



Quito Declaration

XV High-Level Meeting of the Coordination and Cooperation Mechanism on Drugs between the CELAC and the European Union

Quito – Ecuador, 13th and 14th June 2013

1. The delegations from the Member States of the Community of Latin America and Caribbean States (CELAC); Member States of the European Union, the Presidency of the Council of the European Union, assisted by the General Secretariat of the Council, the European Commission and the European External Action Service met in Quito on 13th and 14th June 2013 under the co-presidencies of Ecuador and Ireland, at the XV High-Level Meeting of the Coordination and Cooperation Mechanism on Drugs between the CELAC and the European Union.
2. RECALLING the Summits of Heads of State and Government of Latin America and the Caribbean and the European Union previously held, and the commitments made in the bi-regional Declarations adopted at the High-level Meetings of the Mechanism.
3. RECOGNISING that the principle of common and shared responsibility guides the individual and joint actions of all CELAC and EU States and ensures their equal commitment to countering the world drug problem in all its dimensions, and that encourages ever greater international cooperation in strengthening national capacities on the basis of a comprehensive, balanced and multidisciplinary approach.
4. Also RECOGNISING the importance of the Coordination and Cooperation Mechanism on Drugs between CELAC and the European Union, a bi-regional framework, carried out on the basis of dialogue, common and shared responsibility, coordination and cooperation, to tackle in an effective way the world drug problem that affects both regions.
5. HIGHLIGHTING the efforts carried out by both regions, at the national and regional level, to continue to address the world drug problem, expressing our concerns on the continuous threat that



this problem represents, in all its dimensions, to the wellbeing and development of all people.

6. **STRESSING** the need to continue strengthening bi-regional cooperation to address all aspects of the world drug problem, including drug control, the exchange of best practices and experiences and the fostering of communication, as well as the exchange of relevant information on drugs, including intelligence sharing among law enforcement authorities.

7. **EMPHASISING** that the world drug problem requires an integral prevention approach, including universal prevention, that drug dependence is a public health issue.

8. **TAKING INTO ACCOUNT** the need to promote adequate availability of internationally controlled narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances for medical and scientific purposes, while preventing their diversion and abuse, in line with the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961, as amended by the 1972 Protocol and the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971, and recalling in that regard the Commission on Narcotic Drugs Resolutions 53/4 of March 12th 2010, and 54/6 of March 25th 2011.

9. **NOTING** also the need to support initiatives of both regions to address the world drug problem, such as the Andean Strategy on the World Drug Problem 2013-2019, the Central America Security Strategy in relation to drugs, CARICOM's Regional Drug Demand Reduction Strategy, the CARICOM's Crime and Security Strategy in relation to drugs, and the EU Drugs Strategy.

10. **WELCOMING** the South American Council on the World Drug Problem, in the framework of UNASUR.

MAKE THE FOLLOWING DECLARATION:

BI-REGIONAL COOPERATION

11. **WE RECOGNISE** that, in order to address the drug problem efficiently and effectively, efforts should follow an evidence-based, integrated, multidisciplinary and balanced approach combining



drug demand reduction and drug supply reduction measures, in full conformity with the purposes and the principles of the Charter of the United Nations, international law and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and, in particular, with full respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of States, the principle of non-intervention in the internal affairs of States, all human rights, fundamental freedoms, the inherent dignity of all individuals and the principles of equal rights and mutual respect among States.

12. WE RECOGNISE the importance of the Coordination and Cooperation Mechanism on Drugs between CELAC and the European Union and that it should be strengthened through cooperation initiatives, facilitating the exchange of experiences and the strengthening of drug policies. These demand driven initiatives shall be inclusive, and open to the participation of all the countries of both regions.

13. WE WILL CONTINUE to support bi-regional projects, in the areas of both demand and supply reduction, based on criteria of effectiveness and efficiency, sustainability, relevance and impact, and jointly designed and implemented by both regions in full acknowledgement of their respective priorities, rules and responsibilities. WE WILL CONTINUE to support evaluations of all projects and their results.

14. WE EMPHASISE that bi-regional cooperation should complement efforts undertaken at local, national, bilateral, subregional, regional and multilateral levels and RECOGNISE the importance of ensuring that, where possible, such cooperation aligns with agreed priorities and objectives.

15. WE TAKE NOTE OF the importance of the activities developed within the context of the Cooperation Programme on Drug policies between Latin America and the European Union-COPOLAD, which aims to improve the coherence, balance and impact of drugs policies in participating countries by strengthening the exchange of mutual experiences, bi-regional coordination and the promotion of multisectoral, comprehensive and coordinated responses. WE SEE the potential of such initiatives in the future, and WE PROMOTE AND SUPPORT the full involvement of the Caribbean countries in this regard.



16. WE RECALL the commitment on drugs in paragraph 35 of the EU-CELAC Santiago Declaration and call for its full and effective implementation.

17. WE RECALL the commitment to continue implementing the CELAC-EU Action Plan 2013-2015, in relation to the world drug problem whose objective is to strengthen bi-regional dialogue and effectiveness of joint efforts to tackle the world drug problem as identified and developed in the framework of the CELAC-EU Coordination and Cooperation Mechanism on Drugs, in accordance with the principle of common and shared responsibility, through an integrated and balanced approach and in conformity with international law. Accordingly, WE PROPOSE to periodically assess the progress of the Bi-regional Action Plan comprising: dialogue, cooperation activities and initiatives and expected results.

18. WE HIGHLIGHT the convening, in early 2016, of a special session of the General Assembly of the United Nations on the world drug problem, as agreed in UNGA resolution A/RES/67/193, to review the progress in the implementation of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem, including an assessment of the achievements and challenges in countering the drug problem, within the framework of the three international drug control conventions and other relevant United Nations instruments. In this regard, as decided in paragraph 36 of the CELAC-EU Santiago Declaration, we support possible responses for enhancing the effectiveness of strategies and instruments available for the international community to face, in an integral and balanced manner, the challenges and consequences posed by the World Drug Problem under the principle of common and shared responsibility.

WE ALSO RECALL the commitment to identify the most effective strategies to combat the world drug problem in all its dimensions. With this in mind, initiatives and studies being developed in the Latin American and the Caribbean region and in the European Union, and the participation of both regions in this process, may provide a very valuable contribution to the regional and global discussion on the World Drug Problem.

19. Also regarding the special session of the General Assembly of the United Nations on the world



drug problem, as agreed in UNGA resolution A/RES/67/193, WE ENCOURAGE a fruitful, wide-ranging, rational and pragmatic debate, in accordance with the rules of procedure applicable on how the international community can work together to tackle the world's drug problem in the most effective way which might provide an opportunity to consider experiences and new and improved approaches on this issue.

DEMAND REDUCTION

20. WE RECOGNISE the fundamental need to protect our societies from drug abuse by developing integrated evidence-based prevention strategies combining universal, selective and indicated prevention programs, involving communities and addressing families, with a particular focus on vulnerable groups especially children and youth. WE ALSO RECOGNISE the need for demand reduction by promoting the development of the individual, the family and the community, within the framework of respect for the environment and human and intercultural rights.

21. WE ENCOURAGE work within respective legal frameworks and in compliance with applicable international law in order to consider, as appropriate, alternatives to incarceration in the cases of minor drug related offenses.

WE ALSO INVITE the participants of this bi-regional mechanism to consider the possibility to promote evidence-based treatment, care, rehabilitation, social re-integration and related support services for drug dependent persons in prisons.

WE HIGHLIGHT that a main objective when dealing with the world drug problem is guaranteeing health and social wellbeing among individuals, families and communities, bearing in mind the importance of social re-integration.

22. WE ENCOURAGE the implementation of evidence-based strategies to address prevention, early intervention, treatment, rehabilitation, social reintegration and the reduction of the negative health and social consequences of drug abuse, as well as the continuous training of professionals, technical experts and other actors involved in the implementation of initiatives aimed at reducing



the demand for drugs.

23. WE RECOGNISE that the responsibility for addressing the World Drug Problem rests within States. WE ENCOURAGE States to ensure that civil society plays a participatory role, where appropriate, in prevention and rehabilitation through consultation in the development and implementation of drug control programmes and policies, in particular with regard to aspects of demand reduction.

24. WE HIGHLIGHT the need to increase bi-regional efforts in the field of demand reduction. In this respect WE RECOGNISE the importance of evidence based policies and, therefore, WE COMMIT to promoting research to implement sound drug prevention strategies and treatments for drug abuse, particularly among vulnerable populations. Additionally, WE HIGHLIGHT the need for, and WE ENCOURAGE, joint efforts to improve and implement such health promotion strategies, and treatments.

SUPPLY REDUCTION

25. WE WILL PROMOTE, when appropriate, joint actions in order to identify, investigate, prosecute and dismantle organized criminal groups involved in any illicit activities related to drugs, with full respect for human rights and international law, working together to develop comprehensive capacities to counter the challenges posed by new and existing drug trafficking routes.

26. WE ENCOURAGE the implementation of control and preventive measures in sea ports and airports in order to tackle the use of the various transport means for drug trafficking, including shipment containers.

27. WE EMPHASISE the need to strengthen bi-regional cooperation to prevent the diversion of drug precursors used in the illicit manufacture of narcotic drugs, including amphetamine-type stimulants, and RECOGNISE that active cooperation under existing bilateral agreements on drug precursors is essential in this regard, as these provide a strong platform for coordinating policies and



exchanging information on drug precursors in the framework of mutual administrative assistance.

28. WE AGREE to promote exchange and cooperation in scientific research and knowledge generation, contributing to the development and strengthening of strategies and actions pertaining to the world drug problem; to encourage and strengthen the areas of study and ongoing analysis under standardized parameters of the world drug problem: and to the continued specialization of human resources in the various areas of this subject. We also agree to encourage new forms of national, regional and interregional research as appropriate.

29. WE WELCOME initiatives aimed at ensuring the availability of evidence, including the development of any project aimed to set up a traceability and profiling system of chemical precursors through an analysis of seized drugs, in full compliance with international conventions on the matter and according to national legislation and existing regional frameworks.

30. WE RECOGNISE that synthetic drugs pose a significant worldwide problem affecting the EU and, increasingly, also the CELAC. At the same time, noting the challenges posed by the involvement of organized criminal groups in the production, manufacture and distribution of synthetic drugs, WE COMMIT to pursue, as appropriate, effective initiatives to tackle the aforementioned activities.

31. WE WILL PROMOTE, where appropriate, joint actions that contribute to the development and success of investigations on money laundering related to drug trafficking; on the means used to carry out illicit activities of this kind; and on the proceeds arising from these activities as an indispensable element for tackling the problem of illicit trafficking of drugs. We will also promote actions that contribute to the strengthening of capacities for prevention, detection, investigation, prosecution and sanctions, in accordance with the respective national legislations, of money laundering and diversion of precursors which may be linked to drug trafficking.

32. WE ARE COMMITTED to strengthening judicial cooperation between both regions, promoting the use of internationally accepted procedures for mutual legal assistance and for the distribution of assets in case of international seizures and confiscation; and to reinforcing, in accordance with each



domestic legal framework, the national and international coordination for the identification, investigation, prosecution and sanction of individuals and legal entities engaged in money laundering, and, where possible, the recovery of the assets involved.

33. WE NOTE the Special Communiqué on the Originary and Ancestral Coca, Natural Heritage of Bolivia and Peru, adopted in the framework of the CELAC summit, on December 3, 2011. We further take note of the Special Communiqué adopted in the framework of the CELAC summit, on 28th January 2013, on the re-accession of the Plurinational State of Bolivia, to the United Nations Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961, as amended by the 1972 Protocol.

34. We welcome the results of the High-Level International Conference on Alternative Development, held in Lima, Peru, from 14 to 16 November 2012, including the Lima Ministerial Declaration and the International Guiding Principles on Alternative Development.

35. WE HIGHLIGHT the need to strengthen alternative development policies, including preventive alternative development where appropriate, in line with the Resolution of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs of the United Nations on the Guiding Principles on Alternative Development 2013, and taking into account the protection of ecosystems in order to achieve comprehensive and sustainable development that discourages vulnerable and affected populations from getting involved in illicit activities related to drugs.

36. WE APPROVE the 2012-2013 Annual Report of Activities.

37. WE AGREE to convene the XVI High Level Meeting of the Coordination and Cooperation Mechanism on Drugs between the CELAC and the European Union in 2014 under the co-presidencies of Greece and Guatemala.
