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Report of the Twenty-fourth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Asunción from 6 to 10 October 2014

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

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

1. The participants in the Twenty-fourth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, 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, 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 of 18 December 2009, in which Member States decided, among other things, 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 its Plan of Action, recommended that the Economic and Social Council should devote a high-level segment to a theme related to the world drug problem, and also recommended that the General Assembly should hold a special session to address the world drug problem;

(b) Also recalled General Assembly resolution 67/193 of 20 December 2012, 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

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



three international drug control conventions and other relevant United Nations instruments;

(c) Acknowledged, in accordance with the assessment contained in the Joint Ministerial Statement of the 2014 high-level review by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs of the implementation by Member States of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem, that many challenges relating to the world drug problem had persisted, that new ones had emerged in some parts of the world, and that those new trends needed to be taken into account in the implementation of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action;

(d) Took note with appreciation of resolution AG/RES. 1 (XLVI-E/14), on reflections and guidelines on formulating and following up on comprehensive policies to address the world drug problem in the Americas, adopted on 19 September 2014 by the General Assembly of the Organization of American States at its forty-sixth special session;

(e) Reaffirmed that policies and strategies for countering the world drug problem must have as aims the well-being, dignity and social inclusion of the individual, taking into account that the world drug problem must be addressed from a comprehensive and balanced perspective, in full respect of international law and international human rights law and the three United Nations drug control conventions;

(f) Reiterated the importance of strengthening international cooperation to tackle the world drug problem, in conformity with the principle of common and shared responsibility;

(g) Emphasized the importance of a broad, transparent, inclusive and scientific evidence-based discussion among Member States, with inputs from other relevant stakeholders, as appropriate, in multilateral settings, on the most effective ways to counter the world drug problem, consistent with the three international drug control conventions and other relevant international instruments, in order to further implement the commitments and targets set out in the Political Declaration and Plan of Action;

(h) Welcomed the decision that the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem to be held in 2016 would have an inclusive preparatory process that would include extensive substantive consultations, allowing organs, entities and specialized agencies of the United Nations system, relevant international and regional organizations, civil society and other relevant stakeholders to fully contribute to the process, in accordance with the relevant rules of procedure and established practice, and that the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, as the central policymaking body within the United Nations system dealing with drug-related matters, would lead that process by addressing all organizational and substantive matters in an open-ended manner, and in that regard, invited the President of the General Assembly to support, guide and stay involved in the process;

(i) Recognized the importance of advancing, at its upcoming meetings, substantive dialogue focused on strengthening commitments and achieving better results in response to challenges that have arisen in recent years, in order to increase

the effectiveness of the struggle against organized crime and the prevention of social, economic and health harms produced by the world drug problem, as well as to identify new challenges and difficulties when implementing national policies and international cooperation, in order to produce specific input for preparations for the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem to be held in 2016;

(j) Resolved to continue to support and contribute to the preparatory process for the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem to be held in 2016, in view of the requests made by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, in its resolution 56/10, to the meetings of the subsidiary bodies of the Commission to contribute to the monitoring of the implementation by Member States of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action at the regional level by discussing regional views on progress made in that regard and to submit regional recommendations aimed at moving forward in the implementation of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action;

(k) Observed the need to strengthen and ensure balance within comprehensive policies that include all elements of the strategy to counter the world drug problem, recognizing the different impacts, manifestations and realities of the problem, and strengthening dialogue with civil society;

(l) Agreed to make the recommendations presented below.

Issue 1. Measures adopted to reduce the diversion of precursor chemicals, with reference to international cooperation and technical assistance

2. With regard to issue 1, “Measures adopted to reduce the diversion of precursor chemicals, with reference to international cooperation and technical assistance”, the following recommendations were made:

(a) Where they have not already done so, Governments are encouraged to ensure their authorities are making full use of Pre-Export Notification Online (PEN Online) and the Precursors Incident Communication System, which are international initiatives of the International Narcotics Control Board, and are involved in the international intelligence-gathering operations under Project Prism, Project Cohesion and Project Ion to prevent the diversion of precursor chemicals and contribute to the pool of current information on developing trends and *modi operandi*;

(b) Acknowledging the diverse range of precursor chemicals increasingly being diverted to illicit drug manufacture, Governments are encouraged to ensure that their national legislation empowers their drug enforcement authorities to place effective controls over precursor substances, non-controlled chemicals and the emergence of the new psychoactive substances that are procured by drug traffickers;

(c) Governments are encouraged to develop specific surveillance lists of non-scheduled substances that are used in the illegal manufacture of drugs as part of their operational response to the appearance of new psychoactive substances on the illicit drug markets in their countries;

(d) Governments of the region are encouraged to coordinate in the harmonization and application of their administrative controls over precursor chemicals and controlled substances so as to prevent and discourage circumvention

of restrictions over their availability through the diversion of those substances into neighbouring jurisdictions. Governments acknowledge that the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988 can help in that regard.

Issue 2. Non-therapeutic use, diversion and abuse of medical preparations

3. With regard to issue 2, “Non-therapeutic use, diversion and abuse of medical preparations”, the following recommendations were made:

(a) Where they are not already doing so, Governments are encouraged to undertake an annual survey to assess national pharmaceutical needs that not only informs and contributes to their health-care planning but also provides a baseline figure for identifying diversion attempts;

(b) Governments are encouraged to take measures to advance the monitoring of the abuse of pharmaceutical preparations, including the early identification of emerging trends, so as to be better prepared to develop and implement countermeasures and supportive public health strategies;

(c) Governments are encouraged to apply the same control measures to pharmaceutical preparations containing ephedrine or pseudoephedrine as to those substances as raw materials.

Issue 3. Demand reduction, prevention and treatment

4. With regard to issue 3, “Demand reduction, prevention and treatment”, the following recommendations were made:

(a) Governments should support their health-care professionals working in drug treatment to engage in peer-to-peer networking and should encourage horizontal cooperation opportunities in the field of demand reduction, in particular with regard to training and the exchange of professional practices;

(b) Governments must encourage their authorities to develop innovative demand reduction initiatives and programmes that readily connect with their vulnerable populations, maintain engagement with such populations and promote the essential life skills needed to resist the abuse of psychoactive substances;

(c) Governments are encouraged to review their funding for demand reduction and treatment programmes so as to ensure that adequate funding is available to meet the needs of their at-risk communities;

(d) Governments are encouraged to adopt specific strategies against microtrafficking that would allow a combination of prevention and criminal prosecution of that activity;

(e) Governments are encouraged to consolidate a methodology that would allow for the collection of reliable data on current consumption and trends among their populations, for the purpose of sharing such data with other Member States.

Other recommendations

5. The following additional recommendations were made:

(a) All Meetings of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Latin America and the Caribbean, should consider all the pillars of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action that cover measures to reduce supply and demand, analysis of social and economic consequences and the structural causes of the drug problem and analysis of new challenges in international cooperation;

(b) Once adopted, the recommendations should be published on the Commission on Narcotic Drugs website dedicated to the preparations for the special session of the General Assembly to be held in 2016 (www.ungass2016.org);

(c) In the framework of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, greater visibility should be given to the statistical yearbook on drug control produced by Mexico, and this publication should be regarded by the Secretariat as an input to the *World Drug Report*;

(d) Governments should establish or strengthen mechanisms for the exchange of information focused on research in the fight against drug trafficking, as well as for the exchange of experiences and good practices.

II. Major regional drug trafficking trends and countermeasures

6. At its 1st and 2nd meetings, on 6 October 2014, 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 a report of the Secretariat entitled “Statistics on drug trafficking trends in the Americas and worldwide” (UNODC/HONLAC/24/2) and a conference room paper entitled “Current situation with respect to regional and subregional cooperation” (UNODC/HONLAC/24/CRP.1). In addition, country reports on the drug trafficking situation were submitted by Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, France, Guatemala, Guyana, Italy, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Spain, Trinidad and Tobago and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) (UNODC/HONLAC/24/CRP.2-16) by 22 August 2014. After that date, a country report was also submitted by El Salvador.

7. A representative of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) introduced the item and made an audiovisual presentation on the world situation with regard to drug trafficking. The presentation was based on information provided by Governments to UNODC. Representatives of Argentina, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Guatemala, Haiti, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, Uruguay and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) made statements. The representatives of Colombia, Mexico and Paraguay made audiovisual presentations.

8. Many delegations informed the Meeting about recent developments relating to drug trafficking trends and the drug control situation in their countries and across the region, and provided information on achievements and results in combating drug trafficking. Information on seizures of drugs and precursors, the dismantling of clandestine laboratories, arrests and methods of concealment was presented.

9. Many speakers stated that regional cooperation for the real-time exchange of information was required to successfully reduce the illicit supply of drugs. Delegations stressed that drug trafficking was a transnational issue and reported on bilateral agreements concluded in that regard to respond to new trafficking routes and trends.

10. Delegations spoke of their concern about the use of light aircraft to transport drugs across the region, which often landed in remote areas or on country roads. The importance of regional cooperation with regard to air traffic control and real-time information-sharing was particularly stressed. A proposal was made to create a mechanism for sharing information on pilots' details, aircraft registrations and the location of landing spots. Reference was also made to trafficking by sea and the use of speedboats and semi-submersible vessels in the Caribbean and the Pacific.

11. A number of participants stressed the importance of alternative development programmes. In that regard, some delegations provided updated data on the eradication of illicit crops and reported on support received at the international level. Attention was also drawn to the need to ensure the quality of the products of alternative development.

12. Some participants reported on national drug strategies and legislative instruments that had been recently adopted or amended to make the fight against drug trafficking more effective, including legislation on asset seizure and forfeiture and the tracing of non-scheduled substances. One speaker referred to experience with the registration of cannabis producers and consumers by national regulatory authorities.

13. A number of delegates, noting that their countries were used for the transit of drugs, emphasized the importance of bilateral cooperation between bordering States. Joint operations, intelligence-sharing and training for law enforcement and military officers had proven effective and had resulted in many successful seizures and improved skill levels. The UNODC/World Customs Organization (WCO) Container Control Programme was identified as an effective multi-agency response to countering drug trafficking.

14. Some speakers stressed the importance of prevention and treatment measures. Increased levels of national consumption rates were highlighted. Delegates spoke of prevention and educational measures aimed at young people that had been undertaken in cooperation with civil society organizations.

15. Some speakers stated that possible alternatives to the current international drug control system could be considered in order to reduce the costs in terms of violence, poverty and instability. In that connection, UNODC could re-evaluate and adjust existing instruments. It was noted that the Commission on Narcotic Drugs could assist in identifying new challenges and opportunities and that preparations for the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem to be held in 2016 could also allow countries to exchange experiences.

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

16. At its 3rd meeting, on 7 October 2014, the Meeting considered item 4 of its agenda, entitled “Implementation of the recommendations adopted by the Twenty-third 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/24/3) on the basis of information provided by Governments in response to a questionnaire sent to all States members of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean. The document reflected the answers received from Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, El Salvador, France, Guatemala, Guyana, Italy, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, Uruguay and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) by 22 August 2014.

17. The Secretary of the Meeting made an introductory statement. The representatives of Argentina, Chile, Colombia, Mexico, Peru, Spain and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) made statements on the actions their Governments had taken to implement the recommendations adopted at the Twenty-third Meeting, in addition to those already described in document UNODC/HONLAC/24/3. The representative of Mexico also made an audiovisual presentation.

18. The representative of Mexico referred to national legislative measures adopted to strengthen capacity to combat money-laundering and to increase sanctions. He also reported an increased level of inter-agency cooperation as regards land and sea ports to improve the countering of drug trafficking. Reference was made to support provided to transit countries and to information-sharing and cooperation arrangements between criminal investigation units of public prosecutors’ offices and their counterparts in other countries in the region.

19. The representative of Argentina stressed the importance of active coordination with regard to non-scheduled flights and reiterated the need for recommendations that would target that issue specifically. The representative emphasized the need for a different approach to reflect the dynamism characterizing new psychoactive substances. The Meeting was informed of an ongoing review of the law on narcotic drugs to incorporate a list of new psychoactive substances; the need to create a mechanism to enable a biannual review of the list to enhance its efficiency and ability to react in real time to the emergence of those substances was stressed.

20. The representative of Peru provided information on the establishment of a special intelligence task force specialized in airport control and reported on the emergence of alternative methods by drug traffickers in reaction to the strengthened response of law enforcement agencies. Reference was made to the issue of corruption of national officials, in particular in border areas. Positive results had been achieved by specialized undercover units.

21. The representative of Chile provided information to the Meeting on the existing registry system of companies involved in the chemical sector. The issue of incorporating new psychoactive substances into criminal legislation in a timely

manner in order to enable prosecution was emphasized and it was suggested that making a recommendation on that matter should be considered.

22. The representative of Colombia provided information on proposed national legislation for the control of frequently used chemical substances, which had been developed by the authorities together with the business sector and trade unions. A set of technological instruments had been designed to enable the use of chemical substances through profiling, online traceability and transactions involving such substances, with a view to preventing their diversion for illicit use.

23. The representative of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela described activities undertaken under the auspices of the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission of the Organization of American States with regard to the establishment of drug observatories aimed at identifying new psychoactive substances and to the exchange of information.

24. The representative of Spain stated that an early warning system was in place in the country that enabled the implementation of and served as a basis for a system to detect, analyse and send science-based reports to the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction and to share them with other countries. Reference was made to the importance of building focal point networks for identifying new psychoactive substances and precursors and sharing information in real time.

25. The representative of Mexico gave a presentation on the statistical yearbook prepared by Mexico pursuant to a recommendation of the Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Latin America and the Caribbean. It was based on data provided by countries across the region on natural and synthetic drugs and new psychoactive substances, their seizures, numbers of individuals detained and cases shared by participating countries. It was proposed that such information-sharing should be undertaken on a biannual basis to enable the effective implementation of drug control measures. The representative also put forward a proposal for an international information exchange system administered by the federal prosecutor's office through a secure online platform.

IV. Consideration of topics by working groups

26. At its 4th to 8th meetings, from 7 to 9 October 2014, 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. Measures adopted to reduce the diversion of precursor chemicals, with reference to international cooperation and technical assistance

27. The working group on issue 1, “Measures adopted to reduce the diversion of precursor chemicals, with reference to international cooperation and technical assistance”, held two meetings, on 7 and 8 October 2014. During its consideration of the topic in question, the working group made the following observations:

(a) Illicit production of synthetic drugs is taking place on an unprecedented industrial scale;

(b) Traffickers are increasingly turning to non-scheduled substances that lack documented industrial or medical use and have the potential to create almost unlimited variations of psychoactive substances;

(c) Authorities are not utilizing to their fullest potential the existing international initiatives to prevent the diversion of precursor chemicals such as the PEN Online system and the Precursors Incident Communication System, the international special surveillance list of non-scheduled substances and the intelligence-gathering operations under Project Prism, Project Cohesion and Project Ion;

(d) Illicit domestic production of the controlled chemicals essential for the manufacture of cocaine, such as potassium permanganate and sulphuric acid, is taking place;

(e) A number of countries in the region were introducing new legislation and administrative procedures to respond to the increasing use of non-scheduled substances in the illegal manufacture of drugs.

28. The working group drew the following conclusions:

(a) Because international efforts to control and monitor trade and sales of scheduled precursor chemicals are proving effective, authorities across the region must ensure that they are aware of the use of alternative substances used to replace those under international control;

(b) Maintaining effective control and being able to accurately track the movement of precursor chemicals in commercial trade remains imperative for authorities seeking to prevent the diversion of those chemicals from licit trade;

(c) Investigations launched after the interception of precursor chemicals based either on backtracking through the chain of possession or examining ownership details from stopped shipments and cancelled orders are effective responses to identifying those responsible for diverting precursor chemicals;

(d) It is important that countries continue to review their legislation and administrative controls and accurately assess licit needs for chemical precursors to ensure that they can act effectively against the new challenges of substitute substances.

Issue 2. Non-therapeutic use, diversion and abuse of medical preparations

29. The working group on issue 2, “Non-therapeutic use, diversion and abuse of medical preparations”, met during the 5th and 6th meetings, held on 8 October 2014. During its consideration of the topic, the working group made the following observations:

(a) Alcohol abuse is recognized as a gateway to experimentation in psychoactive substances;

(b) There is a common perception among young people that the effects of misusing prescription preparations are nil or slight;

(c) Authorities are less prepared to respond to combating the abuse of pharmaceutical preparations than to combating the abuse of drugs produced and manufactured from natural substances, such as cocaine, cannabis and heroin, as establishing countermeasures to those drugs has been their focus for many years. There is a need to strengthen institutional capabilities;

(d) The problem of easy access to prescriptions for pharmaceutical preparations results from the fact that the primary source of those abused medications, such as tranquilizers, is frequently the family home, followed by pharmacies that fail to comply with the law, friends and doctors who are family friends;

(e) Trafficking in steroids and other performance-enhancing preparations is on the increase.

30. The working group drew the following conclusions:

(a) Appropriate steps need to be taken to raise awareness, particularly among young people, of the risks involved in the abuse of prescription medicines;

(b) More research is needed into identifiers of abuse, trends in trafficking, age groups and impact if authorities are to be able to act effectively in response to the public health threat posed by the abuse of pharmaceutical preparations;

(c) Authorities need to work more closely with pharmaceutical companies and encourage them to become more involved in prevention campaigns and initiatives targeting teenagers about the dangers associated with the abuse of pharmaceutical preparations;

(d) Closer coordination and better information-sharing and awareness-raising between agencies such as health and pharmaceutical regulators and law enforcement bodies is needed in order to act effectively against abuse of pharmaceutical preparations;

(e) Cooperation in the sharing of information on trade and trafficking trends in medicaments that are used as precursors, such as ephedrine and pseudoephedrine, between pharmaceutical regulatory and enforcement authorities, both on a cross-border and regional basis, is essential.

Issue 3. Demand reduction, prevention and treatment

31. The working group on issue 3, “Demand reduction, prevention and treatment”, met during the 6th, 7th and 8th meetings, held on 8 and 9 October 2014. During its consideration of the topic, the working group made the following observations:

(a) Providing accessible treatment and effective demand reduction programmes is essential if the adverse effects of drug trafficking on community health, security and development are to be successfully addressed;

(b) Young people are recognized as the group most susceptible to the abuse of psychoactive substances;

(c) Adequate and consistent funding and resources for nationwide demand reduction and treatment programmes are essential for reaching those communities and persons most at risk and to maintain the gains already made;

(d) Drug treatment courts offer the option of promoting alternative justice procedures for people with addictions who are in conflict with the law, including the opportunity to be directed to treatment.

32. The working group drew the following conclusions:

(a) There is a need for doctors who provide short-term treatment for addiction as a primary care response to be trained in the broader aspects of addressing addiction as a long-term treatment strategy;

(b) It is important that health authorities work in partnership with other agencies to develop initiatives that contribute to building stable and safe community environments where demand reduction programmes can make the most positive impact;

(c) It is advisable to strengthen comprehensive prevention through social programmes and programmes that address the factors that lead to social exclusion and violence in communities;

(d) The direction of funds from the disposal and sale of assets seized from drug traffickers and criminal groups to demand reduction and treatment initiatives should be encouraged.

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, in preparation for the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem to be held in 2016

33. At the 3rd meeting, held on 7 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, in preparation for the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem to be held in 2016”. 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 and the Joint Ministerial Statement of the 2014 high-level review by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs of the implementation by Member States of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem.

34. The Chair of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs addressed the meeting via video. The Secretary of the Meeting made an introductory statement. Statements were made by the representatives of Argentina, Chile, Colombia, Mexico, Peru, Trinidad and Tobago, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and the United States of America.

35. Many speakers observed that the efforts carried out so far had not been sufficient or effective in combating the world drug problem and recognized that it persisted as a global challenge, undermining social and economic development and causing violence and damaging human health. The need to promote different solutions to the specific situations faced in different countries across the region, in full respect of international and human rights law, sovereignty and non-interference principles, was mentioned.

36. Speakers emphasized the need to look for alternative strategies and approaches to improve the capacity of the countries in the region to reduce the threat posed by drugs, within the framework of the international drug control conventions. When dealing with drug abuse, emphasis should be put on public health. There was a need to focus on young people and families, education and health programmes and public safety, and to address the root causes of the drug problem. There was also a need to include aspects such as respecting the dignity of human beings, ensuring proportionality of punishment for drug-related offences, promoting access to justice and strengthening alternative justice measures. One speaker stressed the importance of the prevention of the harm caused by drugs and others underlined the need to address transnational organized criminal groups.

37. Speakers stressed the importance of a science-based, integrated and balanced approach to demand and supply reduction, taking full advantage of the existing channels of cooperation, in line with the principle of common and shared responsibility. The importance of attaining concrete results and of focusing on problems and challenges was also underlined.

38. Several speakers noted that the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem to be held in 2016 would provide a platform for making new proposals. It was emphasized that the preparatory process for the special session would include a pluralistic, substantive debate, while ensuring the inclusive participation of all competent bodies of the United Nations system, civil society and academia.

39. Reference was made to resolution AG/RES. 1 (XLVI-E/14), adopted at the forty-sixth special session of the General Assembly of the Organization of American States, which could serve as an input for the preparations for the special session of the United Nations General Assembly to be held in 2016.

40. Some participants announced their intention to submit to the Commission on Narcotic Drugs a proposal that the subsidiary bodies consider the pillars of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action within the scope of their work.

41. In line with Commission on Narcotic Drugs resolution 56/10, the Chair proposed including a number of paragraphs making reference to the Political Declaration and Plan of Action as a preamble to the recommendations of the Meeting.

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

42. At its 8th and 9th meetings, held on 9 and 10 October, participants discussed item 7, entitled “Organization of the Twenty-fifth 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/24/4) drawing attention to certain issues to be addressed at the Twenty-fifth Meeting and containing a draft provisional agenda for that Meeting.

43. The Secretary informed the Meeting that the Twenty-fifth Meeting was scheduled to be held from 5 to 9 October 2015. The Chair invited delegations of States interested in hosting the Twenty-fifth Meeting to contact the Secretariat in order to determine the venue of the Meeting as early as possible and thus facilitate preparations.

44. The Meeting held a comprehensive discussion on possible topics to be considered by the working groups at the Twenty-fifth Meeting, under item 5 of the draft provisional agenda. The following topics were proposed: (a) prevention, investigation and prosecution of microtrafficking; (b) legal initiatives to address new psychoactive substances and alternative approaches to meeting the challenge of the threat they pose, including coordination among Member States; (c) the intersection between drug trafficking and violence and social costs and impacts on communities, with regard to drug law enforcement and the development of effective countermeasures; (d) cannabis in the region and the implications of decriminalization; (e) border security, accountability, current strategies and future countermeasures; (f) trafficking by sea and countermeasures against speedboats and semi-submersible vessels; and (g) precursor control and the effective and environmentally safe destruction of seized drugs and their precursors.

45. 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-fifth Meeting. On that basis, the following draft provisional agenda for the Twenty-fifth 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-fourth 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, in preparation for the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem to be held in 2016, including achievements and challenges in reaching the 2019 targets.
7. Organization of the Twenty-sixth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Latin America and the Caribbean.
8. Other business.
9. Adoption of the report of the Twenty-fifth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Latin America and the Caribbean.

46. Some delegations proposed that the Twenty-fifth Meeting should also focus on analysing measures adopted, progress made and difficulties encountered with regard to the goals for 2019 contained in the Political Declaration concerning the elimination or significant reduction of: the illicit cultivation of opium poppy, coca bush and cannabis plant; the illicit demand for narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, and drug-related health and social risks; the illicit production, manufacture, marketing and distribution of and trafficking in psychotropic substances, including synthetic drugs; the diversion of and illicit trafficking in precursors; and money-laundering related to illicit drugs. It was also proposed that such analysis should produce concrete recommendations for consideration in the context of the preparations for the special session of the General Assembly to be held in 2016. The Secretariat noted the proposal and indicated that it would be reflected in the annotations for item 6 of the provisional agenda.

47. One delegation noted that, in order to ensure constructive deliberations, each working group should comprise experts from Governments, academia and specialized agencies of the United Nations.

48. In connection with the proposals contained in the above two paragraphs, the Secretariat informed participants about the regular budget allocated to the organization of HONLEA meetings during the current biennium and explained that additional documentation or travel coverage, beyond existing entitlements, would be subject to the availability of voluntary, extrabudgetary resources.

VII. Other business

49. At its 8th and 9th meeting, on 9 and 10 October 2014, the Meeting considered item 8 of its agenda, entitled "Other business". The Meeting considered additional recommendations that were made by some delegations for consideration by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (see paragraph 5 above).

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

50. At its 9th meeting, on 10 October 2014, the Twenty-fourth Meeting adopted its report (UNODC/HONLAC/24/L.1 and Add.1-6), including the reports of the

working groups and the recommendations contained therein, as orally revised. One delegation requested that the report reflect that consensus had not been reached on its recommendation on encouraging and promoting dialogue with civil society in the area of work of the subsidiary bodies of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, and had been withdrawn.

IX. Organization of the Meeting

A. Opening and duration of the Meeting

51. The Twenty-fourth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Latin America and the Caribbean, was held in Asunción from 6 to 10 October 2014. The inaugural ceremony was held on 6 October 2014 and was addressed by the Acting President of Paraguay, Juan Afara, the Executive Secretary of the National Anti-drug Secretariat of Paraguay, Luis Alberto Rojas, and the representative of the Executive Director and Representative of the UNODC Liaison and Partnership Office in Brazil, Rafael Franzini.

52. The elected Chair of the Twenty-fourth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Latin America and the Caribbean, César Arce (Paraguay), also addressed the Meeting.

B. Attendance

53. The following States members of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean were represented: Argentina, Barbados, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, El Salvador, Germany, Guatemala, Haiti, Italy, Jamaica, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States, Uruguay and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of).

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

55. The International Narcotics Control Board and the Organization of American States were also represented by observers.

56. UNODC served as the secretariat of the Meeting.

C. Election of officers

57. At its 1st meeting, on 6 October 2014, the Meeting elected the following officers by acclamation:

<i>Chair:</i>	César Arce (Paraguay)
<i>First Vice-Chair:</i>	Carlos Pujalte Piñeiro (Mexico)
<i>Second Vice-Chair:</i>	Luis Alberto Otárola Peñaranda (Peru)
<i>Rapporteur:</i>	Dale Stephen (Barbados)

D. Adoption of the agenda

58. At the same meeting, the Twenty-fourth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, 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-third Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Latin America and the Caribbean.
5. Consideration of topics by working groups:
 - (a) Measures adopted to reduce the diversion of precursor chemicals, with reference to international cooperation and technical assistance;
 - (b) Non-therapeutic use, diversion and abuse of medical preparations;
 - (c) Demand reduction, prevention and treatment.
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, in preparation for the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem to be held in 2016.
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 of the Twenty-fourth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Latin America and the Caribbean.

E. Documentation

59. The documents before the Twenty-fourth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Latin America and the Caribbean, are listed in the annex.

X. Closure of the Meeting

60. The Chair of the Twenty-fourth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Latin America and the Caribbean, made a closing statement.

Annex

List of documents before the Twenty-fourth 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/24/1	2	Provisional agenda and annotations
UNODC/HONLAC/24/2	3	Statistics on drug trafficking trends in the Americas and worldwide
UNODC/HONLAC/24/3	4	Implementation of the recommendations adopted by the Twenty-third Meeting
UNODC/HONLAC/24/4	7	Organization of the Twenty-fifth Meeting
UNODC/HONLAC/24/L.1 and Add.1-6	9	Draft report
UNODC/HONLAC/24/CRP.1	3	Current situation with respect to regional and subregional cooperation
UNODC/HONLAC/24/CRP.2-16	3	Country reports