

27 May 2008

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**Eighteenth Meeting of Heads of
National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies,
Latin America and the Caribbean**
Tegucigalpa, Honduras, 13-17 October 2008

Provisional agenda*

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda.
3. Major regional drug-trafficking trends and countermeasures.
4. Implementation of the recommendations adopted by the Seventeenth 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) The regions response to cocaine trafficking;
 - (b) Strengthening information exchange and operational cooperation at inter-agency, cross-border and regional levels;
 - (c) Demand reduction – law enforcements role in supporting effective policies.
6. Organization of the Nineteenth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Latin America and the Caribbean.
7. Other business.
8. Adoption of the report of the Eighteenth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Latin America and the Caribbean.

* This document has not been edited.



Annotations

1. Election of officers

Elections are held in accordance with rule 15 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council (E/5975/Rev.1). Meetings of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies (HONLEA), Latin America and the Caribbean, have in the past elected a chairman, two vice-chairmen and a rapporteur.

2. Adoption of the agenda

The Commission on Narcotic Drugs, at its thirty-eighth session, recommended that general statements and statistics relating to national trends in illicit drug trafficking, should not be read out during the course of the Meetings, but rather circulated in written form. Bearing in mind that recommendation, Governments are invited to submit to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), by 15 August 2008, a two-page report on the most recent trends in illicit drug trafficking in their countries. Only those country reports that have been received by that date will be translated into the other working languages of the Meeting.

Following the adoption of the agenda, the Meeting is to establish a timetable for the session. A provisional timetable for the consideration of the Meeting is contained in the annex to the present document.

3. Major regional drug-trafficking trends and countermeasures

Participants are invited to inform the Meeting of the action taken by their Governments to enhance regional and subregional cooperation in areas such as joint investigations, law enforcement training, sharing of information and experience in drug-trafficking countermeasures.

The item will be introduced by UNODC, with an overview of current drug-trafficking trends.

Participants are requested to inform the Meeting of measures taken to counter drug trafficking and practical problems impeding cooperation at the regional and subregional levels as well as measures to overcome them.

Documentation

Statistics on drug trafficking trends in Americas and worldwide (UNODC/HONLAC/2008/2)

Report by UNODC on the current situation with respect to regional and subregional cooperation (UNODC/HONLAC/2008/CRP.1)

4. Implementation of the recommendations adopted by the Seventeenth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Latin America and the Caribbean, by States of the region

Participants are invited to inform the Meeting of action taken by their Governments in the implementation of the recommendations adopted at the Seventeenth Meeting of HONLEA, Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Quito,

from 15 to 19 October 2007. For the consideration of this item, the Meeting will have before it a note by the Secretariat based on the replies submitted by Governments on action taken to implement the recommendations.

To enable the Secretariat to prepare a report on the status of implementation of the recommendations, Governments are urged to return the completed questionnaire by 15 August 2008.

Documentation

Review of implementation by States of the region of the recommendations adopted at the Seventeenth Meeting of HONLEA, Latin America and the Caribbean (UNODC/HONLAC/2008/3)

5. Consideration of topics by working groups

Ad hoc working groups are established to consider drug-trafficking issues of regional importance and to facilitate informal discussions and frank exchanges of views, with a view to enhancing cooperation between drug law enforcement agencies. The working groups are invited to present their findings, conclusions and recommendations to the plenary for endorsement and inclusion in the report of the Meeting.

On the basis of consultations on developments in the region, each working group is invited to consider the following issues:

(a) The regions response to cocaine trafficking

In spite of the notable successes in interdiction efforts, the street price of cocaine has not increased, suggesting traffickers are extracting greater yields of cocaine hydrochloride from the overall hectares of illicit cultivation. Cooperation among law enforcement agencies, and in particular border control agencies is particularly important for the interception of illicit consignments of cocaine and its precursors. Throughout the region, secondary border crossings such as on many land borders, small ports and rural airfields remained attractive to drug traffickers because facilities there were often ill equipped to thoroughly examine and test for cocaine or correctly identify precursor chemicals subject to international or domestic control. This working group will examine the issues associated with intercepting cocaine and precursor chemicals used in its manufacture from the perspective of Member States experiences over the past twelve months. Observed trends will be shared, and participants will be invited to present case studies and put forward proposals to increase the effectiveness of law enforcement efforts against cocaine trafficking throughout the region.

(b) Strengthening information exchange and operational cooperation at inter-agency, cross-border and regional levels

Promoting horizontal cooperation among Member States of the region in the exchange of information, the provision of operational support and the undertaking of preliminary enquiries in response to external requests for assistance are fundamental to supporting an effective law enforcement response to counter illicit drug trafficking. Similarly, engaging with cross-border counterparts through encouraging the use of the same or compatible communication systems, operational

search procedures and the adoption of common standards in the collection, storage and retrieval of operational data and intelligence add further to enhance operational effectiveness. This working group will examine where Member States find shortfalls in building and maintaining cross-border cooperation with one another. Participants will exchange their current experience and procedure for information exchange, and develop ideas to build trust and further support cooperation in regional information exchange between agencies with a view to developing concrete operational recommendations in this regard.

(c) Demand reduction – law enforcements role in supporting effective policies

The first government agency to come in contact with a drug abuser is often a law enforcement one. For this reason, law enforcement agencies have a key role to play in public awareness campaigns to increase the knowledge within the community of drug abuse and its accompanying problems of crime. How they respond and what procedures they follow have important impacts upon trafficking and abuse patterns.

The working group will examine what are good practices to be employed by law enforcement agencies in their response to supporting community demand reduction strategies. Participants will be asked to share, by reference to practical examples, their national experience and tried areas of good practice. Areas they may wish to share information on could include:

- (i) How do agencies train their staff to change their attitude toward drug users, reducing stigma and discrimination, increasing awareness about the effects of illicit drug;
- (ii) How is cooperation among school, social services, health system and law enforcement in changing the trajectory of adolescents at risk or young experimenters;
- (iii) The national response to the role of law enforcement related to treatment in prison and the alternative measures to prison (in relationship to court decisions application);
- (iv) The cooperation between law enforcement in supporting the accessibility to treatment and drug abuse prevention and reduction measures;

The working group will also be asked to identify shortfalls in good practice and areas where more could be done with law enforcement agencies to develop concrete proposals and recommendations to enhance the contribution of law enforcement to overall demand reduction efforts.

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

The Meeting is to consider a draft provisional agenda for the Nineteenth Meeting of HONLEA, Latin America and the Caribbean, including topics for discussion in working groups and possible venues for future Meetings. For planning purposes a decision at the Eighteenth Meeting of HONLEA on the venue of the Nineteenth Meeting, as well as the topics for the working groups would greatly facilitate the preparation and organization of the Nineteenth Meeting. The Secretariat will provide, upon request, a copy of the standard letter of agreement

setting out the contributions of the United Nations, on the one hand, and of the host Government, on the other.

Documentation

Organization of the Nineteenth Meeting of HONLEA
(UNODC/HONLAC/2008/4)

7. Other business

Under this item, the Meeting may wish to address other important issues, such as urgent matters arising from the country reports.

8. Adoption of the report

The Meeting adopts its report, including the findings, conclusions and recommendations of the working groups.

Annex

Provisional timetable of the Eighteenth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Latin America and the Caribbean

<i>Date</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Item</i>	<i>Title or description</i>
Monday, 13 October	8.30 a.m.		Registration
	10 a.m.		Opening of the Eighteenth Meeting of HONLEA, Latin America and the Caribbean
		1	Election of officers
		2	Adoption of the agenda
		3	Major regional drug-trafficking trends and countermeasures
	3 p.m.	3	Continuation
Tuesday, 14 October	10 a.m.	4	Implementation of the recommendations adopted by the Seventeenth Meeting of HONLEA, Latin America and the Caribbean, by States of the region
	3 p.m.	5	Consideration of topics by working groups
Wednesday, 15 October	10 a.m.	5	Working groups
	3 p.m.	5	Working groups (continued)
Thursday, 16 October	10 a.m.	5	Working groups (continued)
	3 p.m.	5	Working groups (continued)
Friday, 17 October	10 a.m.	6	Organization of the Nineteenth Meeting of HONLEA, Latin America and the Caribbean
	3 p.m.	7	Other business
		8	Adoption of the report of the Eighteenth Meeting of HONLEA, Latin America and the Caribbean