



**UNODC**

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime



**Dominican Republic**

# **POLITICAL DECLARATION ON COMBATING ILLICIT DRUG TRAFFICKING, ORGANIZED CRIME, TERRORISM AND OTHER SERIOUS CRIME IN THE CARIBBEAN**

**ADOPTED AT THE MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE ON ILLICIT DRUG  
TRAFFICKING, TRANSNATIONAL ORGANIZED CRIME AND TERRORISM AS  
CHALLENGES FOR SECURITY AND DEVELOPMENT IN THE CARIBBEAN  
(Followed by a Donor-Meeting)**

Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic  
17-20 February 2009

## PREAMBLE

**We, the Signatories from Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname and Trinidad and Tobago, participating in the “Ministerial Conference on Illicit Drug Trafficking, Transnational Organized Crime and Terrorism as Challenges for Security and Development in the Caribbean”, held in Santo Domingo from 17 to 19 February 2009,**

**Conscious** of the fact that the Caribbean countries are diverse in terms of history, culture, political structure, population and levels of development;

**Mindful** of the political will demonstrated by Heads of State and Government at the Regional Summit on Drugs, Security and Cooperation in Santo Domingo on 16 March 2007, as well as the Regional Summit on the “Global Problem on Drugs, Security and Cooperation” in Cartagena de Indias, Colombia, on 1 August 2008;

**Concerned** that trafficking in small arms and light weapons, illegal narcotics, and drug-related crime continue to pose challenges to the region;

**Concerned** that transnational organized crime, illegal narcotics trafficking, drug related crime and local crimes are increasing and showing new patterns due, among other reasons, to the geographical location of Caribbean countries between the world’s largest cocaine producers in the South and the world’s largest consumers in the North, the destabilizing impact of criminal deportees as well as the prevailing socio-economic conditions;

**Convinced** that illicit drug and arms trafficking, organized crime and terrorism contribute to relatively high levels of violent crime and can undermine the respect for the rule of law, political stability, democratic institutions and transparent governance and pose a major threat to economic and social development of Caribbean States;

**Recognizing** the efforts being made by countries of the region singly and collectively to grapple with these challenges;

**Aware** that our youth are disproportionately represented in the ranks of both victims and perpetrators of crime and violence;

**Recognizing** that poverty, limited resources, inadequate law enforcement and criminal justice capacities among others, have a significant impact on the region’s ability to combat organized and other serious crimes;

**Recognizing** the need to strengthen regional and national institutions for a comprehensive and effective firearms control regime in order to reduce the threats of associated illicit firearms trafficking and related arms violence;

**Recognizing** that legislative and operational frameworks to combat organized crime, corruption, money laundering and the financing of terrorism need to be strengthened;



**Reaffirming** the conviction that strengthening efficient and effective international cooperation is an absolute priority in combating illicit drug trafficking, transnational organized crime, terrorism and other serious crimes;

**Being cognizant** of the provisions of the United Nations Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961, as amended by the 1972 Protocol, the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971, and the United Nations Convention against Illicit Drug Trafficking in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988;

**Aware** that the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, at its next session, will review the implementation of the goals and objectives of the outcome document of the 20<sup>th</sup> Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly and will produce a document on this issue;

**Being cognizant** of the provisions of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC) of 2000 and its three supplementary Protocols as well as the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) of 2003 and the Inter-American Convention against Corruption 1996, as appropriate;

**Reaffirming** the commitments set out in the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, adopted by consensus on 8 September 2006 by the United Nations General Assembly, which constitutes the frame of reference for the international community as a whole in combating terrorism in all its forms and manifestations;

**Welcoming** the commitment of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to support the Caribbean countries in combating illicit drug trafficking, crime, corruption and terrorism;

**We hereby proclaim:**

**Our strong commitment to continue the fight against drug and arms trafficking, transnational organized crime, terrorism and its financing and other serious crimes, and:**

1. **Pledge** to continue to accord drug control, crime prevention measures and the strengthening of rule of law the priority they deserve at the highest level of Government of the Caribbean countries;
2. **Encourage** Caribbean countries, that have not yet done so, to amend their national legislation, where necessary, in order to meet the requirements of the United Nations Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961, that Convention as amended by the 1972 Protocol, the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971, the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988;
3. **Encourage** Caribbean countries, that have not yet done so, to consider becoming a State Party to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC) and to its three protocols as well as to the United Nations Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC) and to incorporate their provisions into national legislation;
4. **Encourage** Caribbean countries that have not yet done so to consider becoming States Parties to the universal anti-terrorism instruments and to incorporate their provisions into national legislation;



5. **Call upon** the Caribbean countries to ensure that their existing laws against illicit drug trafficking and organized crime provide enough deterrence to discourage involvement in illicit drug trafficking and related offences within their territory;
6. **Encourage** Caribbean countries to intensify ongoing efforts against drug trafficking, transnational organized crime, terrorism and its financing and other serious crimes by strengthening law enforcement mechanisms, particularly financial investigations, and holding accountable those responsible for the above-mentioned crimes in the Caribbean;
7. **Commit** ourselves to work jointly with relevant civil society organizations to control drug trafficking and abuse as well as to fight transnational organized and other serious crimes;
8. **Adopt an** Action Plan for the Caribbean and pledge to work with the international development partners towards its implementation;

**We therefore commit ourselves to:**

1. **Strengthen the** regional legal and regulatory framework and harmonize national laws aimed at combating illicit drug and arms trafficking, transnational organized crime, financing of terrorism and other serious crimes;
2. **Use** all forms of state and public media to conduct public awareness campaigns to educate potential victims of drug and arms trafficking and abuse, human trafficking and potential victims of violence, here especially women and children, as well as their families and the population at large;
3. **Strengthen** the enforcement of legislation and international judicial cooperation in the fight against illicit drug trafficking and transnational organized crime, terrorism and other serious crime;
4. **Enhance** border control to reduce the continued use of the region as a trans-shipment corridor for the illicit movement of persons and commodities;
5. **Implement** the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy in coordination with the relevant regional bodies;
6. **Improve** integrity of the security forces and other public officials, in the fight against corruption and strengthen transparency of governmental institutions;
7. **Provide or enhance** training for relevant categories of public officials involved in law enforcement, security and the justice system in combating illicit drug trafficking, transnational organized crime, terrorism, financial crime and money laundering with due respect for human rights;
8. **Improve** systems and mechanisms for witness protection and victim assistance;
9. **Enhance** institutional capacities of Caribbean countries, particularly among law enforcement and other government agencies in charge of fighting trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants and to improve the information system and the capacity of the penal system in response to these crimes;
10. **Take** appropriate steps in collaboration with regional and international organizations to make health care available, affordable and accessible to victims of drug abuse and transnational organized and other serious crime;
11. **Provide** programmes to reduce drug demand and prevent drug abuse and create programmes to reduce the negative effects of drug consumption on health and development of the most vulnerable and high risk groups;
12. **Strengthen** preventive measures, including educational and social programmes to discourage drug abuse and transnational organized and other serious crime;

13. **Harmonize** drug control and prevention and HIV/AIDS policies at national and regional level and implement programmes that provide prevention, treatment and care services for drug abuse and HIV/AIDS;
14. **Strengthen** institutions, mechanisms and prison programmes for the rehabilitation and social re-integration of offenders, including criminal deportees, and improvement of infrastructure of prisons and establishment of alternative sentences to imprisonment;
15. **Improve** coordination and cooperation among security agencies and strengthen capacities of these institutions through intensive training and provision of equipment in order to reduce the potential for exploitation of the Caribbean territorial space with regard to illicit drug trafficking and transnational organized and other serious crime;
16. **Strengthen** tracking and analysis systems, promotion of regional cooperation and collaboration and cooperation with the Caribbean Financial Action Task Force (CFATF) in order to reduce the possibility of transnational organized crime groups using the Caribbean countries for money laundering activities or other related crimes, or to finance terrorism;
17. **Upgrade** the regional forensic capacities of the Caribbean countries with a view to maximizing more efficient and effective criminal proceedings;
18. **Maximize** available financial resources and mobilize, in coordination with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the additional resources needed for an effective implementation of the Action Plan for the Caribbean.

**We request:**

1. **UNODC** to continue providing technical assistance for the effective implementation of the international drug control treaties, the Convention on Transnational Organized Crime and the Three Protocols and the universal anti-terrorism instruments, in coordination with the relevant regional and international partners.

**We Encourage:**

1. **UNODC**, in close cooperation with Counter Terrorism Committee, its Executive Directorate and the other relevant Committees of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC), to provide bilateral technical assistance to countries that request it in preparing and submitting their reports to the UNSC committees.

**We invite:**

2. States and funding agencies, relevant inter-governmental organizations and non-governmental and international organizations, such as the UNODC to provide financial and material assistance, including the provision of expertise, to support Caribbean countries in their efforts to combat drug trafficking, organized crime, terrorism and financial crime.

**We, the signatories, hereby proclaim our strong commitment to the Santo Domingo Partnership Monitoring Mechanism and:**

1. **Pledge** to establish and support the Santo Domingo Partnership Monitoring Mechanism (PMM) as a technical assistance project facilitating periodical consultations




and strategic thinking between partners at expert and policy levels, in order to jointly discuss, identify and set in motion coordinated actions to stem the increasing levels of illicit drug trafficking from, to and through the Caribbean and address the drug abuse situation in priority countries. This PMM shall promote the coordination of technical assistance in the field of counter narcotics through the use of the internet-based tool called ADAM (Automated Donor Assistance Mechanism);

**2. Subscribe** to the principle of shared responsibility in the fight against illicit drug trafficking and transnational organized and other serious crimes;

**3. Agree** to combine our will and efforts to intensify national capabilities and develop regional and international partnerships against these global threats;

**4. Implement** the Social and Development Crime Prevention Plan of Action, jointly undertaken by UNODC and CARICOM and similar programmes in Cuba and in the Dominican Republic.

**5. Recognize** the coordination role of UNODC in close consultations with CARICOM, the Central American Integration System (SICA), the Organization of the American States (OAS), Cuba and Dominican Republic in seeking to create greater synergies among partners;

**6. Strengthen** actions on prevention and treatment of drug abuse, as well as those on counter narcotics enforcement and chemical precursor trafficking;

**7. Foster** increased information and intelligence exchange on drug trafficking and transnational organized and other serious crimes.

**8. Promote** the enhancement of evidence-based policies and strategies, good practices on counter narcotics enforcement and drug demand reduction as well as the identification of weaknesses and priority actions in the Caribbean;

**9. Promote also** technical assistance and specialized training programmes by UNODC for the law enforcement agencies and the judiciary on relevant aspects of the investigation and prosecution of cases;

**10. Strengthen** data collection and analytical capacities in priority countries through the Santo Domingo PMM thus providing evidence for strategic planning, policies and actions.

**We look forward to the return of a Caribbean based UNODC in the very near future.**



**Therefore we, the signatories:**

1. **Adopt** this declaration as a sign of our political commitment to confront the threats of illicit drug trafficking, transnational organized crime, terrorism and other serious crime in the Caribbean countries;
2. **Recommend** the Action Plan for the Caribbean, and, when approved, pledge to fully implement the plan at the country and regional levels with support and cooperation of UNODC and other relevant regional and international development partners;
3. **Agree** on establishing the PMM of the Action Plan, sharing intelligence, best practices and monitoring by UNODC and signatories of actions by relevant stakeholders in the field of drug trafficking and organized crime;
4. **Ask** UNODC to prepare in coordination with regional and sub-regional partners thematic programmes identified by the region, covering the priority concerns;
5. **Undertake** to present the Political Declaration and Action Plan to the upcoming CARICOM-SICA Summit of Heads of State and/or Government for approval;
6. **Implement** the Plan of Action in accordance with the laws of the respective countries and international law.

The Ministers and Senior Officials express their appreciation for the hospitality extended to them by the Government and the people of the Dominican Republic during their visit to the country.

**IN FAITH WHEREOF WE, THE MINISTERS AND SENIOR REPRESENTATIVES OF THE CARIBBEAN COUNTRIES, HAVE SIGNED THIS DECLARATION, DONE AT THE MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE ON “ILLICIT DRUG TRAFFICKING, TRANSNATIONAL ORGANIZED CRIME AND TERRORISM AS CHALLENGES FOR SECURITY AND DEVELOPMENT IN THE CARIBBEAN”, ON THE 19<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2009, IN SANTO DOMINGO.**

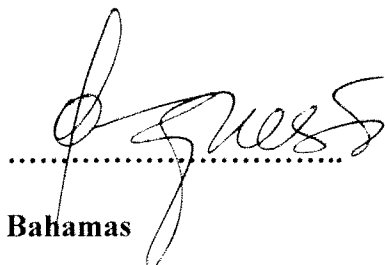
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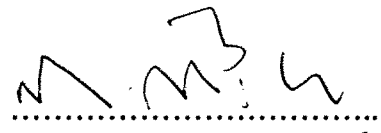
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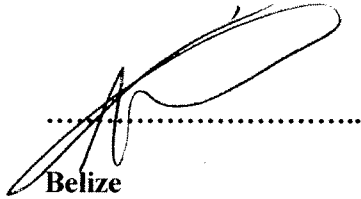
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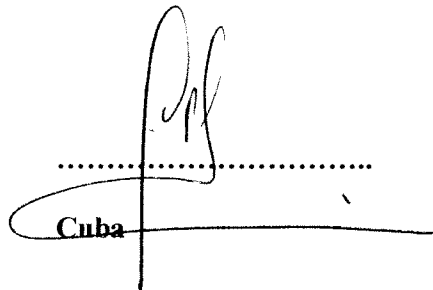
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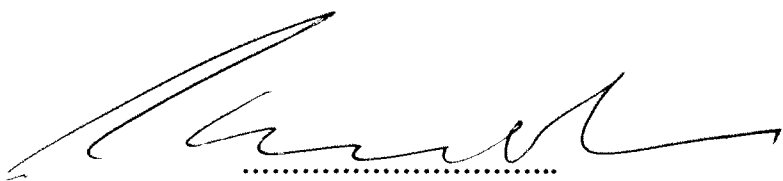


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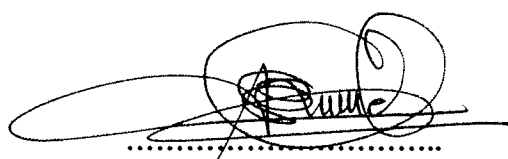




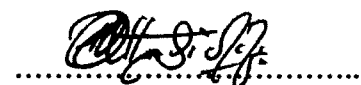
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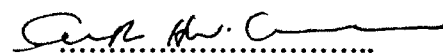
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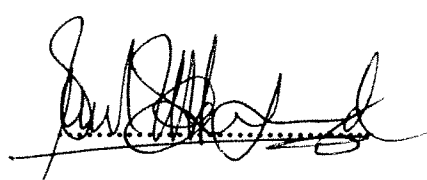
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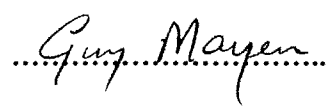
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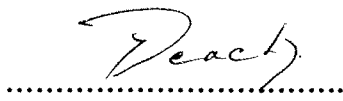
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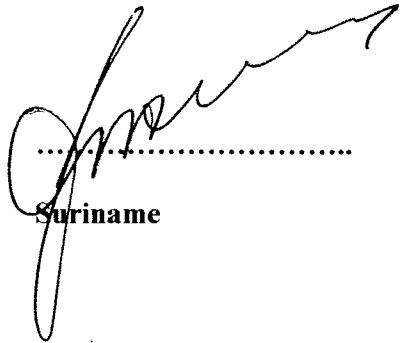
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