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**Thirty-first Meeting of Heads of National
Drug Law Enforcement Agencies,
Latin America and the Caribbean**

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Item 3 of the provisional agenda**

**Current situation with respect to regional and
subregional cooperation in addressing and
countering the world drug problem****Current situation with respect to regional and subregional
cooperation****Report of the Secretariat****I. Introduction**

1. The present report provides information on regional cooperation initiatives and assistance in addressing and countering the world drug problem provided by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) to Governments in Latin America and the Caribbean, focusing on developments since the Thirtieth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Guatemala City from 4 to 7 October 2022.

II. Precursor control**Argentina**

2. During the reporting period in Argentina, UNODC developed scientific evidence for strengthening the capacities of authorities in the control of chemical substances, the interdiction of illicit drugs, and the improvement of criminal justice responses to drug trafficking and associated corruption. In this regard, more than 10 specialized workshops were conducted, and 30 surveys were carried out among law enforcement authorities to develop an assessment of drug trafficking routes and flows of chemical substances used for their illicit manufacture.

Colombia

3. UNODC, through the Integrated System for Illicit Crop Monitoring (SIMCI), has continued to provide technical advice to government authorities on the

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development of evidence-based strategies, through research and draft studies on specialized production infrastructure and technical support in relation to trends in the use of chemical substances for the transformation of illicit cocaine hydrochloride.

4. SIMCI has continued to support the Government of Colombia in strengthening a comprehensive institutional strategy to address the problem of illicit drugs (natural, synthetic, and new psychoactive substances) and chemical substances frequently used in production.

Regional and subregional levels

5. Through the safe handling and disposal of drugs and precursor chemicals programme, UNODC has contributed to the institutional strengthening of strategies to carry out the adequate and expeditious final disposal of drugs and chemical substances seized in Colombia, Ecuador, Guatemala and Peru. This includes training on the identification and safe handling of precursors during control procedures. Through the Solutions, Training and Advice for Narcotics Disposal (STAND) Programme, UNODC has also delivered national and regional training on the control and inspection of users and promoted information exchange at the subregional level to identify emerging trends and modi operandi in the diversion of precursors. The STAND Programme and the Container Control Programme have delivered binational joint training for Guatemala and Honduras on control and customs inspections for the identification and safe handling of precursors.

6. During 2022, the UNODC Global SMART Programme contributed, with the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission, to various activities for the establishment of early warning systems in Guatemala, Mexico and Paraguay, and to an international meeting in which directors of the drug observatories of Argentina, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Mexico, Paraguay, Peru and Uruguay participated.

7. During 2022, the UNODC Global SMART Programme, in collaboration with the Forensic Investigation Centre of El Salvador, held an event entitled “the Forensic Lab Workshop: Lessons Learned and Good Practices for El Salvador and Guatemala”, which benefited 22 forensic experts (9 women and 13 men), and subregional forensic laboratory training, which benefited 32 forensic experts (21 women and 11 men) from forensic laboratories in the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras. As a result of these activities, the REDLAB network of forensic laboratories in the above-mentioned countries was established (the first of its kind in Latin America and the Caribbean).

III. Legal assistance and anti-money-laundering

Bolivia (Plurinational State of)

8. During 2022 and 2023, UNODC provided technical assistance to the Financial Intelligence Unit, in the context of the National Risk Assessment of Money-Laundering and the Financing of Terrorism and its mitigation plan. Furthermore, specialized training was delivered to specialized police forces, attorneys and judges on the prosecution of money-laundering and the financing of terrorism (100 justice operators) in 2023. In addition, three mock trials were conducted in La Paz, Cochabamba and Santa Cruz. On the prevention side, over 200 reporting entities received training on the typologies of money-laundering developed by the Financial Intelligence Unit with technical assistance from UNODC.

Colombia

9. In Colombia, UNODC has delivered specialized training to counter illicit financial flows derived from deforestation. At the national level, the work with the Attorney General’s Office has resulted in increased capacities to investigate and prosecute money-laundering derived from crimes affecting the environment.

Moreover, 65 national entities increased their capacities in crime prevention, investigation and prosecution of money-laundering related to environmental crimes.

10. UNODC continues to support the government of Bogotá to prevent money-laundering and the financing of terrorism by expanding and improving local capacities. In this regard, three guidelines and a toolkit for the Anti-Money-Laundering and Counter-Terrorism Financing Risk Management System were developed and shared with the district's Secretary of Finance.

11. In partnership with the Secretary of the Financial Intelligence Unit, UNODC commemorated the National Day for the Prevention of Money-Laundering by calling for action in the fight against corruption and the prevention of money-laundering, including through the engagement of the private sector in the formulation and design of relevant policies.

Costa Rica

12. The UNODC Global Programme on Cybercrime has provided technical assistance, through specialized training and participation in international cooperation activities, for the judiciary on matters of cybercrime, digital evidence and the criminal use of cryptocurrencies. As a result of these actions, on 20 May 2022, the Tribunal Penal del Segundo Circuito Judicial (criminal court of the second circuit) in San José adjudicated the first case related to kidnapping for ransom, in which victims were coerced to pay in cryptocurrency by a now disrupted organized criminal group.

El Salvador

13. In July 2023, UNODC, in coordination with the Superintendence of the Financial System, launched a virtual training module course entitled "Management of the risks of money- and asset-laundering, financing of terrorism and financing of the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction in the financial system", which will be taught to operators of the financial system, other supervisory bodies and reporting entities in general. The objective is to update and strengthen participants' general and specific knowledge of the risks of money- and asset-laundering, financing of terrorism and financing of the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, generating crimes and their management in the National Financial System, under a risk-based approach, based on the regulations in force in El Salvador, thus strengthening knowledge of the application of this approach and contributing to the strengthening of the culture of prevention.

Guatemala

14. In Guatemala, from 5 to 9 June 2023, a workshop on the theme "Combating money-laundering in free trade zones" was delivered by the Global Programme against Money-Laundering and was aimed at providing participants from financial intelligence units, judicial investigation bodies, public prosecutors' offices, the national police and the industry and commerce free zones with the understanding, knowledge and tools necessary to identify, investigate and prosecute money-laundering.

Panama

15. The UNODC Regional Office for Central America and the Caribbean has continued to provide technical assistance to institutions such as the Public Defence Institute and the Office of the Public Defence for Victims in the review and update of its management model.

16. During 2021 and 2022, UNODC offered nationwide online training on basic aspects of investigation with digital evidence to investigators of the Public Defence Office, assistants of the Public Defence Office for Victims, who carry out investigative work, and investigators of the Directorate of Judicial Investigation of the National Police.

17. UNODC organized four national workshops in Panama on basic aspects of digital evidence and cybercrime, with the participation of judges, public defenders and prosecutors.

18. In 2022, UNODC organized the thirtieth Conference of Public Defence, jointly with the Instituto Superior de la Judicatura, at which topics related to cybercrime, money-laundering and digital evidence were discussed.

Regional and subregional levels

19. Through the regional STAND Programme, UNODC has provided technical legal assistance with reforms related to the management and disposal of seized drugs and chemical precursors to Ecuadorian, Honduran and Peruvian authorities. The Programme's recommendations are based on field practices, and technical assistance is being provided to implement these recommendations.

IV. Strengthening of national police forces and cooperation initiatives

Bolivia (Plurinational State of)

20. In November 2022, UNODC delivered training on synthetic drugs and new psychoactive substances to 56 law enforcement officers.

21. In April 2023, the Counternarcotics Police Force received training from a Colombian police expert on asset forfeiture, focused on drug trafficking and related offences.

Brazil

22. In 2022, within the scope of the Global Maritime Crime Programme, UNODC initiated in Brazil the project entitled "Strengthening riverine and port enforcement responses to counter narcotics trafficking and Transnational Organized Crime groups in Brazil", which seeks to strengthen the national police forces through training and the promotion of cooperation initiatives. In the same year, the Global Maritime Crime Programme conducted tactical-operational training on riverine operations in Manaus, bringing together over 24 police officers from Mozambique, South Africa and the United Republic of Tanzania; Global Maritime Crime Programme members from Brazil, the Dominican Republic, Kenya, Panama and the United Republic of Tanzania also participated in this effort. The training was the result of a collaboration between the Global Maritime Crime Programme, the Federal Police and the Centre for Integration and Improvement in Environmental Police (CIAPA) and was facilitated by the Law Enforcement Assistance Programme to Reduce Tropical Deforestation (LEAP).

23. In the scope of the PRIS-COOP project on organized crime in prisons and drug trafficking on the border between Brazil, Colombia and Peru, the Office initiated the development of an online course on organized crime for Brazilian prison officers.

24. Under the project Tapajós, a prevalence-based project to reduce forced labour, the International Seminar on Gold Forensics and Illegal Gold Trade Investigations was co-organized with the Federal Police and the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL), and involved knowledge-sharing between countries represented at the event, with a particular focus on cooperation between Brazil and Colombia. As part of this project, research was conducted that analyses the convergence of crimes affecting the Tapajós region, such as drug trafficking, deforestation and illegal mining.

25. In 2022, through the Centre of Excellence, cooperation between Brazil and Colombia was extensively promoted in relation to the monitoring of the illicit drug market through five technical workshops, which trained almost 300 representatives from Brazilian security forces in four Brazilian States. The initiative was

implemented in partnership with SIMCI of Colombia and the Colombian National Police, with the objective of building, jointly with Brazilian law enforcement agencies, a broader and more diversified monitoring system for the illicit drug market, with a focus on price and purity information.

26. The Centre of Excellence also developed an e-learning introductory course on drug trafficking and transnational organized crime, which is intended to provide data, information and trends on drug trafficking and transnational organized crime for different professionals who work on these topics in Brazil.

Colombia

27. UNODC assisted the Government in improving the capacities of the armed and police forces in the collection, analysis and processing of data to register forced manual eradication actions. As a result, more than 1,400 officials increased their knowledge of and ability to record eradication operations in compliance with the parameters and standards for data to be included in SIMCI. Given the successful results, the initiative has been extended to other lines of action. Additional modules for voluntary eradication and for the destruction of drug production infrastructure are planned for 2023.

Costa Rica

28. The UNODC Global Programme on Cybercrime has provided the Costa Rican criminal investigation police with training and access to specialized tools for tracing cryptocurrency in the blockchain, which have been instrumental in disrupting organized criminal groups using cryptocurrencies as means to enable victims to pay in the context of kidnapping for ransom cases.

El Salvador

29. UNODC continued to support the national authorities of El Salvador in implementing urgent action mechanisms in respect of the disappearance of persons and strengthened their technical capacity to investigate forced disappearances related to organized crime, including in operative and forensic areas. UNODC also provided technical assistance to El Salvador in the development of a task force initiative against forced disappearances, which was integrated into the 14 departments of the country by the Attorney General's Office and the National Civil Police.

Panama

30. UNODC has provided capacity-building through continuous training for members of the Panamanian police forces, including training on criminal intelligence, ethics for intelligence services, prospective police intelligence and investigations in the accusatory criminal system.

Regional and subregional levels

31. During the first quarter of 2023, UNODC participated in the first regional meeting of the Colombo Plan for Latin America and the Caribbean in Santiago and in the ISSUP Regional Conference in Buenos Aires. Moreover, in Uruguay, the Office explored opportunities for cooperation on drug demand reduction through meetings with the National Drug Board of Uruguay.

32. Through the regional STAND Programme, UNODC has provided over 35 training events for police officers in border areas and control posts on the identification, safe handling and adequate storage of precursors in Colombia, Ecuador, Guatemala, Honduras and Peru. The Programme has also provided inter-agency training to promote national collaboration and three regional training events to promote international collaboration. Furthermore, the Programme has provided technological equipment and identification kits for the identification of drugs and precursors and personal protective equipment for their safe handling.

33. From May 2021 to November 2022, under the Global Programme on Cybercrime and the global programme on strengthening criminal justice cooperation along trafficking routes (CRIMJUST), 126 investigators and 118 prosecutors from Argentina, Bolivia (the Plurinational State of), Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Honduras, Guatemala, Panama, Paraguay, Peru and Uruguay were trained on open-source investigations, cross-border requests for digital evidence and due diligence in the acquisition and examination of digital evidence in the context of investigating cyberenabled drug trafficking.

34. From August 2019 to March 2022, UNODC trained 1,140 investigators from police units and prosecution offices in Belize, El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras on specific cybercrime and cyberenabled investigations and on digital evidence requests, cybercrime and cybersecurity basics and prosecution. In addition, 175 digital forensic examiners in those countries were trained on digital evidence reports. UNODC also strengthened the capacities of 335 judges in the same countries, who were trained on basic cybercrime and handling of digital evidence.

V. Border control

Argentina

35. As part of the efforts promoted by UNODC in the port control units in Buenos Aires and the port of Rosario, the Container Control Programme in Argentina has supported the identification of 41 cases of undeclared goods, 6 cases of cocaine hydrochloride trafficking with a total of 1,835 kg seized, as well as three cases involving intellectual property.

Bolivia (Plurinational State of)

36. In 2022, UNODC conducted a visit to the city of Yacuiba (which shares a border with Argentina) to develop an assessment aimed at fostering cooperation between Bolivian and Argentinian prosecutors.

Chile

37. In 2022, UNODC and national counterparts in Chile agreed on and ratified a memorandum of understanding to implement the Container Control Programme in the ports of San Antonio and Arica, and increase cooperation and effectiveness in the fight against drug trafficking and other transnational crimes within the international trade chain.

Colombia

38. Through the Container Control Programme and with the participation of the Colombian customs, anti-narcotics, sanitary and phytosanitary authorities with a presence in the port terminals of Barranquilla, Buenaventura, Cartagena, and Santa Marta, Urabá, and in the National Police Orientation Centre, the exchange of information through high-risk cargo alerts led to 68 cases of narcotics concealed in containers, with 20 tons detected and seized as part of the coordinated efforts between Colombian authorities and law enforcement authorities in Latin America and the Caribbean. In addition, the capacities of more than 270 officials with responsibilities in the control and inspection of containers were increased through specialized training activities.

Ecuador

39. The capacities of more than 190 public officers from ports in Guayaquil, Bolivar and Posorja have been increased through the delivery of specialized workshops, study visits and basic training under the Container Control Programme in Ecuador. As a result, over 406 drug trafficking cases were detected, which led to more than 19,200 kg of substances being seized.

40. The Global Maritime Crime Programme and the World Wide Fund for Nature designed guidelines to address maritime crime, environmental crime and drug trafficking in coordination with the authorities of the Galapagos Islands. Moreover, the Programme conducted a technical visit to gather information and identify administrative and law enforcement processes for the illegal use of fuels that facilitates environmental and maritime crimes and drug trafficking.

Haiti

41. In July 2022, thanks to the financial contribution of the Haitian Minister of Economy and Finance, UNODC established a programme presence in Port-au-Prince to assist national authorities in responding to border management-related threats in ports and airports.

Mexico

42. The Government of Mexico and UNODC signed a memorandum of understanding in October 2022 for the implementation of the Container Control Programme in Mexico to strengthen regulations for the introduction, extraction and transit of different types of containers in order to address their use for criminal purposes. The first assessment activities took place in March 2023.

43. UNODC, through the Global Maritime Crime Programme, conducted an assessment and exercises aimed at strengthening specialized capacities at the maritime borders and ports of Mexico at Coatzacoalcos port.

Peru

44. The Container Control Programme in Peru is operating in the ports of Callao, Paita and Matarani. As a result of the enhanced cooperation, several alerts have been sent to Europe and Central America (including Panama, Mexico and the Kingdom of the Netherlands), both from the ports of Callao and Paita. During 2022 and 2023, a total of six cases of drug trafficking were detected, with 1,962 kg of cocaine seized.

Paraguay

45. In Paraguay, Container Control Programme actions developed in the port of Montevideo have led to two cases of cocaine hydrochloride seizures totalling 988 kg; a methamphetamine case with 43 kg seized; and 3 cases of intellectual property.

Regional and subregional levels

46. UNODC, through the Global Maritime Crime Programme, hosted in Santo Domingo in February 2022 the Caribbean Forum on Maritime Crime, aimed at establishing a common operational picture and strengthening maritime domain awareness among the countries in the Caribbean through capacity-building and the promotion of regional cooperation as a necessary tool to tackle transnational organized crime at sea.

47. UNODC has been implementing a project to promote and strengthen cross-border cooperation between Brazil, Colombia and Peru on combating drug trafficking, with a focus on the tri-border area in the Amazon region. In 2022, the Office held an event entitled “Cross-Border workshop on police cooperation” between Brazil, Colombia and Peru, which gathered representatives of the Federal Police of Brazil, the National Police of Colombia, the National Police of Peru, INTERPOL, the French National Police and the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Drug Enforcement Administration of the United States of America. Good practices and techniques were shared, such as controlled delivery and financial investigation strategies.

VI. Regional networks and exchange of information

Bolivia (Plurinational State of)

48. UNODC continues to support the Government in the strengthening and consolidation of the Regional Counterdrug Intelligence Centre (CERIAN) as a regional platform for the exchange of intelligence and information between the Plurinational State of Bolivia and neighbouring countries.

Regional and subregional levels

49. In Brazil and Paraguay, UNODC is implementing a project to promote the use of innovative and inter-agency practices to enhance prison management in line with international minimum standards, with a focus on addressing the challenges posed by organized crime in prisons, including drug trafficking operated from within prisons. In 2023, the project held a regional workshop with 20 law enforcement authorities from Brazil and Paraguay to discuss challenges and opportunities to address cross-border cooperation and inter-institutional coordination in order to advance efforts to tackle organized crime and related offences.

50. Officers from Airport Communication Programme (AIRCOP) task forces from Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Cost Rica, Cuba and Ecuador participated in the Brazilian Federal Police's 25th INTERCOPS training on the suppression of international drug trafficking, held in São Paulo.

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

Bolivia (Plurinational State of)

51. In February 2023, UNODC presented the annual report on the validation of information on the destruction of drugs seized in the Plurinational State of Bolivia. UNODC validated the destruction of 87 per cent of the illicit drugs seized by Bolivian authorities.

Brazil

52. UNODC continues to support the Brazilian Early Warning Subsystem on Drugs, which aims to rapidly identify the emergence of new psychoactive substances in the country through cooperation between different Brazilian institutions. The Centre of Excellence for Illicit Drug Supply Reduction provides technical support through data collection and analysis, and dissemination of knowledge, in particular through the production of regular reports. In 2022, a total of three reports were published from the early warning system, presenting data on and analysis of new psychoactive substances. In 2023, a new report has also been published. The Centre is a partnership between UNODC, the National Secretariat on Drugs Policies and Asset Management (SENAD) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

53. Extensive evidence and knowledge of drug trafficking patterns and mechanisms used to respond to the issue were provided through the work of the Centre of Excellence. Throughout 2022, the Centre published key studies and analysis, including the strategic study "Dynamics of the illicit drug market in Brazil: Comparative analysis of the prices of marijuana, cocaine and other drugs in four States", produced jointly with SIMCI Colombia, a bulletin "Illicit drug price monitoring: lessons learned in Colombia and possible challenges in Brazil" and a report entitled "Benchmarking and good international practices on illicit drug supply reduction".

54. In 2022, UNODC, through the Centre of Excellence and in partnership with the Brazilian Ministry of Justice and Public Security, published the "Diagnostic of the forensic chemistry and toxicology laboratories of the scientific police of Brazil",

which researched 64 laboratories specialized in the identification of drugs in the 27 federative units of the country. This Diagnostic will provide subsidies and information for the improvement of these laboratories.

Colombia

55. In October 2022, UNODC released the annual coca survey, according to which, the historical series of coca crops reached its highest point in 2021, when 204,000 ha of coca were detected on 31 December (43 per cent higher than the figure registered in 2020). In view of the increase in the area under cultivation combined with the increase in productivity that has been consolidating since 2014, potential cocaine production was recorded at 1,400 metric tons, 14 per cent higher than the figure registered in 2020.

56. UNODC contributed to the development of technical studies to understand the trends and dynamics of illicit cocaine hydrochloride production. In 2022, the productive infrastructure and production hotspots continued to be profiled and two new hotspots were identified. In 2023, the production and yield study for the Meta-Guaviare, Orinoco and Pacific regions will be updated.

57. Between 2022 and 2023, UNODC published the document “Violet Lenses”, containing recommendations for the government of Bogotá on how to support the inclusion of the gender perspective in drug use prevention policy. As part of the technical assistance provided to the city, the Office also conducted a study on the consumption of psychoactive substances in 2022 for the general population of Bogotá, with more than 10,100 individuals covered. This study allowed for an in-depth analysis of drug use in rural areas of the city, as well as drug use from a differential approach, prioritizing populations with sexual and gender diversity and Afro-Colombian communities. Furthermore, a meta-analysis of evidence of the effectiveness of efforts to prevent (universal, selective and indicated) the consumption of psychoactive substances was prepared.

58. Between 2022 and 2023, UNODC, together with the Colombian Institute for Family Welfare (ICBF) developed a randomized controlled trial to verify the effectiveness of the coping strategies provided to adolescents in the juvenile criminal responsibility system and the school population, and adolescents subject to administrative processes for the restoration of rights.

59. UNODC and the Ministry of Justice and Law further conducted an exercise to assess the impact of drug production and trafficking on vulnerable populations in Colombia. As a result of a participatory and constructive process, the communities designed a methodological proposal to understand the impact caused by drugs in their territories, as well as identify the ways to address this problem on the basis of their own knowledge and traditions, thereby seeking to strengthen the horizons of good living and community life.

El Salvador

60. In January 2022, with technical support from the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission and UNODC, El Salvador launched its early warning system on drugs and new psychoactive substances and has since sent out several alerts. El Salvador joins Argentina, Chile, Colombia, Trinidad and Tobago and Uruguay as countries with established early warning systems.

Mexico

61. In December 2022, UNODC Mexico, in collaboration with the Government of Mexico (Ministry of Defence, Ministry of the Navy, Federal Prosecutor’s Office and Ministry of Foreign Affairs) presented the fifth opium poppy cultivation report through the project entitled “Monitoring system of illicit crops in Mexican territory”. The document includes estimates of the area under poppy cultivation, opium yield, potential production of dry opium gum and the morphine concentration in opium gum

for the monitoring period 2019–2020. In addition, it includes information reported by the Government of Mexico on the destruction of poppy fields, the destruction of clandestine laboratories used for heroin production and seizures of opium gum products.

Peru

62. According to the latest monitoring exercise delivered by the National Commission for Development and Life without Drugs (DEVIDA), in 2021 Peru recorded 95,016 ha of area under coca bush cultivation, with a rise of 18 per cent compared with 2021. This maintains the upward trend in the area under cultivation since 2018, when 54,134 ha were reported.

63. UNODC presented the results of the study “Environmental crime and coca cultivation activities in Ucayali: analysis of the relationships and dynamics”, aimed at strengthening and increasing the capacity of the authorities to address organized crime based on a comprehensive understanding of the relationship between environmental crime and coca cultivation, thus contributing to increasing the capacity of the authorities to address the drivers of deforestation linked to organized crime and how these impact on climate change.

VIII. Demand reduction initiatives

Bolivia (Plurinational State of)

64. UNODC continues to support national authorities in the implementation of municipal drug use prevention plans, as well as through the provision of technical assistance with the treatment, rehabilitation and reintegration of people with drug addictions.

Brazil

65. UNODC continues to provide technical support on drug prevention policies in Brazil through the establishment of a national system for the prevention of the use of alcohol and other drugs (SINAP).

66. In 2022, UNODC held an online training session on drug use prevention aimed at Brazilian policymakers. The event was organized in partnership with the National Secretariat for Drug Care and Prevention and the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction, and gathered public policy managers at the national and state levels, as well as professionals in the prevention field in Brazil.

67. In 2023, UNODC supported the National Seminar on Prevention Research held by the National Secretariat on Drugs Policies and Asset Management (SENAD), at which the SINAP virtual platform was launched, among other relevant inputs from cooperation with UNODC in Brazil. The event aimed to promote prevention strategies in Brazil and was conducted with government representatives at the national and state levels, as well as researchers on prevention.

68. In the scope of a project on HIV prevention, testing treatment and care among women who use drugs in Brazil, carried out in partnership with the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), the Office organized a national meeting on HIV combination prevention and lines of care for women who use drugs. It also co-organized a regional meeting on combined prevention of HIV and lines of care for women who use drugs in Rio de Janeiro, with the participation of civil society organizations from various countries of Latin America.

69. In the scope of the project Cooperation Pernambuco, connecting crime and violence prevention with responses to the drug problem, UNODC, together with UNDP and the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), organized a side event on the mapping of treatment services for drug-related disorders and their impact on human development – joint UNDP-UNODC experience in

Pernambuco, Brazil, and other successful research during the sixty-sixth regular session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs.

70. Under the project Cooperation Pernambuco, the findings of the “Mapping Research on the Drug Use Disorders Treatment Services Network”, conducted in 184 municipalities, were also presented, jointly with a technical training course on violence prevention and project implementation, to a group of 29 non-governmental organizations selected by the Secretariat on Violence and Drug Prevention Policies of the State of Pernambuco.

Colombia

71. UNODC designed and supported the implementation of models, guidelines and protocols to strengthen prevention, risk and harm reduction and treatment programmes aimed at reducing and raising awareness of drug demand in schools and community and institutional environments (including prisons). Accordingly, the network of observatories in Cali was strengthened, together with 20 institutional and social observatories, to improve understanding of consumption dynamics and early warning systems.

72. In partnership with the Ministry of Justice and Law, the Office of the High Commissioner for Peace, the Colombian Family Welfare Institute and local governments, UNODC designed and implemented evidence-based strategies and programmes on drug use prevention and associated factors. By means of promoting family bonds and positive parenting guidelines, life and leadership skills for young people and prevention strategies with Indigenous and ethnic communities, around 11,000 national and regional actors strengthened their capacities.

73. UNODC supported the International Congress on “Science and Conscience” together with the Antioquia School against Drug Addiction, highlighting the importance of evidence-based strategies for the care of vulnerable populations.

Panama

74. In 2022, UNODC held a workshop with the Adolescent and Children Unit of the National Police to strengthen its social prevention strategies, in line with international prevention standards.

IX. Alternative development

Bolivia (Plurinational State of)

75. UNODC continues to support the Plurinational State of Bolivia in its efforts to promote alternative development, in particular in the municipality of La Asunta. In July 2019, managers of the French company Malongo visited La Asunta to gather information about coffee plantations and explore the establishment of commercial partnerships. As a result, 13.6 tons of coffee were exported to Europe. In 2021, Malongo executives visited La Asunta again to sign a commercial agreement with the Federation of Agricultural Coffee Producers of La Asunta to export coffee to France over a five-year period (2022–2026). As a result of this commercial agreement, 38.4 tons of green gold coffee were traded in 2022.

Colombia

76. UNODC supported the drafting of the new National Drug Policy for Colombia, which will focus on ensuring the well-being of the most vulnerable communities that have been historically affected by drug trafficking, while prioritizing public health and environmental protection. Efforts will be focused on promoting people-centred and inclusive actions to reduce illicit crops, implement alternative development programmes and strengthen territories affected by illicit drugs.

77. UNODC also assisted the Government of Colombia in the implementation of voluntary coca crop substitution strategies and complementary rural transformation strategies, benefiting in 2022 more than 26,000 families in areas related to productive projects, strengthening agricultural product marketing chains, access to and formalization of land, among other actions aimed at providing legal economic alternatives to communities.

78. UNODC promoted complementary actions to reduce coca crop cultivation. Together with the government of Cúcuta, the Office supported voluntary substitution strategies with urban farming families in Banco de Arena territory, targeting the village of “El 25”. This initiative benefited 27 vulnerable families in an area affected by displacement and violence, with productive solutions to strengthen livelihoods as an instrument for consolidating legal and sustainable economies, with the potential for inclusion in regional chains and local markets.

79. As part of the efforts by the alternative development programme in Colombia to promote the inclusion of vulnerable populations and leave no one behind, nearly 144 families of women with disabilities and 60 young people improved their income-generating capacities and strengthened their life projects by consolidating productive project models as an alternative to illicit economies in Piendamó, Cauca.

80. UNODC and the private sector were also undertaking joint efforts to strengthen the productivity, competitiveness and marketing capacities of communities that adopted licit income models. For instance, nine marketing agreements were concluded with rural women’s organizations for agricultural and animal products in Cauca, Meta and Putumayo. In the latter Department, a prospective purchase of 6,000 kg of sacha inchi per year was also achieved with the organization Trading Foods.

81. In collaboration with the national oil company ECOPETROL, UNODC supported the promotion of a social marketing strategy aimed at strengthening the competitiveness of 18 organizations and 332 families in the Department of Putumayo. The activities encompassed the creation of a marketing company, the development of a service portfolio and the implementation of environmental management plans. As a result, COOAGROMAYO successfully established two commercial alliances with Bodegón de Cota for Tahiti lemon and with Grupo CISE SAS for Chontaduro and Tahiti lemon purchases.

82. Land titling has been a key factor in moving communities towards the legal economy and the rule of law in Colombia. In that regard, during 2022, UNODC continued to assist land access efforts in cooperation with the National Land Agency. As part of the programme, 968 formalizations and access to land processes were carried out in municipalities with comprehensive community plans for the substitution of crops and alternative development (PISDA) or with development Programmes with a territorial focus (PDET) benefiting more than 1,300 families, 30 per cent of which comprised rural women.

83. UNODC co-hosted the alternative development expert group held in January 2023, which focused on issues of international relevance related to interventions in ethnic territories and sustainable commercialization to ensure the economic sustainability of communities. Discussions focused on issues such as the impact on community security and coca cultivation, the causes of territorial transformations, the evaluation of programme experiences and the challenges faced by ethnic communities in achieving sustainable alternative development.

84. In 2022, UNODC provided support to the government of Bogotá in the formulation of strategic plans for the PDET, aimed at transforming its most vulnerable territories, promoting equity, and reducing poverty and inequality gaps between urban and rural areas, from a 10-year plan perspective. This is a direct outcome of the Final Peace Agreement established with the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia – People’s Army (FARC-EP) in 2016.

X. Conclusions

85. Given significant seizures and the subsequent disposal of precursor chemicals, including chemicals not under international control, there is a need for more systematic investigations into suspicious shipments in legitimate trade as well as backtracking of seizures. The information-sharing platforms offered by the International Narcotics Control Board, such as the Pre-Export Notification Online (PEN Online) system and the Pre-Export Notification Online (PEN Online) Light system for the exchange of information about planned shipments related to the legitimate trade in, respectively, precursors under international control and chemicals not controlled internationally, as well as the Precursors Incident Communication System (PICS) for the exchange of actionable information related to seizures, support Governments in these regards. In addition, an increased focus on domestic manufacture and trade in chemicals is needed to tackle diversion carried out through domestic distribution channels, with subsequent intraregional smuggling.

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

87. Member States and UNODC need to continue to foster intraregional and interregional dialogues on the production and consumption of and trafficking in illicit substances.

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

89. Sustained intraregional cooperation is needed to develop more cooperation to tackle synthetic drugs and identify, trace and combat the laundering of proceeds of trafficking in synthetic drugs.

90. It is essential to progress in the production of knowledge in the region that allows for updated and comparable prevalence rates regarding the use of psychoactive substances. In this way, individual and collective responses to the phenomenon can be improved. Given that the region continues to postpone these actions, improvements are required, not only in the comparability of national surveys but also in the time range for updating the survey.

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

92. Considering the relevance of evidence-based drug policies and programmes that incorporate human rights and public health, efforts to support the design and implementation of national prevention, treatment and recovery strategies should continue and be expanded further.
