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

Isla Margarita, Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela
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Implementation of the recommendations adopted by the Eighteenth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Latin America and the Caribbean**

1. The Eighteenth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Tegucigalpa, Honduras, from 13 to 17 October 2008, adopted a set of recommendations following the consideration by working groups of the issues defined below.
2. In accordance with established practice, the report of the Eighteenth Meeting was forwarded to the Governments represented at the session. A questionnaire on the implementation of the recommendations adopted at that Meeting was dispatched to Governments on 2 June 2009 together with information relating to the Nineteenth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Latin America and the Caribbean.
3. The present report was prepared on the basis of information provided to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) by Governments in reply to that questionnaire. As of 11 August 2009, replies had been received from the Governments of Bahamas, Bolivia, Chile, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Haiti, Panama, Peru, Trinidad and Tobago and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of).

* UNODC/HONLAC/19/1.

** This document has not been edited.

Issue 1: The region's response to trafficking in cocaine**Recommendation 1**

4. It was recommended that Governments must ensure that their law enforcement agencies are adequately equipped, supported and empowered with the authority they require and the resources they need to gather the information necessary to target the movement of suspicious aircraft, vessels and shipping containers believed to be involved in drug trafficking throughout the region.
5. Most countries reported that they had ensured that their law enforcement agencies are adequately equipped, supported and empowered with the authority they required and the resources they needed, in compliance with the recommendation.
6. The law enforcement agencies in the Bahamas have been granted the full legislative authority and provided with the equipment to target suspicious aircrafts, vessels and containers and the country's defence communication system had been upgraded to facilitate and improve the exchange and transfer of information among various operational platforms.
7. Bolivia reported that its Special Force against Drug Trafficking (FELCN) had received the required resources and the legal authority to conduct its activities in the fight against drug trafficking. The law enforcement authorities had adequate equipment to target the movement of suspicious aircraft, vessels and shipping containers were checked before departure.
8. In Chile, the exchange of information in the area of maritime security is conducted by the National Customs Service and the Navy. The National Customs Service uses X-ray equipment to scan the imported, exported and transiting goods through that country's main ports. Moreover, in line with the Strategic Drug Control Plan, Chile's General Directorate for Maritime Territory and Merchant Marine (DIRECTEMAR) has been considering the purchase of the latest equipment in order to facilitate drug detection activities.
9. Cuba reported that it had put in place a ministerial system to ensure the coordination and cohesion of the activities of different bodies involved in the fight against drug trafficking. In addition, its law enforcement authorities had received the necessary support, including the necessary equipment and training.
10. The Government of the Dominican Republic approved the purchase of adequate equipment to facilitate the inspection and monitoring of suspicious aircraft, vessels and containers. The country's Air Force, Navy and the General Directorate of Customs have taken action to implement this recommendation.
11. The Government of Ecuador took action to ensure that its law enforcement agencies were equipped with radars, interception aircraft and speedboats, and other means, including an Integrated System for Maritime and Port Management to effectively monitor the movement of suspicious aircraft, vessels and shipping containers. Furthermore, Ecuador has been implementing a Container Control Pilot Programme under the auspices of UNODC and, since 2008, the National Directorate of Control and Oversight under the National Council for the Control of Narcotic and Psychotropic Substances (CONSEP), has strengthened the control of seaports, airports and border checkpoints.

12. In addition to adopting a Port Security Plan, El Salvador adopted a range of measures to ensure security of such facilities and, to this end, maintained coordination between the government and the maritime sector. Haiti reported that, although it did not have the funds to purchase the necessary equipment, the Joint Information and Coordination Centre (CICC) had been collecting information within its capacities.

13. Panama adopted appropriate legislation in 2009 and started regulating the National Air-sea Service (Aeronaval) to prevent, suppress and investigate crimes, as well as to protect the airspace and its maritime space.

14. In Peru, competent authorities, such as the Anti-drug Directorate of the National Police, conducted interdiction operations, which included targeting illegal airstrips. Trinidad and Tobago reported that it had developed human resources initiatives and training programmes for law enforcement and intelligence agencies, as well as enhanced the joint command and control of marine and air assets among security agencies.

15. Venezuela noted that, in addition to establishing non-intrusive verification systems at seaports and airports, it had integrated security agencies into the National Drug Information System (SINADRO) and implemented the project “Airports Modernization and Air Traffic Management”.

Recommendation 2

16. It was recommended that Governments of countries in the region of Latin America and the Caribbean should encourage and support greater cooperation and coordination between their drug law enforcement authorities and their counterparts in West Africa, so as to better target and arrest those persons responsible for trafficking in cocaine between the region and the African continent.

17. Most countries reported that they supported greater cooperation and coordination between their drug law enforcement authorities and their counterparts in West Africa.

18. Although the Bahamas had not been confronted with this issue, in line with the principle of shared responsibility, its law enforcement agencies had been monitoring new trends and developments in this regard and had been standing ready to assist, when necessary.

19. Bolivia noted that it had been cooperating on a permanent basis with the other countries in the region, including in the area of information exchange, arrest of fugitives, coordinated and simultaneous operations conducted by law enforcement agencies, in particular in the border regions. Regarding West Africa, for reasons of geography, coordination activities include exchange of information and arrest of fugitives.

20. Cuba noted that, although it was not directly affected by drug trafficking to the African continent, its police authorities had continued strengthening their cooperation with countries in the region on matters related to the exchange of information in real time.

21. In the Dominican Republic, the National Drug Control Directorate (DNCD) and the security bodies have greatly improved cooperation and coordination. In

addition, effective control mechanisms to prevent drug trafficking between the region and the African continent, were established with the support of INCB, ICPO-Interpol, Europol, and governments in the regions.

22. Ecuador made particular reference to the UNODC project “Law Enforcement and Intelligence Cooperation against Cocaine Trafficking from Latin America to West Africa” and the secure system established to facilitate the exchange of information (SIIS). In addition, CONSEP has been promoting the revival of the Andean Subcommittee on Chemical Substances in the framework of the Andean Community.

23. El Salvador noted that it was party to the Cartagena Action Plan and that, given its geographic location and existing drug trafficking routes, it had not yet established any coordination mechanisms. Panama reported that it had supported initiatives aimed at strengthening the rule of law and the fight against organized crime in Western Africa through various international cooperation instruments.

24. Peru reported that countries of Latin America and the Caribbean attended meetings organized by UNODC in order to better coordinate their actions in the field of drug control. Direct communication remained to be established with countries in Western Africa with the view to establishing coordination mechanisms.

25. Trinidad and Tobago noted the steps taken to establish cooperation between the two regions, with the support of the European Union. Venezuela improved cooperation with liaison officers of European police organizations, posted in Caracas, through whom information on drug trafficking was exchanged between the two regions.

Recommendation 3

26. It was recommended that, in order to prevent the illicit manufacture of amphetamine-type stimulants from establishing itself within their territories, Governments of countries in Latin America and the Caribbean should take steps to ensure that their legislation and administrative procedures are adequate and flexible enough to control the internationally scheduled precursor chemicals used in the illicit manufacture of amphetamine-type stimulants and to meet the increasing challenge posed by the use of substitute chemicals in such manufacture.

27. Most countries reported that they had taken steps to ensure that their legislation and administrative procedures were adequate and flexible enough to control the internationally scheduled precursor chemicals used in the illicit manufacture of amphetamine-type stimulants.

28. The Government of Bahamas reported that it had recently adopted the Precursor Chemical and Pharmacy Act, which provided for stringent penalties, and a Customs Management Act, which allowed for a successful monitoring of legal imports into the country. Since there was no licit production of narcotics in the Bahamas, the level of illicit trafficking of precursor chemicals was not at a notable level.

29. Bolivia has been taking steps to improve its legislation and relevant regulations, with the participation of the National Council for the Fight against Illicit Drug Trafficking (CONALTID) and specialized units at the Ministry of Health, Special Force to Combat Drug Trafficking (FELCN) and the General

Directorate of Controlled Substances (DGSG). Furthermore, Bolivia indicated that more training targeting its relevant law enforcement personnel by international organizations was required.

30. Chile reported that it was amending its Law Nr. 20.000 on Illegal Trafficking of Narcotic and Psychotropic Drugs in order to expand the functions and authority of the Special Registry of Users of Controlled Chemical Substances. The amendment will provide for the oversight of entities which distribute, sell and transport these substances, with a focus on entities working with substances associated with the production of cocaine and synthetic drugs.

31. Although Cuba does not produce chemical precursors, it does exercise control over the import and export of such substances, in line with the provisions of the 1988 UN Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances and in close collaboration with the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB).

32. The Dominican Republic reported that the Division for Chemicals and Precursors of the National Drug Control Directorate had been continuously supporting prevention and control mechanisms in order to ensure the effective oversight of precursors used in the illicit manufacture of amphetamine-type stimulants. Furthermore, the Division had been closely cooperating with the General Directorates for Customs and Public Health.

33. In 2008 and 2009, the National Council for the Control of Narcotic and Psychotropic Substances of Ecuador organized workshops for officials from the Armed Forces, Ministry of Public Health, Attorney General's Office, National Police and other agencies, in the framework of the "Support Project for the Andean Community in the Area of Synthetic Drugs", under the auspices of the European Union and the Andean Community.

34. El Salvador adopted a number of laws and agreements in this area and it has been participating in the INCB initiative, focused on shipments of ephedrine and pseudoephedrine, pharmaceutical preparations containing these substances, and other precursors used for the illicit manufacture of amphetamine-type stimulants. In Haiti, a Directorate at the Ministry of Health oversaw this issue, in compliance with administrative and technical procedures.

35. The National Commission for the Study and Prevention of Drug-related Crimes (CONAPRED) of Panama published an updated list, which included both precursors and controlled substances, and substances placed under national control. Peru noted the implementation of the project "Support for the Andean Community in the Area of Synthetic Drugs" (DROSICAN) at the level of the Andean Community.

36. The Government of Trinidad and Tobago reviewed the proposed legislation on precursor chemicals, set up a unit to address this issue and responded to requests received through the PEN system. In addition, experts from the Ministries of National Security, Health and Trade and the Customs Department were trained on precursor chemicals control.

37. Venezuela's legal framework follows the provisions of and the lists annexed to the 1988 Convention and it also extends to other substances, which could be used for the illicit manufacture of amphetamine-type stimulants. During the reporting

period, Venezuela has been implementing a national plan to control chemical precursors and participated in projects and operations initiated by INCB, such as Operation “Ice block” and others.

Issue 2: Strengthening information exchange and operational cooperation at the inter-agency, cross-border and regional levels

Recommendation 4

38. It was recommended that Governments of countries in the region of Latin America and the Caribbean that have not already done so should develop, promulgate and endorse national strategies that support the establishment of mechanisms at the national level that enable the gathering, analysis and exchange of information and intelligence to support the provision of real-time information for operational activities at the national level and to facilitate cooperation between their national agencies and their counterparts in other countries.

39. All the countries indicated that they had promulgated and endorsed national strategies that supported the establishment of mechanisms at the national level that enabled the gathering, analysis and exchange of information and intelligence for the purposes envisaged in this recommendation.

40. The Government of Bahamas continued strengthening its national intelligence network composed of law enforcement agencies, such as the Royal Police Force, Royal Defence Force, Customs, Immigration, Fisheries and other agencies. The Government of the Bahamas posted two Defence Force officers at the Regional Intelligence Task Force in Trinidad and continued its efforts in this area coordinated through law enforcement cooperation under Operation Bahamas and Turks and Caicos (OPBAT), a trilateral agreement including the Bahamas, the United States and the United Kingdom.

41. Bolivia reported that it had been cooperating with the countries in the region and it had dedicated staff to data collection and timely exchange of information on matters pertaining to drug trafficking and related crimes, arrest of fugitives and other issues arising from criminal investigations.

42. Chile’s Investigation Police continuously exchanges information with police organizations in the region at inter-institutional, cross-border and regional levels. Chile’s Carabineers indicated that they maintained various mechanisms and links that enabled national drug control bodies to exchange intelligence in real time.

43. Cuba noted that it had set up the necessary mechanisms to ensure the collection, analysis and exchange of intelligence at the national level through a specially created information system. Such information was regularly relayed to the National Drug Commission at the Ministry of Interior.

44. The security bodies of the Dominican Republic have promoted and implemented strategies and operational plans, in line with the objectives contained in the strategic plan for drug control for 2008-2012. To this end, the National Directorate for Drug Control developed and put into practice the Bi-Annual Operational Plan 2009-2011.

45. In Ecuador, in addition to the adoption of a National Plan for Prevention and Drug Control 2009-2012, CONSEP implemented an IT system, which allows natural

and legal persons to report transactions related to controlled substances on a monthly basis. Also, the Armed Forces exchange information in real time with the National Police and the Attorney General's Office.

46. In El Salvador, the Executive Directorate of the national drug control commission coordinates activities among agencies at the national level. The cross-border and regional exchange of operational information is carried out by the Joint Anti-narcotics Intelligence Centre (CICA) at the Anti-narcotics Division of the National Civil Police, which also cooperates with the Latin American and Caribbean Intelligence Community (CLACIP). El Salvador also uses the INCB Pen online system.

47. Haiti reported that its National Drug Control Commission (CONALD) had organized regular inter-agency meetings for various stakeholders involved in the fight against trafficking. In September 2008, Panama presented to the Central American Integration System (SICA) a project on the needs of its National Police in the context of the Central American security strategy to combat organized crime, drug trafficking, as well as to set up more efficient police intelligence systems.

48. The Government of Peru, in its drug control strategy for 2007-2011 had envisaged international cooperation related to information exchange, judicial matters and other areas. Trinidad and Tobago indicated that its National Inter-Agency Coordination Centre facilitated the gathering, analysis and exchange of information and intelligence among national agencies. The Regional Intelligence Fusion Centre (RIFC), CARICOM Implementing Agency for Crime and Security (IMPACS) and Caribbean Drug Information (CDI) performed a similar function at the regional level.

49. Venezuela reported that the implementation of this recommendation was foreseen in its current national strategy and that, during the past two years, the identification and extradition of criminals to their countries of origin was facilitated in line with international requests.

Recommendation 5

50. It was recommended that Governments of countries in the region should, to facilitate 24-hour coverage, taking into account factors such as staff rotation, illness and changes in agency responsibilities, support the establishment of offices to act as national focal points. The existence of those offices should be sufficiently well known to their counterparts in other countries, in order to facilitate quick contact among those counterparts as an essential requirement to enable the effective exchange of information among law enforcement and judicial authorities for the conduct of investigations and law enforcement operations across borders.

51. Many countries reported that, in line with this recommendation, they supported the establishment of offices to act as national focal points, in order to facilitate quick contact among those counterparts as an essential requirement to enable the effective exchange of information among law enforcement and judicial authorities for the conduct of investigations and law enforcement operations across borders.

52. Bahamas established a 24-hour Drug Enforcement Unit, with a strong emphasis on intelligence-led operations, in 1988. Since then, it had developed an

advanced technology based intelligence network that facilitates reception and dissemination of national and international intelligence. Bahamas is also an active member of the Centre for Drug Information (CDI), established by the International Drug Enforcement Conference (IDEC) in 2002.

53. In Bolivia, offices, which fulfil these functions on a permanent basis, exist in every department and their contact information is included in the agreements signed with other countries. In Chile, the National Drug Control Council (CONACE) is the coordinating entity for the National Anti-drug Strategy and it set up multi-disciplinary teams, working to reduce the demand for drugs at the community, national and regional levels. CONACE has been cooperating closely with the police authorities and the Office of the Public Prosecutor.

54. The Dominican Republic noted that it had been implementing this recommendation through the Joint Information and Coordination Centre of its National Directorate of Drug Control. The National Plan for Prevention and Drug Control 2009-2012, adopted by Ecuador, contains a provision on the need to establish such a centre. In addition, the Government of Ecuador set up an Intelligence Secretariat to coordinate the exchange of information among state institutions.

55. In El Salvador, the National Anti-drug Commission is responsible for the planning, coordination, oversight, evaluation and approval of strategic plans and policies and it takes the necessary action to effectively integrate the activities of police, customs and judicial bodies. Haiti noted that it had appointed focal points for this issue at the Joint Information and Coordination Centre and the Office for the Suppression of Illicit Drug Trafficking (BLTS).

56. In Peru, the National Police, the National Superintendence of Tax Management and the Customs Administration, as well the Office of the Public Prosecutor, assigned units to act as coordination centres for cross-border investigations and operations. The Strategic Services Agency of Trinidad and Tobago acted as the focal point in this regard.

57. In Venezuela, the Joint Information and Coordination Centre and the Drug Information Centre, performed these functions, with the support of a 24-hour centre. Additionally, Venezuela created a Situation Room for the management, monitoring and decision-making on drugs and related crimes.

Recommendation 6

58. It was recommended that States should support regular meetings of operational law enforcement agencies from neighbouring States or regional partners in order to facilitate the establishment of direct links and to provide a framework for trusted and effective information exchange and operational cooperation.

59. All the countries reported that they had supported regular meetings of operational law enforcement agencies from neighbouring States or regional partners in order to facilitate the establishment of direct links and to provide a framework for trusted and effective information exchange and operational cooperation.

60. Bahamas continued to participate in regional and international conferences, such as the International Drug Enforcement Conference (IDEC) and regional

seminar on mutual legal assistance, organized under the auspices of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime.

61. Bolivia noted that, in addition to regular meetings with countries in the region, operational activities should be followed up by evaluations of results achieved with the view to improving future actions. In 2009, Chile organized a series of national activities on issues related to drug control, as well as participated in several international fora. CONACE and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs organized a seminar on the exchange of experiences and capacity-building for judges, prosecutors and police officers. CONACE also organized, in cooperation with CICAD/OAS, a seminar on “Controlled Chemical Substances and Synthetic Drugs” for 150 public officials from Chile. Chile has also been chairing the CICAD Expert Group on Maritime Drug Trafficking.

62. Cuba hosted two events: the 7th meeting of the EU/LAC (Latin American and Caribbean) Intelligence Sharing working group (20-22 May, 2009), and the UNODC regional seminar for Latin America and Caribbean on Mutual Legal Assistance on the Treaties for International Control of Drugs and Psychotropic Substances. The authorities of the Dominican Republic have been closely cooperating with their counterparts in other countries both at the regional and global levels.

63. The Armed Forces, the National Police, CONSEP and other relevant institutions of Ecuador have participated in regular coordination meetings, at the executive and operational levels, with the neighbouring countries and regional partners. El Salvador reported that experts from their Anti-Narcotics Division of the National Civil Police participated in various international fora and regional fora organized by the United Nations, CICAD/OAS, INCB and others.

64. The law enforcement authorities of Haiti participated in several regional meetings. In January 2009, the Presidents of Colombia, Guatemala, Mexico and Panama and other high-level officials gathered in Panama to discuss the joint fight against drug trafficking, as well as to develop common strategies against transnational organized crime.

65. The Government of Peru organizes regular meetings with the neighbouring countries in border areas in order to coordinate joint actions in the fight against drug trafficking. Trinidad and Tobago also takes part in events organized in the framework of IDEC. Venezuela organizes regular meetings in order to coordinate activities and exchange information with authorities of neighbouring and other countries.

Recommendation 7

66. It was recommended that States in the region should work together in order to establish a regional information and coordination centre to facilitate the undertaking of successful drug law enforcement investigations.

67. All the reporting countries noted their support for the establishment of a regional information and coordination centre to facilitate the undertaking of successful drug law enforcement investigations.

68. The Bahamas expects that a memorandum of understanding on the implementation of this initiative would be signed and that, in the interim, activities

would be continued in the framework of the Operation Bahamas and Turks and Caicos (OPBAT).

69. In Bolivia, such activities, including the collection of data on suspects, defendants and sentencing practices at the national and international levels, are implemented by the Special Operations Force (FOE) and intelligence officers of the Special Force against Drug Trafficking. Chile noted that it had taken no action in this regard during the reporting period.

70. Cuban representatives expressed support for the creation of a regional information and coordination centre to facilitate operational cooperation and exchange of experiences at several international meetings, including the 7th meeting of the EU/LAC (Latin American and Caribbean) Intelligence Sharing working group and previous HONLEA meetings.

71. The Government of the Dominican Republic was considering the feasibility of such a regional centre. The Government of Ecuador organized a preparatory meeting on the “Latin American and Caribbean Initiative to Combat Drug Trafficking and Organized Crime” and one of the issues discussed was the urgent need to establish such a regional centre. The Anti-Narcotics Division of the National Civil Police of El Salvador has been actively participating in cross-border investigations in its capacity as a member of IDEC.

72. Haiti reported that it had established the Joint Information and Coordination Centre (CICC) of Haiti and the Dominican Republic. Panama indicated that, in June 2009, it had taken the initiative to put in place the Regional Coordination Centre (CERCONAR) that had been generated in the context of the Central American Integration System in order to improve regional security.

73. Peru indicated that a regional portal on drug trafficking had been created in the framework of the regional project for the control of chemical precursors in Andean countries (PRECAN), supported by European Union and the Andean Community. Trinidad and Tobago made reference to the various regional initiatives aimed at exchanging information.

74. Venezuela has been developing a computer module in the framework of its National Drug Information System (SINADRO), which allows for the exchange of information with authorities in other countries in real time, and with the view to eventually contributing to the establishment of the regional information and coordination centre.

Issue 3: Demand reduction: law enforcement’s role in supporting effective policies

Recommendation 8

75. It was recommended that Governments should ensure that syllabuses based on the principles of reduction in illicit drug demand are integrated into the training programmes for officials of all law enforcement agencies (police, customs, prosecutors and judiciary) responsible for the enforcement of legislation to tackle drug abuse and trafficking.

76. The majority of countries reported that they had ensured that syllabuses based on the principles of reduction in illicit drug demand were integrated into the training programmes for officials of all law enforcement agencies.

77. In the Bahamas, the Drug Enforcement Unit, the Drug Demand Reduction Education Programme, in collaboration with the National Drug Council Education Programme, adopted demand reduction syllabuses, as well as disseminated information and trained key stakeholders. Bolivia has been developing new legislation and regulations in this area, with an emphasis on inter-agency coordination in order to improve prevention activities and, in particular, treatment programmes.

78. Chile reported that it had been addressing this issue through a psycho-social perspective and conducted drug demand reduction programmes, with the support of the National Drug Control Council. Furthermore, the technical and professional training of drug control officials included the development of competencies, which would allow them to effectively implement prevention and demand reduction programmes.

79. In Cuba, the Ministries of Education and Higher Education developed specific plans to prevent drug addiction, which were then incorporated into the syllabuses of relevant institutions. In the Dominican Republic, the National Drug Council (CND), the principal drug control body, was developing a training programme for the officials from the pertinent services.

80. Ecuador's legislation stipulated that the prevention of drug abuse should be carried out through the development and implementation of appropriate programmes. El Salvador noted that, at the police level, syllabuses had been based on tackling crime, with the ultimate goal of reducing the illicit drug supply, and that training programmes also included techniques on reducing supply.

81. In Haiti, the National Commission for the Fight against Drugs and its supply reduction unit implement an integrated training programme for police officers and other officials. The Government of Panama reported that it had organized trainings for law enforcement authorities on new data collection and analysis tools. In addition, there had been a joint effort by the Office of the Public Prosecutor and the Judicial Branch to train officials in the implementation of the new adversarial system and accusatory procedure as of September 2009.

82. In Peru, the competent institutions administer training centres whose syllabuses include courses on human rights and issues related to prevention, treatment and rehabilitation of persons addicted to drugs. Furthermore, Peru set up operational units to reduce drug demand. In Trinidad and Tobago, there is an ongoing programme at the Police Training Academy and professional training and competency building for personnel involved in the field of drug treatment and rehabilitation, but there is a need to expand these programmes.

83. Venezuela is implementing a National Integrated Prevention Plan for 2007-2013, which includes, among others, training materials on drug abuse prevention targeted at both newly-recruited officials and vulnerable populations.

Recommendation 9

84. It was recommended that Governments of countries in Latin America and the Caribbean that have not already done so should take steps to introduce within their criminal justice systems appropriate procedures to enable prisoners who are drug abusers to be provided with treatment, education, rehabilitation and reintegration services while serving their prison sentences.

85. Most countries reported that they had taken steps to introduce within their criminal justice systems appropriate procedures to enable the provision of treatment, education, rehabilitation and reintegration services to imprisoned drug dependent persons, while serving their prison sentences.

86. In the Bahamas, the Prison Administration implemented several strategies to assist prisoners who were drug abusers, with the assistance of qualified social workers and doctors. Strategies included the testing and identification of drug abusers upon entry, placement in substance abuse, treatment and drug treatment rehabilitation programmes and placement in pre-release programmes in order to facilitate their reintegration into society.

87. Bolivia, in addition to the ongoing prevention and treatment activities, has been developing new legislation, containing provisions on improving inter-institutional coordination. Chile noted that it had conducted activities in this field since 2000 and that it had established 13 treatment centres at nine prison facilities. In Cuba, drug use is not criminalized, since it is considered that drug users rather require medical treatment at specialized health centres. The country's penal justice system has at its disposal a range of services, such as treatment, rehabilitation, education and reintegration into society.

88. The National Drug Council of the Dominican Republic, conducted prevention activities, as well as conferences, contests and workshops, targeting the prison population, through its Directorate for Treatment and Rehabilitation and in cooperation with the Directorate for Demand Reduction. The Government of Ecuador adopted a series of measures to offer treatment, education, rehabilitation and reintegration programmes to prisoners. The Ministry of Justice and Human Rights of that country was developing policies and programmes in this regard.

89. El Salvador indicated that it had developed so-called "Specialized Programmes", including a rehabilitation programme for drug addicts in prison facilities. Haiti reported that it had taken action in this regard. The Penal Code of Panama contained provisions on ensuring the reinsertion of such individuals into the society and Peru's Penal Code envisages the provision of treatment services to inmates at penitentiary institutions.

90. Trinidad and Tobago indicated that, although, in that country, prisoners who were drug abusers were not obligated to undergo treatment, such services were provided by non-governmental organizations, faith-based organizations and welfare officers posted in prisons. A national survey of prison population was currently underway, with the view to developing appropriate procedures for the rehabilitation and reintegration of inmates.

91. The National Integrated Prevention Plan for 2007-2013, implemented by Venezuela, also addressed the needs of inmates in the areas of prevention, treatment, rehabilitation and reintegration.