

ACTION PLAN

Regional Summit on the World Drug Problem, Security and Co-operation

August 1, 2008

Cartagena de Indias, Republic of Colombia

The countries participating in the Regional Summit on the World Drug Problem, Security and Co-operation, being conscious of the enormous importance of the fight against the world drug problem in all its aspects and reiterating that regional co-operation and co-ordination in this fight are decisive to ensuring that the countries of the region are able to prevent and/or overcome the serious threats derived from the world drug problem, particularly drug trafficking, the flow of money derived from drug trafficking and its connected crimes, including the illicit trafficking of weapons and asset laundering, have decided to adopt the following Action Plan on the World Drug Problem, Security and Co-operation.

1. PRINCIPLES

Pursuant to the 1988 United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (1988 Vienna Convention) and to international law, the Action Plan is based on the following principles:

- a) Joint and shared responsibility;
- b) Sovereignty of the States;
- c) Territorial integrity;
- d) Non-intervention in the domestic affairs of the States;
- e) An integral, balanced and participatory approach, based on collective efforts;
- f) Bilateral and multilateral co-operation.

2. GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS

The Plan of Action is guided by the following considerations:

The approach to all proposed activities shall be consistent with the UN conventions on drugs, particularly the 1988 United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, as well as the documents approved during the XX Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly in June 1998 and, for participating countries, the 2007 Santo Domingo Declaration and the Cartagena Declaration of August 1, 2008 on the World Drug Problem, Security and Co-operation.

For their due implementation, all possible sources of financing, South-South co-operation, North-South co-operation, funding from the States interested in supporting this plan, the United Nations Office for Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD), the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) and the Central American Bank for Economic Integration (CABEI), among others, shall be taken into consideration.

This Action Plan does not duplicate; rather, it is intended to supplement and reinforce the efforts of international, regional and bi-regional organizations, work initiatives and mechanisms such as those of the UN, OAS, SICA and ALC-EU, and the bilateral efforts of the States signing this Action Plan.

3. GENERAL OBJECTIVE OF THE ACTION PLAN

To foster co-ordination and co-operation among the States, including within the framework of existing bilateral and multilateral mechanisms, for institution building and the development of national and regional policies to enable the countries to improve their capacity to deal with the world drug problem at every link in the chain, pursuant to the domestic legal provisions in each country.

4. FIELDS OF ACTION

Pursuant to their national capacity, the States shall endeavour to:

4.1 Drug Supply Reduction

- a) Adopt appropriate measures to reinforce controls over the import/ export, sale and domestic production of chemicals, precursors and other substances, psychotropic drugs and narcotics used in the production of illicit drugs to avoid their diversion;
- b) Analyze the ways precursors and/or chemical substances used to produce illicit drugs are diverted and, based on the conclusions and on their domestic legislation, take pertinent action for more effective control;
- c) Analyze jointly the background, changes and new tendencies in the illicit trafficking of drugs by land, sea and air in order to agree on action to reinforce co-operation to address them, pursuant to the domestic legal provisions of each State;
- d) Exchange experiences on procedures to combat and penalize the illicit trafficking and diversion of chemical substances used in the production of illicit drugs;
- e) Share best practices in the adoption of legislation and the application of measures to deal with the world drug problem and connected crimes;
- f) Share experiences on the measures necessary for the final disposal of chemical products and impounded substances;

- g) Review the communication channels and procedures that exist among competent authorities to facilitate a mutual exchange of information, technical assistance and the experience of the participating countries in the interest of a more effective effort to combat the world drug problem ;
- h) Consider, pursuant to the legislation of each country and to relevant bilateral and multilateral agreements, the implementation, in practice, of co-ordinated investigations and/or operations in the region concerning drug trafficking and connected crimes. The CARICOM countries stated that they will continue to pursue already existing coordinated investigations and/or operations under their jurisdiction;
- i) Support the countries, when required and pursuant to their national legislation, to improve control methods at water ports, airports and borders through technical assistance and training and/or technology provided via new mechanisms and by taking advantage of existing ones;
- j) Promote highly specialized training for law enforcement and the agents of competent institutions of the States that are combating the world drug problem and its connected crime;
- k) Strengthen international co-operation to prevent, combat, investigate and halt the illegal distribution and supply of controlled licit substances via the Internet and by postal services;
- l) Adopt the necessary measures to control designer drugs and their precursors;
- m) Promote an exchange of experiences and information concerning the control of pre-notifications with regard to the export of raw materials and pharmaceutical products, through the national drug-control systems, taking advantage of the existing international systems.

4.2. Drug Demand Reduction

- a) Continue to encourage the definition and application of public policy on drug demand reduction, pursuant to the guiding principles set forth during the XX Special Session of the General Assembly of the United Nations dedicated to joint action to counter the world drug problem (UNGASS 98), and intensify action at the national level to combat the use of illicit drugs among the populations of the countries of the region;
- b) Promote an exchange of experiences and information among the States of the region with respect to reduction in demand, placing special emphasis on vulnerable populations, preventive programs, communication campaigns, treatment, rehabilitation and social reintegration programs, investigation, diagnosis and follow-up, as well as risk-reduction programs and the recovery of public space to be used to promote recreational, cultural and sporting activities among children and adolescents;
- c) Include in educational and cultural programmes activities to prevent the undue use of drugs, so as to improve the living conditions of the populations in our countries in order to encourage a greater degree of inclusion, well-being and development in the region;

- d) Empower co-operation to reduce demand at the regional and hemispheric level;
- e) Strengthen and promote training for the professional technical personnel of agencies dedicated to rehabilitation, treatment and social reintegration for drug consumers.

4.3 Connected crimes and encouragement to co-operation

- a) Appoint and/or reinforce, within six months, the liaison points within the institutions of each State to exchange urgent information on criminal organizations engaged in drug trafficking and connected crimes;
- b) Strengthen the timely exchange of information, including that of an operational nature, in real time, among domestic institutions with similar jurisdictions, through the use of technology, especially databases or other technical mechanisms such as secure information/intelligence systems;
- c) Reinforce the exchange of information and take advantage, when appropriate, of the instruments offered by co-operation networks such as INTERPOL, AMERIPOL, the Regional Intelligence Fusion Center (RIFC) and the Hemispheric Information Exchange Network for Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters and Extradition, pursuant to domestic legislation and the conventions ratified by the participating States;
- d) Consider, pursuant to the legislation of each country, the application of the recommendations coming from CFATF and GAFISUD, particularly with respect to strengthening the capacity of existing financial intelligence units and other competent authorities, so as to ensure the most appropriate international co-operation;
- e) The States of the region shall provide technical assistance to the countries, when requested, to modernize their legislation and to implement special investigative techniques concerning operations related to the drug traffic and connected crimes;
- f) Work to perfect the measures adopted nationally, in keeping with pertinent international instruments, so as to prevent organized crime from acquiring and using firearms and ammunition, and also establish and share databases on firearms, ammunition and explosives impounded from organized crime, including the possibility of developing a hemispheric registry of weapons for the countries participating in the OAS.

4.4 Co-operation for Alternative Development

- a) Draft integral, preventive and sustainable alternative development strategies to reduce and eliminate illicit crops. National strategies to eliminate and eradicate such crops should contemplate the adoption of measures such as prior eradication, a policy of zero illicit crops and enforcement of the law;

- b) Increase social investment through the implementation of integral, preventive and sustainable alternative development projects in ecosystems with illicit crops or threatened by illicit crops, emphasizing four components: social, economic-productive, environmental and institutional;
- c) Strengthen co-operation, through international organizations and relevant financial institutions, preferably regional ones, for rural development of the regions and populations affected by the world drug problem ;
- d) Encourage international financial organizations and institutions and regional development banks to provide financial assistance for integral, preventive and sustainable alternative development programs.

This Plan of Action is an integral part of the Declaration of the Regional Summit on the World Problem on Drugs, Security and Co-operation, signed in Cartagena de Indias on the first (1st) day of August of the year Two Thousand Eight (2008).