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

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

1. The participants in the Twenty-third Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies (HONLEA), Latin America and the Caribbean:

   (a) Recalled the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem, in which Member States decided that the Commission on Narcotic Drugs at its fifty-seventh session, in 2014, should conduct a high-level review of the implementation by Member States of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action;

   (b) Also recalled General Assembly resolution 67/193, in which the Assembly decided to convene, in early 2016, a special session on the world drug problem to review the progress in the implementation of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action, including an assessment of the achievements and challenges in countering the world drug problem, within the framework of the three international drug control conventions and other relevant United Nations instruments;

   (c) Bore in mind the request of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs in its resolution 56/10, for the meetings of the subsidiary bodies of the Commission, on the basis of their deliberations, to submit regional recommendations aimed at moving forward in the implementation of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action;

   (d) Recalled Commission on Narcotic Drugs resolution 56/12, in which the Commission decided that the medium-term review, including intersessional meetings, should take into account, among other things, relevant studies and reports from the subsidiary bodies of the Commission, and called upon the participants in the high-level review to take account of the work of the regional meetings of heads of national drug law enforcement agencies, in particular initiatives that could further cooperation with regard to drug law enforcement;

   (e) Recognized that the principle of common and shared responsibility guides the individual and joint actions of all States and ensures their equal commitment to countering the world drug problem, in all its dimensions, encouraging ever greater international cooperation in strengthening national capacities on the basis of a comprehensive, balanced and multidisciplinary approach;

   (f) Adopted the recommendations below.

**Issue 1. Demand reduction, prevention measures and drug dependence treatment**

2. With regard to issue 1, “Demand reduction, prevention measures and drug dependence treatment”, the following recommendations were made:
(a) Governments should adopt inter-agency approaches to the drug problem that balance demand and supply reduction, with appropriate regard for harm reduction policies and practices;

(b) Governments are encouraged to recognize drug use and dependence as a public health problem in order to facilitate the prevention, early identification and treatment of drug users in various social and public health services, and to allocate sufficient resources to prevention, treatment and rehabilitation;

(c) Governments should foster the development of scientific, evidence-based national monitoring mechanisms that make it possible to identify current trends in drug use and should consider adopting response policies based on that evidence;

(d) Governments should focus on community-based approaches to demand reduction, such as community policing, educational programmes and programmes focusing on youth and family, which are concepts that have been successfully implemented in the region and can serve as models for replication.

Issue 2. Trafficking trends

3. With regard to issue 2, “Trafficking trends”, the following recommendations were made:

(a) Governments are encouraged to further strengthen their national response for the detection, investigation and seizure of the proceeds of money-laundering and to increase resources and the capacities of law enforcement agencies to undertake those tasks;

(b) Governments should take steps to ensure that the drug law enforcement agencies operating at their national border entry points (land crossings, seaports and airports) are adequately supported with the technical assistance required to identify any element, substance and material suspected of being impregnated, diluted or mixed with cocaine hydrochloride or its derivatives;

(c) Where they have not already done so, Governments are encouraged to take steps to strengthen inter-agency coordination of human resources and technical support in order to improve the management and effectiveness of their national counter-narcotics strategies;

(d) Governments are encouraged to increase support to transit countries to fight against criminal organizations making use of territories with limited state access, including through the sharing of information and operational intelligence, the undertaking of joint simultaneous and coordinated operations, training and support for the investigation of those directing the trafficking organizations.

Issue 3. Manufacture of cocaine and amphetamine-type stimulants and precursor control

4. With regard to issue 3, “Manufacture of cocaine and amphetamine-type stimulants and precursor control”, the following recommendations were made:

(a) Governments are encouraged to focus on preventive measures to control precursor chemicals and essential chemicals by strengthening the administrative procedures they exercise over the commercial use of those chemicals through such initiatives as a national registry of authorized precursor exporters, importers and
end-users; enhanced capacity for analysis and the inspection of authorized dealers, which will in turn provide information to further guide the application of effective controls to prevent the diversion of such chemicals;

(h) Governments are encouraged to adopt a proactive approach to establishing a collaborative relationship with the domestic chemical industry, together with strengthening the capacity, and enhancing the knowledge, of their national competent authorities and drug law enforcement agencies with respect to scheduled and non-scheduled precursors and essential chemicals that may be diverted for use in the illicit manufacture of drugs;

(c) Governments should, under the principle of common and shared responsibility, develop their technical capacity to identify new psychoactive substances as they emerge, and collaborate in that area by sharing information about assay development and practice;

(d) Governments are encouraged to strengthen their legal frameworks to ensure effective cooperation in their efforts to prevent the diversion of precursor chemicals from international trade.

II. Major regional drug trafficking trends and countermeasures

5. At its 1st and 2nd meetings, on 30 September 2013, the Meeting considered item 3 of its agenda, entitled “Major regional drug trafficking trends and countermeasures”. For its consideration of the item, the Meeting had before it the report of the Secretariat on statistics on drug trafficking trends in the Americas and worldwide (UNODC/HONLAC/23/2) and a conference room paper on the Current situation with respect to regional and subregional cooperation (UNODC/HONLAC/23/CRP.1). In addition, country reports on the illicit drug trafficking situation were submitted by Argentina, Colombia, Ecuador, El Salvador, Chile, France, Honduras, Italy, Jamaica, Mexico, Paraguay, Peru and Spain (UNODC/HONLAC/23/CRP.2-14).

6. A representative of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) introduced the item and made an audiovisual presentation on reported drug trafficking trends in the region in the context of global drug trafficking. The presentation was based on information provided by Governments to UNODC. Representatives of Colombia, Mexico, Honduras, Peru, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Paraguay, Ecuador, Panama, Haiti, Trinidad and Tobago, Guyana and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland made statements. The representatives of Colombia and Barbados made audiovisual presentations.

7. Many participants informed the Meeting about recent developments relating to drug trafficking trends and the drug control situation in their countries and in the region and provided information and data on national advances and achievements made in combating drug trafficking. Updated data and information on drug seizures, methods of concealment, air and maritime trafficking routes and the arrest of significant individuals were also shared.

8. A number of participants drew attention to updated legal frameworks that had helped to make operations more effective. Some speakers reported on national