

Excellencies,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my great pleasure to present the Co-Chairs' summary of the salient points of Round Table 5 on alternative development, regional, interregional and international cooperation on development-oriented balanced drug control policy, addressing socio-economic issues, which was held on 21 April 2016 from 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Round Table 5 was co-chaired by H.E. Mr. Ollanta Humala, the President of Peru, H.E. Dr. Bernard Nottage, Minister of National Security of the Commonwealth of the Bahamas and myself.

The salient points summarized by the co-Chairs are as follows:

A number of speakers stressed that poverty, food insecurity, marginalization, vulnerability, insecurity and lack of access to land and markets were some of the key factors that fostered illicit crop cultivation.

The speakers noted that alternative development programmes are geared towards not only reducing the illicit cultivation of coca, opium poppy and cannabis, but also improving the socio-economic conditions of marginalized farming communities who in many cases have no other means to earn a livelihood other than to engage in illicit crop cultivation.

Speakers recognized that there can be no sustainable development without peace, and a holistic response is needed to the world drug problem, including by addressing the broader socio-economic issues and by ensuring the development approach to the world drug problem. The speakers highlighted that alternative development should be included into broader national development strategies.

The speakers highlighted the importance and added value of this special session in further advancing alternative development as an important development oriented drug control approach that addresses the root causes of illicit drug crop cultivation. The speakers reiterated the importance of incorporating alternative development into the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda and recognized that it directly contributes to the accomplishment of sustainable development goals.

Several speakers stressed that alternative development required a long-term sustainable integrated comprehensive approach, including the provision and improvement of access to infrastructure, health, education and markets, among others.

The importance of addressing the needs of women, the issues of environmental sustainability in the implementation of alternative development was highlighted.

The speakers noted that in order for alternative development to unlock its full potential, it is important to address the discrepancy between the political endorsement of alternative development and the limited funding alternative development has received, which has often been provided on a short term basis. Alternative development funding must be stepped up to meet the actual needs of the vulnerable farming communities.

Several speakers also noted the need to strengthen impact research and evidence base in order to measure outcomes of alternative development.

A number of speakers highlighted that alternative development must be designed with a human-centred approach and based on human rights.

The speakers pointed at the critical importance of involving all relevant stakeholders, in particular farmer communities, in all phases of alternative development implementation development to ensure full participation in the implementation and ownership of alternative development programmes.

Some speakers highlighted the importance of implementing the United Nations Guiding Principles on Alternative Development when designing relevant policies and implementing alternative development on the ground. International and regional cooperation, including South-South cooperation were mentioned as critical for ensuring alternative development success.

Several speakers highlighted the importance of market access and of establishing market links for alternative development products.

Several speakers noted the balloon effect often taking place in illicit crop cultivation areas and stressed that addressing the world drug

problem must continue to be a common and shared responsibility through a comprehensive and balanced approach where both supply and demand must be addressed and the farming community to be recognized.

The importance of preventive alternative development both in the rural and urban settings and the need to share best practices and lessons learned on alternative development were highlighted.

Some speakers highlighted the need to consider implementing alternative development in the urban settings to encourage the development of viable economic alternatives, particularly for communities affected by poverty and drug-related activities in urban areas, in particular to women and youth.

UNODC was encouraged to play a facilitating role with donors, UN agencies and other actors to implement the UNGASS outcome document and its recommendations, the 2009 Political Declaration and Plan of Action, noting that adequate resources would be required.