

1 November 2005

Original: English*

**Fifteenth Meeting of Heads of National
Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Latin America
and the Caribbean**

Santa Marta, Colombia, 17-21 October 2005

**Report of the Fifteenth Meeting of Heads of National Drug
Law Enforcement Agencies, Latin America and the
Caribbean, held in Santa Marta, Colombia, from 17 to
21 October 2005**

Contents

	<i>Paragraphs</i>	<i>Page</i>
I. Matters calling for action by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs or brought to its attention	1-4	3
Recommendations adopted by the Fifteenth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Latin America and the Caribbean	1-4	3
II. Major regional drug trafficking trends and countermeasures	5-18	4
III. Implementation of the recommendations adopted by the Fourteenth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Latin America and the Caribbean	19-26	7
IV. Consideration of topics by working groups	27-33	9
V. Organization of the Sixteenth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Latin America and the Caribbean	34-37	12
VI. Other business	38	13
VII. Adoption of the report of the Fifteenth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Latin America and the Caribbean	39	13

* The present report is issued in English, French and Spanish, the working languages of the subsidiary body.



VIII.	Organization of the Meeting	40	13
A.	Opening and duration of the Meeting	40	13
B.	Attendance	41-44	13
C.	Election of officers	45	14
D.	Adoption of the agenda	46	14
E.	Documentation	47	14
IX.	Closure of the Meeting	48	14
Annex.	List of documents before the Fifteenth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Latin America and the Caribbean		15

I. Matters calling for action by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs or brought to its attention

Recommendations adopted by the Fifteenth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Latin America and the Caribbean

1. The Fifteenth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies (HONLEA), Latin America and the Caribbean, set up working groups to consider three main issues and to draw up recommendations on those issues. The observations and conclusions that led to the recommendations are presented in chapter IV below. The Fifteenth Meeting adopted the recommendations below, which had been drawn up by its working groups on the issues considered.

Issue 1. Drug trafficking trends and illicit drug distribution networks: law enforcement countermeasures

2. With regard to issue 1, “Drug trafficking trends and illicit drug distribution networks: law enforcement countermeasures”, the following recommendations were made:

(a) Governments of countries in Latin America and the Caribbean that have not already done so should encourage their authorities responsible for the control of precursor chemicals to engage the active support of the chemical industry in their enforcement efforts;

(b) States of the region should, as a minimum, ensure the effective control of precursor chemicals under international control;

(c) States controlling any substance not under international control that has been identified as being used in the production or manufacture of illicit drugs should ensure that they furnish appropriate information to other States of the region to avoid possible diversion of such a substance into illicit drug manufacture;

(d) In addition to those precursor chemicals currently under international control, States of the region should consider adopting a common list of substitute substances frequently used in the manufacture of illicit drugs;

(e) Governments should consider taking the necessary measures to prevent the diversion of “go-fast” boats, other vessels and their parts, which may be used in drug trafficking.

Issue 2. Links between drug trafficking and other forms of organized crime

3. With regard to issue 2, “Links between drug trafficking and other forms of organized crime”, the following recommendations were made:

(a) Governments should ensure that their law enforcement agencies are empowered to undertake controlled deliveries so as to maximize the tools available to investigate and dismantle groups engaged in organized crime and drug trafficking;

(b) To maximize their effectiveness in combating drug trafficking and other forms of cross-border organized crime, Governments should encourage their law enforcement agencies to combine resources in undertaking joint investigations;

(c) Governments should enter into multilateral agreements to assist their law enforcement agencies in establishing formal networks and procedures to facilitate exchange of information, provision of operational support and use of special investigative techniques.

Issue 3. Measures to counteract new trends in the use of technology by groups engaged in drug trafficking and organized crime

4. With regard to issue 3, “Measures to counteract new trends in the use of technology by groups engaged in drug trafficking and organized crime”, the following recommendations were made:

(a) Governments of countries in Latin America and the Caribbean should take immediate action to raise the awareness of their law enforcement agencies of the use of modern Internet and communication technology by drug traffickers and organized criminal groups and to ensure that those agencies are able and adequately prepared to respond;

(b) Governments should take steps to ensure that their national legislation enables law enforcement authorities to gain speedy access to the data held by Internet service providers and should consider legal provisions within their legislation that oblige service providers to retain records in support of investigation and prosecution of offences by law enforcement agencies;

(c) Governments of countries in the region should be encouraged to review bilateral and multilateral cooperation agreements to ensure that they are adequate in supporting the swift response required in the investigation of Internet-related offences and, where they are not, make appropriate amendments to those agreements.

II. Major regional drug trafficking trends and countermeasures

5. At its 1st and 2nd meetings, on 18 October, the Fifteenth 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 a document prepared by the Secretariat on statistics and drug trafficking trends in the Americas and worldwide (UNODC/HONLAC/2005/2) and a conference room paper prepared by the Secretariat on the current situation with respect to regional and subregional cooperation (UNODC/HONLAC/2005/CRP.1). In addition, country reports on the drug trafficking situation were submitted by Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Canada, Colombia, Cuba, Ecuador, Honduras, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Portugal, Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, the United States of America and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) (UNODC/HONLAC/2005/CRP.2-17).

6. A representative of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) introduced the item and made an audio-visual presentation on reported drug trafficking trends in the region in the context of global drug trafficking. The

presentation was based on information provided by Governments to UNODC. The representatives of Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Mexico and Peru also made audio-visual presentations. Statements were made by the representatives of Argentina, Italy and Spain. The observer for the secretariat of the International Narcotics Control Board also made an audio-visual presentation.

7. A number of representatives expressed appreciation for the documents prepared by the Secretariat and the related audio-visual presentation. Several representatives presented detailed information on regional drug trafficking trends and their linkages to trafficking through their countries. They also highlighted various countermeasures that were being implemented to combat drug trafficking in their countries and the region. A number of representatives supplemented the information given to UNODC in the annual reports questionnaire.

8. The representative of Colombia underlined that over the previous five years there had been a 50 per cent decline in coca bush cultivation in his country. He noted that combating drug trafficking in Colombia required a concerted effort to counter guerrilla and paramilitary forces as well as organized criminal groups and that terrorist organizations used drug trafficking as a principal source of funding for their criminal activities. It was emphasized that illicit cultivation and production of drugs were causing major damage to the environment, including the destruction of natural forests and biodiversity. He emphasized the commitment and continued efforts of the Government of Colombia to combat the drug problem, indicating that between 1995 and 2004 the Government had invested over \$1.2 billion in combating drug trafficking.

9. The representative of Italy described criminal networks made up of nationals of various countries who were involved in trafficking in cocaine, heroin, cannabis and amphetamine-type stimulants. In that context, he noted the collaboration of long-established Italian organized criminal groups with similar organizations composed of nationals of other countries.

10. The representative of Ecuador noted that his country, which until recently had been used by traffickers mainly as a transit area for illicit drug consignments, had become a major area used for the storage and shipment by sea to North America and Europe of illicit drugs originating in neighbouring countries. He also noted that the postal system was being used for drug trafficking. He referred to recent significant seizures of cocaine being trafficked by sea and to the valuable cooperation of Colombia in that area. Ecuador had recently adopted new legislation to combat money-laundering and was in the process of updating its national drug control law. He noted the detection of illicit coca bush cultivation areas of up to five hectares and underlined his Government's "zero tolerance" policy, which had led to swift manual eradication of illicit crops. In that regard, he referred to an agreement with UNODC to conduct a survey of illicit crop cultivation in Ecuador.

11. The representative of Peru noted with concern that successful eradication in one country tended to produce a "balloon effect" in other countries. Referring to the impact of successful eradication in the Andean countries over the previous five years, he emphasized that it was necessary to obtain more reliable data on the productivity of illicit crops in order to provide better estimates of total potential production of cocaine. He noted that his Government did not have sufficient resources to finance programmes for the prevention of drug abuse and the

rehabilitation of drug abusers and that further international cooperation was also needed in that field. He stated that limited illicit cultivation of opium poppy had been discovered, but that no heroin processing was taking place in Peru.

12. The representative of Spain indicated that his country accounted for 70 per cent of the cocaine seized in Europe. He mentioned the need to discuss methodologies for estimating potential world drug production and also to obtain more reliable information on the purity levels of illicit drugs, as well as on the analysis of residues or impurities.

13. The representative of Brazil noted that his country was not a producer of cocaine, heroin or amphetamine-type substances, but that 20 per cent of the cannabis consumed in the country was produced domestically. He referred to the increasing consumption of methylenedioxymethamphetamine (MDMA, commonly known as Ecstasy), which made it feasible that some illicit drug manufacture might be taking place in the country, though no specific evidence of such manufacture had yet been found. Referring to countermeasures to combat drug trafficking, he mentioned the efforts being made to promote regional cooperation through joint investigations, information exchange and intelligence-sharing, and the joint training of drug law enforcement officials from Brazil and neighbouring countries. Other countermeasures had included the establishment of bases at three key border points to facilitate gathering and exchange of intelligence with neighbouring countries and participation in international controlled deliveries. He also referred to the recent agreement with UNODC to establish a maritime data centre designed to combat drug trafficking by sea. Since the introduction of new legislation in 2004 allowing for the destruction of aircraft carrying illicit drugs, an increase in drug trafficking along land and river routes through Bolivia and Paraguay had been noted. He expressed concern at the use of the Internet as a means of promoting trade in illicit drugs, in particular amphetamine-type substances.

14. Referring to new trends, the representatives of Argentina and Brazil expressed concern at the appearance in their countries of laboratories that were “stretching” cocaine and coca base by combining them with other substances, including stimulants and depressants. They asked other representatives if they were aware of similar developments in their countries.

15. The representative of Mexico made a presentation on drug trafficking routes leading from South America through Central America and Mexico to illicit markets in North America and Europe, noting the increasing use of maritime routes for trafficking in illicit drugs. The use of aircraft for the purpose of smuggling large quantities of illicit drugs into Mexico had declined to a relatively insignificant level. Aeroplanes were being used to smuggle illicit drug consignments into Central America, from where they were transported by land to Mexican territory and beyond. As regards heroin consignments, Mexico was being used as a trans-shipment point. Global trafficking in Ecstasy had intensified, as reflected in increased seizures in Mexico in 2005.

16. The representative of Argentina expressed concern that the data reported to UNODC and those provided to the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD) of the Organization of American States (OAS) in some cases differed significantly, suggesting that that might be the result of data being provided by different government authorities or being incomplete, resulting in inconsistencies in

analyses. In that regard, he drew attention to the need to improve data collection systems and to promote data reliability and integrity. He emphasized the significant efforts of his Government to provide training for federal and provincial law enforcement officers, which had led to enhanced capacity and increased cooperation by improving capability and levels of confidence among officials from different agencies.

17. The observer for the secretariat of the International Narcotics Control Board informed the Meeting about the workings of the international monitoring system for the control of precursors, materials and equipment used in the illicit manufacture of drugs. He provided information on Operation Purple, Operation Topaz and Project Prism, emphasizing the success of Operation Purple in contributing, since its inception in 1999, to significant increases in the total volume of potassium permanganate seized each year. He noted that a combined meeting of the steering committees of Operation Topaz and Operation Purple, held in Mexico City from 3 to 5 October 2005, had recommended, *inter alia*, that the two international cooperation initiatives for the control of the main precursors used in the illicit manufacture of heroin and cocaine, respectively, be merged and continued under a new project, to be known as Project Cohesion. The success of international measures for the control of precursors depended on the provision and sharing of information by States.

18. All speakers emphasized the increasing volume of illicit drugs being trafficked by sea and the need to implement further control measures and enhance international cooperation in that regard. They also called for increased cooperation and collaboration at the regional and international levels, noting the important role played by joint training of law enforcement officers in the subject.

III. Implementation of the recommendations adopted by the Fourteenth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Latin America and the Caribbean

19. At its 2nd and 3rd meetings, on 18 and 19 October, the Fifteenth Meeting considered item 4 of its agenda, entitled "Implementation of the recommendations adopted by the Fourteenth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Latin America and the Caribbean, by States of the region". The Meeting had before it a document prepared by the Secretariat (UNODC/HONLAC/2005/3) on the basis of information provided by Governments in response to a questionnaire sent to all States represented at the Meeting. The document reflected the replies received by the Secretariat from Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Cuba, Ecuador, Grenada, Honduras, Mexico, Paraguay, Portugal, Spain, Trinidad and Tobago and Uruguay by 26 September 2005. After that date or in the course of the Meeting, replies to the questionnaire had been received from Antigua and Barbuda, Costa Rica, Italy, Jamaica, Peru and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of).

20. One representative expressed appreciation for the quality of the report prepared by the Secretariat, which provided a comprehensive and clear account of the responses provided by States.

21. During the discussion of the item, statements were made by the representatives of Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Haiti, Honduras and Jamaica. The Meeting was informed of action taken to implement specific recommendations adopted at the Fourteenth Meeting.

22. In relation to the recommendations under issue 1, “Effective measures against cocaine manufacture and trafficking”, and in particular the second recommendation, calling on Governments to identify or detect the use of chemicals that were common substitutes for those under international control and to share that information with other Governments of the region and competent international bodies, Colombia reported that it had compiled a compendium of its national legislation and regulations on the control of precursor chemicals, which had been provided to the authorities of Bolivia, who in turn were compiling a compendium of such legislation and regulations from all countries of the region.

23. Referring specifically to the first recommendation under issue 3 (UNODC/HONLAC/2004/5, para. 4 (a)), calling on Governments of the region to take steps to strengthen security at ports and container facilities as a first step towards deterring their use by traffickers in transporting illicit drugs, the representative of Argentina informed the Meeting that maritime drug trafficking was increasing and was cause for serious concern. Consequently, Argentina had fully implemented the International Maritime Organization’s International Ship and Port Facility Security Code (ISPS Code). He also noted that it was anticipated that scanning equipment for the inspection of containers would be provided in the near future. An increase had been observed in the shipment of illicit drugs in containers transported on the “Hidrovia”, a network of river-based highways, traversing Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay, where further efforts to reduce vulnerability were under way in order to combat drug trafficking.

24. The representative of Brazil referred to a new project being developed with support from the customs service of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and UNODC to establish a database for the control of containers and merchant vessels, in particular in relation to the monitoring and control of bills of lading and shipping manifests. The operation of the new database would be managed by a specially created unit, known as “Conportos”, a joint activity involving police, customs and the navy, which would deal with all aspects of prevention and suppression of trafficking by sea. In that regard, it was emphasized that increased international cooperation was a priority.

25. The representative of Jamaica referred to the significant investments it was making to increase operational capacity for drug law enforcement at sea through the purchase of additional vessels and aircraft for use in control and interdiction activities. It was reported that Jamaica had taken measures to improve security at the ports of Kingston and Montego Bay, including the installation of mobile X-ray equipment and closed-circuit television.

26. Referring to the meeting of the CICAD Expert Group on Maritime Narcotrafficking, which was developing operational manuals and reviewing legislation in the area, Honduras invited those countries not yet participating in the Expert Group to do so, bringing to their attention that the next meeting would take place in Mexico City from 25 to 28 October 2005. Haiti mentioned its participation

in the Expert Group and requested the United Nations to consider providing training for its experts to improve controls at ports and container facilities.

IV. Consideration of topics by working groups

27. At its 3rd-5th meetings, on 19 and 20 October, the Fifteenth Meeting considered item 5 of its agenda, entitled “Consideration of topics by working groups”. The observations made by the working groups and the conclusions reached are presented below. For the recommendations formulated by the working groups and approved by the plenary, see chapter I above.

Observations and conclusions of the working groups

Issue 1. Drug trafficking trends and illicit drug distribution networks: law enforcement countermeasures

28. The working group on issue 1, “Drug trafficking trends and illicit drug distribution networks: law enforcement countermeasures”, met on 19 October. In its consideration of the topic, the working group made the following observations:

(a) Immediate replanting with readily available seedlings following eradication activities was identified as a major problem in Colombia, with replanting rates on eradicated coca bush cultivation sites estimated at approximately 70 per cent. Trafficking groups were now able to produce four to six harvests per year from coca bush cultivation sites;

(b) Using new methods, traffickers had managed to increase the alkaloid extracted from coca leaf, resulting in increased productivity from each harvest;

(c) It was becoming increasingly common for precursor chemicals to be recycled, distilled and reused as many as five or six times. Traffickers were also starting to use non-controlled substances as substitutes for the precursor chemicals under international control;

(d) Region-wide cooperation in undertaking precursor control operations, such as Operation Six Borders, had been effective in preventing attempts at diversion of precursors, establishing lines of communication between national law enforcement agencies in the participating countries and strengthening cooperation;

(e) International trafficking routes used by cocaine manufacturers targeting Europe were changing. There was increased use of countries in West and North Africa as staging points and warehouses for illicit drugs originating in South America and destined for the drug markets of Europe.

29. The working group drew the following conclusions:

(a) The introduction of tight regulations over the ownership and use of “go-fast” boats was an effective method of exercising control and preventing their use in drug trafficking;

(b) As law enforcement became more effective against growers of coca bush in Colombia, other States of the region must watch for signs of increased illicit drug activity as a result of displacement within their territories;

(c) It was difficult to stop and seize, without good cause, chemical products not subject to international control that were commonly used as substitutes for controlled precursor chemicals, as those substances could be legitimately used in everyday activities;

(d) There should be agreement among States of the region upon a common list of substances to be the subject of control, in conformity with respective national law, so as to deprive traffickers of their use in the illicit manufacture of cocaine;

(e) National law enforcement agencies of African countries were often unprepared to act effectively against the activities of sophisticated smuggling networks transporting cocaine from South America through their countries to Europe.

Issue 2. Links between drug trafficking and other forms of organized crime

30. The working group on issue 2, “Links between drug trafficking and other forms of organized crime”, met during the 4th and 5th meetings, on 19 and 20 October. In its consideration of the topic, the working group made the following observations:

(a) In a number of States, specific national groups, including Chinese, Colombian, Nigerian and Venezuelan nationals, had been identified as being directly involved in drug trafficking;

(b) Traditional drug cartels were undergoing transformation, lowering the profile of their organizations and evolving into more specialized operations or clans, which in turn were offering their services to different client groups;

(c) The new clan structure of drug trafficking organizations had compartmentalized their operations and activities into specialized separate units dealing, inter alia, with planting and cultivating coca bush and processing coca leaf, laboratory management, precursor management, sale and distribution networks and money-laundering;

(d) Controlled delivery was a valuable technique that enabled law enforcement agencies to link drug trafficking with other forms of organized crime;

(e) Illicit drugs had become a commodity of trade for organized criminal groups, generating funds in the same way as the sale of stolen vehicles, the manufacture of false identity documents, the sale of arms or trafficking in persons.

31. The working group drew the following conclusions:

(a) The new structure of trafficking organizations, operating in small cells or clans, had made their successful investigation more difficult;

(b) Law enforcement authorities should use controlled delivery techniques to investigate those involved in organized crime and drug trafficking;

(c) The Falcone checklist on organized criminal groups had proved useful to law enforcement agencies in identifying how such entities operated;

(d) Kidnapping was an offence commonly used by organized criminal groups to recover debts incurred from their illegal enterprises, such as drug trafficking.

Members of the criminal organization involved or participants in the illegal activity were those usually targeted.

Issue 3. Measures to counteract new trends in the use of technology by drug trafficking and organized criminal groups

32. The working group on issue 3, “Measures to counteract new trends in the use of technology by drug trafficking and organized criminal groups”, met during the 5th meeting, on 20 October. In its consideration of the issue, the working group made the following observations:

- (a) Traffickers were using the Internet to promote and sell illicit drugs;
- (b) Criminals were using public Internet sites, electronic mail (e-mail) and instant messaging services to maintain their anonymity and to protect the relative security of their communications from interception by drug law enforcement authorities;
- (c) All law enforcement agencies needed the expertise to investigate cyber-offences, recover computerized records and data and successfully intercept the electronic communications of those engaged in drug trafficking and organized crime in order to provide evidence for effective investigation and prosecution;
- (d) Existing international cooperation mechanisms, such as the use of letters rogatory, for obtaining evidence from foreign jurisdictions were proving inadequate to support successful cybercrime investigations. As Internet service providers retained records for short periods only and registered domains and users were often in different jurisdictions, a faster and more effective means of obtaining such information was needed;
- (e) Telephone communications remained the primary and preferred method of communication between drug traffickers and members of criminal groups within the region. Use of one-time cell phone numbers was perceived by such individuals as an effective way to maintain secure communications;
- (f) The task force approach to the investigation of trafficking groups, utilizing the human and other resources of all pertinent law enforcement agencies, added value and strength to such investigations.

33. The working group drew the following conclusions:

- (a) Law enforcement authorities would be increasingly challenged to successfully investigate and dismantle drug trafficking organizations whose members used advanced technologies, such as encrypted e-mail and voice over the Internet protocols (VoIPs);
- (b) Internet-based communication technologies were the direction personal communications were taking and law enforcement agencies must ensure that they were able to meet the challenge of those technologies when they were used by criminal groups to further their illegal activities;
- (c) Law enforcement agencies should regularly review the vulnerability of their communication systems to ensure that they were secure and capable of blocking attempts by criminals to intercept their operational transmissions or gain access to sensitive information and records;

(d) There was an urgent need for cooperation between legislators, law enforcement agencies, the judiciary and private Internet service providers, if investigation of offences occurring in cyberspace using the Internet was to be successful.

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

34. At its 7th meeting, on 21 October, the Fifteenth Meeting considered item 6 of its agenda, entitled "Organization of the Sixteenth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Latin America and the Caribbean". The Meeting had before it a note by the Secretariat (UNODC/HONLAC/2005/4) drawing attention to certain issues that needed to be addressed during the Sixteenth Meeting and containing a draft provisional agenda for that Meeting. Statements were made by the representatives of Argentina, Brazil, Ecuador and Spain.

35. The representative of Argentina informed the Meeting of his Government's offer to host the Sixteenth Meeting, in 2006. The Meeting welcomed the offer of the Government of Argentina. The representative of Argentina indicated that his Government would communicate with the Secretariat in order to make the necessary arrangements for the hosting of the Sixteenth Meeting.

36. With regard to the topics for discussion in working groups (item 5 of the provisional agenda) at the Sixteenth Meeting, the following two themes were proposed: (a) examination of trafficking in cocaine and amphetamine-type substances in the region and whether, with declining levels of cultivation of coca bush and a reported increase in the level of trafficking in amphetamine-type substances, the region was experiencing the substitution of cocaine for amphetamine-type substances and cannabis; and (b) drug trafficking by sea: risk assessment, targeting and profiling methods to identify, select and interdict containers used for drug trafficking.

37. The Meeting took note of the proposals and requested the Secretariat to formulate the topics for discussion in working groups prior to the Sixteenth Meeting. On that basis, the following draft provisional agenda for the Sixteenth Meeting was approved:

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda.
3. Major regional drug trafficking trends and countermeasures.
4. Implementation of the recommendations adopted by the Fifteenth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Latin America and the Caribbean.
5. Consideration of topics by working groups.
6. Organization of the Seventeenth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Latin America and the Caribbean.

7. Other business.
8. Adoption of the report of the Sixteenth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Latin America and the Caribbean.

VI. Other business

38. At its 7th meeting, on 21 October, the Fifteenth Meeting considered item 7 of its agenda, entitled "Other business". Statements were made by the representatives of Argentina, Colombia, Honduras, Peru and Trinidad and Tobago.

VII. Adoption of the report of the Fifteenth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Latin America and the Caribbean

39. At its 7th meeting, on 21 October 2005, the Fifteenth Meeting adopted its report (UNODC/HONLAC/2005/L.1 and Add.1-5), including the reports of the working groups and the recommendations contained therein, as orally amended.

VIII. Organization of the Meeting

A. Opening and duration of the Meeting

40. The Fifteenth Meeting of HONLEA, Latin America and the Caribbean, was held in Santa Marta, Colombia, from 17 to 21 October 2005. The inaugural ceremony was held on 17 October and was addressed by Mr. Álvaro Uribe Vélez, President of the Republic of Colombia. A representative of the Executive Director of UNODC and the Prosecutor-General of Colombia also addressed the Meeting.

B. Attendance

41. The following States members of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean were represented: Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Cuba, Ecuador, France, Grenada, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Italy, Jamaica, Mexico, Netherlands, Panama, Peru, Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, United Kingdom, United States, Uruguay and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of).

42. Australia, Israel and the Russian Federation were represented by observers.

43. The International Criminal Police Organization, the secretariat of the International Narcotics Control Board and CICAD were represented by observers.

44. UNODC served as the secretariat of the Meeting.

C. Election of officers

45. At its 1st meeting, on 18 October 2005, the Meeting elected the following officers by acclamation:

<i>Chairman:</i>	Juan Carlos Vives Menotti (Colombia)
<i>First Vice-Chairman:</i>	José Ramón Granero (Argentina)
<i>Second Vice-Chairman:</i>	René Magloire (Haiti)
<i>Rapporteur:</i>	Bolívar Cisneros Galarza (Ecuador)

D. Adoption of the agenda

46. At its 1st meeting, on 18 October 2005, the Meeting adopted the following agenda:

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda.
3. Major regional drug trafficking trends and countermeasures.
4. Implementation of the recommendations adopted by the Fourteenth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Latin America and the Caribbean, by States of the region.
5. Consideration of topics by working groups:
 - (a) Drug trafficking trends and illicit drug distribution networks: law enforcement countermeasures;
 - (b) Links between drug trafficking and other forms of organized crime;
 - (c) Measures to counteract trends in the use of technology by drug trafficking and organized criminal groups.
6. Organization of the Sixteenth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Latin America and the Caribbean.
7. Other business.
8. Adoption of the report of the Fifteenth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Latin America and the Caribbean.

E. Documentation

47. The documents before the Meeting are listed in the annex to the present report.

IX. Closure of the Meeting

48. Closing statements were made by the representatives of Argentina, Brazil and Haiti. The Chairman of the Fifteenth Meeting delivered a closing statement.

Annex

List of documents before the Fifteenth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Latin America and the Caribbean

<i>Document number</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>	<i>Title or description</i>
UNODC/HONLAC/2005/1	2	Provisional agenda, including annotations and provisional timetable
UNODC/HONLAC/2005/2	3	Statistics on drug trafficking trends in the Americas and worldwide
UNODC/HONLAC/2005/3	4	Implementation of the recommendations adopted by the Fourteenth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Latin America and the Caribbean
UNODC/HONLAC/2005/4	6	Organization of the Sixteenth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Latin America and the Caribbean
UNODC/HONLAC/2005/ L.1 and Add.1-5	8	Draft report
UNODC/HONLAC/2005/ CRP.1	3	Current situation with respect to regional and subregional cooperation
UNODC/HONLAC/2005/ CRP.2-17	3	Country reports