

9 October 2013

English, French and Spanish only\*

## Report of the Twenty-third Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Quito, from 30 September to 4 October 2013

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\* English, French and Spanish are the working languages of the subsidiary body.

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

### **Recommendations adopted by the Twenty-third Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Latin America and the Caribbean**

1. The participants in the Twenty-third Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies (HONLEA), Latin America and the Caribbean:

(a) Recalled the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem, in which Member States decided that the Commission on Narcotic Drugs at its fifty-seventh session, in 2014, should conduct a high-level review of the implementation by Member States of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action;

(b) Also recalled General Assembly resolution 67/193, in which the Assembly decided to convene, in early 2016, a special session on the world drug problem to review the progress in the implementation of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action, including an assessment of the achievements and challenges in countering the world drug problem, within the framework of the three international drug control conventions and other relevant United Nations instruments;

(c) Bore in mind the request of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs in its resolution 56/10, for the meetings of the subsidiary bodies of the Commission, on the basis of their deliberations, to submit regional recommendations aimed at moving forward in the implementation of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action;

(d) Recalled Commission on Narcotic Drugs resolution 56/12, in which the Commission decided that the medium-term review, including intersessional meetings, should take into account, among other things, relevant studies and reports from the subsidiary bodies of the Commission, and called upon the participants in the high-level review to take account of the work of the regional meetings of heads of national drug law enforcement agencies, in particular initiatives that could further cooperation with regard to drug law enforcement;

(e) Recognized that the principle of common and shared responsibility guides the individual and joint actions of all States and ensures their equal commitment to countering the world drug problem, in all its dimensions, encouraging ever greater international cooperation in strengthening national capacities on the basis of a comprehensive, balanced and multidisciplinary approach;

(f) Adopted the recommendations below.

#### **Issue 1. Demand reduction, prevention measures and drug dependence treatment**

2. With regard to issue 1, "Demand reduction, prevention measures and drug dependence treatment", the following recommendations were made:

(a) Governments should adopt inter-agency approaches to the drug problem that balance demand and supply reduction, with appropriate regard for harm reduction policies and practices;

(b) Governments are encouraged to recognize drug use and dependence as a public health problem in order to facilitate the prevention, early identification and treatment of drug users in various social and public health services, and to allocate sufficient resources to prevention, treatment and rehabilitation;

(c) Governments should foster the development of scientific, evidence-based national monitoring mechanisms that make it possible to identify current trends in drug use and should consider adopting response policies based on that evidence;

(d) Governments should focus on community-based approaches to demand reduction, such as community policing, educational programmes and programmes focusing on youth and family, which are concepts that have been successfully implemented in the region and can serve as models for replication.

## **Issue 2. Trafficking trends**

3. With regard to issue 2, “Trafficking trends”, the following recommendations were made:

(a) Governments are encouraged to further strengthen their national response for the detection, investigation and seizure of the proceeds of money-laundering and to increase resources and the capacities of law enforcement agencies to undertake those tasks;

(b) Governments should take steps to ensure that the drug law enforcement agencies operating at their national border entry points (land crossings, seaports and airports) are adequately supported with the technical assistance required to identify any element, substance and material suspected of being impregnated, diluted or mixed with cocaine hydrochloride or its derivatives;

(c) Where they have not already done so, Governments are encouraged to take steps to strengthen inter-agency coordination of human resources and technical support in order to improve the management and effectiveness of their national counter-narcotics strategies;

(d) Governments are encouraged to increase support to transit countries to fight against criminal organizations making use of territories with limited state access, including through the sharing of information and operational intelligence, the undertaking of joint simultaneous and coordinated operations, training and support for the investigation of those directing the trafficking organizations.

## **Issue 3. Manufacture of cocaine and amphetamine-type stimulants and precursor control**

4. With regard to issue 3, “Manufacture of cocaine and amphetamine-type stimulants and precursor control”, the following recommendations were made:

(a) Governments are encouraged to focus on preventive measures to control precursor chemicals and essential chemicals by strengthening the administrative procedures they exercise over the commercial use of those chemicals through such initiatives as a national registry of authorized precursor exporters, importers and

end-users; enhanced capacity for analysis and the inspection of authorized dealers, which will in turn provide information to further guide the application of effective controls to prevent the diversion of such chemicals;

(b) Governments are encouraged to adopt a proactive approach to establishing a collaborative relationship with the domestic chemical industry, together with strengthening the capacity, and enhancing the knowledge, of their national competent authorities and drug law enforcement agencies with respect to scheduled and non-scheduled precursors and essential chemicals that may be diverted for use in the illicit manufacture of drugs;

(c) Governments should, under the principle of common and shared responsibility, develop their technical capacity to identify new psychoactive substances as they emerge, and collaborate in that area by sharing information about assay development and practice;

(d) Governments are encouraged to strengthen their legal frameworks to ensure effective cooperation in their efforts to prevent the diversion of precursor chemicals from international trade.

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

5. At its 1st and 2nd meetings, on 30 September 2013, 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 of the Secretariat on statistics on drug trafficking trends in the Americas and worldwide (UNODC/HONLAC/23/2) and a conference room paper on the Current situation with respect to regional and subregional cooperation (UNODC/HONLAC/23/CRP.1). In addition, country reports on the illicit drug trafficking situation were submitted by Argentina, Colombia, Ecuador, El Salvador, Chile, France, Honduras, Italy, Jamaica, Mexico, Paraguay, Peru and Spain (UNODC/HONLAC/23/CRP.2-14).

6. A representative of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) introduced the item and made an audiovisual 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. Representatives of Colombia, Mexico, Honduras, Peru, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Paraguay, Ecuador, Panama, Haiti, Trinidad and Tobago, Guyana and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland made statements. The representatives of Colombia and Barbados made audiovisual presentations.

7. 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 and provided information and data on national advances and achievements made in combating drug trafficking. Updated data and information on drug seizures, methods of concealment, air and maritime trafficking routes and the arrest of significant individuals were also shared.

8. A number of participants drew attention to updated legal frameworks that had helped to make operations more effective. Some speakers reported on national

strategies to combat drug trafficking that had been recently adopted in order to make the fight against drug trafficking a priority. Policies adopted ranged from approaches with an emphasis on human rights and individual freedoms to those with a focus on penalty and prosecution. A shift to evidence-based methods was reported by some countries. Many delegations reported on special units set up to fight organized crime and drug trafficking in an integrated manner, which had been very effective in stopping criminal activities.

9. Attention was drawn to the importance of alternative development following the eradication of illicit crops, as a means of promoting social inclusion and minimizing the social cost. A number of delegates highlighted the support received at the international level to reduce illicit production and develop programmes in the areas of preventive education and health care. In that connection, the drug problem was identified by many speakers as a public health issue.

10. Limited resources were identified as one of the prime impediments to more effective responses to the problem of drug trafficking. As traffickers preferred to use remote areas of difficult access, the response required resources adequate for the situation such as helicopters, to be able to effectively disrupt trafficking routes. Many speakers highlighted an increase in resources devoted to the fight against drug trafficking as a result of a policy shift and lessons learned from past experience.

11. Some delegates, noting that their countries were used as transit countries, emphasized the importance of the shared responsibility of the countries of supply, demand and transit. Most speakers mentioned the need for an integrated and balanced approach in that respect. Some States had focused on cross-border cooperation in order to put an end to their status of transit country. Joint operations and intelligence-sharing had proven effective and resulted in many successful seizures and improved skill levels among all participants.

12. Some speakers reported on their country's advances in identifying factors of vulnerability that made a particular region susceptible to drug production and trafficking. Constant monitoring in all regions was necessary to detect distinguishing features. One speaker mentioned community policing as a way to reach and support vulnerable groups.

13. Many speakers stated that international cooperation was required to successfully reduce the supply of illicit drugs, as traffickers operated across borders and would exploit the weakest link in the international law enforcement system. Reference was made to the successful work in the areas of control and inspection of the container ports and airports of the region, in particular through the Container Control Programme of UNODC and the World Customs Organization (WCO).

14. The problem of corruption in institutions was highlighted by a number of speakers who stressed that the fight against drug trafficking could not be successful unless corruption was fought. Cooperation between national and international entities was found to be a vehicle to reduce corruption because it increased transparency.

15. The increased targeting by drug traffickers of young people and children, particularly in educational settings, was identified as an alarming trend. Some speakers gave examples of successful awareness-raising campaigns.

16. Some speakers drew attention to the latest threats posed by drug trafficking by sea, highlighting the increased use of semi-submersible vehicles. Those vehicles had proved capable of moving large quantities of drugs with a low rate of detection, which resulted in a large profit margin for traffickers using that method. Only very limited success in detection was reported.

### **III. Implementation of the recommendations adopted by the Twenty-second Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Latin America and the Caribbean**

17. At its 2nd meeting, on 30 September 2013, the Meeting considered item 4 of its agenda, entitled “Implementation of the recommendations adopted by the Twenty-second Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Latin America and the Caribbean”. The Meeting had before it a document prepared by the Secretariat (UNODC/HONLAC/23/3) on the basis of information provided by Governments in response to a questionnaire sent to all State members of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean. The document reflected the answers received by the Secretariat from Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, El Salvador, France, Guatemala, Honduras, Italy, Paraguay, Peru, Portugal, Spain, Uruguay and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) by 21 August 2013. After that date, responses to the questionnaire were submitted by Argentina, Mexico and the Republic of Korea.

18. The Secretary of the Meeting made an introductory statement. The representatives of Mexico, Ecuador, Colombia and Peru made statements on the actions their Governments had taken to implement the recommendations adopted at the Twenty-second meeting, in addition to those already contained in document UNODC/HONLAC/23/3.

19. The representative of Mexico referred to the measures his Government had taken to respond to an ever-increasing number of chemicals on the market. In 2011, Mexico had inaugurated a central forensic laboratory to identify, qualify and classify indicators from the point of view of forensic chemistry and to prevent the diversion of substances. In 2009, Mexico had introduced an amendment to its penal code providing the basis for recent health-care reform by defining the amounts of specific drugs appropriate for personal consumption. Since maximum consumption levels for individuals had been defined, arbitrary application of the law was prevented. Microtrafficking had been successfully prosecuted at the level of local jurisdictions, in addition to being covered by the federal jurisdiction.

20. The representative of Ecuador provided information on a legal framework that was being developed. To deal with the serious issue of microtrafficking, Ecuador was focusing on comprehensive prevention and awareness-raising in educational settings. Strategies had been developed to target young people, including sport activities. Ecuador considered itself a pioneer in container control, and the importance of having well-trained analysts at seaports was emphasized. Alerts related to container control that had been sent to authorities in other countries had often led to successful seizures. The speaker noted that Ecuador’s cross-border cooperation with Colombia and Peru had been successful. In implementing the fifth recommendation of the Twenty-second Meeting (see UNODC/HONLAC/22/5,

para. 3 (b)), Ecuador had cooperated with many foreign jurisdictions and carried out various operations in a coordinated and synchronized manner, based on international rules and standards.

21. The representative of Colombia noted that participation in the programme to counter illicit drugs of the Andean Community (PRADICAN) had improved the country's forensic analysis capabilities. A study conducted on the purity of cocaine in the country had found purity levels to be lower than expected, as cocaine was cut with substances that changed its pharmacological nature. It was reported that improved forensics helped to prosecute court cases. The Colombian office of the Attorney General took part in United Nations exercises with laboratories worldwide. With respect to precursor control, the representative reported that ketamine, tramadol and zolpidem had been placed under national control and suggested that other countries do likewise. Ketamine in particular had been diverted for illicit use. The speaker noted that consumption of methadone was increasing in the country not only because it was used for treatment but also because it was purposefully used to cause addiction. Microtrafficking was used in Colombia to avoid the control by its State authorities of large cargo shipments.

22. The representative of Peru reported on the introduction of forensic laboratories that issued expert opinions and provided training to other authorities. Studies on drug consumption by school-age children had revealed alarmingly high prevalence rates. Prevention work was ongoing at the national and regional levels, in conjunction with activities in the health and education sectors, but the problem of drug consumption was not sufficiently recognized by school administrations. The national drug observatory was being reinforced with State resources and by international partners, specifically the European Union, through the project for the prevention of the diversion of drug precursors in the Latin American and Caribbean region (PRELAC) and other programmes. Plans for 2013 included the conduct of a survey on precursor control and measures for improved cooperation with the private sector.

#### **IV. Consideration of topics by working groups**

23. At its 3rd to 6th meetings, on 1 and 2 October 2013, the Meeting considered item 5 of its agenda, entitled "Consideration of topics by working groups". The observations and conclusions of the working groups are presented below. For the recommendations of the working groups approved in the plenary meeting, see section I above.

##### **Observations and conclusions of the working groups**

###### **Issue 1. Demand reduction, prevention measures and drug dependence treatment**

24. The working group on issue 1, "Demand reduction, prevention measures and drug dependence treatment", held two meetings, on 1 October 2013. In its consideration of the topic, the working group made the following observations:



(a) Many countries recognized the need to reduce the demand for drugs as well as take steps to increase prevention activities and the provision of drug treatment for drug users;

(b) Many States had adopted new prevention strategies with an emphasis on demand reduction. That represented a shift from previous approaches that focused more on supply reduction;

(c) The creation of community centres for vulnerable people that functioned as centres for counselling, centres for the distribution of information and platforms for dialogue were reported as being effective in the prevention of addiction;

(d) The expanding range of social reintegration programmes and the development of effective alternatives to imprisonment, especially for drug offenders convicted of non-violent crimes, were welcomed;

(e) Strategies and legal frameworks gave priority to prevention, but resources were lacking, as the cost of implementation was often underestimated;

(f) New methods of manufacturing and distributing new psychoactive substances led to their greater availability and ease of access.

25. The working group drew the following conclusions:

(a) A balanced approach between supply and demand reduction was necessary;

(b) It was important that drug dependence be recognized as a public health problem by adopting an integrated approach that paid attention to all drugs, including alcohol and tobacco and by developing treatment and reintegration strategies;

(c) Alternatives to imprisonment should be promoted, and risk mitigation and/or harm reduction services such as the distribution of syringes or the use of agonists, antagonists or naloxone could be included in health-care programmes.

(d) The sufficient allocation of resources by Governments in order to put in operation the strategies adopted in the area of demand reduction was the basis of credible policymaking;

(e) The availability of sufficient and accurate data was essential for developing public policies for a comprehensive approach to the illicit drug phenomenon, based on scientific evidence that would improve interventions;

(f) A focus on community-based solutions, including community policing, school education programmes for children, the training of members of civil society and the formation of networks of different actors to implement preventive action, in coordination with national anti-drug authorities, had proved successful.

## **Issue 2. Trafficking trends**

26. The working group on issue 2, “Trafficking trends”, met during the 4th and 5th meetings, held on 1 and 2 October 2013. In its consideration of the topic, the working group made the following observations:

(a) Drug traffickers continued to exploit areas with limited State presence and vulnerable communities, using violence and intimidation to expand illicit crop

cultivation and facilitate the transport of that illicit production to destination markets;

(b) There was a need for closer public/private sector cooperation if money-laundering was to be successfully investigated and discouraged;

(c) The application of well-structured risk assessment and selection procedures were the foundations of effective border management;

(d) Cocaine in suspension was increasingly used as a concealment strategy, by which cocaine hydrochloride was dissolved in liquid products (such as fruit pulp, shampoo, wine and diesel) and hidden in commercial packaging, making it hard to detect.

27. The working group drew the following conclusions:

(a) Drug trafficking was a global phenomenon that affected the security of States and weakened State structures;

(b) More Government support was needed to assist rural communities subject to the intimidation and violence of gangs (maras) engaged in the trafficking of illicit drugs;

(c) A more integrated, interdisciplinary response was required to prevent, control and suppress money-laundering, as the current lack of coordination between countries, their regulatory bodies and law enforcement agencies in addressing money-laundering offences weakened enforcement efforts and the recovery of illicitly gained assets;

(d) The UNODC/WCO Container Control Programme was providing valuable support in upgrading the professional skills of law enforcement agencies charged with the responsibility of enforcing border control and community protection;

(e) Drug law enforcement agencies operating at borders needed to strengthen their cooperation and information exchange on detected *modi operandi* currently used by traffickers and the movement of light aircraft and fishing vessels used to transport illicit drugs across the region.

### **Issue 3. Manufacture of cocaine and amphetamine-type stimulants and precursor control**

28. The working group on issue 3, "Manufacture of cocaine and amphetamine-type stimulants and precursor control", met during the 6th meeting, held on 2 October 2013. In its consideration of the topic, the working group made the following observations:

(a) The region had become much more vulnerable to the illicit manufacture and abuse of amphetamine-type stimulants;

(b) Trafficking in new psychoactive substances, either in pure form or in preparations not controlled under the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961 or the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971, had undergone a major increase worldwide and had recently been detected in the region;

(c) As domestic procedural frameworks remained weak, maintaining effective controls over the diversion of precursor chemicals and essential chemicals to illicit channels remained a challenge for authorities in the region;

(d) Extraction, refinement and manufacture of cocaine had become more efficient, faster and harder to detect, as it was increasingly taking place in smaller artisanal production sites and tents. Effective counter-measures had in some cases led to the displacement of laboratories to transit countries.

29. The working group drew the following conclusions:

(a) The lack of data on the toxicology and potential for dependence of new psychoactive substances, their identification and effective legislation to control their abuse would pose new challenges for government policymakers, health ministries and drug law enforcement agencies;

(b) It was important that the region's national competent authorities responsible for administrative control over precursor chemicals and essential chemicals apply compatible controls over non-scheduled chemicals used for illicit drug manufacture so as to avoid encouraging illicit trafficking in those chemicals in neighbouring States;

(c) The increased number of reports of dismantling of clandestine sites established specifically for the recycling of precursor chemicals used in the manufacture of cocaine clearly indicated that the application of controls over precursor chemicals was effective;

(d) The abuse of prescription medicines had increased in the region, and appropriate steps needed to be taken to raise the awareness of the risks involved in such behaviour, particularly among youth.

## **V. Follow-up to the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem**

30. At the 7th meeting, held on 3 October, participants discussed item 6, entitled "Follow-up to the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem". For its consideration of the item, the participants had before them the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem, adopted during the high-level segment of the fifty-second session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and by the General Assembly in its resolution 64/182.

31. The Secretary of the Meeting made an introductory statement. The representative of Argentina made a presentation. Statements were made by the representatives of Mexico and Colombia.

32. The Secretary provided information on the areas covered and the main actions envisaged in the Political Declaration and Plan of Action. Attention was drawn, in particular, to part II of the Plan of Action, on supply reduction and related measures, and to responses provided by Member States to the annual report questionnaire, as

reflected in document UNODC/HONLAC/23/2. It was noted that the Commission would conduct a review of the implementation by Member States of the Plan of Action at its fifty-seventh session, in 2014, and that the meetings of heads of national drug law enforcement agencies, Latin America and the Caribbean, could contribute to that review by transmitting input on the implementation, in particular, of part II of the Plan of Action.

33. The representative of Argentina made a presentation on judicial cooperation, with reference to section F of the Plan of Action, stressing the importance of providing mutual legal assistance with regard to the world drug problem and transnational organized crime.

34. The representative of Mexico highlighted the fact that international judicial cooperation was a clear expression of the common and shared responsibility, as set out in the Political Declaration. The setting-up of networks of exchange had led to the building of confidence between institutions and countries in that area. With respect to the high-level review of the implementation of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, scheduled for 2014, he requested that the review should not be conducted in isolation from regional and national processes. The representative further reiterated Mexico's commitment to multilateralism as the best means of solving the world drug problem.

35. In line with Commission on Narcotic Drugs resolution 56/10, the Chair proposed including as a preamble to the recommendations of the Twenty-third Meeting, a paragraph making reference to the Political Declaration and Plan of Action.

36. The participants agreed to submit to the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, pursuant to the request made by the Commission in its resolution 56/10, the recommendations made on the basis of the deliberations of the working groups held under agenda item 5 as regional recommendations aimed at making progress in the implementation of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action.

## **VI. Organization of the Twenty-fourth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Latin America and the Caribbean**

37. At its 8th meeting, held on 3 October, participants discussed item 7, entitled "Organization of the Twenty-fourth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Latin America and the Caribbean". For its consideration of the item, the Meeting had before it a note by the Secretariat (UNODC/HONLAC/23/4) drawing attention to certain issues to be addressed at the Twenty-fourth Meeting and containing a draft provisional agenda for that Meeting.

38. The Chair of the Meeting made a statement. Statements were also made by the representatives of Mexico, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana and Honduras. The Secretary of the Meeting also made a statement.

39. The Secretary informed the Meeting that the Twenty-fourth Meeting was scheduled to be held on 6-10 October 2014. The Chair invited delegations of States interested in hosting the Twenty-fourth Meeting to contact the Secretariat in order to

determine the venue of the Meeting as early as possible and thus facilitate preparations.

40. The Meeting held a comprehensive discussion on possible topics to be considered for discussion by the working groups at the Twenty-fourth Meeting, under item 5 of the draft provisional agenda. The following topics were proposed: (a) measures adopted to reduce the diversion of precursors and essential chemicals; (b) non-therapeutic use, diversion and abuse of medical preparations; (c) demand reduction, prevention and treatment; and (d) cooperation and technical assistance, with special attention to transit countries.

41. The Meeting took note of the proposals and requested the Secretariat to finalize the issues to be discussed by working groups prior to the Twenty-fourth Meeting. On that basis, the following draft provisional agenda for the Twenty-fourth 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 Twenty-third Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Latin America and the Caribbean.
5. Consideration of topics by working groups [*to be determined*].
6. Follow-up to the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem.
7. Organization of the Twenty-fifth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Latin America and the Caribbean.
8. Other business.
9. Adoption of the report.

## VII. Other business

42. At its 8th meeting, on 3 October 2013, the Meeting considered item 8 of its agenda, entitled "Other business".

43. Statements were made by the representatives of Mexico, Colombia, Haiti and Ecuador. The observer for the Russian Federation also made a statement.

44. The representative of Mexico, recalling the mandate given to Mexico by HONLEA, Latin America and the Caribbean, to produce an annual statistical publication on drugs supply reduction covering countries of the region, stressed the importance of the yearbook and requested continued support and input for the compilation of the data.

45. The representative of Colombia commended Mexico on the work on the yearbook and suggested that the regional trends and analysis provided be presented at the Twenty-fourth Meeting.

46. The representative of Haiti congratulated Mexico on the production of the yearbook and indicated that the publication was most useful to his country.

47. The representative of Mexico agreed to make a formal presentation on the subject at the Twenty-fourth Meeting and reiterated the need for timely contributions and encouraged delegations to submit recommendations to improve the yearbook.

48. The representative of Ecuador indicated that the SISALEM software, developed by Ecuador to monitor the trade in precursors to prevent their diversion, would be available free of charge to other countries, upon request.

49. The observer for the Russian Federation highlighted the importance of cooperation with Latin American countries to counter the influx of drugs into the Russian Federation and invited all countries of the region to commence or expand cooperation.

## **VIII. Adoption of the report of the Twenty-third Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Latin America and the Caribbean**

50. At its 8th meeting, on 4 October 2013, the Twenty-third Meeting adopted its report (UNODC/HONLAC/23/L.1 and Add.1-6), including the reports of the working groups and the recommendations contained therein, as orally revised.

## **IX. Organization of the Meeting**

### **A. Opening and duration of the Meeting**

51. The Twenty-third Meeting of HONLEA, Latin America and the Caribbean, was held in Quito from 30 September to 4 October 2013. At the inaugural ceremony held on 30 September 2013, the Meeting was addressed by Javier Córdova, Vice-Minister of the Interior of Ecuador, and the representative of the Executive Director and Representative for Ecuador and Peru of UNODC, Flavio Mirella.

52. The elected Chair of the Twenty-third Meeting of HONLEA, Latin America and the Caribbean, Juan Carlos Barragán (Ecuador), also addressed the meeting.

### **B. Attendance**

53. The following States members of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean were represented: Argentina, Bahamas, Barbados, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Cuba, Ecuador, El Salvador, France, Germany, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Netherlands, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and United States of America.

54. Australia and the Russian Federation were represented by observers.

55. The European Union and the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) were represented by observers.

56. UNODC served as the secretariat of the Meeting.

### **C. Election of officers**

57. At its 1st meeting, on 30 September 2013, the Meeting elected the following officers by acclamation:

<i>Chairperson:</i>	Juan Carlos Barragán (Ecuador)
<i>First Vice-Chairperson:</i>	Alba Rocío Rueda Gómez (Colombia)
<i>Second Vice-Chairperson:</i>	Edgardo Ezequiel Gibilisco (Argentina)
<i>Rapporteur:</i>	Anthony Ferguson (Bahamas)

### **D. Adoption of the agenda**

58. At the same meeting, the Twenty-third Meeting of HONLEA, Latin America and the Caribbean, adopted the following agenda:

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.
3. Major regional drug trafficking trends and countermeasures.
4. Implementation of the recommendations adopted by the Twenty-second 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) Demand reduction, prevention measures and drug dependence treatment;
  - (b) Trafficking trends;
  - (c) Manufacture of cocaine and amphetamine-type stimulants and precursor control.
6. Follow-up to the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem.
7. Organization of the Twenty-fourth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Latin America and the Caribbean.
8. Other business.
9. Adoption of the report.

**E. Documentation**

59. The documents before the Twenty-third Meeting of HONLEA, Latin America and the Caribbean, are listed in the annex.

**X. Closure of the Meeting**

60. The Chair of the Twenty-third Meeting of HONLEA, Latin America and the Caribbean made a closing statement.



## Annex

### List of documents before the Twenty-third Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Latin America and the Caribbean

<i>Symbol</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>	<i>Title or description</i>
UNODC/HONLAC/23/1	2	Provisional agenda and annotations
UNODC/HONLAC/23/2	3	Report of the Secretariat on statistics on drug trafficking trends in the Americas and worldwide
UNODC/HONLAC/23/3	4	Implementation of the recommendations adopted by the Twenty-second Meeting
UNODC/HONLAC/23/4	7	Note by the Secretariat on the organization of the Twenty-fourth Meeting
UNODC/HONLAC/23/L.1 and Add.1-6	9	Draft report
UNODC/HONLAC/23/CRP.1	3	Current situation with respect to regional and subregional cooperation
UNODC/HONLAC/23/CRP.2-14	3	Country reports