Caribbean, with significant participation by entities in Costa Rica and

El Salvador. The project is laying the groundwork for the formulation of national and regional strategies for Colombia, Costa Rica and El Salvador to combat trafficking in drugs and chemical precursors.

### **Colombia**

54. In Colombia, in September 2018, UNODC released the annual coca survey, according to which, as of 31 December 2017, the coca-cultivated area was 171,000 hectares.

55. UNODC promoted a comprehensive analysis of the drug phenomenon through the production of regional reports on the problems associated with illicit drugs in different departments of Colombia. A total of 16 such reports were prepared to provide reliable information for decision-making at the departmental level.

56. The UNODC Country Office in Colombia concluded its analysis of the prices of coca leaf and its derivatives for 2018 and gathered information related to the production and yields of coca crops in the regions of Meta, Guaviare and Orinoco. The geographical study of coca-related economic activity made it possible to identify the actors and financial flows involved, thus providing fundamental information about the drug trafficking value chain in Colombia.

57. UNODC assisted territories affected by opium poppy in Colombia and contributed to the development of methodologies for collecting and analysing data. A sampling study was undertaken to describe lots, sowing methods, harvest yields and the use of agrochemicals.

58. UNODC contributed to the development of technical studies on the productive systems linked to the growth and transformation of coca by the coca agricultural production units. The studies helped to monitor key factors associated with coca leaf production and to better understand the efficiency of the extraction processes, which was estimated by the volume of product derived from processing.

59. UNODC promoted the use of remote sensing tools in Colombia to evaluate public policy. Thus it contributed to the development of methodologies for collecting and analysing data. As a result, UNODC data on alluvial gold exploitation became the official figures used by the Government.

### **Ecuador**

60. UNODC started to implement a project with the main objective of developing a monitoring and early warning mechanism and to lay the groundwork for rapid response mechanisms for human rights violations at the country's northern border with Colombia. The project is funded by the European Union and implemented together with the Human Rights Council, the United Nations Population Fund and the International Organization for Migration. UNODC will produce baseline information, as well as collect and analyse data on illicit cultivation and the dynamics of drug trafficking and deforestation, in particular deforestation caused by illegal logging and mining.

61. With financial support from Germany, UNODC is also starting to implement a project aimed at establishing a baseline of transnational crime-related activities, and drawing up a needs assessment with a view to developing a strategy for the strengthening of local institutions and designing a monitoring strategy to oversee that process.

### **Mexico**

62. The UNODC Liaison and Partnership Office in Mexico is implementing a project entitled "Monitoring system of illicit crops in the Mexican territory" in collaboration with the Ministry of Defence, the navy, the office of the national public prosecutor and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The project has been extended

until 2022 to continue activities to estimate the total area of poppy fields in Mexico and the opium yield of the poppy cultivated.

63. In addition, under a project entitled “Strengthening the process of data collection in eradication activities of illicit crops”, UNODC has implemented a system to collect and immediately transfer information about the destruction of poppy and marijuana fields using mobile satellite devices. The project is implemented together with the Ministry of Defence. An updated version of the system is being tested with 320 satellite devices manufactured by Bittium and distributed across the country. In September 2019, UNODC will release the final version of the system before it becomes operational in October. To that end, UNODC has trained nearly 150 Ministry of Defence personnel on the use of the system. The system is aligned with the national protocol for the destruction of illicit crops.

## VIII. Demand reduction initiatives

### Regional and subregional levels

64. Under the project on reduction of demand of illegal drugs in the Andean Community (PREDEM), which is aimed at reducing drug demand in the Andean Community, UNODC and national partners finalized and presented to the public the third epidemiological study on drug use among university students in the Andean Community. The Andean Community comprises Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Colombia, Ecuador and Peru.

### Brazil

65. In Brazil, UNODC continued the implementation of a project on crime prevention through sports called “Line up, live up” in the Federal District and in Rio de Janeiro. During 2018, the Office delivered three train-the-trainer courses to 78 sports professionals, who in turn delivered training to 936 participating young people. In 2018, efforts were under way to assess the impact the prevention initiative had made in vulnerable areas of the Federal District. The implementation in the Federal District is being reviewed by an independent evaluator to provide evidence of the impact the programme has on young people’s lives. The first findings were expected in the first semester of 2019. To highlight the “Line up, live up” project, UNODC organized a sports festival in Brasília to raise awareness of the benefits of sports, in particular in the sense that playing sports prevent young people from getting involved with drugs and crime. The aim of the initiative was to influence the behaviour and attitudes of at-risk youth and prevent antisocial behaviour by raising awareness of the consequences of crime and substance abuse, and by developing life skills.

### Central America and the Caribbean

66. During 2019, in the Dominican Republic, UNODC, together with the Ministry of Education and the National Drug Commission, continued to focus on evidence-based prevention programmes for families that improve parental skills. A new UNODC programme entitled “Strong families” started to be piloted with the Ministry of Education.

67. Also in the Dominican Republic, a crime prevention programme through sports entitled “Line up, live up” was launched.

68. Technical assistance through a school prevention programme entitled “Leones educando” continued in El Salvador and Guatemala, with the national drug commissions as counterparts.

69. In Costa Rica, policymakers of institutions that work in the reduction of drug demand participated in workshops on the prevention and treatment of drug disorders.

70. The Central American countries and the Dominican Republic received technical assistance to improve access to controlled drugs for medical purposes. The assistance included a regional workshop, as well as national workshops for Belize, Costa Rica and Panama.

### **Colombia**

71. In Colombia, in coordination with the Ministry of Justice and Law, the “Strengthening families” programme benefited 650 families (1,950 people) in five territories: Cartagena, Cúcuta, Dosquebradas, Espinal and Dosquebradas/Muzo. Eight civil society organizations were incorporated as strategic allies to support the implementation of the project activities.

72. UNODC supported strategies and actions to prevent drug use and direct attention towards the penitentiary and prison system. Preventive actions were carried out based on the technical framework of action on drug use reduction in the penitentiary and prison system, and benefited 400 people in the penitentiary administrations in Bucaramanga and Espinal and the penitentiary administration for women in Bogotá. A training course was delivered to 86 people in custody and under surveillance by the National Penitentiary and Prison Institute.

73. In partnership with the Secretariat of Education of Cundinamarca, professionals at educational institutions and young leaders received training to enhance their capacities to prevent drug use, maternity and early parenthood as part of the programme entitled “Safe and peaceful educational environments”. The work benefited approximately 500 people.

### **Ecuador**

74. In Ecuador, under the PREDEM project, UNODC, in cooperation with the Ministry of Public Health and the European Union, organized a forum for international experts on the prevention and treatment of drug use. The forum was held in May 2018.

75. Also in May 2018, UNODC held two workshops with policymakers on the nature, prevention and treatment of drug use disorders. Seventy members of the country’s National Assembly participated. The parliamentary group for the prevention of drug use and treatment of drug dependence and the Ministry of Health organized the activities jointly with UNODC.

76. On 15 March 2019, during the sixty-second session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, the Minister for Health of Ecuador and UNODC signed a memorandum of understanding relating to drugs. The memorandum covered investigation, prevention, treatment, access to controlled medicines, and coordination and cooperation between the health-care and justice systems. It further addressed the cross-cutting areas of human rights, transparency and accountability, and gender.

77. UNODC is also part of the round table on the prevention of addiction of the “National agreement”, a national dialogue and consultation process launched on 17 May 2019.

78. On 7 June 2019, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Migration and the International Narcotics Control Board held a national awareness-raising workshop on the availability of drugs and psychotropic substances for medical and scientific purposes. The event brought together representatives of institutions, the health sector, civil society, the United Nations and the international community.

### **Mexico**

79. In May 2019, the Government of Mexico, with the assistance of UNODC, launched its national strategy to prevent addictions, a permanent policy that incorporates a focus on human rights and public health. Under the strategy, all those who need help are directed to specialized treatment centres without criminalizing

consumers of addictive substances. The three main pillars of the strategy are education, health and communication. The communication pillar is about raising awareness among the general population of the need to listen to those who are personally affected by drug addiction.

80. Also in Mexico, under a UNODC project entitled “Access without excess”, support was provided for surveys of staff in 56 hospitals and 203 pharmacies, as well as of 108 doctors associated with the programme “Doctor at home”. The surveys resulted in a detailed report, delivered as part of the project, about the availability and use in Mexico City of controlled medications, in particular opioids. The findings will be analysed and discussed by experts and health practitioners in order to issue policy recommendations to all actors involved in the distribution and administration for medical purposes of controlled substances.

## **IX. Alternative development**

### **Bolivia (Plurinational State of)**

81. During the reporting period, the UNODC Country Office in the Plurinational State of Bolivia continued to support the host country in its efforts to promote alternative development, in particular in the municipality of La Asunta. In July 2019 managers of the French company Malongo visited La Asunta to gather information about coffee plantations and, if possible, to establish commercial alliances.

### **Colombia**

82. The UNODC Country Office in Colombia continued to support the Government’s efforts to free its territories of illicit crops through the national programme for the substitution of illicit crops. The national programme was supported and technical assistance provided to 28,000 families in 56 municipalities in 14 departments in the country.

83. A total 35,317 hectares of illicit crops were voluntarily eradicated by rural communities, of which 29,943 hectares were verified by UNODC through the monitoring component of its alternative development programme.

84. The UNODC Country Office in Colombia also continued to support the Government in the collection and processing of baseline surveys for 13,891 families and 1,421 follow-up surveys used to analyse social, economic, environmental and institutional transformations in the targeted territories.

85. Land titling has been a key factor in integrating communities into the Colombian legal economy. UNODC continued to assist land access efforts in cooperation with the National Land Agency, in particular through the formalization of property titles in territories with illicit crops. As part of a programme entitled “Formalize to substitute”, more than 2,000 land titles have been handed over. Also, 12,621 legal studies have been completed.

86. As part of the substitution strategy, 2,335 coca collectors were incorporated into community maintenance activities. They contributed to recovering 1,322 items of social infrastructure and repairing 1,762 km of rural paths and roads. The efforts saved the Government about 13,000,000 pesos in costs, a considerable amount.

87. In addition, 30 participatory rural assessments were delivered to communities affected by the presence of illicit crops. A total of 134,023 visits were made to family farms and 3,241 coordination and training sessions were held.

## **X. Conclusions**

88. The work with source countries to reduce the production of illicit crops requires continued efforts to strengthen national alternative development policies and

strategies, which are key factors in bringing legal income generation to vulnerable communities. Countries in the region have requested UNODC to continue to support efforts to voluntarily substitute crops, formalize land titles, and collect and process baseline surveys to better understand the social, economic, environmental and institutional factors at play in territories affected by illicit crops. Most of that support is financed by source countries, which ensures ownership and sustainability. However, financial support from international partners is needed to enhance their actions and results.

89. Continued support should be provided to Governments of the Andean region – Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Colombia and Peru – for the estimation of cocaine production figures, and for conducting specialized studies on the quantities of coca leaf and chemical inputs required for the production of cocaine. Such efforts have demonstrated the relevance of monitoring illicit crops combined with work on the chemical description of new psychoactive substances. Efforts of that type need to be reinforced as part of regional efforts to address the illicit drugs problem.

90. Member States and UNODC need to continue to foster intraregional and interregional dialogues on the production of, trafficking in and the consumption of illicit substances. Initiatives such as the North American dialogue on drug policy have helped to achieve results in key areas, such as protocols followed by customs authorities to detect the entry of substances and precursors.

91. Sustained intraregional cooperation is needed to develop more cooperation to tackle synthetic drugs and identify, trace and combat money-laundering. Examples of such initiatives include the joint plan of action between CELAC and China for the period 2019–2021, which includes extensive cooperation on trafficking in synthetic drugs, and the subregional meeting on trade-based money-laundering of Colombia, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, Panama and Peru.

92. Continued support is needed to reinforce the enhancement of capacity through the training of practitioners such as investigators, prosecutors and judges on key issues, including money-laundering resulting from drug trafficking, organized crime, corruption and forest crime. Capacity of that type can be reinforced through platforms that facilitate the exchange of intelligence such as the Regional Counter-Narcotics Intelligence Centre based in Santa Cruz, Plurinational State of Bolivia, and initiatives facilitating police and border control cooperation, such as through the Container Control Programme, AIRCOP and the Fortaleza annual conference.

93. Considering the relevance of evidence-based drug policies and programmes that incorporate human rights and public health, efforts to support the design and implementation of national strategies should continue and be expanded further, for example by following the example of the work carried out in Mexico to support the national strategy to prevent addictions, which includes work with specialized treatment centres and has a strong focus on education, health and communication.

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